

A JOURNEY TOWARDS INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN INDONESIA

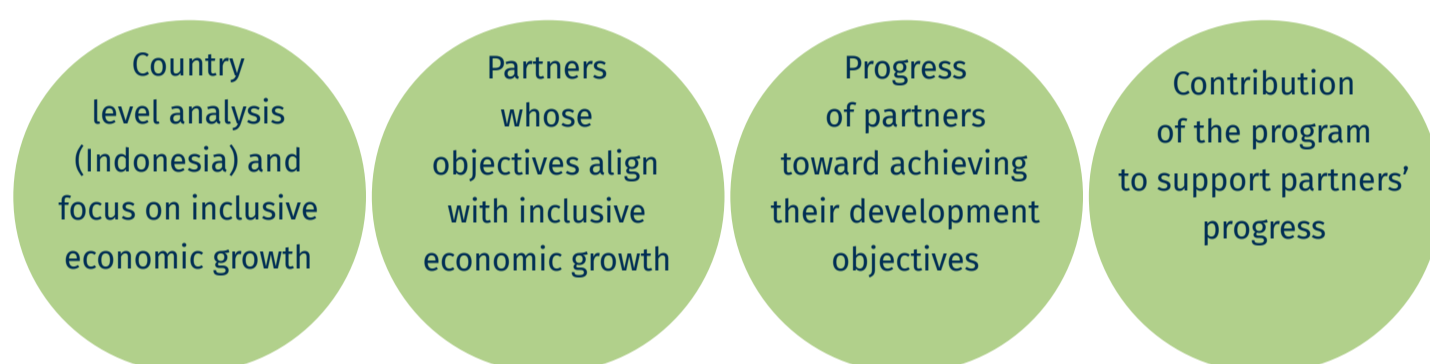
Australian Volunteers

Introduction

The Global Program Strategy for the Australian Volunteers Program identifies inclusive economic growth as one of its three thematic impact areas. This evaluation assessed the contribution of the Australian Volunteers Program to promoting inclusive economic growth with partner organisations in Indonesia.

Methodology

This evaluation is based on a Theory of Change approach. It assessed the Australian Volunteers Program's contribution to partner organisations in the context of their countries to understand the program's contribution to inclusive economic growth.



This evaluation uses a mixed methods approach (qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis). It triangulates perspectives from multiple stakeholders to enhance the validity of its findings.

Five data collection methods were used in this research

Quantitative

- Social Network Analysis
- online survey

Qualitative

- Systems mapping of inclusive economic growth in Indonesia
- remote interviews
- Document review and an online survey

The evaluation participants represented seven stakeholder groups in Australia and Indonesia:

- Australian Volunteers Program staff (Indonesia and Melbourne based)
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) (Canberra and Indonesia Post), and
- twenty partner organisation representatives, beneficiaries of partner organisations and volunteers.

The evaluation questions were informed by the OECD DAC Criteria for Evaluating Development Assistance, which focus on six domains of inquiry: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, impact and sustainability.

Key Findings

Relevance

The Program has supported partner organisations to progress objectives in inclusive economic growth by:

- matching volunteer skills to the needs of partner organisations
- proactively maintaining good relationships with partner organisations, and
- catering to the changing country context of Indonesia.

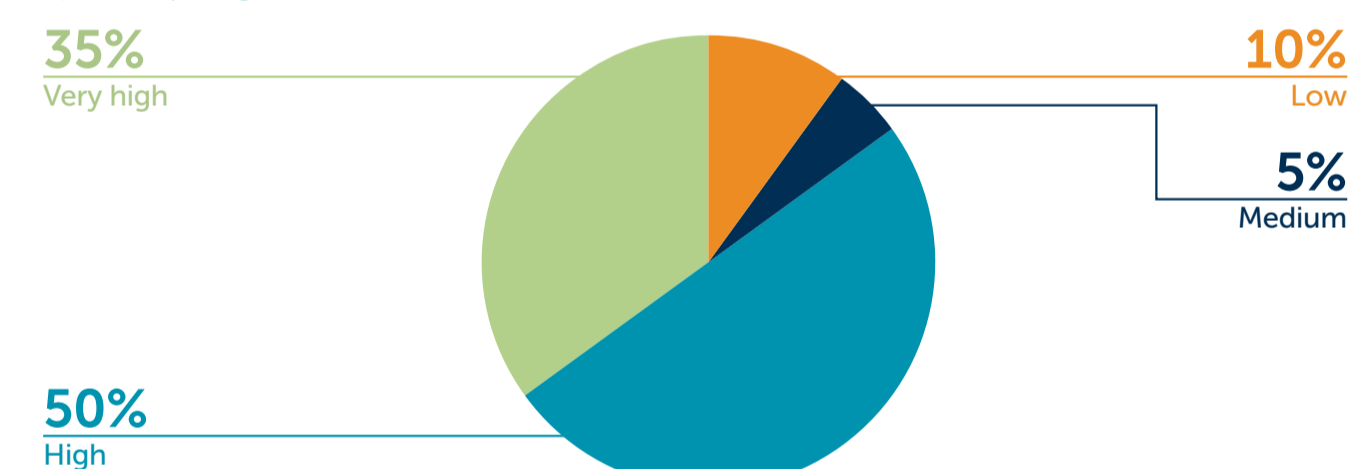
Effectiveness

Partner organisations demonstrated progress towards achieving their development objectives in inclusive economic growth. This included an emphasis on the inclusion and promotion of economic development for women, young people, indigenous minorities and people living with disabilities.

