



Australian
Volunteers

Australian
Aid 

Australian Volunteers Program Lesotho

Australian volunteers have supported partner organisations in Lesotho to achieve their development goals since 1975. 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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Our work in Lesotho

Young women on a soccer field at Kick4Life, a football club dedicated to social change, Maseru. Photo: Kick4Life

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Mmasechaba Mabunda, Australian Volunteers Program Recruitment Officer and Mamonuko Moflikoane from Thuso, pictured at the Thuso school, Butha Buthe. Photo: Colin Collett van Rooyen

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Members of the Thuso team, with Mmasechaba Mabunda, Australian Volunteers Program at Thuso Centre, Butha Buthe. Photo: Colin Collett van Rooyen

The Southern Africa team works closely with our Lesotho 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 Lesotho, including:

- Gender equality and women’s empowerment
- Eliminating violence against women and girls
- Education (including science)
- Youth
- Working with people living with disability
- Human rights (including for LGBTQI+ communities)

- Environmental management
- Strengthening institutions that promote stability, democracy and the rule of law

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

Most volunteer assignments are with partners in the Maseru and Butha Buthe areas. 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.

“

The program is incredibly useful in building capacity for local staff. We have benefitted from it several times. We highly recommend it for other organisations that may need some level of assistance”

Motlatsi Nkhahle, Country Director – Kick4Life Football Club



Since 2018 the program in Lesotho has supported

5+
partner organisations

14+
Australian volunteers

22+
assignments

7+
in-country volunteer assignments

15+
remote volunteer assignments

6
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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Street vendor making a Lesotho hat. Photo: Colin Collett van Rooyen



" I am very proud of the partnerships that we have with our program's partner organisations in Southern Africa. It is lovely to see the work that our wonderful Australian volunteers do to support partner organisations in meeting their development objectives.

Wendell Westley, Country Program Manager – Australian Volunteers Program, Southern Africa

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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Players at Kick4Life delivering a session as life skills coaches for the Champions United programme. Photo: Kick4Life

5

Members of the Thuso Centre Board with team member Mamonuko Mofolikoane and Mmasechaba Mabunda from Australian Volunteers Program in a new Thuso greenhouse. Photo: Colin Collett van Rooyen



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 Thuso E Tla Tsoa Kae Handicapped Centre

The mission of Thuso E Tla Tsoa Kae Handicapped Centre (Thuso Centre) is to provide academic and holistic social-emotional support to children living with disability to help ensure their healthy development and academic achievement.

Thuso Centre serves as a residential school and care centre providing basic academic, social and life skills classes and other forms of support to children living with disabilities.

Thuso Centre has been a partner of the Australian Volunteers Program since 2012 and the program has contributed to the development of Thuso Centre through the placement of several volunteers and an Impact Fund grant of AUD\$10,000.

Australian volunteer Dawn Rogers worked at the Centre remotely as a Special Education Teacher, providing key teacher training, support and expertise. She also developed learning resources to help the teachers meet the children's needs in the classroom and provided continuous support to the teachers and Centre support staff through refresher training sessions.

The Impact Fund grant enabled Thuso Centre to install a greenhouse for all-year-round production of vegetables. Through the Gracious Gardner project, the school now produces its own seedlings and are currently producing enough vegetables to feed the children at the Centre via an onsite kitchen. The children are involved, spending time in the greenhouse and gardens, learning how to grow seedlings, transplanting them in the gardens and harvesting for consumption. This approach to learning about gardening, growing food and sustainability is proving effective and enjoyable.



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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