

Australian
Volunteers

Australian
Aid 

Australian Volunteers Program Indonesia

Australian volunteers have supported partner organisations in Indonesia to achieve their development goals since 1951. 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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Eneng Ernawati, Health Education and Scholarship Coordinator at non-profit organisation Yayasan Usaha Mulia, with Australian volunteer Economic Development and Fundraising Specialist Philip Thomas.
Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono

Program Coordinator of CIQAL Foundation Dwi Suka Sulistyaningsih and Director Ibnu Sukaca at the organisation's office in Bantul, Jogjakarta.
Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono

Wulan Noviani, lecturer in the School of Nursing at Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (UMY), with Australian volunteer Research Development Mentor (Nursing Specialist) Laura Wallace.
Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono

Our work in Indonesia

Our team in Indonesia 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 Indonesia, including:

- Climate change
- Disability inclusion
- Economic growth
- Education
- Gender equality and social inclusion
- Good governance
- Women's empowerment

In Indonesia, we partner with organisations working in a broad range of sectors, including education, government, and civil society. Program partners are mainly local or national NGOs, academic institutions and government.

Most volunteer assignments are with partners in Jakarta and Bali but the program works across the archipelago with assignments in Java, Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, NTB and NTT. The program also supports partners 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 outcome of the assignment has exceeded our expectations; in several aspects it has led to strong teamwork and leadership capacity building to navigate through company business process analysis. We are now able to identify and implement methods to increase our company's exposure on social media by at least 150%. As a result, the number of customers is also picking up significantly, recovering from last year's pandemic.”

Thauhuriah Adliah, Lembaga Profesi Teknik & Manajemen (LPTM) - Makassar, Indonesia



Since 2018
the program in
Indonesia has
supported

145+
partner
organisations

250+
Australian
volunteers

345+
volunteer
assignments

42
small
grants

Small grants

From time to time, our partners can apply for small grants to support their vital work and progress towards achieving their development objectives.

Small grants have supported over 200 partners to deliver hundreds of projects across the program. Projects have been across a range of thematic areas including gender equality, disability and social inclusion, climate action and organisational strengthening.

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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Marsya P. Nurmaranti, Executive Director of Indorelawan, and Ardina Wulantami, Program Coordinator, in a meeting at their office in Jakarta.
Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono

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“Our volunteers and partners are dedicated to driving impactful and locally led change in Indonesia, and I am proud to support such meaningful volunteer assignments. Together, we create pathways for inclusive growth and empower communities by focusing on gender equality, environmental sustainability, and resilient local partnerships.”

Karina Kardansjah, Country Program Manager – Australian Volunteers Program, Indonesia

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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Pak Sunarwi, rice farmer from Kasembon, Malang Regency, East Java, carrying taro leaves.
Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono

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Indra Wardhani, Director of PILAR Indonesia, with Lale Asbe Gande Sari, a member of Bonjeruk Tourism Village. PILAR Indonesia is an organisation developing community-based tourism.
Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono



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 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 Yayasan Cipta Mandiri

COVID-19 stalled many industries around the world, including valuable community organisations such as Yayasan Cipta Mandiri (YCM), which assists young people to gain skills and find work.

YCM offers English language courses for financially disadvantaged students. It has grown to become a place for youth to explore their interests and talents, particularly for those from difficult economic backgrounds like child labourers or street vendors. The students' talents are also connected to work experience opportunities, such as working as English-speaking tour guides for foreign tourists. YCM has been part of many success stories where people are able to find successful careers and continue their education.

YCM was largely inactive during the pandemic, as the participants didn't have resources for online learning. They were finally able to restart their activities in 2023 with the support of Taylor Bonin, an Australian volunteer Youth Development Mentor.

Following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, YCM's tutors were eager to reconnect with their students in person and share their expertise. While the tutors are the facilitators of the classroom, they don't have a strict curriculum to follow. Taylor supported them to get back into the swing of teaching, creating engaging learning materials and strengthening their English skills. He observed tutors in their classes via Zoom and travelled to Indonesia to observe classes and provide feedback.

Whenever questions about English popped up, the tutors knew they could turn to Taylor for guidance. His support boosted the tutors' confidence so they could better engage their classes. Now, the number of participants has increased and YCM has received funding again. The organisation is focused on sustainability and committed to making a positive impact for the next 50 years.



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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