



**Peace
Corps**

Office of Strategic Information,
Research, and Planning

2018 Annual Volunteer Survey Results

Global Tabular Report

November 2018

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' 2018 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 (79%) and felt supported by their communities (78%).
- **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. (91%), but felt less effective at transferring knowledge and skills to their counterparts (69%).
- **Overall, Peace Corps training helped Volunteers feel prepared for service, but some gaps remain.** Eighty-five percent of respondents agreed that their technical trainers were knowledgeable, though only about half (53%) agreed technical topics were covered in sufficient depth. A large majority of respondents (80%) indicated that training in maintaining personal safety and security was effective, while less than half (45%) 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 (74%) 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 (67%). In terms of project design, two-thirds of respondents (67%) 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%).
- **Most Volunteers felt safe.** More than nine in 10 respondents felt safe where they lived (92%) and worked (95%). However, 24 percent felt unsafe using local transportation.

Method

The Annual Volunteer Survey was conducted online using a self-administered questionnaire that was available from June 18 to August 10, 2018 through a direct link specific to the respondent. A total of 5,264 Volunteers participated out of an eligible population of 5,879 (a 90% overall response rate). Geographically, the results represent all 58 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 2018.** Nearly all respondents (96%) intended to complete their service, and one in five (20%) thought they might extend their service. Eighty-six percent of respondents 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 (96%) and helping others (95%) were the most important reasons why respondents accepted their Peace Corps invitation, 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. (91%), but felt less effective at transferring knowledge and skills to their counterparts (69%).
- **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 (55%)—including differing local expectations relating to work styles, as well as lack of resources—and language barriers (53%) prevented them from being more effective. Those who rated themselves as less effective were more likely to also 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	<0.5%	1%	3%	32%	64%	5,217
Gaining work experience	3%	5%	12%	39%	41%	5,227
Opportunity to help others	1%	1%	3%	30%	65%	5,216
Gaining international experience	1%	2%	6%	34%	57%	5,222
Learning a new language or enhancing foreign language skills	2%	6%	16%	37%	39%	5,227
Personal growth	<0.5%	1%	4%	30%	64%	5,224
Challenging U.S. job market	15%	20%	26%	25%	14%	5,230
Opportunity to serve my country	8%	15%	26%	31%	20%	5,227
Travel/adventure	1%	2%	9%	42%	46%	5,224
Financial, educational, and career benefit programs available to current and returned Volunteers	6%	11%	20%	38%	25%	5,233

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	4.58	5,128
Gaining work experience	4.09	5,128
Opportunity to help others	4.59	5,128
Gaining international experience	4.44	5,128
Learning a new language or enhancing foreign language skills	4.06	5,128
Personal growth	4.56	5,128
Challenging U.S. job market	3.03	5,128
Opportunity to serve my country	3.39	5,128
Travel/adventure	4.30	5,128
Financial, educational, and career benefit programs available to current and returned Volunteers	3.66	5,128

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

Based only 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%	8%	54%	35%	5,109
Primary assignment/project	3%	10%	16%	53%	18%	4,990
Secondary project/community service activities	1%	3%	16%	49%	32%	4,644
Experiences with other Volunteers	1%	4%	13%	39%	43%	5,138
Work with counterparts/community partners	2%	7%	16%	49%	26%	5,078
Experiences with other host country individuals	1%	4%	13%	45%	37%	5,123

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	4.23	4,465
Primary assignment/project	3.74	4,465
Secondary project/community service activities	4.07	4,465
Experiences with other Volunteers	4.17	4,465
Work with counterparts/community partners	3.91	4,465
Experiences with other host country individuals	4.13	4,465

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

Based only 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%	5%	7%	32%	55%	5,165
q03. Would you recommend Peace Corps service to others you think are qualified?	1%	4%	9%	37%	49%	5,161

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?	<0.5%	1%	3%	11%	65%	20%	5,179

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

q23. 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%	20%	54%	15%	4,905
Goal One—Your host institution/organization	3%	12%	28%	48%	8%	4,596
Goal One—Group(s) with which you work closely	1%	4%	18%	62%	15%	4,601
Goal One—Members of your host community	1%	7%	25%	55%	12%	4,858

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

q24. 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%	2%	10%	55%	32%	5,007
Goal Two—Your host institution/organization	1%	3%	17%	57%	21%	4,710
Goal Two—Group(s) with which you work closely	<0.5%	2%	14%	59%	25%	4,742
Goal Two—Members of your host community	1%	3%	14%	56%	26%	5,061

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

q25. 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	<0.5%	1%	7%	55%	37%	5,107
Goal Three—Your match program	2%	4%	29%	46%	19%	1,467
Goal Three—Other groups with which you work closely	1%	2%	20%	57%	20%	2,907
Goal Three—Your social network in the United States	1%	4%	17%	54%	24%	4,803

Table 10. Effectiveness In All Three Goals—Average Ratings

q23—q25. How effective are you in...	Average rating	Number of respondents
Goal One—Your counterpart/community partner	3.71	4,905
Goal One—Your host institution/organization	3.46	4,596
Goal One—Group(s) with which you work closely	3.86	4,601
Goal One—Members of your host community	3.68	4,858
Goal Two—Your counterpart/community partner	4.14	5,007
Goal Two—Your host institution/organization	3.94	4,710
Goal Two—Group(s) with which you work closely	4.06	4,742
Goal Two—Members of your host community	4.04	5,061
Goal Three—Your family and close friends	4.25	5,107
Goal Three—Your match program	3.74	1,467
Goal Three—Other groups with which you work closely	3.93	2,907
Goal Three—Your social network in the United States	3.97	4,803

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

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

q26. 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.)	55%	2,845
Language barriers	53%	2,737
Logistical difficulties with counterparts	42%	2,181
Cultural barriers	40%	2,056
Community/organization is not receptive to change	39%	1,991
"Too soon to tell" (early in my service)	27%	1,398
Isolation, including limited means of communication	22%	1,117
Harassment or discrimination at workplace or in the community (sexual or non-sexual)	20%	1,054
Personal differences with counterparts	20%	1,044
Lack of a counterpart	20%	1,034
Insufficient support from Peace Corps staff	19%	977
Problems with emotional health	19%	956
Community/organization does not need a Volunteer	13%	646
My skills did not match the needs of the community/organization	12%	616
Problems with physical health	12%	610
None of the above	3%	150
Other (please specify):	2%	122
Number of respondents	100%	5,160

