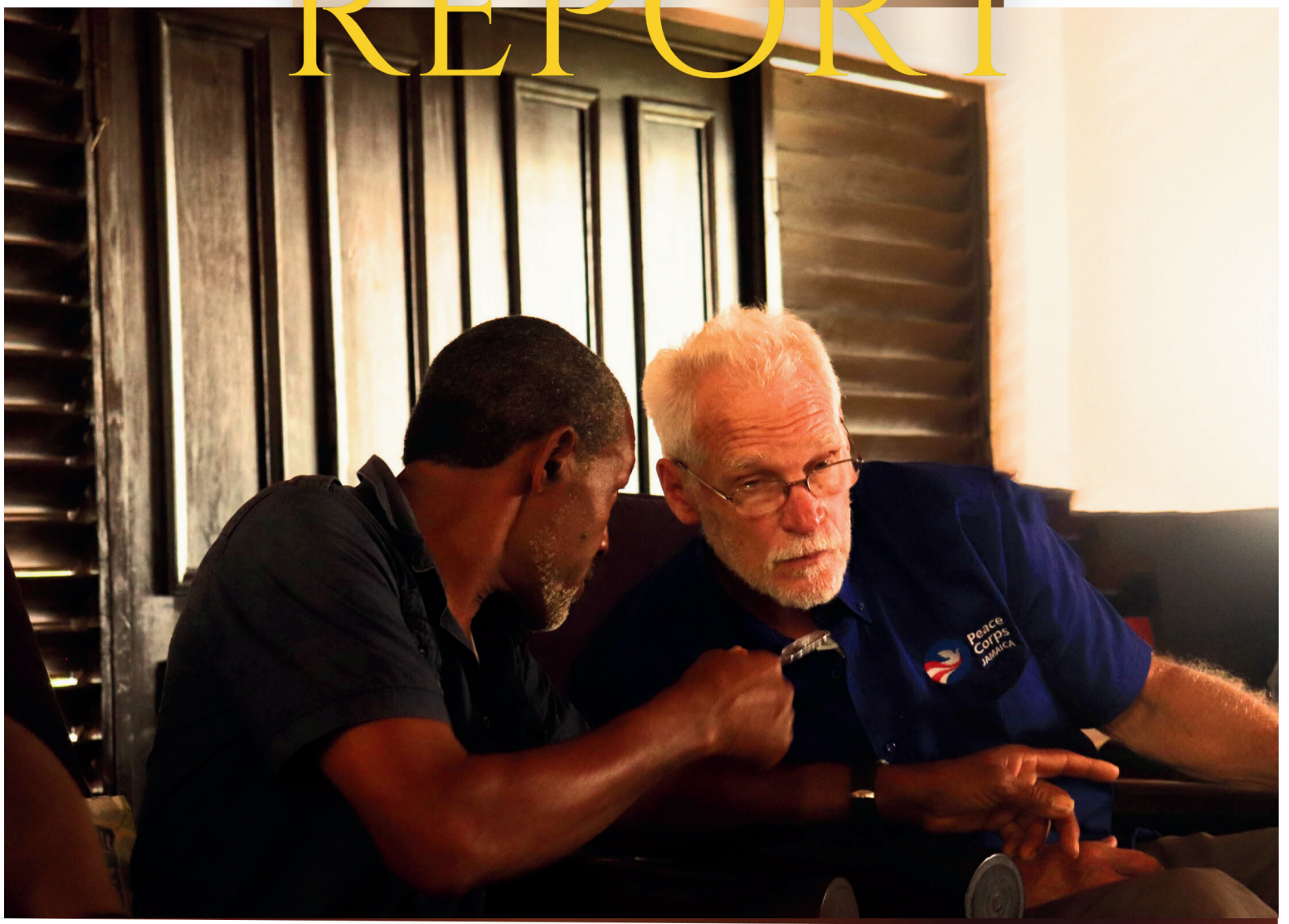




PROGRESS REPORT



2023

WHAT'S inside

A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a tan bucket hat and a purple t-shirt, stands next to a young girl with short dark hair wearing a grey t-shirt. They are both holding large white bags of rice. The man's bag is labeled 'IMPERIAL LONG GRAIN WHITE RICE' and has a nutrition facts label. The girl's bag is also labeled 'IMPERIAL'. They are standing in front of a chain-link fence with green foliage in the background.

