

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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Australian volunteer English Competencies Development Mentor, Margaret Duffield, and Ellyanus, the Dean of Languages and Art Education Faculty, at the Institut Keguruan Dan Ilmu Pendidikan, Gunungsitoli, Nias, North Sumatra. Photo: Harjono Djyobisono

1

Australian volunteer Sarah Drake with students at Institut Agama Islam Negeri Parepare, Makassar, South Sulawesi. Photo: Harjono Djyobisono

2

Australian volunteer Peter Button working with Thauhuriah Adliah, Syafruddin and Muhamad Bilal on solar panels at an Institution of Engineering and Management Profession in Makassar, South Sulawesi. Photo: Harjono Djyobisono

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 and 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

1



2



Since 2018
the program in
Indonesia has
supported

120+
partner
organisations

220+
Australian
volunteers

200+
in-country
volunteer
assignments

80+
remote
volunteer
assignments

42
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.

3

Staff meeting at the Center for Improving Qualified Activities in the Life of People with Disabilities office in Bantul, Jogjakarta. Ida Ayu Putu Sudiartini, Finance Manager, and Dwi Suka Sulistyarningsih, Program Coordinator. Photo: Harjono Djyobisono

4



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I am proud to be part of the Australian Volunteers Program because our program has a strong commitment to gender equality and community empowerment as important matters in achieving inclusive and sustainable development outcomes. Seeing our volunteers and partner organisations come together and work towards a common goal to achieve such outcomes can be incredibly rewarding and gives a sense of purpose to our work.”

Indah Susanti, 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.

4

Australian volunteer Nathan Cosford with a colleague from Anotona Telauwibanda Yayasan Hol'i'ana'a, a not-for-profit foundation supporting sustainable livelihood on Nias Island. Photo: Harjono Djyobisono

5

Finance Manager, Ketut Suciani, and the Founder and Director of Emas Hitam Indonesia, Kadek Suardika, working together in the organisation's organic garden in Bali. Photo: Harjono Djyobisono



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 Global Green Growth Institute

The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), a partner of The Australian Volunteers program since 2020, is dedicated to supporting and promoting strong, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth in emerging countries.

GGGI was established as an international organisation in 2012, with Indonesia and Australia both founding members together with other 16 countries.

GGGI launched an Indonesia Country Program in June 2013 to support investment in green growth in Indonesia. This collaborative Green Growth Program is hosted by BAPPENAS with the active involvement of a number of national ministries and sub-national governments. As part of Green Growth Program Phase 3 (2020-2025), which began in July 2020, GGGI is developing a customised Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, and Improvement (MERI) Plan, in consultation with key stakeholders.

Australian volunteer, Geoffrey Young, completed three remote volunteer assignments with GGGI working as a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist in 2022. Geoffrey assisted the organisation to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework and shape the MERI Plan. He also supported staff to produce written reports that were more accessible for a non-technical audience, which was particularly useful for the primary audience of Government staff and donors.

Geoffrey assisted in the development of strategy planning for GGGI's impact evaluation. With this support, GGGI is now in the process of hiring an external consultant to conduct its impact evaluation.

While mentoring and supporting the staff, Geoffrey consistently shared his knowledge and expertise and aimed to strengthen staff's abilities and confidence. He demonstrated "a supportive, pleasant and non-critical approach" throughout his assignments.

GGGI's involvement with the Australian Volunteers Program has strengthened the quality of the organisation's learnings, the efficacy and efficiency of its monitoring and evaluation programs, built staff's capacity, skills and knowledge, and optimised GGGI's advocacy work, which could have a direct impact on the Indonesian Government.



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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Jl. Ciomas I No. 19 Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta Selatan
12180 Indonesia
indonesia@australianvolunteers.com

australianvolunteers.com
#AusVols @ausvols