

Australian Volunteers Program in Tanzania

In 2020-21 the Australian Volunteers Program in Tanzania supported four volunteers and four partner organisations, focusing on sustainable economic development, women’s leadership and economic empowerment and food security.

‘We all really appreciated the volunteer’s wisdom and attitude. We now have several well-developed designs and proposals, which can be utilised for future project proposals.’
 – Partner organisation spokesperson

In 2020-21 in Tanzania, the program supported:

4
 partner organisations

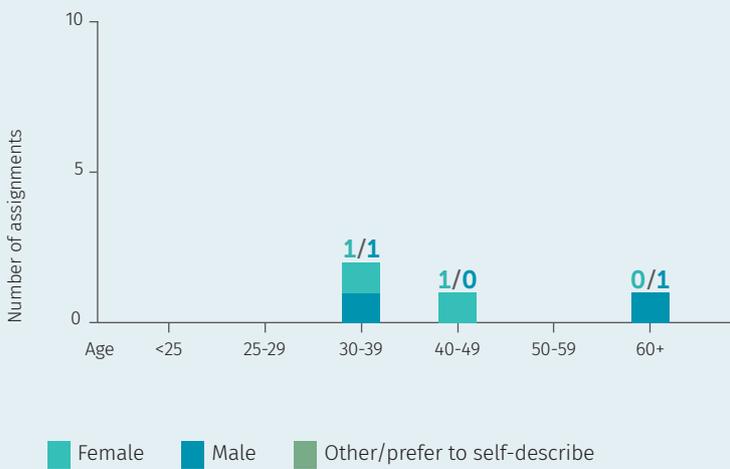
9
 partner organisations with Impact Grants

4
 volunteers

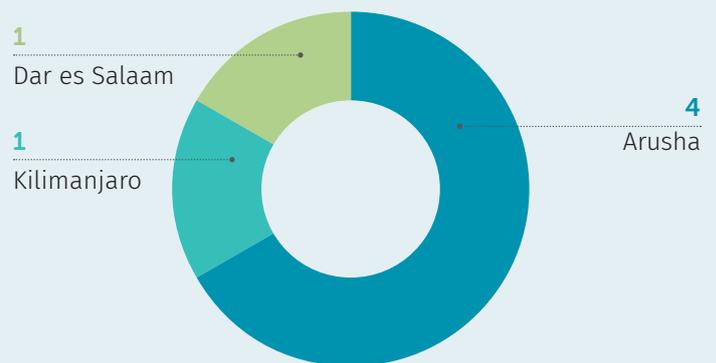
6
 remote assignments

Gender and age of volunteers

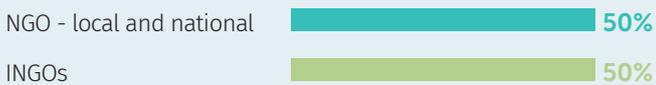
Women 50% Men 50%



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 Tanzania's local and national priorities.

The program adapted to partner organisations' changing priorities and needs.

The program supported partner organisations in Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Dar es Salaam to adapt to remote volunteering and delivered a webinar series to improve partner organisations' capacity in monitoring, evaluation and learning.

Nine partner organisations received a grant from the Australian Volunteers Program as part of the Go Back->Give Back initiative and Impact Fund.

The projects include:

- Pastoral Women's Council to provide healthy food to students, improve community food security and expand opportunities for girls to attend school
- ECHO East Africa project to improve the nutrition of vulnerable peri-urban populations in Arusha
- Girls Livelihood and Mentorship Initiative to support the construction of new washroom facilities at the Mbokomu Secondary School
- Girls Livelihood and Mentorship Initiative to support gender equality by influencing parents' attitudes on girls' education and empowerment
- Tanzania Flying Medical Service to install a small physical therapy and exercise facility at the Olkokola Centre for the Physically Handicapped

- The Plaster House to support mothers who have young children with disability
- Sidai Designs to improve its website to integrate online commerce and storytelling about traditional beaded designs produced by Maasai women
- Maternity Africa to provide access to evidence-based maternal healthcare for vulnerable and marginalised women and girls during the COVID-19 emergency.

During this time, the program celebrated and promoted international volunteering in Tanzania. The program supported Inherit Your Rights to mark International Women's Day by providing training to 300 women on constitutional rights, health and sanitation, family planning and domestic violence in Arusha. This event was covered by local newspapers and was shared in the Australian High Commission in Kenya's social media.



Australian volunteer Pamela Whitman (2nd from right) with her colleagues (R-L): Lightness Godwin, Felister MnDasha and Sarafina Kifaru at AfricAid, Moshi, Tanzania. Pamela works in this organisation as Program Development Officer. Photo Harjono Djoyobisono.

Spotlight on ECHO East Africa

ECHO East Africa is a non-profit based in Arusha, which provides technical assistance to help community development organisations and staff reduce food insecurity. From 2016 to 2020, two Australian volunteers, Girija Page and Steve Clark, supported ECHO to achieve their objectives, both in-country and remotely.

Girija assisted staff to train vulnerable peri-urban populations in Arusha to prepare perennial vegetables in urban garden techniques. With Girija's assistance, staff introduced new indigenous trees to its plant nursery, developed marketing and advocacy materials to assist with fundraising proposals, and developed posters showcasing sustainable agricultural practices for training participants and to build awareness of invasive species. These resources have since been widely used and adopted.

Steve worked with ECHO staff to secure a grant from the Australian Volunteers Program Impact Fund to improve the nutrition of Arusha communities and help them recover from the impacts of COVID-19. The grant will provide families and health practitioners with training sessions and resources to grow and prepare perennial vegetable varieties. Steve also assisted staff in conducting experiments on using mycorrhiza root fungi to boost seedling and cutting growth in nursery plants, helping to enrich plant nursery soil.

ECHO valued the volunteers' specialist expertise, open communication, and flexible approach, with staff embracing the opportunity to learn new skills and techniques.

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