



Peace Corps Global Food Security Implementation Plan

U.S. Agency/Department Overview

Peace Corps contributes to the mitigation of food insecurity by improving nutrition outcomes for mothers and children, addressing climate change and resiliency, and reducing poverty on a global scale. Since its inception, Peace Corps has promoted methodologies and approaches that are proven, evidence-based and considered among development practitioners to hold promise for positive results and impact. Peace Corps' approach is to build local capacity at the individual, group, and community level to promote sustainability. Peace Corps' comprehensive food security strategy revolves around Peace Corps Volunteers' contributions to the four pillars of food security as defined in the Global Food Security Strategy (GFSS): **availability, accessibility, utilization, and stability**. As Volunteers focus their collective efforts on food security innovations and interventions, the agency is moving ahead to invest in, support and extend these activities throughout the world.

Technical, Programmatic and/or in-kind Contributions to the Global Food Security Strategy

Objective 1: Inclusive and sustainable agricultural-led economic growth

The Peace Corps contributes to Objective 1 in the GFSS by assisting smallholder farmers to increase agricultural productivity and income through activities such as: improving soil fertility and water storage capacity; composting, green manure and use of other organic soil amendments; maximizing water availability and usage by employing drought-resistant crop varieties and use of mulch and other appropriate water conserving techniques; reducing soil erosion; and increasing profitability by using companion planting, crop rotations and integrated pest management.

Volunteers support increased food security, poverty reduction, and improved nutrition by providing technical assistance to individual farmers, farmer organizations and households via extension, demonstrations, direct/indirect advising/training methods, support groups, and counseling sessions all focused on behavior change. By living and working in communities alongside their counterparts, beneficiaries and local NGOs and community-based organizations, Volunteers increase capacity and strengthen entrepreneurship, small business and organizational development in alignment with Intermediate Result (IR) 3 and Cross-Cutting Intermediate Result (CC IR) 6. In support of IR 3, Peace Corps Volunteers help individuals, particularly small-holder farmers, farm households, youth, and women, initiate new income-generating enterprises and help them improve the business skills they already possess. This work includes promoting sound business practices, including creating marketing strategies to encouraging sound financial management and accounting practices.

Objective 2: Strengthened resilience among people and systems

Peace Corps Volunteers promote climate smart agriculture techniques at all levels of farming. They encourage farmers to use improved and adapted crop varieties, to be environmentally friendly, for example by using organic practices, and to plan ahead for droughts and other climate events by harvesting rainwater, improving soil structure, and reducing soil erosion, increasing sustainable productivity in support of IR 4. Peace Corps Volunteers provide disaster reduction

support by promoting appropriate soil and water management techniques such as sloping agricultural land techniques (SALT), agroforestry techniques, as well as coastal and marine management. They encourage evidence-based sustainable environmental and natural resource management practices to many populations, including youth in support of IR 4 and CC IR 2, thus bolstering the adaptability and recovery capacity of households and communities faced with shocks and stresses.

Objective 3: A well-nourished population, especially among women and children

Peace Corps Volunteers work to integrate nutrition in agriculture programming by promoting the production of nutrient-dense foods, especially in home and school gardens. Activities aim to diversify diets that utilize local foods, and target farmers, schools, and mothers in support of GFSS Objective 3, IR 7.

Peace Corps programs strategically target vulnerable groups such as poor households with children under two and breastfeeding mothers, pregnant women, adolescent girls, people living with HIV and AIDS, and food insecure households. With this targeting approach, Volunteers contribute to IR 8 through training and capacity building of health care providers, extension agents and local leaders. Volunteers and their work partners educate, train and provide counseling and support primarily through the use of the [Essential Nutrition Actions](#) framework to promote dietary diversity, optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices, and work to reduce risk of micronutrient deficiencies and disease primarily in women and children.

Through the provision of training and initiation of community projects with community groups, schools, and households, Peace Corps Volunteers promote handwashing, improved hygiene, and healthy sanitation practices, assist with small infrastructure improvements to improve access to clean water, and help small-holder farmers, farm households, youth, and women, to develop sanitary and environmentally-sound solid waste management practices in support of IR 9.

Cross-Cutting Intermediate Results

Peace Corps Volunteers work within schools and with counterparts to develop youth clubs and camps providing evidence-informed skills development, and leadership training for youth populations in support of CC IR 4. Volunteers help youth learn fundamental agricultural and natural resource management practices and introduce approaches to being leaders and change agents to bring about constructive change in their communities.

