



**Peace
Corps**
NEPAL

Annual Report 2023



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Peace Corps Mission

Mission: To promote world peace and friendship through community-based development and cross-cultural understanding

Established in 1961 by John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America, Peace Corps is an international network of Volunteers, community members, host country partners, and staff who each have a unique service journey, defined by an enduring desire to learn and grow. Since its establishment, the Peace Corps has been guided by a mission of world peace and friendship.

Through service, members of the Peace Corps network hone transferable skills that help them become and inspire the next generation of global leaders. Peace Corps Volunteers represent the people of the United States. With humility and intercultural competence, they integrate into and work with their host communities to foster world peace and friendship.

More than 220,000 Volunteers have served in 140 countries since 1961. Rather than providing monetary assistance to countries, the agency, through Volunteers, partner with community members, host country partners, and staff both during and after their term of service. This day-to-day interaction provides Volunteers with a unique perspective and the opportunity to partner with local communities to address their development challenges and to strengthen mutual understanding.

The Peace Corps Act (1961) articulates three core goals that contribute to the Peace Corps mission of world peace and friendship:

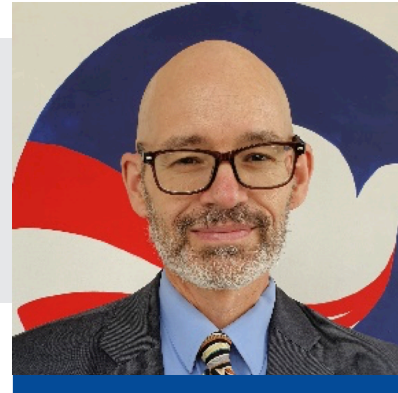
- 1. To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.**
- 2. To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.**
- 3. To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.**

Peace Corps has been partnering with the government of Nepal and collaborating with Nepali communities and individuals since 1962. At the invitation of the government of Nepal, Peace Corps Volunteers work alongside community members on locally prioritized projects that build relationships, promote knowledge exchange, and make a lasting and measurable impact.

Nearly 4,000 Americans have come to serve as Volunteers in Nepal over the past 60 years. Currently, Peace Corps/Nepal is implementing Food Security and Education projects. Peace Corps Volunteers serve for two years in their assigned communities and schools.



Message from the Country Director



Namaste!

As the Country Director of Peace Corps/Nepal, I am pleased to share with our partners, Volunteers, stakeholders, and fellow service organizations our 2023 Annual Report.

During the year, Peace Corps has seen the very important arrival of the first group of Volunteers to return to Nepal since a global evacuation of Volunteers in 2020 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This group was the 208th group of Volunteers to arrive in Nepal since our founding in 1962 and is known as Group N208. Group N208 arrived in June 2023, completed three months of pre-service language and technical training, and swore in as Volunteers on August 24, 2023. We chose the August 24, 2023 date as it is also the anniversary of Peace Corps Nepal's start – the date on which Peace Corps and the Government of Nepal signed our bilateral agreement in 1962. Importantly during the year, Peace Corps and the Government of Nepal renewed our joint commitment to the program by finalizing a significant amendment to the 1962 bilateral agreement that modernized several administrative processes.

Group N208 Volunteers are now serving as English Education and Food Security Volunteers in five districts of the Gandaki and Bagmati provinces.

In this annual report, we will detail our organization's accomplishments and activities during 2023 including the following:

- **In addition to receiving and training the Group N208 Volunteers, Peace Corps continued to offer Virtual Service Pilot (VSP) project support to Nepali communities. In the VSP projects, U.S.-based participants partnered with Nepali counterparts to complete assignments requested by Nepali counterparts. During 2023, we completed three VSP projects in the education and agricultural sectors.**
- **Peace Corps staff made demonstrable contributions to Nepal's development by working directly with various Nepali counterparts on 22 training and capacity building events benefitting around 700 participants. As one example, staff trained 39 counterparts from Surkhet and Arghakhanchi districts on key aspects of beekeeping, mushroom cultivation, nutritional needs for women of reproductive age, and agriculture-based income generating activities during a three-day event in Nepalgunj.**

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the support and collaboration of our Government of Nepal counterparts. We are thankful for their time and dedication.

As 2023 ends, Peace Corps/Nepal is looking forward to continuing all our core activities while also welcoming two new groups of Volunteers to Nepal in 2024.

