THE VOLUNTEER

Program Priorities: How Peace Corps Volunteers Serve Around the Globe

Volunteer projects and activities are the primary focus of the Peace Corps program. Volunteers are involved in a variety of host country projects because they speak the local languages, appreciate the cultural traditions, and are eager to respond to local community needs. Currently, the Peace Corps' work worldwide falls into six general sectors: agriculture, business development, education, environment, health and HIV/AIDS, and youth development. Additionally, Volunteers in all sectors incorporate meaningful work in information and communication technology (ICT), women in development/gender and development (WID/GAD), HIV/AIDS, and youth development into their primary and secondary activities. A discussion of each sector's work objectives and examples of Volunteer activities follow.

In FY 2007, there were 8,079 Peace Corps Volunteers from all sectors working directly with more than 2.1 million individuals. Volunteers and their counterparts reached an additional 3 million individuals through the use of mass media technologies (e.g. radio, video, and the Internet.) Volunteers provided training skills to 159,402 service providers, including teachers, health clinic workers, and organization administrators; their efforts assisted 29,093 agencies, organizations, and nongovernmental agencies. Women and girls represented more than half (1.24 million out of 2.1 million) of all individual beneficiaries and service providers assisted, reflecting the agency's commitment to building their capacity.

Agriculture

Volunteers recognize that the Earth's resources are finite, and over the past 30 years the Peace Corps has designed agriculture projects that reflect this limitation. Along with their environment-sector counterparts, many agriculture Volunteers help farmers focus on the long term productivity of their fields by maintaining and improving soils and managing water. They demonstrate the importance of working with local, natural inputs to control pests and erosion. Increasingly, Volunteers and their partners are promoting approaches to farming that are both sustainable and organic as they continue to work with a broad range of agricultural products. Volunteers systematically include women and youth into their agriculture-extension activities. Today, a Volunteer is as likely to be working with a women's association or youth club as with a male head of household.

In FY 2007, there were 480 agriculture Volunteers providing assistance through 16 projects.

Examples of Volunteer work include:

- training farmers and extension agents to develop and disseminate successful farming practices;
- improving traditional field-crop systems by introducing farmers to better practices and technologies such as new soil conservation techniques, crop diversification, and agro-forestry strategies;
- expanding the availability and acceptance of nontraditional crops by promoting strengthening vegetable gardening and fruit tree production while raising awareness about the nutritional value of the foods produced;
- increasing knowledge and skills needed for small-animal husbandry, such as poultry, rabbits, fish, and honey production; and
- helping producers increase the value of their agricultural products by developing new products such as jams and dried fruit; as well as improving storage, increasing distribution, and implementing more effective management and marketing.

Business Development

Volunteers with a variety of business education and professional experiences are assigned to projects that focus on business, organizational, and communication skills in local government offices, nonprofit agencies, and for-profit businesses. Recently, the focus of work in this sector has shifted from business consulting to more community economic development, emphasizing sustainability, transparency, community volunteerism, and leadership training. In response to the needs of a global economy, the number of business Volunteers continues to grow as efforts intensify to assist underserved communities and to expand entrepreneurial skills for women and youth.

In FY 2007, there were 1,412 business development Volunteers providing assistance through 49 projects worldwide.

Examples of Volunteer work include:

- training activities in computer and Internet use;
- training entrepreneurs in marketing, business planning, and bookkeeping;
- helping artisan cooperatives market their handmade goods;
- advising women's groups about access to credit;
- educating young people to enter the workforce and participate in the market economy;
- helping businesses find markets for traditional and value-added products;
- counseling businesses including microfinance on organizational issues;
- teaching financial management to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs); and
- working with ecotourism project planning through community-based resource management

Education

Education remains the Peace Corps' largest program sector; in reality, all Volunteers are, to some extent, educators. Many host country nationals describe how the Peace Corps Volunteer who taught them years ago opened up new vistas for their future and empowered them to make a difference. Education projects include team-teaching courses in math, science, health, environment, and civics or skills-based classes in English and literacy. Education Volunteers strengthen local capacity by training and mentoring teachers in K–12 schools, teacher-training colleges and universities. Based on the needs of host communities, Volunteers support programs for vulnerable, marginalized or other special-needs children; also creating after-school programs, clubs and camps for boys and girls to promote HIV/AIDS prevention and life skills. Education Volunteers train teachers to expand learning opportunities through the use of ICT including radio, video, and computers, which are increasingly important for accessing information, communicating professionally, and equipping students with 21st-century skills. Improved ICT broadens access to education, makes learning more interactive, provides teachers with access to classroom materials, and enables classrooms around the world to communicate and collaborate.

