



**Peace
Corps**

Office of Strategic Information,
Research, and Planning

2017 Annual Volunteer Survey Results

Global Tabular Report

November 2017

About the Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning (OSIRP)

OSIRP advances evidence-based management at the Peace Corps by guiding agency strategic planning; monitoring and evaluating agency-level performance and programs; conducting research to generate new insights in the fields of international development, cultural exchange, and Volunteer service; enhancing the stewardship and governance of agency data; and helping to shape agency engagement on high-level, governmentwide initiatives.

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Introduction

This report examines the results from the Peace Corps' 2017 Annual Volunteer Survey. Since 1975, the Annual Volunteer Survey has been a source of information on the state of the Peace Corps program for the agency, Congress, researchers, the media, and the general public.

The purpose of the survey is to assess progress toward the agency's strategic goals by tracking the perceived impact of Peace Corps Volunteers' work. The survey also captures Volunteers' assessments of the effectiveness of Peace Corps training, their personal health and safety, their overall service experience, and in-country staff support.

The key findings detailed here and in section headings are based on global data. Post, regional, and other levels of tabular reporting are likely to differ, given different response distributions.

Key Findings

- **Volunteers were successfully advancing the Peace Corps mission of world peace and friendship.** A large majority of respondents made friends at their sites (80%) and felt supported by their communities (77%).
- **Volunteers felt most effective in advancing Goal Two (Sharing America with the World), followed by Goal Three (Bringing the World Back Home), and Goal One (Building Local Capacity).** For example, they felt particularly effective at promoting an understanding of Americans to counterparts (87%) and promoting a better understanding of their host country to close family and friends in the U.S. (90%), but felt less effective at transferring knowledge and skills to their counterparts (70%).
- **Overall, Peace Corps training helped Volunteers feel prepared for service, but some gaps remain.** Eighty-one percent of respondents agreed that their technical trainers were knowledgeable, though barely half (51%) agreed technical topics were covered in sufficient depth. A large majority of respondents (81%) indicated that training in maintaining personal safety and security was effective, while less than half (49%) felt training around emotional/mental health was effective.
- **Volunteers generally felt that their work sites and projects set them up for success, though there is room for improvement.** Three quarters of respondents (75%) felt that their skills were appropriate to the work they did at their site, with slightly lower percentages reporting that their work was aligned to community need (71%) and that they had enough work to do at their site (68%). In terms of project design, two-thirds of respondents (66%) considered their primary project to be effective in meeting its stated goals and objectives. Though most liked their sites, only about half of respondents reported that they either received useful information in advance from Peace Corps staff (49%) or that their community work partners were prepared for their arrival (55%). Furthermore, less than half of all respondents maintained a satisfactory relationship with an assigned counterpart.
- **Most Volunteers felt safe.** More than nine in 10 respondents felt safe where they lived (93%) and worked (96%). However, 23 percent felt unsafe using local transportation, a five point increase from 2016.

Method

The Annual Volunteer Survey was conducted online using a self-administered questionnaire that was available from June 19 to August 11, 2017 through a direct link specific to the respondent. A total of 5,269 Volunteers participated out of an eligible population of 5,970 (an 88% overall response rate). Geographically, the results represent all 61 posts where Volunteers served while the survey was in the field. A detailed description of the survey methodology is available in Section IX of this report.

About this Report

This *Global Tabular Report* consists primarily of tables presenting distributions of responses to quantitative survey questions. Each table in the report contains reference numbers that match the corresponding questions in the survey questionnaire (see appendix). Most of the tables in this report show the percentage of respondents who selected each answer choice as well as the total number of respondents who answered the question. When

interpreting the data, it is important to note the total number of respondents listed on each table, as well as any notes that might be presented with a table. The sum of percentages in each table, row, or column may not total to 100 percent either due to rounding, or due to respondents providing more than one response when answering multiple response questions. Definitions of the key survey terms that appear in this report are included in Section IX.

I. Peace Corps Service Assessment and Goal Implementation

This section presents information on the motivation of Volunteers to join the Peace Corps, as well as their overall assessment of their Peace Corps service and their self-rated effectiveness in implementing the three Peace Corps strategic goals:¹

- **Goal One: Building Local Capacity.** Advance local development by strengthening the capacity of local communities and individuals through the service of trained Volunteers.
- **Goal Two: Sharing America with the World.** Promote a better understanding of Americans through Volunteers who live and work within local communities.
- **Goal Three: Bringing the World Back Home.** Increase Americans' awareness and knowledge of other cultures and global issues through Volunteers who share their Peace Corps experiences and continue to serve upon their return.

Key Findings

- **Volunteers' commitment to serve remained strong in 2017.** Nearly all respondents (96%) intended to complete their service, and one in five (20%) thought they might extend their service. Just under nine in 10 respondents (88%) reported that they would recommend Peace Corps service to other qualified candidates.
- **Respondents tended to see the Peace Corps as an opportunity to help others while being exposed to a different culture.** Exposure to a different culture and helping others were the most important reasons why respondents accepted their Peace Corps invitation (both 95%), while a challenging U.S. job market was the least important (39%).
- **Volunteers continued to feel most successful at achieving Goal Two, followed by Goal Three and Goal One.** For example, they felt particularly effective at promoting an understanding of Americans to counterparts (87%) and promoting a better understanding of their host country to close family and friends in the U.S. (90%), but felt less effective at transferring knowledge and skills to their counterparts (70%).
- **Professional and linguistic challenges remained the greatest impediments to respondents' perceived effectiveness in implementing the Peace Corps goals.** Regardless of how they rated their effectiveness, over half of all Volunteers reported that professional challenges (51%)—including differing local expectations relating to work styles, as well as lack of resources—and language barriers (49%) prevented them from being more effective. Those who rated themselves as less effective were more likely to cite community receptiveness and counterpart difficulties (e.g., the lack of a counterpart, logistical issues, professional/personal differences, etc.) as strong barriers as well.

¹ The Peace Corps FY 2016 Annual Performance Report and FY 2018 Annual Performance Plan is available online at <https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.peacecorps.gov/documents/open-government/annual-performance-report-fy16-plan-fy18.pdf>.

Table 1. Motivation For Peace Corps Service

q06. How important were the following factors in accepting your Peace Corps invitation?	Very Unimportant	Unimportant	Neither Unimportant nor Important	Important	Very Important	Number of respondents
Exposure to a different culture	1%	1%	3%	31%	64%	5,242
Gaining work experience	3%	5%	12%	40%	40%	5,240
Opportunity to help others	1%	1%	4%	30%	65%	5,238
Gaining international experience	1%	2%	7%	33%	57%	5,244
Learning a new language or enhancing foreign language skills	2%	6%	17%	36%	39%	5,247
Personal growth	1%	1%	4%	29%	65%	5,240
Challenging U.S. job market	13%	20%	28%	25%	14%	5,239
Opportunity to serve my country	7%	14%	26%	32%	22%	5,244
Travel/adventure	1%	2%	9%	40%	48%	5,246
Financial, educational, and career benefit programs available to current and returned Volunteers	6%	12%	20%	38%	24%	5,250

Table 2. Motivation For Peace Corps Service—Average Ratings

q06. How important were the following factors in accepting your Peace Corps invitation?	Average rating	Number of respondents
Exposure to a different culture	4.57	5,141
Gaining work experience	4.09	5,141
Opportunity to help others	4.59	5,141
Gaining international experience	4.44	5,141
Learning a new language or enhancing foreign language skills	4.05	5,141
Personal growth	4.57	5,141
Challenging U.S. job market	3.07	5,141
Opportunity to serve my country	3.49	5,141
Travel/adventure	4.31	5,141
Financial, educational, and career benefit programs available to current and returned Volunteers	3.63	5,141

Average rating: 1 = very unimportant; 5 = very important.

Based on respondents who rated all motivational factors.

Table 3. Assessment Of Peace Corps Service

q01. How personally rewarding do you find your:	Very Unrewarding	Unrewarding	Neither Unrewarding nor Rewarding	Rewarding	Very Rewarding	Number of respondents
Overall Peace Corps service	1%	2%	7%	52%	37%	5,174
Primary assignment/project	3%	9%	17%	53%	18%	5,045
Secondary project/community service activities	1%	3%	14%	48%	34%	4,655
Experiences with other Volunteers	2%	4%	12%	39%	44%	5,217
Work with counterparts/community partners	2%	7%	16%	48%	27%	5,151
Experiences with other host country individuals	2%	4%	13%	45%	37%	5,191

Table 4. Assessment Of Peace Corps Service—Average Ratings

q01. How personally rewarding do you find your:	Average rating	Number of respondents
Overall Peace Corps service	4.25	4,477
Primary assignment/project	3.74	4,477
Secondary project/community service activities	4.10	4,477
Experiences with other Volunteers	4.20	4,477
Work with counterparts/community partners	3.90	4,477
Experiences with other host country individuals	4.11	4,477

Average rating: 1 = very unrewarding; 5 = very rewarding.

Based on respondents who rated all service aspects.

Table 5. Recommendation Of The Peace Corps And Commitment To Serve

	Definitely Not	Probably Not	Undecided	Probably Yes	Definitely Yes	Number of respondents
q02. Today, would you still make the same decision to serve with the Peace Corps?	1%	4%	8%	29%	58%	5,221
q03. Would you recommend Peace Corps service to others you think are qualified?	1%	3%	8%	34%	54%	5,218

Table 6. Interest In Completing Or Extending Peace Corps Service

	Definitely Not	Probably Not	Undecided	Probably Yes	Definitely Yes	Might Extend	Number of respondents
q04. Do you intend to complete your Peace Corps service?	1%	1%	3%	12%	64%	20%	5,232

Table 7. Effectiveness In Building Local Capacity (Goal One)

q22. How effective are you in transferring knowledge and skills to help the following individuals or organizations to build their capacities?	Very Ineffective	Ineffective	Neither Ineffective nor Effective	Effective	Very Effective	Number of respondents
Goal One—Your counterpart/community partner	2%	9%	18%	54%	16%	4,936
Goal One—Your host institution/organization	3%	12%	27%	48%	9%	4,619
Goal One—Group(s) with which you work closely	1%	4%	17%	62%	15%	4,664
Goal One—Members of your host community	2%	7%	25%	54%	12%	4,906

Table 8. Effectiveness In Sharing America With The World (Goal Two)

q23. How effective are you in promoting a better understanding of Americans among the following host country individuals or groups of individuals?	Very Ineffective	Ineffective	Neither Ineffective nor Effective	Effective	Very Effective	Number of respondents
Goal Two—Your counterpart/community partner	1%	3%	10%	55%	32%	5,039
Goal Two—Your host institution/organization	1%	3%	17%	57%	21%	4,736
Goal Two—Group(s) with which you work closely	1%	2%	12%	59%	26%	4,769
Goal Two—Members of your host community	1%	3%	14%	56%	27%	5,080

Table 9. Effectiveness In Bringing The World Back Home (Goal Three)

q24. How effective are you in promoting a better understanding of host country nationals among the following American individuals or groups of individuals?	Very Ineffective	Ineffective	Neither Ineffective nor Effective	Effective	Very Effective	Number of respondents
Goal Three—Your family and close friends	1%	2%	8%	53%	36%	5,127
Goal Three—Your match program	2%	4%	29%	47%	18%	2,079
Goal Three—Other groups with which you work closely	1%	3%	20%	57%	20%	3,230
Goal Three—Your social network in the United States	1%	4%	16%	54%	25%	4,913

Table 10. Effectiveness In All Three Goals—Average Ratings

q22—q24. How effective are you in...	Average rating	Number of respondents
Goal One—Your counterpart/community partner	3.72	4,936
Goal One—Your host institution/organization	3.49	4,619
Goal One—Group(s) with which you work closely	3.86	4,664
Goal One—Members of your host community	3.68	4,906
Goal Two—Your counterpart/community partner	4.14	5,039
Goal Two—Your host institution/organization	3.94	4,736
Goal Two—Group(s) with which you work closely	4.08	4,769
Goal Two—Group(s) with which you work closely	4.08	4,769
Goal Three—Your family and close friends	4.23	5,127
Goal Three—Your match program	3.77	2,079
Goal Three—Other groups with which you work closely	3.92	3,230
Goal Three—Your social network in the United States	3.98	4,913

Average rating: 1 = very ineffective; 5 = very effective.

