

Australian Volunteers Program Tanzania

Australian volunteers have supported partner organisations in Tanzania to achieve their development goals since 1964. 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

Pamela Whitman volunteered as a Program Development Officer with AfricAid in Moshi. Here she is meeting with colleagues Sarafina Kifarua and Felister MnDasha. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono

Attho and Australian volunteer Amy Hofman working together at the Gender Training Institute in Mabibo, Dar es Salaam. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono

Maasai woman Nongera teaches Australian volunteer Marketing and Communications Mentor Dani Yannoulis traditional beading techniques at Sidai Designs in Arusha. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono

Our work in Tanzania

Our team in Tanzania 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 Tanzania, including:

- Women's leadership, economic empowerment and eradicating violence against women and girls
- Agriculture and food security
- Supporting people living with disability
- Improving access to basic health services, especially maternal and child health
- Supporting local artisanal miners
- Supporting socio-economic enterprises aimed at reducing poverty levels

In Tanzania, we partner with organisations working in a broad range of sectors, including education, and social infrastructure and services. Program partners are mainly local or national NGOs and INGOs.

Most volunteer assignments are with partners in Arusha, Kilimanjaro, and Dar es Salaam with a small cohort of assignments in Dodoma. 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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With the support of skilled Australian volunteers, we have deepened community engagement, strengthened our programs, and recently expanded our reach to include menstruators with disabilities through the Impact Fund. This partnership has given us the ability to challenge stigmas, promote long-lasting change, and ensure menstrual health no longer stands in the way of women in schools, work, and life.”

Sia Towo, Managing Director - Femme International (Tanzania)



Since 2018
the program in
Tanzania has
supported

40+
partner
organisations

70+
Australian
volunteers

80+
volunteer
assignments

23
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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Peter Odullah and Australian volunteer Marketing Mentor Ron Schimpf at Kondiki Dairy Coop in Mwiki Village.
Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono

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Australian volunteers and their local counterparts share knowledge and skills towards a better future. Australian volunteers bring their progressive problem-solving approach and complement local knowledge and understanding in addressing development challenges. In the end, both volunteers and their local counterparts learn from one another.”

Musa Naroro, Country Program Manager – Australian Volunteers Program, Tanzania

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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Australian volunteer Cate Melzner walks with her colleagues Sarah Kessy and Esther Somi from HakiMadini in Arusha.
Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono

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Australian volunteer Nurse Trainer, Tiffany Tjong, with mother and baby at the Flying Medical Service in Arusha.
Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono



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.

Strengthened skills in fundraising and communications boost rehabilitation services in Tanzania

In Tanzania, access to speech and physical therapy is out of reach for many people, particularly those living in poverty.

To address this challenge, Maisha Outreach Therapy Organisation (MOTO) was established in 2016 to provide all Tanzanians with access to rehabilitation, speech therapy, occupational and physiotherapy. MOTO also empowers and strengthens the capacity of health professionals and supports young people through professional development pathways.

After the challenging work of establishing MOTO, the team was finding it difficult to identify the impact they were having on society and the lives they aimed to improve.

Two Australian volunteers, Kia Devine and Vanessa Binks, strengthened MOTO's ability to boost their visibility, partnerships, and achieve sustainability in funding.

As a remote Fundraising and Proposal Writing Mentor, Kia revamped the organisation's website, aligned its goals with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and provided valuable assistance with email templates and strategic documents.

As a remote Digital Content Creator, Vanessa strengthened the team's ability to respond to communication challenges by conducting training sessions on content creation, social media, and visual storytelling.

The volunteers' mentorship and capacity strengthening have empowered the team at MOTO to deliver successful fundraising activities and new partnerships, enabling the organisation to better fulfill its mission.

Despite the initial challenge of working remotely, across different time zones, both volunteers quickly established an efficient online communication process using email, WhatsApp, and weekly meetings. This proactive approach encouraged engagement, clarification, and collaboration between the volunteers and the MOTO team.



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

Australian
Volunteers

Australian
Aid

tanzania_office@australianvolunteers.com

australianvolunteers.com
#AusVols @ausvols