



Australian Government
AusAID



Australian Volunteers

Mainstreaming Into Development Programmes



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- 1. Context**
- 2. History**
- 3. Present and Future**



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Context

AusAID and Australia's Aid Program



About AusAID

- > Australian Agency for International Development
- > Manages the Australian Government's overseas aid program

THE AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC



PARLIAMENT



GOVERNMENT



PORTFOLIO

-Foreign Affairs

-The Hon Kevin Rudd MP - Minister for Foreign Affairs



**Department of Foreign
Affairs and Trade**

**AusAID
Australian Agency for
International
Development**

**ACIAR - Australian
Centre for
International
Agricultural Research**



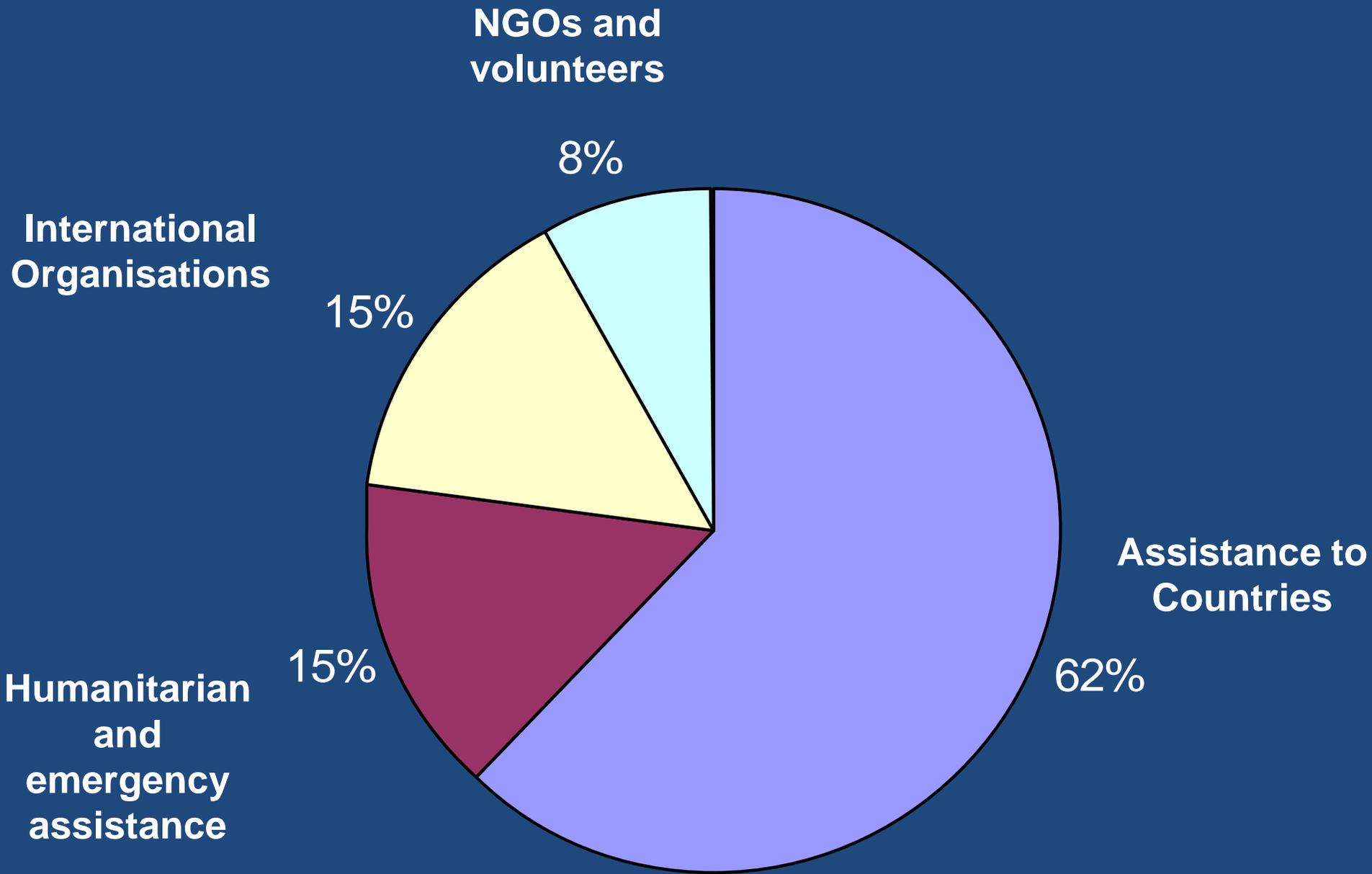
Australian Giving

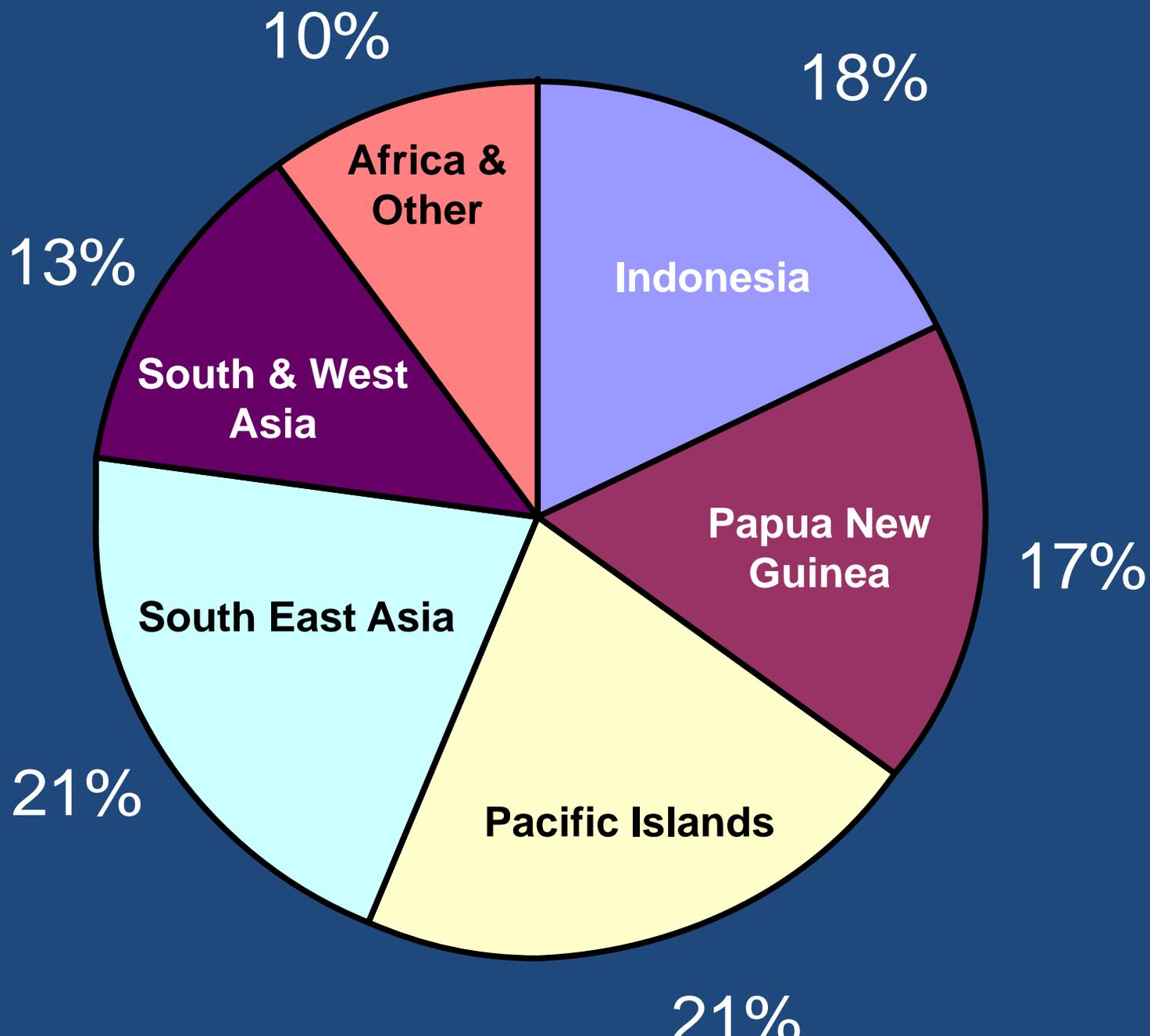
- > Australians are generous
- > They contribute over A\$800 million each year to charities for overseas aid
- > Australia is the fourth most generous country in the world in these terms, behind the USA, Germany and Canada
- > Australians tend to travel a lot
 - An adventurous spirit!
 - And we have a fascination with Asia.



How much aid?