Sincerely

Troy Kofroth

Country Director

Peace Corps Nepal

Peace Corps and the Government of Nepal renewed our joint commitment to the program by finalizing an important amendment to the 1962 bilateral agreement that modernized several administrative processes.



N208 Swearing-in Ceremony (August 24, 2023)



Foreign Secretary Paudyal speaks at the N208 Swearing-in Ceremony

Peace Corps/Nepal Highlights from 2023

A new group of Peace Corps Volunteers (Group N208) supporting both our Education and Food Security projects arrived in the country on June 11, 2023, after a little more than three years absence of Volunteers in the country. Peace Corps' global operations were suspended in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After three months of Pre-Service Training, Peace Corps Volunteers swore-in as Volunteers on August 24, 2023, and started their service at their assigned sites immediately after.

In addition, Peace Corps/Nepal continued participation in the global Virtual Service Pilot program and completed staff-led in-person trainings with counterparts and other stakeholders to hone their transferrable skills in the education and food security sectors. An assessment carried out several months after the trainings showed that most of the participants found the training effective for their professional service delivery.

Our collaboration with multiple government ministries continued. During the year, Peace Corps/Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Government to start a Tourism Peace Corps Program. The MOU has a period of performance for five years with the first group of Tourism Promotion Volunteers expected to arrive in May 2024.

In the next sections of this annual report, we provide additional details on our 2023 activities.

Virtual Service Projects

Introduction:

In 2020, Peace Corps introduced the Virtual Service Pilot (VSP) as an alternative service model, strategically aligned with the organization's vision to reimagine service in response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This innovative approach transforms returned Peace Corps Volunteers into Virtual Service Pilot participants, dedicating five to fifteen hours per week to virtual engagements lasting three to six months. Unlike traditional models, VSP excels in areas where physical placement of Peace Corps Volunteer is challenging. While not a permanent program, the multi-phased VSP pilot has garnered popularity, expanding across program sectors. Its success stories highlight its potential to diversify the volunteer corps by overcoming barriers to service, embodying the organization's commitment to adaptability and community impact.

Virtual Service Projects in Education

In 2023, Peace Corps/Nepal completed two education-related VSP projects working with six English teachers across four schools. There were three participants from Adarsha Secondary School, Gulmi and Bag Bhairav Secondary School, Sindhupalchok and three from Satyawoti Secondary School, Dhading and Bhanu Secondary School, Syangja. Both the projects spanned a duration of twelve-weeks. The goal of the projects was to enhance the English teaching skills and language fluency of participating English teachers, emphasizing colloquial speech and idioms.

The VSP participants from the US facilitated discussions and trainings on best practices in English instruction, classroom management, and professional development to increase student motivation and achievement. The US-based VSP participants not only shared valuable insights with counterpart English teachers but also provided them with essential classroom materials and lesson plans to foster student engagement and enhance their English language proficiency. They conducted workshops focusing on student-centered methodologies in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL), made collaborative efforts to support counterpart English teachers to develop lesson plans for use in middle and high





Virtual Service Projects in Food Security

Peace Corps completed one twelve-week VSP assignment in the food security sector during 2023. In this very successful collaboration, a local nutrition facilitator from Surkhet district partnered with a VSP participant in the US to co-develop activities and materials that help increase the number of people who consume locally available, nutritious food with the goal of maintaining a strong immune system at all ages. During the assignment, the US-based participant and the local nutrition facilitator collaborated to co-design nutrition lessons and activities including a My Plate demonstration and a Food-Nutrient Content Analysis. These products highlighted the importance of consuming foods from different food groups, particularly foods rich in vitamins and proteins, and in a way that addresses nutrition needs for men and women throughout their life, especially during the challenges of food availability during the COVID-19 pandemic period

Also, to complement government initiatives, Peace Corps Nepal prioritized our efforts to develop the capacity of Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) to advance their skills in providing health extension services that further positive health and nutrition outcomes in local communities.

school English language classes. The workshop topics covered a spectrum of skills, including writing, reading, speaking, and grammar.

Furthermore, the VSP participants addressed broader aspects of professional development, guiding their counterparts in crafting professional CVs and emails tailored for a Western audience. Cross-cultural topics were explored, in which both the VSP participants and the counterparts presented information on holidays and traditions in their respective cultures.