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Message from the *Country Director*

Dear Partners and Friends,

I am delighted to share with you our annual progress report, outlining the significant achievements and impact of Peace Corps Jamaica in the areas of education and agriculture. Your ongoing support is crucial to our continued success and we are grateful for the partnership and friendship.

Our 2-year Volunteer program remains at the cornerstone of our mission, with dedicated Volunteers making lasting contributions to literacy rates, empowering parents and the learning environment as well as fostering sustainable agricultural practices. Your support has been instrumental in ensuring the success of Peace Corps Jamaica for 62 years.

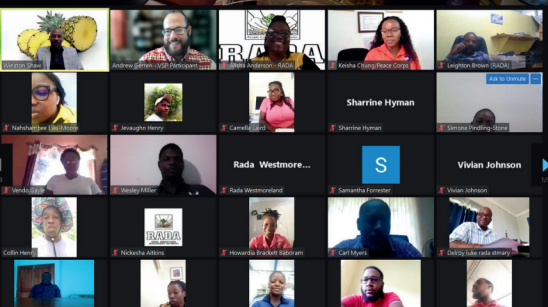
The Peace Corps Response Volunteers, with their specialized skills and commitment, have made valuable contributions in a shorter time frame, addressing critical needs in both education and agriculture projects. Our virtual service participants have embraced innovative approaches, leveraging technology to support education and agriculture initiatives remotely. Your continued collaboration has allowed us to adapt to changing circumstances and maintain our commitment to you, our partners. Our Peace Corps Jamaica Staff have adapted seamlessly to the changing landscape, leveraging their individual skills and talents to continue supporting you, our education and agriculture partners. Their resilience and creativity in overcoming challenges are commendable.

As we reflect on the past year, we extend our sincere appreciation for your unwavering support. Together, we are making a lasting impact on the communities across Jamaica. Thank you for your dedication to our shared mission, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.

Sincerely,

2

Glenda Green



ABOUT PEACE CORPS

The Peace Corps is a U.S. federal agency, created through an Executive Order by President John F. Kennedy in March 1961 and made permanent in September 1961 by an Act of Congress. To date, more than 241,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 141 host countries to work on issues ranging from AIDS education to information technology and environmental preservation. Peace Corps global mission is to promote world peace and friendship.

Peace Corps' global mission of promoting world peace and friendship through community-based development and inter-cultural understanding is the mainstay of Peace Corps Jamaica. Providing communities and organizations with trained men and women; identifying effective and sustainable solutions; forging mutually beneficial partnerships; and supporting Volunteers and staff in a safe, peaceful and culturally sensitive environment.

Peace Corps Jamaica's commitment to service in Jamaica began back on February 22, 1962, when Premier Norman Washington Manley signed an agreement with the United States government inviting the Peace Corps to have a program in Jamaica. On June 12 of that year, a few weeks before Jamaica's independence, the first group of Volunteers arrived in Jamaica.

That group of 37 Volunteers, 26 men and 11 women, worked in many fields, including agriculture, vocational education, library development, construction, electricity, and plumbing. By 1963, there were about 100 Volunteers serving in Jamaica. Their work mostly focused on grassroots development projects. Volunteers lived then as they do today - with Jamaican host families, adapting to the Jamaican culture and inter-cultural differences while learning the local language and foods.

Since inception, more than 4,000 people have served as Volunteers in this beautiful island nation. Volunteers are trained on safety and security, the culture and language (Patwa) compliance with the local laws and technical skills that enable them to perform their assigned tasks. Current Volunteer assignments are within two sectors: agriculture and education. Most Volunteers are placed in small, rural communities. Two - year Volunteer assignments are for a period of 24 months, Virtual Service engagements are for 3 - 6 months, while Response Volunteers serve in larger cities for up to 12 months depending on the project.

MISSION

To promote world peace and friendship



PEACE CORPS GOALS

1

Strengthen Local Capacity

Partner with the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained individuals.

2

Share America With the World

To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.

3

Bring the World Back Home

Promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of the Americans.