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)**

q26. 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.)	62%	889
Language barriers	57%	814
Community/organization is not receptive to change	56%	795
Cultural barriers	49%	706
Logistical difficulties with counterparts	49%	704
Personal differences with counterparts	31%	451
Lack of a counterpart	29%	410
Insufficient support from Peace Corps staff	27%	387
Harassment or discrimination at workplace or in the community (sexual or non-sexual)	27%	383
Isolation, including limited means of communication	27%	382
Problems with emotional health	26%	370
My skills did not match the needs of the community/organization	22%	312
Community/organization does not need a Volunteer	22%	310
"Too soon to tell" (early in my service)	20%	287
Problems with physical health	13%	190
Other (please specify):	3%	42
None of the above	1%	9
Number of respondents	100%	1,432

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

Data is inclusive only of respondents who indicated ineffectiveness in one of the 12 goal elements listed in Table 10 (Questions 23–25).

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 five 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 (44%) 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 percent of respondents indicated that training in maintaining personal safety and security was effective, and a considerable majority (77%–97%) 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—17 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 (35%) 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 (45%) 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-five percent of respondents agreed that their technical trainers were knowledgeable, and 79 percent agreed they effectively communicated material. While 69 percent agreed that technical training content was relevant to their work at site, only about half (53 percent) agreed it was covered in sufficient depth.
- **Volunteers generally considered their language training to be effective.** Three quarters of Volunteers overall (77%) rated language training as effective or very effective. Seventy-four percent of respondents who have been in country six months or less reported that they could communicate at least adequately in the local languages spoken in their communities, with the proportion improving to 83 percent for Volunteers who were in country 21 months or longer.

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?	5%	19%	32%	36%	8%	5,057
q10. In general, how prepared do you feel today to meet the challenges of Peace Corps service?	<0.5%	4%	11%	61%	24%	5,224

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?	3.22	5,034
q10. In general, how prepared do you feel today to meet the challenges of Peace Corps service?	4.05	5,034

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

Based only 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%	15%	58%	18%	5,214
Adjust to your physical living conditions	1%	7%	21%	54%	18%	5,158
Use language needed in your work/community	2%	9%	12%	50%	27%	5,200
Maintain your physical health	3%	12%	26%	46%	13%	5,177
Maintain your mental/emotional health	6%	18%	30%	37%	9%	5,197
Maintain your personal safety and security	1%	6%	13%	54%	26%	5,202

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	3.83	5,063
Adjust to your physical living conditions	3.80	5,063
Use language needed in your work/community	3.91	5,063
Maintain your physical health	3.55	5,063
Maintain your mental/emotional health	3.22	5,063
Maintain your personal safety and security	3.96	5,063

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

Based only 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%	12%	21%	49%	14%	5,188
Work with counterparts/community partners	2%	12%	23%	52%	11%	5,195
Conduct a community needs assessment	4%	13%	23%	47%	13%	5,167
Work on your project goals and objectives	2%	10%	19%	56%	14%	5,193
Monitor/evaluate project goals and outcomes	4%	16%	25%	47%	9%	5,161
Interact with contacts in the United States to share your experiences and advance your work	9%	27%	37%	22%	5%	4,780

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	3.56	4,672
Work with counterparts/community partners	3.58	4,672
Conduct a community needs assessment	3.53	4,672
Work on your project goals and objectives	3.70	4,672
Monitor/evaluate project goals and outcomes	3.41	4,672
Interact with contacts in the United States to share your experiences and advance your work	2.88	4,672

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

Based only on respondents who rated all training aspects.

Table 19. Ability To Communicate

	Not at all	Poorly	Adequately	Well	Very well	Number of respondents
q46. How well can you communicate in the language used by most local people in your community?	1%	19%	41%	26%	13%	5,148
q52. How well can you communicate your personal boundaries in the situations that make you feel uncomfortable?	1%	12%	41%	32%	15%	5,112

Table 20. Ability To Communicate In The Local Language, By Time Spent in Host Country

	Not at all	Poorly	Adequately	Well	Very well	Number of respondents
q46. How well can you communicate in the language used by most local people in your community?						
6 months in host country or shorter	1%	25%	49%	19%	6%	828
7–12	1%	21%	44%	24%	9%	1,323
13–20	1%	16%	39%	30%	13%	1,403
21–27	2%	16%	38%	27%	16%	1,328
28 months in host country or longer	n<5	11%	27%	35%	25%	266

Table 21. Volunteer Assessment Of Technical Training

q09. 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
My technical training covered the breadth of subject matter that I needed to perform my primary sector work effectively.	3%	16%	17%	49%	15%	5,152
My technical training covered subject matter topics at the necessary depth that I needed to perform my primary sector work effectively.	5%	23%	19%	40%	13%	5,163
My primary sector technical training facilitator(s) was knowledgeable in the subject matter covered.	2%	4%	9%	49%	36%	5,158
My primary sector technical training facilitator(s) was able to effectively communicate subject matter to me.	2%	7%	12%	52%	27%	5,160
My technical training is relevant to the work that I do at my site.	3%	12%	16%	49%	20%	5,152

Table 22. 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.	3.57	5,060
My technical training covered subject matter topics at the necessary depth that I needed to perform my primary sector work effectively.	3.33	5,060
My primary sector technical training facilitator(s) was knowledgeable in the subject matter covered.	4.13	5,060
My primary sector technical training facilitator(s) was able to effectively communicate subject matter to me.	3.95	5,060
My technical training is relevant to the work that I do at my site.	3.73	5,060

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

Based only on respondents who rated all aspects.