In addition to these topics and accomplishments, the cohort from Syangja and Dhading covered topics such as gender equity and climate change pedagogy. The US-based participants developed a series of online resources for their counterparts and conducted sessions on digital literacy, emphasizing the integration of digital resources into classroom practices and ongoing methodological learning for local teachers.

As a result, the Nepali educators reported increased confidence, improved classroom practices, and a sense of empowerment equipped with the tools for success in the 21st century classroom as feedback.



Staff-Led Development Activities

Introduction:

Because of the absence of Volunteers for part of 2023, Peace Corps/Nepal staff completed direct development projects that contributed to Nepali well-being. Staff implemented these activities not only to enhance counterpart skills but also to initiate contact and collaboration with communities expected to receive Peace Corps Volunteers in the future. Education program staff completed six virtual and four in-person trainings that benefited 314 participants. Similarly, food security staff completed five virtual and seven in-person trainings benefiting 377 participants. The participants for all trainings came from Sindhupalchok, Lalitpur, Dhading, Kavrepalanchok, Gorkha, Syangja, Gulmi, Myagdi, Parbat, Arghakhanchi and Surkhet districts.

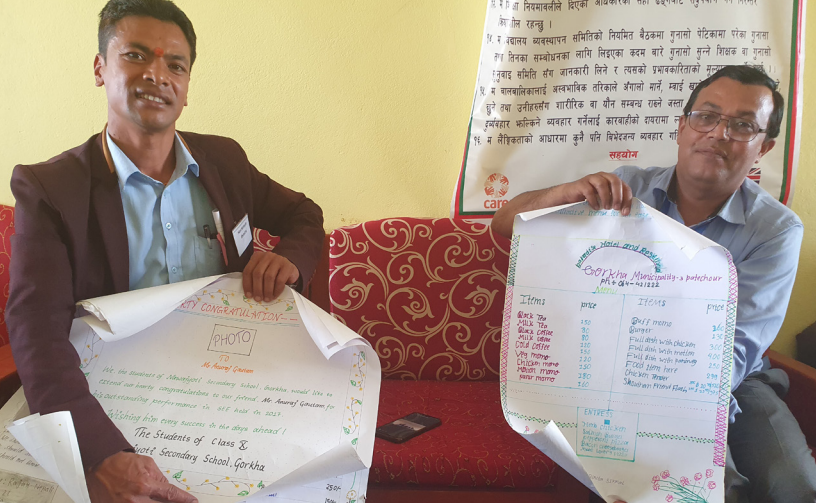
Additional details by sector are available in the sections below.

Staff-Led Programming in Education

The staff-led activities conducted by Peace Corps/Nepal's education staff in 2023 focused on increasing the capacity of English teachers, school principals, municipality education section chiefs, and mayors/chairs from the partner municipalities and rural municipalities of the selected districts. Peace Corps/Nepal completed a total of ten virtual and in-person trainings and events. Six virtual calls involved the English teachers and school principals. The calls engaged and strengthened a cross-regional community of practice, and participants actively shared teaching resources and explored ways

to use gender-sensitive teaching practices and integrate climate change and environmental issues into student learning activities.





Staff-Led Programming in Food Security

Peace Corps' food security staff facilitated three regional level in-person trainings (two in Pokhara and one in Nepalgunj) and four district level trainings (two in Lamjung and one each in Myagdi and Parbat) in 2023. In total, 202 (119 male and 83 female) participants from five districts participated in the in-person trainings during the year. The agriculture coordinators and health coordinators from municipalities and rural municipalities of the selected local levels, leader farmers, Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) and ward chairpersons from the five districts were the main participants. The focus of these in-person trainings was on high-value, low-volume agricultural products such as fruit trees, mushrooms, honey, ginger, and turmeric. An additional focus included content on the importance of dietary diversity, agriculture-based income generation, and attention on Neglected and Underutilized Crop Species. Peace Corps/Nepal also oriented the participants on the Peace Corps' Food Security Project, its objectives, and proposed activities.

Participants held robust discussions on the impacts of climate change in agriculture and discussed potential solutions. Climate change is a major challenge for low-agriculture production and productivity and a life-threatening issue for Nepal.

In addition to the in-person trainings, Peace Corps food security staff conducted five virtual trainings covering similar topics with 175 stakeholders from Myagdi, Parbat, Lamjung, Arghakhanchi, and Surkhet districts.