AGRICULTURE PROJECT RATIONALE

The Agriculture Project was created to support the government of Jamaica's efforts to meet its Vision 2030 National Development Plan priorities of implementing climate smart agriculture and focusing on agribusiness and income diversification. The specific focus of Peace Corps Jamaica's project is to support individuals and farmers groups in rural communities to achieve sustainable livelihoods and resilience to environmental shocks and stresses. Peace Corps Volunteers work to achieve these goals through collaboration with farmers, community members and stakeholders to increase the capacity of farmers to improve the diversity, productivity, and sustainability of their agricultural production, to generate agriculture-related income, and to strengthen capacity of agriculture organizations to achieve their missions. The fact that Jamaica's agriculture sector employs 18.6% of the total labor force and is the main source of livelihood in rural areas, coupled with the islands high sensitivity to climate risk and need for organizational capacity within rural farming groups, illustrates the motivation for why Peace Corps works in this sector.



AGRICULTURE PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Project Goal

Individuals and/or groups in rural Jamaican communities will achieve sustainable livelihoods and resilience to environmental shocks and stresses.

OBJECTIVE 1

Increase the capacity of farmers to improve the diversity, productivity, and/or sustainability of their agricultural production (climate smart agriculture)

OBJECTIVE 2

Increase the capacity of farmers to generate agriculture-related income.

6

OBJECTIVE 3

Strengthen the capacity of agriculture focused organizations to achieve their mission.



AGRICULTURE PROJECT DATA

OBJECTIVE 1:
Sustainable Soil & Water
Conservation Practices

Indicators	Totals for 2023
Peace Corps Volunteers	19
Farmers engaged in field-based instruction on improved soil and water conservation	73
Farmers have applied improved soil and water conservation	43
Area of land under improved technologies	81, 541 m ³

OBJECTIVE 2:
Basic Business Skills

Indicators	Totals for 2023
Peace Corps Volunteers	10
Farmers engaged in training on basic business skills	68
Farmers have applied basic business skills	21
	7

OBJECTIVE 3:
Organizational Strengthening

Indicators	Totals for 2023
Peace Corps Volunteers	10
Individuals trained on organizational development topics	41
Individuals participating in creating an organization action plan	34
Community organizations with demonstrated improved performance	21



AGRICULTURE PROJECT DATA

OBJECTIVE 1:

Sustainable Soil & Water Conservation Practices



Farmers have applied improved
soil and water conservation



Number of Peace
Corps Volunteers



Farmers engaged in field-based
instruction on improved soil
and water conservation

81, 541 m³



Area of land under improved
technologies

AGRICULTURE PROJECT DATA

OBJECTIVE 2:

Basic Business Skills



10

Number of Peace Corps Volunteers



68

Farmers engaged in training on basic business skills



21

Farmers have applied basic business skills

AGRICULTURE PROJECT DATA



OBJECTIVE 3: Organizational Strengthening



41

Individuals trained on
organizational development topics



10

Number of Peace
Corps Volunteers



34

Individuals participating in
creating an organization action
plan



21

Community organizations with
demonstrated improved
performance

Agriculture Sector Stories From The Field

Peace Corps GOAL 1



Christopher Croft

“Coffee In A Teabag”

During a business planning meeting, I presented my ideas of increasing profit margins of the small Cascade farmers by adding value to coffee by providing ground coffee in convenient tea bags, primarily for export. As US coffee houses and retailers seldom trade coffee above the \$15.00/lb. (USD), boosting margins is important for small farmers who hope to maximize their returns close to \$30.00/lb. So, processing coffee in what's seen as “tea” bags and selling say 20 per pack seems like a possible strategy. My community partner liked the idea and even suggested mail marketing coffee specifically to Jamaican diaspora in the US, Canada and the UK numbering close to 2.0 million. Perhaps teaming up with gift providers in Jamaica for holiday shipments would be a good way to sell roasted, ground pure Blue Mountain coffee in bleach-free bags and in hermetically sealed boxes. In addition, we spoke about the best business model to emulate for the Farmers Group, and we all agreed that the Benevolent Society model held promise. I have broached the idea to my supervisor, and we are planning to present the idea to the upcoming farmers group meeting. If they agree, we will invite representatives from the Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies to pitch the advantages and costs.”

This PCV has been serving since 2018.

