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To date, more than 1620 Peace Corps Volunteers have proudly served in South Africa

Peace Corps South Africa Partners

































Core €xpectations

In working towards fulfilling the Peace Corps Mission of promoting world peace and friendship, volunteers are expected to:

- 1. Prepare their personal and professional life to make a commitment to serve abroad for a full term of 27 months.
- 2. Commit to improve the quality of life of the people with whom they live and work, in doing so share skills, adapt them and learn new skills as needed.
- 3. Serve where the Peace Corps asks them to go, under conditions of hardship, if necessary, with the flexibility needed for effective service.
- 4. Recognize that their successful and sustainable development work is based on the local trust and confidence they build by living in and respectfully integrating themselves into their host community and culture.
- 5. Recognize that they are responsible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for their personal conduct and professional
- 6. Engage with host country partners in a spirit of cooperation, mutual learning, and respect.
- 7. Work within the rules and regulations of the Peace Corps and the local and national laws of the country where they serve.
- 3. Exercise judgement and personal responsibility to protect their health, safety and wellbeing and that of others.
- 9. Recognize that they will be perceived, in their host country and community, as a representative of the people, culture, values and traditions of the United States of America.
- 10. Represent responsibly the people, culture, values and traditions of their host country and community to people in the United States both during and following their service.

Message from the Country Director

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Volunteers,

Thank you for your support in making the Peace Corps program in South Africa such a success. In 2018, about 150 Peace Corps Volunteers worked in schools and community organizations across five South African Provinces. Most of the Volunteers live in rural communities, where they speak the local language and become part of their South African community. These Peace Corps Volunteers share their skills and knowledge to improve the lives of others; while fostering greater understanding between the peoples of South Africa and the United States. Since January 1997, 1693 Volunteers have served in South Africa.

In South Africa, Peace Corps Volunteers are assigned to work in either our Schools and Community Resource Program (SCRP) or Community HIV Outreach Program (CHOP). SCRP Volunteers work in rural area schools to improve English literacy and teaching methods. In 2018 we underwent a process to assess and evaluate SCRP that involved our stakeholders at the National Department of Basic Education, the Provincial Department of Education, Principals, Head of Department and Volunteers. As a result, we will initiate a revised program in the last half of 2019 – focusing on foundation English in Grade 1 – 3. CHOP Volunteers work with community organizations to combat the HIV epidemic and help create an AIDS free generation. In 2019, we plan to assess and evaluate CHOP, following the same process we used with SCRP. These evaluations help the Peace Corps to remain in alignment with the Department's strategic goals as well as National's Strategic plans – in response to the individual and community needs.

All Peace Corps Volunteers in South Africa are involved in a wide range of secondary projects. These projects include organizing and working with youth clubs, developing libraries, managing computer labs and teaching computer skills, sharing gardening techniques, helping sport clubs, and more. Peace Corps Volunteers work alongside local counterparts and partners to build capacity for sharing solutions and overcoming problems.

Peace Corps Volunteers come from every walk of life in America. Some are parents, grandparents, teachers, immigrants, nurses, and youth leaders – just to name a few. They differ in race, ethnicity, age, creed and religion. Each Volunteer is unique.

It is such an inspiration to see a Peace Corps Volunteer at work, helping the people in their communities join together to achieve meaningful results. They often make headway on difficult problems, generating sustainable capacity at their community that lasts long after the Volunteer has finished their service. Through sharing experiences, the Volunteers' and their communities views of the world and the possibilities inherent in every human community are enriched.

I hope you enjoy this report. Please join me in celebrating this living example of International Cooperation and Understanding. Thanks to you, 2018 has been a great year, and we look forward to partnering with you again in 2019.





Partnering Schools and Organisations

Lefiso Child Care Centre	Mpumalanga
Wisani Community Project	Mpumalanga
Hluvukani HBC	Mpumalanga
Islington HBC and Youth Centre	Mpumalanga
Zigna Home Based Care	Mpumalanga
Hlayisekani Old Age Organisation and Community Home Based Care	Mpumalanga
Ronaldsey Community HBC	Mpumalanga
Shupu PS	Northwest
Seitsang PS	Northwest
Ganoke PS	Northwest
Kopanang PS	Northwest
Lekwene PS	Northwest
Ganyesa PS	Northwest
Kegakilwe PS	Northwest
Longaneng Primary School	Northwest
Morokweng PS	Northwest