Table 23. 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?	62%	28%	3%	6%*	1%	5,198
q12. Have you used your “RADAR” or personal security skills in the past 12 months?	48%	30%	3%	17%	3%	5,195
q13. Have you used Sexual Assault Awareness skills to mitigate unwanted sexual attention in the past 12 months?	39%	45%	8%	5%	3%	5,187
q14. Have you used Bystander Intervention skills in the past 12 months?	32%	55%	4%	7%	2%	5,195

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

Table 24. Using Transportation Safety Strategies Learned At Pre-Service Training

q15. Which of the following strategies from the Transportation Safety session at pre-service training have you consistently tried to apply in the last 12 months?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Avoid travel at night	71%	3,673
Use a seat belt when available	69%	3,564
Assess the state of the driver before getting into their vehicle	62%	3,217
Reduce non-essential travel	48%	2,510
Assess the state of a vehicle before getting into that vehicle	46%	2,407
Wear a helmet when biking	41%	2,124
None of the above	3%	173
Recoded from "Other" - Assess surroundings while traveling	1%	68
Other strategies (please specify):	1%	66
I did not receive this training session	1%	51
Recoded from "Other" - Communicate/build relationships with host country nationals	1%	28
Number of respondents	100%	5,187

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

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 32 hours per week on work-related activities, of which almost 10 were spent on secondary projects or community service. Three quarters of respondents (74%) 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 (67%).
- **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 almost 100 percent of Education respondents were involved in activities aligned with their respective sectors. Nearly six in 10 respondents (57%) reported undertaking cross-sector work.
- **The majority of Volunteers who work with a Peace Corps-assigned counterpart are satisfied with the relationship.** Of those respondents who maintained a working relationship with their assigned counterpart, 62 percent were satisfied with their partnership in terms of their project work, and 73 percent in terms of integration into the community. However, these results do not account for Volunteers (26% of respondents) who find work partners independently of a formal counterpart assignment.
- **Most Volunteers felt that their primary projects fulfill their stated objectives.** Two-thirds of respondents (67%) considered their primary project to be effective in meeting its stated goals and objectives. Accordingly, almost four times as many respondents (34%) supported their project's growth over its discontinuation (9%) in their host country. Similarly, 37 percent felt the Peace Corps program overall should expand in their host country.

Table 25. Primary Sector Assignment

	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Agriculture	10%	501
Community Economic Development	9%	479
Education	41%	2,169
Environment	7%	384
Health	22%	1,158
Youth in Development	11%	573
Total	100%	5,264

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

Table 26. Work Activities

q16. What do you do as part of your Peace Corps work?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
English teaching	61%	3,171
Gender equity/women's empowerment	47%	2,455
Youth as resources/working with youth	47%	2,450
Girls education	39%	2,038
Teacher training	28%	1,468
Nutrition education	27%	1,381
HIV/AIDS	25%	1,320
Organizational management/leadership development	23%	1,185
Childhood or early literacy	22%	1,135
Sports/fitness	21%	1,093
Malaria prevention	21%	1,078
Environment work	20%	1,033
Library development	20%	1,019
Food security - community/household	19%	1,000
Health extension	18%	956
Agriculture/fish/livestock	18%	926
Income generation	17%	882
Maternal, child, and neonatal health	16%	806
Water and sanitation	15%	800
Arts	15%	781
Math/Science teaching	13%	654
Entrepreneurship	12%	634
Business advising	12%	625
NGO development	11%	550
Agroforestry	10%	503
Volunteerism/V ²	10%	495
Technology for development/ICT	8%	408
Working with people with disabilities	8%	393
Microenterprise development	5%	250
Other (please specify):	1%	60
Number of respondents	100%	5,197

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

Table 27. Sector Based On Work Activities

q16. What do you do as part of your Peace Corps work? [Categorized]	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Education	81%	4,205
Health	59%	3,051
Cross-Sector	57%	2,966
Youth in Development	47%	2,450
Community Economic Development	43%	2,216
Agriculture	26%	1,355
Environment	23%	1,180
Other activities	1%	60
Number of respondents	100%	5,197

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

Table 28. Primary Sector Assignment By Sector Based On Work Activities

q16. Volunteer Work Activities (Rows) by Primary Sector Assignment (Columns)	Agriculture	Community Economic Development	Education	Environment	Health	Youth in Development
Education	57%	67%	>99%	58%	67%	87%
Health	73%	33%	37%	60%	99%	69%
Cross-Sector	52%	62%	50%	52%	62%	77%
Youth in Development	33%	53%	40%	37%	49%	85%
Community Economic Development	58%	94%	24%	52%	43%	51%
Agriculture	95%	22%	5%	71%	32%	7%
Environment	60%	24%	7%	93%	15%	17%
Other activities	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Number of respondents	492	473	2,153	380	1,136	563

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 q16 "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 29. Time Spent Per Week On Primary And Secondary Activities

q19. 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	22.1	20.0	5,089
Secondary projects or community service	9.5	8.0	5,089
Total	31.5	30.0	5,089

Table 30. Status Of Working Relationship With Peace Corps-Assigned Counterparts

	Yes	No	Number of respondents
q21. Do you currently work with one or more Peace Corps assigned counterpart(s)/community partner(s)?	74%	26%	5,179

Table 31. Satisfaction With Peace Corps-Assigned Counterparts

q22. 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	4%	14%	21%	42%	19%	3,673
Integrating into your community	3%	10%	14%	40%	32%	3,770

Only respondents currently working with a Peace Corps-assigned counterpart (Question 21) were asked to respond to this question.

Table 32. Satisfaction With Peace Corps-Assigned Counterparts—Average Ratings

q22. 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	3,657
Integrating into your community	3.89	3,657

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

Based only on respondents who rated both aspects.

Table 33. Quality Of Work At Site

q17. 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%	13%	14%	39%	28%	5,145
My skills are a good match to the work I do at site	3%	8%	15%	48%	26%	5,161
My work is directly related to what my community needs	2%	8%	19%	48%	23%	5,114

Table 34. Quality Of Work At Site—Average Ratings

q17. 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	3.70	5,042
My skills are a good match to the work I do at site	3.87	5,042
My work is directly related to what my community needs	3.80	5,042

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

Based only on respondents who rated all aspects.

