

# Peace Corps Albania and Montenegro

**Cascading  
and Scaling  
our Impact**



# Message from U.S. Ambassador to Albania Yuri Kim

Dear Peace Corps Volunteers, Staff, Partners, and Supporters:

I am pleased to celebrate the 2019 accomplishments of Peace Corps Albania and Montenegro. Congratulations to the Volunteers who contributed in so many ways, alongside their Albanian counterparts, to make communities stronger, healthier, and more empowered.

Peace Corps Volunteers are leaders in development and citizen diplomacy. They bring dedication and focus to their work here in Albania, strengthening the American – Albanian friendship. The title of Ambassador is one that I carry with pride. But I also have pride in our broader team, recognizing that all of us working to strengthen Albanian-American ties here are also ambassadors in this country.

In November 2019, Albania experienced a devastating earthquake. Peace Corps Volunteers joined the U.S. team in springing to action, along with Albanian counterparts, psychologists, NGOs, and the Ministry of Health. Within a week, our Volunteers had created a Training of Trainers. Working closely with the Ministry of Education and Sports, they quickly rolled out the training in the three most impacted municipalities of Tirana, Durres, and Lezhe, and then across the country. The Volunteers and their counterpart reached an impressive 5000+ teachers in almost 900 schools. The power and impact of the work of our Volunteers is crystalized in this awesome endeavor.

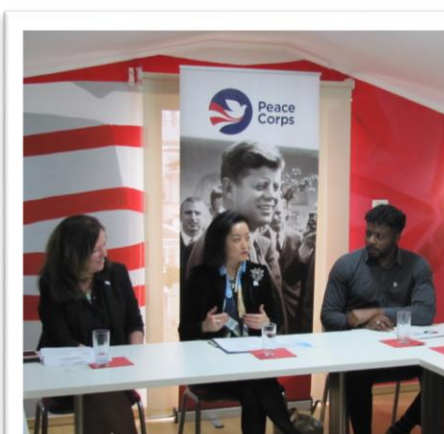
I have had the opportunity to understand the power of Peace Corps throughout my lifetime. Originally from South Korea, I was able to see firsthand the incredible benefit and results created by a group of extraordinary Americans who commit to two years of service through the Peace Corps. I can see that same impact here in Albania. Peace Corps Volunteers bring hope and innovation in addition to so much more.

I am delighted to be serving as Ambassador in a country that has such talented Volunteers who embody the best of America through their dedication to their mission of world peace and friendship.

Sincerely yours,



Yuri Kim



# Message from U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro Judy Rising Reinke

Dear friends, partners, and colleagues,

The Peace Corps is a beloved American institution. For almost 60 years, Peace Corps has had Volunteers serving in countries around the world. Even though times have changed since its founding by President Kennedy in 1961, the Peace Corps mission, *to promote world peace and friendship*, has remained a constant.

Last year was a historic moment for our Embassy and our bilateral relationship as we facilitated, together with our Montenegrin partners and Peace Corps colleagues, the signing of the Bi-Lateral Country Agreement between the United States and Montenegro officially launching the genesis of Peace Corps in Montenegro!


The first group of Volunteers arrived from the United States in January 2020. They have the great privilege and responsibility of laying the foundation for this new chapter in our relationship. I look forward to the day when Peace Corps Volunteers will serve in Montenegrin schools, teach English alongside their Montenegrin counterparts, and work with Montenegrin youth to find ways to make a difference in the communities where they will serve.

Serving in Montenegro and living alongside its people will change the lives of these Volunteers. They will get a unique understanding of Montenegrin culture as they live with and work alongside the citizens of this incredible country in which I am proud to serve as U.S. Ambassador.

I would also like to share my deep appreciation and gratitude to the warm and welcoming Montenegrin families who have opened their homes and their hearts to our Volunteers. Your hospitality is incredibly meaningful to the Volunteers as they commit to two years of service in Montenegro.

Peace Corps in Montenegro is truly a win for both our countries, and I couldn't be more excited for the start of this important partnership.

Sincerely,

  
Judy Rising Reinke  
U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro





# Message From Country Director Kate Becker

Greetings,

2019 has been another pivotal year for us. It has been a year of cascading and scaling our impact. The why of what we do, remains the youth. The how we do what we do remains the people to people relationships. The what we do varies from important and immediate response to the earthquake to the daily teaching in classrooms, inspiring kids to dream big, and championing causes important to communities as they pivot for the better.