**Table 11. Challenges Preventing Effective Peace Corps Goal Implementation
(All Respondents)**

q25. Which of the following challenges have prevented you from being more effective in achieving Peace Corps goals?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Professional challenges (promptness, work style, lack of resources, etc.)	51%	2,652
Language barriers	49%	2,561
Community/organization is not receptive to change	38%	1,949
Cultural barriers	37%	1,939
Logistical difficulties with counterparts (turnover, limited availability, etc.)	37%	1,936
"Too soon to tell" (early in my service)	26%	1,357
Isolation, including limited means of communication	19%	1,000
Lack of a counterpart	19%	969
Personal differences with counterparts (personality conflict, disagreements, etc.)	18%	942
Problems with physical or emotional health	18%	922
Insufficient support from Peace Corps staff	17%	870
Harassment or discrimination at workplace or in the community (sexual or non-sexual)	16%	854
Community/organization does not need a Volunteer	11%	592
My skills did not match the needs of the community/organization	10%	523
None of the above	3%	169
Other (please specify):	2%	92
Number of respondents	100%	5,178

Percentage of respondents in a column may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided.

**Table 12. Challenges Preventing Effective Peace Corps Goal Implementation
(Respondents Who Cited Ineffectiveness In At Least One Goal)**

q25. Which of the following challenges have prevented you from being more effective in achieving Peace Corps goals?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Professional challenges (promptness, work style, lack of resources, etc.)	60%	876
Community/organization is not receptive to change	55%	791
Language barriers	51%	744
Logistical difficulties with counterparts (turnover, limited availability, etc.)	47%	677
Cultural barriers	45%	652
Personal differences with counterparts (personality conflict, disagreements, etc.)	29%	417
Lack of a counterpart	28%	411
Isolation, including limited means of communication	24%	349
Insufficient support from Peace Corps staff	24%	344
Problems with physical or emotional health	22%	312
Harassment or discrimination at workplace or in the community (sexual or non-sexual)	21%	300
"Too soon to tell" (early in my service)	19%	277
Community/organization does not need a Volunteer	19%	273
My skills did not match the needs of the community/organization	18%	263
Other (please specify):	2%	28
None of the above	1%	15
Number of respondents	100%	1,450

Percentage of respondents in a column may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided.

Data is inclusive of respondents who indicated ineffectiveness in one of the 12 goal elements listed in Table 10 (Questions 22–24).

II. Peace Corps Training

This section presents Volunteers' assessments of various Peace Corps training components. Peace Corps training consists of two parts: pre-service training (before Volunteers are sworn in) and in-service training (after Volunteers are sworn in). The survey focused on Peace Corps training overall, without differentiating between pre-service and in-service training. The only exception is four questions gauging whether selected safety and security skills were taught during pre-service training, were learned, and were applied.

Key Findings

- **Overall, Peace Corps training and field experience helped Volunteers feel better prepared to meet the challenges of service.** Less than half of respondents (46%) felt prepared or very prepared to meet the challenges of Peace Corps service when they first arrived in their host countries. After Peace Corps training and field experience, the great majority (85%) felt prepared or very prepared.
- **Safety and security training remains highly ranked.** Eighty-one percent of respondents indicated that training in maintaining personal safety and security was effective, and a significant majority (81%–91%) reported learning or using a specific safety and security skill in the last 12 months. RADAR was the set of skills respondents were least able to retain—15 percent reported receiving training but forgetting what it involved.
- **Volunteers felt that the Peace Corps trained them least effectively on leveraging their network in the United States and on maintaining their mental/emotional health.** Over a third of respondents (34%) considered their training on interacting with contacts in the U.S. to share experiences and advance their work to be ineffective or very ineffective. Less than half of respondents (49%) reported their mental/emotional health maintenance training to be effective or very effective.
- **Volunteers rated the competence of their technical trainers higher than the applicability of technical training content to their project work or the depth of that training.** Eighty-one percent of respondents agreed that their technical trainers were knowledgeable, and 76 percent agreed they effectively communicated material. While 69 percent agreed that technical training content was relevant to their work at site, barely half (51 percent) agreed it was covered in sufficient depth.
- **Many Volunteers reported being unable to communicate well in their local language, despite rating their language training as effective.** Only 40 percent of respondents reported they could communicate well or very well in the local languages spoken in their communities, while over three quarters of them (77%) rated language training as effective or very effective.

Table 13. Preparedness For Peace Corps Service

	Very Unprepared	Unprepared	Neither Unprepared nor Prepared	Prepared	Very Prepared	Number of respondents
q05. How prepared for Peace Corps service did you feel when you arrived in Country?	4%	16%	33%	37%	10%	5,231
q10. In general, how prepared do you feel today to meet the challenges of Peace Corps service?	<0.5%	3%	11%	59%	27%	5,228

Table 14. Preparedness For Peace Corps Service—Average Ratings

	Average rating	Number of respondents
q05. How prepared for Peace Corps service did you feel when you arrived in Country?	3.31	5,202
q10. In general, how prepared do you feel today to meet the challenges of Peace Corps service?	4.08	5,202

Average rating: 1 = very unprepared; 5 = very prepared.

Based on respondents who rated both time frames.

Table 15. Effectiveness Of Peace Corps Training In Host Country Adjustment Skills

q07. Please evaluate the effectiveness of your Peace Corps training in preparing you to:	Very Ineffective	Ineffective	Neither Ineffective nor Effective	Effective	Very Effective	Number of respondents
Manage cultural differences	1%	7%	16%	57%	19%	5,222
Adjust to your physical living conditions	1%	6%	19%	54%	19%	5,198
Use language needed in your work/community	3%	9%	12%	50%	27%	5,202
Maintain your physical health	2%	12%	25%	46%	15%	5,186
Maintain your mental/emotional health	5%	16%	29%	40%	10%	5,207
Maintain your personal safety and security	1%	5%	13%	54%	28%	5,224

Table 16. Effectiveness Of Peace Corps Training In Host Country Adjustment Skills—Average Ratings

q07. Please evaluate the effectiveness of your Peace Corps training in preparing you to:	Average rating	Number of respondents
Manage cultural differences	3.85	5,091
Adjust to your physical living conditions	3.84	5,091
Use language needed in your work/community	3.90	5,091
Maintain your physical health	3.60	5,091
Maintain your mental/emotional health	3.33	5,091
Maintain your personal safety and security	4.02	5,091

Average rating: 1 = very ineffective; 5 = very effective.

Based on respondents who rated all training aspects.

Table 17. Effectiveness Of Peace Corps Training In Primary Work Assignment Skills

q08. Please evaluate the effectiveness of your Peace Corps training in preparing you to:	Very Ineffective	Ineffective	Neither Ineffective nor Effective	Effective	Very Effective	Number of respondents
Perform technical aspects of your work	4%	13%	20%	49%	14%	5,195
Work with counterparts/community partners	3%	12%	23%	52%	11%	5,209
Conduct a community needs assessment	3%	14%	23%	47%	13%	5,159
Work on your project goals and objectives	2%	9%	19%	56%	13%	5,184
Monitor/evaluate project goals and outcomes	4%	15%	26%	45%	10%	5,163
Interact with contacts in the United States to share your experiences and advance your work	8%	26%	38%	23%	5%	4,778

Table 18. Effectiveness Of Peace Corps Training In Primary Work Assignment Skills—Average Ratings

q08. Please evaluate the effectiveness of your Peace Corps training in preparing you to:	Average rating	Number of respondents
Perform technical aspects of your work	3.54	4,664
Work with counterparts/community partners	3.58	4,664
Conduct a community needs assessment	3.53	4,664
Work on your project goals and objectives	3.68	4,664
Monitor/evaluate project goals and outcomes	3.41	4,664
Interact with contacts in the United States to share your experiences and advance your work	2.90	4,664

Average rating: 1 = very ineffective; 5 = very effective.

Based on respondents who rated all training aspects.

Table 19. Ability To Communicate

	Not at All	Poorly	Adequately	Well	Very well	Number of respondents
q44. How well can you communicate in the language used by most local people in your community?	1%	18%	41%	26%	13%	5,176
q49. How well can you communicate your personal boundaries in the situations that make you feel uncomfortable?	1%	11%	42%	31%	15%	5,131

Table 20. Volunteer Assessment Of Technical Training

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Number of respondents
q09. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?						
My technical training covered the breadth of subject matter that I needed to perform my primary sector work effectively.	5%	16%	18%	47%	14%	5,127
My technical training covered subject matter topics at the necessary depth that I needed to perform my primary sector work effectively.	7%	23%	19%	39%	12%	5,130
My primary sector technical training facilitator(s) was knowledgeable in the subject matter covered.	2%	5%	11%	47%	34%	5,151
My primary sector technical training facilitator(s) was able to effectively communicate subject matter to me.	3%	8%	14%	50%	26%	5,150
My technical training is relevant to the work that I do at my site.	4%	12%	16%	49%	20%	5,140

Table 21. Volunteer Assessment Of Technical Training—Average Ratings

q09. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?	Average rating	Number of respondents
My technical training covered the breadth of subject matter that I needed to perform my primary sector work effectively.	3.51	5,017
My technical training covered subject matter topics at the necessary depth that I needed to perform my primary sector work effectively.	3.27	5,017
My primary sector technical training facilitator(s) was knowledgeable in the subject matter covered.	4.05	5,017
My primary sector technical training facilitator(s) was able to effectively communicate subject matter to me.	3.88	5,017
My technical training is relevant to the work that I do at my site.	3.69	5,017

Average rating: 1 = strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree.

Based on respondents who rated all aspects.

Table 22. Using Safety And Security Skills Learned At Pre-Service Training

	Used this skill	Learned but did not need to use this skill	Learned this skill, but was unable to apply it when needed	Learned this skill, but do not remember what it involves	I was not trained on this skill	Number of respondents
q11. Have you developed and used personal safety and security strategies in the past 12 months?	61%	30%	3%	5%*	1%	5,216
q12. Have you used Sexual Assault Awareness skills to mitigate unwanted sexual advances in the past 12 months?	39%	48%	6%	5%	2%	5,211
q13. Have you used Bystander Intervention skills in the past 12 months?	30%	58%	3%	6%	2%	5,216
q14. Have you used your "RADAR" or personal security skills in the past 12 months?	50%	31%	2%	15%	3%	5,214

* Percentage refers to respondents who received strategies training, but did not develop any of their own.

III. Work of Volunteers

This section presents information on Volunteers' work activities, their reflections on working with counterparts, their views on how effective their projects were in meeting intended goals and objectives, as well as their opinions on the future of their primary projects and the Peace Corps program in their host countries.

Key Findings

- **Peace Corps Volunteers generally reported that their project work matched both their skills and the needs of their host communities.** Respondents spent on average almost 33 hours per week on work-related activities, of which 10 were spent on secondary projects or community service. Three quarters of respondents (75%) felt that their skills were appropriate to the work they did at their site, with slightly lower percentages reporting that their work was aligned to community need (71%) and that they had enough work to do at their site (68%).
- **Volunteers remained committed to their primary project assignment.** Generally, the work activities of respondents were closely aligned with their primary project sector: A low of 85 percent of Youth in Development and a high of 99 percent of Education respondents were involved in activities aligned with their respective sectors. Nearly six in 10 respondents (58%) reported undertaking cross-sector work.
- **The majority of Volunteers do not have a satisfactory relationship with a Peace Corps-assigned counterpart.** More than a quarter of respondents (27%) did not currently work with a Peace Corps-assigned counterpart. Of those that did maintain a working relationship with their assigned counterpart, 62 percent were satisfied with their partnership in terms of their project work, and 71 percent in terms of integration into the community. When all respondents are considered, only a minority have a satisfactory relationship with an assigned counterpart.
- **Most Volunteers felt that their primary projects fulfill their stated objectives.** Two-thirds of respondents (66%) considered their primary project to be effective in meeting its stated goals and objectives. Accordingly, almost four times as many respondents (35%) supported their project's growth over its discontinuation (9%) in their host country. Similarly, 38 percent felt the Peace Corps program overall should expand in their host country.

Table 23. Primary Sector Assignment

	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Agriculture	9%	448
Education	42%	2,231
Environment	8%	414
Health	21%	1,127
Community Economic Development	11%	555
Youth in Development	9%	494
Total	100%	5,269

Primary Sector Assignment refers to the Peace Corps-assigned work sector of record of the respondents.

