



PEACE CORPS MALAWI

# annual report



# 2019



**Supporting needs  
identified by the  
community is the  
primary job of  
Peace Corps  
Volunteers.**



# What is Peace Corps?

Our mission is to promote world peace and friendship by fulfilling 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.

## Who are our Volunteers?

Peace Corps Volunteers are college-educated citizens of the United States representing the diversity of the American people. They commit to living in low-income communities around the world while working hand-in-hand with local counterparts to build capacity and strengthen systems.

**176**

**Volunteers served in  
Malawi in FY19**

## Where do we work?

By invitation of the Government of Malawi, our Volunteers live and work in rural communities throughout the country. Specifically, they are assigned to Community Day Secondary Schools, public health centers, and Environmental Protection Areas.



# health

Peace Corps Volunteers work within Malawi's Ministry of Health facilities, typically at community hospitals and rural health centers. In 2019, Volunteers served alongside health center staff and community members on a range of activities to promote HIV prevention and testing; nutrition education; youth friendly health services; malaria prevention; and general hygiene.

**2,500**

improved nutritional  
status in mothers &  
children

**2,942**

understand proper  
handwashing



A women's group  
learns to cook  
healthy foods.





**17,951**

trained in malaria  
prevention

**10,608**

bed net checks  
conducted

**7,431**

educated on HIV  
prevention and the  
importance of  
testing

**Our health  
programming  
focuses on  
outreach to youth.**

Peace Corps partner with the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) to minimize the spread of malaria cases in Malawi. Volunteers use evidence-based malaria prevention strategies, including the importance of sleeping under bed nets and seeking early diagnosis and treatment.

We also work in partnership with the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to address prevention of new infections and to provide support services for people living with HIV. Volunteers in Malawi engage youth in HIV prevention activities to promote positive behavior change.



# environment

Peace Corps Volunteers work with Malawi's Department of Forestry, Parks and Wildlife, and Agriculture Extension to increase awareness and understanding of environmental conservation, to reduce the impact that people have on protected areas, and to improve agricultural practices to address food security. Volunteer activities include developing tree nurseries, promoting the creation and use of fuel efficient cook stoves, initiating wildlife clubs in schools and communities, and encouraging the use of sustainable farming techniques.

**99,046**

trees planted

**3,743**

individuals who  
planted trees in their  
community

**2,650**

farmers trained in  
food security

**Community  
members build a  
fuel efficient  
cook stove.**

**485**

households that  
lowered fuel  
consumption through  
improved cook stove  
use

**“ Women commented that they can see that they are saving firewood by using their fuel efficient cook stoves. ”**

-Ashley Mock,  
Peace Corps Volunteer



Peace Corps Volunteers address the challenge of food security in Malawi by working with community members to set up improved irrigation systems and permagardens, and also by training local groups on how to recognize, grow, and cook inexpensive, nutrient-rich foods.



**1,364**

individuals who  
learned to cook a  
nutritious meal with  
locally available food  
stuffs

**1,564**

farmers who  
improved farming  
technology or  
management

Farmers make  
drip irrigation  
systems to  
improve food  
security.



# education

Peace Corps Volunteers partner with the Ministry of Education to teach in rural Community Day Secondary Schools. Across Malawi, they work to increase English language and literacy skills among their students. Volunteers also facilitate teacher professional development by hosting pedagogical workshops and sharing best practices—all while working to build support among students, teachers, and communities to practice gender equality in the classroom.

**5,739**

**Students improved  
in English  
proficiency**

**4,522**

**students who  
acquired a new  
improved critical  
thinking skill**

**4,008**

**students who  
demonstrated  
achievement in  
class, club, camp**

**Education  
Volunteers work as  
Secondary School  
English Teachers  
across Malawi.**

“ My form 3 students work hard, stay focused, and have fun in English class. It's always great seeing their smiling faces come into the classroom ready to learn!  
-Nichaele Watson, Peace Corps Volunteer ”





**4,337**

students with more access to reading materials through a school library

**School libraries expand access to vital reading materials for students.**

As one of Peace Corps Malawi's main initiatives, improving literacy is the lens through which our Education Volunteers see their work. Volunteers work with students primarily in English literacy and language, knowing that strong reading, writing, and speaking skills translate to higher achievement in all subject areas.

Dedicated to expanding reading culture in Malawi, on DEAR Day, Volunteers encourage students to open books and spark their imaginations through interactive lessons and community activities.

**Drop  
Everything  
And  
Read**

**11,559**

participants in DEAR Days activities

“ Each and every staff member contributed to the success of DEAR Day. Together, we were able to spread the importance of literacy to over 1,500 youth and simultaneously gain the support of group village headmen and political leaders. ”

-Alex Gabor,  
Peace Corps Volunteer



# peace corps response

**15**

**Response Volunteers  
served in Malawi in  
FY19**

Peace Corps Response is a high impact program that brings seasoned international development professionals and former Peace Corps Volunteers to Malawi to serve in targeted, short-term assignments ranging from six months to a year. Response Volunteers in Malawi partner with government ministries as well as non-governmental organizations whose missions align with Peace Corps Malawi's areas of focus. Volunteers contribute their professional skills and experiences to support the organizations' strategic goals and objectives.

Response Volunteers serve as DREAMS Program District Coordinators and work at the district level, helping to coordinate and support activities and programming related to sexual and reproductive health for adolescents girls and young women. They conduct this work alongside district partners in order to build capacity and skill sets.