In total, 202 (119 male and 83 female) participants from five districts participated in the in-person trainings during the year.

Four in-person training events involved English teachers, principals, education section chiefs, and mayors/chairs. The sessions covered a range of topics, included designing communicative activities for English language learning, integrating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) principles and climate-smart topics into teaching practices, developing a safe and healthy school for learners, working across cultures, and how to create enabling environment for impactful, effective teaching.

Impact of Education Staff-Led Programming:

Peace Corps completed an evaluation of the education staff-led programming to assess the impact in schools and among the participants. Nearly 100% of the participants participated in the survey and provided robust feedback on the program's positive impact. Results from the evaluation include the following:



- 99% of the school principals found the training either very effective or effective
- 95% of the counterpart English teachers applied the knowledge and skills gained from the Peace Corps training.
- 88% of the school principals responded that they applied the knowledge and skills to their day-to-day tasks.

Impact of Food Security Staff-Led Programming:

Peace Corps evaluated the effectiveness and impact of the staff-led programming in the food security sector through an evaluation and survey.



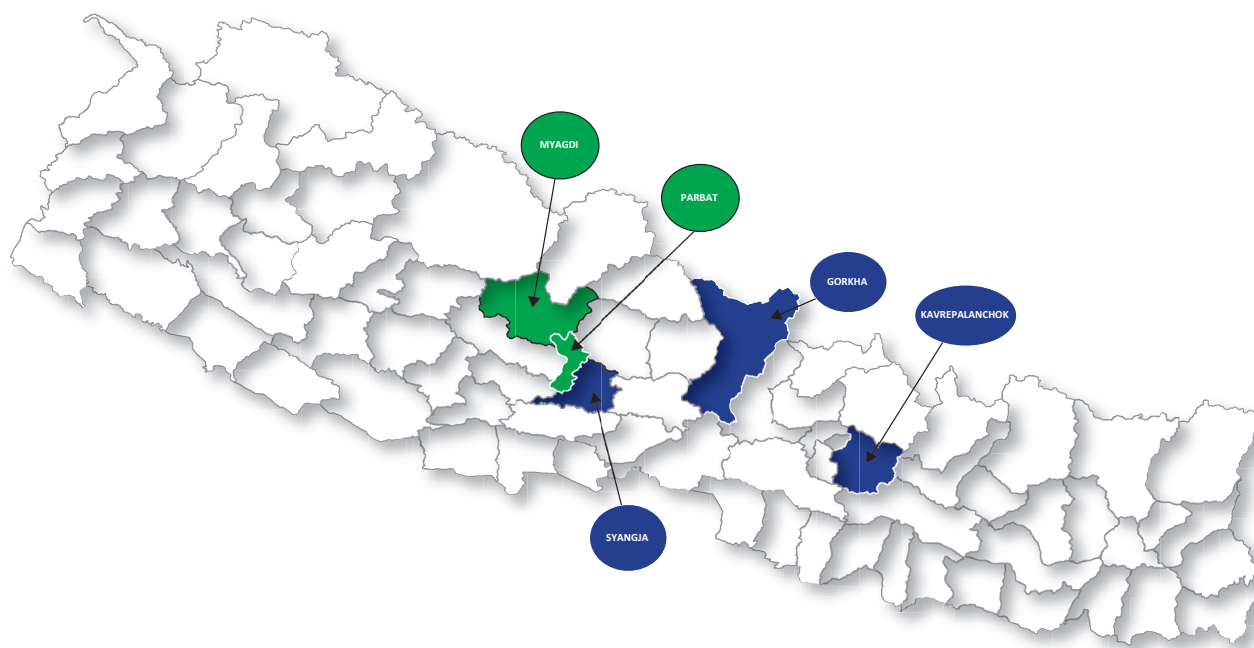
The evaluation and survey showed the following:

- 78% of the virtual call participants rated the training effectiveness as "Very Effective" and the remaining 22% rated it as "Effective"
- 100% respondents responded the in-person training was "Very Effective".
- 50% of the respondents implemented beekeeping learning while dealing with smallholder farmers,
- 35% of the participants implemented their knowledge and skills on fruit tree promotion and production, ginger/turmeric cultivation and income generation activities.