Volunteers are also making significant contributions to girls' education and gender awareness. Around the world, Volunteers promote activities that help expand educational opportunities for females in both formal and non-formal settings. For example, Volunteers conduct summer leadership camps for girls, support community awareness of girls' achievements and potential, encourage their participation in the classroom, establish safe environments for after-school study, and organize career fairs for women. Similarly, Volunteers are working with boys and men to explore gender roles, expectations, and opportunities in a rapidly changing world.

In FY 2007, there were 2,121 education Volunteers providing assistance through 53 projects worldwide.

Examples of Volunteer work include:

- teaching English to teachers and students through classes and extracurricular activities;
- mentoring counterparts and training teachers;
- advising in the development of curricula and teaching materials;
- promoting community and school-based resource centers;
- advising school-community organizations, parent-teacher groups, and community development projects;
- supporting adult education;
- promoting distance learning;
- supporting special-needs classes, such as deaf education;
- encouraging early childhood education; and
- working with radio stations to teach English and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Environment

Volunteers working in environment projects help strengthen a community's ability to conserve and use natural resources sustainably. They work primarily at the grassroots level focusing on human needs and sustainable alternatives. Volunteers focusing on agro-forestry, for example, identify and train local leaders so they can teach other farmers how to use forestry to improve the productivity and resource sustainability of their fields and garden. Similarly, Volunteers implement education activities outside the classrooms through environmental clubs and eco-camps. At some posts, schools and communities are connected for the first time as parents and youth work together to identify joint projects, such as bottle recycling or park cleanup days.

In FY 2007, there were 885 environment Volunteers providing assistance through 35 projects worldwide.

Examples of Volunteer work include:

- promoting reforestation and soil and water conservation with individual farmers;
- co-teaching classes in schools, conducting teacher-training seminars, and developing curricula related to environmental topics;
- promoting non-formal environmental education (e.g., summer camps, eco-clubs, Earth Day events, and theater dramas);
- working with entrepreneurs and associations to develop or strengthen alternatives to unsustainable harvesting and cultivation practices, such as generating income from renewable natural resources.

Health and HIV/AIDS

Worldwide, 20 percent of all Volunteers work in health projects to promote preventive health education with an emphasis on overall health and well-being. The scope of these projects include: hygiene and sanitation; water systems development and enhancement; food security; maternal and child health; communicable diseases; chronic illnesses; healthy lifestyles, exercise, and decision making. Volunteers and their counterparts address these health issues in a variety of ways, including formal classroom instruction from kindergarten to university level; materials development; training for health care providers; and non-formal health sessions using murals, theater, radio, television, and puppet shows.

Many Volunteers focus on HIV/AIDS prevention and care exclusively or as part of a comprehensive community health project. Life skills training continues to be at the center of much of Volunteers' HIV/AIDS prevention work, particularly when targeting youth. Increasingly, Volunteers are assigned to HIV/AIDS-related NGOs and assist in increasing the technical, managerial, and administrative capacities of these groups. Volunteers are uniquely suited to work in HIV/AIDS prevention and care because they live and work in local communities and can present information in culturally sensitive ways. The Peace Corps is collaborating with the U.S. Department of State's Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator to support the U.S. government's commitment to worldwide HIV/AIDS care, prevention, and treatment through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The agency is active in 10 of the 15 PEPFAR focus countries. Ninety-three percent of all Peace Corps posts around the world conducted HIV/AIDS activities, benefiting over 1 million people.

In FY 2007, there were 1,666 health and HIV/AIDS Volunteers providing assistance through 53 projects worldwide.

Examples of Volunteer work include:

- teaching—formally and informally—about health and HIV/ AIDS prevention and care;
- expanding peer education to urge youth and others to reduce risky behaviors;
- promoting healthy lifestyles, especially for youth;
- supporting youth and orphan activities and care;
- providing nutrition and hygiene education classes in communities;
- promoting education about infectious disease prevention;
- assisting in maternal and child health clinics;
- strengthening NGO health-delivery systems;
- constructing and managing water systems; and
- supporting community sanitation efforts.