Table 35. Effectiveness Of Volunteer Projects In Meeting Stated Goals And Objectives

q20. 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%	10%	20%	54%	13%	4,654
Your Peace Corps small grant-funded project	1%	2%	8%	48%	41%	930

Table 36. Opinion On The Future Of Volunteers' Primary Project And The Peace Corps Program In The Host Country

q18. 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%	34%	5,161
The Peace Corps program (the post and all projects) in this country should be:	4%	14%	44%	37%	5,154

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 70 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 61 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 (92%) and worked (95%). Far fewer felt safe using transportation (51%) and almost a quarter (24%) actually felt unsafe using transportation. A substantial proportion of respondents (44%--48%) experienced insensitive comments, harassment, or discrimination in the past year, based on their American nationality, sex, and/or race/color/ethnicity.

Table 37. Site Urbanization

q55. Please choose the best description of your assigned site.	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Village/rural area (population under 2,000)	46%	2,329
Rural town (population of 2,000 to 25,000)	35%	1,803
City (population over 25,000) - not the capital	15%	781
Capital of the country	2%	100
Outer island (regardless of size)	2%	96
Number of respondents	100%	5,109

Table 38. Generation At Site

	Yes	No	Number of respondents
q56. Are you the first Peace Corps Volunteer at your site?	33%	67%	5,085

Table 39. Distance To The Nearest Peace Corps Office And Volunteer

q57. 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	368	240	4,937
Nearest Volunteer in minutes	70	30	4,937

Based only on respondents who answered both parts of the question.

Table 40. Time Living With Host Country Individual Or Family

q44. 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	9.0	6.0	4,995

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

Table 41. Access To Modern Conveniences At Residence

q47. 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	77%	6%	1%	<0.5%	16%	5,137
Running water	61%	8%	2%	1%	28%	5,123
Cell phone service	92%	6%	1%	<0.5%	2%	5,133
Internet connectivity	64%	12%	2%	1%	21%	5,105

Table 42. Site Perception

q29. 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
My site matched my expectations when I arrived	6%	16%	25%	36%	17%	5,003
Peace Corps staff understand what my site is like	12%	21%	19%	35%	14%	5,005
Peace Corps staff provided me with useful information about my site prior to my arrival at the site	9%	21%	21%	38%	11%	5,138
I like my site	2%	4%	9%	39%	47%	5,145

Table 43. Site Perception—Average Ratings

q29. 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	3.42	4,770
Peace Corps staff understand what my site is like	3.18	4,770
Peace Corps staff provided me with useful information about my site prior to my arrival at the site	3.21	4,770
I like my site	4.27	4,770

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

Based only on respondents who rated all statements.

Table 44. Safety Perception

q50. 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%	44%	48%	5,137
Where you work	<0.5%	1%	3%	44%	51%	5,143
When you travel in-country: transportation safety	5%	19%	25%	42%	9%	5,146
When you travel in-country: personal security	1%	7%	21%	57%	14%	5,148
In the city where your country's main PC office is located	2%	8%	22%	51%	16%	5,143

Table 45. Safety Perception—Average Ratings

q50. How safe do you feel in the following environments?	Average rating	Number of respondents
Where you live	4.36	5,124
Where you work	4.45	5,124
When you travel in-country: transportation safety	3.31	5,124
When you travel in-country: personal security	3.74	5,124
In the city where your country's main PC office is located	3.72	5,124

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

Based only on respondents who rated all environments.

Table 46. Exposure To Insensitive Comments, Harassment, Or Discrimination

q51. 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	48%	2,383
Sex	47%	2,373
Race/color/ethnicity	44%	2,186
Marital status	38%	1,883
Weight	29%	1,431
Age	22%	1,079
Did not experience	18%	888
Religion	13%	664
Sexual orientation	7%	334
Gender expression or transgender identity expression	6%	325
Other (please specify):	1%	68
Disability	1%	37
Recoded from "Other" - Appearance	<0.5%	24
Number of respondents	100%	5,011

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

Table 47. Initial Availability Of Work At Site

q17. 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	11%	19%	17%	37%	17%	5,168
Host country individuals with whom I would be working were prepared for my arrival in the community	9%	18%	17%	38%	18%	5,179

Table 48. Initial Availability Of Work At Site—Average Ratings

q17. 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	3.31	5,042
Host country individuals with whom I would be working were prepared for my arrival in the community	3.37	5,042

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

Based only on respondents who rated all aspects.

Table 49. Time Spent Away From Site—Average And Median Time Spent In The Last 30 Days

q49. In the last 30 days, how many nights were you away from your community for the following reasons?	Average	Median	Number of respondents
Official Peace Corps activities	3.5	2.0	5,090
Primary or secondary assignment work	1.0	.0	5,090
Taking care of personal needs/visits with friends	2.1	2.0	5,090

Respondents who reported not spending any nights away from site are not included.

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 (79%) had friends at their sites and (78%) felt supported by the local community. Overall, 68 percent of respondents felt well or very well integrated into their host communities.
- **Nearly all Volunteers communicated weekly or more with multiple groups in-country.** About nine in 10 respondents communicated at least weekly with the following groups, in order of frequency: other Peace Corps Volunteers, host country nationals other than their counterpart, and their counterpart.
- **The majority of Volunteers reported contributing to Goal Three while being in the field.** More than half of respondents (55%) reported that they had facilitated interactions between Americans and host country nationals in the last 12 months.

Table 50. Friendship And Personal Support At Site

q29. 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 friends at my site	2%	8%	11%	48%	31%	5,135
I feel supported by the local community at my site	2%	6%	14%	47%	31%	5,135

Table 51. Friendship And Personal Support At Site—Average Ratings

q29. 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	3.99	4,770
I feel supported by the local community at my site	3.98	4,770

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

Based only on respondents who rated all statements.

