



Volunteers at a glance 2015–16

Total number of volunteers **1345**

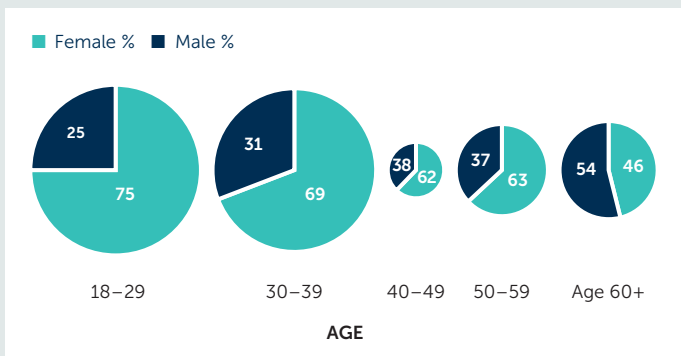
567 commenced new assignments

778 continued assignments from previous year/s

Gender of volunteers

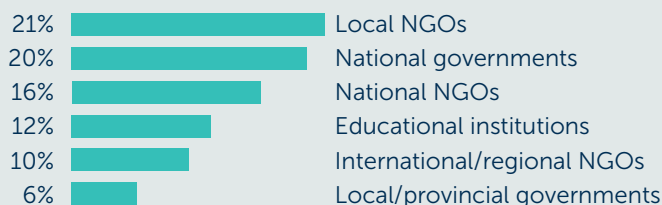
64% FEMALE **36% MALE**

Age range of volunteers by gender



Number of host organisations **883**

Host organisation category (top six)

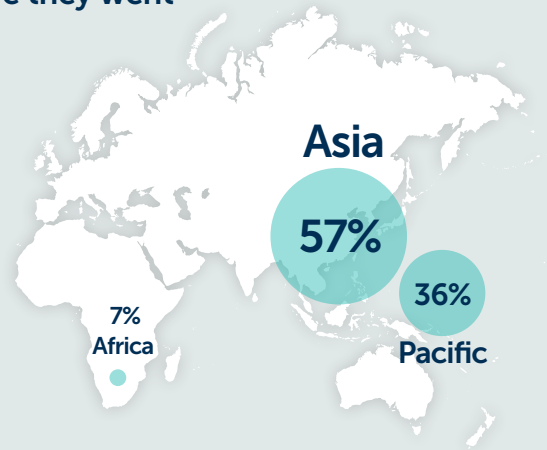


\$47.8M AVID allocated funds 2015–16 (A\$)

Six most common areas of assignment focus



Where they went



Total number of countries **29**

Top 10 countries



† Total numbers of volunteers supported in 2015–16

* Government and civil society assignments include: public sector management; law and justice; media; gender equality; ending violence against women and girls; democratic governance and human rights.

** Other social infrastructure and services assignments include: social and welfare services; and other program support such as income generation; employment creation; and combating child labour.

*** Service industries assignments include: policy, planning and programs in transport; communications; energy generation and supply; banking and finance; business; construction; and trade and tourism.

Australian Volunteers for International Development program



Photo credit: Scope Global

Australian volunteer Alexandra Bingham, Philippines: *"To see colleagues and communities grasp new skills as a result of my volunteer assignment is extremely rewarding. It brings a smile to my face daily."*

In 2015–16, Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) continued to deliver an effective program with strong development and public diplomacy outcomes in 29 countries in the Indo-Pacific. A total of 1345 Australians volunteered their time, energy and expertise to work for 883 host organisations. The total AVID budget allocation in 2015–16 was \$47.8 million, a 15.5 per cent change from \$56.6 million in 2014–15. Volunteers worked to support Australian and partner government country priorities with 95 per cent of new assignments aligned with Aid Investment Plans.



Photo credit: AVI

Australian volunteer Timothy Lawther, Timor-Leste: *"I'm most proud of the training we did with field staff. The impact has been massive I think."*

The AVID program makes a considerable contribution to the achievement of the Government's public diplomacy objectives. Volunteers promote a positive perception of Australia in the region, and promote a positive perception of the aid program domestically. The Returned Australian Volunteer Network (RAVN) was launched in 2015 to recognise the ongoing contribution of returned Australian volunteers to the Australian aid program. RAVN provides networking, engagement and professional development opportunities for around 13,000 returned volunteers.

Key AVID achievements in 2015-16 included:



DISABILITY—15 per cent of new assignments focused on disability inclusion, and 21 volunteers self-identified as having a disability



GENDER—64 per cent of volunteers were women, and 130 or 10 per cent of assignments had a primary focus on gender equality



YOUTH—29 per cent of volunteers were under the age of 30 years, including pilot programs targeting disadvantaged and Indigenous youth in South Africa and Vanuatu



PRIVATE SECTOR—engagement increased significantly with 342 or 25 per cent of assignments engaging with the private sector



CHILD PROTECTION—AVID partners reported 100 per cent of host organisations complied with the requirements of DFAT's Child Protection Policy

The program was funded and delivered by DFAT in partnership with AVI, Scope Global (in consortium with Australian Business Volunteers) and the Australian Red Cross who transitioned out of the program in June 2016.

AVID underwent significant changes to deliver an effective program in 2015–16. Changes were made to in-country management arrangements with a move to a single AVID delivery partner operating in 27 of the 29 countries, with the exception of Indonesia and Fiji. The AVID program in Bangladesh was closed in late 2015 due to increased security concerns for volunteers.

The AVID program has historically faced challenges in measuring the impact on gender equality, disability inclusion, private sector engagement and innovation. Over the course of the year, additional reporting indicators and tools have been developed to improve the capture of information about program impact, which will enable comparisons to be made in future years.