- > In 2006 Australian Official Development Assistance totalled A\$2.8 billion
- > In 2010 Australian Official Development Assistance is A\$4.3 billion
- > ODA/GNI ratio 0.34 per cent, and rising
- > the Australian Government's goal is to increase ODA to around 0.5% of GNI by 2015
 - This is likely to be at least A\$8 billion
- > UN target is 0.7%







What We Do

- > AusAID works with the governments of neighbouring countries to help them improve the way they deliver economic and community services
- > Australian aid helps developing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals



Goal 1

Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty



Goal 2

Achieve Universal Primary Education



Goal 3

Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women



Goal 4

Reduce Child Mortality



Goal 5

Improve Maternal Health



Goal 6

Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases



Goal 7

Ensure Environmental Sustainability



Goal 8

Develop a Global Partnership for Development



Assistance to countries is delivered through a variety of methods:

- > delivery of goods and services (e.g. humanitarian relief, building health clinics and schools, immunising children)
- > building local institutions through training of staff, improving management systems and institutional cultures
- > policy dialogue, policy support and reform.



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History

Australian Government support for Volunteers



From 1961 onwards....

- > Other non-government volunteer organisations formed
 - Australian Government has periodically provided grant funding, because we like what they do
 - Australian Volunteers International
 - Australian Expert Services Overseas Program (AESOP) - Business Volunteers
 - PALMS (Paulian Lay Missionary Society)
 - Interserve



1998

- > Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development
 - Ministerial directive
 - New program created
 - Australian Government owned program
 - Contracted out to a Volunteer Service Provider
 - Ran very separately to other volunteer programs
 - With high level of Australian Government ownership and direction



1999-2000

- > “Because of the historical nature of volunteer funding, there has never been a clear statement of why volunteers are funded under the aid program”
- > Two objectives were established for aid program funding to volunteer programs:
 - Reducing poverty through skills transfer and institutional strengthening; and
 - Enhancing community participation in the aid program.
- > Government Policy Statement on Volunteers



2005

- > Started to shift away from subsidising non-government volunteer organisations
 - Taking on more ‘ownership’
- > AusAID ran a public tender for the provision of volunteer services following a review in 2002-03
 - “The Government’s objective through the tender process was to ensure a diverse, high quality, cost-effective and well-managed Volunteer Program”



From 2005 until 2010....

- > Australian Volunteers International
 - Contracted to AVI
- > Volunteering for International Development from Australia
 - Contracted to Austraining International
- > Australian Business Volunteers
 - Contracted to ABV

And

- > Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development
 - Contracted to Austraining International



Basic facts and figures

- > Annual funding in 2010-11 is A\$42 million
- > About 1200 AusAID-funded volunteers overseas at any one time
- > Approximately 800 new volunteer assignments each year - about half are Youth Ambassadors
- > Assigned to over 30 countries
- > Mostly Asia-Pacific
 - High numbers in Cambodia, Indonesia, Timor Leste, China, Laos, Philippines, Thailand, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu





Basic facts and figures.....

- > Volunteers build capacity and longer term linkages
 - Not used for emergency situations
- > Youth Ambassadors aged 18-30
- > Other volunteers can be any age
 - Average volunteer is late 30s, with over 10 years of work experience
 - 77% of business volunteers are over 50
- > 60% of volunteers are female



Example

- > To help address problems of local farmers In Malawi, Pat Boland volunteered as an AVI Field Veterinary Officer based in Lilongwe, Malawi
- > Pat works with the Small Scale Livestock Promotion Program (SSLPP) helping them expand the delivery of training and assistance to community animal health workers
- > This helps small holder farmers access a basic level of animal health care from within their communities without having to rely on thinly stretched government services.





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Present and Future

- Volunteers as an 'Aid Modality'
- One Program
- Partnerships



Aid Modalities – General

> Multilateral assistance

- Development Banks, United Nations organisations, global funds

> Regional assistance

- Regional organisations, eg. Secretariat of the Pacific Community, ASEAN, Mekong River Commission

> Bilateral assistance

- Country to country
 - Programs, projects, schemes, scholarships







Timor Leste Country Strategy 2009-2014

- > Severe poverty and weak services
- > Oil dependence
- > A post-conflict fragile state
- > 40 donors and hundreds of NGOs



Program Focus

- > Strengthening basic health and education service delivery, including a special focus on maternal and child health
- > Increasing employment, including by increasing agricultural productivity
- > Improving government accountability, transparency and integrity
- > Building the foundations of a safer community



Example of Aid Delivery – Health and Education

- > Free health clinics every month in every village
- > Visiting medical teams from Australia to provide on-the-job training and mentoring in specialist health fields
- > Establishing a reproductive health clinic
- > Design and construction of schools
- > Provision of school material and classroom resources
- > Provision of basic skills training

What about volunteers?