Table 52. Communication With People

q48. 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)	57%	34%	8%	2%	<0.5%	5,137
Other Americans (who are not PCVs)	6%	9%	12%	24%	49%	4,958
Counterpart(s)	43%	45%	7%	3%	2%	5,046
Other host country nationals (who are not your counterparts)	67%	22%	7%	2%	2%	5,107
Friends or family in the United States	32%	50%	15%	2%	<0.5%	5,143
Other groups in the United States that you work with	2%	5%	13%	23%	57%	4,712
Third country nationals	7%	11%	16%	27%	38%	4,791

Table 53. Estimated Average Number Of Days Per Year Volunteers Communicate With Different Groups Of People

q48. 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)	228	4,296
Other Americans (who are not PCVs)	28	4,296
Counterpart(s)	183	4,296
Other host country nationals (who are not your counterparts)	257	4,296
Friends or family in the United States	144	4,296
Other groups in the United States that you work with	14	4,296
Third country nationals	33	4,296

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

Based only on respondents who reported for all seven groups of people.

Table 54. Using Personal Connections For Managing Stress

q43. Which of the following activities do you do to help manage stress?	Yes	No	Number of respondents
Spend time with PCVs	72%	28%	5,155
Spend time with host country nationals	47%	53%	5,155
Contact others by phone, text, email, etc. (in your country of service, or in the United States)	80%	20%	5,155

Table 55. Integrated Into The Local Community

	Very poorly integrated	Poorly integrated	Neither poorly nor well integrated	Well integrated	Very well integrated	Number of respondents
q45. How integrated into your community do you feel?	1%	5%	25%	51%	17%	5,136

Table 56. Facilitating Interactions Between Americans And Host Country Nationals

	Yes	No	Number of respondents
q27. Did you facilitate interactions between Americans and host country nationals in the last 12 months?	55%	45%	5,162

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 and consistent enforcement of post policies the highest (both 68%). Ninety-four percent of respondents were visited by a Peace Corps staff member in the 12 months preceding the survey. Twenty-two percent 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 (78%), followed by the medical support provided by Peace Corps in-country staff (72%). Respondents were least satisfied with emotional support (46%).
- **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 (61%) of feedback from Peace Corps staff on their work.
- **Many Volunteers felt that the Peace Corps' culture is inclusive.** Sixty-four 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 and socioeconomic status as the biggest gaps in inclusion, while those who felt the Peace Corps was not inclusive were significantly more likely to also perceive gaps relating to sexual orientation, gender expression, sex, age, and national origin.

Table 57. Satisfaction With In-Country Peace Corps Staff Support

q28. 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	5%	13%	18%	44%	19%	5,119
Emotional	9%	18%	28%	33%	13%	4,811
Medical	4%	11%	13%	41%	30%	5,127
Project-specific technical skills	3%	13%	20%	45%	18%	5,078
Safety and security	3%	7%	13%	43%	35%	5,105
Site selection/preparation	7%	16%	16%	39%	23%	5,136

Table 58. Satisfaction With In-Country Peace Corps Staff Support—Average Ratings

q28. How satisfied are you with the following types of support provided by in-country Peace Corps staff?	Average rating	Number of respondents
Administrative/logistical	3.58	4,681
Emotional	3.24	4,681
Medical	3.84	4,681
Project-specific technical skills	3.62	4,681
Safety and security	3.99	4,681
Site selection/preparation	3.52	4,681

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

Based only on respondents who rated all functions.

Table 59. Volunteer Perceptions Of Their Country Director

q31. 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
My Country Director enforces post policies in a consistent manner.	9%	10%	13%	41%	27%	4,475
My Country Director is aware of the issues that Volunteers face in service.	13%	14%	16%	36%	21%	4,601
My Country Director fosters open communication between herself/himself and Volunteers.	10%	9%	13%	36%	31%	4,788
My Country Director facilitates the resolution of issues that Volunteers face in service.	12%	14%	19%	35%	21%	4,282

Table 60. Volunteer Perceptions Of Their Country Director—Average Ratings

q31. 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.	3.65	3,988
My Country Director is aware of the issues that Volunteers face in service.	3.36	3,988
My Country Director fosters open communication between herself/himself and Volunteers.	3.65	3,988
My Country Director facilitates the resolution of issues that Volunteers face in service.	3.41	3,988

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

Based only on respondents who rated all statements.

Table 61. Satisfaction With Feedback From Peace Corps Staff

q30. 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%	21%	44%	17%	4,850
Quality	4%	12%	22%	45%	17%	4,854

Table 62. Satisfaction With Feedback From Peace Corps Staff—Average Ratings

q30. How satisfied are you with the timeliness and quality of feedback from Peace Corps staff about your work?	Average rating	Number of respondents
Timeliness	3.56	4,814
Quality	3.60	4,814

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

Based only on respondents who rated both aspects.

Table 63. Awareness Of The PC SAVES Helpline

	Yes	No	Number of respondents
q58. Are you aware of the PC SAVES Helpline for obtaining information related to sexual assault services?	86%	14%	4,970

Table 64. 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
q32. In the last 12 months, have any of the following Peace Corps representatives visited you at your site? [Categorized]	94%	6%	5,040

Table 65. Site Visits In The Last 12 Months (Specific Representatives)

q32. 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	71%	3,578
Regional manager, housing coordinator, language/ cultural facilitator	43%	2,152
DMO, DPT, PCMO, S&S coordinator	33%	1,652
Country Director	22%	1,094
Peace Corps Volunteer Leader	18%	910
Peace Corps representatives did not visit my site during the past 12 months	6%	290
Other Peace Corps representatives (please specify):	3%	170
Recoded from "Other" - Representative from Peace Corps Washington	2%	92
Number of respondents	100%	5,040

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

Table 66. Inclusion In Peace Corps' Organizational Culture

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Number of respondents
q53. To what extent do you disagree or agree that the organizational culture of the Peace Corps is inclusive of diverse people?	3%	11%	23%	46%	18%	5,106