Volunteers supported improved marketing and promotion to global markets, international tourism skill development (including cross cultural understanding) and linked partner organisations to wider (international) networks and English language development.

Overall, partner organisations were satisfied that the Australian Volunteers Program supported their objectives for inclusive economic growth

Partner organisations' satisfaction with the support provided by the program



Efficiency

The Australian Volunteers Program operated efficiently, with all stakeholder groups acknowledging efforts to maximise this. The evaluation revealed strong evidence of learning and innovations to improve the program's efficiency including:

- the volunteer talent pool
- remote volunteering
- orientation of volunteers
- a regional showcase events for partner organisations
- Impact Fund grants
- a web portal for partner organisations
- staff development through Australian Volunteers International
- partner organisation partnership plans; and
- Australian organisation connections and partnerships.

Coherence

Partner organisation development objectives were consistent with other interventions to promote inclusive economic growth, for example by the Indonesian Government, non-government organisations and donor actors. Many partner organisations focused on environmental sustainability, income generation, vocational training and tourism, which are priorities of inclusive economic growth in Indonesia.

Impact

Partner organisations have contributed to inclusive economic growth, particularly for marginalised or disadvantaged groups such as women and youth, and to a lesser extent people living with disabilities and indigenous minorities. For instance, partner organisations provided short-term tourism training which meant that young people, women and people with disabilities were able to quickly secure jobs and provide more income for their families.

Partner organisations supported the preservation of cultural integrity and indigenous practices through sustainable indigenous business activities and supported the protection of the environment through conservation programs.

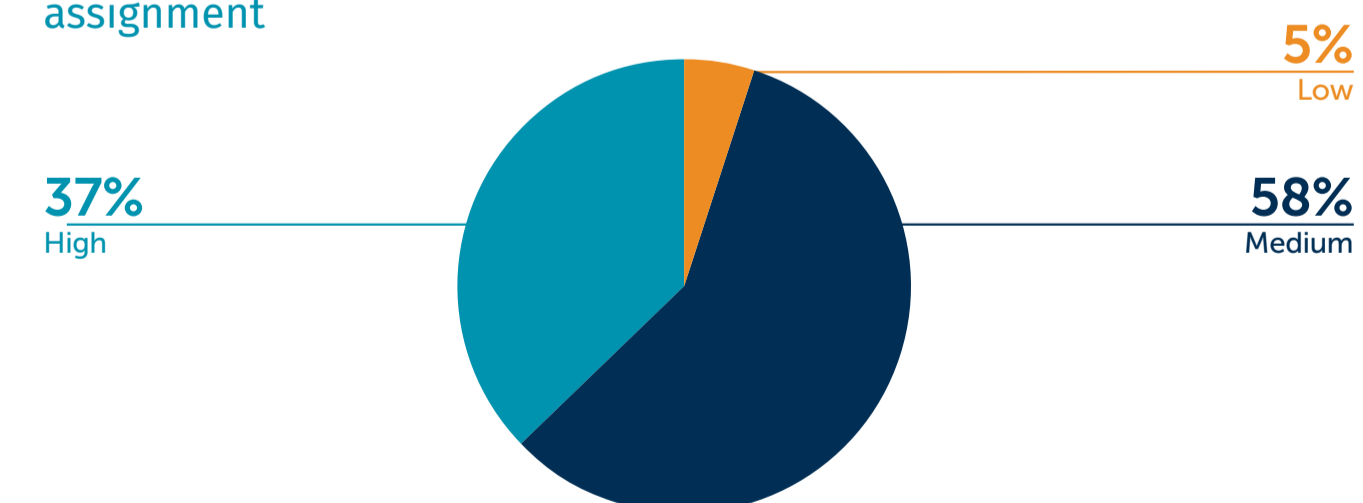
The Australian Volunteers Program support to higher level effects has led to cross-cultural exposure, support for partner organisations as businesses (not just not-for-profits), engagement with global markets and English language training.

Sustainability

The majority (18 out of 20) of partner organisations believed the benefits from the Australian Volunteer Program to their organisation would be enduring.

After finishing their assignment, volunteers have continued to work for the same partner organisation or have taken other roles in Indonesia's aid and development sector, illustrating their ongoing contribution.

Likelihood of benefits for partner organisation continuing after an assignment



'With as many young people receiving skills and being able to find employment, this would help, obviously the income of the family. And then it is a trickle effect, having more income in the family means the younger sisters and brothers, specifically sisters, can continue their education and not drop out of school. That would also mean hopefully a decrease of early age marriage, which is also a huge issue in both West Java and Central Kalimantan where we are located.'

- Indonesia Partner Organisation Representative

What's next?

The evaluation recommends improvements to make the Australian Volunteers Program more effective and sustainable to promote inclusive economic growth. This includes:

- developing longer-term partnerships with partner organisations
- pursuing a formal agreement with the Indonesian Government
- increasing partner organisations' roles in volunteer management, and
- upskilling in-country management teams to support program engagement.

Acknowledgements

The Australian Volunteers Program is an initiative of the Australian Government. The Deep Dive Evaluation of Inclusive Economic Growth in Indonesia was conducted by The Institute for Sustainable Futures. The researchers involved were Dr Keren Winterford, Anna Gero, Tamara Megaw, Dr Rebecca Cunningham, Dr Anthony Fee and Jay Falletta. The research was finalised in September 2020.