Partnering Schools and Organisations

Thabampshe PS	Limpopo
Diakganya PS	Limpopo
Ramokgopa PS	Limpopo
Onane PS	Limpopo
Madikana Primary School	Limpopo
SheShe PS	Limpopo
Mmaphekgo PS	Limpopo
Pile PS (Pile)	Limpopo
Makwarani PS	Limpopo
Modishane PS	Limpopo
Luheni PS	Limpopo
Bopanang PS	Limpopo
Agishanang PS	Limpopo
Tshikombani PS	Limpopo
Mmakgomotshweu Primary School	Limpopo
Gogogo PS	Limpopo
Muiladi PS	Limpopo
Dibeng PS	Limpopo
Matome A Mosima Primary School	Limpopo
Malope PS	Limpopo
Mokumuru Primary School	Limpopo
Tshapasha PS	Limpopo
Mathula PS	Limpopo
Mangwele PS	Limpopo
Thusanang HBC	Limpopo
Diakganya PS	Limpopo
Impilo HBC & DIC - HBC	Mpumalanga
Nokaneng Drop in Centre	Mpumalanga
Bokamoso Home Based Community Care	Mpumalanga
Youth Ambassador Sports Program Outreach-YASPO	Mpumalanga
Katjibane Home Based Care	Mpumalanga
Katjibane Home Based Care	Mpumalanga
Mbumba Home Based Care	Mpumalanga
Ratanang Drop In Centre	Mpumalanga
Roman Catholic Church Seabe	Mpumalanga
Lillydale HBC (Lillydale A)	Mpumalanga
Hosanna Community Projects	Mpumalanga
Mamehlake Family Care centre (Mmamehlake)	Mpumalanga

Peace Corps Mission

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

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

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



Who are our Volunteers?

Peace Corps Volunteers are United States citizens from every age, background, race and religion.

They are committed to living in developing communities around the world working hand-in-hand with local counterparts.



Peace Corps South Africa History

In 1994, South African President Nelson Mandela and U.S President Bill Clinton set the stage for Peace Corps in South Africa. The following year, South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Vice President Al Gore signed a bilateral agreement and Peace Corps sent in an assessment team.

In 1997, the first group of 37 Peace Corps Volunteers arrived in South Africa to serve in educational institutions under the School and Community Resource Project (SCRP).

South Africa has welcomed over 1620 U.S Citizens as Peace Corps Volunteers since the program began. Education was the initial focus of Peace Corps South Africa. In 2001, Peace Corps expanded its efforts to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic through its work with community based and non-governmental organizations

under the Community HIV/AIDS Outreach Project (CHOP).

Peace Corps Volunteers continue to help countless individuals who want to build a better life for themselves, their children and their communities. In 2018, Peace Corps celebrated 21 years in South Africa.

Peace Corps South Africa continue to serve as one of the U.S government Agencies tasked with the management of PEPFAR in South Africa. PEPFAR resources provide every Volunteer the opportunity to contribute in some way to addressing HIV/AIDS. Working hand-in-hand Peace Corps Volunteers and counterparts have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and develop skills in prevention, care and support to orphans and vulnerable children, and people living with HIV/AIDS.

Partnering Schools and Organisations

Malemati AIDS & TB awareness Club (Lekurung Village)	Limpopo
Turkey Clinic (Turkey Zone 1)	Limpopo
Mohlanatsi HBC and Youth Center (Selwane Village)	Limpopo
Hlangelani Community Project Development Agency (Bungeneni)	Limpopo
Aletuke HBC (Mahwelereng)	Limpopo
Morwakola OVC Centre (Mashashane)	Limpopo
Botenang DIC (MMotong Manthlakane Village)	Limpopo
CHoiCE trust (Nwamitwa Village)	Limpopo
Lepelle Home Based Care (Mabins (Mametja))	Limpopo
Inveraan HBCM (Inveraan & Bochum)	Limpopo
Makotse Woman"s club (Makotse village)	Limpopo
Ntwanano HBC (Elim)	Limpopo
Bakgalaka DIC and Dwarsriver AIDS Response DIC (Botlokwa)(Ramatjowe)	Limpopo
Tiangmaatla HBC (Sebayeng)	Limpopo
Lehlabile Youth Program (Ga Mametja)	Limpopo
Phuthaditshaba HBC & Crech	Limpopo
Tshepo HBC &DIC (Matseke Village)	Limpopo
Dithabaneng DIC & HBC Mphalele	Limpopo
Ga- Mokaba Reading Room (Mokaba)	Limpopo
Fahloshanang DIC & Creche (Ngwaname Village - Mafefe)	Limpopo
Enable HBC (Enable)	Limpopo
Mahlale Drop In Centre	Limpopo
Thabanapitsi PS (Mphane) other school	Limpopo
Mogaletiwa PS	Limpopo
Shushu PS	Limpopo
Mboneni PS	Limpopo
TibaneFontein PS	Limpopo
Kgwadu PS (Sekonye)	Limpopo
Onane PS (Monsterlus)	Limpopo
Tshavhadinda PS	Limpopo
Tshikosi PS (Rambuda)	Limpopo
Mzimhlophe PS (Sephaku)	Limpopo
Kgabo Park Primary	Limpopo
Kediketse PS (Mogaladi)	Limpopo
Kgebetli Primary School	Limpopo
Tshixwadza PS	Limpopo
Boduma Primary School	Limpopo