Table 67. Gaps In The Culture Of Inclusion At The Peace Corps (All Respondents)

q54. Where do you see gaps in the culture of inclusion in the Peace Corps?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Race/color/ethnicity	38%	1,808
Socioeconomic status	34%	1,618
Personal viewpoints or beliefs	27%	1,305
Disability	25%	1,195
Age	25%	1,178
Gender expression	22%	1,057
Sexual orientation	22%	1,035
None of the above	21%	1,001
Religion	17%	797
National origin	13%	609
Sex	11%	545
Veteran status	10%	468
Family structures	9%	433
Language	9%	425
Other (please specify):	1%	56
Recoded from "Other" - Mental health	<0.5%	21
Number of respondents	100%	4,766

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

Table 68. 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)

q54. Where do you see gaps in the culture of inclusion in the Peace Corps?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Race/color/ethnicity	81%	548
Socioeconomic status	55%	370
Sexual orientation	47%	319
Gender expression	44%	295
Age	41%	276
Personal viewpoints or beliefs	39%	265
Disability	35%	234
Religion	28%	189
Sex	27%	183
National origin	27%	182
Family structures	18%	118
Language	16%	111
Veteran status	14%	91
Other (please specify):	1%	10
Recoded from "Other" - Mental health	1%	7
None of the above	n<5	n<5
Number of respondents	100%	674

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

Data is inclusive only of respondents who disagreed in q53 that the organizational culture of the Peace Corps is inclusive of diverse people.

Table 69. 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
q33. How often did you use Peace Corps digital materials in your work in the last 12 months?	3%	20%	27%	27%	23%	5,138

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

- **Many Volunteers felt less healthy when they took the survey than when they first arrived at their site.** Forty-two percent of respondents reported deteriorated health during service. They attributed this to the local diet significantly more often as the next most frequently reported health challenges—stress and the inability to/lack of exercise.
- **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. Six out of ten Volunteers felt that they are able to recover quickly from stressful events. While respondents engaged in many different types of stress-reducing activities, the most popular were listening to music, communication with others electronically, reading, and exercise. The most common sources of stress were work (51%), isolation/loneliness (47%), transportation (46%), and interacting with host country nationals (45%).
- **Of the approximately 81 percent of Volunteers who drink alcohol, the majority (57%) 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 (73%), followed by community events (55%) and the drinking habits of other Volunteers (49%).

Table 70. Health Self-Assessment

q34. 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	42%	2,176
Health remained the same	27%	1,402
Health improved	31%	1,571
Number of respondents	100%	5,149

Table 71. Health Self-Assessment—Average And Median Ratings

q34. 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	5,149
Last 30 days	6.9	7.0	5,149

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

Based only on respondents who rated both time periods.

Table 72. Stress Level Self-Assessment

q35. 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	31%	1,602
Stress level remained the same	17%	872
Stress reduced	52%	2,675
Number of respondents	100%	5,149

Table 73. Stress Level Self-Assessment—Average And Median Ratings

q35. 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	6.1	7.0	5,149
Last 30 days	5.4	5.0	5,149

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

Based only on respondents who rated both time periods.

Table 74. Ability To Recover From Stressful Events Self-Assessment

q36. It does not take me long to recover from a stressful event	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Strongly disagree	2%	101
Disagree	16%	805
Neither agree nor disagree	22%	1,114
Agree	48%	2,436
Strongly agree	13%	653
Number of respondents	100%	5,109

Table 75. Involvement In Health-Related Activities: Once Per Month Or More Often

q37. 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	98%	5,048
Eat healthily	97%	4,951
Exercise	94%	4,805
Drink alcohol	81%	4,168
Smoke	17%	854
Number of respondents	100%	5,125

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

q37. 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%	4,997
Eat healthily	94%	4,816
Exercise	89%	4,550
Drink alcohol	45%	2,298
Smoke	10%	512
Number of respondents	100%	5,115

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

q37. During a typical month in your service, how many days do you engage in the following activities?	Average	Median	Number of respondents
Eat healthily	19.7	20.0	4,951
Drink alcoholic beverages	5.0	4.0	4,168
Exercise	16.0	15.0	4,805
Get enough sleep	22.1	25.0	5,048
Smoke	9.8	5.0	854

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

Table 78. Amount Of Sleep Per Day—Average And Median Ratings

	Average	Median	Number of respondents
q39. How many hours of sleep do you get in a 24-hour period?	7.6	8.0	5,063

Table 79. Factors Limiting Personal Health

q40. Do any of the following factors currently limit your ability to maintain your physical health?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Local diet	58%	2,963
Stress level	37%	1,876
Inability to exercise outside	31%	1,589
Lack of exercise	31%	1,580
Environmental factors (e.g., pollution)	27%	1,371
None of the above	16%	801
Lack of trust in Peace Corps medical care	14%	719
Safety and security issues	12%	596
Lack of trust in local medical resources	12%	587
Distance from health care	11%	542
Lack of access to clean drinking water	8%	425
Recoded from "Other" - Prior or current medical condition or injury	2%	104
Other factors (please specify):	2%	90
Recoded from "Other" - Other cultural factors/host family	1%	47
Recoded from "Other" - Not enough time	1%	44
Recoded from "Other" - Not enough money to maintain health	1%	29
Recoded from "Other" - Not enough sleep	1%	26
Number of respondents	100%	5,083

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

Table 80. Factors Contributing To Greater Stress

q42. Which of the following factors contribute to elevating your stress level?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Work	51%	2,626
Isolation/loneliness	47%	2,409
Transportation	46%	2,369
Interactions with host country nationals	45%	2,306
Communicating in the local language	44%	2,259
Cultural adjustments	43%	2,203
Counterparts/community partners	41%	2,091
Lack of work	37%	1,903
Family, friends, loved ones back home	36%	1,853
Close of service, or your future after the Peace Corps	35%	1,813
Sexual or non-sexual harassment	35%	1,787
Boredom	34%	1,747
Personal health maintenance	29%	1,475
Interactions with other Volunteers	26%	1,337
Interactions with Peace Corps staff	25%	1,279
Your host family	23%	1,189
In-country dating/relationships	21%	1,057
Personal safety	18%	936
Other sources of stress (please specify):	2%	126
None of the above	2%	94
Number of respondents	100%	5,134

