

# ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR 2025



**Peace Corps**  
GUYANA



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 COUNTRY DIRECTOR



**CHRISTIE SCOTT**  
COUNTRY DIRECTOR

During 2025, Peace Corps/Guyana continued to strengthen its commitment to community-driven development through meaningful partnerships and dedicated Volunteer service. As we navigated a period of transition in 2025 shaped by staff changes, national elections, and organizational adjustments aligned with evolving priorities, staff and Volunteers remained focused and resilient in advancing programmatic and operational initiatives. Working closely with communities and stakeholders, Volunteers supported locally prioritized projects whose collective impact is highlighted in this Annual Report.

Guyana 36 (GUY36), comprising twenty-four two-year Volunteers and three shorter-term Response Volunteers, was sworn into service on August 6, 2025, by United States Ambassador to Guyana, Nicole Theriot, at the Umana Yana Cultural Center in Georgetown. The ceremony was attended by representatives of the Guyanese government, international NGO partners, Peace Corps staff, returned and currently serving Volunteers, and friends of Peace Corps/Guyana. Prior to swearing-in, GUY36 completed a ten-week pre-service training in Region Two while living with host families. The training focused on technical skills, local culture, health, safety and local language. The cohort included eight literacy Volunteers, five health Volunteers, eleven environmental Volunteers, and three Response Volunteers currently serving in communities across Guyana. Volunteers are placed in nine of Guyana's ten regions, ranging from coastal towns to riverine communities and Indigenous villages in the hinterland. Volunteers work alongside local educators and community members to share knowledge and strengthen local capacity.

Literacy Volunteers collaborate closely with the Ministry of Education to implement the "Read to Achieve" program, which supports accelerated literacy development. Environmental Volunteers co-plan and co-teach science classes and facilitate environmental and wildlife clubs for youth. Health Volunteers partner with secondary schools to promote positive attitudes and behaviors that support healthy decision-making. Response Volunteers, who serve in shorter and more focused assignments, support national priorities through regional education and health offices. In addition to their work in schools, Volunteers have the opportunity to engage with communities to establish libraries, create youth clubs, promote best practices in solid waste management, and renovate facilities for Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) safe spaces.

With a new management team in place, we enter 2026 with renewed energy, clarity of purpose, and optimism for the future. We remain committed to strengthening partnerships and refining our programmatic frameworks in alignment with local priorities, ensuring our work continues to be responsive, impactful, and sustainable. Thank you for your continued support and shared commitment to empowering communities across Guyana.



# KEEPING PARTNERSHIPS

## RELEVANT

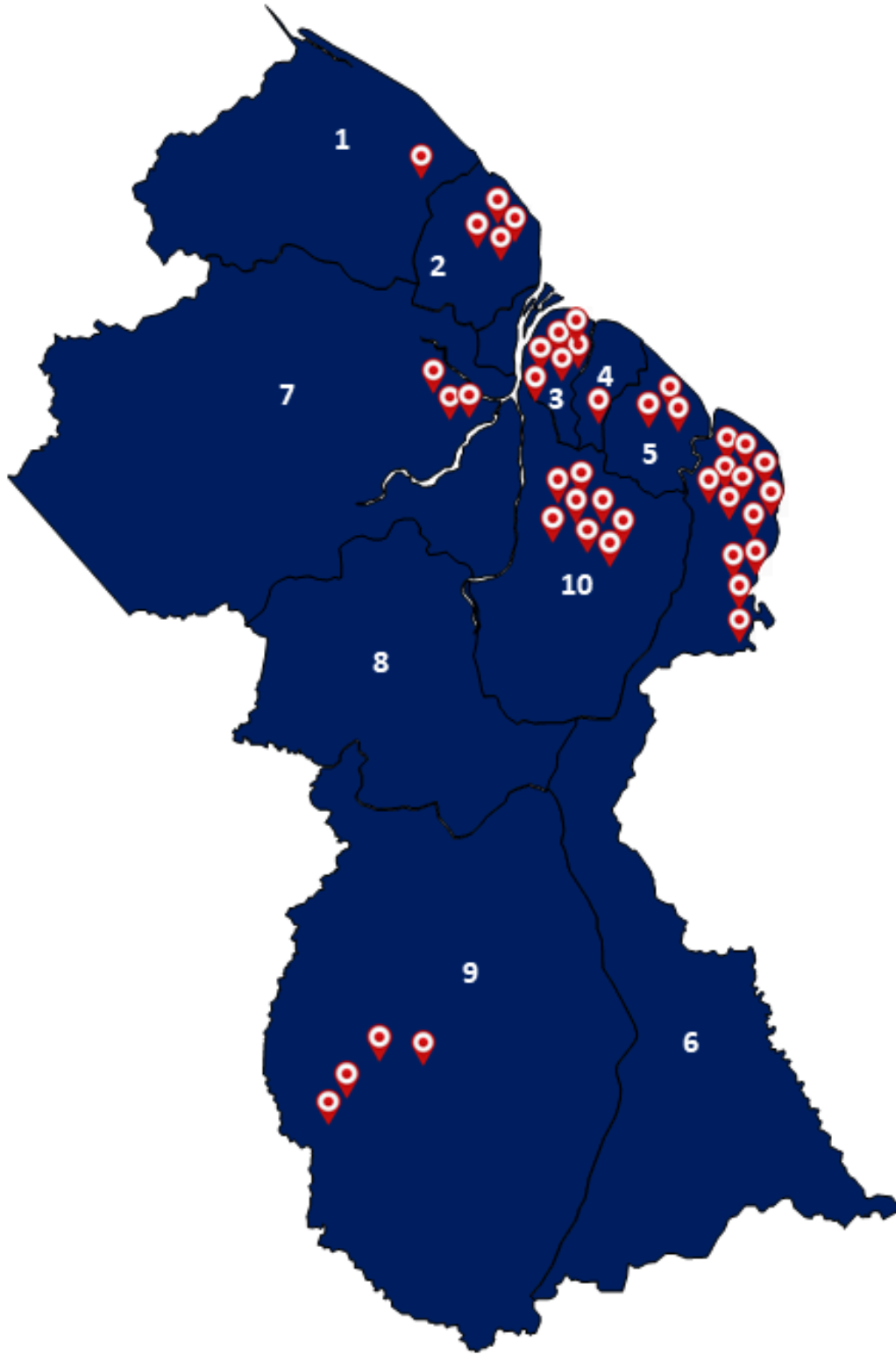
Partnership is a key element of what we do as an agency. From the support of local government partners that welcome us to Guyana, to the school leaders and teachers alongside whom Peace Corps Volunteers serve, to the community counterparts who support Volunteers' integration, everything we do relies on a foundation of true partnership, trust and collaboration.

