

## The Mission of the Peace Corps

To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.

To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.

To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

## History

Peace Corps officially established:	March 1, 1961
Total number of Volunteers and trainees to date:	195,000
Total number of countries served:	139

## Current Director (Acting)

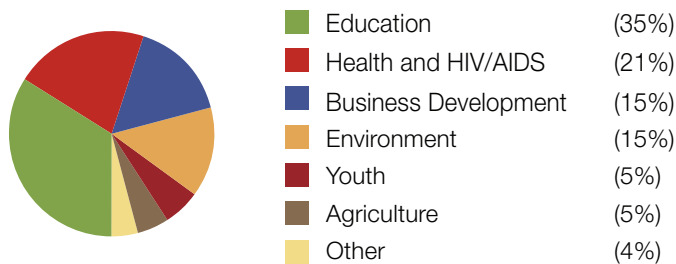
Jody K. Olsen (Tunisia, 1966–68)

## Current Volunteers

Volunteers and trainees:	7,876
Gender:	60% female, 40% male
Marital status:	94% single, 6% married
Minorities:	15% of Volunteers
Age:	Average—27 years old Median—25 years old
Volunteers over 50:	5% of Volunteers (oldest Volunteer is 84)
Education:	94% have at least an undergraduate degree 11% have graduate studies or degrees

## Countries and Sectors

Current number of countries served:	76
Current number of posts:	70



## Budget

Fiscal year 2009:	\$340 million
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## Notable Returned Volunteers

Joseph Acaba, NASA astronaut (Dominican Republic, 1994–96)

Pamela W. Barnes, President and CEO, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (Paraguay, 1998–2000)

Richard A. Boucher, Assistant Secretary of State, South and Central Asian Affairs (Senegal, 1973–75)

Rep. Steve Driehaus, D-Ohio (Senegal, 1988–90)

Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Connecticut (Dominican Republic, 1966–68)

Rep. Sam Farr, D-California (Colombia, 1964–66)

W. Frank Fountain, Chairman, W.P. Chrysler Museum Foundation, Advisor to Chrysler (India, 1966–68)

Samuel Gillespie III, Senior Vice President, Exxon Mobil Corp. (Kenya, 1966–68)

Anne Lynam Goddard, President, Christian Children's Fund, (Kenya, 1979–81)

Jan Guifarro, Vice President, Corporate Communications, Colgate-Palmolive (Honduras, 1973–75)

Reed Hastings, founder and CEO of Netflix (Swaziland, 1983–85)

Susana Herrera, author of *Mango Elephants in the Sun* and contributor to *Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul* (Cameroon, 1992–94)

Peter Hessler, author of *River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze* (China, 1996–98)

Christopher R. Hill, Assistant Secretary of State, East Asian and Pacific Affairs (Cameroon, 1974–76)

Rep. Mike Honda, D-California (El Salvador, 1965–67)

Alberto Iburgüen, President and CEO, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation (Venezuela, 1966–68)

Chris Matthews, Journalist (Swaziland, 1968–70)

Molly Melching, Founder and Executive Director, Tostan (Senegal, 1976–79)

Maureen Orth, Journalist (Colombia, 1964–66)

Rep. Thomas E. Petri, R-Wisconsin (Somalia, 1966–67)

Donald J. Putrimas, Vice President, Warner Bros. (Brazil, 1976–78)

Mildred Taylor, author of *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* (Ethiopia, 1965–67)

Kathleen Tierney, CEO, Sur La Table, Inc. (Fiji, 1967–69)

Priscilla Wrubel, Founder, The Nature Company (Liberia, 1963–64)

## Contact

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Website

[www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)