



Australian
Volunteers

Australian
Aid 

Australian Volunteers Program Mongolia

Australian volunteers have supported partner organisations in Mongolia to achieve their development goals since 1998. 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 Mongolia

Colleagues from the Zorig Foundation (L to R): Gegi, Australian volunteer Bardie Barclay-Sutton, Suyorsoren Enkhbayar, Oyunsuren Bayarsaikhan, and Misheel Batsaikhan.
Photo: Teagan Glenane

Australian volunteer Youth Integrity Officer Laura McKenna with her Transparency International colleagues, Urantseseg Ulziikhuu and Anudari Badrakh.
Photo: Teagan Glenane

Amy Hawke, Australian volunteer Public Health Officer at the United Nations Populations Fund with colleagues E Unuruu, Kh. Battuya, and Z Uyaya at UN House, Ulaanbaatar.
Photo: Teagan Glenane

Our team in Mongolia 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 Mongolia, including:

- Supporting a well-managed economy
- Community/social development
- Education
- Youth development
- Health
- Gender equality
- Human rights
- Disability inclusion
- Disaster risk reduction

In Mongolia, we partner with organisations working in a broad range of sectors, including government and civil society, education, and other social infrastructure and services. Program partners are mainly NGOs, academic institutions and government organisations.

Most volunteer assignments are with partners in Ulaanbaatar with some in Umnugobi Province. The program also supports partners in more remote locations, such as the Zavkhan and Uvs provinces, 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 volunteer's insights and advice on improving the project visibility and grant writing were very helpful. The Australian Volunteers Program is a great resource for local organisations to improve their internal capacity and outreach of their services. Local NGOs would benefit from Australian volunteers because they are a great source of perspectives, skills and experience.”

Ms Munkhchimeg Nergui, Project Manager, Caritas Czech Republic - Mongolia office



Since 2018
the program in
Mongolia has
supported

50+
partner
organisations

85+
Australian
volunteers

115+
volunteer
assignments

16
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.

3

Jessica Farr, Australian volunteer Program Officer at the International Organisation for Migration with her colleague Erdene-Ochir Chuluun, outside UN House.
Photo: Teagan Glenane

4



“What inspires about my job is that the Australian Volunteers Program contributes to the human development of my country by enriching Mongolians’ cross-cultural understanding, professional and personal exchange and learning between Mongolians and Australians.”

Munkhtuul Sodnomtseren, Country Program Manager – Australian Volunteers Program, Mongolia

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

In the Terelj National Park there are many families whose livelihood is herding horses and livestock.
Photo: Teagan Glenane

5

Director Munk-Orgil Bayarjorgal Muriba and Australian volunteer Education Specialist Fiona Moore, at Autism Mongolia.
Photo: Teagan Glenane



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 Independent Research Institute of Mongolia

The Independent Research Institute of Mongolia (IRIM), a partner of the Australian Volunteers Program since 2012, aims to build a better society in Mongolia by delivering independent, high-quality information about development-related issues, as well as promoting cooperation between key policymakers.

Australian volunteer Kim Abbey completed a remote volunteering assignment with IRIM as a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer. During her assignment, Kim supported the institute with implementing effective monitoring and evaluation processes, project development, and building the capacity of staff.

With Kim's assistance, researchers at the institute strengthened their ability to effectively manage monitoring and evaluation reports. Kim also connected the organisation to key monitoring and evaluation project development opportunities. Kim demonstrated a high level of commitment throughout her assignment and shared that her assignment with IRIM provided 'personal and professional growth'.

IRIM's involvement with the Australian Volunteers Program has been highly beneficial for the organisation. Kim succeeded in bringing about positive change to the institute's operations and services, as well as strengthening the organisation's capacity to provide key services to a wider range of stakeholders. To date, IRIM have received one Impact Fund grant.



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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