Youth

Since the inception of the Peace Corps in 1961, Volunteers have had great success working with youth. It is often young people in a community who are the Volunteers' first language coaches and cultural interpreters. In turn, young people value the opportunity to learn from Peace Corps Volunteers. In most of the countries in which Peace Corps works, over 50 percent of the population is under the age of 25. Volunteers in the youth sector are guided by three key principles: promoting positive youth development, facilitating a greater level of youth participation, and approaching community development from an asset-based point of view. Volunteers and their partners integrate these approaches into stand-alone youth development projects and into projects that cross all program sectors. The Peace Corps' approach to youth development supports effective, sustainable work with young people, their families, and their communities. Projects also aim to build the capacity of youth-serving organizations and the host country professionals who work with young people. Critical issues affecting youth throughout the world include successfully making the transition from school to work, developing relevant skills to prepare them for family life, and becoming engaged and active citizens in their communities.

Volunteers also serve a valuable role in reaching special populations such as children orphaned due to HIV/AIDs, street children, and other vulnerable young people. Volunteers work with their partners to improve employment skills for disenfranchised and out-of-school young men and women, and provide support to youth to help avoid drugs and prostitution. Many Volunteers serve as mentors for young people and as counterparts in youth-service organizations. Volunteers are uniquely positioned to provide learning opportunities to girls and boys at the grassroots level. The overarching purpose of youth development work is to help young men and women maintain healthy lifestyles and to prepare them for their roles in the world of work, in family life, and as good citizens.

In FY 2007, there were 466 youth development Volunteers providing assistance through 17 projects worldwide.

Examples of Volunteer work include:

- increasing employability skills, career planning and entrepreneurship training;
- supporting training for computer skills and Internet use;
- developing leadership, communication, and teamwork skills through sports, recreation, drama, and arts opportunities;
- providing environmental education and community service opportunities;
- providing life skills through family life and healthy lifestyles training, including HIV/AIDS prevention;
- promoting positive leadership and citizenship development;
- developing the skills of teachers, youth promoters, and social workers to better facilitate participatory, asset based learning opportunities for youth; and
- working to engage parents and other community adults to support youth priorities.

Peace Corps Response

Peace Corps Response, formerly known as the Crisis Corps, mobilizes returned Peace Corps Volunteers to provide short-term humanitarian assistance to countries worldwide. Since its inception in 1996, this program has sent over 1,000 returned Volunteers to more than 40 countries.

The title Peace Corps Response better reflects the work of this important department and allows it to broaden its five programming areas to include projects that do not necessarily rise to the level of a crisis. Additionally, the term "crisis" has not always resonated well with possible host countries and partnering organizations, resulting in impeding the development of some much needed assignments.

Peace Corps Response's five main program areas are:

- Humanitarian assistance
- HIV/AIDS (including PEPFAR programming)
- Disaster preparedness and mitigation
- Natural disaster relief and reconstruction
- Post-conflict relief and reconstruction

The Crisis Corps will be retained as a unique branch within the Peace Corps Response program. Its focus will be to mobilize Volunteers to provide disaster relief and other immediate-need assistance to countries affected by hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, and other catastrophes.

In 2007, Peace Corps Response Volunteers worked to mitigate the effects of flooding in Panama; typhoons in the Philippines, and cyclones in Madagascar. In the Eastern Caribbean, El Salvador, and Guatemala—areas prone to cyclical natural disasters—Peace Corps Response Volunteers have been actively engaged in disaster preparedness and mitigation projects. These Volunteers also played a key role in the fight against HIV/AIDS, augmenting the work of Peace Corps Volunteers in nine countries with a high level of technical assistance.

Peace Corps Response draws from a pool of former Peace Corps Volunteers interested in short-term critical work. Peace Corps Response Volunteers have already served as Peace Corps Volunteers, so they come to their posts already in possession of the appropriate language, technical, and cross-cultural skills needed to make an immediate impact. When requests come in for Peace Corps Response Volunteers, a recruitment and placement specialist searches a database of RPCV applicants for candidates with the appropriate skills.

Peace Corps Response assignments are short term, generally lasting three to six months. Specific projects are developed by a partner organization, the Peace Corps overseas office, and the Peace Corps Response office in Washington, D.C. Partner organizations include local and international nongovernmental organizations, international development and relief organizations, government agencies, and United Nations organizations.

A Peace Corps Response Volunteer in the Eastern Caribbean working with youth on disaster planning and preparedness

Peace Corps Partnership Program

The Peace Corps Partnership Program connects interested individuals, groups, foundations, service organizations, and businesses to Volunteers and their communities in order to obtain financial support for community-initated projects. The mission of the Peace Corps Partnership Program (Partnership Program) is to build enduring financial alliances with the private sector in an effort to connect donors with community-based projects where Volunteers serve. The Partnership Program is administered by the agency's Office of Private Sector Initiatives (OPSI), which oversees and manages all donations to the Peace Corps. One hundred percent of contributions made to the Partnership Program are used for project purposes in host countries.