Table 24. Work Activities

q15. What do you do as part of your Peace Corps work?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
English teaching	63%	3,266
Gender equity/women's empowerment	49%	2,555
Youth as resources/working with youth	48%	2,476
Girls education	40%	2,106
Teacher training	29%	1,505
HIV/AIDS	27%	1,413
Nutrition education	27%	1,383
Organizational management/leadership development	23%	1,215
Sports/fitness	23%	1,199
Childhood or early literacy	23%	1,181
Environment work	22%	1,125
Food security- community/household	20%	1,057
Malaria prevention	20%	1,038
Library development	20%	1,029
Health extension	19%	972
Agriculture/fish/livestock	18%	923
Income generation	17%	886
Arts	15%	804
Water and sanitation	15%	801
Maternal, child, and neonatal health	15%	799
Entrepreneurship	13%	653
Business advising	12%	649
Math/Science teaching	12%	642
NGO development	11%	591
Volunteerism/V ²	10%	534
Agroforestry	10%	523
Technology for development/ICT	8%	422
Working with people with disabilities	8%	392
Microenterprise development	5%	272
Other (please specify):	1%	41
Number of respondents	100%	5,207

Percentage of respondents in a column may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided.

Table 25. Sector Based On Work Activities

q15. What do you do as part of your Peace Corps work? [Categorized]	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Education	82%	4,249
Health	59%	3,068
Cross-Sector	58%	3,046
Youth in Development	48%	2,476
Community Economic Development	44%	2,312
Agriculture	27%	1,403
Environment	24%	1,261
Other activities	1%	41
Number of respondents	100%	5,207

Percentage of respondents in a column may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided.

Table 26. Primary Sector Assignment By Sector Based On Work Activities

q15. Volunteer Work Activities (Rows) by Primary Sector Assignment (Columns)	Agriculture	Education	Environment	Health	Community Economic Development	Youth in Development
Education	60%	99%	63%	69%	68%	83%
Health	71%	41%	56%	98%	32%	72%
Cross-Sector	54%	52%	54%	66%	60%	79%
Youth in Development	33%	40%	39%	52%	53%	85%
Community Economic Development	60%	27%	54%	44%	93%	49%
Agriculture	95%	7%	72%	34%	20%	10%
Environment	64%	8%	95%	18%	24%	16%
Other activities	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Number of respondents	443	2,210	414	1,106	547	487

Primary Sector Assignment refers to the Peace Corps-assigned work sector of record of the respondents. Volunteer Work Activities are based on the responses to q15 "What do you do as part of your Peace Corps work?", which were then classified by sector.

Percentage of respondents in a column may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided.

Table 27. Time Spent Per Week On Primary And Secondary Activities

q18. How many hours do you spend on your primary work and secondary projects or community service during an average work week?	Average number of hours	Median number of hours	Number of respondents
Primary work	22.5	20.0	5,088
Secondary projects or community service	10.2	10.0	5,088
Total	32.7	32.0	5,088

Table 28. Status Of Working Relationship With Peace Corps-Assigned Counterparts

	Yes	No	Number of respondents
q20. Do you currently work with one or more Peace Corps assigned Counterpart(s)/ community partner(s)?	73%	27%	5,198

Table 29. Satisfaction With Peace Corps-Assigned Counterparts

q21. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of working with your Peace Corps-assigned counterpart?	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither Dissatisfied nor Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Number of respondents
Accomplishing your project work	5%	15%	18%	40%	22%	3,290
Integrating into your community	4%	11%	14%	36%	35%	3,350

Only respondents currently working with a Peace Corps-assigned counterpart (Question 20) were asked to respond to this question.

Table 30. Satisfaction With Peace Corps-Assigned Counterparts—Average Ratings

q21. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of working with your Peace Corps-assigned counterpart?	Average rating	Number of respondents
Accomplishing your project work	3.59	3,275
Integrating into your community	3.86	3,275

Average rating: 1 = very dissatisfied; 5 = very satisfied.

Based on respondents who rated both aspects.

Table 31. Quality Of Work At Site

q16. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Number of respondents
I have enough work to do at my site	6%	14%	12%	37%	31%	5,132
My skills are a good match to the work I do at site	3%	8%	15%	48%	27%	5,147
My work is directly related to what my community needs	2%	8%	18%	48%	23%	5,104

Table 32. Quality Of Work At Site—Average Ratings

q16. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?	Average rating	Number of respondents
I have enough work to do at my site	3.74	4,999
My skills are a good match to the work I do at site	3.88	4,999
My work is directly related to what my community needs	3.81	4,999

Average rating: 1 = strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree.

Based on respondents who rated all aspects.

Table 33. Effectiveness Of Volunteer Projects In Meeting Stated Goals And Objectives

q19. How effective has your project been in meeting its stated goals and objectives?	Very Ineffective	Ineffective	Neither Ineffective nor Effective	Effective	Very Effective	Number of respondents
Your primary project	3%	9%	22%	52%	13%	4,704
Your Peace Corps small grant-funded project	1%	3%	7%	44%	45%	876

Table 34. Opinion On The Future Of Volunteers' Primary Project And The Peace Corps Program In The Host Country

q17. In your view, which of the following options would benefit your host country the most?	Discontinued/ Phased Out	Reduced	Maintained As Is	Expanded	Number of respondents
Your project/primary work assignment should be:	9%	12%	45%	35%	5,158
The Peace Corps program (the post and all projects) in this country should be:	4%	13%	45%	38%	5,152

IV. Site Characteristics

This section presents Volunteer feedback regarding the characteristics of their assigned sites. Before a Volunteer arrives at site, the Peace Corps ensures through the site identification and development process that there is a safe and secure environment, appropriate housing, and available work.

Key Findings

- **Peace Corps Volunteers continued to live in remote locations.** Eight in ten respondents lived in villages, rural areas, or rural towns. The average travel time to the closest Volunteer was 68 minutes, while it took an average of six hours to reach the nearest Peace Corps office.
- **One in three Volunteers was a Peace Corps “pioneer.”** One in three respondents (33%) was the first Peace Corps Volunteer at his or her site.
- **Despite mixed reviews of the Peace Corps’ work in setting expectations, the vast majority of Volunteers liked their sites.** About half of respondents reported that they either received useful information in advance from Peace Corps staff (49%) or that their community work partners were prepared for their arrival (55%). Yet the vast majority (86%) reported that they liked their site.
- **Cellular coverage was more common than running water.** More than nine in 10 respondents (92%) enjoyed daily cell phone coverage at their residence, compared to only 62 percent with daily access to running water.
- **Volunteers felt safest where they lived and worked.** The great majority of respondents felt safe where they lived (93%) and worked (96%). Far fewer felt safe using transportation (52%) and almost a quarter (23%) actually felt unsafe using transportation. A significant proportion of respondents (44%--45%) experienced insensitive comments, harassment, or discrimination in the past year, based on their American nationality, sex, and/or race/color/ethnicity.

Table 35. Site Urbanization

q52. Please choose the best description of your assigned site.	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Village/rural area (population under 2,000)	45%	2,304
Rural town (population 2,000+ to 25,000)	35%	1,796
City (population over 25,000) - not the capital	17%	865
Capital of the country	2%	97
Outer island (regardless of size)	2%	86
Number of respondents	100%	5,148

Table 36. Generation At Site

	Yes	No	Number of respondents
q53. Are you the first Peace Corps Volunteer at your site?	33%	67%	5,120

Table 37. Distance To The Nearest Peace Corps Office And Volunteer

q54. How long does it take you to reach the nearest Peace Corps office and the nearest Peace Corps Volunteer by your typical mode(s) of transportation?	Average	Median	Number of respondents
Nearest office in minutes	365	240	4,942
Nearest Volunteer in minutes	68	30	4,942

Based on respondents who answered both parts of the question.

Table 38. Time Living With Host Country Individual Or Family

q42. How long have you lived with a host country individual or family in total?	Average number of months	Median number of months	Number of respondents
Total number of months lived with a host family	9.2	6.0	5,029

Respondents who did not live with host families and reported 0 months are not included.

Table 39. Access To Modern Conveniences At Residence

q45. How often are the following services available at your residence?	At least once a day	At least once a week, but less than daily	At least once a month, but not every week	Less than once a month	Service Not Available	Number of respondents
Electricity	76%	6%	1%	<0.5%	16%	5,150
Running water	62%	9%	2%	1%	27%	5,154
Cell phone service	92%	5%	1%	<0.5%	2%	5,151
Internet connectivity	63%	13%	3%	1%	20%	5,120

Table 40. Site Perception

q28. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Number of respondents
My site matched my expectations when I arrived	6%	16%	26%	37%	15%	5,061
Peace Corps staff understand what my site is like	10%	20%	20%	37%	14%	5,040
Peace Corps staff provided me with useful information about my site prior to my arrival at the site	9%	20%	22%	36%	12%	5,175
I like my site	1%	4%	9%	39%	47%	5,165

Table 41. Site Perception—Average Ratings

q28. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?	Average rating	Number of respondents
My site matched my expectations when I arrived	3.40	4,839
Peace Corps staff understand what my site is like	3.25	4,839
Peace Corps staff provided me with useful information about my site prior to my arrival at the site	3.23	4,839
I like my site	4.26	4,839

Average rating: 1 = strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree.

Based on respondents who rated all statements.

Table 42. Safety Perception

q47. How safe do you feel in the following environments?	Very Unsafe	Unsafe	Neither Unsafe nor Safe	Safe	Very Safe	Number of respondents
Where you live	<0.5%	2%	6%	45%	48%	5,175
Where you work	<0.5%	1%	3%	45%	51%	5,169
When you travel in-country: transportation safety	5%	18%	25%	42%	10%	5,175
When you travel in-country: personal security	1%	7%	21%	56%	15%	5,177
In the city where your country's main PC office is located	2%	10%	23%	49%	17%	5,176

Table 43. Safety Perception—Average Ratings

q47. How safe do you feel in the following environments?	Average rating	Number of respondents
Where you live	4.38	5,145
Where you work	4.46	5,145
When you travel in-country: transportation safety	3.34	5,145
When you travel in-country: personal security	3.76	5,145
In the city where your country's main PC office is located	3.69	5,145

Average rating: 1 = very unsafe; 5 = very safe.

Based on respondents who rated all environments.

Table 44. Exposure To Insensitive Comments, Harassment, Or Discrimination

q48. In the last 12 months, have you experienced insensitive comments, harassment, or discrimination towards you in your host country based on any of the following characteristics?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
American nationality	45%	2,297
Sex	45%	2,290
Race/color/ethnicity	44%	2,227
Marital status	35%	1,785
Weight	29%	1,468
Age	21%	1,059
Did not experience	18%	900
Religion	13%	684
Gender or transgender identity expression	13%	647
Sexual orientation	6%	318
Other (please specify):	1%	76
Recoded from "Other" - Appearance	1%	36
Disability	1%	35
Number of respondents	100%	5,075

Percentage of respondents in a column may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided.

Table 45. Initial Availability Of Work At Site

q16. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Number of respondents
Meaningful work was available for me when I arrived at site	10%	19%	17%	37%	18%	5,172
Host country individuals with whom I would be working were prepared for my arrival in the community	9%	18%	18%	38%	17%	5,187

Table 46. Initial Availability Of Work At Site—Average Ratings

q16. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?	Average rating	Number of respondents
Meaningful work was available for me when I arrived at site	3.34	4,999
Host country individuals with whom I would be working were prepared for my arrival in the community	3.36	4,999

Average rating: 1 = strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree.

Based on respondents who rated all aspects.

V. Personal Connections

This section presents Volunteer responses to questions related to people-to-people communication, which contributes to a better understanding of how Volunteers advance the agency's mission of promoting world peace and friendship.

Key Findings

- **Volunteers reported successfully engaging with their communities, advancing the Peace Corps mission of world peace and friendship.** A large majority of respondents (80%) had friends at their sites. More than three quarters (77%) felt supported by the local community, with 68 percent of respondents feeling well or very well integrated into their host communities.
- **Nearly all Volunteers communicated weekly or more with multiple groups in-country.** Nine in 10 respondents communicated at least weekly with the following groups, in order of frequency: host country nationals other than their counterpart, other Peace Corps Volunteers, and their counterpart.
- **Many Volunteers reported contributing to Goal Three despite still being in the field.** Almost half of respondents (49%) reported that they had facilitated direct interactions between Americans and host country nationals in the last 12 months.

