

Australian Volunteers Program

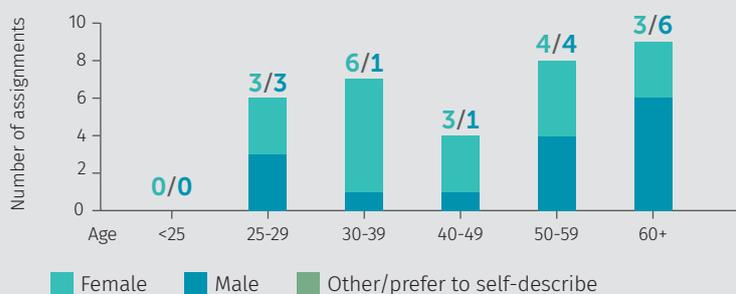
TONGA

2019-20 at a glance

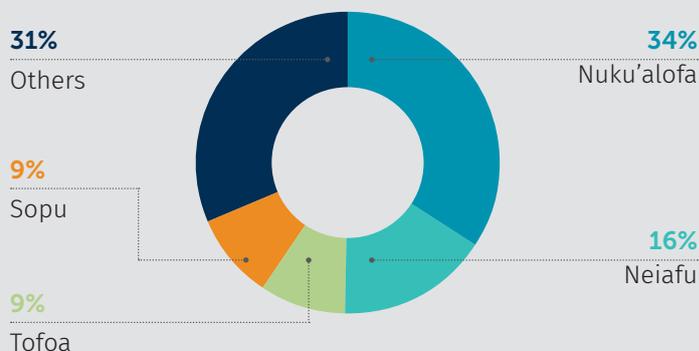
In 2019-20 the Australian Volunteers Program in Tonga supported 38 volunteer assignments and 17 partner organisations, many of which were national government bodies and NGOs.*

