



Australian
Volunteers

Australian
Aid 

Australian Volunteers Program Cambodia

Australian volunteers have supported partner organisations in Cambodia to achieve their development goals since 1992. The Australian Government's Australian Volunteers Program continues this rich history.

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.

The 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

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Australian volunteer Marguerite Goulding with colleagues Ouk Somuny and Pol Sambath at the Eye Care Foundation, Phnom Penh. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono

Hak Limheang, trainer at Moto Doctor in Siem Reap, supervising students at the organisation's workshop. Photo: Cam Suttie

Australian volunteer IT Officer William McLean and Dwi Prameswari at the Asean Regional Mine Action Centre in Phnom Penh. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono

Our work in Cambodia

Our team in Cambodia works 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.

The program provides support across a range of development priorities in Cambodia, including:

- Health
- Education
- Agriculture and rural development
- Infrastructure
- Private sector partnerships and enabling
- Disability
- Gender empowerment
- Child protection
- Environment
- Governance

In Cambodia, we partner with organisations working in a broad range of sectors, including social infrastructure and services, government and civil society and education. Program partners are mainly local or national NGOs and INGOs.

Most volunteer assignments are with partners in Phnom Penh, Battambang and Siem Reap. The program also supports partners in remote locations through remote volunteer assignments.

The program facilitates opportunities for partners to connect with each other, exchange knowledge and share experiences. For example, partners participate in online and face-to-face workshops that focus on specific sectors or topics such as disability inclusion, gender equality and safeguarding.

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The Australian Volunteers we have worked with have been immersed within the organisation and have been an integral part of the team. By working closely with This Life's team, our volunteers have been able to support the development of policies, procedures and strategies, which will enable This Life to continue to deliver programs, working towards our vision of a world where children, families and communities are supported to access and create opportunities in life.”

Billy Gorter, Executive Director – This Life



Since 2018
the program in
Cambodia has
supported

70+
partner
organisations

135+
Australian
volunteers

145+
in-country
volunteer
assignments

35+
remote
volunteer
assignments

29
small
grants

Small grants

Through the Impact Fund, we provide small grants of up to AUD\$10,000 to our partners to support their vital work and progress towards achieving their development objectives.

The Impact Fund has supported over 200 partners to deliver hundreds of projects. Projects have been across a range of thematic areas including gender equality, disability and social inclusion, climate action, organisational strengthening, and COVID-19 response and recovery.

Australian organisations

We also partner with Australian organisations who share our commitment to locally-led change. We support existing partnerships between overseas partners and Australian organisations and identify opportunities for new partnerships. Australian partners contribute to skills and knowledge exchange and support volunteer recruitment.

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Australian volunteer Gregory Cansdale meeting with colleagues Keo Navin, Sieng Kunthy, Lach Darang and Chamreun Pisedth from the Southeast Asia Development Program, Phnom Penh. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono

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"I feel proud to be part of the Australian Volunteers Program to contribute to Cambodia's development goals, as well as the cultural exchanges between program participants and our partners using a locally-led approach in our way of working."

Molika Bou, Country Program Manager – Australian Volunteers Program, Cambodia

About our volunteers

Our program is all about people – volunteers, partners and the communities in which they live and work.

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.

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.

Each volunteer assignment requires specific skills and experience. Australian volunteers work in a broad range of sectors including community and social development, health, science, engineering and architecture, skilled trades, education, disaster and emergency management, gender equality and child protection.

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Floating village, Tonle Sap river, Kompong Chhnang. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono

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Australian volunteer Samantha Schofield and English Teacher Vann Sreynopose at the Friends-International Siem Reap office. Photo: Cam Suttie



In-country

International volunteering is an incredible experience. It's an opportunity for volunteers and partners to share their skills and culture, while making a tangible difference to communities.



Remote

Through remote volunteering Australians are supporting organisations overseas to achieve their development goals anywhere, anytime.



Hybrid

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

Spotlight on Friends-International

Friends-International's mission is to support marginalised children, youth and their families, and to build a future where all children are safe from all forms of abuse, and they are provided opportunities for employment and becoming active members of their community.

Friends-International works in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos and Myanmar and has been a partner of the program since 2017.

Friends-International's services include child protection and social reintegration programs, improved employability, and empowerment of youth through vocational training, as well as the ChildSafe Movement and income-generating initiatives, such as social enterprises and production centres.

Australian volunteer Samantha Schofield completed an in-country assignment as a Youth Project Mentor. During her assignment, Samantha supported staff in initiating new activities designed to help vulnerable children and youth in Siem Reap and neighbouring provinces. Her assistance also extended to other locations in Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, and Indonesia.

Due to the pandemic and the significant impact it had on communities across Cambodia, Friends- International shifted their focus away from building futures to saving lives. Samantha demonstrated a high degree of adaptability, coordinating the report on Friends-International's COVID-19 response in Cambodia and other countries. She also assisted the organisation with delivering fundraising activities to compensate for lost income due to the pandemic and helped develop new policies and procedures for online child protection for both beneficiaries and staff.

Staff also learnt how to adapt materials and methodologies for online training and delivery, as well as monitoring and evaluation tools to measure and improve training delivery. Samantha was directly involved in the proposal writing, implementation, and reporting for two small grants awarded to Friends-International from the Australian Volunteers Program (the organisation has received three Impact Fund grants from the program in total). The two grants aimed to increase community resilience against COVID-19 impacts in Siem Reap by training ChildSafe Agents, providing emergency assistance and supporting marginalised communities back into employment.



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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