

SOUTHERN AFRICA

2019-20 at a glance

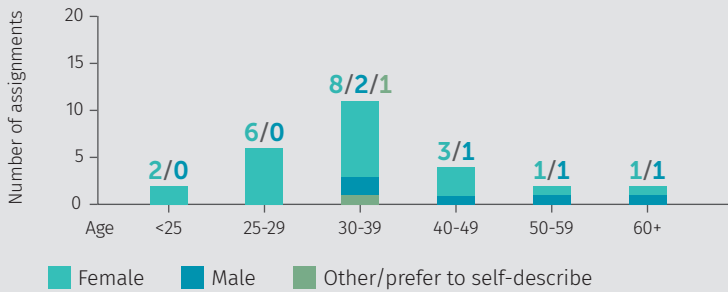
The Australian Volunteers Program in Southern Africa supported 32 volunteer assignments with 21 partner organisations in 2019-20, across South Africa, Lesotho and eSwatini. Those volunteers supported locally-led development in areas such as gender equality, human rights, and disability and inclusion.*

'Being a small team, our workloads are heavy, and we wouldn't have had the ability to mentor a person without the support of a volunteer.'

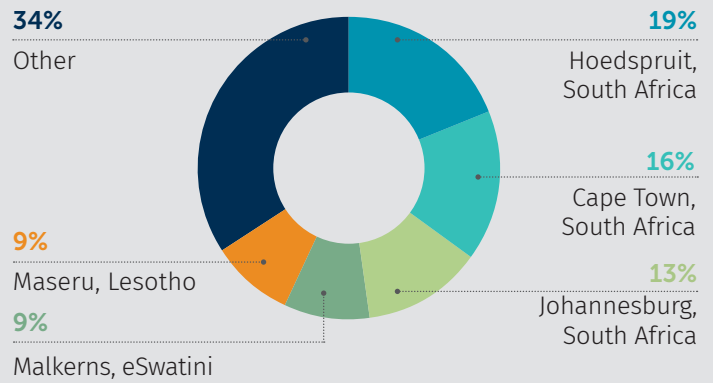
– QuadPara Association of the Western Cape

Gender and age

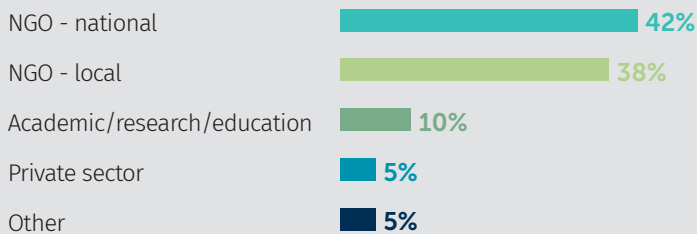
Women 78% Men 15%
Other/prefer to self-describe 4%



