



Peace Corps

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OVERVIEW

Peace Corps is an independent U.S. government agency that provides Volunteers to countries requesting assistance around the world. The agency traces its roots and mission to 1960, when then-Senator John F. Kennedy challenged students at the University of Michigan to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries.

While times have changed, the agency's mission—to promote world peace and friendship—has not. The three goals of the Peace Corps are as relevant today as they were nearly 50 years ago:

1. To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
2. To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
3. To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

HISTORY

Officially established:	March 1, 1961
Americans who have served:	Nearly 200,000
Host countries served to date:	139

PEACE CORPS TODAY

Peace Corps Director:	Aaron S. Williams (Dominican Republic, 1967-70)
Host countries:	76
Volunteers and trainees:	7,671
Gender:	60% female, 40% male
Marital status:	93% single, 7% married
Minorities:	16% of Volunteers
Average age:	28
Volunteers over 50:	7% of Volunteers
Education:	89% have at least an undergraduate degree

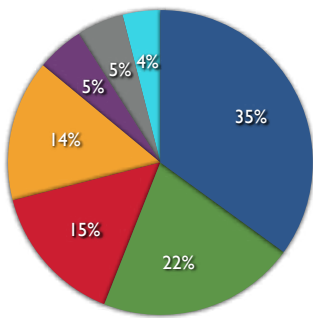


PEACE CORPS SERVICE

Volunteers work with local governments, communities, schools, and entrepreneurs to address changing and complex needs in education, health and HIV/AIDS, business, information technology, agriculture, youth development and the environment.

Peace Corps Program Sectors:

● Education:	35%
● Health and HIV/AIDS:	22%
● Business Development:	15%
● Environment:	14%
● Agriculture:	5%
● Youth Development:	5%
● Other:	4%



BUDGET

Fiscal Year 2009	\$340 million
Fiscal Year 2010	\$400 million

TO BE A VOLUNTEER

- Length of service is 27 months, which includes an average of three months of in-country training and 24 months of Volunteer service.
- Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Over the past year, Peace Corps received over 15,000 applications, an 18 percent increase over the previous year.
- The application process averages 9–12 months. The minimum age for Peace Corps service is 18; there is no upper age limit. Volunteers must be U.S. citizens.
- Competitive applicants will have a demonstrated commitment to community service, leadership experience and a willingness to learn a new language. One in three applicants serves abroad.

- Volunteers receive a living allowance that covers housing, food, and incidentals, enabling them to live in a manner similar to people in their local communities.
- Volunteer safety and security is Peace Corps' highest priority. The agency devotes significant resources to provide Volunteers with the training, support, and information they need to stay healthy and safe.

WHERE VOLUNTEERS SERVE

Peace Corps provides technical assistance to countries that request it.

Percentage of total Volunteers serving, by geographic region, in 2009:

Africa:	37%
Latin America:	24%
Eastern Europe/Central Asia:	20%
Asia:	7%
North Africa/Middle East:	4%
Pacific Islands:	4%
The Caribbean:	4%

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Peace Corps announced country agreements in two new host countries: Indonesia and Sierra Leone. Volunteers are anticipated to begin service in these posts in Spring 2010.
- Director Aaron S. Williams was sworn in as the eighteenth Director of Peace Corps on August 24, 2009. Director Williams is the fourth director in Peace Corps' history to have served as a Peace Corps Volunteer.
- Nearly 200 Volunteers and staff gave President Obama a warm send off after his recent trip to Ghana in July 2009.
- In 2009, the World Wise Schools program celebrated 20 years of creating educational resources for U.S. classrooms based on Peace Corps Volunteer experiences.

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