Agriculture Sector Stories From The Field

Peace Corps GOAL 1



Larissa Cameron

“My 4-H Club”

“I have recently started working in a neighboring community, in addition to the one where I live, and am actively participating in the local 4H Club. The first activity that I did with the students was planting pepper seedlings. My project partner and I demonstrated to the primary school children how to dig a hole using a hoe, remove the seedling from the tray, separate two seedlings if the roots are intertwined, and what depth to plant it at. I was pleasantly surprised to see how excited all of the children were to learn how to plant something. They were tripping over each other trying to claim a seedling for themselves to proudly place in the ground. I look forward to continuing my work with the 4H clubs. I think it is so important to get young children excited about agriculture, especially since I have been told by my VIP farmers that young people just aren't interested in farming anymore. I hope to continue to share my love of agriculture with the children of these communities, and hope that it might inspire them to start their own little vegetable garden one day.”

This PCV has been serving since 2023.

Agriculture Sector Stories From The Field

Peace Corps GOAL 1

“ 20 Acres of Brush”



Neema Rashtchi

My first month at site has been fantastic. I've met some great people and attended many community events. I've visited stakeholders and have been a part of some crucial conversations about the future of farming in Jamaica. But one thing has remained a constant throughout my first month: land preparation and weeding. I work through my VIP farm rotations four to five times a week, and all the farmers share a common need - more usable land space. Each VIP farmer has asked me to clear land with them at least once so that they may be able to grow more crops. Each VIP farmer has also asked me to do some weeding for them. I have weeded areas around crops like pumpkin, melon, dasheen, yam, cocoa, sweet pepper, hot pepper, plantain, and banana. Since I mostly deal with plantain farms, some other activities I've done include, applying fertilizer around plantain suckers, mulling plantain suckers, and making planting holes for the plantain suckers. It has been hard work so far, and the days are long and hot, but I am grateful since it helps my body get used to the grueling routine my farmers go through daily. I have a lot of admiration for them, which makes it easier for me to have the motivation every morning.

The story I want to highlight during my time here is when I helped clear out 20 acres of brush in a single day. One Saturday morning, my project partner and I were mapping out an area that we wanted to clear on his land during the next couple of months in preparation for a big scotch bonnet pepper project he wanted to pursue. The GPS map identified a field area of 6 acres. One acre had been previously flattened and sprayed but now had to be burned for cost-saving purposes. My partner's partner came out with a lighter and began the process. After some time, they decided to keep the fire going and let it roll up to the rest of the area that hadn't been cleared yet. Now this became a fire management job. We put on our masks and got into the brush to control parts of the spreading fire with only a machete in hand. What I found interesting were the many gallins surrounding the edge of the fires. When asked about it, my counterpart mentioned they like to snatch their prey escaping out of the fire. Throughout the morning and afternoon, the fire was put out by the three of us, and the total land burned amounted to 20 acres. This was an unexpected experience, but I am glad I was able to be a part of something unique in my first month compared to my everyday experience so far.

Overall, I am excited to see where all of this work goes. As a farmer's group, we have already addressed many issues and plans for the future while I am a volunteer here. I am positive I can make a big impact here, and so far I am learning a lot from my experience.

This PCV has been serving since 2023.

Agriculture Sector Stories From The Field

Peace Corps GOAL 2&3



Thomas Lydon

“A Cup of Tea and Cross-Cultural Understanding”

One Sunday morning, I had the privilege of attending a local church service in the heart of St. Andrew Parish, which led to a meaningful one-on-one interaction that exemplified the Peace Corps mission. As I sat in the small, warmly decorated church, I was warmly welcomed by the congregation. The service was filled with heartfelt hymns, powerful sermons, and an overwhelming sense of community. Following the service, a friendly parishioner named Mrs. Johnson approached me with a warm smile and invited me to join her for a cup of tea at her home.

Over tea, Mrs. Johnson and I engaged in a deep conversation about our backgrounds, beliefs, and life experiences. Through this exchange, I was able to share stories about my American upbringing, values, and the cultural traditions I hold dear. In return, Mrs. Johnson shared her personal experiences and her perspectives on Jamaican culture, history, and the role of the church in her community. This one-on-one interaction exemplified Goal 2 of the Peace Corps mission — promoting a better understanding of Americans among the people served. Mrs. Johnson was genuinely interested in learning about my American background, and in turn, I gained a profound appreciation for Jamaican culture and the vital role that the local church played in the lives of the community members.

