



Australian  
Volunteers

Australian  
Aid 

# Australian Volunteers Program Nepal

Australian volunteers have supported partner organisations in Nepal to achieve their development goals since 1999. 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](https://australianvolunteers.com)



Anuj Pradhan and Australian volunteer Tourism Officer Nari Blackett walking in the Municipality of Kiritpur.  
Photo: Teagan Glenane

Australian volunteer Midwifery Teacher Trainer Maxine Hardinge, in the classroom with Midwifery students at Kathmandu University School of Medical Sciences.  
Photo: Teagan Glenane

Local Farmer Rupa Sherstha with Australian volunteer Saideh Kent at Rupa's local crop in Dhulikhel Municipality. Saideh volunteered with Agro Enterprise.  
Photo: Teagan Glenane

## Our work in Nepal

Our team in Nepal 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 Nepal, including:

- **Local Governance:** Municipal program planning such as tourism, economic development, urban planning, and implementation.
- **Economic Recovery:** Enhancing livelihood opportunities for vulnerable groups, such as returned migrant workers, displaced temporary-wage earners, and micro-entrepreneurs.
- **Technical professionals and higher education** related to architecture, building, disaster management, environment, climate change and natural resource management, urban planning, hygiene and sanitation, and vocational education and training.

- Deepening integration of gender equality, disability-inclusiveness, and social inclusion (GEDSI).

In Nepal, we partner with organisations working in a broad range of sectors, including government and civil society, education, agriculture, forestry and fisheries and environmental protection. Program partners are predominantly government agencies, with NGO partnerships identified as an area for ongoing development.

Most volunteer assignments are with partners in Kathmandu Valley and outside the Valley in locations deemed safe and secure. 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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*Before the assignment began, I thought language would be a big issue, but this was not the case. The volunteer was an expert in tourism development. He taught us, and a local volunteer, so many things about tourism development and prepared the Ilam Municipality Tourism Development Framework.”*

*Ms. Luna Khatiwada, Administrative Officer, Ilam Municipality*



Since 2018  
the program  
in Nepal has  
supported

**45+**

partner  
organisations

**65+**

Australian  
volunteers

**80+**

volunteer  
assignments

**7**

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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Shree Krishna Manandhar and volunteer Urban Planner Lucinda Peterson review plans in Dhulikhel Municipal Council offices.  
Photo: Teagan Glenane

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“  
Even if the Australian Volunteers Program is an Australian Government initiative, it gives me an opportunity to work for the development of my country Nepal. For this, I am very grateful to all the Australian volunteers who come to serve Nepal and to support our partner organisations.”

Rajendra Khadga, Program Manager – Australian Volunteers Program, Nepal

## 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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Veterinary Clinician volunteer Douglas Wilson teaching students Sachin Regmi, Sudip Chaudhary and Lab Technician Dipak Raj Adhikari at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Chitwan.  
Photo: Teagan Glenane

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Australian volunteer Midwife Maxine Hardinge pictured with midwifery students at Kathmandu University School of Medical Sciences.  
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.



# Strengthening energy law in Nepal

Kathmandu University School of Law is the only institution in South Asia offering specialised subjects in Energy and Infrastructure Law.

However, as the sole provider, there is a scarcity of resources to effectively deliver these programs, and limited funding further constrains opportunities for training and teaching experiences in this specialised field.

To help strengthen the team, Kim Browne, an Australian volunteer, completed a six-month remote assignment with the university as an Adjunct Scholar in Energy and Infrastructure Law. Kim is a leader in natural resource governance, with a robust academic background and extensive practical experience. She provided support in crafting and refining the curriculum for a master's course in Energy and Infrastructure Law, which was introduced by the university to capitalise on the country's energy potential. Course graduates will pave the way for a resilient, equitable, and prosperous future, ensuring that development efforts are well-regulated, environmentally sustainable, and socially inclusive.

One of Kim's most significant contributions to the course was the creation of a detailed and user-friendly template on natural resources governance and regulatory theory. This template has become an invaluable tool, streamlining the curriculum and offering a clear, structured approach to complex subjects.

Kim's expertise, dedication, and collaborative spirit significantly advanced curriculum development efforts, ensuring that graduates are well-prepared to be leaders in energy and infrastructure law. She has pledged to continue teaching beyond her official tenure, showcasing her genuine dedication to the cause and the growth of students.



## 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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The Australian Volunteers Program c/o The Small Earth Nepal  
340/84 Khumaltar Height Marg East Khumal Height, Lalitpur  
Metropolitan City Ward no. 15

nepal@australianvolunteers.com  
australianvolunteers.com

**P** 977 9851086530

#AusVols

@ausvols