



Peace
Corps
CAMEROON

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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WHO ARE WE?

The Peace Corps is a U.S. Government agency that provides volunteers to countries who request assistance. During two years, Peace Corps Volunteers live and work alongside dedicated community members to create lasting, positive change within their communities.

Our mission is to promote world peace and friendship by fulfilling these three goals:

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

We have been realizing these goals since 1962 in Cameroon.

In 2019 and 2020, we had 167 Volunteers serving in our three programs:

- Community Health
- Agriculture
- Education



MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

It is my distinguished honor to present Peace Corps Cameroon's 2019-2020 report. Since 1962, over 3,800 Volunteers have served in Cameroon, in all 10 regions. In 2019-2020, Peace Corps Cameroon had 167 Volunteers working in the areas of community health, education and agriculture in six regions (Adamawa, Center, East, Littoral, South and West).

Since 1961, with President John F Kennedy's signature of the legislation establishing the Peace Corps as a permanent government agency, Peace Corps has provided highly motivated American Volunteers to support countries all around the world. Here in Cameroon, Peace Corps works hand-in-hand with our host government partners, local communities, and non-governmental organizations to place Volunteers in communities and projects where they can achieve the most impact towards Peace Corps' mission and objectives.

Without our partners and the incredibly welcoming communities across Cameroon, Volunteers could not do the work they do towards Peace Corps' mission of promoting world peace and friendship by immersing themselves in their communities, and working side by side with local leaders to tackle the most pressing challenges of those communities.





MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR CONTINUES

I sincerely thank each of our partners and host communities for their faithful collaboration and incessant support to Volunteers. *On est ensemble* as community members give generously of themselves to make the Volunteers feel welcome and at home in Cameroon, forging generations of Americans who also relate their experiences in Cameroon back to their friends and family in the United States, contributing to the Peace Corps global mission of promoting world peace and friendship.

I hope that this document conveys a good measure of Peace Corps Cameroon's success in achieving development goals that are shared by the Government of Cameroon and by the Peace Corps. We also hope that it does so in a manner that is respectful of the culture and dignity of those served.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Peace Corps evacuated all Volunteers back to the United States in March, 2020, but we are endeavoring to have Volunteers back in the field in Cameroon in 2021. We look forward to even a better year ahead!

