



Peace Corps
GUYANA

ANNUAL REPORT

**20
24**



GUY35
Sworn into service
August 7, 2024



About Us

In 1966, the year Guyana gained its independence from Britain, Peace Corps received an invitation to send teachers, architects, engineers, and other professionals to help build the new country's capacity. From 1966–71, 138 Volunteers broadened the school curricula to include home economics, crafts, and manual arts; and assisted in developing and carrying out projects for the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics. In March 1995, the Peace Corps officially returned to Guyana. The first Volunteers served with the ministries of Health and Education in 7 of the 10 administrative regions.

To date, more than 1,400 Volunteers have served in Guyana at sites ranging from the capital city of Georgetown, with a population of 300,000, to small, remote Indigenous villages with populations of 300 or fewer.

Vision

Investing in Guyana's communities through service, relationships, and partnerships for a sustainable future.

Values

COLLABORATION

We value all voices and reach for shared ownership of the plans that we implement

CULTURE

We understand that people are changed by exposure to new ideas and traditions and we value the transformative quality of new experiences

EQUITY

We believe that fair and impartial access to opportunity is the underlying goal of development and we recognize that embracing differences is key to achieving our goals

PEOPLE

We value human connections and we strive for a relational approach to strengthening community assets





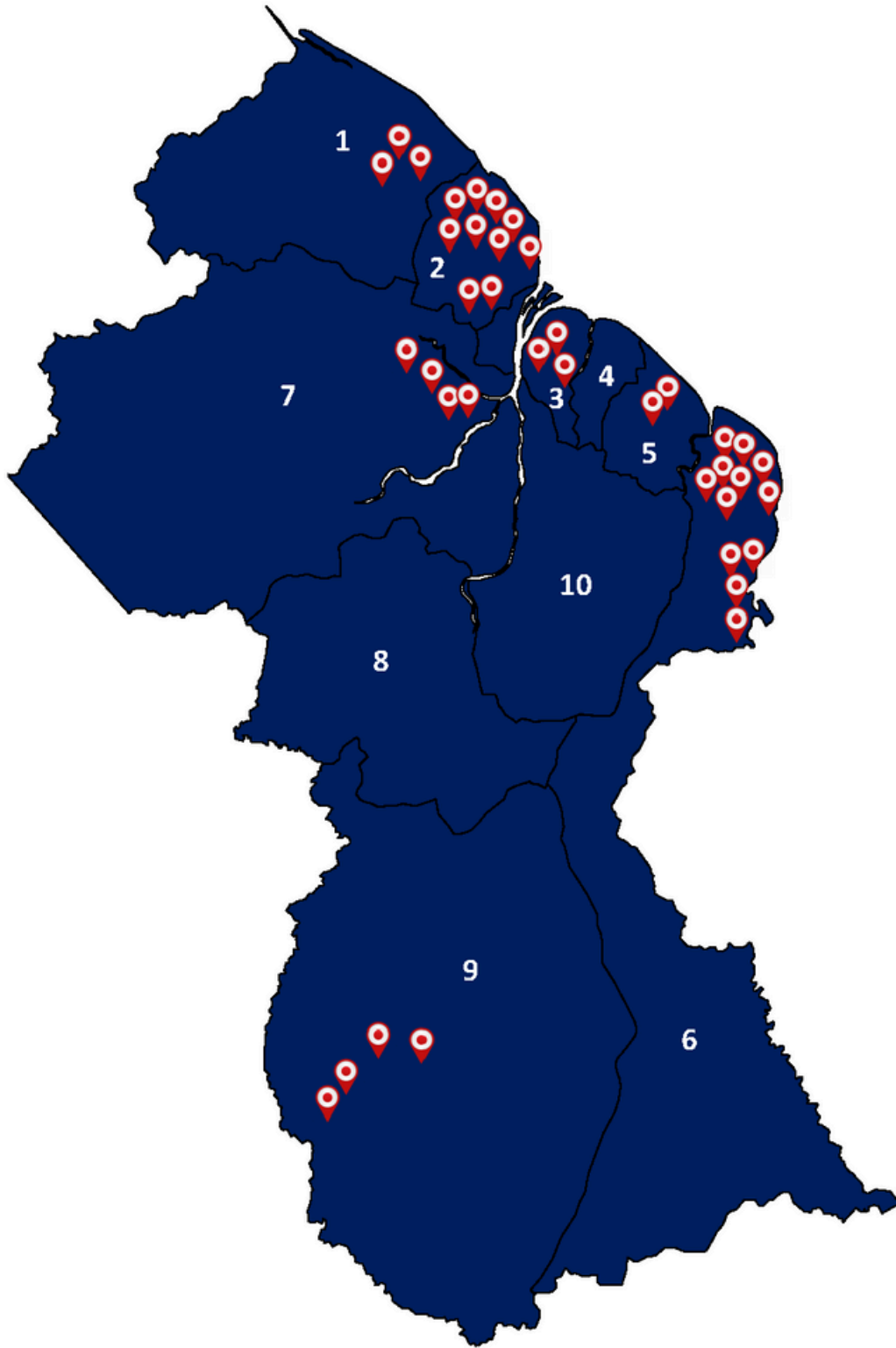
A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Peace Corps Guyana had an exciting 2024 and our activities are captured in this Annual Report. The 35th group of eighteen, two-year Peace Corps Volunteers, were sworn in on August 7, 2024, by United States Ambassador to Guyana, Nicole Theriot at the Umana Yama Cultural Center in Georgetown. The special event was well attended by Guyanese government and INGO Partners, our staff, returned and currently serving Volunteers, and friends of Peace Corps. In region two, living with host families, the cohort completed a ten-week pre-service training which focused on technical areas, local culture, and Peace Corps policy. The group comprised seven literacy volunteers, two health volunteers, and nine environmental volunteers, living and working all across Guyana.