Partnering Schools and Organisations

Umusa woMsinga Organisation	KwaZulu Natal
Vukuzithathe Community health and Welfare development Org	KwaZulu Natal
Inqanawe Social Services Centre	KwaZulu Natal
Thandukuphila Aids Project	KwaZulu Natal
Angel"s Care Centre	KwaZulu Natal
Kwanele Home Based Care	KwaZulu Natal
Magugu Primary School	KwaZulu Natal
Kumkani PS	KwaZulu Natal
Nansindlela Combined School	KwaZulu Natal
Rourke"s Drift- Oscarberg Primary School	KwaZulu Natal
Emtshawazo PS	KwaZulu Natal
Shembula PS (Shembula PS (KwaZulu Natal
Lundini Primary S	KwaZulu Natal
Michael M Shelembe	KwaZulu Natal
Sunflower Health and Life Project	KwaZulu Natal
Mbalekelwa Primary School	KwaZulu Natal
Blessed Luanda PS (Maoleni)	KwaZulu Natal
Glenmaize PS	KwaZulu Natal
Amaqhawe PS	KwaZulu Natal
Buhlebamangwe PS	KwaZulu Natal
Asibambisane PS	KwaZulu Natal
Cebelihle PS	KwaZulu Natal
Khetwayo PS	KwaZulu Natal
Amoibe PS	KwaZulu Natal
Sambane PS	KwaZulu Natal
Hlabeni PS	KwaZulu Natal
Okhayeni Primary School	KwaZulu Natal
Mankweng Youth developement (Mankweng Village)	Limpopo
Tjiane HBC and Drop in Centre (Ga-Mphahlele)	Limpopo
Hiri swiryiwe Vata Hola Home-Based Care (Mavalani)	Limpopo
Sebotse Primary School and HBC (Berg Nek) Xikukwane HBC (Xikukwane village)	Limpopo
Serefeteng HBC (Maijane)	Limpopo
SS. S. S. S. S. G. M. Mangario /	шпроро

What we do



Peace Corps South Africa is one of a few international development organizations providing Volunteers at the community, district, or in case of third-year and Peace Corps Response Volunteers, at the Provincial level of civil society and government. Our oldest and largest project is the School and Community Resource Project (SCRP) with clearly defined roles for Volunteers, high level of government support and potential for expansion. Our smaller project is the Community HIV/AIDS Outreach Project (CHOP). Both projects are aligned with the South African Government Strategic Plans for Basic Education and HIV and AIDS.

Opportunities for involvement in South Africa are plentiful and continue to increase. There is an ongoing need for Peace Corps Volunteers, including Peace Corps Response Volunteers, to avail requisite skills to local people and organizations for training, organizational development, material resource

development, as well as developing systems in many sectors here in South Africa. Government and other partners are constantly requesting an increase in Volunteer numbers, far surpassing Post's current capacity to respond. With proper resources and strategic planning and partnering, potential for growth in South Africa is unlimited.

 $\hbox{\it Rural South Africa schools are the focus of the SCRP. The project concentrates on strengthening rural primary}$

schools through educators enhancing the culture of learning, teaching and community service. Education Volunteers work on enhancing classroom practice (e.g. train educators in learning- centered teaching methods, strengthening school management practices and governance, and improving parental involvement) and community support and involvement (e.g. support literacy and civil society-building projects in the community). One of the strengths of SCRP is the valuable resources Volunteers bring to schools and school officials by assisting South African learners and teachers to teach English, Mathematics, Science and Computer literacy, as well as the strong partnership Peace Corps has with the Department of Education.

The property of the property o

Peace Corps is the only International development agency providing human resources to the most under-resourced rural schools in the country.

What we do

The primary focus of CHOP is to build capacity of local organizations (Non-Governmental, Governmental departments and Community based) to meet the community health and development needs of vulnerable groups including those infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS. The CHOP Volunteers address organizational development (e.g. management and operations systems, board development, fund development strategies) and technical (e.g. life skills education, HIV appropriate prevention messaging, gender in development, youth camps, food security, project planning, monitoring and evaluation) needs of

Peace Corps South Africa continues to work as part of the US Government interagency team that supports the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in South Africa. Through collaborations with the South African Government and civil society, our program is aligned to the PEPFAR strategy to help build health systems, empowering individuals and communities to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

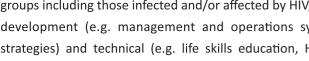
This is accomplished through activities that are designed to capitalize on the strength of SCRP and CHOP to work within the communities and organizations, and above all, to work with service providers and individuals. Peace Corps South Africa's PEPFAR program compliments the goals and objectives of the two projects by building capacity of individuals to reduce risk of infection through targeting youth with

> abstinence and be faithful messages, promoting awareness of one's HIV status thorough voluntary counselling care and support to people living with HIV and their families.

Peace Corps Volunteers and Counterparts are trained to teach and develop skills in prevention, care and support to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA).

Volunteers and Counterparts work with both in-school and out-of-school youth in delivering abstinence or be faithful messages through life skills, enhancing and increasing community's food security through perma gardening.

They also assist communities and organizations to strengthen outreach and support to orphan and vulnerable children.



organizations working with vulnerable adults and children in communities in South Africa.

