

# Australian Volunteers Program in Cambodia

In 2020-21 the Australian Volunteers Program in Cambodia supported 22 volunteers and 19 partner organisations, with a focus on COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, youth projects, rehabilitation, speech therapy and IT.

*'Thanks to remote volunteering, I was still able to support my colleagues in Cambodia who assist rural disadvantaged people and continued to do so during the pandemic.'*  
 – Remote volunteer

## In 2020-21 in Cambodia, the program supported:

**19**  
partner organisations

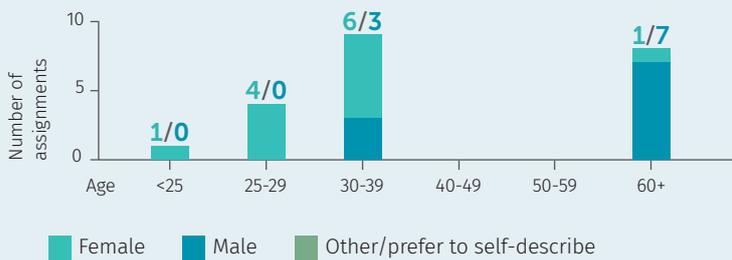
**8**  
partner organisations with Impact Grants

**22**  
volunteers

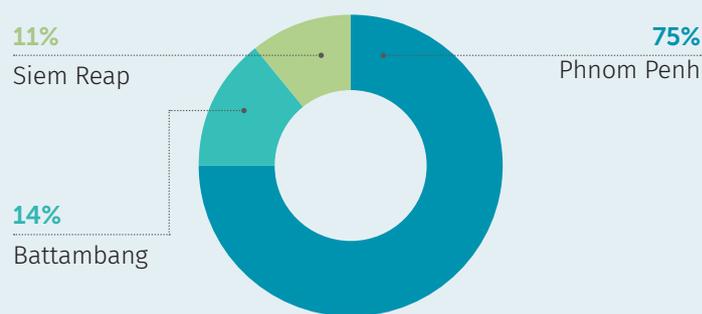
**23** remote assignments  
**5** in-country assignments

### Gender and age of volunteers

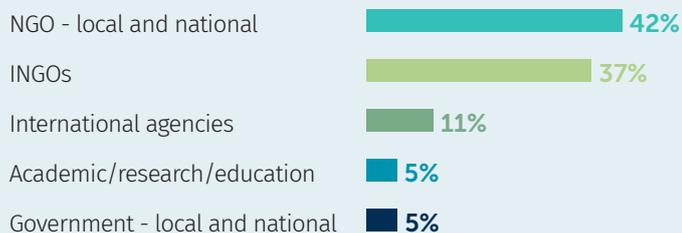
Women 55% Men 45%



### Location of assignments



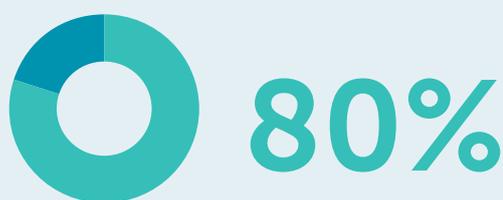
### Most common types of partner organisations



### Most common professions of volunteers



**80%** of partner organisations were satisfied or very satisfied with the volunteer assignment



**92%** of volunteers were satisfied or very satisfied with the program



\* The above data is drawn from reports completed by volunteers and partner organisations. Responses were not received from all volunteers and partner organisations, and not all respondents provided a response to every question.

In 2020-21, in accordance with Australia's COVID-19 Development Response Plan, the Australian Volunteers Program supported partner organisations to implement their response and recovery efforts, aligned with Cambodia's local and national priorities.

The program supported partner organisations located in Phnom Penh, Battambang and Siem Reap, with most partner organisations working within the social infrastructure and services sector, as well as health, and government and civil society.

In-country volunteering recommenced in February and March 2021, with five volunteers providing support in COVID-19 communication, youth projects, rehabilitation, speech therapy and IT. All remote assignments focused on Cambodia's COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

New partnerships were formed with Live & Learn Cambodia and OIC Cambodia, and five assignments supported existing partner, Engineers Without Borders.

Most partner organisations embraced the opportunity of having remote assignments, particularly with volunteers who had previously worked in-country. To support partner organisations and volunteers while working remotely, the program revised the in-country orientation program and strengthened monitoring, evaluation and learning practices.

Seven partner organisations received 12 small grants from the Australian Volunteers Program Impact Fund including AusCam Freedom Project, EnergyLab, Friends International, OIC Cambodia, Wathnakpheap, Women's Media Centre of Cambodia, WorldFish Cambodia. Eye Care Foundation and Asia Injury Prevention Foundation also received a small grant support from the Go Back<>Give Back initiative.

The program celebrated and promoted international volunteering in Cambodia by sharing regular social media content with DFAT Post, including targeted content for International Volunteer Day.



Australian volunteer Gregory Cansdale volunteers at Southeast Asia Development Program (SADP) as an Organisational Development Advisor in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. In this photo he is with SADP staff (L-R): Chan Sambath, Te Sonareach, Leang Rattanakevy, Keo Navin and Seng Sovathana. Photo: Harjono Djobisono.

## Spotlight on the Women's Media Centre of Cambodia

The Women's Media Centre of Cambodia (WMCC) is a non-profit organisation that uses media as a pathway to achieve women's empowerment, gender equality and democratic development in Cambodia. It gives a voice to women about issues that directly affect their rights, dignity and participation in leadership roles. WMCC's radio programming is recognised as the country's leading radio station, reaching 65 per cent of Cambodia's population in 16 provinces. The Centre also produces television and multimedia programs about issues affecting women and young people.

With the aim of reinvigorating the Centre and transforming it into a more progressive organisation, WMCC collaborated with the Australian Volunteers Program. Australian volunteer, Rachel Connor, provided support as an Organisational Development Mentor, both in-country and remotely.

Rachel assisted with improving the Centre's governance, strategic outlook and adapting to working during COVID-19. She also worked on developing a five-year strategic plan and reviewed WMCC's organisational policies. This work has contributed to enhancing the Centre's staffing capacity, governance, funding base and overall growth.

Staff improved their capacity to review organisational policies, understand the benefits of participatory processes and seek funding, and the Centre now has more capacity to expand its programs and grow new diverse audiences.

With support from The Australian Volunteers Program Impact Fund, WMCC also hosts online shows and debates, reaching younger, more diverse audiences.

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