Furthermore, this encounter was a remarkable example of Goal 3 — promoting a better understanding of other peoples among Americans. When I shared my experience with friends and family back home, they were not only touched by the warmth and hospitality of Mrs. Johnson but also gained a more profound understanding of Jamaican culture, spirituality, and the importance of community bonds.

This PCV has been serving since 2023.

Agriculture Sector Stories From The Field

Peace Corps GOAL 2&3



“Cooking Together”

Hayden Cohee

One day during my first week at site, a group of farmers came together to cook food and reason with one another. Early in the day, a couple of them were cutting up chicken and vegetables to make pots of chicken foot soup, curry chicken, and kale. I watched as they grated the coconut to make the milk, kneaded the flour to make spinners for the soup, and prepared the spices to put in all of it. I asked questions and helped where I could. They told me that I'd be able to make all of it myself by the time I go back to America. They explained each process and why they were doing what they were doing. In between we talked about our lives and our communities.

In the end we had enough food to feed the 13 of us, and plenty leftover. I got to know the farmers better, and they got to know me.

This PCV has been serving since 2023.

Peace Corps GOAL 2&3



“ My Mothers’ Potato Salad”

Rosemary Rehm

My work with one of the VIP farmers had me planting Irish potatoes side by side with him back in January. Fast forward to the time to reap and his gift of a bag of potatoes from the harvest for me. Almost everyday that I work with him, I am treated to a hearty meal made by his wife, an excellent cook. With my bag of potatoes back in my place I had the idea of sharing something very different with him and his wife.

Growing up as first generation American German, in the 50's and 60's, I was fed on German food for and I still hold certain dishes very near and dear. I decided to make my mother's traditional and simple potato salad that I grew up with to share with them. I was curious to know how they thought the salad tasted, being very different from what most people are used to. I was so excited to know that they both liked it and they appreciated the chance to taste something "new".

This PCV has been serving since 2023.





EDUCATION PROJECT RATIONALE

The Primary Literacy Project has been created to bolster the government of Jamaica's efforts to meet its vision of having all students at the primary level of the education system literate. The project focuses on providing direct literacy instruction to students who are performing below the required levels; improving the teaching capacity of teachers; and assisting parents to develop interest and skills to assist their children to increase their academic achievements. Ultimately, the project will elevate and showcase the importance of literacy at the primary level, creating greater opportunities for students to achieve educational, personal and professional goals through literacy

EDUCATION PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Project Goal

Improve literacy skills and advance academic performance of Jamaican primary school students.

OBJECTIVE 1

Increase primary students' literacy skills.

OBJECTIVE 2

Increase the capacity of teachers in general and literacy teaching skills.

OBJECTIVE 3

Increase the capacity of teachers to use gender-equitable practices in and outside the classroom.

OBJECTIVE 4

Increase the ability of families and caregivers to support students' access to learning.

OBJECTIVE 5

Increase students' and teachers' access to teaching / learning materials and resources to support literacy development.

EDUCATION PROJECT DATA

OBJECTIVE 1:

Students

Indicators Totals for 2023

Students taught
literacy skills . 367

Students participating in
recreational activities to
improve literacy skills. 74

Students attending after-school
reading clubs , tutoring
sessions, and/or camps. 146

OBJECTIVES

2&3:

Teachers

Indicators Totals for 2023

Teachers Engaging in
co-planning and co-
teaching 37

OBJECTIVE 4:

Parents\Caregiver

Indicators Totals for 2023

Family members
/caregivers who attend
engagement programs 310

OBJECTIVE 5:

Library Resources

Indicators Totals for 2023

Libraries established or
infrastructure improved 4

Teachers and /or students trained
to organize and maintain a library 36

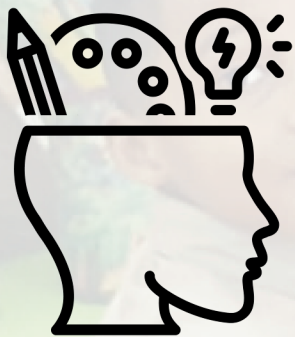
Students and /or teachers with
increased access to library 447



PROJECT DATA

OBJECTIVE 1:

Increase Primary Students' Literacy Skills



367

Students taught literacy skills.



74

Students participated in recreational activities to improve literacy skills.



146

Students attending after-school reading clubs, tutoring sessions and/or camps.



