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| <p>STANDARD SECTOR INDICATOR CODE: ENV-032</p> | <p>Tree Nursery Practices: Number of new or improved tree nursery practices implemented with the assistance of the Volunteer/partner. (ENV-032)</p> | |
| <p>ENVIRONMENT SECTOR</p> | <p>Sector Schematic Alignment <i>Note: This indicator belongs to the “Natural Resource Planning and Management” Project area and “Tree Planting and Nurseries” Project Activities/Training Package (PA/TP) within the ENV Sector but is borrowed by the following Project Activities/Training Packages within the ENV and AG Sectors.</i></p> <p><u>ENV Sector (“Home” of the SI)</u> PA/TP: Tree Planting and Nurseries</p> <p><u>ENV Sector</u> PA/TP: Soil and Water Conservation and Management</p> <p><u>AG Sector</u> PA/TP: Soil and Water Conservation and Management, Agroforestry</p> | |
| <p>Type: Outcome</p> | <p>Unit of Measure: Tree Nursery Practices</p> | <p>Disaggregation: None</p> |
| <p>Definitions:</p> <p>Examples of tree nursery practice improvements include, but are not limited to: Efficient application of water for seedlings and saplings, improved soil fertilization techniques such as composting and vermiculture, shading, and integrated pest management, etc.</p> <p>Vermiculture – process of composting or breaking down biodegradable organic waste into fertilizer and organic matter through the use of worms or other organisms</p> <p>Source: http://www.ru.ac.za/rugreen/projects/vermiculture/</p> <p>What would “count” are comprehensive services, not individual items. For instance, if efficient watering practices are used for 1,000 tree seedlings in a nursery, the Volunteer should report this as one practice and not 1,000.</p> <p>Partner/s—refers to the local counterpart who is co-facilitating implementation of new or improved tree nursery practices with the Volunteer.</p> | | |
| <p>Rationale: An increase in the number of improved tree nursery practices should lead to more tree seedlings and saplings surviving in nurseries.</p> | | |
| <p>Measurement Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sample Tools and/or Possible Methods (for Peace Corps staff use): Volunteers should use data collection tools to measure progress against project indicators. A data collection tool to measure this indicator could be based on one of the following methods—survey, observation, secondary data review of nursery records, or interview—though there may be other data collection methods that are appropriate as well. For more information on the | | |

suggested methods, please see [Appendix I in the MRE Toolkit](#). Also be sure to check the intranet page as sample tools are regularly uploaded for post use. Once a tool has been developed, post staff should have a few Volunteers and their partners pilot it, and then distribute and train Volunteers on its use.

- 2. General Data Collection for Volunteer Activities:** All Volunteer activities should be conducted with the intention of achieving outcomes – knowledge change (short-term), skills demonstration (intermediate-term), and behavioral changes (intermediate to long term) as defined by the progression of indicators within the objectives of a project framework. The progression of measurement for all Volunteer activities should begin with baseline data being conducted prior to the implementation of an activity (or set of activities), followed by documenting any outputs of the activities and then later at the appropriate time, measurements of specific outcomes (see “Frequency of Measurement”).
- 3. Activity-Level Baseline Data Collection:** Activity-level baseline data should be collected by Volunteers/partners before or at the start of their activities with tree nurseries/individuals/communities managing tree nurseries. It provides a basis for planning and/or assessing subsequent progress or impact with these same people. Volunteers should take a baseline measurement regarding the outcome(s) defined in this indicator (i.e. determine whether or not a certain tree nursery management practices are in place before working with the Volunteer) early in their work focused on establishing new or improved tree nursery management practices. The information for the baseline measurement will be the same or very similar to the information that will be collected in the follow-on measurement (see “Frequency of Measurement”) after the Volunteer has conducted his/her activities and it is usually collected using the same data collection tool to allow for easy management of the data over time.

Because Volunteers are expected to implement relevant and focused activities that will promote specific changes within a target population (see the “unit of measure” above), taking a baseline measurement helps Volunteers to develop a more realistic snapshot of where management practices within the targeted tree nurseries are in the process of change instead of assuming that they are starting at “0.” It also sets up Volunteers to be able to see in concrete terms what influence their work is having on the management practices they see during their service. Please note that data collection is a sensitive process and so Volunteers will not want to take a baseline measurement until they have been able to do some relationship and trust-building with the person/people the Volunteer is working with, and developed an understanding of cultural norms and gender dynamics.

- 4. Frequency of Measurement:** For reporting accurately on this outcome indicator, Volunteers must take a minimum of two measurements for tree nurseries and the management practices being implemented at the tree nurseries effected by a Volunteer’s activities. After taking the baseline measurement (described above), Volunteers should take at least one follow-on measurement with the same nurseries/individuals/communities, typically after completing one or more activities focused on achieving the outcome in this indicator and once they have determined that the timing is appropriate to expect that the outcome has been achieved. Please note that successful documentation of a behavior change or new practice may not be immediately apparent following the completion of activities and may need to be planned for at a later time. Once Volunteers have measured that at least one new or improved tree nursery management practice has been established for the indicator, they should report on it in their next VRF.

Volunteers may determine to take more than one baseline and one follow-on measurement involving the same tree nurseries for the following valid reasons:

- a. Volunteers may want to measure whether or not any additional activities/aspects of the practices initially reached with activities have now achieved the outcome in the indicator, particularly for any

activities that are on-going in nature (no clear end date);

- b. Volunteers may want to enhance their own learning and the implementation of their activities by using the data collected as an effective monitoring tool and feedback mechanism for the need to improve or increase their activities;
- c. A Peace Corps project in a particular country may choose to increase the frequency of measurement of the indicator and Volunteers assigned to that project will be required to follow in-country guidance.

In all cases, any additional data collection above the minimum expectation should be based on the time, resources, accessibility to the target population, and the value to be gained versus the burden of collecting the data. Following any additional measurements taken, Volunteers should report on any new practices achieved towards the outcome in their next VRF.

5. **Definition of Change:** The minimum change to report against this indicator is a new or improved tree nursery management practice, as compared to what was measured initially at baseline. In the case of this indicator, if the nurseries/individuals/communities the Volunteer/partner works with already have certain practices established before beginning to work with the Volunteer/partner, then the Volunteer would not be able to count them for this activity because the Volunteer's work did not actually lead to the desired change. However, if as a result of working with the Volunteer/partner, new practices were developed for tree nursery management, that would count because the Volunteer's work influenced the creation of a new management practice.
6. **General Reporting in the VRF:** For this indicator, Volunteers will only report one number in the "total number" section of the VRF; the total number of tree nursery management practices implemented.
7. **Reporting on Disaggregated Data in the VRF:** There are no disaggregation requirements for this indicator. The Volunteer must only count the total number of new or improved tree nursery management practices.

Data Quality Assessments (DQA): DQAs are needed for each indicator selected to align with the project objectives. DQAs review the validity, integrity, precision, reliability, and timeliness of each indicator. For more information, consult the Peace Corps MRE Toolkit.

Alignment with Summary Indicator: ENV. IMPROVED NAT. RES. MGMT PRACTICES, & AG. NEW TECH/MGMT PRACTICES