



Peace Corps

annual report. 2016

PEACE CORPS MALAWI

The Peace Corps 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 help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served
3. To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans

Who are Peace Corps Volunteers and what do they do in Malawi?

We are college-educated United States citizens from every age, background, race, and religion. We are committed to living in developing communities around the world while working hand-in-hand with local counterparts. Currently over 120 Volunteers work in the Education, Environment, and Health Sectors, and participate in global initiatives.

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“We would like to extend our gratitude to the Government of Malawi and to all of our partners, including the many communities that have welcomed our Volunteers into their lives and their homes, and without whom we could not do our work. It is inspiring to work with passionate individuals and organizations who strive every day to make tangible and positive change. We look forward to our continued collaboration and friendship.”

—Carol Spahn, Country Director

Volunteer Sam awards a camper after Malawi Music Project's Battle of the Bands competition. Every year, Peace Corps Malawi collaborates with Music Crossroads Malawi to facilitate a camp that uses performance and music as tool for social change.



EDUCATION

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



3,409

Students who demonstrated improved English proficiency

4,326

Students who demonstrated improved math and science proficiency

"Over the past year, I've really enjoyed the time I've spent with my students. It's been incredibly rewarding finding ways to make understanding flow in both directions."

—Dave, Education

HEALTH



1,469

Individuals who made a nutritious meal from locally available foods

Peace Corps Volunteers work within Ministry of Health facilities, usually at community hospitals and rural health centers. In 2016, Volunteers partnered with health center staff and community members on a range of activities to promote HIV testing and counseling, adherence, and treatment; nutrition education; youth friendly health services; life skills and girls' empowerment; malaria prevention; and hygiene and safe water practices.

"People think chiponde is a magical substance that can only be found at the health center. They were proud to realize that they can make it themselves, as groundnuts are plentiful. It is so nutritious and delicious!" —Amelia, Health



ENVIRONMENT

Peace Corps Volunteers work with the Department of Forestry, Parks and Wildlife, and Agriculture Extension to increase awareness and understanding of environmental conservation, reduce the impact people have on protected areas, and improve agricultural practices to address food security. Volunteer activities include the development of tree nurseries, promotion of more fuel efficient cook stoves, and encouraging the use of sustainable farming techniques.

10,988
Trees planted

1,401
People who
attended
environmental
education sessions

2,151
Individuals who
learned how to
make fuel efficient
cook stoves



“My Forest Department counterpart is an excellent farmer and has embraced organic permaculture. He is dedicated to helping the villages in his area establish trees nurseries and Village Forest Areas, and especially enjoys teaching the primary school students how to grow and plant trees correctly.” — Jack, Environment

GHSP

Global Health Service Partnership (GHSP) is a collaboration among Peace Corps, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and Seed Global Health. GHSP places American nurses and physicians at Malawi's colleges of medicine and nursing to serve as adjunct faculty, helping the country to meet its needs for highly skilled medical professionals. GHSP Volunteer nurses and medical doctors teach classes, demonstrate clinical skills, participate in ward rounds, and introduce new teaching methodologies.



14,652

Hours taught in 2016

1,725

People medically trained,
mentored, or taught

RESPONSE



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

"I never could've anticipated my Peace Corps service turning into what it is today. I've been able to assist with a historic wildlife translocation, help build the capacity of Parks and Wildlife Assistants who are fighting hard to protect wildlife within the Reserve, while working towards improving the lives of the communities surrounding it." —Betsy, Response

HIV/AIDS

Peace Corps Malawi works in partnership with the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to address prevention of new HIV infections and to provide care services for people living with HIV. All Volunteers in Malawi are trained in HIV prevention interventions and methods to promote positive behavior change. Volunteers conduct a wide range of outreach activities, including Grassroots Soccer interventions.

Grassroots Soccer

is a health organization that uses the popularity of soccer to educate, and mobilize at-risk youth to overcome their greatest health challenges, live healthier lives, and be agents for change in their communities. GRS curriculum delivers health education and focuses on addressing HIV, malaria, gender equality, and financial literacy.



