

Business Development



Your Skills. Our Jobs.

Many communities worldwide suffer from lack of economic viability and declining standards of living, yet the potential is there in all of them for growth, development, and opportunity. The Peace Corps is providing the tools and assistance these communities need to reach this potential, and is calling on business specialists to join the effort and become part of a service legacy that dates back to 1961. While you may have many job prospects, nothing in your career is likely to compare to the challenges and rewards of the Peace Corps.

Relocation Expands More Than Your Career.

Add a new dimension to your career. Discover innovative ways to apply your workplace, classroom, and leadership experiences. Work in unforgettable locations where your knowledge and skills are in great demand. Forge new and lifelong relationships within the communities you serve, while empowering communities to sustainably increase economic opportunity and improve their quality of life. The possibilities as a Peace Corps Volunteer are endless and yours to leave an indelible mark.

Upon returning to the U.S., you'll find open doors, new paths, and an extraordinary experience to differentiate you. Fluency in a foreign language, international experience, and cross-cultural understanding are highly sought-after assets in today's global economy. You'll take away the satisfaction of knowing your efforts will have a lasting influence abroad while making you stand out here at home.

Experience as a Peace Corps Volunteer working in business or small enterprise development is valued by numerous organizations, including the U.S. Agency for International Development, Oxfam International, the U.S. Department of State, the World Bank, and many private companies, NGOs, and public organizations seeking individuals with unique skills.

The Work.

As a Business Development Volunteer, you may be assigned to a community agency, educational institute, cultural or tourism center, financial institution, or another economic development organization. Depending on your specific assignment, you might:

- Enhance professional and organizational development of small businesses
- Conduct needs assessments and market research to determine avenues for economic growth
- Formally and Informally teach basic business skills to trainers or community entrepreneurs
- Improve and expand the quality, production, and marketing of local goods and services
- Develop new community business projects and support services in collaboration with community
- Provide coaching on grant writing, loan applications, and project development
- Prepare promotional materials, including websites and business investment profiles
- Mentor entrepreneurs in all aspects of developing, growing, and managing their businesses
- Strengthen the organizational capacity of NGOs and community-based groups



As the Peace Corps approaches its 50th anniversary, it continues to promote peace and friendship, with Volunteers serving in over 70 countries. Since 1961, nearly 200,000 Americans have served the Peace Corps in 139 countries around the world

Are You Ready?



How do I qualify?

To qualify for a Business Development assignment, you will need at a minimum:

- Master's degree in business administration, public administration, management, accounting, banking, or finance or
- Bachelor's degree in business administration, management, accounting, banking, public administration, or finance with two years of full-time business work experience or
- Bachelor's degree in any discipline and five years of full-time business work experience

Is this the right fit?

Let the Peace Corps match your skills and ambitions with the right type of program. Based on the areas identified by our host countries, there is a pressing need to build the capacity of economic development organizations while also directly supporting their clients with resources and advice. You may work in a rural area, small town, or larger city. In all sites you can help set the groundwork for sustainable impact.

How can I stand out?

Most applicants will have at least two years of business experience in accounting, finance, management, or marketing. Many will have experience starting and running their own businesses. You will strengthen your application if your credentials include: knowledge of various management theories and practices, computer skills, financial or budget experience, and significant hands-on entrepreneurial or business experience. A foreign language background is also required for about half of these postings.

The ability to learn a new language is an important ingredient to a successful volunteer experience. Become more competitive by taking at least a year of French or two years of Spanish at the university level. If you have learned a language informally, Peace Corps may consider the CLEP and ACTFL exams to consider you for placement.

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Call 800.424.8580, option 1 to talk to a recruiter near you.

“Through our ecotourism project, we are developing alternative sources of income that do not rely on clearing more forest, chemicals, or child-labor but instead focus on tourism, conservation, and education to provide more benefits to members of the community. Each day is an opportunity to make something happen – to make a positive difference.”

— Christopher Boldman, Volunteer in Guatemala