

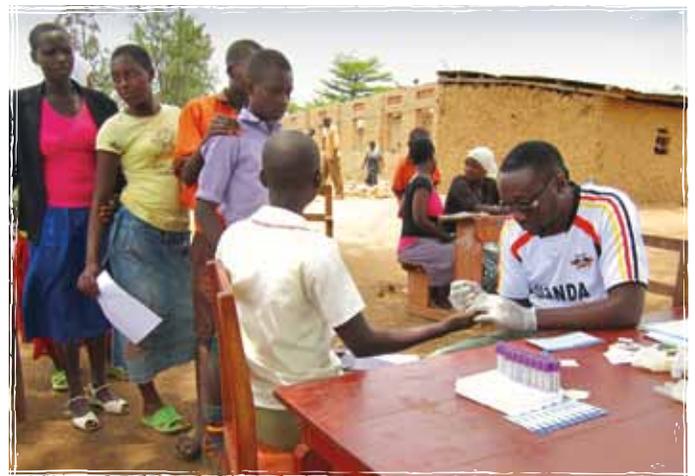
# Peace Corps HIV/AIDS Global Summary



Community health has been a core focus for Peace Corps Volunteers since the agency's founding over 50 years ago. Volunteers were likely among the first Americans to witness the unfolding AIDS epidemic in remote African villages in the early 1980s. They responded with all that they had: compassion, energy, a drive to make a difference, and a commitment to transferring critical skills to their counterparts and communities.

From those early beginnings, the Peace Corps has become a vital contributor to the global response to HIV and has been part of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) since 2004. Every Volunteer serving in Sub-Saharan Africa is now trained in HIV prevention and awareness, regardless of primary sector assignment. Last year, a third of all Volunteers serving worldwide (3,018 of 9,095 active on September 30, 2011) worked on HIV.

In 58 countries across 9,000 communities and in partnership with 55,000 service providers, Volunteer work in HIV reached over 1.3 million people in 2011. This service frequently took place in small towns and remote villages, beyond the reach of many public programs or



non-governmental organizations (NGOs). This "last mile" capacity is of particular importance as host governments and global partners move to institutionalize HIV prevention, care, and support as part of the essential infrastructure for all communities at risk.

Thanks to PEPFAR support for expanded and enriched training linked to micro-grants for community implementation, these efforts increasingly focus on high-impact and evidence-based approaches. As a result, Peace Corps contributes unparalleled reach to:

- Help bring prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) programs to full scale
- Create community demand for HIV counseling and testing (HCT)
- Build sustainable approaches to community care of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC)
- Lead programs to equip young people with information and skills to reduce the likelihood of infection





## Examples of this transformative work include the following:

Sixteen Volunteers in **Guayas Province, Ecuador** have joined with public and private partners to launch projects in *HIV testing, nutrition, and wellness* and *income-generating activities* for families affected by HIV in this part of the nation particularly hard hit by HIV.

Volunteers in **Jamaica** worked with the Ministry of Education to effect a comprehensive revision to the national *curricula in health and family life, including HIV*, in 2011 and helped train several hundred teachers who are bringing it to the nation's 2,100 schools, where it has already benefited more than 15,000 students.



Deaf and hearing Volunteers in **Kenya** built on decades of partnership with specialized schools and NGOs to provide *information and critical services, including HCT*, that would have otherwise been inaccessible to thousands of deaf and hard-of-hearing young people and adults.

The compassionate energy and commitment to sharing skills with local counterparts that characterized the earliest Peace Corps responses to AIDS endure today. Bolstered by increased reach and technical proficiency stemming from its proud participation in PEPFAR, the Peace Corps and its thousands of Volunteers serving worldwide will play their part in achieving an AIDS-free generation.



Volunteers in **Mozambique** have *trained traditional healers in HIV prevention and care* and developed dozens of community programs for *care of OVC*.

Volunteers used a PEPFAR grant in 2011 to help the Red Cross in **Armenia** develop and implement a *mobile phone service using SMS to answer anonymous questions about HIV and access to services*. Within six months of its launch as a core Red Cross service, it responded to more than 26,000 queries.



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