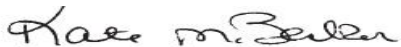
In 2019 we cascaded our impact by reaching more communities in Albania that had not previously had a Peace Corps Volunteer. We scaled our impact by responding to a national crisis with no blueprint in place. Volunteers worked alongside local leaders as they:

- Taught. And inspired. In the classroom, outside the classroom, in summer camps, and in special programs such as Write On, Model UN, and and unique projects such as Jerry's summer outreach to five villages and Layla's murals and school-based youth initiatives;
- Created women's empowerment programs and economic opportunities including Ryan's women-led organic winery in Fushe Arrez and Jillian's candle making cooperative in Puke;
- Built collaborations across important local institutions such as Derek's partnership with the local office of education to lead English language classes and professional development training for science & elementary school teachers and Carolyn's health education initiative with the Health Center and the schools; and,
- Leapt into action responding to the 6.4 earthquake:
  - Six Volunteers Jared, Stacey, Felix, Katie, Carolyn, and Colin developed a curriculum along with Qendra Marrëdhënie and the Ministry of Education and Sport;
  - 45 Volunteers along with community counterparts and World Connect implemented 129 training of trainers in 52 communities educating 2347 teachers from 897 schools in the course of 50 days.
  - 3 Volunteers Stacey, Katie, and Ackeem supported World Central Kitchen in preparing and distributing more than 72,000 meals to people in need.

We proudly scaled our impact by building the plan and infrastructure and implemented Peace Corps in Montenegro.

We thank the Government of Montenegro and the US Embassy for co-creating this opportunity and we especially thank the families and the schools who have demonstrated their investment in their kids by standing up to be the first to host and house our Volunteers.

Across Albania and Montenegro, we are cascading and scaling our impact. You, our stakeholders reading this, make every difference to what we can do...together.



Kate M. Becker  
Peace Corps Albania and Montenegro Country Director



*Peace Corps Director Jody Olsen and Country Director Kate Becker looking at Albania from the Montenegro side of Lake Shkoder*

# Peace Corps Mission and Goals

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In 1961, U.S. President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps to foster a better understanding between, and to promote friendship among, Americans and people of other countries.

The Peace Corps mission is to promote **world peace and friendship** by fulfilling three goals:

1. To help the people of interested countries in meeting their needs 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.

Peace Corps changes lives—the lives of people in communities around the world and the lives of volunteers.

- More than 235,000 Americans have served in the Peace Corps in 142 countries.





# Peace Corps in Albania

In 1991, the Albanian government invited the Peace Corps to establish a program in the country. The first group of volunteers arrived in 1992 to spend two years teaching English in secondary schools and universities. From 1993 to 1996, four additional groups of volunteers arrived to teach English, support the development of small businesses, or support the management of agriculture and forests. Peace Corps closed its Albania program in 1997 because of political unrest and concerns about the safety of volunteers.

The Albanian government invited Peace Corps to re-establish a program in 2002 and participated in an assessment conducted by Peace Corps. Based on this assessment, the first Peace Corps staff members arrived in March 2003 to set up an office and re-establish programs.

Since September 2003, Volunteers have worked with local governments, NGOs, schools, and health institutions in three project areas:

- English education
- Health education
- Community and organization development

The Peace Corps program is in Albania at the invitation of the Albanian government and operates according to an agreement between the United States and Albania that recognizes the importance of developing mutually advantageous relationships and cooperation.

Since September 1992, 900 Volunteers have worked in Albania.



# Scaling our Impact: Montenegro becomes the 142<sup>nd</sup> country to be served by Peace Corps



**Signing the Memorandum of Understanding**—In June 2019 Peace Corps signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Montenegro Ministry of Education.

**Activities**—Alongside teacher counterparts Volunteers will teach English in primary and secondary schools. Improving English proficiency, teaching methodology will be in the focus of their work. They will also facilitate after school summer projects, with youth and communities where they live and serve.

**Impact**— This opens the way to a great opportunity for Peace Corps Volunteer English teachers to collaborate with schools in Montenegro, and for the Montenegrin students to learn English from Americans and understand better the American people. As well, by living alongside communities they will serve, the Volunteers will learn and appreciate the Montenegrin culture.

*Montenegro Minister of Education Damir Šehović and Peace Corps Albania and Montenegro Country Director Kate Becker, on the signature ceremony on June 19, 2019*

AUG  
2018

Montenegrin Prime Minister invites the Peace Corps to establish a program in Montenegro

MAY  
2019

The US and Government of Montenegro sign the Bilateral Agreement

JUN  
2019

JAN  
2020

First group of Peace Corps Trainees arrived in Country to start training in preparation for their 2 years of service



# Peace Corps Albania rebrands to Peace Corps Albania and Montenegro

The Peace Corps announced in 2019 plans to establish a new program in Montenegro focused on English education. Montenegro will represent the agency's 142nd country of service and is led by the Peace Corps post in Tirana, Albania along with a small office in Podgorica, Montenegro. As a result, Peace Corps Post in Albania was rebranded as Peace Corps Albania and Montenegro on August 23, 2019.

