

MEDIA RELEASE



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION DHAKA

New Australian Volunteers for International Development arrive in Bangladesh

“I’m motivated to join the AVID programme to experience living and working in Bangladesh. I feel fortunate to share and exchange skills and experience within my host organisation and the greater community.”- Tasha Black, Australian volunteer

Australian volunteers are contributing to Bangladesh’s human capital development. Approximately 40 volunteers come to Bangladesh every year to work alongside Bangladeshi counterparts in International NGOs, Local NGOs and UN agencies.

In 2015, 19 Australian volunteers were welcomed to Bangladesh by Australian High Commissioner Greg Wilcock. Mr. Wilcock said *“Australian volunteers are an important asset to Australia’s bilateral relationship with Bangladesh. By contributing their time and skills where needed overseas, volunteers make a positive contribution to economic growth and poverty reduction, while building strong people-to-people links”*.

Tui Swinnen, working with Helen Keller International expressed-*“I have been running my second assignment as AVID volunteer in Bangladesh, there are lots of ups and downs but supportive supervisor, colleagues and Scope Global in-country management team always helped me to achieve my assignment outcome meaningfully and contribute towards sustainable development in Bangladesh”*



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

This year, Australian volunteers are working in Dhaka and Cox’s Bazar in areas such as women’s empowerment, resilience building, humanitarian assistance, health, child rights, food security, nutrition, and social protection.

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. The AVID program is helping to drive change and build enduring people-to-people links between Australia and the world.

Further information about the AVID program can be found on the website at: <http://www.australianaidvolunteers.gov.au/>

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