Organization and Structure

Peace Corps country programs implement the activities of the agency's global food security efforts by placing Volunteers in communities at-risk and vulnerable to food insecurity. Volunteers live side by side with their host country counterparts, learning the local language and culture. Peace Corps' Food Security Programming & Training staff, both at the headquarters and country program level, provide technical and organizational leadership for Peace Corps' food security efforts and supports the U.S. government's global food security strategy. In 2017, Peace Corps/Washington will actively involve leadership in Washington-based interagency coordination and at the country program level and facilitate and support interagency collaboration and alignment at post.

The Peace Corps Office of Overseas Programming and Training Support will continue to coordinate with Regional offices to provide global food security programming, training and evaluation activities, collaborating with regional staff and post-level coordinators to align, monitor and evaluate programming activities. The Peace Corps Office of Strategic

Partnerships will complete the implementation of the Peace Corps' Global Food Security Agreement with the USAID Bureau for Food Security and work to negotiate new partnership agreements focused on food security programming.

Impact and Sustainability

- The scope of Peace Corps' involvement in global food security goes outside of the U.S. Government's Feed the Future focus and aligned countries as Peace Corps Volunteers, worldwide, are involved in activities that increase food security. Peace Corps will continue to prioritize evidence-based methodologies identified by the whole of government working group and align its approaches to sectors that are not represented in the GFSS (i.e.: Education, Youth) and approaches that facilitate increased food security.
- Peace Corps promotes community-led approaches to reducing poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. For example, PCVs use participatory techniques to engage community members and civil society in identifying and addressing areas of need and priority, setting development goals and targets, implementing sustainable projects and monitoring and evaluating results.
- Peace Corps' capacity building approach in agriculture, environment, education, health, community economic development and youth and development programming, helps lay a foundation for sustainable and resilient food systems at the community level.
- To ensure all programs involved in Peace Corps' food security efforts are achieving desired outcomes or the defined objectives, Peace Corps uses a global database to monitor and report measurement of outcome-level indicators in target areas for Volunteer activities and conducts process, performance and outcome evaluations on sector based activities.
- Peace Corps food security interventions target communities, non-governmental organizations, smallholder farmers, and interested community members leading to increased resilience, improved access to information and increased knowledge and related skills in improved technologies and management relevant to agriculture, natural resource/environmental management, small business development, youth development, nutrition and maternal and child health.
- Strategic partnerships play a key role in augmenting Peace Corps' effectiveness. Partner agencies often have greater resources combined with a mandate to cover large geographical areas, but may not have adequate human resources on the ground. Peace Corps Volunteers are widely and strategically placed throughout the countries in which they serve, and where portfolios match and support is available, this combination can amplify both Peace Corps and its partners' food security activities. As community mobilizers who have fully integrated into remote villages, volunteers serve as a bridge between rural communities and other Feed the Future programs, expanding the effectiveness and reach of other U.S. investments to address hunger and poverty. In FY 2015 alone, Volunteers in Tanzania trained more than 2,500 Tanzanians on agricultural productivity or food security, and more than 3,000 in child health and nutrition with support from USAID Feed the Future funding. Since 2013, nearly 2,000 Tanzanian farmers have applied improved technologies or management practices thanks to the collaboration between Peace Corps and USAID.¹

¹ Center for Strategic and International Studies, TRACKING PROMISES Analyzing the Impact of Feed the Future Investments in Tanzania, March 2016, http://csis.org/files/publication/160401_Flowers_TrackingPromises_WEB.pdf.

Resources Requested and Budget Table

Peace Corps Region	Posts	Estimated FY17 Financial Contribution (\$000s) ²	Narrative Explanation
Africa	21	21,940	Represents estimated amounts of the Peace Corps FY 2017 request used in support of food security programming, which includes post staff salaries, volunteer support costs, and trainings. ³
Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia	8	2,210	
Inter-America and the Pacific	11	6,160	
Totals	40	30,310	

² Projections based on Peace Corps appropriated post budget. Cost allocation calculated from Volunteers attributed to food security by sector (Agriculture 100%, Environment 75%, Health 25%, Community Economic Development 25%; Youth in Development 10%, and Education 10%)

³ The estimated FY2017 Financial Contribution does not include funding from USAID.