

MEDIA RELEASE



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION DHAKA

New Australian Volunteers for International Development arrive in Bangladesh

"I want to promote the things that unite us"- Sonja Stefan, Australian volunteer

Sonja is an Australian volunteer who's worked in Bangladesh since May 2013, for a Bangladesh NGO in Sylhet that promotes indigenous communities' access to education, health and legal assistance.

Like Sonja, around 40 Australian volunteers come to Bangladesh every year to work alongside Bangladeshi counterparts in NGOs, UN agencies and the Bangladesh Government.



High Commissioner Greg Wilcock (bottom) with Australian Volunteers for International Development

Nineteen Australian volunteers were welcomed to Bangladesh on 4 June at the residence of Australian High Commissioner Greg Wilcock. Mr Wilcock said the volunteers had an opportunity to strengthen their professional skills and contribute to Bangladesh's development, while also building durable people-to-people links between Australia and Bangladesh.

During the year ahead, the Australian volunteers will work in Dhaka, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar, Savar and Mymensingh in fields like education, health, food security, community development and climate change.

For over 60 years, Australians have worked as volunteers abroad. Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) is an Australian Government program that places Australian professionals in developing countries, mostly in Australia's region. The AVID program is an integral part of Australia's aid program in Bangladesh and around the world.

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