Partnering Schools and Organisations

Mfulawezwe PS	KwaZulu Natal
Siqakatha PS	KwaZulu Natal
Nansindlela Combined School	KwaZulu Natal
Mseshi PS	KwaZulu Natal
Mkhonjeni PS	KwaZulu Natal
Intakama PS	KwaZulu Natal
Lusiba PS	KwaZulu
Ndebeni PS	Natal KwaZulu
Khofi Primary School	Natal KwaZulu
Esibonisweni PS	Natal KwaZulu
Woodhurst PS	Natal KwaZulu
Michael M Shelembe	Natal KwaZulu
Ehlane PS	Natal KwaZulu
Kumkani PS	Natal KwaZulu
Sisizakele Special School	Natal KwaZulu
Phohlo PS	Natal KwaZulu
Mjila PS	Natal KwaZulu
Emaguqeni PS	Natal KwaZulu
Bhensela PS	Natal KwaZulu
	Natal
Malangabi PS	KwaZulu Natal
The Africaid Trust	KwaZulu Natal
Khayelitsha Care Project	KwaZulu Natal
St Thomas Health Project	KwaZulu Natal
Sicelukhanya HBC	KwaZulu Natal
CDM - Usizo AIDS Trust	KwaZulu Natal
Isibane Sezwe CBO	KwaZulu Natal
Philanjalo Care Centre	KwaZulu Natal
Amangwe Village	KwaZulu Natal
St Nivard Centre	KwaZulu Natal
	Ivalai
Mpilonhle & Silethithemba Care Centre	KwaZulu



Partnering Schools and Organisations

Site	Province
CDC. Ubunye Building - Pretoria	Gauteng
PACT (Pretoria) - Pretoria	Gauteng
Emtshawazo Primary School (PS)	KwaZulu Natal
Kwa - Qondile PS	KwaZulu Natal
Nkwezela PS	KwaZulu Natal
Inkuthazelo PS	KwaZulu Natal
Emasakeni PS	KwaZulu Natal
Khukhulela PS	KwaZulu Natal
Amangwe Village	KwaZulu Natal
Magidigidi PS	KwaZulu Natal
Thanduxolo PS	KwaZulu Natal
Thengani PS	KwaZulu Natal
Banjana PS	KwaZulu Natal
Khetwayo PS	KwaZulu Natal
Embuyiselo PS	KwaZulu Natal
Newtonville PS	KwaZulu Natal
Lundini Primary S	KwaZulu Natal
George Caltex Primary School	KwaZulu Natal
Mandla Mthetwa School of Excellence	KwaZulu Natal
Mnyayiza Primary	KwaZulu Natal
Bhambatha PS	KwaZulu Natal
Okhayeni Primary School	KwaZulu Natal
Cekazi PS	KwaZulu Natal
Sambane PS	KwaZulu Natal
Sikhethiwe PS	KwaZulu Natal
Ekhuthukuzeni PS	KwaZulu Natal
Maputa PS	KwaZulu Natal
Enkulisweni PS	KwaZulu
Blessed Luanda PS	Natal KwaZulu
Enkathweni PS	Natal KwaZulu Natal
Uphande PS	KwaZulu
Our Lady of Ingwavuma	Natal KwaZulu
Esethembiso PS	Natal KwaZulu Natal

Schools and Community Resource Project





PURPOSE

To improve the culture of teaching, learning and service for students, teachers, and communities.

GOALS

The primary goals of SCRP are to build student capacity in English language proficiency, and to build teacher capacity to improve English language proficiency, student-centered and gender equitable teaching practices. SCRP actively recruits PC Response Volunteers to support strategic partnerships with other organizations, Universities and government departments to further the goals of the project.

ACTIVITIES



In 2018, 90 Peace Corps Volunteers were engaged in the SCRP project, serving approximately 74 rural primary schools, their learners and educators, and the wider citizenry in South African rural communities. SCRP Volunteers are involved in direct teaching in three provinces (Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and Nort West Province) with a focus on English as a Second Language (ESL) in primary schools. In their second year of service SCRP Volunteers add teacher training, working with teachers to improve English comprehension, use of English as the medium of instruction and establishing learner-centered methods.

Volunteers work with teachers to introduce interactive and communicative methods, team-teaching practices in the classroom, explore participatory classroom-management practices and alternatives to corporal punishment. In addition, because South Africa's Department of

Education policy mandates that instruction in all subjects beginning in grade 4 must shift from the local language to English, Volunteers develop and expand materials for

teaching English as a Second Language (ESL).

Beyond the formal primary-school classroom, Volunteers organize extramural activities, such as boys' and girls' clubs, chess and debate groups, literacy-tutoring programs, and sports events for school-age youth. Volunteers also support community-based activities, such as libraries, peer-support networks, income generating projects, life-skills camps and workshops on various topics including vocational guidance and HIV/AIDS awareness.



Schools and Community Resource Project Achievements

If you can read this thank a teacher!!!

