

Australian Volunteers Program Vietnam

Australian volunteers have supported partner organisations in Vietnam to achieve their development goals since 1985. 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

Our work in Vietnam

Australian volunteer Speech Pathology Advisor Sarah Day with Ms Kim Cẩm at a training workshop in Danang. Photo: Nguyen Van Nam

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Australian volunteer Drowning Prevention Officer Tanya Carmont with Swim Vietnam. Here, Tanya is pictured with Mr. Van Anh in Hoi An. Photo: Nguyen Van Nam

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Local fruit sellers in Hanoi's old quarter. Photo: Le Bao Minh Hien.

Our team in Vietnam 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 Vietnam, including:

- Promoting women's economic empowerment, including ethnic minorities
- Supporting disability-inclusive development
- Assisting the development and employment of a highly skilled workforce

In Vietnam, we partner with organisations working in a broad range of sectors, including government, education, environmental protection, civil society, gender equality,

disability and social inclusion. Program partners include Government Ministries, academic institutions, Vietnamese NGOs and international organisations.

We support assignments with partners in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Central Vietnam. The program also supports partners in other 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.

"We appreciate the opportunities to work with volunteers and partner organisations as the essential bridge to connect them together to best utilise their professional strengths to achieve development goals. We are also proud to be part of the volunteering program to support delivering positive changes and to bring a locally-led perspective to the program."

Vietnam team, Australian Volunteers Program, Vietnam



Since 2018
the program
in Vietnam has
supported

90+
partner
organisations

140+
Australian
volunteers

126+
in-country
volunteer
assignments

66+
remote
volunteer
assignments

19
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.

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Australian volunteer Speech Therapist Mentor Leah Paice volunteers at Danang University of Medical Technology and Pharmacy, pictured with Ms. Le Quyen, Danang. Photo: Nguyen Van Nam

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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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Mrs. Dao Thu Trang, Ms. Nguyen Huyen Trang, Mr. Pham Ngoc Thang and Australian volunteer Elise Giles from Vietnam One Health Partnership for Zoonoses. Photo: Nguyen Van Nam

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Volunteer Leah Paice with Ms. Le Quyen and Ms. Ngoc at the Danang University of Medical Technology & Pharmacy. Photo: Nguyen Van Nam



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 HCE

Ho Chi Minh City College of Economics (HCE) is a public institution founded in 1989. HCE offers a stimulating academic environment and emphasises cross-cultural communication for its 1,000 annual graduates.

HCE is implementing a 10-year strategy to stay competitive in a fast-paced global economy and provide students with practical experience for success.

The pandemic has accelerated the need for rapid transformation within the organisation. Specifically, there is a greater need to develop online teaching skills and enhance educational quality, training curriculums, applied research, and facilities to provide high-quality human resources in economics and social fields. This is essential to contribute to Ho Chi Minh City's development.

'Volunteers have supported the organisation in improving systems for organisational strategic planning developed and implemented, strengthening the capacity of lecturers, and networking with others,' says a PO spokesperson.

Australian volunteer, Dr Kim Browne, has completed three remote assignments with the organisation. With Kim's support, the HCE coordinators gained more digital skills by designing online courses and writing subject profiles. Kim also connected HCE with another lecturer from Australia to organise two workshops on online learning and research skills.

HCE Lecturers in the Business Administration Faculty and other faculties gained more knowledge about online teaching skills, and students acquired research skills and became active online learners. HCE's project team members who worked with Kim online can now organise various workshops and talks for lecturers and students.

'Volunteers [such as Kim] have devoted time and energy and sharing resources. They are highly professional and friendly. We have achieved much together so far,' says a PO spokesperson.

HCE has partnered with the program since 2019 and aims to continue its mutually beneficial partnership with the program in the future.



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
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