Volunteer Placement Districts

The year 2023 marked the arrival of Group N208 to in Nepal—the first group of Peace Corps Volunteers to return since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. As of December 2023, 18 Volunteers are serving in communities in rural mid-hill communities across five districts in Nepal. A total of 8 Education Volunteers are serving in the government schools of Kavrepalanchowk, Gorkha and Syangja districts, while ten Food Security Volunteers are working alongside rural farming communities in Myagdi and Parbat districts. We are anticipating a new group of Volunteers—the 209th group—to arrive in country in January 2024.



** The boundaries and names used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the US Government.*

A total of eight Education Volunteers are serving in the government schools of Kavrepalanchowk, Gorkha and Syangja districts, while ten Food Security Volunteers are working alongside rural farming communities in Myagdi and Parbat districts.



Looking Ahead to 2024

Introduction:

2024 is primed to be a productive year of collaboration built on a solid foundation of guidance from the Government of Nepal. More than ever, Peace Corps/Nepal is focused on closing the gap between local communities and a future of digital and climate-based challenges. By targeting local youth, Volunteers will promote the beauty of Nepal, reinforce its academic and environmental resilience, and support its contribution to the global economy.

Return to Service after COVID-19

The first Peace Corps Volunteers to Nepal after the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Kathmandu in June 2023 and are now serving in their assigned communities. Peace Corps/Nepal's goal in 2024 is to continue the success of this group and add a new group of education and food security Volunteers in January 2024. A new group of two-year Peace Corps Volunteers is envisioned in January of each subsequent year with a continued increase in the number annually until we reach a pre-pandemic number of approximately 50-60 additional two-year Volunteers arriving each calendar year.





Peace Corps Response Program

As Peace Corps continues the two-year Volunteer program in Nepal first launched in 1962, Peace Corps/Nepal has been approved to launch a Response Program with the first group of six to eight Peace Corps Response Volunteers (PCRVs) projected to arrive in May 2024. This new program will bring Volunteers with more specialized experience to complete short-term (e.g., nine-twelve months), high-impact service assignments. The Peace Corps Response Program in Nepal will be promoting economic development through tourism, enhancing research activities at agriculture colleges, and supporting information technology initiatives at government schools. The PCRVs will collaborate with their host organizations and community members on locally prioritized projects that build relationships, promote knowledge exchange, and make a lasting and measurable impact.

Climate Change Action

Nepal is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The country has already experienced impacts such as changes in temperature and precipitation which range from drought in the Terai region, to the melting of glaciers, to reduction in snowfall. These changes impact livelihoods, the amount of tourism, and the ecology in the mountain regions.

The government of Nepal has targeted net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and envisions socioeconomic prosperity of the nation by building a climate-resilient society and reducing the risk of climate change impacts on people and ecosystems.

To support our partner countries, Peace Corps

in Washington, DC has developed a Strategy to Secure a Resilient Global Future to provide cohesive direction to agency decision making across a wide variety of functions and activities towards climate change adaptation, mitigation, and community resilience.

To support this agency-wide strategy, Peace Corps/Nepal plans to implement several climate-related initiatives in 2024 including the following:

- Integrating climate change components into both the food security and education projects,
- Seeking approval to start an environment project, and
- Building the capacity of Peace Corps staff and stakeholders in adaptation and resilience strategies.

In addition, Peace Corps /Nepal is committed to reducing our carbon footprint through increasing energy efficiency in buildings and vehicles.



Integrating Equity into Core Business Practices

For Peace Corps, intercultural competence, diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (ICDEIA) are core principles that help our agency achieve our mission. Peace Corps' approach to ICDEIA efforts encourages deep humility and helps build transferrable skills as our staff and Volunteers partner at the grassroots level with people from over 60 different countries.

To support the implementation of ICDEIA principles, in 2023 Peace Corps/Nepal created a dedicated ICDEIA task force made up of staff from multiple backgrounds and positions. During 2023, the ICDEIA task force made demonstrable progress through several initiatives as follows:

- Worked in consultation with staff and ICDEIA experts from the US to design and implement an inclusive recruitment policy that post has adopted in June 2023
- Collaborated with the training team to conduct two orientation sessions on Peace Corps/Nepal jobs openings and the recruitment process for all the interested individuals and organizations, targeted on members from historically marginalized communities. These orientations were virtual and in-person participants representing various parts of the country.
- The purpose of this orientation was to help spread information about Peace Corps and our recruitment process and encourage a greater range of individuals to apply.
- Developed orientation guidance to use during the new staff orientation process to include ICDEIA principles and how to infuse them into all business practices.
- Conducted two in house trainings to help local staff bring conceptual clarity on gender identity and orientation issues within Nepal to further support Volunteers from the LGBTI+ and gender non-conforming community.