Learners who improved in English proficiency

3061



Learners who improved in English Literacy

2685

Learners who demonstrated increased confidence/motivation

2422

Learners who demonstrated

Leadership skills in and

out of classroom

681

Learners who benefited from library or ICT resources

3440

Teachers who improved their general teaching practices

128





Peace Corps Response Volunteer Stories



My organization is PEFFAR funded under the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). I am coaching them and government agencies on techniques to improve business processes in South African public health clinics.

Our focus is decongesting clinics that are burdened by long ques of patients waiting to see clinicians. We found that a major cause of long waits was the difficulty in clinics being able to locate individual patient's clinical records. Working with my partner and CDC we developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and a tool kit, for improving the organization and archiving of clinical records in public health clinics.

Our SOPs have sparked interest nationwide and we are now working with clinics and the South African government agencies to adopt the SOPs as one of the interventions to improve records management in the country's public health clinics.







Peace Corps Response Volunteer Stories



Makotse Women's Club operates the Provincial Food and Household Nutrition program for Limpopo. This is a project that is run by the Department of Social Development that feeds the most vulnerable individuals in all of Limpopo. Makotse Women's Club (MWC) runs the Provincial Food and Distribution Centre (PFDC), the PFDC delivers food to Community Nutrition and Development Centres (CNDC) throughout Limpopo. The CNDCs feed 250 people everyday and the PFDC provides support and monitoring. I have been able to help with the organizational structuring of the PFDC and many different projects.

One of the projects that I was given by my supervisor was to do an analysis of our delivery routes and figure out the most cost effective way to deliver the food. I worked with our drivers and mapped out all of our current routes for delivery. Afterwards, I figured out all the kilometers that are traveled for each of the deliveries and figured out how much Rand we are spending for each kilometer. Then I worked with our coordinators and drivers to figure out the optimal routes and if there are other options that we could take to save money. After looking at the different options for our routes, we changed one of our routes and are able to save around R1 000-R1 500 every money by a small change.

At our quarterly assessment with the National DSD, I presented our work and I was invited to attend the Learning Workshop in the Northern Cape to present what I did with the Limpopo PFDC. At the Learning Workshop, I met all the people who run all the PFDCs for all the provinces. I presented my findings and showed everyone how to do my analysis of the delivery routes.

It was an excellent opportunity to network with people working all over the country. I figured out how the Western Cape and the Northern Cape were partnering with health providers/DOH to bring health services into the PFDCs. I believe it is a great opportunity for MWC to partner with the DOH or other health providers to bring in health services into the CNDCs. The people that go to the CNDCs are some of the poorest and most vulnerable individuals in Limpopo. If we can reach them with some health outreach, some serious good work could be done.

Conor Monks SA37

Community HIV Outreach Project



PURPOSE

To support long and healthy lives and to combat HIV and AIDS, as well as decrease the burden of disease, amongst all South Africans.

GOALS

The goals of the CHOP project are to reduce HIV infection, stigma and discrimination, to mitigate the impacts of the epidemic among youth, people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV), and orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). The CHOP project framework is based on the 2017 National Strategic Plan (NSP) on HIV, STIs and TB and is strategically aligned with the PEPFAR PFIP (Partnership Framework Implementation Plan).

Peace Corps South Africa also works with community-based organizations (CBO) to recruit PC Response Volunteers with specific skills. These Volunteers are recruited to build organizational capacity in areas such as leadership, technical skills, and monitoring and evaluation.

ACTIVITIES

In 2018 and 2019, 68 two-year Volunteers and 6 PC Response Volunteers worked with civil-society organizations (CSOs) and government departments such as the Department of Social Development, to improve the lives of PLHIV. Volunteers work alongside administrators, healthcare professionals, community advocates and volunteer care-givers in grass-roots efforts to address prevention and care, especially related to women, youth and OVC. They serve in home-based care organizations assisting and supporting PLHIV and their caregivers and participate in outreach efforts designed to reduce stigma, discrimination and gender-based violence.

As CSO development advisors, Volunteers increase their organizations' capacity and sustainability by supporting staff in the creation of strategic and funding plans, raising public awareness of the organizations' missions, working with boards of directors and staff to increase the quality and effectiveness of their services. As public health education advisors, Volunteers conduct "knowledge-attitude-practice" surveys to identify health education needs and assist with marketing healthy lifestyle messages. Using PEPFAR funds, Volunteers strengthen and coordinate prevention, care-and-support and voluntary HIV counseling and testing projects in their communities.

Working as health extension, community development and youth development advisors, Volunteers identify local leaders to teach families about HIV Prevention, treatment adherence, gender based violence, mitigation of stigma and discrimination, promotion of human rights and basic nutrition. In addition, they develop afterschool activities and extend their reach to the needs of at risk, out-of-school youth (ages 10-25) through vocational training sessions and stay-in-school programs.

Community HIV Outreach Project Achievements

Youth trained in HIV prevention

6736

Individuals who were trained in gender norms in health

2140

HIV + individuals who received care and support services

634

OVCs who received tailored support to meet their needs

2819

Individuals trained in sexual reproductive health and modern contraceptives

4496

Individuals who showed improved knowledge of health risks associated with over-consumption of alcohol and/or drug abuse

852





Both Health and Education projects work on HIV prevention and mitigation of impact on OVCYs with Health Volunteers taking the lead.



