

## DID YOU KNOW?

The first Peace Corps Volunteers to arrive in Cameroon served as Math and Science teachers.

On September 13, 1962, the first group of Peace Corps Volunteers arrived in Cameroon. Over the last 60 years, nearly 3,900 Volunteers have lived and worked alongside Cameroonians to create lasting change through collaboration in education, agriculture, community health, youth development, and other projects.



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



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Adamawa and East regions. and will expand our footprint to also include an additional group of Volunteers in 2023 South and Center regions. We are anticipating development and other opportunities climate change, and provide leadership COVID-19, adapt and build resilience to and development setbacks caused by local communities to recover from health level, the Peace Corps is partnering with are meeting the moment. On a global training associations. Staff led technical distance support to local NGOs and teacher Virtual Service Participants, who provided the first time, Peace Corps Cameroon piloted over six decades and a global pandemic.

Sixty years after the arrival of the first Volunteers, what is it that makes Peace Corps so enduring? The short answer is, Peace Corps' founding mission of promoting world peace and friendship remains as relevant as ever, even after launched new ways to continue to engage with our communities and counterparts. For the first time, Peace Corps Cameroon piloted the Virtual Service Participants, who provided distance support to local NGOs and teacher training associations. Staff led technical are meeting the moment. On a global level, the Peace Corps is partnering with local communities to recover from health and development setbacks caused by COVID-19, adapt and build resilience to climate change, and provide leadership to the largest generation of youth in history. The people-to-people approach central to our work is helping equip the next generation of leaders with the adaptability and skills necessary to shape our shared future. Peace Corps Cameroon has a long and proud history of a shared vision for what is possible by working with, living alongside, and celebrating the diversity of cultures at the grassroots level.



*Michelle Sear*

We invite you to read our 2021-2022 annual report where you will learn about the impactful work that Peace Corps Cameroon accomplished during these years. We are grateful for the strong support we receive through collaboration with the Government of Cameroon, other key stakeholders, and partners. We look forward to continuing to build back better in 2023.

Since Peace Corps' creation in 1961, more than 240,000 Volunteers have served in 142 nations across the globe, with nearly 3,900 of those Volunteers in Cameroon. In March of 2020, we had over 7,000 Volunteers in 60 countries, including 120 right here in "Africa in Miniature". As of today, Peace Corps has over 1,400 Volunteers back in 47 countries, including our 10 new Peace Corps Cameroon Volunteers. Although our re-entry is incremental, Peace Corps is committed to Cameroon and will continue to bring back Volunteers until we reach our pre-evacuation numbers of 120 to 150 Volunteers actively serving per year by 2025.

In 2022, we celebrated the 60-year partnership between the Peace Corps and the Government of Cameroon, and we celebrated thousands of Volunteers and countless Cameroonian men and women who have worked shoulder to shoulder across the decades. With their host communities who are equal partners in this dynamic relationship, Volunteers in Cameroon do a remarkable job on the ground. Whether it's working closely with farmers to increase their yields and grow more nutritious crops, or with health care providers to improve health outcomes for mothers and children, or teaching English, Math or Science to bright young Cameroonian students, Peace Corps Volunteers work with dedication and commitment. And, throughout, Volunteers forge friendships that endure long after they have completed their service.

As the incoming country director, it was my honor and privilege to join Peace Corps Cameroon at such a pivotal moment in its history. In 2021 and 2022, our staff worked tirelessly to prepare for the return of Volunteers after more than two years of absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic and global evacuation of Peace Corps Volunteers. Together, determined in our mission, we succeeded in returning Volunteers to service just in time to celebrate our landmark 60th anniversary in Cameroon.



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# 2021-22 In Review



In 2021 and 2022, in the absence of Volunteers, Peace Corps Cameroon staff continued to deliver on the agency's mission through virtual service and technical trainings with community stakeholders.

**8 LIFE SKILLS TRAININGS**

**6 PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**4 SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE TRAININGS**

**3 VIRTUAL SERVICE PROGRAMS**

**2 TEACHING SKILLS WORKSHOPS**

**1 IMPROVED CROP PRODUCTION TRAINING**

**1 COVID-19 SENSITIZATION & VACCINATION** led by the U.S. Embassy Yaounde

**1 PARTICIPATION IN OPEN BUSINESS DAYS** led by the Ministry of Secondary Education

# Agriculture



**22 FARM GROUP LEADERS** trained on improved crop production practices for orange-fleshed sweet potato, biofortified cassava, soy, and corn.

**20 FARM GROUP LEADERS** trained on moringa-based food cooking and nutrition practices.

**20 HOME GARDENS** were established in the Center, East, and South regions.

**OVER 500 MORINGA TREES** were planted in home and school gardens.

**9 GOVERNMENT, INTERNATIONAL, AND COMMUNITY-BASED PARTNERS** participated in the Agriculture Project Advisory Committee meetings. They received updates on progress made with project implementation in the absence of Volunteers; discussed volunteer re-entry ways to reinforce technical support

3 "Z'entraies par les métiers entrepreneuriaux, exprimant des compétences développées aux Enseignements Secondaires pour une réponse efficace aux défis industriels, technologiques et environnementaux au Cameroun."

## Vision of Cameroon: Agriculture & Education

**School gardening** is a meaningful life activity that creates interdisciplinary experience providing the life-laboratory for experiential learning across disciplines while serving as a foundation for industrial and entrepreneurial, creative and critical thinking in youth.

**Agriculture** thus plays a key role in supplying the needed raw materials for the industrialization process which starts in schools.



# Education



**62 TEACHERS** improved general skills in student-centered teaching and gender-equitable classroom practices.

**17 GOVERNMENT & INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS** took part in the Education Project Advisory Committee meetings. Key reflection points included teaching of English to French speakers; teaching of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; student-friendly schools practices, and mitigating climate change in the school environment.

**12 TEACHERS** trained on adolescent-focused participatory methodologies in HIV prevention.

**10 TEACHERS** trained on sexual and gender-based violence prevention.

**6 TRAINED TEACHERS** reached 280 ADOLESCENTS with sexual and gender-based violence.

**2 RETURNED VOLUNTEERS** participated in virtual service programs, supporting Cameroonian teachers.

# Community Health



**319 Volunteer** counterparts and adolescents were reached with age and sex appropriate HIV, life skills, sexual and gender-based violence, and positive gender norms promotion messaging/education. Counterparts were trained to continue facilitating educational sessions with more adolescents and youth in their communities.

**65 YOUTH LEADERS & PEER EDUCATORS** trained in interactive methodologies for creating safe spaces to implement adolescent-focused sexual and gender-based violence prevention activities.

**28 COUNTERPARTS OF ALL SECTORS** trained in malaria and COVID-19 prevention.

**23 GOVERNMENT, INTERNATIONAL, AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERS** participated in the Community Health Project Advisory Committee meetings. They shared perspectives for enhancing collaboration and contributed ideas to strengthen the implementation of activities in the field.