Volunteer Project Spotlight: Mushroom Production Using Local, Sustainable Materials

Peace Corps Food Security Volunteer Jack worked with a local leader farmer to plant oyster mushrooms using repurposed woodshop shavings.

PCV Jack has been working with leader farmer Lal Bahadur Pun since the beginning of his service. Their relationship started when Jack came to conduct a beehive health assessment in Lal's kiwi grove. Lal made an outstanding impression with his knowledge and experience in beekeeping and fruit tree cultivation; moreover, his enthusiasm to learn was invigorating. To diversify his crop production and to generate income for his family of five Lal was deeply interested in growing mushrooms. After initial discussions, the two determined that Lal's wood shop provided a sustainable source of wood shavings and sawdust to use for the mushroom substrate.

Over two exhausting days, the two collaborated to prepare the mushroom growing bags. This work entailed washing all the substrate so that it had the proper moisture content and then sanitizing it through steaming. They used two large laundry buckets from Lal's home for the washing and soaking overnight and then sanitized it using a home distiller used normally to make local alcohol. In the end, after twelve hours and multiple cups of tea with an amazing view of the Himalaya mountains in the background, the two proudly were able to hang ten bags of mushroom substrate in the prepared darkened room at Lal's farm.

During the next few weeks, the mushroom growth was strong and at every visit there was no evidence of green mold or pests. This was wonderful news that the mushrooms were healthy. However, winter came swiftly and early that year. With the cold temperatures mycelium growth halted premature of the desired levels for mushroom blooming. Both the PCV and farmer were stumped as to how to warm the room for growth to continue. This was their Achilles heel. For nearly two months the bags hung like ghosts void of life. Then one day from a pin hole was a cumulus cloud-like fluff of pinhead mushrooms emerging. Ecstatic the two looked around the room and found every day had mushrooms developing. They excitedly cut all the bags to release the long-awaited fruits of their labor. To date, the mushrooms have been harvested for the first of approximately four harvests and weighed in at 250g. With the relationship they developed and based on what they learned, they are ready to work on a second round when spring and warmer weather come to the community.





Government and Stakeholder Relations

Peace Corps Volunteers serve in Nepal at the request and invitation of the Government of Nepal and the municipalities that host them. We are thankful for the close partnership Peace Corps/Nepal has with multiple ministries, provincial, and municipal governments officials.

During 2023, Peace Corps/Nepal collaborated with the Government of Nepal on several key activities as follows:

Amendment to the 1962 Bilateral Agreement:

In 1962, the Government of Nepal and Peace Corps signed a bilateral agreement that authorized Peace Corps' operations in Nepal and outlined the role of each partner. The agreement has served both governments well and has been functional for more than 60 years. In December 2023, our two governments renewed our joint commitment to the Peace Corps program and updated the agreement through a first-ever amendment that modernized several key administrative issues and allows the program to operate more efficiently into the future. Among other items and importantly, the amendment provides an updated, streamlined process for obtaining visas for Volunteers.

New Tourism Promotion Project:

For each project, Peace Corps/Nepal and the Government of Nepal sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines the contribution of Peace Corps and of the Peace Corps Volunteers as well as the role and responsibility of the government partners. During 2023, Peace Corps/Nepal signed a new MOU with the Ministry Culture, Tourism, and Civil Aviation (MoCTCA) to initiate a tourism promotion project. On September 15, 2023, MoCTCA Joint Secretary, Mr. Chakra Bahadur Budha, and the Peace Corps Country Director, Mr. Troy Kofroth, signed the MoU with a validity of five years. The first group of Peace Corps Volunteers focused on tourism promotion is expected to arrive in the country in May 2024.

Environment Project:

At the request of Government of Nepal and as a result of Peace Corps's commitment to secure a resilient global future, Peace Corps/Nepal is exploring and seeking approval for a future environment project. The project's design will focus on sustainable natural resources management and increasing the climate resilience of rural community people. The key components of the project are environmental education, eco-clubs and camps with youth, solid waste management, community forest management and promoting alternative energy. Development of a MOU between the Ministry of Forests and Environment and Peace Corps/Nepal is underway.