PROJECT DATA

OBJECTIVES 2&3:

Teachers engaging in co-planning and co-teaching
&
increase the capacity of teachers to use gender-equitable practices in and outside of the classroom.



37

Teachers engaging in co-planning and co-teaching.



PROJECT DATA

OBJECTIVE 4:

Increase the ability of families and caregivers to support students' access to learning.



310

Family members/caregivers who attend engagement programs.



PROJECT DATA

OBJECTIVE 5:

Library Resources



4

Library established or infrastructure improved.



36

Teachers and/or students trained to organize and maintain a library.



447

Students and/or teachers with increased access to libraries.

Education Sector Stories From The Field

Peace Corps GOAL 1



Ptah Asabi

“What Happened Last Summer”

With summer 2023 in full swing and my school not having summer sessions, I decided to go into the community and find ways to make myself useful. I found an opportunity in the community to volunteer with the SDC to assist with their summer camp programs for primary and high school students. With the SDC summer camps, I was able to lead games and assist with activities for the children as well as give presentations about the importance of teamwork. With many teachers away for break I found parents sitting in on these summer camp sessions which gave me the opportunity to engage with them and practice the local language and learn about current events. Over the course of the summer, I was able to volunteer at three different camps in three different communities, as well as work with an additional camp that is not associated with the SDC. The basketball camp at Treasure Beach is an annual camp hosted by Americans to help expose and develop the youth of Jamaica to basketball, this was the ninth year it was hosted. During the Camp, I connected with an RPCV who had served in Peace Corps Jamaica in 2018. I assisted him during the camp by setting up and facilitating activities that promoted teamwork and trust between the participants. Through these camps, I was able to gain a better understanding of how to connect with the youth that I will be working within the schools. I also have amassed an arsenal of activities that can be used when setting up extracurricular activities for children when interacting with youth outside of the classroom space.

This PCV has been serving since 2023.

Education Sector Stories From The Field

Peace Corps GOAL 1



Kristin Chittick

“ Using IDRI To Improve Reading Skills”

In June and July 2023, at the end of the school year, my task was to administer IDRI assessments at my school. I completed 21 assessments and these were compared to the teacher's own assessments. The purpose was threefold: to get to know and integrate with students, observe the educators' teaching style, and finally, to have a comparison of baseline assessments for the beginning of the next school year. The impact of the summer break on the students' reading levels and IDRI assessments was a staff discussion. The baseline results were that seven students graduated with 6 of those students assessed below grade level and one student assessed above grade level. 14 students from Infant to Grade 5 yielded 11 students reading below grade level and 3 students reading above grade level.

For the Fall of 2023, I have completed 30 IDRI's from an enrollment of 71 students that includes 24 Infant students. Twelve comparison assessments from Spring 2023 to Fall 2023 yielded nine assessed unchanged but below reading level with one of those students actually improving one reading grade level. That student attended summer school. The final three comparison assessments yielded three students reading above grade level and one moving up one reading grade level. The additional 18 new IDRI assessments of the current total of 30 assessments were administered and will serve as a baseline for the 2024 end-of-the-school-year follow-up. Eleven of those 18 are reading below grade level and seven are reading at or above grade level. In summary, none of the comparison assessment students dropped in their reading levels during the summer break which is positive. In addition, two students improved their reading levels with one having attended summer school and the other being an avid and self-motivated reader. The challenge is vast in assisting the school at a minimum for students to achieve reading skills to match their grade level. Individual literacy pull-outs for a number of these students will hopefully tackle that challenge.

This PCV has been serving since 2023.

Education Sector Stories From The Field

Peace Corps GOAL 1

“ Classroom Library Project”



Denise Hampson

With the development of class libraries at my school and with the help of the classroom teacher I chose two library monitors for each class for a total of sixteen students. The students were thrilled with the assignment and ready to get to work. The grade five monitors got their system up and running in just a couple of days with posters explaining the rules, signs designating where books should go based on genre and check out system. Grade two monitors were anxious to understand their jobs and immediately wanted more books and help making their posters. This is an ongoing activity and I look forward to watching it go forward and see more access to books for more students.

This PCV has been serving since 2023.

Peace Corps GOAL 2&3

“ When You Were White”



Julia DaMour

It was an average weekday morning at my school. Devotion had just wrapped up and students were slowly trickling to their classrooms, stopping quickly at the tuck shop, teasing friends, or coming up to give me morning hugs.