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

Table 81. Stress Management Activities

q43. Which of the following activities do you do to help manage stress?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Listen to music	81%	4,172
Contact others by phone, text, email, etc. (in your country of service, or in the United States)	80%	4,107
Read	79%	4,089
Exercise, walk, or otherwise make an effort to stay fit	76%	3,940
Watch movies or TV	75%	3,862
Sleep, nap, or rest	72%	3,705
Spend time with PCVs	72%	3,696
Pursue creative hobbies	71%	3,638
Leave your community/travel	65%	3,329
Surf Internet, use the computer, or play video games	54%	2,772
Get involved in additional projects, work, or studying	49%	2,506
Spend time with host country nationals	47%	2,423
Eat more or less than usual	37%	1,925
Meditate	34%	1,766
Drink alcohol	20%	1,040
Pray or attend religious services	15%	780
Shop	13%	650
Smoke	8%	414
Attend counseling session(s)	6%	291
Other (please specify):	1%	50
None of the above	<0.5%	6
Number of respondents	100%	5,155

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

Table 82. Frequency Of Occasions Involving The Consumption Of Four (If Female)/Five (If Male) Or More Alcoholic Drinks Among Volunteers Who Drink

q38. 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	57%	4,123
Five times or more in the past 30 days	7%	4,123

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

Table 83. Reasons For Alcohol Consumption Reported By Volunteers Who Drink

q41. What are some of the reasons why you might drink alcohol during your Peace Corps service?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
Personal enjoyment	73%	3,441
Social events with community members	55%	2,598
Drinking habits of fellow Volunteers	49%	2,288
In-country cultural norms	33%	1,548
Stress reduction	30%	1,419
Continued my U.S. drinking habits here	20%	948
Boredom	18%	844
Easy availability of alcohol	14%	665
Isolation/loneliness	12%	568
Other reasons (please specify):	3%	119
Recoded from "Other" - Social events with other Volunteers	1%	66
Number of respondents	100%	4,710

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

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

Table 84. Experiences When Drinking Alcohol

q59. Within the last 12 months, have you experienced any of the following when drinking alcohol?	No	Yes	Number of respondents
Did something you later regretted	85%	15%	4,912
Forgot where you were or what you did	90%	10%	4,917

VIII. Participant Profile

A total of 5,264 Volunteers across 58 posts participated in the 2018 Annual Volunteer Survey. Of those, 47 percent were serving in the Africa region, 30 percent in the Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia region, and 23 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 (96%) held at least an undergraduate degree with 13% also holding a graduate degree, consistent with the Volunteer population.
- In 2018, the average respondent was almost 28 years old and had served 15 months at the time of the survey. Overall, the respondents were—like the population of all eligible Volunteers—distributed 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 (41%) or Health (22%) sectors, which reflects the proportion of the Volunteer population assigned to the Peace Corps' two largest project sectors.

Table 85. Time Spent In Host Country

Number of months since Volunteer first arrived in the country [Categorized]	Respondents	All eligible Volunteers
6 months or shorter	16%	16%
7–12	26%	25%
13–20	27%	28%
21–27	26%	27%
28 months or longer	5%	5%
Number of respondents	5,264	5,879
Average number of months	15.2	15.5
Median number of months	13.0	14.0
Total	5,264	5,879

Table 86. Sex

	Respondents	All eligible Volunteers
Female	64%	63%
Male	36%	37%
Number of respondents	5,264	5,879

Table 87. Age

	Respondents	All eligible Volunteers
23 or younger	23%	23%
24–28	58%	58%
29–55	16%	15%
56 or older	3%	3%
Number of respondents	5,264	5,879
Average	27.5	27.4
Median	25.0	25.0
Total	5,264	5,879

Table 88. 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%	9%
Hispanic or Latino	12%	12%
Not specified	2%	2%
Two or More Races	5%	5%
White	66%	65%
Number of respondents	5,264	5,879

Table 89. Education

	Respondents	All eligible Volunteers
A.A. degree/Some college	4%	4%
College graduate	79%	79%
Graduate study	3%	3%
Graduate degree	13%	13%
Other	<0.5%	<0.5%
Not available	2%	2%
Number of respondents	5,264	5,879

Table 90. Marital Status

	Respondents	All eligible Volunteers
Single	98%	98%
Married (Serving w/ spouse)	1%	1%
Married (Other)	1%	1%
Divorced/Legal separation	<0.5%	<0.5%
Widowed	<0.5%	<0.5%
Not available	<0.5%	<0.5%
Number of respondents	5,264	5,879

Table 91. Prior Peace Corps Service

	Respondents	All eligible Volunteers
First Peace Corps service	98%	98%
Served in Peace Corps previously	2%	2%
Number of respondents	5,264	5,879

Table 92. Primary Project Sector

	Respondents	All eligible Volunteers
Agriculture	10%	10%
Community Economic Development	9%	9%
Education	41%	41%
Environment	7%	7%
Health	22%	22%
Youth in Development	11%	11%
Number of respondents	5,264	5,879

Table 93. Peace Corps Administrative Region

	Respondents	All eligible Volunteers
Africa	47%	47%
Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia	30%	29%
Inter-America and Pacific	23%	24%
Number of respondents	5,264	5,879

IX. Methodology

From June 18 to August 10, 2018, the Peace Corps conducted a survey of currently serving Peace Corps Volunteers—the Annual Volunteer Survey. The 2018 survey is the 23rd in a series of studies designed to collect feedback from all Volunteers globally. The first global survey of Volunteers was administered 43 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 10, 2018.

The survey population includes 5,879 Peace Corps Volunteers serving in a two-year program at 58 Peace Corps posts worldwide. By the response cut-off date, 5,264 Volunteers had completed the survey, for an overall response rate of almost 90 percent.

Table 1. Response Rate

	All eligible	Participated	Response Rate
Volunteers	5,879	5,264	89.5%
Posts	58	58	100.0%

Survey Administration and Instrument

The 2018 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 is a continuation of a fundamental change in the way that the survey is administered to Volunteers that was implemented in 2017. In prior years, the survey was distributed to Volunteers through Country Directors at each Peace Corps post.