Peace Corps Volunteer Stories



I helped plan and implement a Gender Based Violence community dialogue with community stakeholders. This was planned with other members of my orgs GBV awareness committee, which is a committee of our staff from across all of our projects that work to raise awareness and reduce the incidence of GBV. This committee was formed because of the need for intervention which has been brought to the attention of our organization by residents of our community as well as staff members. This was also an important event because we had funders from Hlanganisa and The Embassy of Ireland visiting.

This project was assigned to me upon return from IST, where it was explained that I needed to invite all of the community stakeholders in our village as well as the surrounding areas and also help to do the agenda. At this point my head started to spin a little because I wasn't sure exactly who was meant by "all the stakeholders" but luckily working with members of the staff we were able to come up with a strong list and I set off writing the invitation. I was able to email some of the invitations off to several of the invitees, while a large number were also delivered by hand either by myself or another member of our staff.

At this point I began working on the agenda for the day, working with my supervisor we decided that we would start as a large group to do introductions and set the purpose for the day. This would be followed by breaking into 3 smaller groups to allow for discussion on GBV and how they see and possibly what there organization is doing to work with it. Within the small groups (of

which I facilitated 1) we also tried to come up with possible solutions to the issue or ways to at least reduce the impact.

In the planning phase our goal was to get 30 stakeholders from 15 different groups/organization. We were able to blow this out of the water with 84 community leaders/stakeholders from 19 different organizations. A few of the organizations included but not limited to SAPS, 7 of the 9 local schools, Victim Advocates, Traditional Leaders (Including the areas King), Director of Irish Aid and other members of Embassy of Ireland staff, Hlanganisa Institute, University of Limpopo, Clinic, Polokwane Municipality, and Capricorn District Municipality. I was very happy with the number of people who came out to hear about GBV and work to find a way forward.

I however was most excited that our King came, and at the end of the program he spoke and said that the tribal authorities fully support our efforts and would be willing to help with GBV. Success for this event cannot really be measured quantitatively at this point, but rather with qualitative stories like the one above about the King. Another interesting point was that our meeting was planned to last 2 hours but ended up going 3.5 hours because of the quality of the discussions. Also during the lunch you could hear the discussions continuing as well as networking taking place. All in all it was a great event that has the potential to impact the community in the long term by getting everybody on the same page. A picture of this event is attached to the email.

Zachary Roth SA37

Peace Corps Response Volunteer Stories



I worked with my host organization to scale up bidirectional referrals of OVC beneficiaries between Department of Social Development service points, supported NPOs and health facilities.

During a site visit to North West province we visited an NPO that was in walking distance to a health facility. Our colleague at the NPO arranged a same day meeting to the health facility to meet with the operational manager. The NPO was already tracking and tracing of defaulting clients from the facility, but we proposed that the facility refer all HIV positive children to the NPO for psychosocial and adherence support.

The NPO was also assisted in risk assessing all of their beneficiaries. Identified high-risk beneficiaries could then be referred to the clinic for HIV testing.

The support provided resulted in strengthening partnerships between the health and social sectors to provide quality services to OVC in the community.

Emerson Evans

PEPFAR



The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is the United States government fund that helps build and strengthen health systems in countries hit hardest by HIV/AIDS. Launched in 2003, PEPFAR represents the generosity and commitment of the American people to the peoples of affected nations. Multiple United States Government agencies, including Peace Corps, oversee parts of PEPFAR.

The Peace Corps program use PEPFAR funds to extend HIV/AIDS programming through training Peace Corps Volunteers and their Local Community Counterparts on evidence-based resources to help strengthen HIV/AIDS projects for organizations, schools and communities they serve. Peace Corps further award Small Grants called Volunteer Activities Support and Training (VAST) for HIV/AIDS initiatives to be implemented. The beneficiaries of VAST grants are school children, youth in communities, children at Orphans and Vulnerable Children centers and other

beneficiaries depending on the project being implemented or strengthened.

Thus the Peace Corps contributes to the fight against HIV/AIDS with Volunteer implemented evidence-based projects. In Fiscal year 2018, the Peace Corps South Africa program reached 5829 beneficiaries through targeted priority populations HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives and further 1269 beneficiaries through targeted Orphans and Vulnerable Children interventions. These results directly contribute to the overall PEPFAR achievements.

As a grassroots capacity-building organization, the Peace Corps is uniquely positioned to play an essential role in South Africa's country strategy aimed at combating HIV/AIDS. The Peace Corps' contributes to the PEPFAR's effort to sustainable, country-led responses to HIV by providing long-term capacity development support to organizations, with particular emphasis on ensuring that community-initiated projects and programs provide holistic support to people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

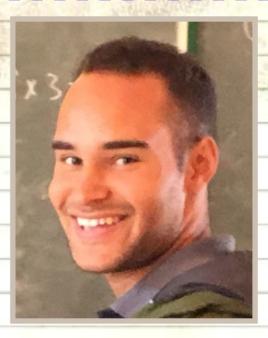
Peace Corps Volunteers also aim to develop the necessary management and programmatic expertise at recipient and beneficiary organizations to ensure long-lasting support, particularly in rural communities. All of this is possible because Peace Corps Volunteers receive language and cultural training that enables them to become members of the communities in which they live and work.