Danielle Monty-Mara
Country Director

1,862

Smallholder farmers improved integrated farming practices



8,257

People educated on mother and child health/nutrition



14,947

Students improved performance, leadership, and literacy



20,282

People reached with HIV prevention interventions



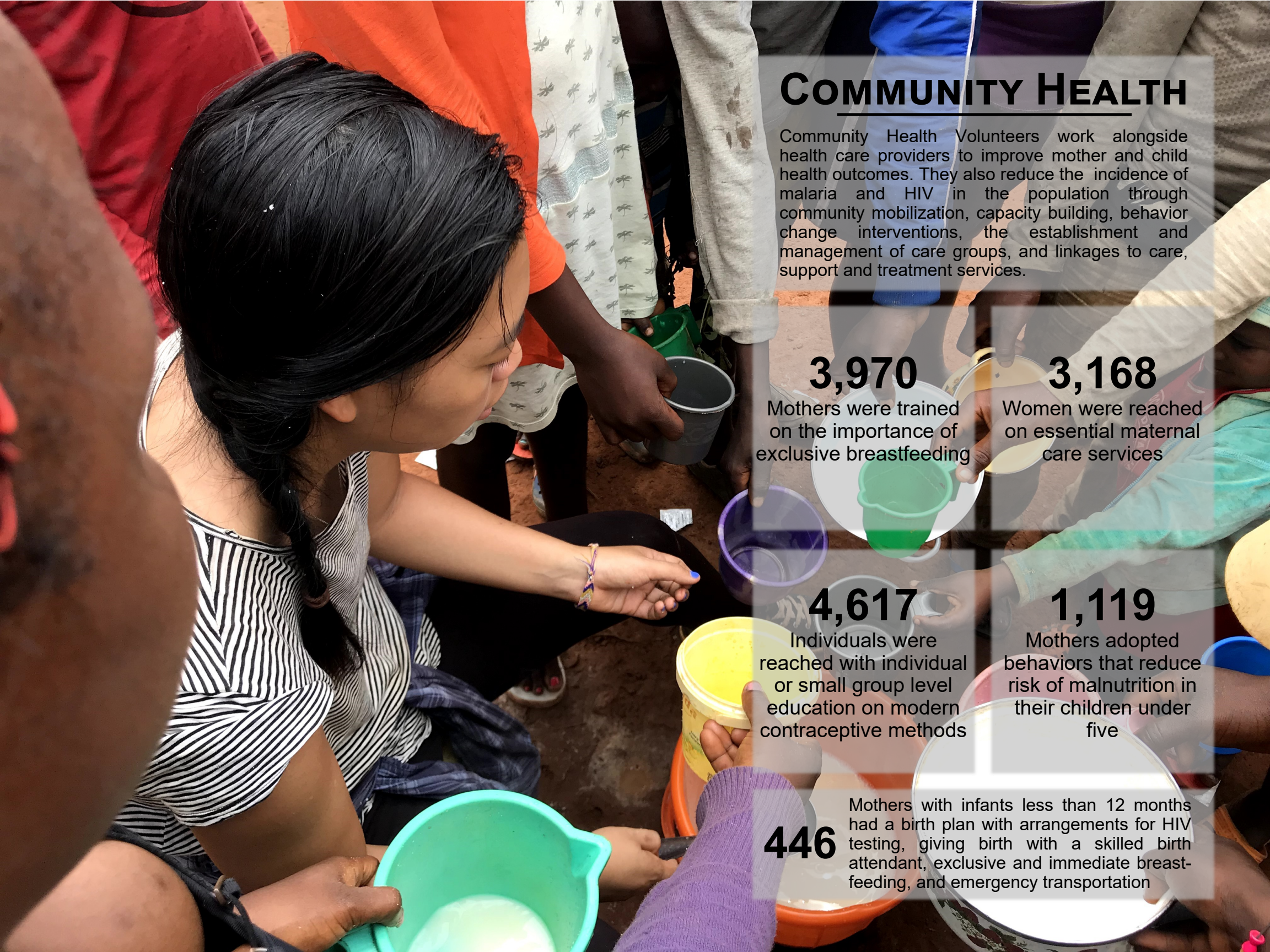
2019-2020 IN NUMBERS



PEACE CORPS GOAL 1

To help the people
of interested countries in
meeting their need for
trained men and women





COMMUNITY HEALTH

Community Health Volunteers work alongside health care providers to improve mother and child health outcomes. They also reduce the incidence of malaria and HIV in the population through community mobilization, capacity building, behavior change interventions, the establishment and management of care groups, and linkages to care, support and treatment services.

3,970

Mothers were trained on the importance of exclusive breastfeeding

3,168

Women were reached on essential maternal care services

4,617

Individuals were reached with individual or small group level education on modern contraceptive methods

1,119

Mothers adopted behaviors that reduce risk of malnutrition in their children under five

446

Mothers with infants less than 12 months had a birth plan with arrangements for HIV testing, giving birth with a skilled birth attendant, exclusive and immediate breast-feeding, and emergency transportation

BUILDING OUR NUTRITION HOUSE

My community in the Adamawa has high rates of malnutrition, but parents really want to feed their children well. This is what drove my counterpart Nana and I to plan a malnutrition screening and nutrition training for my village and the surrounding villages. With a team of community health workers, we screened over 1000 kids, and found 41 of those children to be malnourished or at risk of being malnourished. We invited these families to

come to nutrition trainings that we were hosting at the health center, where we taught them how to keep their children healthy.

The trainings were incredibly successful. Nana, the community health workers, and I facilitated sessions on the “nutrition house”, how to nourish kids under five years old, exclusive breastfeeding, family planning, and gardening. We also did three different cooking demonstrations for more practical knowledge. It was wonderful to see the women participating, sharing ideas with one another. At the end of the sessions, the mother of the most malnourished child approached me and thanked me. She said she hadn’t felt like her health or that of her children had ever been focused on before. I was very moved.

I followed up with women about four months later to see how their kids were doing, and found that 80% of the kids were now in the healthy weight range. I was thrilled. As for the most malnourished child I had seen, he was no longer severely malnourished; he had moved up to the moderately malnourished classification. He looks so much healthier already and I can’t wait to see him grow and become even healthier. The women in my community showed me that when they are focused on, they can do great things.

