



2018 annual report.

PEACE CORPS MALAWI

What is Peace Corps?

Our 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 promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served

3.

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

Who are our Volunteers?

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. In 2018, over 100 Volunteers worked in Malawi as Education, Environment, Health, and Response Volunteers.





“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. It is inspiring to work with passionate individuals and organizations who strive every day to bring positive change to Malawi.”

-Carol Spahn, Country Director

education

- sector -

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

3,728

students demonstrated
improved English proficiency

1,989

students demonstrated
decision making and
critical thinking skills

2,495

students participated in
Volunteer-led clubs or camps



literacy

As one of Peace Corps Malawi's main initiatives, improving literacy is the lens through which our Education Volunteers see their work. Volunteers work with students primarily in English literacy and language, knowing that strong reading, writing, and speaking skills translate to higher achievement in all subject areas.



Drop
Everything
And
Read

D.E.A.R. Day is one day of the year that we dedicate to reading. Volunteers across Malawi encourage students to pick up books and spark their imaginations through interactive lessons and community events.

5,075

participants in
D.E.A.R. Day

environment

- sector -

Peace Corps Volunteers work with Malawi's Department of Forestry, Parks and Wildlife, and Agriculture Extension to increase awareness and understanding of environmental conservation, to reduce the impact that people have on protected areas, and to improve agricultural practices to address food security. Volunteer activities include developing tree nurseries, promoting the creation and use of fuel efficient cook stoves, initiating wildlife clubs in schools and communities, and encouraging the use of sustainable farming techniques.

45,596

trees planted in
communities

1,303

individuals trained on
constructing fuel efficient
cookstoves

4,414

individuals who received
agricultural productivity or
food security training



food security

Peace Corps Volunteers address the challenge of food security in Malawi by working with community members to set up improved irrigation systems and permagardens, and also by training local groups on how to recognize, grow, and cook inexpensive, nutrient-rich foods.



health

- sector -

Peace Corps Volunteers work within Malawi's Ministry of Health facilities, usually at community hospitals and rural health centers. In 2018, Volunteers partnered with health center staff and community members on a range of activities to promote HIV prevention and testing; nutrition education; youth friendly health services; malaria prevention; and general hygiene.

4,841

youth trained in HIV
prevention

1,912

individuals trained in
handwashing and
hygiene

4,645

individuals trained in
gender norms in
health





HIV

We work in partnership with the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to address prevention of new infections and to provide care services for people living with HIV. Volunteers in Malawi engage youth in HIV prevention activities to promote positive behavior change.

1,260

HIV+ individuals
received care and
support services

malaria

We partner with the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) to minimize the spread of this disease in Malawi. Volunteers use evidence-based malaria prevention strategies, including the importance of sleeping under bednets and seeking early diagnosis and treatment.

7,831

individuals attended
malaria behavior
change activities

response

- program -

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



As a Communications and Outreach Specialist, Response Volunteer Alex collaborates with African Parks' Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve and the U.S. Forestry Service to design an interactive and educational visitors center and to create community engagement and outreach materials.



Response Volunteers Ray and Marie serve as Education Specialists working with teachers and education professionals to develop a model school at a newly constructed community day secondary school. Activities include promoting good management systems, effective teaching practices, positive school culture, and gender equitable learning opportunities.



- A FOCUS ON - gender

Gender is a critical component of all Peace Corps Malawi programming. It involves building awareness and understanding of gender related issues, making sure girls and women know their rights, developing projects and activities to keep girls in school, and training women to create income-generating projects. We also recently incorporated the Grassroots Soccer SKILLZ Guyz curriculum in an effort to take a more holistic approach by engaging boys and men in promoting gender equitable practices. Many Peace Corps Volunteers also facilitate GLOW (Girls Leading Our World) camps and BRO (Boys Respecting Others) camps in their communities to foster these important discussions.



“Whether it be teaching students, weighing babies, or demonstrating permaculture to lead farmers, understanding gender dynamics is pivotal to fostering sustainability in our communities. As a member of the gender committee, I am constantly amazed by the counterparts I’ve met who continue to act as role models in challenging the status quo by creating ripples of change that last for generations to come.”

-Madiera Dennison, Gender Committee Member



156

boys and men
trained on how to
make reusable
menstrual pads

5,064

individuals trained in
gender practices and
girl empowerment

1,580

girls and women
trained on how to
make reusable
menstrual pads

thank you!

- t o o u r h o s t s -

Each year, a community in Malawi hosts our Pre-Service Training, including accommodating and orienting our trainees for ten weeks upon their arrival in Malawi. Community members invite trainees into their homes to live with their families while they adjust to Malawian culture and also learn new skills, languages, and technical information that they use during their two years of service.

We would like to offer our sincerest thank you to these wonderful families, in addition to the Government of Malawi, for welcoming us to the Warm Heart of Africa and for allowing us to live and work side-by-side with such hardworking individuals and communities.

61

households hosted
trainees during
Pre-Service Training

4

local languages
taught to Peace
Corps trainees

3,036

total Volunteers
have served in
Malawi to date



“Peace Corps brought development in the community. Our villages have been transformed with significant changes at the household level.”

-Mr. White Mdambo, Village Headman





Thank you to our partners:

Peace Corps Malawi



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