Training Highlights

Peace Corps Volunteer Training in 2023

Who are the Volunteers?

Peace Corps Volunteers are U.S. citizens who commit to serving 27 months in a partner country, living and working directly with members of their assigned communities. Volunteers do not receive a salary, but instead receive a very modest living allowance that approximates the local standard of living. Volunteers come from a variety of cultural, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds, and all have appropriate education and experience related to their project work. Peace Corps Volunteers bring to their communities their motivation to help communities to help themselves. They bring creativity, ingenuity, and a different perspective to their work with their communities.

Pre-Service Training

Group N208 arrived in Nepal in June 2023 to begin their Pre-Service Training (PST). Trainees spend their first eleven weeks in Nepal PST at the completion of which they officially become Peace Corps Volunteers. During PST, Trainees live with Nepali host families for 10 weeks and are completely immersed in Nepali culture. They receive formal training in the Nepali language,



and they learn strategies to stay safe and healthy for the duration of their service. Trainees also receive technical training for assisting their communities in identifying, prioritizing, and addressing challenges related to food security and education.

The main purpose of the PST is to help Trainees become equipped with the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to live and work effectively in Nepal for two years. The community-based training model provides Trainees with an experience with similar characteristics as in the communities in which Trainees will eventually live and work. They eat the food their host family eats and are also involved in household activities such as cooking food, cutting grass, milking cows, and taking part in festivals and family events. Host families provide each Food Security Trainee with a small gardening space at their homes to allow them to practice gardening skills, and Education Trainees interact with and teach in government schools to learn how to effectively teach within the context of Nepali government schools. Trainees are assessed throughout their training, and upon successful completion of PST, they are officially sworn in as Peace Corps Volunteers.

The newly sworn-in Volunteers then proceed to their assigned districts and meet first with district-level officials prior to beginning service in their communities.





Success Stories

Increasing Student Achievement through Integrated Learning Techniques

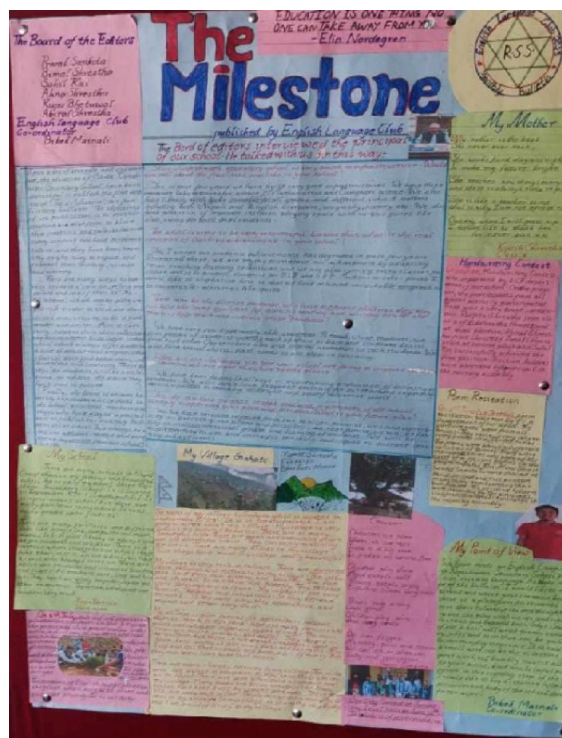
Mr. Min Bahadur Sunuwar is an English teacher in Shree Rajeshwari Secondary School in Indrawati Rural Municipality, Sindhupalchok district who participated in Peace Corps/Nepal programming. He regularly encounters challenges while teaching English at his school. The students did not have enough vocabulary to express themselves. They were hesitant to speak English with classmates, friends and in groups.



Mr. Sunuwar then attended virtual meetings and an in-person training organized by Peace Corps/Nepal, in which he learned different techniques to integrate student-centered, collaborative learning activities. Most importantly, he learned how to make low cost/ no cost teaching materials to increase student engagement. Creating a Think, Pair and Share (TPS) activity, word jigsaw puzzle, and a question ball are some of the student-centered activities he has applied

to his teaching. Now he spends time making teaching materials in school, makes slides, and uses a projector to make his classes active and participatory. In addition, he has formed an English language club of 26 members from classes seven to twelve. The English club issues a monthly bulletin named “The Milestone,” and students are on the board of editors and advisors. They are very enthusiastic to create, compose and publish their talents in the bulletin.