Table 47. Friendship And Personal Support At Site

q28. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Number of respondents
I have friends at my site	2%	7%	10%	48%	33%	5,154
I feel supported by the local community at my site	2%	6%	15%	45%	32%	5,154

Table 48. Friendship And Personal Support At Site—Average Ratings

q28. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?	Average rating	Number of respondents
I have friends at my site	4.03	4,839
I feel supported by the local community at my site	3.99	4,839

Average rating: 1 = strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree.

Based on respondents who rated all statements.

Table 49. Communication With People

q46. How frequently do you communicate with the following groups of people either in person, by phone, or electronically?	At least once a day	At least once a week, but less than daily	At least once a month, but not every week	Less than once a month	Never	Number of respondents
Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs)	53%	37%	9%	2%	<0.5%	5,175
Other Americans (who are not PCVs)	16%	28%	20%	19%	17%	4,997
Counterpart(s)	42%	47%	7%	2%	2%	5,104
Other host country nationals (who are not your counterparts)	69%	22%	6%	2%	2%	5,137
Friends or family in the United States	28%	51%	18%	3%	<0.5%	5,178
Third country nationals	7%	12%	19%	30%	32%	4,758

Table 50. Estimated Average Number Of Days Per Year Volunteers Communicate With Different Groups Of People

q46. How frequently do you communicate with the following groups of people either in person, by phone, or electronically?	Estimated average number of days	Number of respondents
Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs)	213	4,536
Other Americans (who are not PCVs)	74	4,536
Counterpart(s)	178	4,536
Other host country nationals (who are not your counterparts)	263	4,536
Friends or family in the United States	130	4,536
Third country nationals	37	4,536

Never = 0 days; Less than monthly = 6; Monthly not weekly = 12; Weekly not daily = 52; Daily = 365 days.

Based on respondents who reported for all six groups of people.

Table 51. Using Personal Connections For Managing Stress

q41. Which of the following activities do you do to help manage stress?	Yes	Number of respondents
Spend time with PCVs	71%	5,185
Spend time with host country nationals	47%	5,185
Contact others by phone, text, email, etc. (in your country of service, or in the United States)	78%	5,185

Table 52. Integrated Into The Local Community

	Very Poorly Integrated	Poorly Integrated	Neither Poorly nor Well Integrated	Well Integrated	Very Well Integrated	Number of respondents
q43. How integrated into your community do you feel?	1%	5%	26%	50%	17%	5,150

Table 53. Facilitating Direct Interactions Between Americans And Host Country Nationals

	Yes	No	Number of respondents
q26. Did you facilitate direct interactions between Americans and host country nationals in the last 12 months?	49%	51%	5,180

VI. Ongoing Peace Corps Support and Site Monitoring

This section presents Volunteer feedback on in-country Peace Corps staff support, processes, and organizational culture.

Key Findings

- **Most Volunteers have positive opinions of their country director and overall staff support.** A majority agreed that their country director performed well on four elements of Volunteer support, rating the fostering of open communication the highest. Ninety-four percent of respondents were visited by a Peace Corps staff member in the 12 months preceding the survey. Almost a quarter (23%) were visited by their country director.
- **Volunteers were highly satisfied with safety and security and medical support.** Of the six major support functions surveyed, respondents were once again most satisfied with safety and security support (80%), followed by the medical support provided by Peace Corps in-country staff (73%). Respondents were least satisfied with emotional support (49%).
- **A majority of Volunteers reported being satisfied with feedback on their work.** About six in 10 were satisfied with the quality (62%) and the timeliness (59%) of feedback from Peace Corps staff on their work.
- **Many Volunteers felt that the Peace Corps' culture is inclusive.** Sixty-eight percent agreed or strongly agreed that the Peace Corps' organizational culture is inclusive of diverse people. The highest percentage of all respondents saw race/ethnicity as the biggest gap in inclusion, while those who felt the Peace Corps was not inclusive were significantly more likely to also perceive gaps relating to sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and national origin.

Table 54. Satisfaction With In-Country Peace Corps Staff Support

q27. How satisfied are you with the following types of support provided by in-country Peace Corps staff?	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither Dissatisfied nor Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Number of respondents
Administrative/logistical	4%	12%	17%	46%	21%	5,145
Emotional	7%	16%	28%	34%	15%	4,880
Medical	4%	11%	13%	42%	31%	5,147
Project specific technical skills	4%	13%	19%	45%	18%	5,106
Safety and security	2%	6%	12%	43%	37%	5,149
Site selection/preparation	7%	15%	16%	40%	23%	5,164

Table 55. Satisfaction With In-Country Peace Corps Staff Support—Average Ratings

q27. How satisfied are you with the following types of support provided by in-country Peace Corps staff?	Average rating	Number of respondents
Administrative/logistical	3.66	4,740
Emotional	3.33	4,740
Medical	3.85	4,740
Project specific technical skills	3.61	4,740
Safety and security	4.05	4,740
Site selection/preparation	3.55	4,740

Average rating: 1 = very dissatisfied; 5 = very satisfied.

Based on respondents who rated all functions.

Table 56. Volunteer Perceptions Of Their Country Director

q30. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Number of respondents
My Country Director enforces post policies in a consistent manner.	6%	9%	14%	42%	29%	4,548
My Country Director is aware of the issues that Volunteers face in service.	8%	14%	16%	38%	24%	4,724
My Country Director fosters open communication between herself/himself and Volunteers.	6%	8%	13%	37%	36%	4,899
My Country Director facilitates the resolution of issues that Volunteers face in service.	7%	10%	21%	37%	25%	4,365

Table 57. Volunteer Perceptions Of Their Country Director—Average Ratings

q30. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?	Average rating	Number of respondents
My Country Director enforces post policies in a consistent manner.	3.78	4,100
My Country Director is aware of the issues that Volunteers face in service.	3.54	4,100
My Country Director fosters open communication between herself/himself and Volunteers.	3.87	4,100
My Country Director facilitates the resolution of issues that Volunteers face in service.	3.63	4,100

Average rating: 1 = strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree.

Based on respondents who rated all statements.

Table 58. Satisfaction With Feedback From Peace Corps Staff

q29. How satisfied are you with the timeliness and quality of feedback from Peace Corps staff about your work?	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither Dissatisfied nor Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Number of respondents
Timeliness	5%	14%	22%	42%	17%	4,870
Quality	5%	12%	22%	45%	17%	4,859

Table 59. Satisfaction With Feedback From Peace Corps Staff—Average Ratings

q29. How satisfied are you with the timeliness and quality of feedback from Peace Corps staff about your work?	Average rating	Number of respondents
Timeliness	3.52	4,824
Quality	3.58	4,824

Average rating: 1 = very dissatisfied; 5 = very satisfied.

Based on respondents who rated both aspects.

Table 60. Satisfaction With Peace Corps Medical Officers

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither Dissatisfied nor Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Did Not Receive Healthcare from my PCMO(s) in the Past 12 Months	Number of respondents
q35. How satisfied are you with the health care that you have received from your PCMO(s)?	3%	8%	12%	40%	31%	6%	5,124

Table 61. Familiarity With The PC SAVES Helpline

	Never heard of it before	Very unfamiliar	Unfamiliar	Neither unfamiliar nor familiar	Familiar	Very familiar	Number of respondents
q55. How familiar are you with the PC SAVES Helpline for obtaining information related to sexual assault services?	13%	10%	18%	18%	37%	4%	5,096

Table 62. Site Visits In The Last 12 Months (Any Representatives)

	Peace Corps representatives visited site in the past 12 months	Peace Corps representatives did not visit site in the past 12 months	Number of respondents
q31. In the last 12 months, have any of the following Peace Corps representatives visited you at your site? [Categorized]	94%	6%	5,037

Table 63. Site Visits In The Last 12 Months (Specific Representatives)

q31. In the last 12 months, have any of the following Peace Corps representatives visited you at your site?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Program manager/APCD or program assistant/program specialist	72%	3,645
Regional manager, housing coordinator, language/cultural facilitator	41%	2,057
DMO, DPT, PCMO, S&S coordinator	34%	1,736
Country Director	23%	1,144
Peace Corps Volunteer Leader	20%	1,024
Peace Corps representatives did not visit my site during the past 12 months	6%	298
Other Peace Corps representatives (please specify):	4%	177
Recoded from "Other" - Representative from Peace Corps Washington	2%	92
Number of respondents	100%	5,037

Percentage of respondents in a column may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided.

Table 64. Inclusion In Peace Corps' Organizational Culture

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Number of respondents
q50. To what extent do you disagree or agree that the organizational culture of the Peace Corps (including staff and Volunteers) is inclusive of diverse people?	2%	9%	20%	47%	21%	5,131

Table 65. Gaps In The Culture Of Inclusion At The Peace Corps (All Respondents)

q51. Where do you see gaps in the culture of inclusion in the Peace Corps?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Race/color/ethnicity	37%	1,770
Socioeconomic status	29%	1,403
None of the above	27%	1,302
Disability	23%	1,118
Age	23%	1,082
Gender identity	22%	1,026
Sexual orientation	20%	976
Religion	15%	718
National origin	12%	559
Sex	11%	522
Veteran status	10%	468
Family structures	9%	420
Language	8%	391
Recoded from "Other" - Viewpoints and beliefs	2%	81
Other (please specify):	1%	48
Recoded from "Other" - Mental health	1%	26
Number of respondents	100%	4,762

Percentage of respondents in a column may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided.

Table 66. Gaps In The Culture Of Inclusion At The Peace Corps (Respondents Who Disagreed That The Organizational Culture Of The Peace Corps Is Inclusive Of Diverse People)

q51. Where do you see gaps in the culture of inclusion in the Peace Corps?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Race/color/ethnicity	81%	494
Socioeconomic status	45%	276
Sexual orientation	44%	268
Gender identity	44%	268
Age	35%	210
Disability	30%	180
Religion	29%	175
Sex	27%	166
National origin	25%	154
Family structures	18%	110
Language	15%	93
Veteran status	14%	82
Recoded from "Other" - Viewpoints and beliefs	2%	12
Other (please specify):	1%	7
None of the above	1%	7
Recoded from "Other" - Mental health	1%	5
Number of respondents	100%	607

Percentage of respondents in a column may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided.

Data is inclusive of respondents who disagreed in q50 that the organizational culture of the Peace Corps is inclusive of diverse people.

Table 67. Using Peace Corps Digital Materials

	At least once a day	At least once a week, but not every day	At least once a month, but not every week	Less than once a month	Did not use in the past 12 months	Number of respondents
q32. How often did you use Peace Corps digital materials in your work in the last 12 months?	3%	21%	26%	28%	22%	5,151

VII. Health of Volunteers

This section presents the distribution of responses to questions about the physical and emotional health of Volunteers as well as their stress levels and health-related habits.

Key Findings

- **Volunteers felt less healthy when they took the survey than when they first arrived at their site.** 43 percent of respondents reported deteriorated health during service. They attributed this to the local diet nearly twice as often as the next most frequently reported health challenges—inability to/lack of exercise and stress.
- **Yet, Volunteers felt less stressed when they took the survey than when they first arrived at their site.** More than half of respondents (52%) reported reduced stress during service. While respondents engaged in many different types of stress-reducing activities, the most popular were listening to music, reading, communication with others electronically, and exercise. The most common sources of stress were work (48%), transportation (45%), isolation/loneliness (45%), and communicating in the local language (44%).
- **Of the approximately 82 percent of Volunteers who drink, the majority (55%) reported consuming four or more drinks in one sitting on at least one occasion in the month prior to the survey.** The most common reason cited for drinking is personal enjoyment (75%), followed by community events (58%) and drinking habits of other Volunteers (50%).

Table 68. Health Self-Assessment

q33. How would you rate your physical health when you first arrived at your site, and during the last 30 days? [Categorized]	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Health deteriorated	43%	2,195
Health remained the same	28%	1,440
Health improved	30%	1,527
Number of respondents	100%	5,162

Table 69. Health Self-Assessment—Average And Median Ratings

q33. How would you rate your physical health when you first arrived at your site, and during the last 30 days?	Average	Median	Number of respondents
When first arrived	7.3	8.0	5,162
Last 30 days	6.9	7.0	5,162

Average rating: 1 = not at all healthy; 10 = exceptionally healthy.

