

SOUTHERN AFRICA COUNTRY FACT SHEET

2018/19 at a glance*

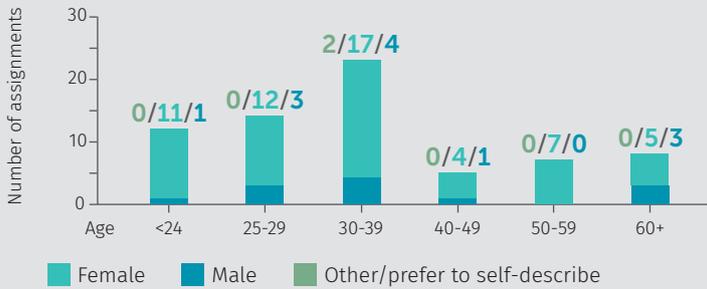
The Australian Volunteers Program in Southern Africa supported 70 volunteer assignments with 34 partner organisations in 2018/2019, across South Africa, Lesotho and eSwatini. Those volunteers supported locally-led development in areas including social infrastructure and services, education, health, government and civil society.

'I have been able to draw upon my expertise and build something worthwhile while improving the lives of some of the most disadvantaged children in South Africa.'

– Australian volunteer, Lorraine Collins

Gender and age

Women 80% Men 17% Other 3%



Location of assignments

4%

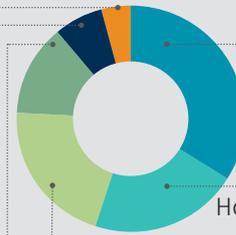
Matsapha, eSwatini

7%

Maseru, Lesotho

13%

Cape Town, South Africa



34%

Johannesburg, South Africa

21%

Hoedspruit, South Africa

21%

Other

Most common types of partner organisations



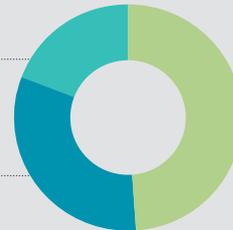
Duration of assignments

19%

12+ months

32%

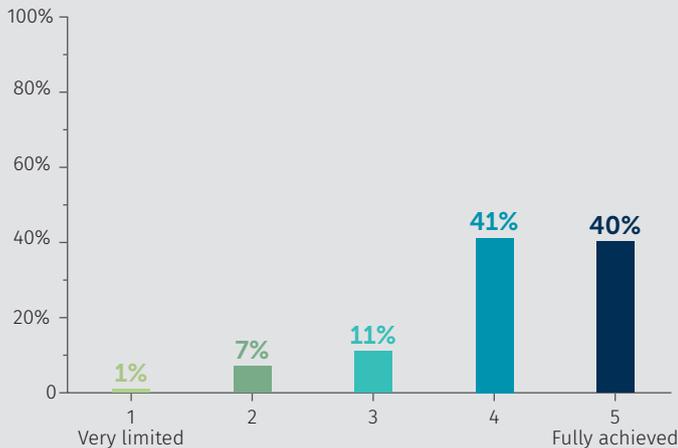
7-12 months



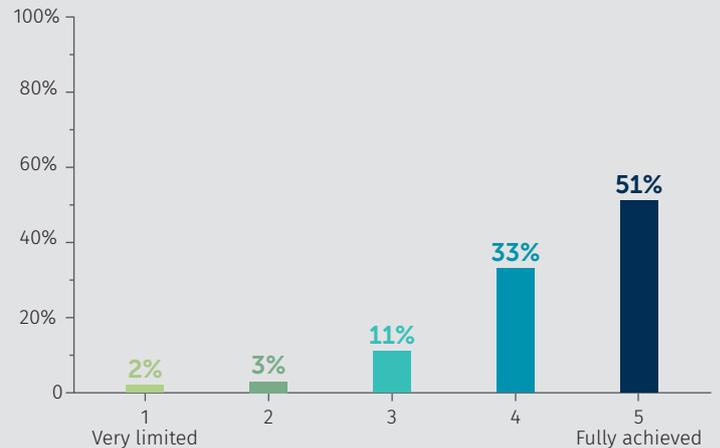
49%

0-6 months

Volunteers' assessment 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.

Overview

In 2018/2019 Australian volunteers contributed to the delivery of the Australian Government's aid priorities in Southern Africa, with a particular focus on the empowerment of women and girls and people living with a disability.

One volunteer worked with the South African Ministry of Science and Technology to attract more women and girls to the field, while two volunteers were placed with the South African Human Rights Commission to lead an initiative to ensure all cases of child abuse are recorded in national statistics.

Volunteers worked with their colleagues towards reducing gender-based violence, strengthening institutions that promote democracy and the rule of law, supporting the protection and promotion of human rights, and capacity building in science and technology.

The program supported 25 partner organisations in South Africa, five in eSwatini and four in Lesotho. The majority of partner organisations were non-government organisations (NGOs), including 11 national NGOs and 11 local NGOs.

Two groups of young Indigenous Australians undertook a five-week team volunteering assignment in South Africa as part of the Classic Wallabies Indigenous Exchange Program.

Volunteers actively promoted the value of international volunteering through International Volunteer Day events, and stories by volunteers and partner organisations received coverage on social media and national television. One volunteer in eSwatini used funding from the Australian Government's Direct Aid Program to initiate a wheelchair basketball competition, which received national media coverage.

The program supported eight family members of volunteers, two of whom became volunteers themselves while in Southern Africa.



Australian Volunteer Quality Assurance and Project Coordinator Louise Bearman (second from left) with senior social services colleagues at the Cape Town Child Welfare Society. Photo: Matthew Willman

Case Study

Former teacher and school principal Lorraine Collins has volunteered twice with Botshabelo, a non-government organisation in South Africa which operates early learning centres for underprivileged children. Lorraine's first assignment was with UpliftED, a teacher training program for staff at early learning centres.

In this role, she worked with women who care for children in unregistered early childhood crèches in townships and villages. These women have little or no training or qualifications, and work with limited resources.

Lorraine developed and delivered a training package for principals and teacher groups. She also mentored and upskilled two local women to take over this training role.

'To watch local women come into their own as better teachers and as trainers has been a great joy. Watching their expertise increase, their confidence grow, and their chests swell with pride makes it all worth it,' said Lorraine.

As a result of the success of the training, Botshabelo helped local women establish a rural training centre in the northern province of Limpopo. The organisation asked if Lorraine could return to help them with this new project.

Lorraine's second role involved adapting her original training program to local conditions and supporting and mentoring the Limpopo-based trainer. The establishment of this pilot will now act as a blueprint for future ventures into other rural provinces.

Lorraine said, 'I have been able to draw upon my expertise and build something worthwhile while improving the lives of some of the most disadvantaged children in South Africa'.

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