

The Mission of the Peace Corps

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:	182,000
Total number of countries served:	138

Current Director

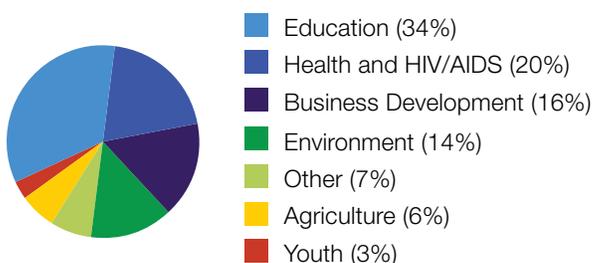
Gaddi H. Vasquez

Current Volunteers

Volunteers and trainees:	7,810
Gender:	58% female, 42% male
Marital status:	91% single, 9% married
Minorities:	16% of volunteers
Age:	Average—28 years old Median—25 years old
Volunteers over 50:	6% of volunteers (oldest volunteer is 79)
Education:	96% have at least an undergraduate degree 13% have graduate studies or degrees

Countries and Sectors

Current number of countries served:	75
Current number of posts:	69



Budget

Fiscal year 2006:	\$318.8 million
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Notable Returned Volunteers

- Joe Acaba, Mission Specialist Educator and Astronaut Trainee, NASA (Dominican Republic 1994-96)
- Richard A. Boucher, Spokesman and Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, U.S. Department of State (Senegal 1973-75)
- Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Connecticut (Dominican Republic 1966-68)
- Jim Doyle, Governor of Wisconsin (Tunisia 1967-69)
- Richard W. Erdman, U.S. Ambassador to Algeria (Turkey 1967-69)
- Rep. Sam Farr, D-California (Colombia 1964-66)
- Samuel Gillespie III, Senior Vice President, Exxon Mobil Corp. (Kenya 1967-69)
- Thomas Gouttierre, Dean of International Studies and Director, Center for Afghanistan Studies, University of Nebraska—Omaha (Afghanistan 1965-67)
- Tony P. Hall, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Rome (Thailand 1966-67)
- Robert Haas, Chairman of the Board, Levi Strauss (Côte d'Ivoire 1964-66)
- Reed Hastings, founder and CEO of Netflix (Swaziland 1983-85)
- Susana Herrera, author of *Mango Elephants in the Sun* and *Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul* (Cameroon 1992-94)
- Peter Hessler, author of *River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze* (China 1996-97)
- Rep. Mike Honda, D-California (El Salvador 1965-67)
- R. Niels Marquardt, U. S. Ambassador to Cameroon and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea (Rwanda 1977-79)
- Christopher Matthews, Journalist (Swaziland 1968-70)
- Roger A. Meece, U. S. Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Sierra Leone 1971-73)
- Rep. Thomas Petri, R-Wisconsin (Somalia 1966-67)
- Donald J. Putrimas, Vice President, Warner Bros. (Brazil 1976-78)
- Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Connecticut (Fiji 1968-70)
- Robert Taft, Governor of Ohio (Tanzania 1963-65)
- R. Barrie Walkley, U. S. Ambassador to the Republic of Gabon and the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe (Somalia 1967-69)
- Rep. James Walsh, R-New York (Nepal 1970-72)
- Priscilla Wrubel, Founder, The Nature Company (Liberia 1961-63)

Contact

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