

Australian Volunteers Program in North Pacific

In 2020-21 the Australian Volunteers Program in North Pacific supported five volunteers and five partner organisations, with a focus on health, governance, economic recovery, human rights, disaster resilience and food security.

The volunteer used her international knowledge and experience and worked with local experts. She did an excellent job.

– Partner organisation spokesperson

In 2020-21 in North Pacific, the program supported:

4
partner organisations

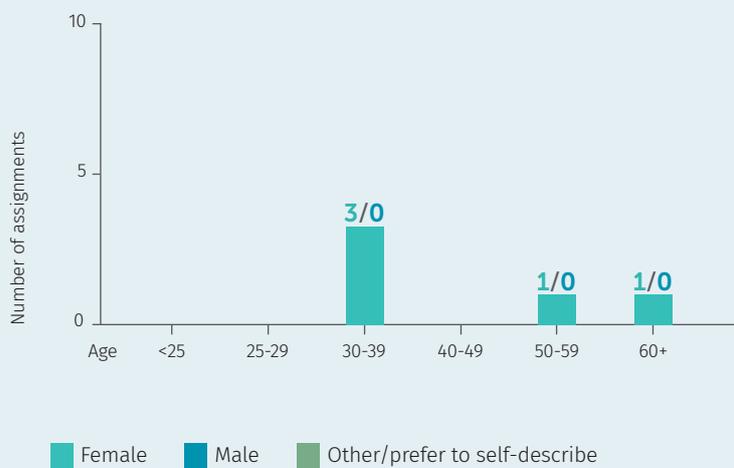
1
partner organisation with an Impact Grant

5
volunteers

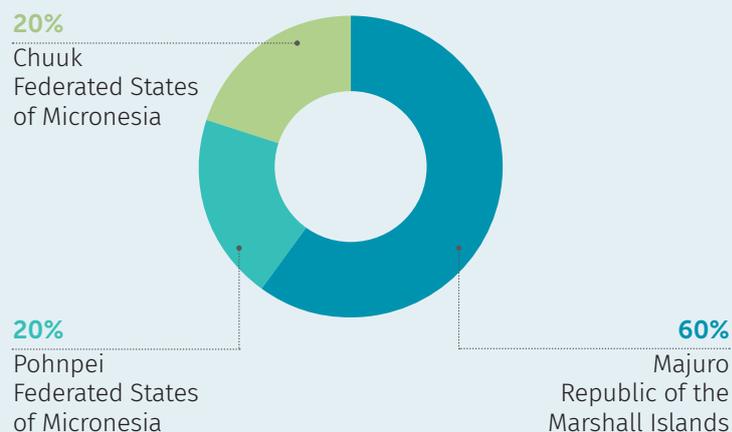
5
remote assignments

Gender and age of volunteers

Women 100% Men 0%



Location of assignments



Most common types of partner organisations



Most common professions of volunteers



In 2020-21, in accordance with Australia's COVID-19 Development Response Plan, the Australian Volunteers Program supported partner organisations to implement their response and recovery efforts, aligned with the local and national priorities in the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and the Republic of Marshall Islands.

In this period, five remote volunteers supported four partner organisations, three in the Republic of Marshall Islands and two in the Federated States of Micronesia. Volunteers worked with non-government organisations including international non-government organisations and government bodies.

The program engaged with potential partner organisations in Pohnpei, Kosrae and Chuuk to identify new opportunities for volunteer assignments. Relationships with existing partners were maintained by tailoring activities to their changing needs, such as the delivery of online workshops, training, and planning sessions.

Five workshops were held in the Federated States of Micronesia that provided partner organisations with information on the remote volunteering recruitment and application processes, as well as program support and requirements.

The Australian Volunteers Program Impact Fund also supported the Chuuk Women's Council to assist women to produce reusable fabric menstrual pads.

This project will allow women to access literacy, business, health, and food security programs, as well as support services, providing them with valuable skills for generating income and improving resilience.

The program celebrated and promoted international volunteering through regular social media content on partner organisation activities and volunteer assignments with DFAT Posts, and through attendance at online events for International Women's Day, International Volunteer Day, and United Nations Day.



Jan Thomas, Australian Volunteers Program volunteer, Social Worker, with Gilbert Cataluna, Teacher from Rumuu Primary School, together at the Early Child Education Center in Dinay, Yap for a session on child welfare with educators from across Yap. Photo: Darren James.

Spotlight on The Marshall Islands Council of Non-Government Organisations

The Marshall Islands Council of Non-Government Organisations (MICNGOS) is a collaborative partnership that promotes inclusive participation and positive change for its community. In 2020, Australian volunteer Mathilda Martin completed in-country and remote assignments with MICNGOS to achieve its goals in governance, fundraising and finance.

Mathilda supported finance administrators from MICNGOS member organisations to improve their capacity in planning, reporting and systems. Following the impact of COVID-19, she adapted her approach to provide remote support that was tailored to MICNGOS's changing needs and considered the local context.

Staff from MICNGOS member organisations gained confidence in their capacity to lead strategic planning discussions, apply better practice audit policies and procedures, and develop cohesive policies and procedures in Information and Communications Technology (ICT), human resources and fundraising.

Mathilda also assisted staff in establishing improved performance management administrative tracking and reporting systems.

MICNGOS member organisations now work more effectively and cohesively with partner organisations, local communities, and decision makers. They have stronger working relationships with other MICNGOS member organisations and international partners.

Support from Mathilda has also allowed MICNGOS member organisations to demonstrate their effective governance and audit compliance to potential donors, significantly expanding their capacity to fundraise.

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