



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

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



## 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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Australian volunteer Fundraising and Resourcing Mentor Skaidy Mandryk with her colleagues at Touch Roots Africa, Lesotho. L to R: Thakane Mokhehi, Programs Manager, Skaidy Mandryk, Motloheloa Molupe, Executive Director, and Malimema Lenko, Finance and Administration Officer. Photo: Skaidy Mandryk

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A view of Maseru, Lesotho. Photo: Tatenda Mapigoti on Unsplash

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 sectors including civil society. Program partners are local or national NGOs.

Most volunteer assignments are with partner organisations in and around Maseru. 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

1



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Since 2018  
the program  
in Lesotho has  
supported

5+

partner  
organisations

15+

Australian  
volunteers

30+

volunteer  
assignments

15+

remote  
volunteer  
assignments

6

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

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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

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Colleagues at Touch Roots Africa (L to R) Hlony Mphohle, Thakane Mokhethi, Malimema Lenko and Molupe Motloheloa, with Australian volunteer Skaidy Mandryk.  
Photo supplied: Touch Roots Africa



### 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.

# Touch Root Africa strengthens fundraising and communications

Touch Roots Africa (TRA) assists children and young people in Lesotho by delivering psychosocial support, upholding child rights and protection, and advocating for disability inclusion.

Historically, TRA has relied on donor funding to operate, but Australian volunteers have strengthened the diversification of their funding. During the last five years, nine Australian volunteers have supported TRA's fundraising profile and refreshed the organisation's brand presence. Skaidy Mandryk— the most recent volunteer — strengthened TRA's capacity to deliver fundraising events, write grant proposals, mobilise resources and engage with social media.

As a Fundraising and Resource Mobilisation Mentor, Skaidy strengthened staff skills and delivered a fresh perspective on fundraising through one-on-one mentoring and team support. She assisted in building TRA's first database of partners and supporters, which has aided communication and fundraising efforts. Skaidy's networking initiatives, including interactions with the American Corner in Maseru, elevated the organisation's profile and strengthened staff capacity.

With the support of Skaidy's mentorship, the TRA team now regularly highlight project activities and donors on social media platforms which fosters engagement and awareness with followers.

Skaidy supported TRA's 20th anniversary celebrations, by assisting with the development of a new logo and refining TRA marketing materials. She brought valuable assistance to TRA's fundraising efforts, introducing new ideas and strategies such as incorporating a live auction into the 20th anniversary event which raised much needed funds.

One of the most significant impacts of Skaidy's support was the enhancement of staff skills and confidence in relationship building with stakeholders. The team is now better equipped and more confident to develop effective and diversified fundraising strategies, write compelling grant proposals, and manage and grow donor relationships.



## 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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