



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](http://australianvolunteers.com)

## Our work in Nepal

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

1

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

2

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 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.

“

*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*

1



2



Since 2018  
the program  
in Nepal has  
supported

**45+**  
partner  
organisations

**60+**  
Australian  
volunteers

**50+**  
in-country  
volunteer  
assignments

**20+**  
remote  
volunteer  
assignments

**7**  
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

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

4



*“ 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.

4

*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*

5

*Australian volunteer Midwife Maxine Hardinge pictured with midwifery students at Kathmandu University School of Medical Sciences. Photo: Teagan Glenane*



### 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 KVWSMB

**Kathmandu Valley Water Supply Management Board (KVWSMB) is an autonomous government body reporting to the Ministry of Water Supply and Sanitation in Nepal.**

KVWSMB, which has been a partner of the Australian Volunteers Program since 2021, is responsible for developing and overseeing service policies and providing licenses to service providers for the operation and management of the water supply and sanitation service system in Kathmandu Valley.

Australian volunteer, Ellen Eveline Kwantes, undertook three assignments with KVWSMB to train hydro geologists of KVWSMB on using modelling software to enhance their analysis and inform their service delivery. Ellen also supported gaining access to the hard key licence for appropriate ground water modelling software, and developed manuals, tutorials, and recordings of the modelling training.

With Ellen's support, staff now feel better equipped to prepare strategic and regulation practices for groundwater management in Kathmandu Valley. The organisation has a new groundwater model that enables staff to identify major problem areas with groundwater depletion and areas for preservation of recharge areas, therefore helping towards ensuring sustainable groundwater management.

Ellen also helped connect KVWSMB with various universities on water resource issues inside Kathmandu Valley, enabling staff to engage with academia and ongoing university research programs.

KVWSMB's involvement with the Australian Volunteers Program has contributed towards improving national-level systems and structures by building the capacity, knowledge and skills of local staff. Ellen's support also led to the successful implementation of new processes and tools for managing water Kathmandu Valley's water system, leading to the adaptation of new approaches to improve the core business of KVWSMB.



## 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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