Partnership with the Ministries of Education and Health as well as other stakeholders allow us to explore opportunities for collaboration as they are developed through Project Advisory Committee meetings held bi-annually. These meetings are sector based and include technical officers from partner agencies, international organizations, community members and Volunteers - working alongside Peace Corps/Guyana staff to ensure relevance, sustainability and accountability.

During this reviewing period, Peace Corps/Guyana began work to support partnership growth across sectors:

- Implementation of Guyana's School Health Program focuses on screening and early detection of non-communicable diseases and mental health issues in children across their lifespan. Volunteers from each project sector promoted the program for improved health outcomes for children of all ages.
  - Virtual Service Participant positions and Response Volunteer activities continue to support the Department of Education and Regional Health offices at the regional level.
- Environmental education activities have been integrated across all three programmatic sectors: school camps, clubs and projects that emphasize environmentally sustainable adaptation and resilience activities within the community. These activities include tree planting, community gardens, school environment clubs and other environmental groups, encouraging environmental stewardship.
- Peace Corps Volunteers continue to support community partner hosted activities locally. Community youth camps using the Girls Leading Our World (GLOW) and Boys Respecting Others (BRO) models are facilitated by Volunteers.

These partnerships are integral as we explore new and ongoing opportunities in 2026.



# WHERE WE SERVE

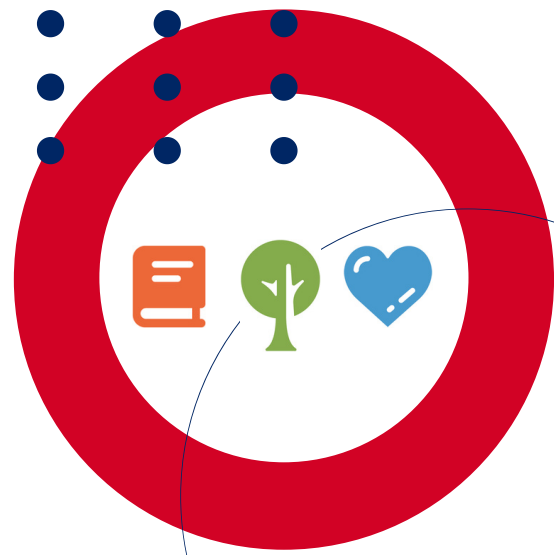
Peace Corps Volunteers live at the level of their local counterparts and community members.

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*

## AT A GLANCE



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

Two-year Volunteers who serve in the Health and Environment sectors spend 60% of their time supporting schools and teachers and 40% engaging with local partners, as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations while their colleagues in the Education sector work a ratio of 80% school-based engagement and 20% community engagement.

