The Peace Corps provides communities abroad with sustainable solutions by sharing America’s most precious resource—its people.

Peace Corps service is people-to-people public service and citizen diplomacy at the grassroots level. Volunteers work to develop sustainable solutions that address challenges in agriculture, community economic development, education, environment, health, and youth development.

Through their service, Volunteers return home as global citizens with new perspectives. They have cross-cultural, leadership, language, teaching and community development skills that give them a competitive edge for advanced education and job opportunities in today’s global economy.

**HISTORY**
Officially established: March 1, 1961
Americans who have served: more than 225,000
Host countries served to date: 141

**PEACE CORPS TODAY**
Host countries: 65
Volunteers and trainees: 7,213
Gender: 62% female, 38% male
Minorities: 29% of Volunteers*
Average age: 28
Volunteers over age 50: 7% of Volunteers

**BUDGET**
Fiscal Year 2016: $410 million

For over five decades, Peace Corps Volunteers have served their country by living and working in communities across the globe. In an ever-changing world, the agency has become a dynamic, forward-leaning champion for international service defined by its innovation and compassion. Although times have changed since the Peace Corps’ founding in 1961, the agency’s mission has not: **To promote world peace and friendship by fulfilling three goals:**

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.

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**PEACE CORPS FAST FACTS**
11/30/2016
The Peace Corps provides communities abroad with sustainable solutions by sharing America’s most precious resource—its people.

**Based on data as of September 30, 2016**
* Volunteer percentage excludes non-responders.
**PEACE CORPS SERVICE**

Peace Corps Volunteers live and work alongside the people they serve. They collaborate with local governments, schools, communities, small businesses, and entrepreneurs to create sustainable, community-based projects that address changing and complex needs across six sectors and Peace Corps Response.

The Peace Corps provides technical assistance to countries that request it, while strategically targeting resources and country presence to achieve the greatest impact.

**TO BE A VOLUNTEER**

- Volunteers serve for two years following three months of in-country training.
- Peace Corps provides Volunteers with a living allowance which enables them to live similarly to the people in their community. Peace Corps also provides complete medical and dental care and covers the cost of transportation to and from a Volunteer’s country of service.
- Volunteers must be U.S. citizens and, while there is no upper age limit, at least 18 years old to serve.
- Volunteers’ health, safety, and security are the Peace Corps’ highest priorities, and the agency is committed to providing Volunteers with the training, guidance, and support they need to stay healthy, safe, and productive throughout their service.

**Where Volunteers Serve**

Volunteers serving in 2016 by percentage.

**Based on data as of September 30, 2016**

11/30/2016