Based on respondents who rated both time periods.

Table 70. Stress Level Self-Assessment

q34. How would you rate your average level of stress during the first month after you arrived at your site and during the last 30 days? [Categorized]	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Stress elevated	30%	1,552
Stress level remained the same	18%	914
Stress reduced	52%	2,698
Number of respondents	100%	5,164

Table 71. Stress Level Self-Assessment—Average And Median Ratings

q34. How would you rate your average level of stress during the first month after you arrived at your site and during the last 30 days?	Average	Median	Number of respondents
Month when first arrived	6.0	6.0	5,164
Last 30 days	5.2	5.0	5,164

Average rating: 1 = little to no stress; 10 = a great deal of stress.

Based on respondents who rated both time periods.

Table 72. Involvement In Health-Related Activities: Once Per Month Or More Often

q36. During a typical month in your service, how many days do you engage in the following activities? (1+ time monthly)	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Get enough sleep	99%	5,043
Eat healthily	97%	4,943
Exercise	94%	4,837
Drink alcoholic beverages	83%	4,235
Smoke	17%	856
Number of respondents	100%	5,119

Respondents who were not involved in any of the activities and reported 0 days are not included.

Percentage of respondents in a column may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided.

Table 73. Involvement In Health-Related Activities: Four Times Per Month Or More Often

q36. During a typical month in your service, how many days do you engage in the following activities? (4+ times monthly)	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Get enough sleep	98%	4,996
Eat healthily	94%	4,794
Exercise	90%	4,595
Drink alcoholic beverages	48%	2,456
Smoke	10%	518
Number of respondents	100%	5,107

Respondents who were not involved in any of the activities and reported 0 days are not included.

Percentage of respondents in a column may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided.

Table 74. Involvement In Health-Related Activities—Average And Median Time Spent Per Month

q36. During a typical month in your service, how many days do you engage in the following activities?	Average	Median	Number of respondents
Eat healthily	19.6	20.0	4,943
Drink alcoholic beverages	5.3	4.0	4,235
Exercise	16.1	15.0	4,837
Get enough sleep	22.4	25.0	5,043
Smoke	9.8	5.0	856

Respondents who were not involved in any of the activities and reported 0 days are not included.

Table 75. Factors Limiting Personal Health

q38. Do any of the following factors currently limit your ability to maintain your physical health?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Local diet	57%	2,943
Inability to exercise outside	30%	1,557
High stress level	30%	1,533
Lack of exercise	29%	1,486
Environmental factors (e.g., pollution)	26%	1,332
None of the above	17%	891
Lack of trust in Peace Corps medical care	11%	583
Safety and security issues	11%	569
Distance from health care	11%	546
Lack of trust in local medical resources	10%	517
Lack of access to clean drinking water	8%	413
Other factors (please specify):	2%	111
Recoded from "Other" - Prior or current medical condition or injury	1%	72
Recoded from "Other" - Not enough time	1%	41
Recoded from "Other" - Not enough money to maintain healthy diet or to exercise	1%	32
Recoded from "Other" - Not enough sleep	1%	28
Number of respondents	100%	5,125

Percentage of respondents in a column may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided.

Table 76. Factors Contributing To Greater Stress

q40. Which of the following factors contribute to elevating your stress level?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Work	48%	2,504
Transportation	45%	2,338
Isolation/loneliness	45%	2,304
Communicating in the local language	44%	2,253
Cultural adjustments	42%	2,191
Interactions with host country nationals	42%	2,183
Counterparts/community partners	40%	2,069
Family, friends, loved ones back home	35%	1,833
Close of service, or your future after the Peace Corps	35%	1,804
Lack of work	34%	1,780
Sexual or nonsexual harassment	33%	1,686
Boredom	33%	1,684
Personal health maintenance	29%	1,512
Interactions with other Volunteers	26%	1,348
Interactions with Peace Corps staff	23%	1,212
Your host family	23%	1,185
In-country dating/ relationships	20%	1,053
Personal safety	16%	840
None of the above	2%	112
Other sources of stress (please specify):	2%	93
Number of respondents	100%	5,174

Percentage of respondents in a column may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided.

Table 77. Stress Management Activities

q41. Which of the following activities do you do to help manage stress?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Listen to music	81%	4,177
Read	80%	4,172
Contact others by phone, text, email, etc. (in your country of service, or in the United States)	78%	4,034
Exercise, walk, or otherwise make an effort to stay fit	76%	3,959
Watch movies or TV	74%	3,834
Spend time with PCVs	71%	3,682
Sleep, nap, or rest	71%	3,669
Pursue creative hobbies (write or journal, arts and crafts, play music, sing or dance, cook or bake, etc.)	71%	3,661
Leave your community/travel	63%	3,264
Surf Internet, use the computer, or play video games	52%	2,698
Get involved in additional projects, work, or studying	48%	2,514
Spend time with host country nationals	47%	2,456
Eat more or less than usual	34%	1,782
Meditate	33%	1,698
Drink alcohol	21%	1,076
Pray or attend religious services	15%	796
Shop	13%	684
Smoke	8%	402
Attend counseling session(s)	5%	265
Other (please specify):	1%	71
None of the above	<0.5%	14
Number of respondents	100%	5,185

Percentage of respondents in a column may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided.

Table 78. Frequency Of Occasions Involving The Consumption Of Four (If Female)/Five (If Male) Or More Alcoholic Drinks Among Volunteers Who Drink

q37. How many times during the past 30 days did you have 4 or more drinks on an occasion (if female), or 5 or more drinks on an occasion (if male)?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
At least one time in the past 30 days	55%	4,280
Five times or more in the past 30 days	7%	4,280

Data is inclusive of respondents who drank at least once a month.

Table 79. Reasons For Alcohol Consumption Reported By Volunteers Who Drink

q39. What are some of the reasons why you might drink alcohol during your Peace Corps service?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Personal enjoyment	75%	3,182
Social events with community members	58%	2,454
Drinking habits of fellow Volunteers	50%	2,120
In-country cultural norms	34%	1,457
Stress reduction	31%	1,335
Continued my U.S. drinking habits here	21%	907
Boredom	18%	756
Easy availability of alcohol	16%	672
Isolation/Loneliness	12%	509
Other reasons (please specify):	2%	64
Number of respondents	100%	4,263

Percentage of respondents in a column may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided.

Data is inclusive of respondents who drank at least once a month.

Table 80. Experiences when drinking alcohol

q56. Within the last 12 months, have you experienced any of the following when drinking alcohol?	Yes	Number of respondents
Did something you later regretted	22%	4,213
Forgot where you were or what you did	13%	4,202
Got into trouble with Peace Corps staff	2%	4,210
Got into trouble with the police	<0.5%	4,211
Physically injured yourself	4%	4,211
Physically injured another person	<0.5%	4,211

Data is inclusive of respondents who drank at least once a month.

VIII. Participant Profile

A total of 5,269 Volunteers across 61 posts participated in the 2017 Annual Volunteer Survey. Of those, 45 percent were serving in the Africa region, 30 percent in the Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia region, and 25 percent were serving in the Inter-America and Pacific region. Survey participants were representative of the Volunteer population in terms of sex, age, race/color/ethnicity, education, marital status, prior Peace Corps service, geographic location, work sector, and length of service.

This section compares basic demographic information about survey participants with that of the entire population of Volunteers who served while the survey was in the field.

Key Findings

- Survey respondents reflected a predominantly female Volunteer population.
- The vast majority of respondents (94%) held at least an undergraduate degree with 15% also holding a graduate degree, consistent with the Volunteer population.
- In 2017, the average respondent was 28 years old and had served 66 weeks at the time of the survey. Overall, the respondents were—like the population of all eligible Volunteers—divided fairly evenly in terms of their length of service at the time they took the survey.
- More than six in 10 respondents were assigned to either the Education (42%) or Health (21%) sectors, which reflects the proportion of the Volunteer population assigned to the Peace Corps' two largest project sectors.

Table 81. Time Spent In Host Country

Number of months since Volunteer first arrived in the country [Categorized]	Respondents	All eligible Volunteers
6 months or shorter	18%	17%
7–12	24%	24%
13–20	28%	29%
21–27	25%	26%
28 month or longer	5%	5%
Number of respondents	5,269	5,970
Average number of months	15.1	15.4
Median number of months	14.0	14.0
Total	5,269	5,970

Table 82. Sex

	Respondents	All eligible Volunteers
Female	62%	61%
Male	38%	39%
Number of respondents	5,269	5,970

Table 83. Age

	Respondents	All eligible Volunteers
23 or younger	20%	20%
24–28	59%	59%
29–55	17%	17%
56 or older	4%	4%
Number of respondents	5,269	5,970
Average	28.1	28.0
Median	25.0	25.0
Total	5,269	5,970

Table 84. Race/Color/Ethnicity

	Respondents	All eligible Volunteers
American Indian or Alaskan Native	<0.5%	<0.5%
Asian or Pacific Islander	6%	6%
Black or African-American	8%	8%
Hispanic or Latino	11%	12%
Not specified	2%	2%
Two or more	5%	5%
White	68%	67%
Number of respondents	5,269	5,970

Table 85. Education

	Respondents	All eligible Volunteers
A.A. Degree/Some College	3%	3%
College Graduate	76%	76%
Graduate Study	4%	4%
Graduate Degree	15%	15%
Other	<0.5%	<0.5%
Not Available	3%	3%
Number of respondents	5,269	5,970

Table 86. Marital Status

	Respondents	All eligible Volunteers
Single	96%	96%
Married (Serving w/Spouse)	2%	2%
Married (Other)	1%	1%
Divorced/Legal Separation	1%	1%
Widowed	<0.5%	<0.5%
Number of respondents	5,269	5,970

Table 87. Prior Peace Corps Service

	Respondents	All eligible Volunteers
First Peace Corps Service	97%	97%
Served in the Peace Corps Previously	3%	3%
Number of respondents	5,269	5,970

Table 88. Primary Project Sector

	Respondents	All eligible Volunteers
Agriculture	9%	8%
Education	42%	42%
Environment	8%	8%
Health	21%	22%
Community Economic Development	11%	10%
Youth in Development	9%	10%
Number of respondents	5,269	5,970

Table 89. Peace Corps Administrative Region

	Respondents	All eligible Volunteers
Africa	45%	45%
Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia	30%	29%
Inter-America and Pacific	25%	26%
Number of respondents	5,269	5,970

IX. Methodology

From June 19 to August 11, 2017, the Peace Corps conducted a survey of currently serving Peace Corps Volunteers—the Annual Volunteer Survey. The 2017 survey is the 22nd in a series of studies designed to collect feedback from all Volunteers globally. The first global survey of Volunteers was administered 42 years ago, in 1975. Since 2009, the survey has been administered on an annual basis to meet agency performance requirements.

The objective of this study is to obtain Volunteers' perspectives on the current state of the Peace Corps program in order to help the agency improve its performance by better understanding how practices in the field contribute to program outcomes and affect the Volunteer experience. The scope of the study includes Volunteers who joined the Peace Corps to serve abroad for two years, were sworn in, and had served for one month or longer as of August 11, 2017.

The survey population includes 5,970 Peace Corps Volunteers serving in a two-year program at 61 Peace Corps posts worldwide. By the response cut-off date, 5,269 Volunteers had completed the survey, for an overall response rate of 88 percent.

Table 1. Response Rate

	All eligible	Participated	Response Rate
Volunteers	5,970	5,269	88.3%
Posts	61	61	100.0%

Survey Administration and Instrument

The 2017 Annual Volunteer Survey was distributed to Volunteers through a direct link specific to each respondent, sent via email. The distribution process was centrally-managed by the Peace Corps' Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning (OSIRP). This represents a fundamental change in the way that the survey is administered to Volunteers. In prior years, the survey was distributed to Volunteers through Country Directors at each Peace Corps post.

The new distribution process helped to ensure that survey administration was uniform across all eligible respondents. Responses were received from all but three posts on the first day of the survey window. After one week, at least one survey response was received from every eligible post. This represents a significant increase over 2016 in early responses, suggesting that direct-to-Volunteer distribution better ensures that all Volunteers have an equal chance to respond.