68

Number of GRS coaches trained

3,84

People reached with HIV prevention, treatment, and testing activities

SUSTAINABILITY



644

Individuals graduated
from SOLID

1,973

Projects completed by
autonomous SOLID
groups

SOLID (Sustainable Opportunities for Leadership In Development) is a program that trains Malawian community members so they can become leaders in their own communities through volunteering. During SOLID training, attendees learn about community development, needs assessments, priority ranking, project design, and monitoring and evaluation. After graduation, it is expected that they will work together to solve the challenges they see in their own communities and country. In this way, SOLID encourages sustainable projects and Malawian ownership. Some graduates go on to become leaders in their own SOLID groups, passing on the knowledge, skills, and training they received to others in their communities.

“My SOLID group has really taken initiative within their community. When they were first introduced to making soap for an IGA, we applied for a grant and, since then, they have expanded the project and have started marketing it to shops and neighboring villages to increase their product yield and profit.” -Alexandra, SOLID Coordinator



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Camp GLOW

(Girls Leading Our World) is a camp that aims to empower young women in Malawi to become leaders in their communities. With sessions on self-confidence, goal setting, life planning, and sexual health and rights, the participants are surrounded by other strong, young females and experience solidarity with them when discussing these important topics. Camp GLOW is an opportunity for each attendee to become her own advocate.

140

Girls attended Camp Glow in 2016



GENDER

Gender is a critical component of all Peace Corps Malawi programming, including building awareness and understanding of gender related issues, training girls and women on their rights, developing projects and activities to keep girls in school, and training women to create income generating opportunities. In 2015, Peace Corps Malawi implemented the U.S. government's Let Girls Learn initiative which helps adolescent girls attain a quality education and enables them to reach their full potential. The program encourages community-led solutions by empowering local



1,956 People who learned how to make reusable menstrual pads

3,100 People who participated in Sixteen Days of Activism activities

MALARIA

Peace Corps' Stomp Out Malaria program partners with the United States' President's Malaria Initiative to minimize the spread of this disease. In Malawi, the Stomp Out Malaria team supports Volunteers with resources to promote evidence-based malaria prevention strategies; including the importance of sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets, seeking early diagnosis and treatment, and debunking common myths surrounding the disease. Stomp Out Malaria also hosts regional malaria trainings for Volunteers and their community members learn about innovative ways to engage their villages in malaria prevention efforts.



6,277

People reached with malaria prevention activities

5,434

People reached with malaria education and treatment activities

"The key to preventing malaria tomorrow is educating the youth of today."

—Tyler, Education Volunteer

FOOD SECURITY

The agriculture sector accounts for about one third of Malawi's GDP and employs around 80% of the country's population. However, after devastating floods and drought, Malawi is facing challenges securing enough food for its dense and quickly growing population. Low agricultural productivity has led to widespread food shortages and malnutrition. Peace Corps Volunteers in Malawi address these issues by working with their community members to set up improved irrigation systems and permagardens, and training locals on how to recognize, grow, and cook inexpensive, nutrient-rich foods.



SEED WORKSHOPS

SEED (Sustainable Environmental Education for Development) Workshops are community based technical trainings that teach methods of mitigating the effects of environmental issues. One of the SEED coordinators, Peace Corps Volunteer Allie recently hosted a workshop in which youth learned to address food security through permagardening techniques. Focusing on microbe-dense compost use, construction of berms and swales, and how to amend soils, their gardens will produce better yields. Participants walked away with action plans to apply what they learned at SEED in their own villages.

640

Number of people who planted trees after working with a Peace Corps Volunteer

612

Community members who constructed permagradens after a Peace Corps training

Peace Corps Malawi

4/70 Murray Road
P.O. Box 208, Lilongwe Malawi

www.peacecorps.gov/malawi/



Thank you to our partners:



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