Olivia, Community Health Volunteer



AGRICULTURE

Agriculture Volunteers work alongside rural small-holder farmers to increase crop production by introducing improved or new crop varieties, technologies and farm practices. Volunteers also work with farmers to build their capacity in small animal husbandry by introducing new animal breeds or improved animal husbandry practices.

4,212

New gardens established by Volunteers and their counterparts

529

Farmers implemented new or improved gardening practices

961

Farmers used new agriculture technology or farm management practices

191

Farmers implemented integrated farm management plans

181

Farmers used new or improved small animal management practices

13,963

Trees planted by Volunteers and their counterparts

IMPROVED COCOA NURSERY HELPS COMMUNITY TO GROW

When your passions and your community needs align, then great work happens. For me, it was fulfilling my enthusiasm for agroforestry by creating a cocoa nursery. The idea came to me when my counterpart explained how people in our community made their money.

Cocoa is one of the main cash crops of Cameroon and the South Region is well known for its cocoa production. However, the variety of cocoa in my village is susceptible to diseases, often causing farmers to suffer as their crops die. There is a simple solution to one aspect of this problem: plant improved varieties. Unfortunately, not all farmers have access to these varieties or the initial capital to invest in new seeds. So we decided to construct a community nursery and to plant an improved variety of cocoa seeds that is more resistant to the fungal diseases that harm the production of the cocoa pods. This would ultimately result in an increase in cocoa production in my village.

With the non-wavering support of my counterpart, we gathered community members together to help build a cocoa nursery. We used materials we had in village: bamboo poles and tree branches for the support, and palm leaves for the roof. Unfortunately, tragedy struck that night when a thunderstorm roared its way through my village. Later, we rebuilt the structure more securely – by learning from our mistakes – to be able to withstand a thunderstorm of similar strength.

My community and I decided that seven hectares, or approximately 8,200 saplings, was sufficient for distribution

to model farmers after the six months in the nursery. We purchased the improved variety seeds from IRAD (Institute of Agricultural Research for Development) and the next day we planted each seed into a sachet of dirt.

From that day on, a community member or I watered the emerging cocoa saplings and it was rewarding just to watch the healthy cocoa plants grow. After the six months, the model farmers planted the cocoa on their land. While I was able to see the farmers plant the cocoa in their plantations, it won't produce fruits until after three or four years of growing so I personally will not be there for the first harvest. However, the Volunteers after me can build on this



project and, with time, these little saplings will be able to benefit my community in more ways than I can ever imagine.

Logan, Agriculture Volunteer

EDUCATION

Peace Corps Education Volunteers worked alongside teachers, students and community members in initiatives to improve quality of teaching, increase student success and enhance the learning environment.

145

Teachers improved their use of literacy techniques in the classroom

220

Teachers increased their use of student-centered techniques

116

Teachers used more gender equitable practices in their classroom

8,591

Students improved achievement in class, club, and camps

3,009

Students demonstrated improved leadership skills

3,347

Students demonstrated improved skills in reading to learn

DROP EVERYTHING AND READ

Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) day is an international day to promote literacy. Here in Cameroon, Volunteers and counterparts encourage students and community members to read through literacy focused school activities and community events.

7,385

Community members participated in DEAR day activities

Camp Filles Vainqueurs
Bilingue de Nkoteng
03 Jul - 03 Aug 2019
GBHS Nkoteng
Peace Corps
L'AEFECS
PEPFAR

HIGHER CONFIDENCE LEVELS FOR SCHOOL GIRLS

For about a year Hannah and her counterpart have been working with her girls' club to implement various empowerment activities, and visibly the confidence levels of the girls are so much higher. One Tuesday Hannah received a text message on her phone from the mother of one of the girls. The text read: "Thank you, because I can see such a great change in my daughter – she wants to be involved more in school activities. She is working harder in school."

Hannah and her counterpart are not only helping the girls grow their self-esteem and confidence, they are also helping them to discover their goals for the future, making their education a purposeful one.



FIGHTING HIV/AIDS

Volunteers from all sectors join together with their community to fight against HIV/AIDS. This initiative aims to keep adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) HIV free through education and empowerment. Men and boys are also helped to understand how they can mitigate risks to AGYW.

