

MS 103 Strategic Partnerships

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Procedures for In-Country Strategic Partnerships

Procedures for Global, Regional, and Domestic Strategic Partnerships

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Related Manual Section: MS 777 Billing/Collection Procedures for Debts and Claims

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1.0 Purpose

This Manual Section sets forth the Peace Corps policy regarding the approval of strategic partnerships with third party organizations, including other U.S. Government agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other private sector entities.

2.0 Authority

Section 10 (a), (e) and (f) of the Peace Corps Act, 22 U.S.C. § 2509 (a), (e), and (f); Section 686 of the Economy Act, 31 U.S.C. §§ 1535.

3.0 Policy

It is the policy of the Peace Corps to enter into strategic partnerships with other organizations to enhance the agency's ability to achieve its mission. The Peace Corps enters into these strategic partnerships to support program priorities and objectives through every stage in the Volunteer life cycle, including recruitment, training, assignment, programming, project support, Third-goal related activities, and returned Volunteer support. Partnerships allow the Peace Corps to leverage the strengths of partner organizations to enhance program delivery and impact in the countries where Peace Corps Volunteers serve.

4.0 Applicability

4.1 The Peace Corps enters into strategic partnerships through a variety of agreements, including, but not limited, to memoranda of understanding, participating agency program agreements, and interagency agreements, to enhance support of Volunteer recruitment, Volunteer programming, training, Third Goal-related activities, or similar activities.

4.2 This Manual Section does not apply to:

- (a) Donation agreements or other agreements for gifts or contributions to the Peace Corps under MS 721, *Gifts and Contributions to the Peace Corps*;
- (b) Host Country Contributions agreements with host governments or host government entities under MS 722, *Host Country Contributions*; or
- (c) Agreements with host governments or host government entities setting the terms and conditions of Peace Corps' operations or programs in country.

5.0 Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 Posts and offices interested in establishing strategic partnerships are responsible for identifying potential strategic partners, developing relationships with strategic partners and agreements implementing strategic partnerships, seeking approval of such agreements in accordance with this Manual Section, and implementing, monitoring, reporting, and evaluating their strategic partnerships.

5.2 The Office of Strategic Partnerships (OSP) is responsible for coordinating strategic partnership development, approval, and implementation for the agency. The Associate Director of the Office of Strategic Partnerships is authorized (i) to issue programmatic approval of strategic partnerships and agreements implementing strategic partnerships, and (ii) in consultation with the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, the Office of the General Counsel, the Office of Global Operations, and the Office of Acquisitions and Contract Management to develop procedures for the development, approval, and implementation of such agreements.

5.3 The Office of the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for financial review of agreements implementing strategic partnerships, including review of financial reporting and other related requirements.

5.4 The Office of the General Counsel is responsible for drafting and legal review of agreements implementing strategic partnerships.

6.0 Strategic Partnership Development

In coordination with the Office of Strategic Partnerships and other relevant offices, posts and offices must consider the following factors in developing strategic partnerships:

- (a) whether the strategic partnership provides a benefit to key agency functions and programmatic priorities;
- (b) whether the strategic partnership has sufficient scale, scope, and anticipated impact to justify the dedication of agency resources;
- (c) whether the agency has sufficient resources (human, financial, or in kind) to implement the strategic partnership;
- (d) whether the partner organization has goals that complement those of the Peace Corps; and
- (e) whether there are immediately identifiable actions that Peace Corps and the partner will undertake pursuant to the agreement.

7.0 Programmatic Approval of Agreements Implementing Strategic Partnerships

7.1 OSP coordinates the programmatic approval process for agreements. The implementing procedures may delegate programmatic approval authority.

7.2 The purpose of the programmatic approval process is to review the proposed agreement for consistency with the Peace Corps priorities and programs and to consider operational and implementation issues that would affect implementation under the agreement. As part of the approval process, the Associate Director of OSP must consult with other offices that have a programmatic interest in the agreement.

7.3 Criteria to be considered in the programmatic approval process should include, at a minimum, the factors listed in paragraph 6.0.

8.0 Effective Date

The effective date is the date of issuance.