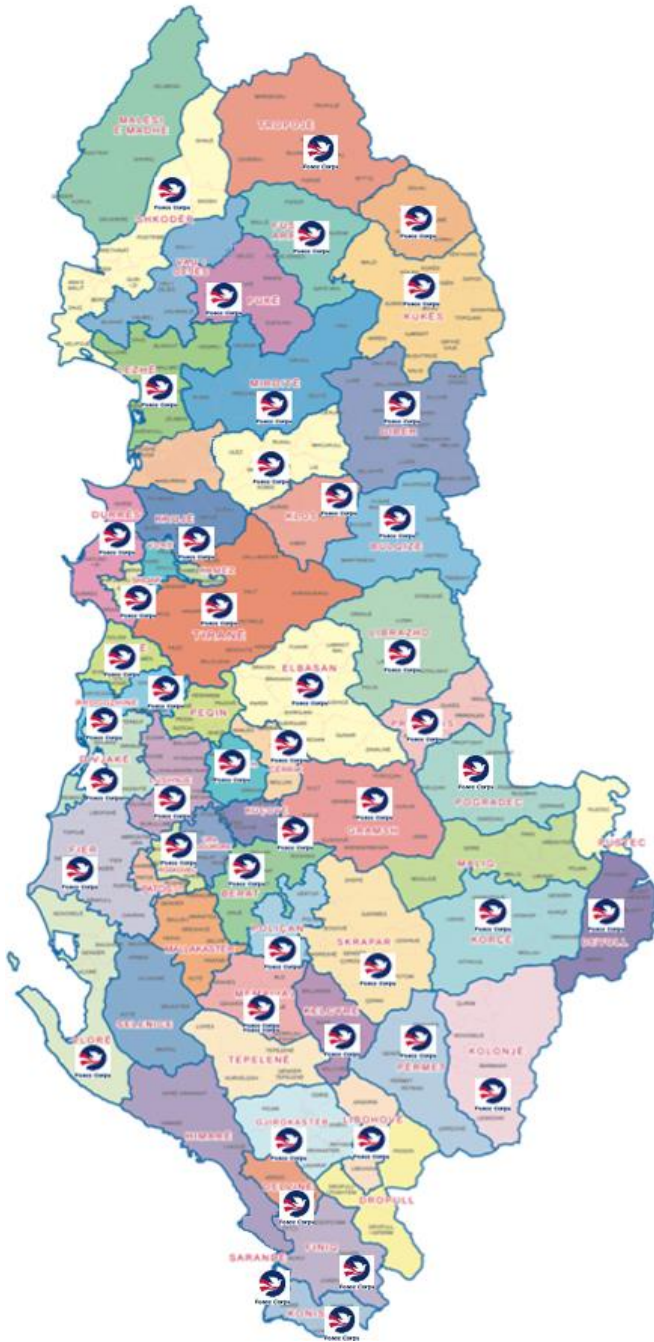


*Fast Fact: Peace Corps Volunteer Malia (2017-2019) influenced the launch of Peace Corps in Montenegro. Her mother, Margaret Uyehara, was US Ambassador to Montenegro Uyehara and was deeply impressed by the impact Malia was having in her service and the impact it was having on her. Ambassador Uyehara, her successor, Ambassador Reinke, along with Judy Kuo, Jeff Adler, Jelena Vojnic, Bernard Cobaj, were among the first champions and were critical in making Peace Corps in Montenegro a reality.*



*"Peace Corps gave me the ability to create experiences and lifetime relationships with people that I otherwise wouldn't have met."*

*Volunteer  
Nicholas,  
Eastern  
Albania area*



# Cascading our Impact: Where we Serve

135 PCVs

3 sectors

- English education
- Health education
- Community and organization development

Partnered with schools, municipalities, ministries, and NGOs

Cascaded to serve in smaller communities that have fewer resources allowing for a deeper impact

Continued emphasis on women empowerment environmental issues, tourism development, and project sustainability through local ownership

# Introducing Peace Corps Volunteers: Where We are From

Peace Corps Volunteers come from all corners of the United States to create grassroots-level change in Albania. Volunteers share their hometown values and perspectives with the host communities in which they serve. America shares its most precious resource – its people, to create an intercultural exchange of peace and friendship.



*"The most important thing I have learned from Laila is that teaching does not and should not occur in one way only, as were taught in universities. Teaching starts in the classroom and is reinforced outside the classroom walls, where Laila and I were one with our students and we have realized that we all could accomplish even the impossible."*

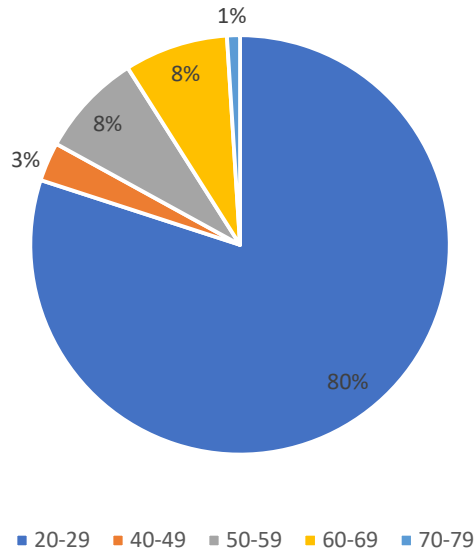
Zheni,  
Volunteer Laila's  
Counterpart