One of my regular huggers, a sweet grade two girl, squeezed me tight and caught a glimpse of my Peace Corps ID clipped onto my tote bag. She took it in her hands and said, "Wow! Is this from when you were white?"

My immediate response was laughter to this innocent, unexpected question. I then asked, to clarify her meaning, "Do I look so different now?" She furrowed her brows and replied hesitantly, "Well...no..." The second bell rang and she squeezed me tight again and ran off happily to class.

Reflecting on this interaction that night, I started to pour over thoughts in my head about these objective classifications of race that obviously, in some little minds, have nothing to do with skin color (I'm not tan enough for this particular mistake). I thought maybe it was her way of asking if the photo was from when I lived in America, and she just associates "foreign" with whiteness. Selfishly, I would be even more pleased by the possibility that she was asking if the photo was from "before", from when I wasn't so present in her community and life, from when I wasn't "one of her own".

Race operates differently in Jamaican society and culture than it does in America, and it has been a fascinating observational process to see the similarities and differences and the ways my whiteness does or doesn't effect my life here, or even how often I think about the color of my skin. It will be an ongoing process over the course of my service, and beyond, no doubt.

This PCV has been serving since 2023.

Education Sector Stories From The Field

Peace Corps GOAL 2&3



Denise Hampson

“A Pen Pal Story”

Pen-Pal correspondence was started between a school in California and my school in Jamaica.

The first correspondence was sent from Grade four class to a combined class of third and fourth graders. The responses came back and the students were very excited to receive and read their letters. Their excitement was contagious and now letters from the Grade five class have been sent off to a combination class of grade five and six. The students decorated their letters with pictures and stickers. They are now looking forward to responses.

This PCV has been serving since 2023.

Peace Corps GOAL 2&3



Taylor Clarke

“A Single Story”

Before coming to Jamaica, I received mixed feelings from friends and family filled of both joy and worry. Some of my family was nervous for me. They have heard that Jamaica has a high crime rate, and that it is not safe for foreigners. Meanwhile, some of my friends were excited for me and told me how lucky I was to get to live in paradise for 2 years. Other opinions aside, I was excited to learn about a different culture and have the opportunity to do something good. After being in the country for a few months, I began to see beyond the stereotypes, and experience the real Jamaica.

Though Jamaica has crime, it is not everywhere. Jamaica is filled with good, hard working, people. From living in bush, to living in the hills or countryside, life slows down here. Neighbors share what they have, and offer a hand when someone is in need. My neighbor told me how it upsets her to hear how people think Jamaica is a crime ridden, dangerous place to live. She loves her Jamaica and wishes that people knew that in reality.

Jamaica is just like everywhere else. Here people here live happy, fruitful lives. There is crime in some places, but most places it is a safe and very enjoyable place to live. It goes to show, it is easy to read a single story and develop an opinion about a place you have never been. Not until being there, and experiencing the life yourself, can you truly know what it is really like.

This PCV has been serving since 2023.



PEACE CORPS



RESPONSE VOLUNTEER

The Peace Corps Response (PCR) program places Peace Corps Response Volunteers (PCRVs) on short term, high impact assignments, usually six to twelve months, to work to meet the goals and objectives of the education and agriculture sectors. Historically, we have had Volunteers serve in Education, Health, Community Economic Development, Youth and Environment sectors. The PCR program has contributed in cementing our relationships and engendering greater support from our partners at the national level. Response position descriptions include relevant skills that complement the work of the 2-year Volunteers and their counterparts. After a six-year hiatus, the PCR service model was resumed at Post in 2023. A total of 3 Volunteers commenced service between May and June of 2023.

Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)

- Water and Soil Specialist

Jamaica Library Service (JLS)

- Curriculum Developer

Treasure Beach Women's Group Benevolent Society

Business Development Specialist

- Business Development Specialist
Streamlining TBWG's electronic financial records
- Training staff in using accounting Apps.
- Assisting in developing a 5-year plan and an annual budget
- Creating a kitchen garden
- Co-training members in Digital Literacy



Number of Volunteers serving

VIRTUAL SERVICE PILOT



The Virtual Service Pilot (VSP) program is an opportunity for all American citizens to engage virtually in support of the mission of Peace Corps. These Virtual Service Pilot Participants (VSPPs) are private citizens who donate time and voluntary services based on the request of our host country partners. VSPPs work in both sectors to build capacity, create sustainable systems and engage in collaborative partnerships. The VSP program has allowed us to extend our services to stakeholders who would be otherwise excluded from our regular Two-Year Volunteer and Response Programs due to safety restrictions and other constraints.