Photos



Peace Corps Volunteer Stories



This term we competed in the AMESA Math Competition. My fellow teachers and I gave the preliminary test to students in grade 6 and 7 to see which learners would make up our team. We had no problem choosing the top four students but when it came to the fifth spot we disagreed. I noticed that one of the learners, who is usually failing or just above failing, came very close to the correct answer on many of the problems.

I suggested bringing him, Rolivhuwa, to the competition with us. The other teachers quickly shot down my suggestions but I persisted, showing them his work and advocating for him. Upon my offer to train Rolivhuwa, the other teachers reluctantly agreed to bring him to the competition. Rolivhuwa and I stayed after school almost every day to practice for the math competition. His English is not very good so I had to focus on keywords for him to understand each problem. During this, I noticed his participation and confidence in both math and English class went up dramatically. On the day of the competition, we were told by the directors that we were only allowed to bring four students. Immediately, the other teachers suggested we leave Rolivhuwal behind. I insisted that we bring him because of all his hard work and his innate ability in Math.

In the end, we decided to bring all five students and we were able to enter them all into the competition. When the results came, I was in absolute shock. Rolivhuwa had won the whole thing. He took first place for the Tshilamba district and was chosen to represent Tshilamba in Polokwane the following month. I was so happy for him and I could tell he was ecstatic. We ended up going to Polokwane together and he did well there also. Since then, he has been pushing himself in math and English and is now known as "the math guy" in Gogogo Primary School.

I learned a really important lesson from this experience: Don't write off any learners, because they will surprise you. I can't be critical of my fellow teachers because I am the same way. I know which learners I perceive to be on the lower end of the ability spectrum but it's just not true. All of our learners have potential and sometimes, it takes one teacher to believe in their ability for them to show it. I am so happy that I could teach myself and the other educators this lesson. I hope to continue to implement this with my other learners as well.

Alexander Riviere SA36

Peace Corps Volunteer Stories



A success I experienced in Term 2 can really be attributed to one of my grade 6 learners. As the spelling bee and story-telling competitions were approaching for our circuit, my counterpart asked me to identify some of the learners in Grade 6 who I believed would do well at the event. Immediately, I thought of one of my learners, Lebo. While I knew she excelled in English class, she was also quite reserved and did not like to be the center of attention, much like I was at her age.

Because of this, I felt a special connection to her and hoped that participating in spelling bee would challenge her to get outside of her comfort zone. While she was hesitant at first, I finally convinced her to compete after many heart to heart talks. She was nervous about misspelling a word and did not want to be embarrassed in front of a crowd, but I assured her that as long as she tried her best, it did not matter what anyone in the audience would think.

We began to practice the spelling words after school and during any free moments we could steal during the school day. I was impressed with how much Lebo had memorized in a short time and was excited to see how she would perform at the spelling bee.

After a nail-biting competition, Lebo was named the winner of the spelling bee competition for our circuit after spelling the word "professionally." I felt that it was a great success not because she earned 1st place, but because I see how Lebo's confidence has grown exponentially, and she recognizes how all of her hard work studying for the competition has paid off.

Seeing how proud Lebo was of herself made me feel like I had really reached her in an impactful way. Watching my learners' growth both inside and outside the classroom is without a doubt the most rewarding part of being an educator. I look forward to seeing how much more Lebo will grow during this year as well as next year when she enters Grade 7.

Katelyn Egan SA36

Photos



Photos



Peace Corps Volunteer Stories



At one point in the beginning of the past term, the opportunity for a group of four girls to compete in an astronomy competition arose. Although not a science teacher, I was interested in preparing the girls for the competition. A counterpart from the school chose the four girls from Grade 7 who did best in their Natural Sciences class and provided us with the booklet to prepare from the circuit office.

On a day off from school, the four girls and I reviewed the materials. We do not have access to computers or internet but used the resources available by Looking through other old science textbooks that we found disposed of in a trash room. It was interesting for the girls to be introduced to astronomy, the planets, and the solar system. We used the globe I have in the classroom to develop a better understanding of the sun and moon's rotation and revolution. On the following day of the competition, the group of girls, my counterpart, and I unfortunately arrived too late at the site of the competition to participate. But, the following week, the coordinator visited the school to allow the girls to have another chance.

I could tell how interested and excited the group of learners were to be able to have another chance, and we were all very happy to discover that they had moved on to the next round. For the next couple of weeks, we continued to review and study material, from the old textbooks and some research on my phone. I was very impressed with how proud my counterpart was of his learners and with how much information the girls were retaining on this new subject. The next week, the girls traveled with the principal across the province to compete in the next level of the astronomy competition. They worked hard, but understood that this level was more difficult than the previous one had been. Although these girls did not make it to the third level of the competition, I was extremely proud of the work that they put in to do as well as possible.