Literacy Volunteers work closely with the Ministry of Education to support our comprehensive program referred to as 'Read to Achieve,' accelerating skill acquisition for students. Environmental Volunteers co-plan and co-teach science as well as facilitate environmental/ wildlife clubs for youth. Health Volunteers partner with secondary/ high schools working with youth to promote positive attitudes and behaviors that lead to healthy decision making. All volunteers work outside the school as well with communities to create libraries, establish clubs, take on best practices for managing solid waste, and renovate structures for Health and Family Life Education safe spaces. Four Response (shorter, more focused assignments) Volunteers closed their service after supporting the ministries of education and health, as well as, the Cyril Potter College of Education and a local organization focused on youth resilience, inclusion and empowerment. Six Virtual Service Pilot Participants, based in the US, in 2024, started or completed working with Guyanese citizens by donating time and sharing skills.

DEBORAH CONNER
COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Learn more about Peace Corps Volunteers' work, experiences and impact over the 2024 calendar year. Thank you for partnering with the U.S. Peace Corps!!



WHERE WE SERVE

Peace Corps Volunteers live at the level of their local counterparts and community members. In Guyana, they live and work in local communities in nine of the ten administrative regions, partnering to address early childhood literacy, adolescent health, and environmental stewardship.

Service Models

*SUPPORTING LOCALLY PRIORITIZED
PROJECTS & COMMUNITIES*



Two-year Volunteers

Every year, Guyana receives a cohort of two-year volunteers who are assigned to local communities to support grassroots initiatives in literacy, environmental science and health.

Volunteers who serve in the health and environment sectors spend 60% of their time supporting schools and teachers and 40% engaging with local partners, governmental and non-governmental organizations while the volunteers in the education sector work a ratio of 80% school-based engagement and 20% community engagement.

Education-Literacy Promoters



“Read to Achieve”

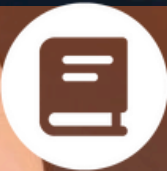
The Peace Corps education project – ‘Read to Achieve’ is a comprehensive program that seeks to improve students’ attainment in literacy by aligning resources, teachers, techniques and strategies, and parental support to student needs. Through the ‘Read to Achieve’ program, Literacy Promoters work to accelerate students’ literacy acquisition skills, exchange teaching strategies and techniques, increase access to multi-sensory and library resources and sensitize parents on the importance of helping their child/ren/ward.

The Ministry of Education’s national strategic priority for literacy is to ensure all learners are meeting defined reading standards by grade 4. As a result of this priority, the ministry has increased its efforts to deploy more trained teachers to schools for equitable access to quality education. The education project also focuses on promoting community involvement to strengthen and improve the school environment and parental and family engagement in student success.





EDUCATION PROJECT



71

teachers participated in communities of practice to address issues related to the language arts curriculum and positive discipline.

765

teachers and students have an increased access to libraries and library resources because of 6 libraries being refurbished and operationalized.

186

parents participated in literacy related activities and events to support their child/children's educational journey.

675

students demonstrated improvement in their literacy skills through a standardized assessment tool.

A total of 12 education Volunteers from two cohort groups reported on the following key achievements and indicators for the education sector.

Capacity Building

Peace Corps Volunteers supported 109 teachers through co-teaching and co-planning, communities of practice in literacy and positive discipline, information technology and guidance on how to design, adapt, and/or pilot learning materials.