The students have positively changed their attitude toward English language learning. The integrated student-centered, collaborative, and inclusive activities helped them to learn English more quickly and with higher proficiency. Mr. Sunwar has noticed a marked increase in his students’ interest in reading and writing in English.





The Fruits of an Inclusive Approach to Food Security

“The Peace Corps training provided valuable insights of how to increase rural household income by promoting honey, fruit trees, mushrooms, ginger and turmeric.”

– Durga Prasad Sharma, Ward Chairperson.

As a ward chairperson in Parbat district, Mr. Durga Prasad Sharma is often invited to meet with different village groups to discuss their activities and concerns. Members with shared caste and ethnic identity often determine the meeting agenda and participants. After attending a recent Peace Corps event focusing on inclusive food security practices, Mr. Durga has taken some inspiring steps to promote more equitable, collective engagement with his community on food security priorities.

Using resources provided through the USAID Small Project Assistance (SPA) fund, Peace Corps/Nepal facilitated a series of collaborative learning activities with over 160 community stakeholders, including agriculture and health technicians, leader farmers, Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), and ward chairpersons. To promote holistic and inclusive outcomes, Peace Corps/Nepal has intentionally engaged these partners as collective teams from six municipalities and four rural municipalities. During a recent Peace Corps event, Mr Durga

and others from his municipality listed food nutrition priorities, and then identified resources through local associations and institutions that could assist in addressing those priorities.

Following the Peace Corps event, Mr. Durga called a meeting with community members from a wide variety of ethnic and caste backgrounds, and engaged them to identify their collective strengths, interests, and priorities. As a result, the community is actively exploring the potential to cultivate honey, fruit trees, mushrooms, ginger, and turmeric. While waiting to see how these efforts grow, Mr. Durga and his community are grateful for the fruits of a more inclusive

Peace Corps/Nepal facilitated a series of collaborative learning activities with over 160 community stakeholders, including agriculture and health technicians, leader farmers, Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), and ward chairpersons.



Peace Corps/Nepal is fortunate to have a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) network of nearly 4,000 Americans, who have served here since 1962. Each year, many return to visit their Nepali friends and family. Below are a few photos of RPCV visitors to Nepal.



Thank you to our RPCVs:

Thank you to our Host Families

Peace Corps Volunteers live in Nepali communities and with a Nepali family. We thank the Nepali host families for warmly receiving the Volunteers and making them part of your family and your community.



Without your support our Volunteers' success would not be possible!

Acknowledgments

Project Partners

Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
Ministry of Health and Population
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
Ministry of Home Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Federal Affairs & General Administration
Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
Ministry of Forest and Environment
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Municipalities & Rural Municipalities
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Editorial Team

Troy Kofroth	Chakra Bishwakarma
Qimmah Najeeullah	Anuja Lamsal
Dinesh Karki	Mukunda Dahal
Raju Kandel	Alka Verma
Kishor Ghimire	Ramprabesh Prasad Chauhan
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Design & Layout

Design Maze

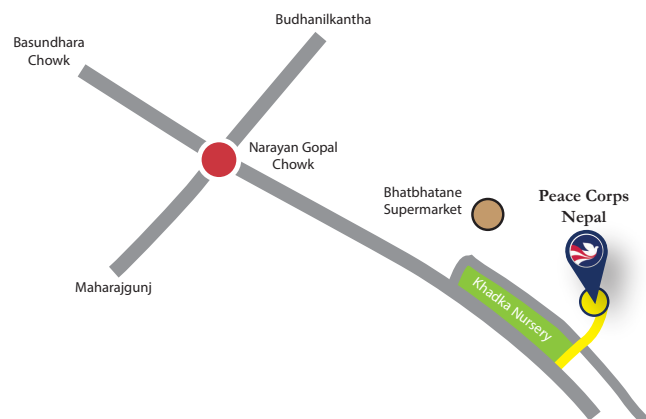
Contact Information:

Peace Corps/Nepal Office





सम्पर्क : पिसकोर नेपालको कार्यालय



Peace Corps Nepal

Maharajgunj, Chakrapath, Kathmandu

Phone: + 977 1 4016259, 4016027

Fax : + 977 1 4016173

Post Box: 15150

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