



## Frequently Asked Questions About Getting a Peace Corps Response Volunteer

What is a Peace Corps Response Volunteer (PCRV)?

- A. A PCRV is a U.S. citizen who has either already completed a previous volunteer position with Peace Corps or who is a skilled and experienced professional in his or her field. They serve in shorter assignments – ranging three to twelve months – in targeted positions and projects designed by the local Peace Corps partners.

What can a PCRV do or not do?

- A. Generally, PCRVs come with a variety of expertise in the following sectors: education, youth development, health, environment, agriculture, community & economic development, and disaster preparedness & response. The focus of the Volunteer should be in capacity building and sustainability. This means the Volunteer's work should help the partners increase their own knowledge, skills, and resources. The Volunteer cannot take the place of a paid employee. When designing a PCRV position, the partner should consider a goal for their project or program, and determine what kind of expertise or skills the partner currently lacks to achieve that goal. There may be limitations on what type of work the Volunteer may perform due to programmatic or legal regulations – such as performing direct medical care. Your Volunteer may assist you in writing grant applications to obtain funds for the project, if included in their duties and responsibilities.

How is a PCRV different from a Consultant?

- A. PCRVs are dedicated to working alongside their partners as direct members of the organization, office, or program. They live the same as local community members and integrate with the local culture. Our Volunteers seek to help achieve their partner's goals in a way that is manageable and sustainable for the partner, building partners' capacity to continue or further their mission after the Volunteer has finished. By taking this local, integrated approach, PCRVs effectively work side-by-side to enact their partner's vision. PCRVs are also more flexible than consultants in that they are often able to adapt their duties and approach as the needs of the partner and project evolve.

How long will it take to receive a PCRV?

- A. After a position description has been finalized and opened for recruitment by PCHQ, a partner typically receives their Volunteer in 8-9 months. Peace Corps requires this time to identify, assess, and prepare the ideal Volunteer for their service term.

What does a partner have to provide to the PCRV?

- A. The partner should provide a workspace for the Volunteer. Depending on local conditions, this may mean a desk, internet or phone access, a computer, etc. Some of the Volunteer's duties may require him or her to go out in the field. In this case, the partner should provide any necessary equipment for the field activities, such as surveying tools. Depending on local conditions, the partner may also be required to identify and provide appropriate

housing/lodging for the PCRV. Additionally, the partner must identify a local counterpart to work with the Volunteer. The Volunteer is otherwise responsible for their own food and upkeep provided through the living stipend they receive from Peace Corps. Some Peace Corps programs may require a financial contribution from partners requesting a Volunteer.

What is the role and responsibility of the local counterpart?

- A. The counterpart collaborates with the Volunteer to design and implement a work plan for the project or program. The counterpart should be prepared to orient the Volunteer to their work environment, support the Volunteer in understanding the goals and objectives of the project/program, assist the Volunteer with integrating in the local community and culture, and work together with the Volunteer to achieve the planned deliverables.

What does Peace Corps provide for the PCRV?

- A. Peace Corps provides the Volunteer's living stipend, medical care, and travel costs. If the Volunteer needs to travel beyond the site location in order to perform their duties – such as traveling to another town to present a workshop – then the partner should provide this. Travel to other countries for business purposes will need to be approved by the Peace Corps Country Director, and the partner will need to cover the costs of the Volunteer's trip if approved.

Who manages the Volunteer's safety and security?

- A. Every PCRV receives safety and security training prior to starting their service assignment. Peace Corps has an Emergency Action Plan to address the safety and security of all Volunteers in case of local or national-level events such as natural disasters or civil unrest. PCRVs also have several rules and regulations set by Peace Corps which they must follow as a requirement of their service. Partners hosting a Volunteer may contribute to the Volunteer's safety and security by informing the Volunteer of local cultural and behavioral norms, showing them how to contact local police or emergency services, and letting them know of places or activities to avoid. In case a partner is concerned about the safety or well-being of the Volunteer, the partner should contact Peace Corps.