



Australian Volunteers Program in Vietnam

In 2020-21 the Australian Volunteers Program in Vietnam supported 26 volunteers and 21 partner organisations. Remote volunteering allowed expansion to new locations including Son La province.

'The volunteer has been a wonderful and critical support to our survival at this challenging time.'
 – Partner organisation spokesperson

In 2020-21 in Vietnam, the program supported:

21
 partner organisations

5
 partner organisations with Impact Grants

26
 volunteers

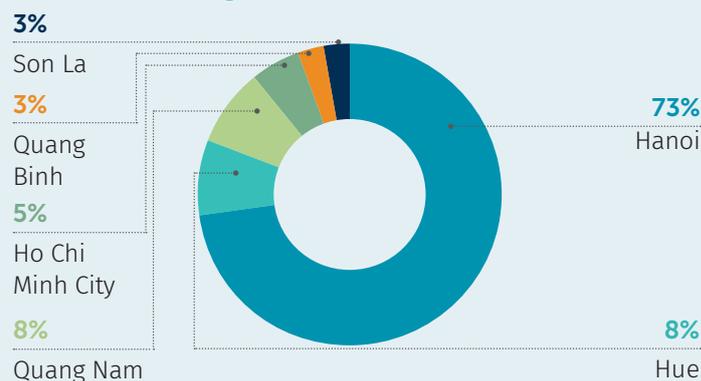
37
 remote assignments

Gender and age of volunteers

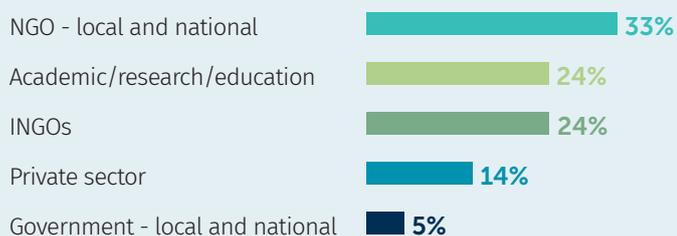
Women 50% Men 50%



Location of assignments



Most common types of partner organisations



Most common professions of volunteers



100% of partner organisations were satisfied or very satisfied with the volunteer assignment



87% of volunteers were satisfied or very satisfied with the program



* The above data is drawn from reports completed by volunteers and partner organisations. Responses were not received from all volunteers and partner organisations, and not all respondents provided a response to every question.

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 Vietnam's local and national priorities.

Despite a challenging operational context, the program supported 26 volunteers and 37 remote assignments with 21 partner organisations during this period. Most assignments were with partner organisations in Hanoi within the business, agriculture, forestry, fishing and environment protection sectors.

The program expanded support for partner organisations through a series of workshops and webinars, aiming to improve partner organisations' capacity in monitoring, evaluation, and learning. The participation of facilitators and presenters from partner organisations strengthened connections among existing partners and promoted experience sharing.

Remote volunteering allowed the program to expand to new locations, including Son La province, and re-establish connections with partner organisations. It also offered opportunities for engagement with partner organisations who couldn't manage in-country volunteers.

A new model of remote volunteering was piloted in partnership with the Researchers in Agriculture for International Development (RAID), supported by Crawford Fund and ACIAR.

This online project hosted by the Vietnam National University of Agriculture involved five researchers from the University and six Australian-based volunteers who participated in a research and leadership workshop.

Five partner organisations received a small grant through the Australian Volunteers Program Impact Fund, including AIP Foundation, Action for Poverty, Hearts for Hue, Hearing and Beyond, and The Vietnam Women's Academy.

The program, partner organisations, and current and returned volunteers, celebrated and promoted international volunteering through participation in an International Women's Day event, which included a panel discussion about the role of women's leadership in agriculture.



Australian volunteer, Leah Paice, a Speech Therapist Mentor, working with Dr. Hoi from Danang C Hospital. Photo: Nguyen Van Nam.

Spotlight on Action on Poverty

Action on Poverty (AOP) is an independent organisation based in Sydney, Australia. Since 1968, AOP has been supporting community-led development projects in Africa, Asia and the Pacific tackling the root causes of poverty.

AOP started working in Vietnam in 1989 and was the first Australian NGO to open a representative office in-country. The organisation is working in water and sanitation, food security, climate change, livelihoods, governance, and community health.

With support from the Australian Volunteers Program, AOP in Vietnam is in the process of improving its organisational structure, strengthening partnerships and developing sustainable development goals. Australian volunteers, Troy Kippen and Carmel Akhvari, supported AOP in Vietnam, both in-country and remotely, with achieving communication, marketing and tourism objectives. They also assisted staff with creating and implementing a development strategy, business plans, and an effective communication framework.

Volunteer support has also enabled the organisation to move to a product-based approach, with a strong focus on customer experience, financial stability, and following market trends. AOP in Vietnam's Communications and M&E teams have been merged into one team to manage their donors, partners, and customers, using mainstream and social media more effectively. Staff have also digitised internal systems and documents, making it easier to share data with donors about the effectiveness of their contributions.

australianvolunteers.com

#AusVols

@ausvols

vietnam@australianvolunteers.com

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