Peace Corps Response Volunteers are experienced professionals and specialists in their respective fields who take on shorter-term, high-impact service assignments. These Volunteers provide targeted assistance in diverse assignments while helping



the Peace Corps meet host country requests for highly skilled Volunteers to support policy development and implementation, design programs, evaluate impact through monitoring and evaluation and build local capacity for sustainability.

Response Volunteers work alongside their two-year-service colleagues without duplicating efforts but rather addressing higher-level specialized needs that will advance the reach and impact of the country strategy and priorities. These specialists help address developmental priorities which are written in the sectoral (Education, Environment and Health) Logic Project Frameworks (LPFs). The assignments are guided through the lens of the sector LPFs and finalized with the help of key ministry partners. Response Volunteers support partners at the national and regional levels.

Additionally, Peace Corp's Virtual Service Pilot also provides highly skilled, professional individuals who meaningfully and strategically engage across cultures, to respond to host country priorities to address the needs of a dynamic global village, our world.



# EDUCATION-LITERACY PROMOTERS



## “Read to Achieve”

The Peace Corps Education Project – ‘Read to Achieve’ seeks to support the Ministry of Education’s national strategic goal for literacy which outlines measures to ensure that all learners are meeting defined standards in literacy by Grade 4. Education Volunteers-Literacy Promoters work with schools, parents and communities to improve students’ attainment in literacy by aligning resources, techniques and strategies, and leveraging parental involvement to meet the needs of students.

Literacy Promoters teach students literacy in school and out-of-school settings, exchange teaching strategies and skills, increase access to multi-sensory and library resources and sensitize parents on the importance of supporting their child/ren/ward. Additionally, the Education project focuses on promoting community involvement by strengthening and increasing the capacities of men and women to develop and implement local projects to meet defined community needs.





# EDUCATION PROJECT



75

teachers guided in the use of research-based methodologies with 72 demonstrating research-based approaches.

197

family members/care givers attended educational events of which 155 reported that Volunteer-led activities increased their ability to support students' access to learning.

1731

students have increased access to libraries and literacy resources.

604

students were taught literacy skills in a school setting.

17 Education Volunteers including two-year Volunteers, Response, and extenders reported on the above key achievements and indicators for the Education sector.

# PROJECT IN REVIEW

The Education sector at Peace Corps/Guyana continues to streamline resources, partners and initiatives to support the efforts of the Ministry of Education to eliminate illiteracy and to improve the literacy landscape of the country by equipping citizens with basic functional literacy skills.



## CAPACITY BUILDING

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

- 75 teachers guided in the use of research-based methodologies with 72 demonstrating research-based approaches
- 34 teachers engaged in co-planning and co-teaching activities
- 32 teachers guided to create multisensory resources for learners



## RESUSCITATION OF LIBRARIES

Establishing and operationalizing functional library systems is a critical activity for Volunteers. Libraries must have functioning, and effective borrowing and lending systems with multiple people trained for sustainability.

- 6 libraries were refurbished and operationalized
- 251 teachers and students were trained to maintain the library and resources
- 1731 students have increased access to libraries and literacy resources



## IMPROVING STUDENTS' LITERACY ATTAINMENT

Peace Corps Volunteers work in school settings to conduct pullout and push-in activities with students, engage in after-school clubs and camps to improve students' literacy attainment and train students to utilize classroom library resources.

- 604 students were taught literacy skills in a school setting
- 167 students attended after-school reading clubs and camps
- 269 students were trained to utilize classroom library resources
- 272 of 288 students demonstrated improvement in literacy based on a standardized test



# SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT EDUCATORS



## “Environmental Education for Community Conservation”

Peace Corps/Guyana’s Environment project supports the Government of Guyana's commitment to providing opportunities for quality, equitable education and lifelong learning for all. Environment Volunteers, known as Science and Environment Educators, primarily co-plan and co-teach general science concepts to Grades 3 – 6 using a child-centered approach where learning starts with questions, problems, or scenarios, rather than direct instruction, encouraging pupils to actively investigate, research, and discover answers for themselves with Volunteers acting as facilitators.

Volunteers also collaborate with community members to organize hands-on outdoor education activities for youth through environmental and/or wildlife clubs to foster environmental stewardship and improved leadership skills. Additionally, Volunteers work at the community level assisting communities with strengthening their ability to assess, plan for and manage local natural resources sustainably while enhancing resilience to environmental challenges/issues.





# ENVIRONMENT PROJECT

## 146

teachers prepare and use lesson plans and materials to effectively convey science content and environmental concepts and issues.

## 216

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

## 109

youths increased their knowledge of biodiversity and environmental issues.

## 160

youths demonstrated two or more new leadership behaviors among the seven leadership traits.

A total of 18 Peace Corps Volunteers from two cohort groups and Response contributed to key indicators for the Environment sector.