Resuscitation of Libraries

- 6 libraries were refurbished and operationalized
- 54 teachers were trained to maintain the library and resources.



Establishment of Clubs

424 students attended literacy camps and participated in sports, youth camps, and health clubs held after school or on weekends.



The education program of Peace Corps Guyana will continue to innovate and create opportunities to advance the literacy priorities of the Guyanese government with support to the Ministry of Education to contribute to; the overall improvements in literacy rates of learners, grades 1-4 and access to quality education and instruction.



Science and Environment Educators



“Environmental Education for Community Conservation”

Peace Corps Guyana’s environment project supports the government of Guyana’s commitment to enhancing quality of life by leveraging the country’s natural wealth, including diverse people and abundant resources. Volunteers, known as Science and Environment Educators, primarily teach general science and integrate environmental education and awareness in their lessons and community activities. These Volunteers work in coastal and rural communities, riverine, and remote hinterland communities. They co-plan and co-teach science to grades 3-6, focusing on various scientific topics and using inquiry-based methods, local environments, and place-based science during the first three months of service. After the three-month mark, they work three days per week at the primary schools and two days per week co-facilitating environmental/wildlife clubs for youth to foster nature appreciation and leadership skills. They also help communities manage local resources and enhance environmental education by conducting assessments and promoting best practices for solid waste management.





ENVIRONMENT PROJECT



92

teachers incorporated active learning methods to teach science and the environment to their students.

184

youths increased their knowledge of biodiversity and environmental issues.

213

youths participated in outdoor education activities (in clubs and camps), that promote understanding and appreciation of Guyana's biodiversity and build leadership skills.

171

youths demonstrated two or more new leadership behaviors among the seven leadership traits: Visionary, Drive to see things through, Effective communicator, Motivator, Planner, Creative thinker, Sets an example for others.

A total of 12 Peace Corps Volunteers from two cohort groups contributed to key indicators for the environment sector.

Sustainable Practices

Volunteers conducted three community assessments on waste management, guiding 10 individuals, households, and community groups in adopting improved waste management practices, and advised five schools on best practices for handling solid waste.



Community-Based Projects

Volunteers, Parent Teachers Associations (PTAs), supervisors, counterparts, and community leaders, collaborated to establish/revitalize four school and classroom libraries, develop one outdoor community library, assist in writing six project proposals for funding water purification systems and STEM rooms.



Capacity Building

Volunteers work alongside local teachers to co-plan and co-teach general science to Grades 3–6. 92 teachers prepared and used lesson plans and materials to enhance science and environmental education. 1,912 lessons were co-taught incorporating the 5E Inquiry-Based Learning Model (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate).



The environment sector continues to leverage the skills and expertise of Volunteers to support Guyanese primary school science teachers and collaborate with local communities to enhance efforts to protect and preserve natural resources and empower youth to become strong advocates for environmental stewardship.



Adolescent Health Promoters



“Adolescent Health and Wellbeing”

Peace Corps Guyana’s health project aims to support Guyana’s National Adolescent Health Program to improve adolescent health and well-being. The project dovetails with the Ministry of Health’s vision that “all people of Guyana are among the healthiest in the Caribbean and the Americas.” It further aligns with the ministry’s strategy to build health literacy as well as positive attitudes and behaviors that will lead to healthy life choices and sustain a healthy lifestyle. It also supports the Ministry of Education’s Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) curriculum delivery.

Health Volunteers, called Adolescent Health Promoters, work in a secondary/high school five days per week during their first three months at site. After the three-month mark, they work three days per week at the secondary school and two days per week at a local healthcare facility depending on the needs of the community.





HEALTH PROJECT



1,851

youths knowledge and skills increased through life skills education.

37

school staff and health care workers trained to provide Health Education and Youth Friendly Health Services.

147

youths participated in clubs that incorporated life skill development.

67

health care workers guided to work effectively on health-related issues.

A total of 12 volunteers from two cohort groups reported on key achievements and indicators for the health sector.

Capacity Building

Through collaboration, Peace Corps, the Ministry of Health and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), built the capacity of Volunteers and health center staff on Adolescent Health Service Delivery Guidelines for Health Care Providers. The Volunteer and health center staff duo are tasked with assessing their center's adherence to the guidelines outlined and training up additional staff members.



HFLE Safe Spaces Created

Peace Corps Volunteers along with their counterparts, PTA and through community contributions, created 3 HFLE safe spaces at their respective schools. These spaces will be used to teach HFLE and will double as a counseling space for students who require additional guidance.



School Clubs Established

147 students attended various club activities to further strengthen the life skills taught during HFLE class sessions.

