



HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet: 2009



Mission

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:
190, 000

Total number of countries served to date:
139

Volunteer Assignment Areas



The Peace Corps' Strategic Advantage in the Global Response to HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS activities are integrated across all assignment areas.

Volunteers work in areas with limited access to services, and live and work in their communities for two years.

Volunteers integrate culturally appropriate messages and community participation into their work.

Volunteers have a rapport with youth, an important target group.

Volunteers speak the local languages and are well integrated into the communities they serve.

Worldwide Programming Results in HIV/AIDS*

Number of Volunteers conducting HIV/AIDS activities: 3, 112

Number of individuals assisted by Volunteers' HIV/AIDS activities: 702,849

Number of service providers assisted by Volunteers' HIV/AIDS activities: 48,478



Partnership with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

The Peace Corps has been a partner agency in PEPFAR since 2004, and has used PEPFAR funds for programming and training enhancements, including:

- Supplemental technical training for Volunteers and their counterparts
- Additional Volunteers and support staff
- Small grant programs for community-initiated activities
- Technical resources

During the first phase of PEPFAR (2004-2008), 31 Peace Corps posts and headquarters received approximately \$52,000,000 of PEPFAR funds to expand and enhance the agency's HIV/AIDS interventions. While Volunteers do not provide direct medical care, they are involved in capacity-building activities in prevention, care, and treatment.

* Volunteer statistics are based on data as of September 30, 2008.

For more information on Peace Corps' response to HIV/AIDS, please visit our website: www.peacecorps.gov



Fact Sheet: Integrating HIV/AIDS Across Sectors



Overview

Since the 1980s, Peace Corps Volunteers around the world have contributed to the global response to AIDS by helping people adopt healthy behaviors and assisting communities to mitigate its effects. Regardless of their primary assignment, Volunteers are involved in HIV/AIDS activities including prevention education; providing assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans and vulnerable children (OVC); and capacity building of HIV/AIDS-focused organizations. This cross sector approach, along with volunteers' local language and cross-cultural training and two-year presence in communities, makes the Peace Corps an effective grassroots component of any national HIV/AIDS strategy. Worldwide in 2008, volunteers' HIV/AIDS activities provided assistance to over 700,000 individuals, over 48,000 HIV/AIDS service providers, and nearly 2,400 organizations*.

To guide the agency's response to the pandemic, the Peace Corps recently developed a five-year global HIV/AIDS strategy to strengthen prevention and care activities through its core function of capacity building.



Examples of How Volunteers Integrate HIV/AIDS Activities

Agriculture

- Conducting basic HIV/AIDS trainings with farmers, and training participants at agricultural conferences in HIV/AIDS education.
- Training communities in low labor agricultural techniques to improve the nutrition of people living with HIV/AIDS, OVC, and their caregivers.

Business

- Building the management capacity of employees and members of community based, faith based, and non governmental organizations, and local businesses.
- Training in income generation for HIV/AIDS-focused organizations.

Education

- Developing life skills of in-school and out-of-school youth.
- Integrating HIV/AIDS information into science and English lesson plans.
- Training teachers in life skills and HIV/AIDS education.

Environment

- Incorporating HIV/AIDS information and life skills into activities with environmental youth groups and 4H clubs.

Health

- Conducting HIV/AIDS outreach to community members to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and available services.
- Providing educational sessions for health workers and clinic patients in areas such as nutritional counseling, life skills, palliative care, PMTCT, and HIV testing.
- Providing training to care-givers and service providers in ways to improve care for people living with AIDS and OVC.
- Strengthening linkages and referral networking of HIV/AIDS service providers.

Youth

- Teaching life skills and prevention to youth through clubs, boys' and girls' conferences, camps, and sports events.
- Establishing income-generating activities for OVC.
- Training peer educators.

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