



PEACE
CORPS

Armenia HOST COUNTRY IMPACT STUDY

Purpose

In 2008, the Peace Corps launched a series of studies to determine the impact of Volunteers in meeting two of the agency's three goals: building local capacity and promoting a better understanding of Americans among local people in host countries. These Host Country Impact Studies are unique in providing feedback from the people who lived and worked with Peace Corps Volunteers. The Civic Development and Partnership Foundation, an Armenian civil society foundation, conducted this impact study in the summer and fall of 2008, interviewing 97 respondents in 24 diverse communities. The Peace Corps Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning developed the methods and protocols, trained the local researchers, and produced a series of reports from this and other Host Country Impact Studies.

Study Focus: English Language Education Project in Armenia

As of 2011, 784 Volunteers have served in Armenia since the Peace Corps opened in 1992. The goal of the English Language Education project is to enhance Armenia's participation in the international community by increasing the quality of English programs and providing other educational opportunities throughout the country.

Peace Corps Goal One

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

Findings

Improved English language competency:

- Improvement in English language proficiency and teaching skills were the most frequently mentioned individual-level changes.
- 62 percent of the co-teachers, students, NGO staff, and exchange alumni said their English language programs were better as a result of the English Language Education Project.
- Students became more confident when speaking English, communicating with English speakers more easily.

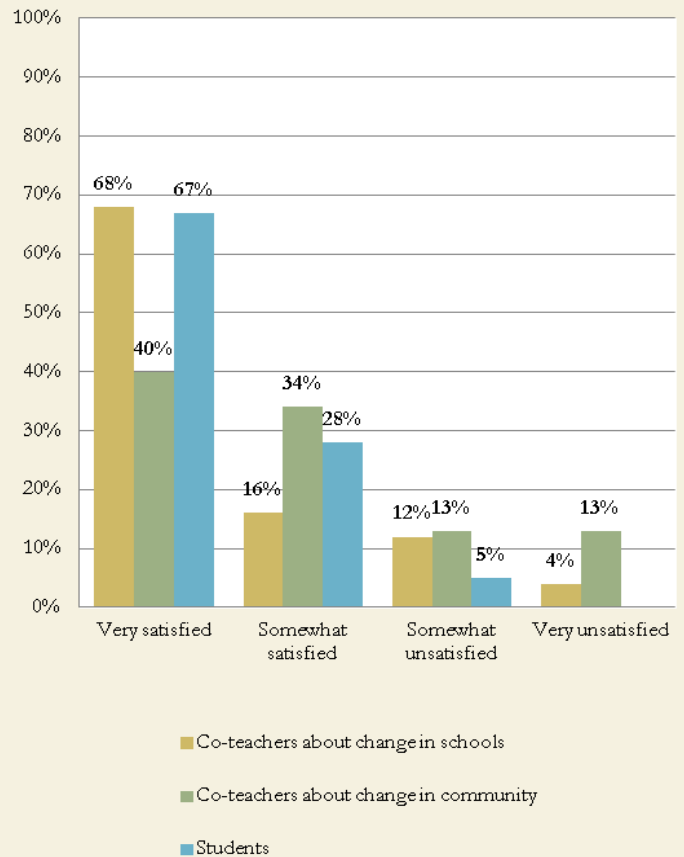
Use of interactive teaching strategies in classrooms:

- Co-teachers and students mentioned exposure to new teaching methods, particularly a more open and creative teaching style, as a result of working with Volunteers.

Sustainability:

- 97 percent of co-teachers and students reported they maintained individual changes after the Volunteer left the community.
- Local people reported that 92 percent of school-based projects and 80 percent of community-based activities were sustained to some extent after the Volunteer left.

Satisfaction with Changes Resulting from Peace Corps Projects





Peace Corps Goal Two

“To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the people served.”

Findings

Before interacting with Volunteers:

- 67 percent of beneficiaries and project partners had learned about Americans from television and movies.
- Armenian respondents described Americans as cold, hard-hearted, reserved, unsociable, unfriendly, aggressive, and unscrupulous.

Co-teacher: “I thought of them as lacking human characteristics and conscience, which later was changed. I thought they were indifferent towards other people.”

After their experience with Volunteers:

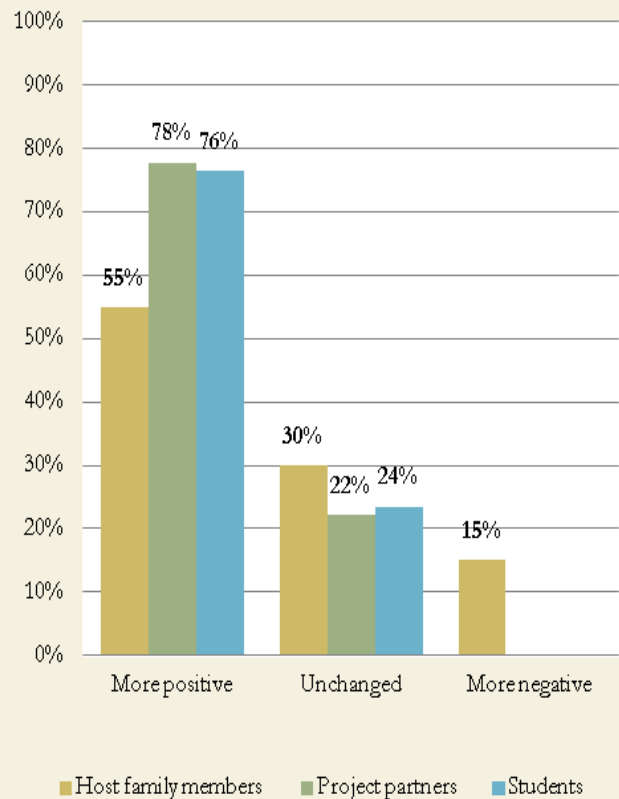
- 71 percent of co-teachers, 72 percent of students and 100 percent of exchange alumni had more positive views of Americans.

Co-teacher: “My attitudes toward them became more positive... They are very patient and self-restrained. I realized that I confused the thoroughness with coldness.”

Co-teacher: “They are collaborative, able to listen, and give advice, ready to help.”

Former student: “I realize that there are different kinds of people. But based on the experience of the Volunteer I worked with, my perception [of Americans] is now very positive. I hadn’t met any person who could work with such devotion.”

Opinion of Americans After Interacting with Volunteers



Overall, teachers and students improved their English language skills and self-confidence. Teachers improved their teaching methods and organizational skills. Most participants had a more positive opinion of Americans