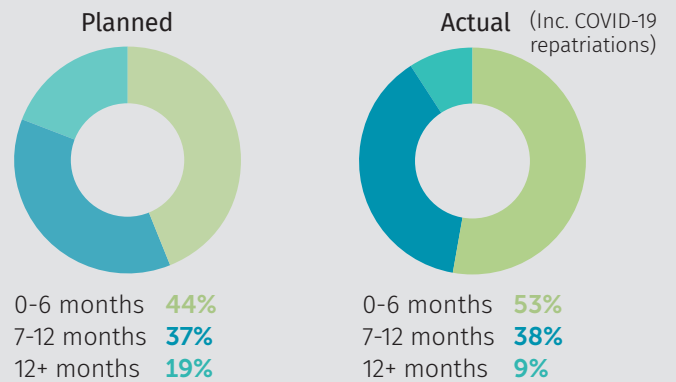
Location of assignments



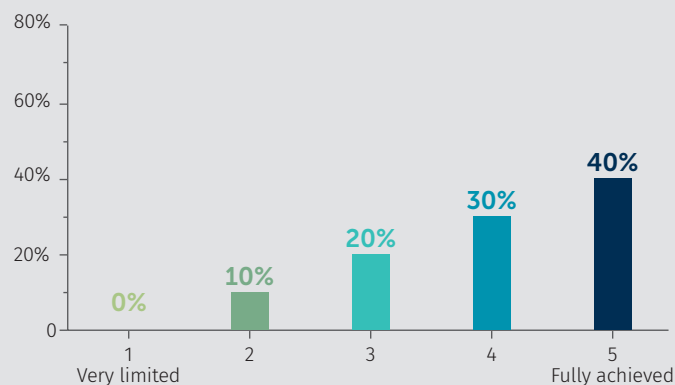
Most common types of organisations



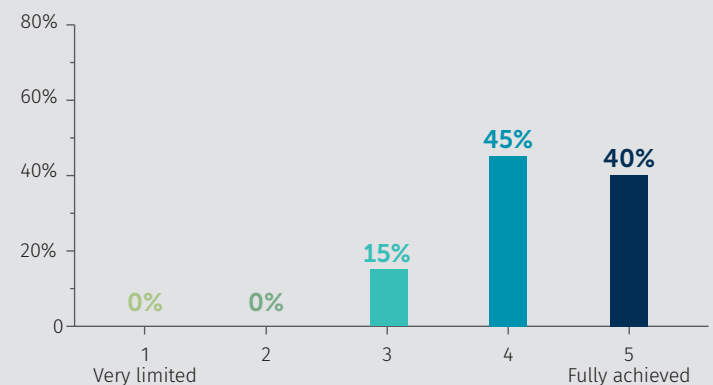
Duration of assignments



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 Australian volunteers contributed to the delivery of the Australian Government's aid priorities in Southern Africa, including supporting the empowerment of women and girls, supporting the protection and promotion of human rights, and promoting the empowerment of people with disability and inclusivity at all levels.

The program supported 13 partner organisations in South Africa, five in eSwatini and three in Lesotho. The majority of these partner organisations were local and national non-government organisations. Five young Indigenous Australians completed a group volunteering assignment in South Africa as part of the Classic Wallabies Indigenous Exchange Program.

Partner organisations were supported through the Community Grants Scheme. Kick4Life in Lesotho, Kwakha Indvodza in eSwatini, and Malamulele Onward in South Africa also received an Impact Fund grant to help the organisation and their community to respond to the impacts of COVID-19.

Volunteers actively promoted the value of international volunteering through an Australia Day event at the High Commissioner's residence, and stories by volunteers and partner organisations received coverage on social media.

Two partner organisations were also supported to hold events celebrating International Volunteer Day.

Of the 32 assignments undertaken during 2019-20, six commenced during this period and five family members were supported to accompany volunteers. As part of the program's response to COVID-19, 11 volunteers and five accompanying family members were repatriated from Southern Africa in March.



Australian volunteer Lowri Williams (right), alongside Anthony Ghillino (middle), General Manager of the QuadPara Association of the Western Cape. Photo: Matthew Willman.

Spotlight on the QuadPara Association of Western Cape

The QuadPara Association of the Western Cape (QAWC) is a non-profit organisation that strives to improve the lives of quadriplegics and paraplegics in South Africa's Western Cape province through injury prevention, education and advocacy.

When Australian volunteer Lowri Williams joined the five-person QAWC team in 2017, they had just welcomed their first intern, a wheelchair user, in line with their policy to try to employ people with disabilities.

'The reality is that, being a small team, our workloads are heavy, and we wouldn't have had the ability to mentor a person without the support of a volunteer,' said Anthony Ghillino, General Manager of the QAWC.

Mentoring the new intern was one of the many ways Lowri provided support. She also met with human resources teams in local businesses, presenting them with the opportunity to work with a disabled person, which assisted QAWC to build linkages with other organisations and better serve their members.

Lowri conducted workplace assessments to ensure that facilities were disability-friendly and paid weekly visits to QAWC members who gained work through the scheme, helping them overcome challenges, and ensuring that their experience was successful. In less than a year, the scheme found employment for 15 wheelchair users.

'Lowri was good at creating relationships and making people feel very comfortable; she had a way of winning people over and selling companies on the idea that they should want to employ people with disabilities because these people have abilities,' said Anthony.

With so much good work to continue with, Lowri extended her assignment for an additional 12 months.

'While we were initially nervous about having a volunteer for an entire year in case it didn't work out, we felt that, if she had actually left after 12 months, the assignment would not have been as impactful,' said Anthony.

australianvolunteers.com
info@australianvolunteers.com
southernafrika@australianvolunteers.com
#AusVols
@ausvols

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
dfat.gov.au

Australian
Volunteers

Australian
Aid 