



Australian Volunteers Program in Tuvalu

In 2020-21 the Australian Volunteers Program in Tuvalu supported one volunteer and one partner organisation, with a focus on food security.

'The volunteer was flexible and understood the challenges we faced. They shared their technical experience and had a pleasant attitude.'

– Partner organisation spokesperson

In 2020-21 in Tuvalu, the program supported:

1 partner organisation

2 partner organisations with Impact Grants

1 volunteer

2 remote assignments

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 Tuvalu's local and national priorities.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected partner organisations' capacity to operate and deliver services in Tuvalu. While output remained limited, the program maintained relationships and provided support to Tuvalu partner organisations, including those without active volunteers.

The program managed one remote volunteer who undertook two assignments with the partner organisation, Funafuti Kaupule, a local municipal council in Funafuti, the most populous atoll and the capital of Tuvalu. The volunteer supported Funafuti Kaupule's development outcomes

by sharing technical ideas, resources, and mentoring staff to develop high quality funding proposals.

Funafuti Kaupule also received support from the Australian Volunteers Program Impact Fund to develop a hydroponic system for growing vegetables. Participants are being trained to construct and manage hydroponic systems, improving their capacity to produce sustainable water-efficient food.

An Impact Fund was also awarded to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to help deliver learning resources to teachers and students across Tuvalu via television and radio.

The program celebrated and promoted international volunteering through shared social media content on program activities and volunteer assignments.

Spotlight on the Funafuti Kaupule

The Funafuti Kaupule is a local municipal council in Tuvalu where government departments, industry and essential services are based. Between 2019 and 2021, three Australian volunteers, David Peake, Sarah Bonny and Mark Hickey, supported Funafuti Kaupule to achieve its objectives in animal control and food security.

Funafuti had a significant number of stray dogs that affected public health and community safety. David and Sarah worked with the council to develop an intensive castration and desexing program for 200 domesticated and stray dogs, significantly improving quality of life by creating a safer environment. Funafuti Kaupule also implemented dog licencing and infringement programs.

Mark remotely assisted Kaupule staff to implement the Kaupule Funafuti Horticulture Action Plan, which aims

to expand Tuvalu's vegetable production by improving existing soilless food production systems and introducing hydroponic production.

Kaupule staff established a demonstration site for climate resilient and nutritious local food systems to engage and developed a training program to improve community knowledge and skills in soilless food production systems.

The Australian Volunteers Program Impact Fund also provided support for the development of a hydroponic vegetable system at the demonstration site, which is the first of its kind in Tuvalu. The Kaupule aims to build on these efforts to achieve long term food security and nutrition in its community.

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