# Introducing Peace Corps Volunteers

*Now more than ever, I feel it's absolutely vital for Albania to retain its trained and qualified youth. Mentoring young social entrepreneurs who resist the temptation to leave for Tirana or abroad as they identify and create opportunities for themselves and others in rural and small-town communities is truly inspiring. Without question, being a part of their journey and seeing them grow as individuals, leaders and agents for positive change have been a great honor and the highlight of my service.*

*Volunteer Derek,  
South Albania*

AGE WHEN ARRIVED IN ALBANIA



2

Volunteers  
became U.S. citizens  
in order to  
join the  
Peace Corps

3

Volunteers had served as a  
Peace Corps Volunteer before!

## EDUCATION

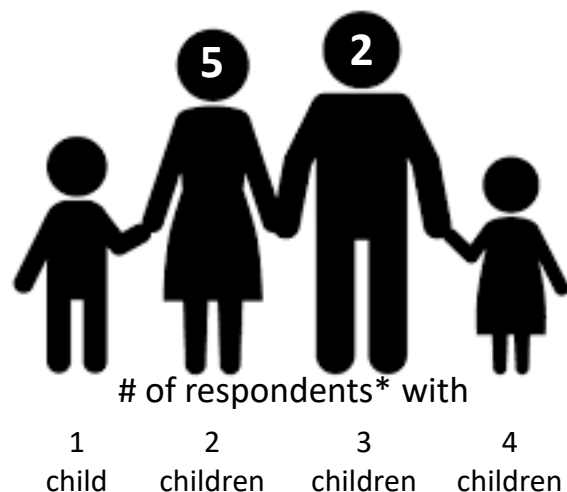
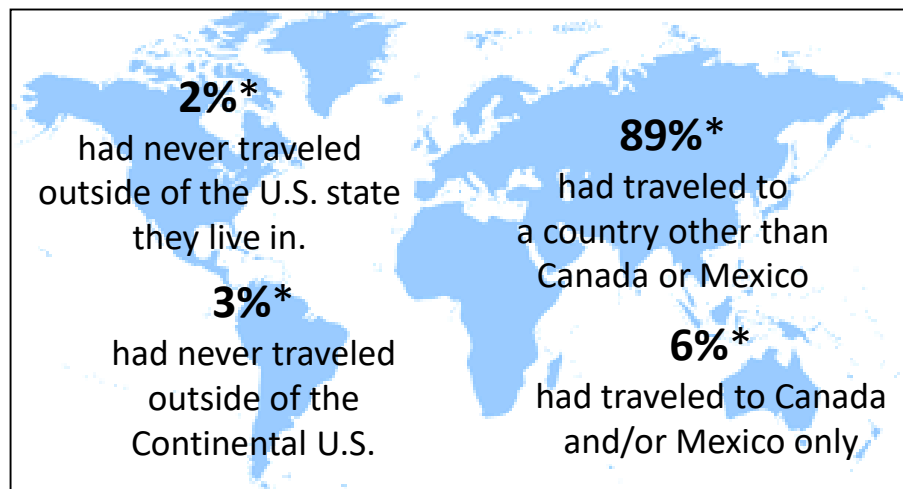


(100%)  
(11%)  
(17%)  
(6%)  
(1%)