Donors to the Partnership Program may contribute to a sector fund or to a specific project. Partnership Program sector funds provide a mechanism through which donors in the United States can support a specific area of development in communities served by the Peace Corps. Currently, the sector funds include business development, education, environment, youth, gender development, information technology, health, and HIV/AIDS education. In April 2007 a new drinking water and sanitation fund was added. With the help of the Wallace Genetic Foundation and their generous $25,000 donation—along with a commitment to match the next $25,000 raised—a total of $75,000 has been contributed to this new fund. Now, projects such as building latrines, digging wells, and ensuring water distribution are receiving funding in a timely manner. A list of all current projects seeking funds can be found on the Peace Corps website by clicking on the "Donate Now" tab on the home page.

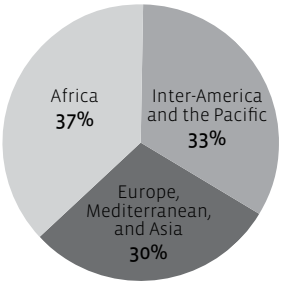
In FY 2007, the Partnership Program received 5,684 donations totaling $1.45 million, a 31-percent increase over FY 2006. These funds were applied to 429 community-initiated projects in 50 countries. The Partnership Program requires a minimum 25 percent community contribution; in FY 2007, the actual contribution was more than 44 percent, leveraging approximately $643 thousand in cash and in-kind community contributions.

Partnership Program-funded projects have benefited thousands of individuals, ensuring that Peace Corps Volunteers can continue to promote sustainable development, peace, friendship, and understanding in the communities they serve.

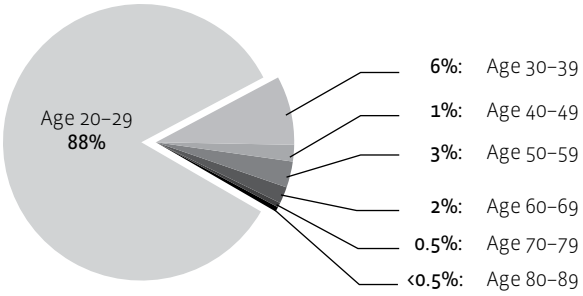
In a rural community in Thailand, community members joined with their Peace Corps Volunteer to celebrate the completion of the Partnership Program project that resulted in a playground and clean water at the local preschool

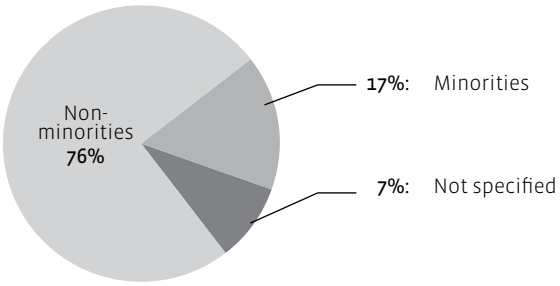
Volunteer Statistics

Volunteers by Region

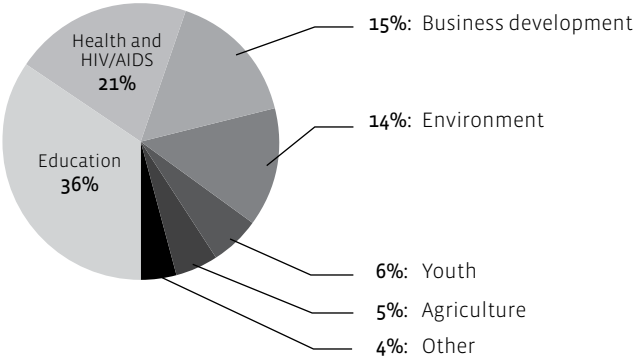


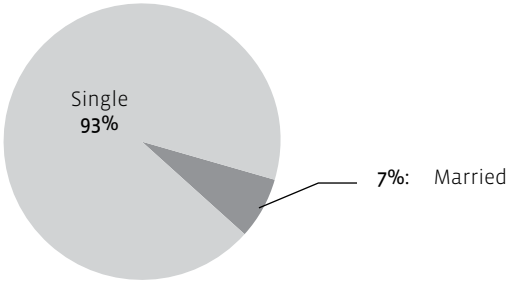
Volunteer Profile

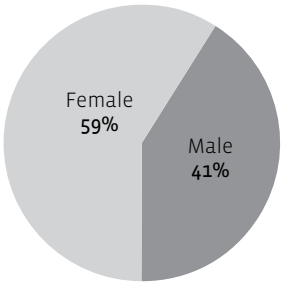




Volunteer Projects







Totals may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.
Data current as of September 30, 2007.

