

Australian Volunteers Program

SAMOA

2019-20 at a glance

In 2019-20 the Australian Volunteers Program in Samoa supported 20 volunteer assignments and 14 partner organisations, and strengthened program engagement with volunteers and partner organisations.*

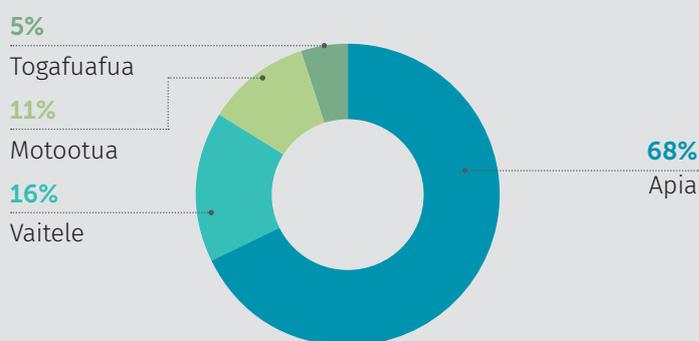
'The volunteers developed literacy and numeracy teaching tools which have been translated into the Samoan language'
– Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture

Gender and age

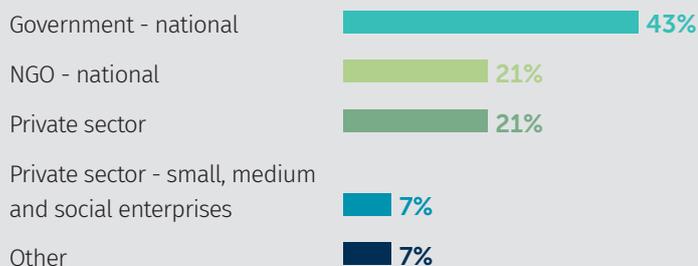
Women 72% Men 28%



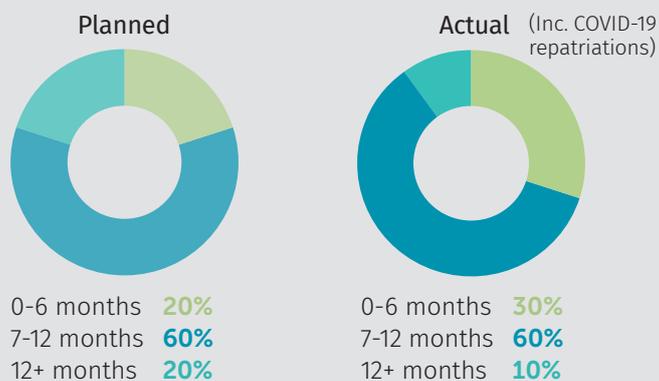
Location of assignments



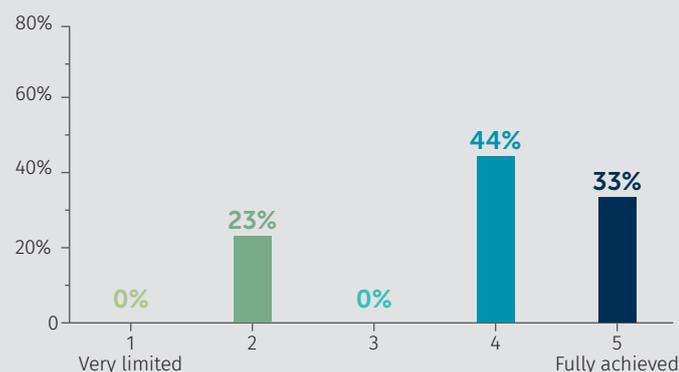
Most common types of organisations



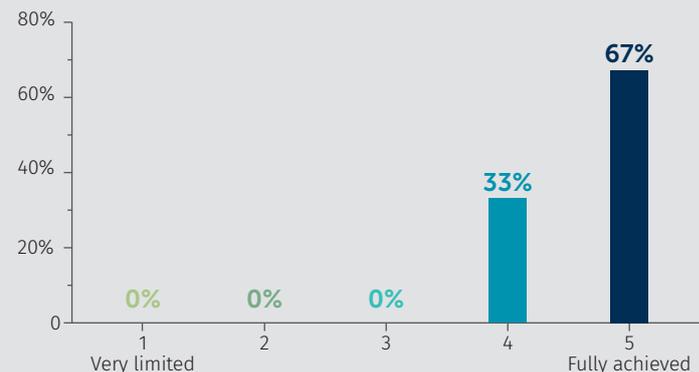
Duration of assignments



Volunteers' assessments against objectives



Partner organisations' assessment against objectives



* 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 2019-20 the Australian Volunteers Program contributed to the delivery of the Australian government's aid priorities in Samoa including improving the business environment and supporting financial literacy for women, greater involvement of people with disabilities, and initiatives that promote the protection of children and other vulnerable groups.

Partnership planning workshops were held in Apia, resulting in new partnerships and the development of partnership plans with existing partners. In addition to maintaining strong engagement with partners and volunteers, the program continued connections with other volunteer agencies and strengthened government relationships. The program also increased its engagement with other DFAT-funded programs in Samoa.

Samoa experienced national lockdowns at the end of 2019 to contain a national measles outbreak, which delayed the work of volunteers and partners. No volunteers contracted measles and volunteers contributed to national response initiatives.

Of the 20 assignments undertaken in 2019-20, eight commenced during this period and four family members were supported to accompany a volunteer.

As part of the program's response to COVID-19, seven volunteers and two family members were repatriated in March. A small number of assignments were cut short due to the repatriation.



Australian volunteer Audiologist, Haylene Goh (right) with Rowena Fa'aiuaso (left), Hearing Technician Officer at Senese Inclusive Education Services. Pictured testing the hearing of Ionne Tuuilalo (centre) in Samoa. Photo: Darren James.

Spotlight on the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture

The Australian Volunteers Program has supported four volunteer Inclusive Education Teacher Trainers to work with the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC) in Samoa over successive assignments: Dawn Rogers from 2017 to 2018, Anneliesje Brown and Patricia Miles from 2018 to 2019, and Janet Brearley from 2019 to March 2020.

The Inclusive Education Teacher Trainer volunteers trained and mentored staff on current inclusive education approaches, working with them to design and confidently deliver tailored inclusive education training and resources to Samoan heads of schools and teachers. They provided professional and technical advice on policy development, curriculum review, resources development, program management, and strengthening relationships with schools and service providers.

'The volunteers developed literacy and numeracy teaching tools which have been translated into the Samoan language,' said Jennifer Pemila the Ministry's Inclusive Education Coordinator.

For the first time inclusive education teaching resources are available, and there has been increased interest from head teachers and teachers in Apia schools to prioritise inclusive education programs and approaches in classroom delivery.

Haylene Goh also volunteered with the Ministry from 2018 to 2019 as an Audiology Mentor. Haylene's training and mentoring resulted in the successful national hearing screening of all year one students in 2019, and positive collaboration between MESC and Senese Inclusive Education Services staff. Samoan staff now have the expertise to continue annual screening.

These changes have raised the profile of the Ministry as a leader in inclusive education and early childhood education in Samoa and across the Pacific, strengthening partnerships within the Ministry and with schools and universities. It has also assisted the Ministry to attract interest from external donors and help to ensure sufficient allocation of government resources.

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