Australian Aid Budget

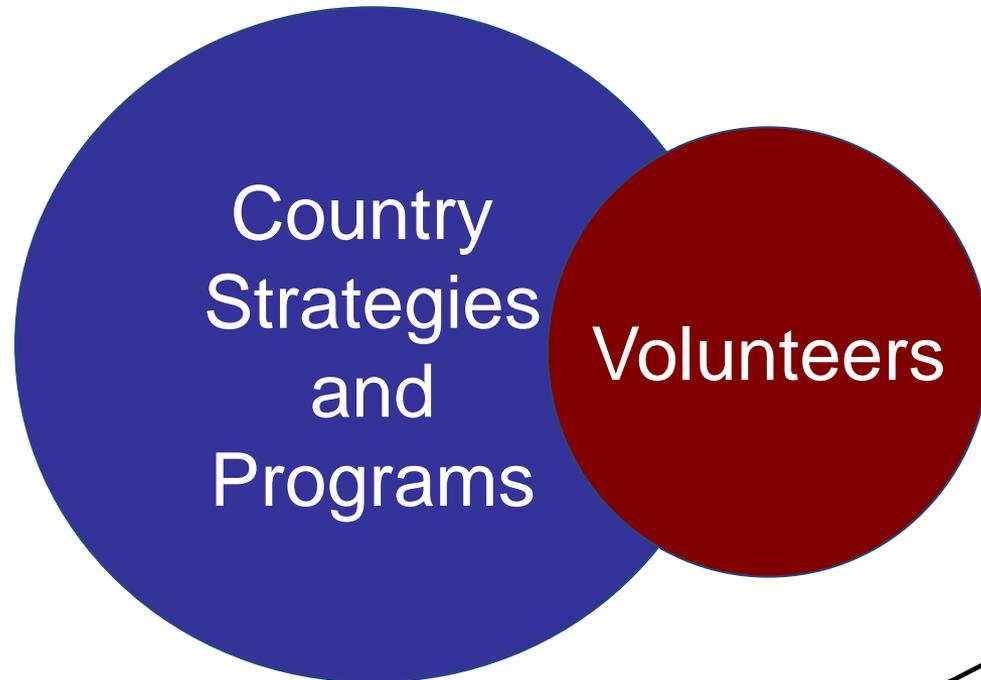
Country
Strategies
and
Programs

Volunteers

Historical - Separation



Australian Aid Budget



Present - Alignment



Australian Aid Budget

Country
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Volunteers

Future – Integration





Mainstreaming volunteers into development programmes

- > Now - Alignment of volunteer assignments with higher level country program objectives
 - eg. Australian volunteers in Timor Leste generally work on assignments closely related to the Australian aid activities
- > Future - Recognition that volunteers are part of the overall mix of aid delivery approaches
 - ie. will form part of the country strategy
- > New volunteer program designed to enable this
 - And include some room for flexibility



New Volunteer Program

- > One single identity, one ‘brand’, one point of entry
- > Unambiguously identified as the Australian Government’s volunteer program to provide assistance to developing countries
- > Expected to be launched later this year



Building capacity

- > Preparatory work often required for host organisation to be ready to host a volunteer
- > Building capacity of the host organisation is a very important feature of the program



Partnership

- > AusAID values the expertise and experience of Volunteer Service Providers and NGOs
- > We have entered into 'Partnerships' with three organisations to help us deliver the new volunteer program
 - Australian Volunteers International
 - Austraining International, in consortium with Australian Business Volunteers and CECI/WUSC (Canadian volunteer service)
 - Australian Red Cross



Partnership...

- > More than a contractual arrangement
- > Shared understanding of objectives
- > Shared responsibility
- > Shared accountability
- > Mutual trust and respect
- > Joint sense of achievement



Partnership...

- > Partnership Group is critical
 - Chaired by member of AusAID Executive – Deputy Director General
 - Also comprises AusAID Assistant Director General and the CEOs of Partner Organisations
 - Steering the program
 - Discussion of strategic directions
 - Sharing ideas and ‘lessons learned’



Conclusion

- > Volunteering is not just a 'nice thing to do'
- > Potential to be a very powerful component of international development programmes
- > Mainstreaming volunteers into development programmes is where AusAID is heading
 - We are nearly there
- > The next couple of years will be very interesting for us
- > Happy to report back to this Conference sometime in the future to let you know how successful this has been!



Thank you for listening