Number of Peace Corps Volunteers Working in HIV/AIDS Activities

FY 2007

Africa

Country	*Volunteers*
Benin	43
Botswana*	105
Burkina Faso	43
Cameroon	83
Cape Verde	54
Ghana**	140
Guinea	17
Kenya*	109
Lesotho**	39
Madagascar	23
Malawi**	92
Mali	27
Mauritania	15
Mozambique*	94
Namibia*	54
Niger	47
Senegal	35
South Africa*	118
Swaziland**	63
Tanzania*	75
The Gambia	38
Togo	106
Uganda*	112
Zambia*	246
TOTAL	**1,778**

Inter-America and the Pacific

Country	*Volunteers*
Belize	16
Bolivia	16
Costa Rica	15
Dominican Republic**	53
Eastern Caribbean** [1]	57
Ecuador	97
El Salvador	84
Fiji	32
Guatemala	18
Guyana*	33
Honduras**	77
Jamaica	22
Kiribati	9
Micronesia	1
Nicaragua	72
Panama	49
Paraguay	70
Peru	43
Samoa	22
Suriname	16
Vanuatu	7
TOTAL	**809**

Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia

Country	*Volunteers*
Albania	17
Armenia	20
Azerbaijan	1
Bulgaria	18
Cambodia	5
China	26
Georgia**	15
Kazakhstan**	49
Kyrgyz Republic	58
Macedonia	27
Moldova	65
Mongolia	12
Morocco	74
Philippines	20
Romania	10
Thailand**	75
Turkmenistan	21
Ukraine**	45
TOTAL	**558**

Grand Total: 3,145

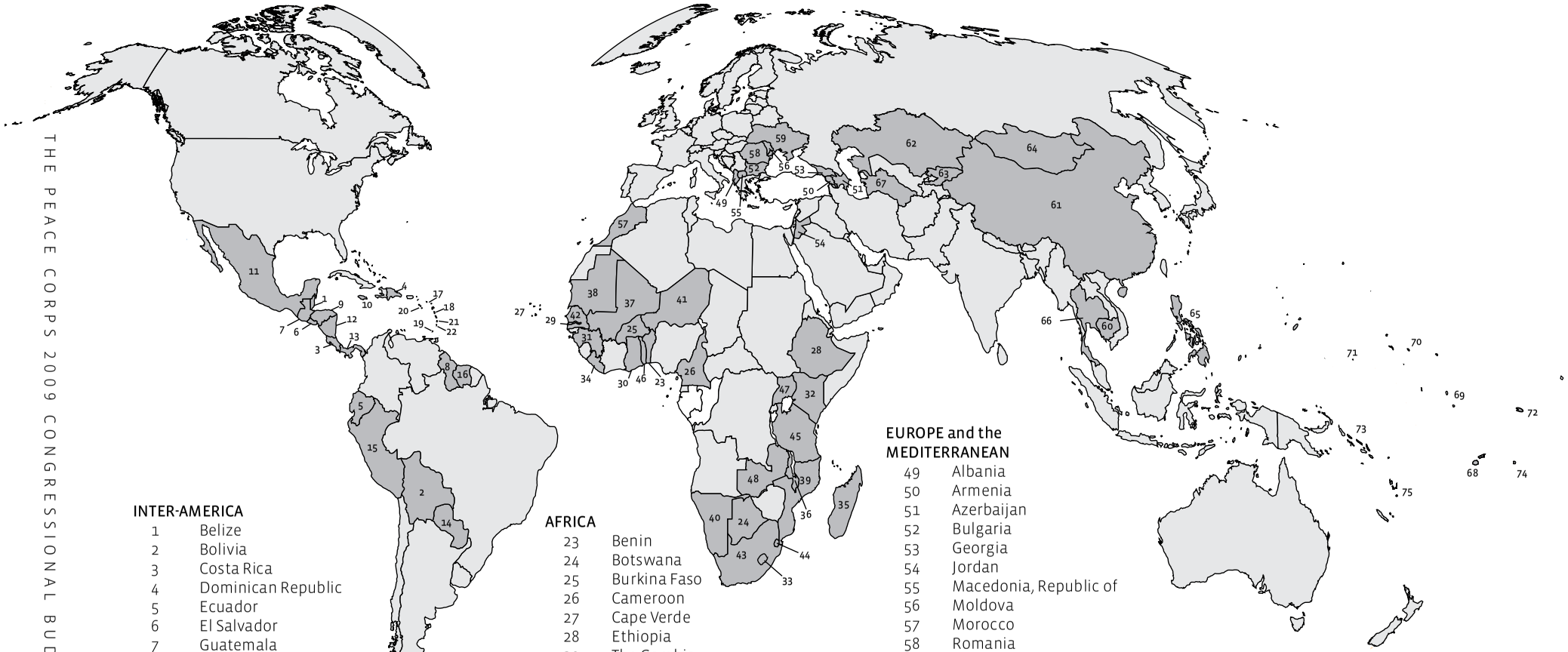
NOTES

* President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) focus countries