# PROJECT IN REVIEW

The Environment Sector continues to leverage the skills and expertise of Peace Corps Volunteers to support Guyanese primary-level science teachers and to collaborate with local communities to strengthen efforts to protect and preserve natural resources. Through this work, Volunteers also empower youth to become strong advocates for their environment and to inspire others to act as environmental stewards.



## CAPACITY BUILDING

Volunteers worked alongside local teachers to co-plan and co-teach general science concepts to Grades 3 – 6 pupils. Volunteers also conducted several professional development sessions on science methodologies and led their schools to national science fair participation.

- 168 teachers were guided in preparing effective lesson plans and instructional materials to enhance the teaching of science.
- 2,771 lessons were co-taught using inquiry-based learning using the 5E model. These lessons promote critical thinking, problem-solving, and active participation.



## SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Volunteers supported communities' ability to assess, plan for, and manage their local natural resources sustainably while enhancing resilience to emerging environmental issues. Community sustainable practices include composting, creating vegetable and flower gardens and recycling.

- 4 community assessments conducted to evaluate waste disposal practices, community awareness, and existing infrastructure.
- 3 individuals guided on waste separation, composting, and responsible disposal methods
- 3 schools advised on establishing waste separation systems, composting initiatives, student-led environmental clubs, and integrating environmental education into school activities



## COMMUNITY BASED PROJECTS

Volunteers collaborated with Parent Teachers Associations (PTAs), supervisors, counterparts, and community leaders on locally prioritized projects to support local development.

- 4 school and classroom libraries established/revitalized creating accessible reading spaces and promoting literacy.
- Community partnership to conduct assessments to evaluate functionality and safety of existing systems, ensuring access to safe drinking water and identifying areas requiring maintenance/improvement.
- Organized weekend STEM Education activities with local library using interactive learning sessions and problem-solving challenges designed to increase students' interest and confidence in STEM
- Collaborated with local health center to facilitate mental health sessions
- Volunteered/partnered with local organizations in communities



# 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. This project aligns with the Ministry of Health’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, and as well supports the Ministry of Education’s Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) curriculum delivery.

Adolescent Health Promoters, work in secondary/high schools five days per week during their first three months at site. After which, they work three days per week at the secondary school and two days per week at a local healthcare facility per the needs of the community.

Response Volunteers in the Health project, support and strengthen local health programs through technical assistance, capacity building and direct service delivery to design, adapt and implement youth centered health activities and training curricula.





# HEALTH PROJECT



## 213

adolescents improved their knowledge and skill through small group and individual training utilizing the HFLE curriculum.

## 55

adolescents were referred to their community health centers to access adolescent health services.

## 172

youths participated in clubs that incorporated life skills development while 81 of those youths participated in camps linked to their clubs.

## 36

school-based staff were trained to work effectively with youth as it relates to their health.

A total of 6 Volunteers from two cohort groups reported on key achievements and indicators for the Health sector.

# PROJECT IN REVIEW

The Health program, through collaboration and support from the Ministries of Health and Education, and other local partners, continues to create opportunities for Volunteers and their counterparts to establish environments that promote and improve quality health services in keeping with the Ministry of Health's 2030 vision of achieving "good health and wellbeing for all."



## COMMUNITY BASED CAPACITY BUILDING

Volunteers help to promote a better understanding of Americans by sharing culture and values while fostering mutual understanding and respect through sports (coaching and capacity building).

- 172 youths participated in clubs that incorporated life skills development while 81 of those youths participated in camps linked to their clubs.



## ADOLESCENT HEALTH PARTNERSHIP (MOH)

Volunteers and community health center counterparts collaborated to make local health centers youth friendly according to the Adolescent Health Service Delivery guidelines.

- 4 Volunteers collaborated with health center staff to make health facilities more accessible and friendly for adolescents, and hosted activities geared to empower and support adolescents.



## HFLE SAFE SPACE CREATED

Peace Corps Volunteers along with their counterparts, PTA and through community contributions, created safe spaces to teach HFLE. These spaces double as a resource for HFLE teachers to congregate and discuss HFLE related issues.

- 2 HFLE safe spaces were created at respective schools in collaboration with the PTA and other community partners.



**GLOBAL IMPACT**

# **Peace Corps Recapped 2025**



**Peace Corps**

1



## Agriculture

21,700+ individuals participated in food security programs.

2



## Community Economic Development

7,300+ individuals trained in entrepreneurship.

3



## Education

286,300+ students taught English, literacy, math, and/or science in a school setting.

# 4



## Environment

4,100+ individuals trained to plant and care for trees and 36,000 trees planted.

# 5



## Health

69,200+ individuals reached to improve maternal, newborn, and child health care.

# 6



## Youth in Development

62,300+ youth reached to strengthen their life skills.



# Thank You

to all the communities who host Peace Corps Volunteers, the families who invite them into their homes and the ministry partners, schools, health centers and regional department staff who co-work with them.



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