The first phase of the Virtual Service Pilot (VSP) commenced in November 2021. To date, we have had a total of seventeen participants engaging with our partners. These engagements usually last for 3-6 months. Of note, is the engagement at Park Hall Primary that started in March 2022 and is still ongoing.

Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf (CCCD)
Supporting Website Development

Lupus Foundation of Jamaica
Supporting Social Media Marketing Plan and Products

Shortwood Teachers' College
Facilitating Grant Writing Sessions

Park Hall Primary & Infant School

Facilitating Student Literacy Sessions and Teacher Capacity Building

Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)

Training in Agronomy for Extension Staff

Jamaica Association for the Deaf (JAD)

Training in Audiology

Rotary Club of May Pen (RCMP)

Supporting Website Development

Bethabara Primary & Junior High School

Facilitating Student Literacy Sessions, Teacher Capacity Building and Parental Involvement

Ministry of Education and Youth (MoEY)

Creating Online Learning Resources

Liberty Hall: The Legacy of Marcus Garvey

Developing a Data-base Product to Track Visitorship

Young Women/Men of Purpose (YWOP/YMOP)

Supporting Website Development and Digital Content

 **17**
Number of Participants

STAFF-LED ACTIVITIES

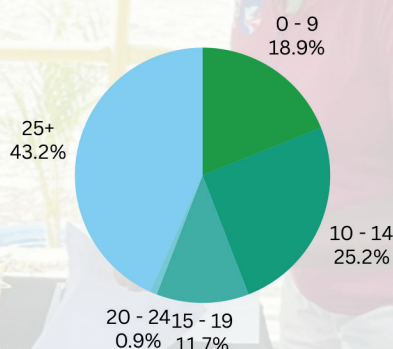
Highgate Youth Climate Change Expo & Fair

On March 15, 2020, posts around the world received notification from the Director of Peace Corps that all 7,000 of our worldwide Volunteers had to be evacuated back to the U.S. by the end of that week. This gave our Peace Corps Jamaica (PCJ) staff members an opportunity to engage with our partners on locally prioritized projects.

One such activity was in partnership with the Social Development Commission (SDC) the Public Speaking and Poster Completion held on June 9, 2022 at Cape Clear. After its resounding success Peace Corps Jamaica was presented with a wonderful opportunity to bring a wider awareness to climate change and to engage youth in climate change activities hence the Highgate Youth Climate Expo and Fair.

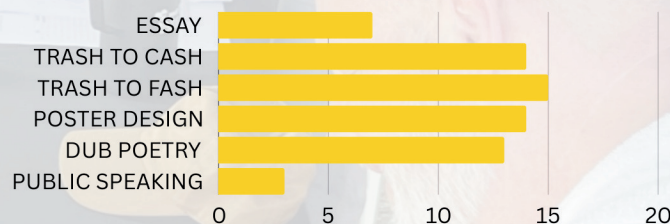
The pictures on the next page highlight the event. The quantitative data shown below shows the extent of the events success.

AGE OF PARTICIPANTS



113
Participants

COMPETITION ENTRIES



14 of 16 schools

in the Highgate, St. Mary area attended the event. This included basic, primary and high schools.

OUR PARTNERS:

- Rural Development Authority (RADA)
- Barita Foundation
- Friends of Jamaica
- Meteorological Services of Jamaica
- Jamaica 4-H Clubs
- Orange River Research Station
- Jamaica Gleaner
- Social Development Commission (SDC)
- Cane Heap Farmers Group

GENDER RATIO

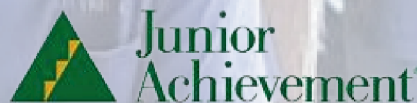




SPECIAL THANKS



MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE
AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES



Mico University College Child Assessment &
Research in Education (CARE) Centre

- Department of Cooperatives and Friendly Societies (DCFS)
- Global Environment Facility Small Grants Program (GEF/SGP)

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