

Australian  
Volunteers

Australian  
Aid 

# Australian Volunteers Program

The Australian Volunteers Program develops long-term, mutually respectful partnerships with organisations across the Pacific, Asia and Africa to contribute to locally led change and the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Australian volunteers have supported overseas partner organisations to achieve their development goals for more than 65 years. The Australian Government's Australian Volunteers Program continues this rich history.

The program highly values First Nations perspectives and knowledge, and seeks to increase Indigenous participation in international volunteering. The program is also committed to human rights, gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI), and works to increase the diversity of volunteers and organisations we partner with.

[australianvolunteers.com](https://australianvolunteers.com)



# The Australian Volunteers Program aims to

Support partner organisations to progress their development objectives

Increase program participants' cultural awareness and build stronger connections across countries

Increase key stakeholders' appreciation of the value of volunteering



*"While the project was designed to build capacity and undoubtedly was empowering for the deaf community and sign language interpreters within Mongolia with whom I was working, the real value lay in sharing language, culture and lived experiences – an opportunity not to be missed!"*

Australian volunteer Ramas McRae

## Our volunteers

**We value volunteers who are open to mutual learning and skills exchange, and who are committed to contributing to partners' priorities in support of locally led change.**

Australian volunteers come from a broad range of sectors, contributing the specific skills and experience required to support our partners.

We understand that volunteering is a big commitment and is often a life-changing experience. We offer comprehensive support

so volunteers can focus on their assignment and supporting their partner organisation.

We are committed to ensuring that international volunteering is inclusive and accessible to Australians from a range of backgrounds, with diverse perspectives, identities and abilities. We recognise the unique strengths and skills that people with diverse backgrounds and experiences offer, and we work with volunteers to remove barriers they may face. Partners and children can accompany volunteers on in-country assignments.

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Connor Graham, Australian volunteer Research Officer, with colleague Kartika Karun Lata at the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences of Fiji National University in Suva.  
Photo: Darren James

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Team members from partner organisation Solar Solutions PNG, (L-R) Shianne Kusunan, Sustainable Development Officer Intern, Naomi Inowor, Sustainable Development Intern and Jodie Kila, Sustainable Development Officer, at their office in Port Moresby.  
Photo: Darren James

Since 2018  
the program  
has supported

**1100+**  
partner  
organisations

**2900+**  
volunteer  
assignments

**2000+**  
Australian  
volunteers

## Our partners

**We respect our partners' deep contextual knowledge and expertise, and recognise that capacity strengthening is a long-term, complex process that must be locally owned.**

We are proud to have partnered with more than 1,100 organisations across the Pacific, Asia and Africa to support them to progress their own locally determined objectives.

Our partners are diverse. They include local, national and international NGOs, government, academic and research institutions, and the private sector – all working across different areas including inclusive economic growth, human rights, in particular related to gender and disability, and climate change, disaster resilience and food security.

Our in-country teams work closely with our partners to understand their priorities and objectives. Together with our partners, we identify how the program can support them and how that support might change over time.

We work with Australian organisations who share our commitment to locally led change. The program supports existing connections between overseas partners and Australian organisations, and identifies opportunities for new connections and partnerships. Australian organisations contribute to skills and knowledge exchange, support volunteer recruitment and promote the value of volunteering.

Our partner organisations also access a range of other support mechanisms from time to time, such as small grants, global and in-country workshops, and networking.

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Australian volunteers Ramas McRae (who is deaf) and Rebecca Ladd supported the Mongolian Association of Sign Language Interpreters as Training Development Officers.  
Photo: Henry Smith

3

Female survivors of gender-based violence working at HopeBox, a social enterprise in Vietnam, receive emotional and economic support.  
Photo: HopeBox

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Prak Pin, Mobilisation and Partnership Development Lead of Engineers Without Borders Australia (EWB) in Cambodia and Ugyen Choden, volunteer WASH Capacity Development Mentor, wash their hands using a device engineered by EWB, in Phnom Penh.  
Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono

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Engen Ernawati, Health Education and Scholarship Coordinator at Yayasan Usaha Mulia in Jakarta, Indonesia, with Philip Thomas, Australian volunteer Economic Development and Fundraising Specialist.  
Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono



“Here at HopeBox we want to send a message to our community that our women deserve a better life. By supporting them and providing them with the proper skills and knowledge, they can do a lot of incredible things. It’s amazing for a small start-up organisation like ours to work with the Australian Volunteers Program. It really helps us to build our portfolio and the volunteers help fill gaps in our skillset and help us grow.”

HopeBox CEO Huong Dang



### In-country

In-country volunteering enables volunteers and partners to share their skills, knowledge and culture, and form long-lasting relationships along the way.



### Remote

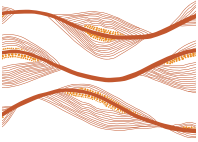
Through remote volunteering, Australians can support organisations overseas to achieve their development goals from anywhere, at any time.



### Hybrid

By combining remote and in-country phases, hybrid volunteering offers our partners flexibility while still allowing for genuine connections and meaningful skill sharing.





**Indigenous Pathways** is an Indigenous-led initiative that aims to expand and strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in the Australian Volunteers Program, by providing culturally safe, flexible and tailored support. A strong focus of Indigenous Pathways is to meaningfully connect Indigenous people and organisations from Australia, with Indigenous organisations and communities internationally, to collaborate on projects that are mutually beneficial.



The Australian Volunteers Program **Alumni** is an alumni-led and driven network, welcoming past Australian volunteers from all Australian Government-funded international volunteering programs.

The Alumni provides opportunities for past volunteers to stay connected with each other and the program, to raise awareness of the value of volunteering, and to increase cultural awareness and connections across countries.



### The Australian Volunteers Program is guided by principles that ensure we



Support locally led change



Grow strong relationships and partnerships



Value volunteering



Evolve good practice and embrace innovation



Enhance diversity and inclusion



Ensure accountability and value learning

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The Australian Volunteers Program is funded by the Australian Government.  
The program is managed by AVI in a consortium with DT Global and Alinea International.

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