**Response Volunteers serve as Education Specialists to support girl child education in the classroom by working closely with administration.**



“ In my position as Communications Specialist with the Department of Forestry, I designed, planned, and supervised field work for 22 sample plots of a National Forest Inventory. I was able to travel the full length of Malawi to remote forests and play a central role with this country's top forestry experts. Having a positive impact on forest conservation in Malawi has been the opportunity of a lifetime. ”

-Sol Auerbach, Peace Corps Response Volunteer



# a focus on gender

Gender is a critical component of all Peace Corps Malawi programming. It involves building awareness and understanding of gender related issues, making sure girls and women know their rights, developing projects and activities to keep girls in school, and training women to create income-generating projects.

**6,692**

youth educated on  
gender equality and  
menstrual hygiene

We incorporate Grassroots Soccer SKILLZ curricula and Go! curricula in an effort to engage boys and men in promoting gender equitable practices. Peace Corps Volunteers can facilitate GLOW (Girls Leading Our World) camps and BRO (Boys Respecting Others) camps in their communities to create a space in which to foster these important discussions.


**GLOW camps  
create space for  
empowering the  
girl child.**



“ The girls took the sessions and activities so seriously. They stayed during tea break to finish taking notes on everything from family planning options to different styles of dance. The whole experience was a really sisterhood bonding experience.  
-Natalie Wagner, Peace Corps Volunteer

”





Including males in  
gender activities to  
change attitudes &  
behaviors.

Ranking 171 out of 189 globally on the Gender Inequality Index, Malawi has a need for gender programming. However, at Peace Corps Malawi, we do not target ONLY females.

To bring boys into the conversation, Volunteer Moyosore decided to plan a 1-day camp at which boys from the local Community Day Secondary School learned about HIV prevention & transmission, safe sex practices, improving decision making skills, gender based violence & gender equality, and how to be an ally to female counterparts.

Moyosore said that students not only attended but actively participated and expressed interest in assisting with putting on future similar camps. The community now has 40 boys/young men who can serve as advocates for gender equality in the community.

*"These girls have the odds stacked against them, but I hope with every fiber of my being that they one day become the educated professionals that they strive to be. We can help them to develop the passion, strength, and skills to overcome some of the obstacles that they will face."*

—Ellen Featherstone, Health Volunteer

*"Getting a group of boys to recognize a gender inequality occurring at their school and critically think to imagine ways in which they could be allies to girls at their school is a victory in my view."*

—Anna Gallerani, Education Volunteer



# lasting impact

“After months of prep and a healthy dose of ‘this could be a mistake’ jitters – counterparts trickled in from their communities on a Friday afternoon, eager and excited. The energy of the room intensified as knowledge emboldened these young Malawians. I saw something special take place – I witnessed thirty young adults enter a training, excited to learn how they can help their loved ones fight malaria. And when they left, I realized that somewhere along the way, they had transformed into thirty community leaders empowered to be Community Champions in the fight against this preventable disease.

At the conclusion of the boot camp, Chikhondi reflected on the information she learned, stating “I fight malaria because it kills future leaders.” There is one thing that I know for certain, Chikhondi, and all of our other participants, are *already* leaders in their communities, and malaria cannot hold them back.

A Whatsapp group chat serves as our ‘Community of Practice’ with daily affirmations that this training was a risk worth taking. Said shares a photo of two women who have learned that they can mend a mosquito net. A few minutes later, Veletina shares a photo of her program at a health facility where she explains how malaria affects pregnancy. Celebration and congratulatory emojis are sent from Samuel, Chenjezi, and Rejoice, recognizing the incredible work that is often insulated within a community. This forum is a space of encouragement, a community of people spread across the country all working towards the same goal.

This boot camp, the first of its kind, was most certainly a risk and could have been unsuccessful. However, with intentional planning and reflection on past experiences, it seems that we made the correct choice to forge a new path and will continue to see the benefits long into the future through the actions of these young and inspiring Community Champions.”

-Jessica Hawk, Response Volunteer



**Peace Corps  
Malawi piloted our  
first Malaria Boot  
Camp for Malawian  
counterparts in  
2019.**





Ella Zande receives  
the pen used to sign  
W-GDP legislation  
into creation.

Photo by Andrew Harnick of the Associated Press

# HIGHLIGHT

Beginning with 10 members, the Budala Women's Group now consists of 65 motivated and hardworking ladies. They started with planting trees and keeping bees. Through the assistance of four Peace Corps Volunteers as well as USAID-funded grants, their business endeavors expanded to include baked goods, honey from 120 beehives, and fish from two ponds that they constructed.

The members of Budala have returned their profits to their community by constructing a nursery school that serves 56 children. Additionally, they have planted 54,000 trees to reforest their community. The Budala Women's Group also promotes fuel efficiency by teaching others how to make briquettes and improved cook stoves. Each member hosts a kitchen garden at her home providing improved food security and nutrition for her family.

Ella Zande, representing Budala Women's Group of Budala Village in Malawi, was invited to Washington, D.C., as part of the launch of the Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) program. On behalf of her group, women of Malawi, and Peace Corps, Ella gave a speech in the Oval Office sharing the story of Budala Women's Group and their shared dedication to women's economic empowerment and to improving their community.

In addition to meeting the U.S. President and visiting the White House, Ella also sat with key stakeholders in the U.S. Government and in global development to discuss the future of women's empowerment through this initiative.

## Thank you to our partners:



## Peace Corps Malawi

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# daring & creatively

resiliency

perseverance

authentic

growth



Peace Corps

MALAWI

share

culture

friendship

journey

kindness

learn

challenges

sustainability

exchange

diversity

community

collaboration