

Australian
Volunteers

Australian
Aid 

Australian Volunteers Program Timor-Leste

Australian volunteers have supported partner organisations in Timor-Leste to achieve their development goals since 1995. 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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Australian volunteer Martin Moignard with Joaquim Soares, Director of Klibur Domin, an organisation focused on treating tuberculosis in Dili.
Photo: Harjono Djyobisono

Our work in Timor-Leste

Our team in Timor-Leste 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 Timor-Leste, including:

- Education
- Government
- Human rights
- Health
- Agriculture

In Timor-Leste, we partner with organisations working in a broad range of sectors, including health, education, environmental protection,

civil society, and agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Our partners are mainly local or national NGOs with support also provided to government and the private sector.

Most volunteer assignments are with partners in Dili with the program also operating in the municipalities of Baucau, Ermera, Aileu, Ainaro, Bobonaro and Special Administrative Region of Oé-Cusse Ambeno (RAEOA). 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.

Dr. Nikee Msuo, Australian volunteer Clinical Management Mentor with her colleague Dr. Nelson V. Cardoso, Family Medicine Registrar at Maluk Timor in Comoro.
Photo: Clementino Amaral

Elga da Silva Maria, President of Juventude ba Dezenvolvimentu Násional (JDN), Alianca Fernandes, activist and Jescia Nelinha Da Silva Ximenes, volunteer Nutrition Educator. JDN is a youth-led, community-based organisation in Dili.
Photo: Harjono Djyobisono

“

The great thing about Australian volunteers is they easily adapt to the environment and culture; they are friendly in sharing their experiences.”

Ena de Sousa Freitas, Education Program Manager
– The Aloia Foundation



Since 2018
the program
in Timor-Leste
has supported

65+
partner
organisations

140+
Australian
volunteers

195+
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.

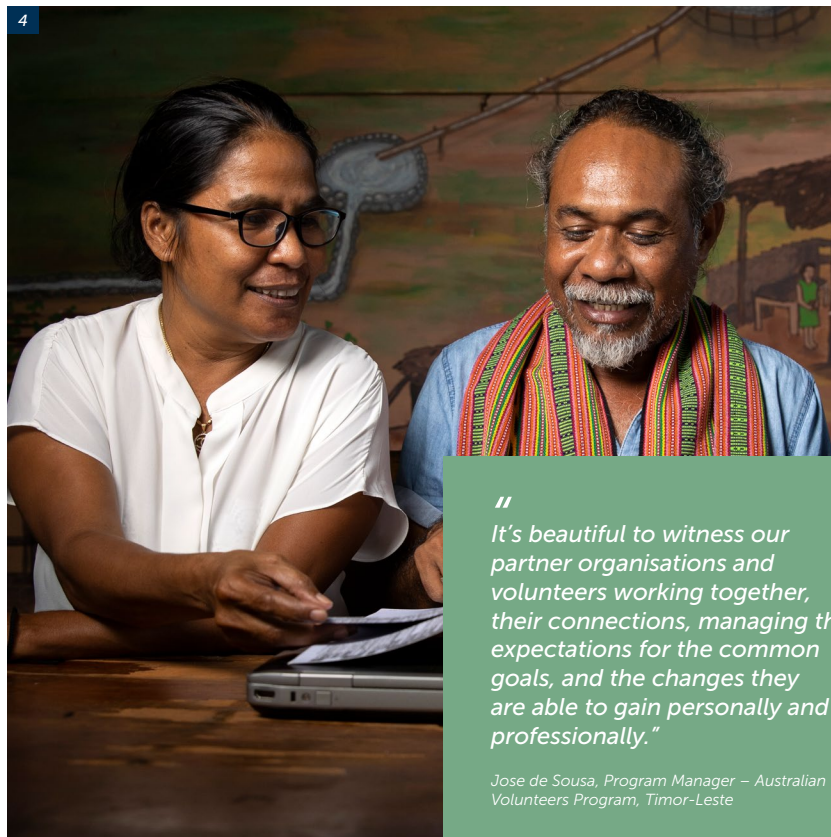
Australian organisations

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.

3

Australian volunteer Dr. Eleanor McMorran and Nurse Karolina Surya Embun at Maluk Timor in Maloa.
Photo: Clementino Amaral

4



“It’s beautiful to witness our partner organisations and volunteers working together, their connections, managing their expectations for the common goals, and the changes they are able to gain personally and professionally.”

Jose de Sousa, Program Manager – Australian Volunteers Program, Timor-Leste

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

Adozina C. B. Soares, Administrator of PERMATIL, and Eugenio Lemos, Director of PERMATIL. PERMATIL provides assistance and education about sustainable agriculture.
Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono

5

Australian volunteer Bernie McEvoy with Nutrition Educators from Juventude ba Desenvolvimento Nacional - Tinesia P. dos Santos and Jescia Nelinha Da Silva Ximenes.
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.

Spotlight on the Timor-Leste Coffee Association

The Timor-Leste Coffee Association has expanded its promotional efforts and increased stakeholder engagement with the support of Australian volunteer Paul Ashe.

The Timor-Leste Coffee Association aims to help grow local businesses and gain more government support. The association's 15 member organisations work directly and indirectly with thousands of farming families. This work includes training farmers, who are mostly women. Through the association, the members have been able to collaborate to market their coffee, increase productivity and grow their businesses.

As an Australian volunteer Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building Mentor, Paul Ashe played an important role in helping develop and execute the association's marketing and stakeholder engagement activities.

Paul brought his strong communications and coordination skills to his in-country volunteer assignment, with his responsibilities ranging from organising municipal coffee competitions to facilitating participation in the Melbourne International Coffee Expo and coordinating an international Aero Press competition. Paul also provided essential support in daily tasks such as report preparation, correspondence, and internal event organisation.

Thanks to its promotional activities, the association is now gaining more recognition nationally and internationally. This increased visibility has attracted more buyers, indicating a rising interest in the coffee produced by the association's members. These efforts benefit the farmers, their communities and contribute to the promotion of Timor-Leste coffee on the international stage.

Paul regularly visited farmers in the field, aiming to understand coffee production dynamics and coffee rehabilitation. He also reviewed the association's five-year plan and prepared a concept paper for coffee rehabilitation, to be submitted to the Timor-Leste Government.



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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Delta I – Rua Sabraka Tasak – Comoro,
Sub-District Don Aleixo
timorleste@australianvolunteers.com
+67077245209

australianvolunteers.com
#AusVols @ausvols