# Introducing Peace Corps Albania

## Volunteers of 2019



### Languages

English was not the native language of  
**10%**  
of respondents\*

**54%**  
of respondents\*  
speak 1 other  
language besides  
English and  
Albanian

**8** respondents\* speak 2 additional languages

**1** respondent\* speaks 4 additional languages

### # of respondents\* whose family member or friend was or is a Peace Corps Volunteer

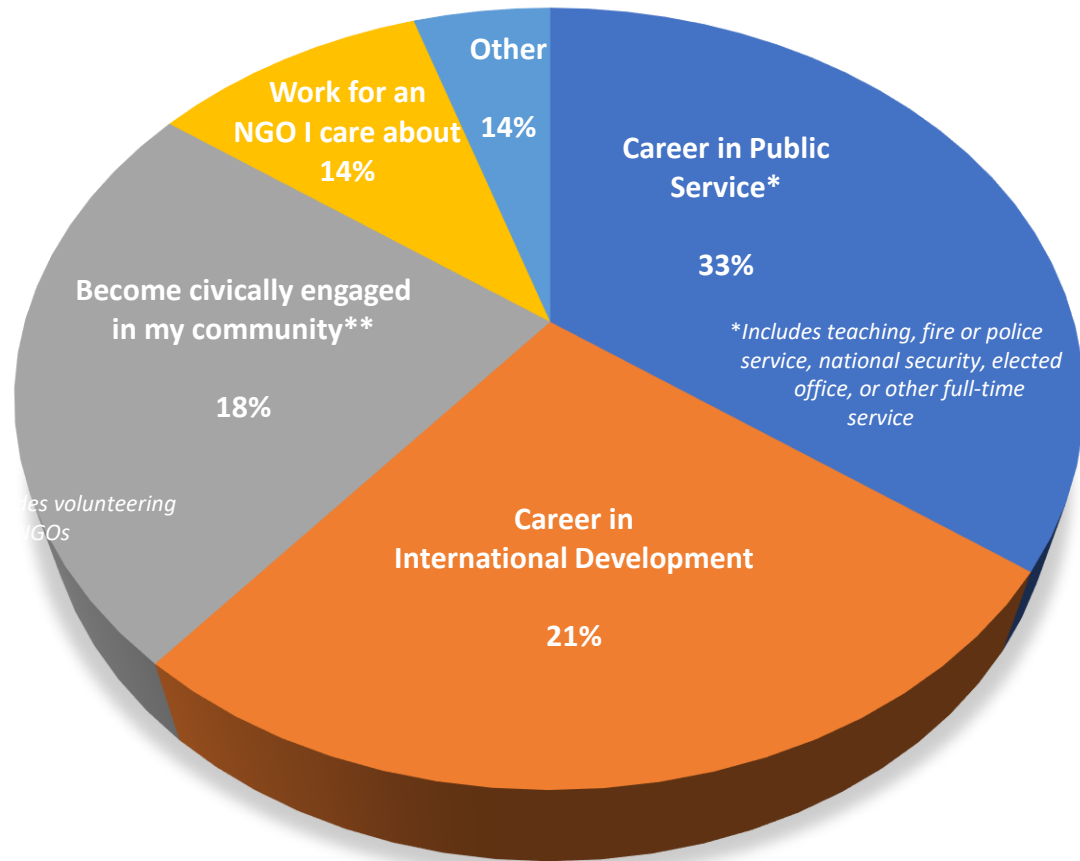
- Sibling 1
- Cousin 1
- Friend or close colleague 25

# Introducing Peace Corps Albania Volunteers of 2019

Following their Peace Corps service, how Volunteers plan to carry Peace Corps ideals in their life and continue to make a difference?

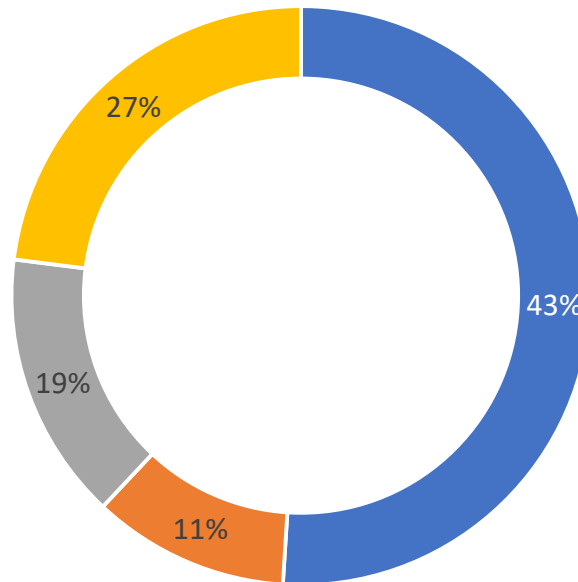
*"The Post-Earthquake trauma sessions that we did for schools had such an impact on the teachers. I witnessed teachers being able for the first time process the grief that they were dealing with. They had worked so hard to make sure their families and students felt safe, they never had the opportunity to express themselves, and none of this would have been possible without the support of local psychologists that gave up time to help us."*

*Volunteer Colin, worked in 2019  
Earthquake affected Areas of Albania*



# Introducing Peace Corps Albania Volunteers of 2019

In addition to sharing the culture of Albania through stories, how do Volunteers plan to share Albania with Americans back home?



- Share Albanian music, movies, and culture with friends, family
- Write blogs or articles about Albania
- Join Friends of Albania or other RPCV groups
- Other, including hosting discussions in schools and events centered around Albanian holidays

*"My relationship with my host family has been a paramount part of my service. My host family introduced me to traditions in my village and everyday situations that people in the community face. They offered me a wider perspective in my service and made me feel included in their family."*

*Volunteer Laura,  
Bicaj, Kukës*



# 2019 Goals by Sector: Scaling Our Impact

## Health Education

### 1: Sexual and Reproductive Health

Youth will adopt behaviors and practices that contribute to improved sexual and reproductive health.

### 2: Healthy Lifestyles and Life Skills

Youth will develop the life skills necessary to make responsible and healthy decisions and take actions that positively impact their lives and the lives of those around them.



## Community and Organization Development

### 1: Organization Development

Local organizations and community groups will strengthen their management/operational and organizational skills and processes.

### 2: Civil Society Building

Individuals will increase their capacity to participate in local civil society and community development.

## English Education

### 1: Improve Teaching

English teachers and instructors will improve their English language proficiency, teaching methods, and resource development skills.

