

# Independent evaluation of Australian Volunteers Program

**Objective:** To assess relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and future direction for the program

## Findings

The evaluation found that since commencement in 2018 the program has generally been



And that partner organisations and volunteers generally perceive that the program



## Program summary

January 2018 to December 2020



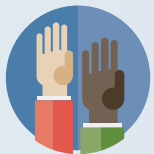
Worked with over 900 partner organisations



26 countries



1,775 assignments



1,410 volunteers



Repatriated 464 volunteers due to COVID-19



150 remote volunteer assignments

## Recommendations

The evaluation recommends that DFAT and the program consider the following

- 1 Refresh the program outcomes and logic to respond to the evolving global context
- 2 Expand existing and explore new strategic partnerships to create new volunteer modalities and increase outreach
- 3 Establish an in-country consultative or advisory mechanism to engage governments and peak bodies
- 4 Review the end of program outcomes to ensure they articulate into program goals
- 5 Examine and build on the value for money assessment procured by the program
- 6 Address the role of the Program Management Group to ensure it fulfills all its mandated functions
- 7 Update the program's approach to risk management
- 8 Incorporate alternative volunteering modalities into the program logic
- 9 Clarify the contribution of the Innovation Fund to the achievement of program goals and continue to use the Fund as a vehicle for the program to remain strategic