Table 2. Date first survey response was received from post

	Number of posts	Percentage of posts
June 19	58	95.1%
June 20–June 26	3	4.9%
Total	61	100.0%

The 2017 Annual Volunteer Survey self-administered questionnaire contains 56 detailed questions—although some questions may not have been applicable to all respondents. It covers the following broad topics:

- Overall assessment of Peace Corps service
- Training for Peace Corps assignment
- Work activities
- Peace Corps goals and impact
- Peace Corps support
- Health of Volunteers
- Site characteristics
- Additional demographic, health, and well-being information

The 2017 survey questionnaire is similar to the 2015 and 2016 versions of the questionnaire. The most notable change is the removal of most demographic questions: direct-to-Volunteer distribution of Volunteer-specific links allows for linkage to Agency administrative records, obviating the need to obtain demographic data from the respondents via the questionnaire. New content in the 2017 survey includes the return of questions about Volunteer motivations for joining the Peace Corps that were removed after the 2014 survey, questions about the effectiveness of primary and small grants projects in meeting their intended goals, and improvements meant to better ascertain Volunteer experiences pertaining to topics as wide-ranging as Goal Three efficacy and alcohol consumption. A copy of the survey instrument is available in the appendix.

The Annual Volunteer Survey continues to be confidential. Respondents were informed that their name and email address would be automatically removed from their responses, with individual responses being accessible only to survey analysts at Peace Corps headquarters in order to facilitate data preparation, incorporate supporting data from existing Peace Corps information systems, and report aggregate results. All questions were optional. The survey was conducted online, accessible on mobile devices, and could be completed in multiple sessions. A typical respondent spent 28 minutes to complete the survey.²

Data Analysis

Findings reported in this publication are based on survey responses from participating Volunteers who represent a very high percentage (88%) of, but not all, Volunteers. Therefore, the data are subject to error, including coverage error and nonresponse error. Since the nature of these errors is unknown, the overall survey estimates may range within +/- 12 percent (the percentage of population who did not respond to the survey). While the survey is no longer administered by third parties, the data may be impacted by bias that is introduced by variations in incentives offered to respondents designed to boost participation.

Data were analyzed and tabulated using specialized statistical software packages. Percentages in tables may not add to 100 either due to multiple responses provided by respondents or due to rounding. Averages and percentages are not reported if the number of observations in a cell is less than five. Unless otherwise specified, responses “don’t know,” “prefer not to say,” or “not applicable” are not included.

Limitations

Three major limitations of the study are: 1) an unknown nonresponse bias; 2) inconsistent practices surrounding incentivizing survey participation employed by posts; and 3) the tracking at some posts of individual survey completion status, which may introduce unintended response biases impacting the accuracy or truthfulness of individual survey responses.

The survey was distributed to all eligible two-year Peace Corps Volunteers, not to a probability-based sample of Volunteers. Although a very high percentage of Volunteers responded, there is nothing known about the opinions of the 12 percent who did not respond. The change in methodology incorporating direct distribution to

² Median time.

Volunteers now allows for a study of non-response and the exploration of potential remedies such as survey weighting. In the interim, conservative population estimates should still be employed. These estimates should include a range resulting from assigning all nonrespondents to the most positive ratings on a given scale, to assigning all nonrespondents to the most negative ratings on a given scale—a process that essentially redistributes survey results based on the population totals.

While the distribution of the survey itself was centralized, posts still had latitude in messaging and incentivizing participation. Furthermore, some posts independently tracked respondent participation via formal and informal means. Therefore, differences in responses among geographic locations may be attributable to these potential differences in survey support policies and strategies.

Work Activities as Recoded into Sectors at Tables 25 and 26

Tables 25 and 26 categorized Volunteers into sectors based on their reported work activities in q15. What do you do as part of your Peace Corps work? Categorization was completed per the following:

Sector Categorization	Work Activities
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture/fish/livestock • Food security—community/household
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childhood or early literacy • English teaching • Girls education • Library development • Math/Science teaching • Teacher training
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agroforestry • Environment work
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health extension • HIV/AIDS • Malaria prevention • Maternal, child, and neonatal health • Nutrition education • Sports/fitness • Water and sanitation
Community Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business advising • Entrepreneurship • Income generation • Microenterprise development • NGO development • Organizational management/leadership development • Technology for development/ICT
Youth in Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth as resources/working with youth
Cross-Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts • Gender equity/women's empowerment • Volunteerism/V² • Working with people with disabilities

Key Survey Definitions

The following definitions explain terms that appeared in the survey questionnaire and in this report.

Administrative/Logistical staff: Peace Corps staff who perform routine administrative duties, records management, and a range of support functions, including accounting. Positions grouped into this category may include administrative officer, administrative assistant, cashier, executive assistant, general services officer, general services assistant, or receptionist.

Associate Peace Corps director (APCD)/Program manager: Peace Corps staff member responsible for programming, administration, or support of Volunteer projects in their country of assignment.

Bystander Intervention Training: Training that is offered during pre-service training and is aimed at teaching Volunteers how to intervene, if necessary, to keep other Volunteers safe.

Counterpart: A host country national who is assigned to a Volunteer to serve as their primary work partner.

Country director (CD): Senior Peace Corps official in the country of assignment; responsible for all aspects of the Peace Corps' program in that country.

Digital materials: Any Peace Corps materials that a Volunteer may have received by email or downloaded through knowledge-sharing platforms such as PCLive.

Director of management and operations (DMO): Peace Corps staff member who manages the budget and administrative functions in the country of assignment.

Director of programming and training (DPT): Peace Corps staff member who provides technical assistance and guidance to overseas staff in the development, management, and evaluation of projects and oversight of a post's training program.

Diversity: A collection of individual attributes that include, but are not limited to, characteristics such as national origin, language, race, color, ethnicity, disability, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, veteran status, and family structures.

Language/cultural facilitator (LCF): Peace Corps staff associate, often contracted, who helps Peace Corps Volunteers and trainees acquire the language and cross cultural skills needed to successfully live and work in the host country.

Match program: A program that is meant to promote the Peace Corps' Third Goal of teaching Americans about the world by facilitating communication among U.S. contacts and current and returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

Participatory Analysis for Community Action (PACA): The Peace Corps' participatory approach where every member of the community can and should express his or her feelings and ideas freely (young and old people, men and women).

Peace Corps administrative region: The Peace Corps divides its operations into three regions. In the summer of 2017, the Africa region included Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Comoros, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia. The Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia region (EMA) included Albania, Armenia, Cambodia, China, Georgia, Indonesia, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Ukraine. The Inter-America and Pacific region (IAP) included Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Eastern Caribbean, Ecuador, Fiji, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Micronesia, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

Peace Corps medical officer (PCMO): Peace Corps staff member responsible for assisting Volunteers in maintaining their health while in their country of assignment.

Peace Corps Sexual Assault Volunteer Education and Support (PC SAVES) Helpline: A helpline that provides anonymous confidential crisis intervention, support and information to Peace Corps Volunteers and trainees who have been affected by sexual assault.

Peace Corps small grant-funded project: A small-scale grassroots development project meant to build sustainable capacity in communities where Volunteers serve. The Peace Corps makes funding for these projects available to Volunteers and the community organizations with which they work.

Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV): A U.S. citizen 18 years of age or older who applied and was selected for voluntary service abroad by satisfying the standards of enrollment and who swore or affirmed to the Peace Corps Volunteer Oath and Pledge administered by the Peace Corps Director, regional director, or country director.

Personal security training: Training that is offered during pre-service training and is aimed at teaching Volunteers how to recognize and mitigate risk in their host countries by “turning on their RADAR.”

Pre-service training (PST): Any Peace Corps training received before Volunteers are sworn-in.

Primary assignment/project: The specific project work to which Volunteers are assigned.

RADAR: RADAR stands for **R**ecognize the danger, **A**ssess the situation, **D**ecide what is best for you, **A**ct when the timing is right, and **R**eassess as the situation changes. Trainees learn RADAR in the Personal Security and Risk- Reduction module.

Safety and Security (S&S) Coordinator: Peace Corps staff member who assists the country director in carrying out the responsibility for maintaining the safety and security of Volunteers, in part by implementing a post’s safety and security program.

Secondary project/community service activities: Activities other than a Volunteer’s primary project assignment.

Sexual Assault Awareness Training: Training that is offered during pre-service training and is aimed at teaching Volunteers how to recognize cultural and gender-based “sex signals” as well as the tactics of sexual predators or potential assailants in Volunteers’ host country.

Site: Volunteer site is defined as the home in which the Volunteer resides and the surrounding neighborhood/area.

Site selection and preparation: A number of collaborative responsibilities of Peace Corps staff, with the active participation of host country representatives, that are undertaken before Volunteers arrive at their sites. This includes, but is not limited to, site visits, housing checks, safety and security assessment, and community orientation.

Appendix: Survey Questionnaire

This appendix contains a copy of the 2017 Annual Volunteer Survey questionnaire that was administered online. The questionnaire consists of eight sections:

- Overall assessment of Peace Corps service
- Training for Peace Corps assignment
- Work activities
- Peace Corps goals and impact
- Peace Corps support
- Health of Volunteers
- Site characteristics
- Additional demographic, health, and well-being information

Skip patterns for questions that may not have been applicable to all respondents are indicated in the square brackets preceding the question.

[Text Node]

Welcome to the 2017 Annual Volunteer Survey The Voice of the Volunteer Since 1975!

Your thoughtful participation in this confidential survey is a key element in advancing the mission of the Peace Corps.

Learning about your experience as a Volunteer is extremely important to the Peace Corps' Director, as well as to other members of the Peace Corps staff worldwide. What we learn from you will help both to improve the Peace Corps' ability to meet the needs of the communities in which you serve and to enrich your service as a Volunteer.

[Text Node—IF UNABLE TO ACCESS SURVEY]

Thank you for taking the time to access the 2017 AVS! Unfortunately, it appears that there is a problem with the link. Please contact the Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning (AVS@peacecorps.gov) and we will send you a new one.

[Text Node—IF FIRST TIME ACCESSING SURVEY]

About the 2017 Annual Volunteer Survey

- **The survey should take you approximately 30 minutes to complete.** You will be able to save your responses and continue from where you left off at any time between June 19 and August 11, 2017.
- **Aggregate survey results will be publicly available.** Each year the Peace Corps publishes survey reports on its Open Government Internet site and shares the global results with Congress. A variety of other reports based on the results may also be made public.
- **Your individual feedback is confidential, so you should feel comfortable expressing your honest opinions.** Once the survey has closed, your name and email address will be automatically removed from your responses. Once these identifiers are removed, individual responses will be made available only to survey analysts at Peace Corps headquarters in order to facilitate data preparation, incorporate supporting data from existing Peace Corps information systems, and report aggregate results. No one—including your country director or any other post staff—will see survey results unless they are combined in a way that prevents Volunteers from being personally identified. We encourage you to respond to all questions so that your valuable viewpoint can help to make a difference in how the Peace Corps operates. While your participation is confidential, if you do not feel comfortable providing an answer to any question, you are always free to skip that question and move on to the next.
- **Confidentiality starts with you.** Do not share your survey link! As you take the survey, please avoid mentioning any individuals, organizations, or site locations by name. Please use generic references instead, such as “another Volunteer,” “the organization I work with,” or “the town where I live.”
- **Your feedback really does make a difference!** In the past, AVS results have helped to guide many Peace Corps improvements, including better training and enhanced site preparation. Please provide your honest, thoughtful opinions in order to help us to further improve Peace Corps operations in your community and around the world.

[Text Node—IF FIRST TIME ACCESSING THE SURVEY]**Navigation Instructions**

- If you do not feel comfortable providing an answer to any question, you are always free to skip that question and move on to the next.
- Please use the "<< Back" or "Next >>" button at the bottom of each page to navigate through the survey. Please do not use your web browser's "back" button, which may lead to errors.
- Your responses will be saved automatically as you proceed through the survey. If you are unable to complete the survey in one session, you may simply close your browser. When you wish to re-enter the survey and continue from where you left off, simply use the original link for the survey.
- You can track your progress via the survey status bar at the top of each screen.
- Some survey questions have an answer choice "NA," which means "Not Applicable". Some have an answer choice "DK," which means "Don't Know".

[Text Node]

To begin, we would like to ask you a few questions about your Peace Corps service.