“Following a Peace Corps’ training of Volunteers and counterparts on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention, my counterpart and I conducted a training in our health district targeting the reduction of GBV in the area through community education and behavior change. The project broke ground with a three-day training of 14 local community health workers (CHW), facilitated by three counterparts who had previously completed Peace Corps’ Sexual and Gender Based Violence Prevention and Men As Partners training of trainers programs. The program focused sessions on violence, stereotypes, sexually transmitted infections and effecting change in the community. The integrated facilitation team included local teachers, nurses and psycho-social counselors assisted by young peer educators, giving well rounded experiences of gender norms for males and females alike. The training concluded with action plans that each of the CHWs would complete over the following three months. Our team of facilitators used the close relationships they already have in the community to support each CHW in their home visits and educative talks.

Over the next two months, 11 CHW were able to reach over 800 community members with evidence based gender norm interventions. Such interventions ranged from home visits to HIV education and testing campaigns to youth activities in local schools. The integration of this work into the daily routine of these CHWs ensures the sustainability of this project. Ongoing from the first months of work, the facilitators and CHWs continue to follow-up with surveillance of the community outreach, advising and aiding with activities.”

Emma, Community Health Volunteer

20,282

Individuals reached with HIV prevention interventions

7,484

Individuals linked to HIV testing services

4,515

HIV+ individuals got care & support services that promote healthy living & treatment adherence

3,935

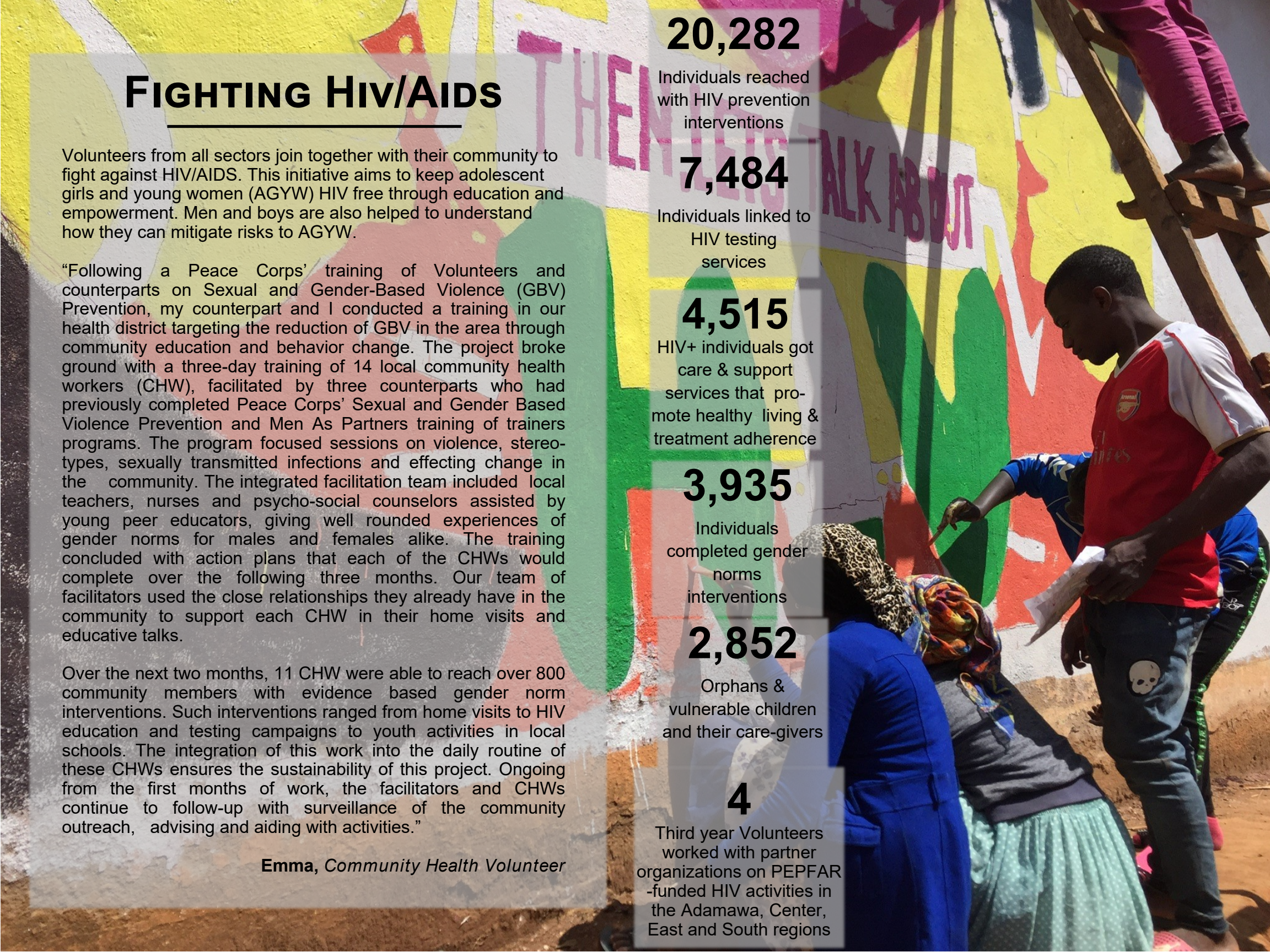
Individuals completed gender norms interventions

