

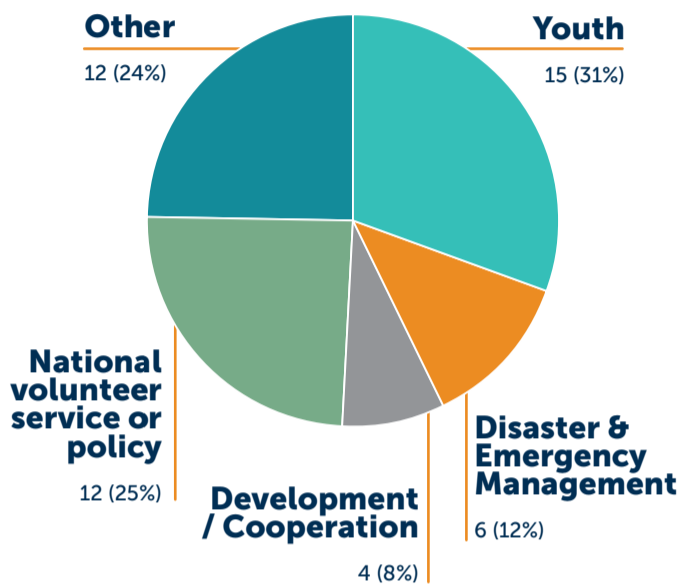
# Volunteering infrastructure and trends

INSIGHTS ACROSS 25 COUNTRIES

The Australian Volunteers Program is exploring how we can positively impact volunteering through our Global Volunteering Accelerator innovation initiative. To better understand where our support may be most valuable, we commissioned a desktop review of the state of volunteering infrastructure and national trends in the countries in which the program operates. This review was limited to English-language sources and did not explore the definition of volunteering, which we recognise can have different meanings in different contexts. Learn more about the Global Volunteering Accelerator at [innovation.australianvolunteers.com](http://innovation.australianvolunteers.com).

## 49 volunteering laws and policies across 19 countries

15 laws and policies relate to youth, 12 to a national volunteer service or policy, 12 to 'other', six to disaster and emergency management, and four to development / development cooperation.



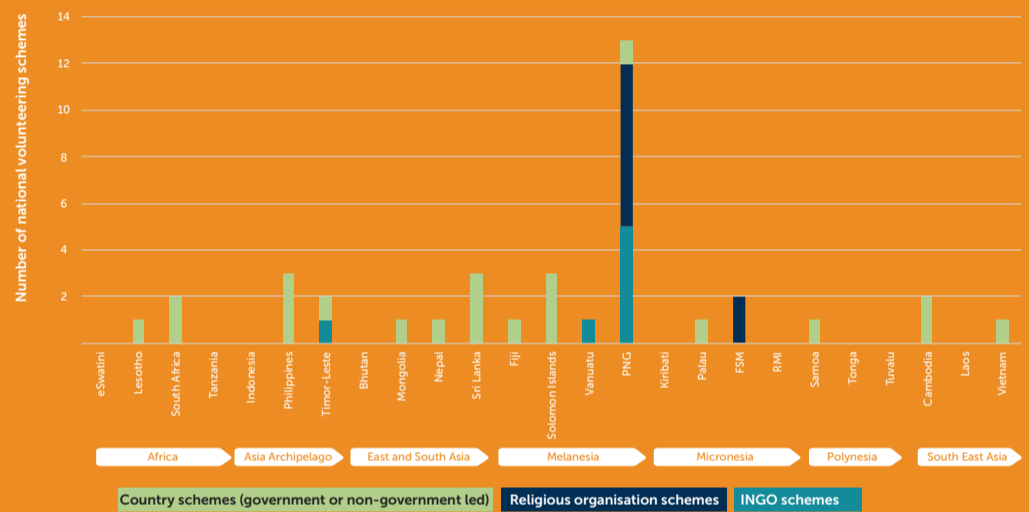
Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Kiribati have four or more policies or laws on volunteering. In Indonesia, most fall into the "other" category (relate to social care and national policy initiatives that use volunteers, such as social work, migrant work placement and protection). In Sri Lanka, three of five relate to national volunteer services or policies and Kiribati has policies or laws across the four main categories.

## 21 national government, peak or other volunteering bodies across 12 countries

5 in Philippines 4 in Nepal 3 in Cambodia

These bodies include the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency, Volunteer Society Nepal, the National Volunteering Secretariat in Sri Lanka, and the Office of the National Volunteer Service in Papua New Guinea. Red Cross Societies were present in every country.

## 38 national volunteering schemes



All regions had at least one national scheme, while all countries in Melanesia had at least two. National volunteering schemes were highly varied, including national youth development programs in Sri Lanka, a volunteer-run savings club in the Solomon Islands, and volunteers working with local marine areas in Fiji. (Note: many of the schemes identified in Papua New Guinea were church-based initiatives that cannot be compared with other countries). The International Non-Government Organisation (INGO) schemes identified were associated with international bodies such as Save the Children and Australian Doctors International, however this category excludes formal International Volunteering Cooperation Organisations (IVCO)s such as the Australian Volunteers Program and UN Volunteers.

## Volunteering trend data from ILOSTAT available in 4 countries

14.4% of the Indonesian population volunteers

4.5% of the Mongolian population volunteers

1.8% of the Nepalese population volunteers

6.7% of the South African population volunteers

Some national volunteering trend data is available in 15 countries. While this data is highly varied and often not comparable, four of the program's 25 countries report on national volunteering to ILOSTAT (International Labour Organisation Statistics): Indonesia, Nepal, Mongolia and South Africa.

## Key takeaways

- The quality and amount of volunteering data is variable.** Data on volunteering infrastructure is available across 25 countries, though few countries have specific laws related to volunteering. Data on volunteering trends is available in 15 countries, however there are few countries collecting or reporting consistent data.
- No patterns were found in the prevalence of volunteering bodies, laws and policies, or schemes.** There were no substantive links found between countries with laws and policies and the likelihood of a volunteering body or scheme, or vice versa.
- Volunteering rates differ across countries.** Data is difficult to find and compare, however it appears that the proportion of people volunteering across countries is highly variable.

Interested in learning more?

To read the full report, visit [innovation.australianvolunteers.com/updates/desktop-review](http://innovation.australianvolunteers.com/updates/desktop-review).