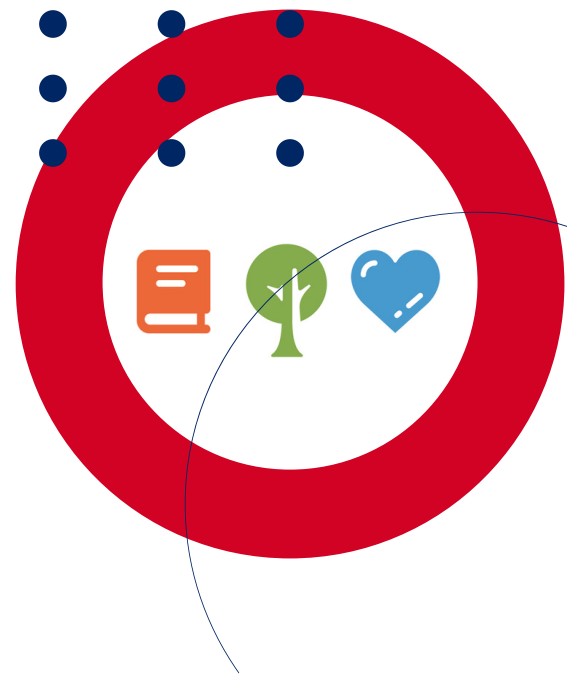


The health program through collaboration and support from the Ministries of Health and Education, and other local partners, continues to strive to create opportunities for Volunteers and their counterparts to create environments that promote “good health and wellbeing for all”.



Service Models

*SUPPORTING LOCALLY PRIORITIZED
PROJECTS & COMMUNITIES*



Peace Corps Response Volunteers with Ambassador Theriot

Short Term, High Impact Volunteers

Peace Corps Guyana allows volunteers who can only commit to a shorter period of service, to invest their years of experience into training, coaching, and collaborating with communities on short-term assignments with high impact.

Response Volunteers

Peace Corps Response (PCR) sends experienced professionals all around the world to undertake short-term, high-impact service assignments. Volunteers provide targeted assistance in diverse assignments while helping the agency meet host country requests for highly skilled Volunteers. The Response Volunteers work alongside Volunteers of the two-year programs without duplicating efforts but rather addressing higher-level specialized needs that will advance the reach and impact of the country strategy and priorities. These specialized Volunteers help address developmental priorities which are written in the three sector's Logic Project Frameworks (LPFs). The assignments are guided through the lens of the sector LPFs and finalized with the help of our key Ministry partners. The Response Volunteers support partners at the national and regional levels.

- Through collaboration with the Cyril Potter College of Education - Department of Education, Peace Corps supported curriculum development on Health and Family Life Education program through rewriting course modules to include clear objectives, instructional implementation practices and anticipated student outcomes. Direct support services through counseling was also provided to teacher candidates and staff.
- Peace Corps supported United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Y-RIE program by co-facilitating training sessions for instruction of the Youth Connections curriculum, leading sessions with students through community building exercise with the intent to teach empathy and acceptance, writing a trauma-informed care practices guidebook specifically focused on the needs of youth peer mentors, and reviewing the Youth Connections curriculum developed through an in-kind grant to train service providers who work with youth in the juvenile justice system.
- The Ministry of Health's Adolescence Unit benefited from support provided in review of the national Adolescence Health Strategy.
- Peace Corps worked in partnership with the Ministry of Education - Parent Teacher Association Unit to strengthen PTA effectiveness and identify strategies for improvement.

Virtual Service Pilot Participants

Peace Corp's Virtual Service Pilot expands opportunities to meaningfully engage across cultures, responding to host country priorities in a dynamic world.

Virtual Service Pilot Participants (VSPPs), as private citizens and if they so choose, are able to donate time and voluntary services to the agencies to engage virtually and contribute to the requests of interested Host Country Partners for support. The multi-phase pilot began in October 2020. Peace Corps Guyana has worked with our partners since June 2021 to ensure they have access to these skilled men and women.

- Through collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Environmental Assessment Dashboard (online platform on the assessment of areas for environmental impact) was developed. 6 adults were trained to utilize the tool.
- The VSPP program supported the capacity building of six staff members to utilize the tool.



2023 /
2024

Thank You

to all the communities who host our volunteers, the families who invite them into their homes and the ministry partners, schools, health centers and regional agencies staff who co-work with them.



Call Us
+592-225-5072/3



Visit Us
<https://www.peacecorps.gov/guyana/>
www.facebook.com/PeaceCorpsGuyana/
<https://x.com/peacecorpguyana>
<http://peacecorpsguyana592>