2,852

Orphans & vulnerable children and their care-givers

4

Third year Volunteers worked with partner organizations on PEPFAR-funded HIV activities in the Adamawa, Center, East and South regions



STOMP-OUT MALARIA

Since 2011, the Stomp-Out Malaria initiative has mobilized several Volunteers from all sectors and their counterparts to fight against malaria in their communities. They do this through organizing malaria behavior change activities with community members, training community mobilizers, mosquito net hang-up campaigns, and Grassroot Soccer curriculum. These activities were carried out with the support of the Cameroon Against Malaria Committee which helps to strengthen malaria programming throughout Peace Corps Cameroon.

6,376

Community members who attended malaria behavior change activities

676

Individuals slept under a mosquito net the previous night

517

Community mobilizers trained in malaria behavior change communication



YOUTH CAMPS

During summertime, Peace Corps Volunteers and their counterparts have been organizing weeklong camps, across the country, that aim to address problems that girls face within their villages. The camps' activities focus on sexual and reproductive health, nutrition, leadership, self-esteem, communication and careers. The participation of Cameroonian counterparts is essential to the success and sustainability of these camps.

137

Girls displayed increased knowledge

70

Girls implemented knowledge in their communities after camp

38

Boys gained increased knowledge from camp

63

Girls educated about the different methods of contraception

CAMP LEAD 2019

*Tourningal • Idool
Tella • Belel*

GENTLEMAN

Being male is a matter of birth. Being a man is a matter of choice.

AUTHENTIC SP...

SMALL GRANTS

Small grants can make a significant difference in a community's development. With the help of small grant funding, Volunteers together with committed community host partners implement successful development projects that greatly impact the lives of individuals in their communities. In 2019 and 2020 Peace Corps Small Grants Program included the following funding opportunities:

Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP) contributed by goodwill people in the United States.

Let Girls Learn (LGL) which are small scale projects funded under the PCPP portal that focus on:

- Improving adolescent girls' access to and quality of education
- Delaying early marriage, or reshaping family and community expectations about girls
- Improving infrastructure to ensure girls' safety on their way to school and at school (i.e. creating safe spaces for girls to congregate and the construction or renovation of school latrines.)

Volunteer Activities Support and Training (VAST) funded by PEPFAR, to address risk and vulnerabilities to HIV among adolescent girls and boys and young women.

Small Grants are only awarded to communities that work with their Volunteers to develop projects that:

- Respond to identified community needs
- Have a 25% community contribution
- Have a monitoring & evaluation plan to track project results
- Strengthen community self-reliance not future dependency