### 2: Increase Student Success

Students will improve their English proficiency, communication, and life skills through English instruction in the classroom or through extracurricular activities.

### 3: Strengthen School and Community

Teachers, school staff and administrators, and members of the broader community will strengthen collaboration and be more active participants and leaders of their school community.

# Cascading Impact: A special dictionary of a minority language spoken in Albania

**Community & Organization Development**—Albania is home to many members of the Roma community. Community Organizational Development Volunteer Katie recognized the need for Volunteers serving in Albania to understand the Romani language in addition to Albanian.

**Activities**—Katie proposed the idea of a Shqip/Romani dictionary to Roma Gate for Integration, an NGO. After some discussions and research they said said “Poteqe Paslla!” (Let's do this!) and helped create a glossary of Romani words and phrases used in the two communities. Following hard work the Romani-English-Albanian glossary is completed.

**Impact**— Breaking barriers through communication. In celebration of Romani Day in 2019, Katie and Fatmira, her counterpart, worked to create an opportunity for Roma women to teach basic Roma phrases to youth volunteers from high schools throughout the region. The dictionary was also distributed to Peace Corps Volunteers and will be used in future trainings. The dictionary has become a bridge for three communities – Albanian, Romani, and American --to strengthen their ties.



*PCV Katie (right) with a Roma leader Fatmira (left) and Roma community member Lubjana (middle) during the project.*

# Cascading Impact: A travelling teacher

**English Education**— The school where TEFL Volunteer Jerry, teaches is called a Joint School, which means that the school serves all students of all ages from a broad region. Jerry says it is challenging to teach kids aged 5-18 years in the single classroom. Students come from the villages around and given limitations in transportation, some of them have to walk long distances to go to school. The students asked Jerry if he could visit them in their villages over the summer to continue their learning of English. He agreed, and he did just that!

**Activities**— 113 of the students live in six villages around Jerry's community where the school is located. Jerry made a schedule and on some days walked 7 miles roundtrip to reach all of his students throughout the summer.

**Impact**—The look on the student's faces when he arrives in their village is well worth the heat and all the miles that Jerry walked to teach them English. They say their teacher is amazing. Aside from being inspired by his commitment, the kids English continues to improve even in summer!



*Following students interest, PCV teacher Jerry enabled them to continue English education, by teaching classes throughout summer time.*

**275** Teachers engaged in co-teaching and planning, in creating resources, resource rooms and libraries.

**8487** Students learned English in the classroom and increased their participation in extracurricular activities.

**610** Community members engaged in professional and personal development activities and projects.



# Cascading Impact: A new approach to advocate health education

**Health Education**—Neda, a Health Education Volunteer working in the north of Albania provided some direct support to local restaurants in a broader project focused on tourism. Neda focused her project on the importance of hygiene and educating restaurant staff related to food preparation and delivery at restaurants and coffee shops.

**Activities**—Neda collaborated with restaurant owners and created posters in Shqip. The posters provide a visual reminder to all of the restaurant staff of the importance of restaurant hygiene. The posters were part of a training initiative. A follow-on project was to help the restaurant owners to develop English versions of their menus.

**Impact**—This poster is visible in many kitchens and restrooms of the restaurants of this community. The bilingual menus have an economic benefit, as it helps the restaurants to support increased tourism to their region.



*This poster along with a bilingual Menu was produced and distributed by PCV Neda to restaurants and bars around her hos community.*

# Cascading and Scaling Our Impact

## VOLUNTEER TRAININGS

Peace Corps Volunteers undergo an extensive training that begins upon arrival and continues throughout their service.

As trainees they spend their first ten weeks in *Pre-Service Training* where they receive language and cross-cultural, and technical training, as well as learning how to stay safe and healthy during their service.

Volunteers also benefit from other important trainings they receive during their service, such as: the *In Service training*; *Project Design and Management Workshop*; *Mid Service Training* and the *Close of Service Conference*



## CLOSE OF SERVICE EVENTS

The Close of Service (COS) ceremony is a culminating event where staff members, as well as Volunteer community friends and colleagues, express their thanks and appreciation for the Volunteer service.

The Volunteers symbolically ring the COS bell and pledge to continue to serve and to contribute to the Albanian-American friendship, even after their service as Peace Corps Volunteers is completed.

## VISIT OF THE PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR

Director Jody Olsen traveled to Montenegro to sign the Bilateral Agreement in May 2019. As a result in 2020 we welcomed the first ever Peace Corps Volunteers to serve in Montenegro!

Director Olsen extended her appreciation and support to the Volunteers, their Albanian colleagues, and Albanian staff members. Additionally, important achievements were reached in her meetings with the Albanian authorities, like signing the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education, Sport, and Youth.



*"The bonds of friendship and the relationships stemming from those bonds, have made all the difference since I arrived in Albania. As I have shown them my passion for teaching, they in turn have shown me their passion for learning English. We both have been blessed because of it."*  
Volunteer Jerry, Berat Area.