1. How personally rewarding do you find your:

[SCALE: Very Unrewarding, Unrewarding, Neither Unrewarding nor Rewarding, Rewarding, Very Rewarding, NA/Don't Know]

a. Overall Peace Corps service	[SCALE]
b. Primary assignment/project	[SCALE]
c. Secondary project/community service activities	[SCALE]
d. Experiences with other Volunteers	[SCALE]
e. Work with counterparts/community partners	[SCALE]
f. Experiences with other host country individuals	[SCALE]

2. Today, would you still make the same decision to serve with the Peace Corps?

- a. Definitely not
- b. Probably not
- c. Undecided
- d. Probably yes
- e. Definitely yes

3. Would you recommend Peace Corps service to others you think are qualified?

- a. Definitely not
- b. Probably not
- c. Undecided
- d. Probably yes
- e. Definitely yes

4. Do you intend to complete your Peace Corps service?

- a. Definitely not
- b. Probably not
- c. Undecided
- d. Probably yes
- e. Definitely yes
- f. Might extend

5. How prepared for Peace Corps service did you feel when you arrived in-country?

- a. Very unprepared
- b. Unprepared
- c. Neither unprepared nor prepared
- d. Prepared
- e. Very prepared

6. How important were the following factors in accepting your Peace Corps invitation?

[SCALE: Very Unimportant, Unimportant, Neither Unimportant nor Important, Important, Very Important]

a. Exposure to a different culture	[SCALE]
b. Gaining work experience	[SCALE]
c. Opportunity to help others	[SCALE]
d. Gaining international experience	[SCALE]
e. Learning a new language or enhancing foreign language skills	[SCALE]
f. Personal growth	[SCALE]
g. Challenging U.S. job market	[SCALE]
h. Opportunity to serve my country	[SCALE]
i. Travel/adventure	[SCALE]
j. Financial, educational, and career benefit programs available to current and returned Volunteers	[SCALE]
k. Other (please specify): <u>[OPEN ENDED RESPONSE]</u>	[SCALE]

[Text Node]

Now, we would like to ask you a few questions about your Peace Corps training overall.

7. Please evaluate the effectiveness of your Peace Corps training in preparing you to:

[SCALE: Very Ineffective, Ineffective, Neither Ineffective nor Effective, Effective, Very Effective, NA/No Training]

a. Manage cultural differences	[SCALE]
b. Adjust to your physical living conditions	[SCALE]
c. Use language needed in your work/community	[SCALE]
d. Maintain your physical health	[SCALE]
e. Maintain your mental/emotional health	[SCALE]
f. Maintain your personal safety and security	[SCALE]

8. Please evaluate the effectiveness of your Peace Corps training in preparing you to:

[SCALE: Very Ineffective, Ineffective, Neither Ineffective nor Effective, Effective, Very Effective, NA/No Training]

a. Perform technical aspects of your work	[SCALE]
b. Work with counterparts/community partners	[SCALE]
c. Conduct a community needs assessment (e.g., PACA)	[SCALE]
d. Work on your project goals and objectives	[SCALE]
e. Monitor/evaluate project goals and outcomes	[SCALE]
f. Interact with contacts in the United States to share your experiences and advance your work	[SCALE]

9. Technical Training is aimed at imparting the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to perform work activities and achieve results relating to your primary sector. This training may be offered during pre-service training (PST), in-service training (IST), and/or mid-service training (MST).

To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?

[SCALE: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neither Disagree nor Agree, Agree, Strongly Agree, NA/No Training]

a. My technical training covered the <i>breadth</i> of subject matter that I needed to perform my primary sector work effectively.	[SCALE]
b. My technical training covered subject matter topics at the necessary <i>depth</i> that I needed to perform my primary sector work effectively.	[SCALE]
c. My primary sector technical training facilitator(s) was knowledgeable in the subject matter covered.	[SCALE]
d. My primary sector technical training facilitator(s) was able to effectively communicate subject matter to me.	[SCALE]
e. My technical training is relevant to the work that I do at my site.	[SCALE]

10. In general, how prepared do you feel today to meet the challenges of Peace Corps service?

- a. Very unprepared
- b. Unprepared
- c. Neither unprepared nor prepared
- d. Prepared
- e. Very prepared

[Text Node]

The next few questions in this section are about pre-service training (PST), which refers to the training that you received before being sworn in as a Volunteer.

11. Training and materials providing instruction on personal safety and security strategies are included as part of pre-service training (PST).

To what extent have you developed and used personal safety and security strategies in the past 12 months?

- a. I developed strategies to keep myself safe and used them to recognize and mitigate risk.
- b. I developed strategies but did not need to use them.
- c. I developed strategies but was unable to apply them when I needed it.
- d. I learned about strategies but did not develop any of my own.
- e. I was not trained to develop strategies.

12. Sexual Assault Awareness Training, which is aimed at teaching you how to recognize cultural and gender-based “sex signals” as well as the tactics of sexual predators or potential assailants in your host country, is offered during pre-service training (PST).

Have you used Sexual Assault Awareness skills to mitigate unwanted sexual advances in the past 12 months?

- a. I have used this skill to keep myself safe by recognizing and mitigating risk.
- b. I learned but did not need to use this skill.
- c. I learned this skill but was unable to apply it when I needed it.
- d. I learned this skill but don't remember what it involves.
- e. I was not trained on this skill.

13. Bystander Intervention Training, which is aimed at teaching you how to intervene, if necessary, to keep other Volunteers safe, is offered during pre-service training (PST).

Have you used Bystander Intervention skills in the past 12 months?

- a. I have used this skill to keep Volunteers safe by recognizing and mitigating risk.
- b. I learned but did not need to use this skill.
- c. I learned this skill but was unable to apply it when I needed it.
- d. I learned this skill but don't remember what it involves.
- e. I was not trained on this skill.

14. Personal Security Training, which is aimed at teaching you how to recognize and mitigate risk in your host country by “turning on your RADAR,” is offered during pre-service training (PST).

Have you used your “RADAR” or personal security skills in the past 12 months?

- a. I have used this skill to keep myself safe by recognizing and mitigating risk.
- b. I learned but did not need to use this skill.
- c. I learned this skill but was unable to apply it when I needed it.
- d. I learned this skill but don't remember what it involves.
- e. I was not trained on this skill.

[Text Node]

Please answer the following questions about the work you are currently doing in your community.

15. What do you do as part of your Peace Corps work? Please check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture/fish/livestock | <input type="checkbox"/> Maternal, child, and neonatal health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agroforestry | <input type="checkbox"/> Math/science teaching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Microenterprise development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business advising | <input type="checkbox"/> NGO development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childhood or early literacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English teaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational management/leadership development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneurship | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports/fitness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment work | <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food security—community/household | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology for development/ICT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender equity/women's empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteerism/V ² |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Girls education | <input type="checkbox"/> Water and sanitation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health extension | <input type="checkbox"/> Working with people with disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth as resources/working with youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Income generation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <u>OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library development | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Malaria prevention | |

16. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?

[SCALE: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neither Disagree nor Agree, Agree, Strongly Agree, NA/Don't Know]

a. Meaningful work was available for me when I arrived at site.	[SCALE]
b. Host country individuals with whom I would be working were prepared for my arrival in the community.	[SCALE]
c. I have enough work to do at my site.	[SCALE]
d. My skills are a good match to the work I do at site.	[SCALE]
e. My work is directly related to what my community needs.	[SCALE]

17. In your view, which of the following options would benefit your host country the most?

[SCALE: Discontinued/Phased Out, Reduced, Maintained As Is, Expanded]

a. Your project/primary work assignment should be:	[SCALE]
b. The Peace Corps program (the post and all projects) in this country should be:	[SCALE]

18. How many hours do you spend on your primary work and secondary projects or community service during an average work week? Please enter "0" if none.

- a. Primary work **OPEN-ENDED NUMERIC**
- b. Secondary projects or community service **OPEN-ENDED NUMERIC**

19. How effective has your project been in meeting its stated goals and objectives?

[SCALE: Very Ineffective, Ineffective, Neither Ineffective nor Effective, Effective, Very Effective, NA/Don't Know]

a. Your primary project	[SCALE]
-------------------------	---------

[ASK IF RESPONDENT IS A PEACE CORPS SMALL GRANTS RECIPIENT, OR HAS AN APPLICATION IN PROCESS WITH A LIKELY START DATE WITHIN THE SURVEY WINDOW]

b. Your Peace Corps small grant-funded project(s)	[SCALE]
---	---------

20. Do you currently work with one or more Peace Corps-assigned counterpart(s)/community partner(s)?

- a. Yes
- b. No

[ASK IF HAS A COUNTERPART ("YES" IN PREVIOUS QUESTION)]

21. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of working with your Peace Corps-assigned counterpart?

[SCALE: Very Dissatisfied, Dissatisfied, Neither Dissatisfied nor Satisfied, Satisfied, Very Satisfied, NA/Don't Know]

a. Accomplishing your project work	[SCALE]
b. Integrating into your community	[SCALE]

[Text Node]

For the next few questions, please let us know your thoughts on how effective you are in different aspects of your service.

22. How effective are you in transferring knowledge and skills to help the following individuals or organizations to build their capacities?

[SCALE: Very Ineffective, Ineffective, Neither Ineffective nor Effective, Effective, Very Effective, NA]

a. Your counterpart/community partner	[SCALE]
b. Your host institution/organization	[SCALE]
c. Group(s) with which you work closely	[SCALE]
d. Members of your host community	[SCALE]

23. How effective are you in promoting a better understanding of Americans among the following host country individuals or groups of individuals?

[SCALE: Very Ineffective, Ineffective, Neither Ineffective nor Effective, Effective, Very Effective, NA]

a. Your counterpart/community partner	[SCALE]
b. Your host institution/organization	[SCALE]
c. Group(s) with which you work closely	[SCALE]
d. Members of your host community	[SCALE]

24. How effective are you in promoting a better understanding of host country nationals among the following American individuals or groups of individuals?

[SCALE: Very Ineffective, Ineffective, Neither Ineffective nor Effective, Effective, Very Effective, NA]

a. Your family and close friends	[SCALE]
b. Your match program	[SCALE]
c. Other groups with which you work closely	[SCALE]
d. Your social network in the United States	[SCALE]

25. Which of the following challenges have prevented you from being more effective in achieving Peace Corps goals? Please check all that apply.

- a. Language barriers
- b. Cultural barriers
- c. Personal differences with counterparts (personality conflict, disagreements, etc.)
- d. Logistical difficulties with counterparts (turnover, limited availability, etc.)
- e. Lack of a counterpart
- f. Insufficient support from Peace Corps staff
- g. Community/organization does not need a Volunteer
- h. Harassment or discrimination at workplace or in the community (sexual or non-sexual)
- i. Community/organization is not receptive to change
- j. My skills did not match the needs of the community/organization
- k. Professional challenges (promptness, work style, lack of resources, etc.)
- l. Problems with physical or emotional health
- m. Isolation, including limited means of communication
- n. "Too soon to tell" (early in my service)
- o. Other (please specify): **[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]**
- p. None of the above **[EXCLUSIVE OPTION]**

26. Did you facilitate direct interactions between Americans and host country nationals in the last 12 months? Please include in-person and virtual interactions (e.g., participation in match programs such as World Wise Schools educator match, social media, web conferences, blogs, etc.).

- a. Yes
- b. No

[Text Node]

Now we would like to ask you a few questions about different types of support that the Peace Corps provides.

27. How satisfied are you with the following types of support provided by in-country Peace Corps staff?

[SCALE: Very Dissatisfied, Dissatisfied, Neither Dissatisfied nor Satisfied, Satisfied, Very Satisfied, NA/Don't Know]

a. Administrative/logistical	[SCALE]
b. Emotional	[SCALE]
c. Medical	[SCALE]
d. Project-specific technical skills	[SCALE]
e. Safety and security	[SCALE]
f. Site selection/preparation	[SCALE]

[RANDOMIZE STATEMENT ORDER]

28. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?

[SCALE: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neither Disagree nor Agree, Agree, Strongly Agree, NA/Don't Know]

a. My site matched my expectations when I arrived.	[SCALE]
b. Peace Corps staff understand what my site is like.	[SCALE]
c. Peace Corps staff provided me with useful information about my site prior to my arrival at the site.	[SCALE]
d. I like my site.	[SCALE]
e. I have friends at my site.	[SCALE]
f. I feel supported by the local community at my site.	[SCALE]

29. How satisfied are you with the timeliness and quality of feedback from Peace Corps staff about your work?

[SCALE: Very Dissatisfied, Dissatisfied, Neither Dissatisfied nor Satisfied, Satisfied, Very Satisfied, NA/Don't Know]

a. Timeliness	[SCALE]
b. Quality	[SCALE]

30. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?