GROUPE DES FILLES
A 2 EMPowerMENT

16

LGL Grants funded
for a total of
\$14,385.35

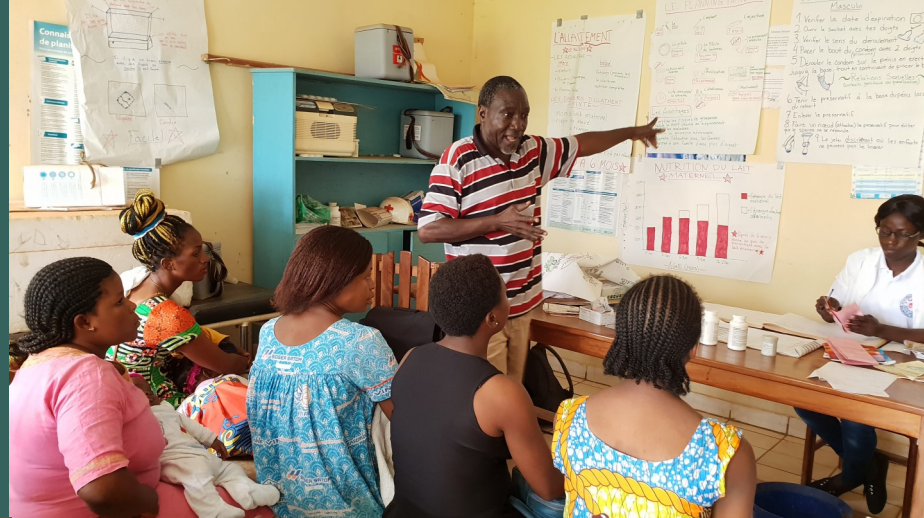
13

PCPP grants
funded for a total of
\$51,176.93

8

VAST Grants
funded for a total of
\$22,390.34

COUNTERPART TESTIMONIALS



“Our Volunteer introduced a new way of doing community sensitization. Now, unlike in the past, more people are reached out with health education communication. One thing that impresses me with the Volunteer is his ability to adapt and integrate in the society.”
- Pa Cami



“Peace Corps Volunteers come from very diverse backgrounds and are able to offer a wide range of knowledge. The knowledge and expertise that Volunteers have shared with me and my community has allowed us to focus our community center, create precise and clear goals, and offer extremely valuable and relevant trainings to the population”
- Eric



“Ever since the Volunteer came in, things have changed. Through a people-to-people approach, she succeeded to reach out to various groups in the community, people of all ages and backgrounds. Some health topics that were previously considered as taboo are now easily discussed in the community. The entire community is grateful for the Volunteer’s presence and we hope more Volunteers will come after her.”
- Veronique



“Our community has every reason to be happy with the vibrant Volunteers who have fitted squarely into our systems, practicing the much appreciated CBA in the easiest ways.”
-Theodore

PEACE CORPS GOAL 2:

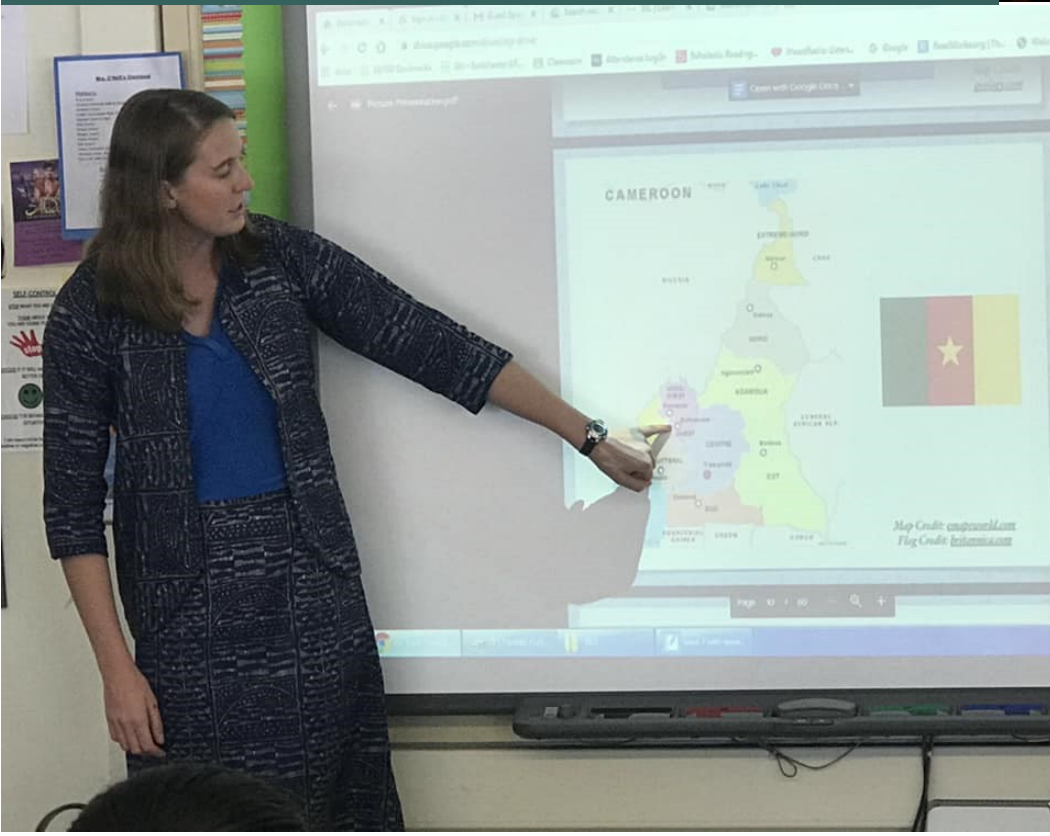
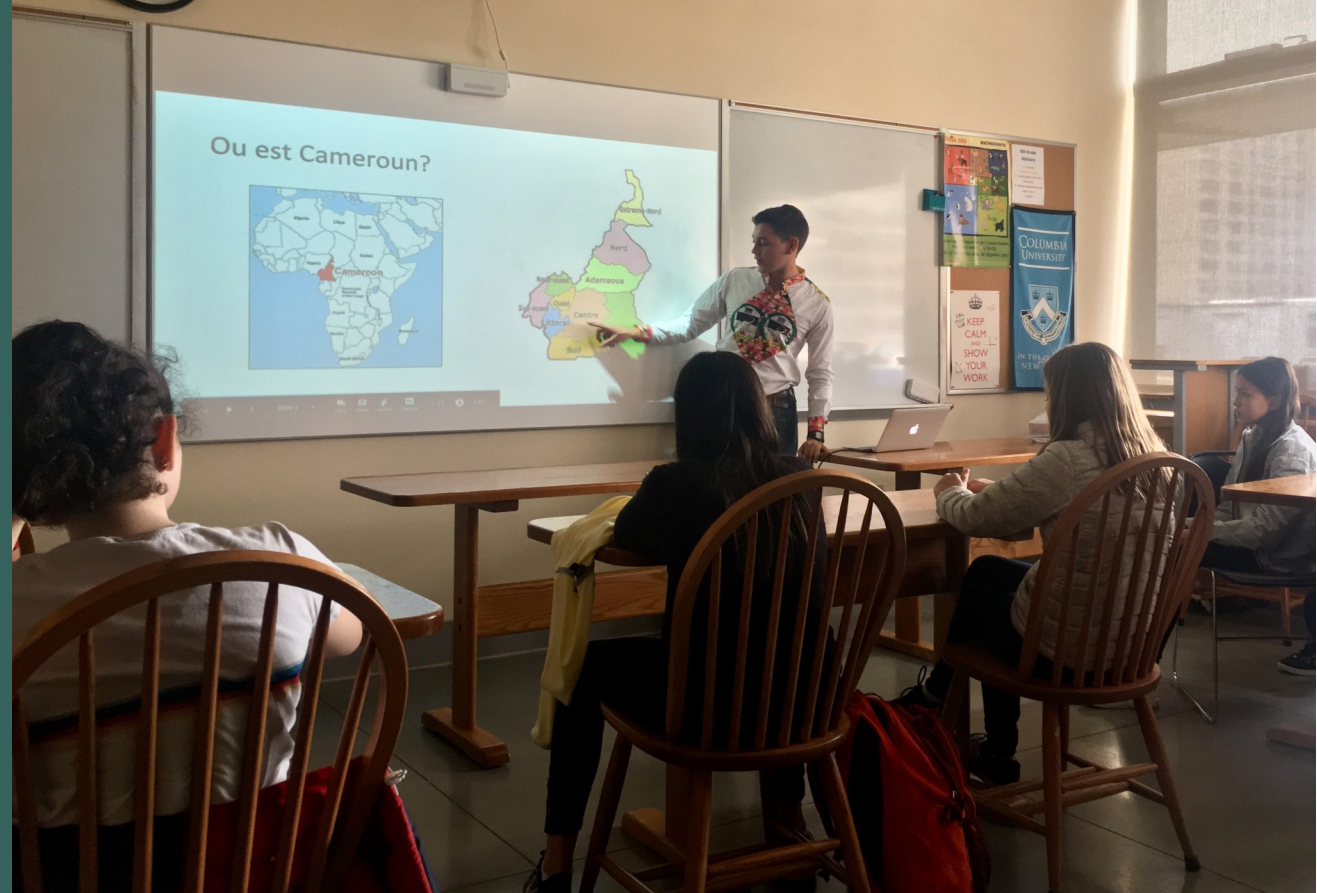
To promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served



PEACE CORPS

GOAL 3:

To promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans



FROM PEACE CORPS CAMEROON STAFF: THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