They have not all been given the same opportunities that students in other parts of the world may be given, but they are motivated to make the best of their education. I became very confident that these four girls would have bright futures, as long as they were motivated to continue their studies and to work as hard as possible. I find it so important to motivate girls to work in the fields of math and science, and was impressed by how interested they were to study this subject. I hope that the girls of Kediketse Primary school will continue to compete in this competition in years to come, with the help of my counterpart and other teachers of the school.

Janeen Featherston SA36



Sexual Assault Response Liaisons

SAAM

The month of April has been declared as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) and as part of our SARL project we celebrate denim day in April to create awareness to our PCV, community and also to Peace Corps staff. As part of this activity we dress in blue denim jeans and white T-shirts. We have participation of SARLs in training at Pre Service Training (PST) in union with Safety & Security.

The 7 Commitments:

- 1. Compassionate We will treat you (PCV) with dignity and respect.
- 2. Safety We will take appropriate steps to provide your ongoing safety.
- 3. Support We will provide you (PCV) with the support you need to aid in your recovery.
- 4. Legal We will help you (PCV) understand the relevant legal process and your legal options.
- 5. Open Communication We will keep you informed of the progress of your case.
- 6. Continuation of Service We will work closely with you to make decisions regarding your continued service.
- 7. Privacy We will respect your privacy.

Response



Established in 1996, Peace Corps Response (PCR), concentrated in five broad program areas: humanitarian assistance, HIV/AIDS, natural disaster relief and reconstruction, disaster preparedness and mitigation, and post-conflict relief and reconstruction. Peace Corps South Africa's first Peace Corps Response Volunteers arrived in 2011 and Post has since placed 36 PCRVs under Peace Corps South Africa focused program areas of HIV/AIDS and Education.

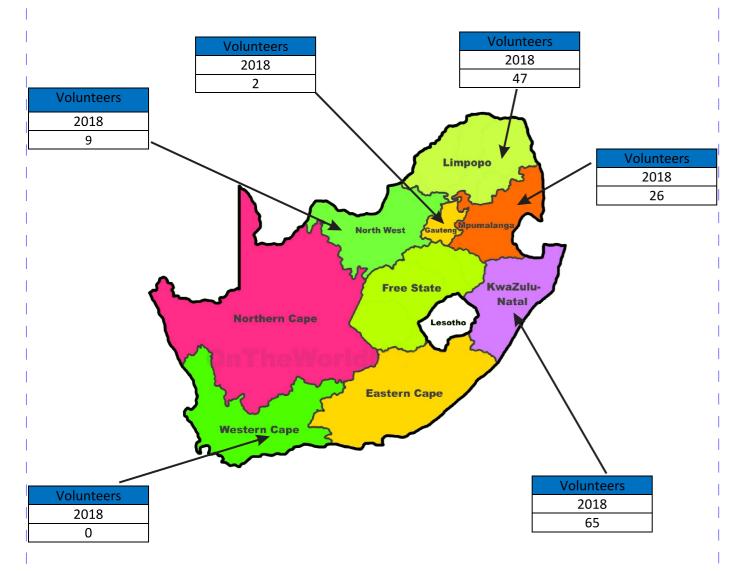
Peace Corps Response Volunteers (PCRVs) recruitment includes Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) who have applied to the program and Specialists in the field who have never served as Peace Corps Volunteers before. Because Peace Corps Response works with short term results-driven assignments, Volunteers arrive with the technical and language skills required for the assignment and do not require additional training at Post. However, (PCRVs-) do receive a one to two weeks orientation from Post to familiarize them with Post-specific administrative and Emergency Action Plan (EAP) procedures and a second project specific orientation from the partner organization.

Generally PCRVs arrive in the country 5 to 6 months after recruitment begins. Four months of that period is allocated for the medical and legal clearance process prior to arrival in South Africa. However, this time period is often shorter for candidates who have served as Peace Corps Volunteers within the last 18-24 months of the PCRV application.

The South African PCR program receives PCRVs three times a year – in February, May, and August. For February arrival, application should be finalized by October; for May input the application should be finalized by January; and for August arrival application should be finalized by April.



Peace Corps Volunteers at a Glance







Sexual Assault Response Liaisons

Purpose of SARL

Sexual Assault Response Liaisons, also known as SARL, are two elected Peace Corps employees. They undergo 40 hours of training to be prepared for their role.

The main purpose is to support the victims of Sexual Assaults through the following:

- $\ \, \diamondsuit \,$ To provide support and guidance to the victim
- To provide accompaniment to the victim of sexual assault

The accompaniment can be the following:

- Meeting with Peace Corps staff
- Meeting with local law enforcement
- Appointments for SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Exam)
- Site change / returning to site
- Medevac to United States

The support of the SARL is voluntary - a victim can accept or decline the services of a SARL anytime.