[SCALE: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neither Disagree nor Agree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know]

a. My Country Director enforces post policies in a consistent manner.	[SCALE]
b. My Country Director is aware of the issues that Volunteers face in service.	[SCALE]
c. My Country Director fosters open communication between herself/himself and Volunteers.	[SCALE]
d. My Country Director facilitates the resolution of issues that Volunteers face in service.	[SCALE]

31. In the last 12 months, have any of the following Peace Corps representatives visited you at your site? Please check all that apply.

- a. Country director
- b. Program manager/APCD or program assistant/program specialist
- c. DMO, DPT, PCMO, S&S coordinator
- d. Regional manager, housing coordinator, language/cultural facilitator
- e. Peace Corps Volunteer Leader
- f. Other Peace Corps representatives (please specify): **[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]**
- g. Peace Corps representatives did not visit my site during the past 12 months **[EXCLUSIVE]**

32. How often did you use Peace Corps digital materials in your work in the last 12 months? Digital materials include any Peace Corps materials that you may have received by email, or that you may have downloaded from the Peace Corps website or other knowledge-sharing platforms such as PCLive.

- a. At least once a day
- b. At least once a week, but not every day
- c. At least once a month, but not every week
- d. Less than once a month
- e. Did not use in the past 12 months

[Text Node]

Now, please answer a few questions about your physical health and emotional well-being.

33. How would you rate your physical health when you first arrived at your site, and during the last 30 days?

[SCALE (End-points only): 1 = Not At All Healthy, 10 = Exceptionally Healthy]

a. When first arrived	[SCALE]
b. Last 30 days	[SCALE]

34. How would you rate your average level of stress during the first month after you arrived at your site and during the last 30 days?

[SCALE (End-points only): 1 = Little to No Stress, 10 = A Great Deal of Stress]

a. Month when first arrived	[SCALE]
b. Last 30 days	[SCALE]

35. How satisfied are you with the health care that you have received from your PCMO(s)? *If you received health care from more than one PCMO, please rate your satisfaction level with all of them as a whole.*

- a. Very dissatisfied
- b. Dissatisfied
- c. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
- d. Satisfied
- e. Very satisfied
- f. Did not receive healthcare from my PCMO(s) in the past 12 months

36. During a typical month in your service, how many days do you engage in the following activities? *Please indicate the average number of days per month. Enter "0" if none.*

a. Eat healthily	[OPEN-ENDED NUMERIC]
b. Drink alcoholic beverages	[OPEN-ENDED NUMERIC]
c. Exercise	[OPEN-ENDED NUMERIC]
d. Get enough sleep	[OPEN-ENDED NUMERIC]
e. Smoke	[OPEN-ENDED NUMERIC]

[ASK IF DRINKS ALCOHOL ON 1+ DAYS/MONTH DURING SERVICE]

37. One drink is equivalent to a 12-ounce beer, a 5-ounce glass of wine, or a mixed drink with one shot of liquor. A 40 ounce beer would count as 3 drinks, or a cocktail drink with 2 shots would count as 2 drinks.

[TEXT IF RESPONDENT IS FEMALE]

Considering all types of alcoholic beverages, how many times during the past 30 days did you have 4 or more drinks on an occasion? *Enter "0" if none.*

[TEXT IF RESPONDENT IS MALE]

Considering all types of alcoholic beverages, how many times during the past 30 days did you have 5 or more drinks on an occasion? *Enter "0" if none.*

[RESPONSE OPTIONS FOR ALL RESPONDENTS]

- a. **[OPEN-ENDED NUMERIC]** times
- b. Don't know/not sure

38. Do any of the following factors currently limit your ability to maintain your physical health?

Please check all that apply.

- a. Distance from health care
- b. Lack of trust in local medical resources
- c. Lack of exercise
- d. Lack of trust in Peace Corps medical care
- e. Local diet
- f. Lack of access to clean drinking water
- g. Environmental factors (e.g., pollution)
- h. High stress level
- i. Inability to exercise outside
- j. Safety and security issues
- k. Other factors (please specify): **[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]**
- l. None of the above **[EXCLUSIVE OPTION]**

39. What are some of the reasons why you might drink alcohol during your Peace Corps service?*Please check all that apply.*

- a. Easy availability of alcohol
- b. Continued my U.S. drinking habits here
- c. Drinking habits of fellow Volunteers
- d. In-country cultural norms
- e. Isolation/loneliness
- f. Personal enjoyment
- g. Stress reduction
- h. Boredom
- i. Social events with community members
- j. Other reasons (please specify): **[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]**

40. Which of the following factors contribute to elevating your stress level? Please check all that apply.

- a. Boredom
- b. Communicating in the local language
- c. Counterparts/community partners
- d. Cultural adjustments
- e. Family, friends, loved ones back home
- f. Isolation/loneliness
- g. In-country dating/relationships
- h. Interactions with other Volunteers
- i. Interactions with Peace Corps staff
- j. Personal health maintenance
- k. Personal safety
- l. Work
- m. Your host family
- n. Close of service, or your future after the Peace Corps
- o. Sexual or nonsexual harassment
- p. Transportation
- q. Interactions with host country nationals
- r. Lack of work
- s. Other sources of stress (please specify): **[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]**
- t. None of the above **[EXCLUSIVE OPTION]**

41. Which of the following activities do you do to help manage stress? Please check all that apply.

- a. Exercise, walk, or otherwise make an effort to stay fit
- b. Get involved in additional projects, work, or studying
- c. Listen to music
- d. Read
- e. Contact others by phone, text, email, etc. (in your country of service, or in the United States)
- f. Spend time with PCVs
- g. Spend time with host country nationals
- h. Eat more or less than usual
- i. Pray or attend religious services
- j. Meditate
- k. Drink alcohol
- l. Leave your community/travel
- m. Shop
- n. Smoke
- o. Attend counseling session(s)
- p. Watch movies or TV
- q. Pursue creative hobbies (write or journal, arts and crafts, play music, sing or dance, cook or bake, etc.)
- r. Sleep, nap, or rest
- s. Surf Internet, use the computer, or play video games
- t. Other (please specify): **[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]**
- u. None of the above **[EXCLUSIVE OPTION]**

[Text Node]

The next few questions will focus on your everyday life in your community.

- 42. How long have you lived with a host country individual or family in total? Please include time spent during training. Please enter "0" if never.**

[OPEN-ENDED NUMERIC] year(s)

[OPEN-ENDED NUMERIC] month(s)

- 43. How integrated into your community do you feel?**

- a. Very poorly integrated
- b. Poorly integrated
- c. Neither poorly nor well-integrated
- d. Well-integrated
- e. Very well-integrated

- 44. How well can you communicate in the language used by most local people in your community?**

- a. Not at all
- b. Poorly
- c. Adequately
- d. Well
- e. Very well

- 45. How often are the following services available at your residence?**

[SCALE: At least once a day; At least once a week, but less than daily; At least once a month, but not every week; Less than once a month; Service not available; Don't know]

a. Electricity	[SCALE]
b. Running water	[SCALE]
c. Cell phone service	[SCALE]
d. Internet connectivity	[SCALE]

46. How frequently do you communicate with the following groups of people either in person, by phone, or electronically?

[SCALE: At least once a day; At least once a week, but less than daily; At least once a month, but not every week; Less than once a month; Never; Don't know]

a. Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs)	[SCALE]
b. Other Americans in host country (who are not PCVs)	[SCALE]
c. Counterpart(s)	[SCALE]
d. Other host country nationals (who are not your counterparts)	[SCALE]
e. Friends or family in the United States	[SCALE]
f. Third country nationals (i.e., people in host country who are neither Americans nor host country nationals)	[SCALE]

[Text Node]

Now we would like to ask you a few questions regarding your feelings of safety and comfort in your country, and also about the Peace Corps' culture as it relates to diverse groups.

47. How safe do you feel in the following environments?

[SCALE: Very Unsafe, Unsafe, Neither Unsafe nor Safe, Safe, Very Safe]

a. Where you live	[SCALE]
b. Where you work	[SCALE]
c. When you travel in-country: transportation safety	[SCALE]
d. When you travel in-country: personal security	[SCALE]
e. In the city where your country's main PC office is located	[SCALE]

48. In the last 12 months, have you experienced insensitive comments, harassment, or discrimination toward you in your host country based on any of the following characteristics?

Please check all that apply.

- a. Age
- b. Disability
- c. Sex
- d. Race/color/ethnicity
- e. American nationality
- f. Religion
- g. Sexual orientation
- h. Gender or transgender identity expression
- i. Weight
- j. Marital status
- k. Other (please specify): **[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]**
- l. Did not experience **[EXCLUSIVE OPTION]**

49. How well can you communicate your personal boundaries in the situations that make you feel uncomfortable?

- a. Not at all
- b. Poorly
- c. Adequately
- d. Well
- e. Very well

50. To what extent do you disagree or agree that the organizational culture of the Peace Corps (including staff and Volunteers) is inclusive of diverse people? *Diversity is a collection of individual attributes that include, but are not limited to, characteristics such as national origin, language, race, color, ethnicity, disability, sex, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, veteran status, and family structures.*

- a. Strongly disagree
- b. Disagree
- c. Neither disagree nor agree
- d. Agree
- e. Strongly agree

51. Where do you see gaps in the culture of inclusion in the Peace Corps? *Please check all that apply.*

- a. National origin
- b. Language
- c. Race/color/ethnicity
- d. Disability
- e. Sex
- f. Age
- g. Religion
- h. Sexual orientation
- i. Gender identity
- j. Socioeconomic status
- k. Veteran status
- l. Family structures
- m. Other (please specify): **[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]**
- n. None of the above **[EXCLUSIVE OPTION]**

[Text Node]

Now we would like to ask you a few questions about demographics, health, and well-being. As with all questions on the Annual Volunteer Survey, your responses to these questions are confidential. Your answers will only be reported in combination with those of other Volunteers in a way that ensures that you will not be personally identifiable by the answers that you provide.

If you do not feel comfortable sharing your demographic information, however, you are always free to skip or select "Prefer not to answer" for any of the following questions.

52. Please choose the best description of your assigned site.

- a. Capital of the country
- b. City (population over 25,000)—not the capital
- c. Rural town (population of 2,000 to 25,000)
- d. Village/rural area (population under 2,000)
- e. Outer island (regardless of size)
- f. Prefer not to answer

53. Are you the first Peace Corps Volunteer at your site?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't know

54. How long does it take you to reach the nearest Peace Corps office and the nearest Peace Corps Volunteer by your typical mode(s) of transportation (e.g., walking, bicycle, bus, etc.)? You may leave these fields blank if you prefer not to answer this question.

- a. Nearest Peace Corps office [OPEN-ENDED NUMERIC] hours [OPEN-ENDED NUMERIC] minutes
- b. Nearest Peace Corps Volunteer [OPEN-ENDED NUMERIC] hours [OPEN-ENDED NUMERIC] minutes

55. How familiar are you with the PC SAVES Helpline for obtaining information related to sexual assault services?

- a. Never heard of it before
- b. Very unfamiliar
- c. Unfamiliar
- d. Neither unfamiliar nor familiar
- e. Familiar
- f. Very familiar
- g. Prefer not to answer

56. Within the last 12 months, have you experienced any of the following when drinking alcohol?

You may skip any part of this question that you prefer not to answer.

a. Did something you later regretted	[YES/NO]
b. Forgot where you were or what you did	[YES/NO]
c. Got in trouble with Peace Corps staff	[YES/NO]
d. Got in trouble with the police	[YES/NO]
e. Physically injured yourself	[YES/NO]
f. Physically injured another person	[YES/NO]

[Text Node]

Please click the "Submit Your Survey" button below to submit your answers to the 2017 Annual Volunteer Survey.

[SUBMIT BUTTON, FOLLOWED BY:]

[Text Node]

Thank you for participating in the 2017 Annual Volunteer Survey!

[SHOW ADDITIONAL RESOURCES (NEXT PAGE), WITH LINK FOR DOWNLOAD]