# Scaling Impact: Post-Earthquake Training of Trainers

**November 2019 Albania was struck by its biggest earthquake in decades** —It had a devastating effect on the country leaving behind loss of life, many injured, and devastating damages. It also left many dealing with psychological trauma, including kids.

**Activities**—Peace Corps Volunteers across all three sectors and from around the country, joined the efforts of the Albanian people to overcome the disaster. Following a request from the Ministry of Education, working in partnership with Qendra Marrëdhënie, and with funding from World Connect, Volunteers created a curriculum providing training and giving tools to teachers to better respond to and support students impacted by the post-earthquake trauma. Beginning two weeks after the earthquake, in the three most-impacted regions of Durres, Lezhe, and Tirana, the Volunteers and their Albanian psychologist counterparts trained teachers from each school. They then took the training around the country working alongside counterparts, teachers, and school psychologists.

**Impact**—Schools and teachers are now better equipped to meet the psychological needs of kids and teachers in Tirana, Durres, and Lezhe.



*PCVs Anna (standing, middle) and Jared (standing; left) along with their Albanian Counterpart Majlinda during the training sessions, with Tirana teachers.*

897	Schools are reached.
5,092	Teachers trained through the Training of Trainers (ToT) or directly and also trainer by their peers who participated in the ToT.
218,000	Is the estimated number of students impacted by this project.



# Scaling Impact: Post Albania Earthquake Providing Meals

**The November 26, earthquake changed the lives of this region—**

Families lost homes and were living in makeshift situations. Kids were displaced from schools. Support was immediate to more urban locations but was delayed in far reaching communities in rural areas. Meanwhile, emergency workers and good citizens were working long and hard to help in the early stages of response and later in the recovery. World Central Kitchen activating local chefs also deployed a team from California to set up temporary kitchens. But the teams were struggling to find a place prepare meals that was central and also struggling to find a way to connect to the more rural residents to ensure had hot meals.

**Activities**—Three nearby Peace Corps Volunteers rallied to support their home communities and this greater region. The Volunteers helped to coordinate and stock the kitchen, order supplies, calculate what was needed, order supplies, prepare meals, and they helped in the crucial role of connecting to the need and getting the 72,179 meals delivered.

**Impact**—The well-established network of Peace Corps Volunteers and their language skills helped to ensure the meals got to those in highest need. They also ensured the sustainability of the project by connecting the World Central Kitchen to the Foundation Food Bank Albania.



*PCVs, Aceem, Katie, and Stacey preparing food for kids and families affected by the devastating earthquake.*

**72,179**

Meals were provided to kids and community members in the hardest hit areas of Dures, Lezhe, and Tirana, where 16 locations were served. Peze, Peze e Vogel, ndroq, peze helmes, shijak, Pojan, Grece, Gjyslkojne, Shtrate, Eminas i vogel, Liherhi, Shetel, Shahine, Bubq.

# Cascading Impact: Summer Camps

**Continued learning during summer**— Summer means no school and it also means 25-30% of lost learning for students grades 2-7. Volunteers work with their counterparts, youth leaders, and community representatives to engage young people in after-school clubs, educational camps and sports initiatives, throughout the year and especially during the summer months.

**Activities**—During summer 2019, Peace Corps Volunteers explored different topics with their community youth in the summer camps such as G.L.O.W. (Girls Leading Our World) training; B.L.A.S.T. (Boys Leadership, Advocacy and Support) Training; Life Skills; Health and Wellness; Leadership; Critical Thinking; Entrepreneurship and Business; Sports; Environment related; English Language Skills; Community Service/Volunteerism etc.

**Impact**— These camps help to keep the kids engaged to decrease the lost learning and also to ensure the kids are involved in healthy, productive, educational initiatives. The camps also engage older youth in leadership opportunities increase their confidence and other soft skills including civic engagement.



*Peace Corps Summer Camp activities in Delvinë, Albania .*

**65** Camps were held in communities throughout Albania during Summer of 2019.

**116** Counterparts have contributed to the design and implementation of the camps organized by Peace Corps Volunteers.

**1110** Youth and children were engaged in activities and training offered in the summer camps.

# 2019 Small Grants Programs

*"World Connect has been working with Peace Corps in Albania for four years now. We value immensely the depth of knowledge that Peace Corps*

*Volunteers bring to the table about day-to-day life in Albania, and the depth of care and pride that they develop for their host communities and counterparts. And we've seen that same depth of knowledge and care in the Peace Corps Albania staff, who share their experiences, skills, knowledge and culture with us as partners. It's a mutually beneficial partnership in the best sense, and we're glad to continue forward"*

*Patrick, World Connect Director of Programs*



## Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP)

PCPP connects volunteers and their communities with the private sector in the U.S. and around the world to fund community-initiated and led projects.