This change in the distribution process helps to ensure that survey administration is uniform across all eligible respondents, allowing all eligible Volunteers an equal opportunity to respond. Responses were received from every post on the first day of the survey window.

Table 2. Date first survey response was received from post

	Number of posts	Percentage of posts
June 18	58	100.0%
Total	58	100.0%

The 2018 Annual Volunteer Survey self-administered questionnaire contains 59 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 2018 survey questionnaire is similar to the 2017 version of the questionnaire. The most notable changes include additional questions that measure Volunteer wellness, resilience, usage of transportation safety strategies, time spent away from their communities, and their interactions with organizations and people in the U.S., other than their friends and family. 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 voluntary. The survey was conducted online, accessible on mobile devices, and could be completed in multiple sessions. A typical respondent spent 27 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 (90%) 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 +/- 10 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 10 percent who did not respond. The change in methodology incorporating direct distribution to Volunteers now allows for a study of non-response and the exploration of potential remedies such as survey weighting and imputation. 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.

² Median time.

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 26 and 27

Tables 26 and 27 categorized Volunteers into sectors based on their reported work activities in “q16. 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, sex, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender expression, socioeconomic status, veteran status, and family structures.

Language/cultural facilitator (LCF): Peace Corps staff member, 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.

Official Peace Corps activities: In the context of defining Volunteer time away from their site, Official Peace Corps activities include training and conferences sponsored by the Peace Corps, time away for safety and security issues, Volunteer medical leave, and Volunteer annual leave.

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 2018, the Africa region included Volunteers posted in Benin, Botswana, 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 Volunteers posted in 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 Volunteers posted in Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Eastern Caribbean, Ecuador, Fiji, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, 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 that Trainees receive before they are sworn in as Volunteers.

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 2018 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 2018 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 2018 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 2018 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 18 and August 10, 2018.
- **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): [OPEN ENDED RESPONSE]	[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 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. 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.

13. 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 attention 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.

14. 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.

15. Which of the following strategies from the Transportation Safety session at pre-service training (PST) have you consistently tried to apply in the last 12 months? *Please check all that apply.*

- a. Reduce non-essential travel
- b. Use a seat belt when available
- c. Avoid travel at night
- d. Assess the state of the driver before getting into their vehicle
- e. Assess the state of a vehicle before getting into that vehicle
- f. Wear a helmet when biking
- g. Other strategies (please specify): **[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]**
- h. None of the above
- i. I did not receive this training session

[Text Node]

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

16. 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 | |

17. 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]

18. 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]

19. 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]**

20. 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]
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[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]
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21. 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)]

22. 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.

23. 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]

24. 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]

25. 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 (e.g., World Wise Schools)	[SCALE]
c. Other groups with which you work closely	[SCALE]
d. Your social network in the United States	[SCALE]

26. 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 health
- m. Problems with emotional health
- n. Isolation, including limited means of communication
- o. "Too soon to tell" (early in my service)
- p. Other (please specify): **[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]**
- q. None of the above **[EXCLUSIVE OPTION]**

27. Did you facilitate interactions between Americans and host country nationals in the last 12 months? Please include in-person and virtual interactions (e.g., participation in 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.

28. 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]

29. 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]

30. 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]

31. 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]

32. 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]**

33. 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.

34. 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]

35. 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]

36. To what extent do you disagree or agree with the following statement?

[SCALE: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neither Disagree nor Agree, Agree, Strongly Agree]

It does not take me long to recover from a stressful event.	[SCALE]
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37. 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 alcohol	[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]

38. 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

39. On average, how many hours of sleep do you get in a 24-hour period?

[OPEN-ENDED NUMERIC] hours

40. 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. 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]**

41. 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]**

42. 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 non-sexual 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]**

43. 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.

- 44. 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)

- 45. 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

- 46. 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

- 47. 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]

48. 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. Other groups in the United States that you work with, such as educators and classrooms	[SCALE]
g. Third country nationals (i.e., people in host country who are neither Americans nor host country nationals)	[SCALE]

49. Volunteers spend time overnight away from their communities for a wide variety of reasons.

In the last 30 days, how many nights were you away from your community for the following reasons? Please indicate the number of nights. Enter "0" if none.

a. Official Peace Corps activities (e.g., Peace Corps sponsored training, safety and security issue, medical leave, annual leave, etc.)	[OPEN- ENDED NUMERIC]
b. Primary or secondary assignment work (e.g., visiting health clinics, visiting agricultural cooperatives, participating in a camp for youth, training not sponsored by Peace Corps, etc.)	[OPEN- ENDED NUMERIC]
c. Taking care of personal needs and/or visits with friends	[OPEN- ENDED NUMERIC]
d. Other reasons (please specify): [OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]	[OPEN- ENDED NUMERIC]

[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.

50. 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]

51. 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 expression or transgender identity expression
- i. Weight
- j. Marital status
- k. Other (please specify): **[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]**
- l. Did not experience **[EXCLUSIVE OPTION]**

52. 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

53. 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/expression, socioeconomic status, veteran status, and family structures.*

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

54. 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 expression
- j. Socioeconomic status
- k. Veteran status
- l. Family structures
- m. Personal viewpoints or beliefs
- n. Other (please specify): **[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]**
- o. **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 this information, however, you are always free to skip or select "Prefer not to answer" for any of the following questions.

55. 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

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

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

57. 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

58. Are you aware of the PC SAVES Helpline for obtaining information related to sexual assault services? You may skip this question if you prefer not to answer.

- a. Yes
- b. No

59. 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]

[Text Node]

Please click the "Submit Your Survey" button below to submit your answers to the 2018 Annual Volunteer Survey.

[SUBMIT BUTTON, FOLLOWED BY:]

[Text Node – Show next page with confirmation message below]

Thank you for participating in the 2018 Annual Volunteer Survey!

[SHOW ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, WITH LINK FOR DOWNLOAD]