** Other countries participating in PEPFAR

[1] Eastern Caribbean includes Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Carriacou, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Countries Where Peace Corps Volunteers Serve



INTER-AMERICA

1 Belize
2 Bolivia
3 Costa Rica
4 Dominican Republic
5 Ecuador
6 El Salvador
7 Guatemala
8 Guyana
9 Honduras
10 Jamaica
11 Mexico
12 Nicaragua
13 Panama
14 Paraguay
15 Peru
16 Suriname

Eastern Caribbean:

17 Antigua/Barbuda
18 Dominica
19 Grenada/Carriacou
20 St. Kitts and Nevis
21 St. Lucia
22 St. Vincent/Grenadines

AFRICA

23 Benin
24 Botswana
25 Burkina Faso
26 Cameroon
27 Cape Verde
28 Ethiopia
29 The Gambia
30 Ghana
31 Guinea
32 Kenya*
33 Lesotho
34 Liberia**
35 Madagascar
36 Malawi
37 Mali
38 Mauritania
39 Mozambique
40 Namibia
41 Niger
42 Senegal
43 South Africa
44 Swaziland
45 Tanzania
46 Togo
47 Uganda
48 Zambia

EUROPE and the MEDITERRANEAN

49 Albania
50 Armenia
51 Azerbaijan
52 Bulgaria
53 Georgia
54 Jordan
55 Macedonia, Republic of
56 Moldova
57 Morocco
58 Romania
59 Ukraine

CENTRAL and EAST ASIA

60 Cambodia
61 China
62 Kazakhstan
63 Kyrgyz Republic
64 Mongolia
65 Philippines
66 Thailand
67 Turkmenistan

The PACIFIC

68 Fiji
69 Kiribati
70 Micronesia, Federated States of
71 Palau, Republic of
72 Samoa
73 Solomon Islands*
74 Tonga
75 Vanuatu

** Suspended*

***Peace Corps Response Volunteers to enter summer of FY 2008*

Languages Spoken by Peace Corps Volunteers Across the World

BENIN
Adja, Bariba, Biali, Dendi, Fon, French, Goun, Idatcha, Lokpa, Mina, Nagot, Nateni, Peulh, Sola, Wama, Yende, Yoruba (Nagot), Zarma

BOTSWANA
Setswana

BURKINA FASO
Bissa, French, Fulfude, Gurunssi, Gulmancema, Jula, Karunfe, Katsena, Lobiri, Lyele, Mooré, Siamou

CAMEROON
Bamun, Bulu, Pidgin English, Fang, French, Fulfudé, Ghom alà, Hausa

CAPE VERDE
CV Criolo, Portuguese

ETHIOPIA
Amharic, Oromifa

THE GAMBIA
Jola, Mandinka, Pulaar, Sarahule, Sererr, Wolof

GHANA
Buli, Guruni, Dagare, Dagbani, Dangme, Ewe, Fanté, Ga, Gonja, Hausa, Kasem, Kusaal, Mampruli, Moar, Nankam, Nzema, Sisaali, Taleni, Twi, Waale, Wassa

GUINEA
French, Maninka, Pulaar , Soussou

KENYA
Kalenjin, Kenyan Sign Language, Kikuyu, Kiswahili, Luo, Luyha

LESOTHO
Sesotho

MADAGASCAR
French, Malagasy

MALAWI
Chichewa, Chilomwe, Chisena, Chitonga, Chitumbuka, Chiyao

MALI
Bambara, Bomu, Dogon, French, Fulfudé, Khassonke, Malinke, Minianka, Senoufou, Sonrai, Soninke, Tamashek

MAURITANIA
Arabic, French, Hassynia, Pulaar, Soninke , Wolof

MOZAMBIQUE
Chuabo, Chopi, Lomwe, Makhuwa, Makonde, Ndau, Nhungwe, Nyanja, Portuguese, Ronga, Sena, Shangana, Shona, Tewe, Tswa