**\$21,012**

Awarded to Peace Corps Albania in 2019, funding 8 projects in 8 communities

## Donors contributing through PCPP

**World Connect** is an organization that supports innovative ideas and local solutions for the challenges facing women and children in underserved communities worldwide.

**Friends Of Albania** is an organization created by returned Peace Corps Volunteers, providing assistance to communities where current Peace Corps volunteers serve.

**Water Charity** is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people access clean drinking water and improved sanitation.

**The Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP)** initiative is a whole-of-government effort to empower women worldwide to realize their economic potential, and in doing so, create conditions for stability and prosperity.

## Small Projects Assistance (SPA)

### Overview

**194**

Total projects funded and implemented in Albania since program inception in 2004

**\$2,000–\$4,000**

Range of funding available per project through SPA grants

**25%**

Amount of matching funds required as the community's contribution

### In 2019

**\$20,690**

Amount provided by USAID/Albania for SPA activities

**4**

Small-scale community projects funded

**3**

Project design and management workshops funded for PCVs and counterparts



# Scaling Impact: 2019 Partner Organizations

## Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

- Agro-Puka
- Albanian Local Capacity Development Foundation
- American Councils
- ARKA Center—Shkodër
- CSDC Durrës
- Darien Book Aid
- English Language Teachers Association
- ESU – English Speaking Union
- Foundation Food Bank Albania
- Friends of Albania
- Mary Ward Loreto
- New Bridges
- Qendra Marredhenie
- Regional Development Agency—Korçë
- Sidi Education
- Terre des Hommes
- Touristic Dibra
- Water Charity
- World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
- World Central Kitchen
- World Connect
- World Vision
- Youth Center—Vlorë
- Youth in Free Enterprise

## Municipalities

- |               |            |                 |
|---------------|------------|-----------------|
| • Berat       | • Kavajë   | • Lushnje       |
| • Bulqizë     | • Klos     | • Mirditë       |
| • Elbasan     | • Korçë    | • Përmet        |
| • Ersekë      | • Krujë    | • Roskovec      |
| • Fushë Arrëz | • Kuçovë   | • Shijak        |
| • Gjirokastrë | • Librazhd | • Ura Vajgurore |

## Government and Independent Organizations

- Albanian Red Cross
- ASCAP (Quality Ensuring Agency for Pre-University Education)
- DPCAC (General department of Pre-University Education)
- HAP (Health for All Project)
- Institute of Public Health
- Ministry of Education of Montenegro
- Ministry of Education, Sports, and Youth of Albania
- Planning and Local Governance Project
- QSHA (Center for Education Services)
- United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Population Fund
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- United States Embassy and American Corners
- University of Shkodër, English Department
- University of Tirana, English Department

## Regional and District Offices of Education

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| • Berat  | • Lezhë   | • Tropoje |
| • Durrës | • Lushnjë | • Përmet  |
| • Fier   | • Mat     |           |
| • Kajave | • Shkoder |           |
| • Korçë  | • Skrapar |           |

# Our Pre-Service Training Staff in 2019

Each year, Peace Corps in Albania hires 18 temporary staff to play a crucial role in Pre-Service Training (PST) for our Trainees. These individuals are as dedicated to the ideals and mission of Peace Corps as our Regular staff. They are part of our family and every year, when PST concludes, it is difficult to tell them goodbye. They teach our Trainees a new language, a new culture, technical skills, they keep them safe, healthy, and they prepare them for their two years of service as Peace Corps Volunteers. Peace Corps in Albania is what it is today thanks to their efforts.



Ali Gjiriti  
Alketa Canka  
Besarta Stafa  
Besmira Rrumbullaku  
Bruna Çoku  
Denisa Panxhi  
Eglantina Reka  
Elona Pajova  
Erion Kumuria  
Ervin Bebeti  
Imelda Celibashi  
Ledion Veshi  
Sara Gaçe  
Vjollca Merdani  
Xheni Hatillari  
Ymer Leksi  
Zamir Mero  
Zerina Zeneli

# Our Full-Time Staff in 2019

Peace Corps Albania and Montenegro is proud to have a dedicated staff comprised of Americans, Albanians, and Montenegrins. Our team is made of some of the best talent in the two countries we serve. The team is focused on helping our Volunteers to achieve their greatest potential during their service. They are passionate about their work and about making a difference for kids, communities, and people throughout Albania and Montenegro. This team exemplifies Peace Corps and the values for which we stand. This is the team that is responsible for the good work we have achieved in Albania since 1992, but also the team that was asked to lead and manage the new opportunity to serve in Montenegro.

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Arben Loci  
Ardijan Cobaj  
Besa Arapi  
Carmen Sheehan  
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Diana Djaloshi  
Dritan Kamberi  
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Gentian Leka  
Gentian Mano  
Geri Martiri  
Ilir Memlikaj  
Ilir Ziu  
Iris Dollia  
Iva Sinani  
Ivana Delibasic

Julian Pando  
Kate Becker  
Kyle Olsen  
Luka Bobicic  
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Marie  
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