Gender and age

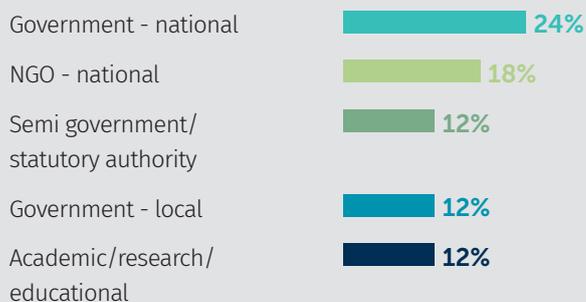
Women 56% Men 44%



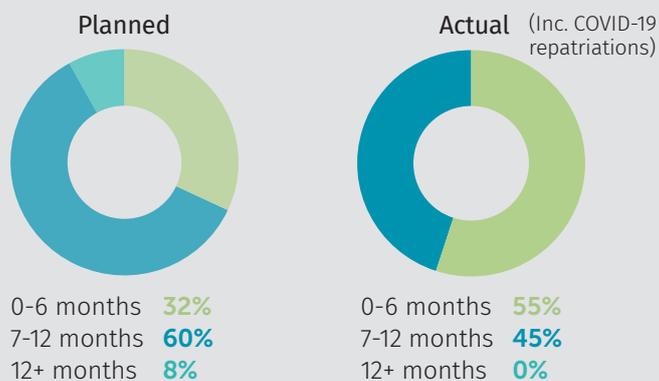
Location of assignments



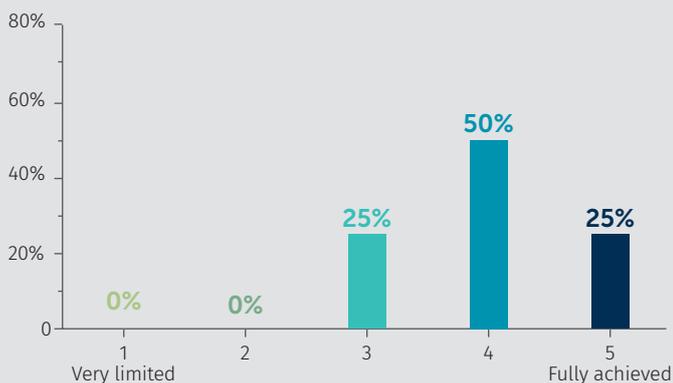
Most common types of organisations



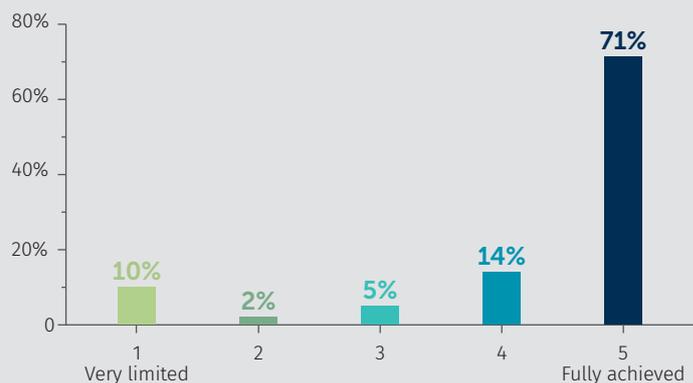
Duration of assignments



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 in Tonga supported 17 partner organisations, predominately in the health, education, and government and civil society sectors.

Volunteers supported the delivery of the Australian Government's aid priorities in Tonga, including supporting reforms to increase government revenue, strengthening control of government expenditure and promoting private sector growth; strengthening the health system and reducing the burden of non-communicable disease; and supporting skills training to ensure local labour skills needs are met.

Two volunteers were part of the program's Open Volunteering model, which saw volunteers spend a small amount of time in-country before returning to Australia to continue providing support online, and another volunteer was part of the Health Security Corps initiative.

Volunteers celebrated and promoted the value of international volunteering at an International Volunteer Day event with the Australian High Commissioner, which was promoted on social media.

Natural disasters posed a challenge for the program, with three cyclones resulting in the evacuation of volunteers and disruption to partner organisations and the program.

Of the 38 assignments undertaken during 2019-20, 18 commenced during this period and seven family members were supported to accompany volunteers.

As part of the program's response to COVID-19, 18 volunteers and one family member were repatriated from Tonga in March, which meant several assignments were not as long as planned. Three of these volunteers continued to support their partner organisations following repatriation through the program's new Remote Volunteering initiative.



Australian volunteer Sharon Stone (right) with her colleague Faaki'alele Manu at 'Ahopanilolo Technical Institute, Nuku'alofa, Tonga. Photo: Darren James.

Spotlight on 'Ahopanilolo Technical Institute

'Ahopanilolo Technical Institute is as a Vocational Education and Training facility based in Nuku'alofa. Originally established in 1969, the Institute aims to improve the vocational skills and employability of young people in Tonga.

After identifying the need to build staff capacity to improve the quality of education for hospitality and tourism courses, they gained the support of Australian volunteer Sharon Stone. During her 12-month assignment as a Career Development Mentor, Sharon supported the Institute by mentoring teachers and staff, including the deputy principal, Faaki'alele Manu.

Sharon supported Faaki'alele with mentoring and encouragement to improve her leadership capacity, and she was retained by the Institute as its Acting Principal for the 2020 school year. Sharon's technical writing and career advisory skills also helped the Institute create a new curriculum and organise accreditation processes.

'Sharon wrote a submission to the Tonga National Qualifications and Accreditation Board to upgrade the Institute's commercial cookery, hospitality and catering courses to diploma level, which is currently under consideration,' said Faaki'alele Manu, the Institute's Acting Principal.

After almost completing her 12-month assignment, Sharon was repatriated to Australia due to the impact of COVID-19. Sharon has since continued to support the Institute remotely.

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

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
dfat.gov.au

Australian
Volunteers

Australian
Aid 