



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Peace Corps Moldova

Growing, Teaching, Learning, and Making Change Together

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Message from our Country Director, Sara Chesters



I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report for Peace Corps Moldova; I encourage you to explore this report, which showcases the remarkable outcomes that can be achieved when committed individuals unite to pursue common goals.

For more than three decades, over 1,600 Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) have served across the country. They collaborate with Moldovan communities on locally prioritized projects in the Education, Health, and Community Economic Development sectors.

In response to Moldova's evolving needs, Peace Corps has developed a flexible and innovative service model encompassing two-year community based PCVs, Response Volunteers (shorter term, experienced specialists) and Virtual Service Participants (VSPs) providing online teaching and technical expertise from the US. During their service in Moldova, PCVs learn to speak local Romanian and Russian. They exchange ideas as communities share and appreciate their respective values and culture by living and working together. The richness of Moldova's history, culture and very special cuisine offer PCVs a unique service experience.

Moldova stands at an important moment in our long and complex history with a bright and prosperous future ahead. We continue to encourage today's youth to develop the skills, expertise and optimism they will need to be tomorrow's innovators and leaders.

Lifelong friendships across the miles and years continue to flourish as Volunteers return to the US continuing Peace Corps' mission of world peace and friendship, with Moldovans and Americans alike forever changed by their experiences here.

2024 IN NUMBERS



38 Two-Year, Community based Peace Volunteers serving in Moldova

13 Peace Corps Response Volunteers serving in Moldova



2,212 school students were taught by Peace Corps Volunteers in the school setting.

165 partners trained through staff-led Communities of Practice

439 youth involved in extracurricular activities through participation in **76** clubs, summer camps and career development programs sponsored by COD partner organizations.

649 individuals participating in intercultural activities

1,040 trees planted by the Peace Corps Moldova Community

10 community sourced projects initiated by PCVs and their partners

PROJECTS HIGHLIGHTS

ENGLISH EDUCATION PROGRAM



This program improves the English language proficiency of Moldovan students by helping teachers deliver effective and engaging classroom instruction. Volunteers work with teachers in primary, middle and high schools in urban and rural areas, providing support in lesson planning, teaching methodologies and English-based extracurricular activities.

14 Volunteers co-taught with **29** teachers of English in **14** schools

1,100 students taught by the English Education Volunteers in a school setting.

70% of them demonstrated improved English fluency by working directly with English native speakers.

92 teachers participated with PCVs in Communities of Practice and were introduced to student-centered teaching techniques and classroom-based assessments.

129 additional community members joined in local activities to encourage language acquisition.

26 youth clubs focused on developing conversational English, public speaking and critical thinking skills.

23 students successfully applied for local, national, and international educational opportunities.

HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM



This program teaches Moldovan youth in schools to develop healthier habits and share practices with their families and community members. Volunteers exclusively co-teach in Romanian with Health Education and Personal Development teachers. They engage with primary, middle and high students, also facilitating health clubs and other activities with local organizations.

7 Volunteers co-taught with **21** teachers of Health Education in **7** schools

1,112 students experienced specialized classes focusing on health and wellbeing. **440** reported incorporating healthy life skills such as personal hygiene, practicing physical activity and healthy eating habit into their daily routines and sharing them with their families and friends.

150 youth and adult community members participated in **10** community events related to service-learning projects such as clean up days, food-drives, and tree planting events organized with the support of Volunteers.

1,355 students participated in health and life skills campaigns, clubs, and day camps.

187 youth planned and implemented awareness days focusing on critical issues like alcohol consumption, the dangers of smoking, prevention of bullying, violence, mental health and suicide awareness.

47 teachers were introduced to new pedagogical models focusing on students' needs and use of classroom practices targeting all learners. Many formed support groups to exchange best practices and lessons learned.

COMMUNITY AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



This program strives to increase the capacity of local organizations serving communities. Volunteers partner with public libraries, NGOs, community centers and other groups committed to process improvement and enacting solutions to local issues based on community participation.

16 Volunteers partnered with **52** professionals in **31** organizations

194 community members demonstrated improved civic engagement skills.

153 local citizens, led by PCVs and their partners, participated in 10 volunteer activities and charity events in Moldovan villages and towns, demonstrating increased collaboration, coordination, and resource sharing with other community stakeholders at the local level.

89 individuals trained in personal and career development skills

22 partner organizations developed new project design and management techniques, learned needs assessment, planning and communication skills, resulting in greater impact and wider community involvement in projects and activities.

PEACE CORPS RESPONSE PROJECT



Peace Corps Response sends experienced professionals to undertake short-term, high-impact service assignments in Moldovan communities.

In 2024, 13 Peace Corps Response Volunteers served in Moldova collaborating with 8 organizations and building capacity and expertise with 10 partners. Partners enhanced skills in project conceptualization, strategic planning, fundraising/grant writing, internal management, youth programming, and technical and conversational English.

VIRTUAL SERVICE PILOT PROJECT



Through VSPP, US citizens donate their expertise to host country organizations focusing on identified needs and results.

In 2024, Virtual Service Pilot Participants shared their teaching prowess with 15 school administrators, meeting the goals of enhanced linguistic proficiency of 15 teachers of English, through English classes and after-hours clubs attended by over 50

students.

STAFF-LED INITIATIVES

Education Communities of Practice



Through our Education Communities of Practice, **92** teachers of English and Health from **63** schools increased their competence in dynamic instruction, developing facilitation skills through inclusive teaching techniques and peer-supported exercises.

Youth Empowerment Summit

56 adult youth leaders were trained on the principles of the Positive Youth Development framework.



49 youth gained skills in community participatory engagement, leadership, communication, environmental awareness, and emotional wellbeing.

Volunteer Management Capacity Building



Through the Volunteer Management Capacity Building Program, **17** communities have local coordinators to train and support local voluntarism around the country with **59** active volunteers.



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