NAMIBIA
Afrikaans, Oshikwanyama, Oshindonga, Otijherero, Rukwangali, Thimbukusha

NIGER
French, Fulfudé, Hausa, Kanuri, Tamasheq, Zarma

SENEGAL
Diahonke, French, Fula Kunda, Jaxanke, Mandinka, Pulaar du Nord, Pula Fuuta, Seereer, Wolof

SOUTH AFRICA
Afrikaans, Isi Ndebele, Isi Zulu, Sepedi, Setswana, Siswati, Northern Sotho, Venda

SWAZILAND
siSwati

TANZANIA
Kiswahili

TOGO
Akebou, Akposso, Balanka, Bassar, Bissa, Ewe/Watchi, French, Gourma, Haoussa, Ifè (Ana), Kabiyé, Kabole, Komkonba, Kotokoli, Lamba, Mina, Moba, Naodem (Losso), Tamberm, Tchamba, Tchokossi (Anoufo)

UGANDA
Ateso, Dhopadhola, Luganda, Lugwere, Lumasaaba, Lusoga, Runyakore, Runyole, Runyoro-Rutoro, Uhopadhola

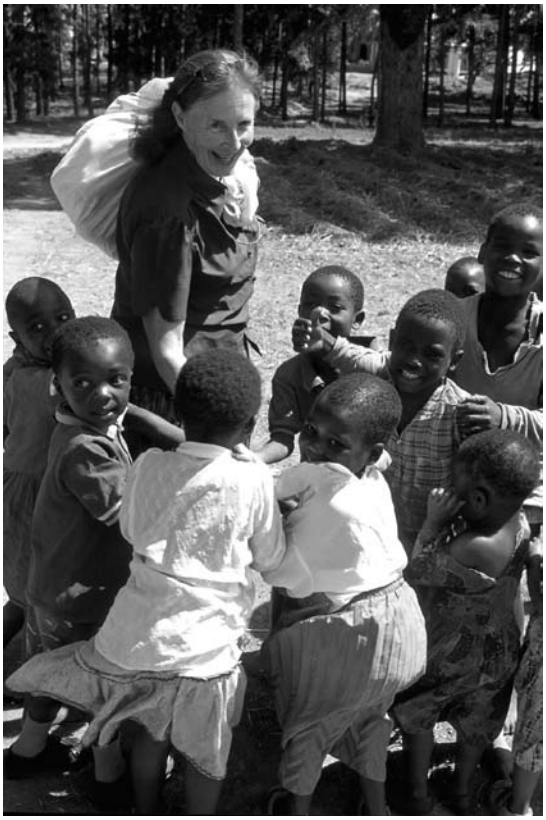
ZAMBIA
Bemba, Chisoli, Kaonde, Lunda, Nyanja, Tonga, Tumbuta

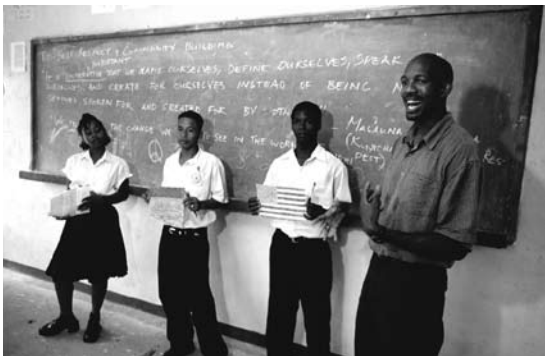
Languages Spoken by Peace Corps Volunteers Across the World

EUROPE, MEDITERRANEAN, AND ASIA

ALBANIA	Albanian
ARMENIA	Armenian
AZERBAIJAN	Azerbaijani (Azeri)
BULGARIA	Bulgarian
CAMBODIA	Khmer
CHINA	Mandarin
GEORGIA	Georgian
JORDAN	Arabic
KAZAKHSTAN	Kazakh, Russian
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	Kyrgyz, Russian
MACEDONIA	Albanian, Macedonian
MOLDOVA	Romanian, Russian
MONGOLIA	Kazakh, Mongolian
MOROCCO	Arabic, French, Tamazight, Tashelheet
PHILIPPINES	Aklanon, Bikol-Albay, Bikol-Naga, Cebuano, Hiligaynon Ibaloi, Ilokano, Kankana-ey Kinaray-a, Pangasinan, Tagalog, Waray
ROMANIA	Hungarian, Romanian
THAILAND	Thai
TURKMENISTAN	Russian, Turkmen
UKRAINE	Russian, Ukrainian

