Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Australian
Volunteers
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Connecting people, changing lives, reaching our region.

Updated May 2017

Indonesia Factsheet

The Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program promotes economic growth and poverty reduction in the Indo-Pacific region by assisting host organisations (HOs) to deliver effective and sustainable development outcomes and to advance Australia's reputation and relationships in partner countries. Australian volunteers promote positive perceptions of Australia in the region and of the aid program domestically.

Since 2011, Australia has supported over 1,049 volunteers in Indonesia.

In 2015-16, the Australian Government supported 1,345 volunteers across 29 countries working in 883 host organisations.

The AVID program in Indonesia is managed by DFAT and delivered in partnership with AVI and Scope Global. The Australian Red Cross also previously managed the AVID program in Indonesia and exited in April 2016.

Assignments were developed in the priority areas of governance, economic development, education, health, sports for development, social development and gender equality.

Key country statistics – 2015-16
- 156 AVID volunteers (77 new)
- 108 host organisations

- $5,539,334 estimated development expenditure
- 92 per cent of new assignments align with the Aid Investment Plan (AIP)
- 10 new assignments have a primary focus on gender equality
- 13 new assignments have a primary focus on disability inclusion
- 3 media article/s published in-country
- 7 event/s held in-country directly related to the AVID program
- Average assignment length: 12 months

Achievements
- Host organisations now engaged with volunteers prior to placement to reduce early returns
- Coordinated volunteer mobilisations to facilitate a cohort between volunteers.
- Clustering of volunteers by geographic and sectoral focus allowing volunteers and HOs to have a wider impact.

Challenges
- The lack of a formal agreement between the governments of Australia and Indonesia is an ongoing challenge to obtaining appropriate volunteer visas, leading to increased administration and costs, and volunteers are exposed to greater risk in emergency situations.
- The geographic focus of the AIP on Eastern Indonesia, as there are limited institutions and organisations in the region with the capacity to absorb and fully utilise volunteers.

2016-17
Indonesia has been allocated **85 new and will support 161 total** AVID volunteers in 2016-17. The total AVID estimated development expenditure for 2016-17 is $5,049,115.

AVI
inviting change

scope global
PEOPLE FOCUSED PROGRAMS

Volunteer achievements

Agriculture

Two volunteers supported the work of MARS Symbioscience, an organisation in South Sulawesi that partners with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. The host organisation supports a local coastal community to develop new income generating activities and to increase agricultural productivity. One volunteer has supported the organisation to improve the methodology for ornamental fish hatchery and the other developed a mechanism for the host organisation to repair the damaged eco-system. More families on the remote island now run an ornamental fish business and with the broader community are now participating in maintaining the eco-system, resulting in more fish becoming available for the community to access.

Women's economic empowerment

A volunteer Communication Officer supported Yayasan Rama Sesana, an organisation that provides sexual and reproductive health care and services to traditional market workers (mostly women). In addition to her training with staff to communicate and better manage stakeholder relationships (including donors), she also developed and implemented communication strategies that have significantly increased the visibility of the organisation among the Bali community. Through the volunteer's work, the organisation has improved their effectiveness and sustainability in serving a poor community in Bali to access health services so they can continue to work and contribute to their family's livelihood.

Gender Equality

An IT & Database Specialist with the Women's Crisis Centre contributed directly to the AIP by developing a fully functional client and case management system, strengthening the organisational capacity to deliver timely and appropriate support to clients, and manage sensitive organisational data. The system runs on a dedicated computer in the counselling division's office and can be accessed from anywhere on the network by registered and approved users. The system allows counselling staff to store and retrieve client information, and generate reports and statistics based on case and client information. The system also allows members from other divisions to access generalised information (without having access to sensitive client information).

Governance

A volunteer at Jaringan Masyarakat Sipil in Lombok understood the importance of ICT platforms in supporting village administrators to provide much needed education and health services to its community in a transparent and accountable manner. Through this assignment, the host organisation website was developed, and staff were mentored to develop guidelines so the host organisation can continuously improve the structure and content as needed. This work helps strengthen the capacities of villages and community institutions to demand quality services and engage with sub-national governments to facilitate efficient, effective and accountable service delivery.

Child Protection

A recent innovative approach to child protection and safeguarding was the development of a local language animated child rights film by a volunteer Media Promotion & Communications Officer and HO on Nias island. Film production was supported by DAP funding. While animation is commonly used to raise awareness, films are generally Java-centric or western. This film targets isolated communities using recognisable images and language.
https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=FsCGDx2SP9k

For further information contact: volunteers@dfat.gov.au

The Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program is an Australian Government initiative.

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