Languages Spoken by Peace Corps Volunteers Across the World





INTER-AMERICA AND THE PACIFIC

BELIZE	Creole, Garifuna, K'ekchi, Spanish
BOLIVIA	Ayamara, Guarani, Quechua, Spanish
COSTA RICA	Spanish
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Haitian Creole, Spanish
EASTERN CARIBBEAN	English Creole, French Creole (Kweyol)
ECUADOR	Kichwa, Spanish
EL SALVADOR	Spanish
FIJI	Fijian, Hindi
GUATEMALA	Kakchiquel, Spanish, Quiché
GUYANA	Creole
HONDURAS	Spanish
JAMAICA	Patois
KIRIBATI	I-Kiribati
MEXICO	Spanish
MICRONESIA and PALAU	Kosraean, Mortlockeese, Nukuoro, Palauan, Pohnepeian, Ulithian, Yapese
NICARAGUA	Spanish
PANAMA	Embera, Kuna, Ngobe, Spanish, Wounaan
PARAGUAY	Guaraní, Spanish
PERU	Quechua, Spanish
SAMOA	Samoan
SURINAME	Aucan, Dutch, Ndjuka, Saramaccan, Sranan Tongo
TONGA	Tongan
VANUATU	Bislama

The Phases of the Volunteer

How the Peace Corps Supports Volunteers from Recruitment Through Their Two-Year Service and Beyond

APPLICANT

Recruitment

Regional recruiters use marketing strategies to identify and encourage a diverse pool of qualified Americans to apply to the Peace Corps.

Application

Recruiters interview applicants to assess their motivation, emotional maturity, cultural adaptability, and technical skills. Recruiters convey that Volunteers are expected to adopt safe and culturally appropriate lifestyles to maximize security and minimize risk.

Clearances

Peace Corps staff ensures that superior candidates meet legal and medical requirements.

Placement

Placement officers match candidates to countries and projects based on their skills, experience, interests, and host country needs.

TRAINEE

Orientation (Staging)

Staff members conduct a two-day staging before trainees depart for their overseas assignments. Safety and security training is woven throughout the orientation.

Pre-Service Training

Staff prepares trainees for service by conducting two to three months of training in language, technical skills, and cross-cultural, health, and personal safety and security issues. After successful completion of training and testing, trainees are sworn in as Volunteers.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer Assignment
The Volunteer is assigned to a project that has been designed by Peace Corps and host country staff that meets the development needs of the host country.

Site Selection
The Peace Corps' in-country staff ensures that Volunteers have suitable assignments and adequate and safe living arrangements.

Living Allowance
The Peace Corps provides Volunteers with a monthly allowance to cover housing, utilities, household supplies, food, clothing, and transportation.

Health
The Peace Corps' in-country medical officers provide Volunteers with health information, immunizations, and periodic medical exams.

Volunteer Security
Peace Corps headquarters and post staff work with the U.S. State Department to assess and address safety and security risks and to ensure Volunteers are properly trained in safety and security procedures.

In-Service Training
Post staff conducts periodic training to improve Volunteers' technical and language skills and to address changing health and safety issues.

Links With U.S. Students
Established in 1989 by then Peace Corps Director Paul D. Coverdell, the CWWS program provides a variety of services and materials that help American schoolchildren learn about the world's diverse peoples, cultures, and geography. Approximately 400,000 students—in all 50 states—benefit from some aspect of the program.

Links With the Private Sector
Headquarters staff secures private financial contributions for qualified Volunteer projects and match interested Volunteers with potential donors of textbooks, sports equipment, and other resources.

Service Extension
A limited number of Volunteers who have unique skills and an outstanding record of service may extend for an additional year.

RETURNED VOLUNTEER

Career, Education, and Re-Entry Planning
Information on careers, higher education, and reentry is provided to Volunteers before the end of their service, as well as upon their return.

Readjustment Allowance
At the end of service, Volunteers receive $225 per month served to help finance their transition to careers or further education.

Health Insurance
Volunteers are covered by a comprehensive health insurance plan for the first month after service and can continue the plan at their own expense for up to 18 additional months.

Returned Volunteer Services
Each of Peace Corps' 11 regional offices is equipped with computers and other resources to assist returned Peace Corps Volunteers in obtaining career and educational information. Published twice per month, Hotline contains announcements from employers and educational institutions interested in hiring or enrolling returned Volunteers as well as information about career and job-search workshops. The Career Information Consultants guide contains a listing of more than 800 individuals who offer their assistance to Volunteers seeking information about career fields or employment opportunities.

Peace Corps Response
Headquarters staff recruits and places experienced Volunteers in short-term disaster relief and humanitarian response positions.

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