



PEACE  
CORPS

# Botswana HOST COUNTRY IMPACT STUDY

## Purpose

In 2008, the Peace Corps launched a series of studies to determine the impact of Volunteers in meeting two of the agency's three goals: building local capacity and promoting a better understanding of Americans among local people in host countries. These Host Country Impact Studies are unique in providing feedback from the people who lived and worked with Peace Corps Volunteers. A local research team conducted this study from November 2010 to January 2011, interviewing 145 respondents in 23 communities, and submitted a final report to the post upon completion of the fieldwork. The Peace Corps Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning (OSIRP) developed the methods and protocols, trained the local researchers, and produced a series of standardized reports from this and other Host Country Impact Studies.

## Study Focus: HIV/AIDS Capacity Building Project in Botswana

As of September 30, 2013, 2,372 Volunteers have served in Botswana since Peace Corps opened an office there for the first time in 1966. The goal of the HIV/AIDS Capacity Building Project is to assist the government of Botswana's National AIDS Coordinating Unit (NACA) and other partners to strengthen the capacity of government service providers, community-based organizations, communities, and individuals to mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS.

### Peace Corps Goal One

*"To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women."*

## Findings

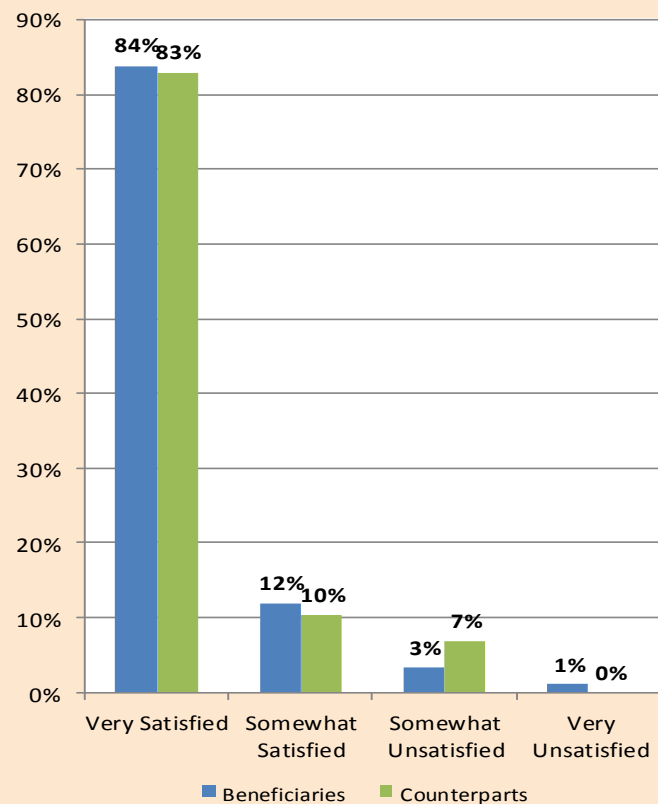
Community capacity building objectives achieved:

- 88 percent of counterparts and 76 percent of beneficiaries stated that community members' knowledge of how to prevent HIV/AIDS improved.
- 74 percent of counterparts and 73 percent of beneficiaries saw improvements related to community members avoiding behaviors that put them at risk for contracting HIV.
- 82 percent of counterparts and 81 percent of beneficiaries stated the Volunteers' activities were very effective in building capacity for themselves or other community members.

Sustainability:

- 58 percent of counterparts and 55 percent of beneficiaries reported they maintained their ability to make healthy decisions related to HIV/AIDS.
- 55 percent of counterparts and 58 percent of beneficiaries reported that the increase in the number of service providers trained in caring for people living with HIV/AIDS had been maintained.
- 60 percent of counterparts and beneficiaries stated that a reduction in stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS had been fully sustained.

### Satisfaction with Changes Resulting from Peace Corps Projects



Counterpart: *"PC is different from other organizations because it provides human resources whereas other organizations provide financial resources."*



## Peace Corps Goal Two

*“To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the people served.”*

### Findings

*Before* interacting with Volunteers:

- 63 percent of host family members, 48 percent of counterparts and 57 percent of beneficiaries reported they had no understanding of Americans.
- Only 32 percent of host family members, 49 percent of counterparts, and 41 percent of beneficiaries stated that they had a positive opinion of Americans.

*After* interacting with Volunteers:

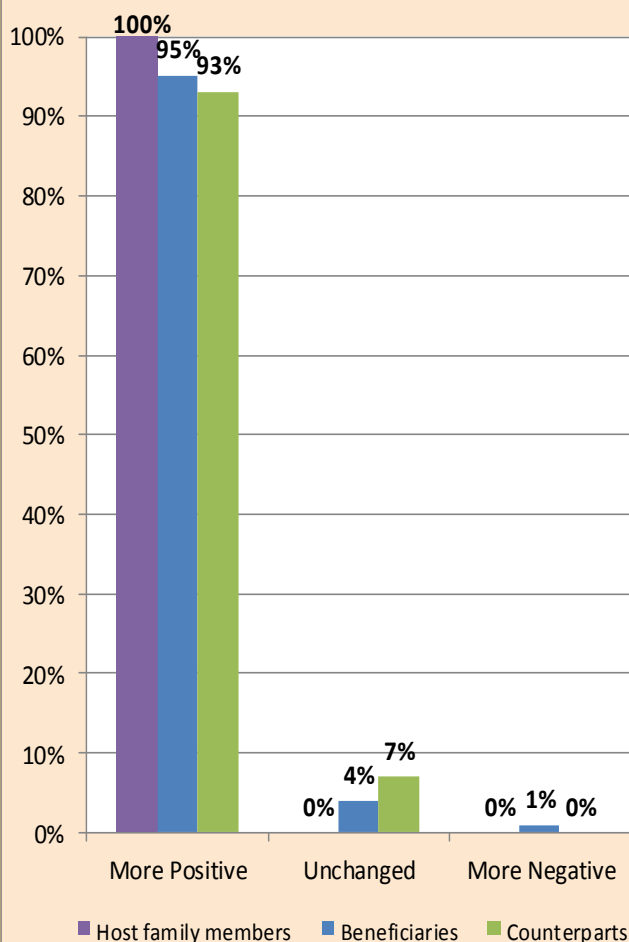
- 63 percent of host family members, 59 percent of counterparts, and 43 percent of beneficiaries claimed a thorough understanding of Americans.
- All host family members, 95 percent of beneficiaries, and 93 percent of counterparts reported more positive or somewhat more positive opinions of Americans.
- Host country family members, who live with Volunteers, reported the greatest increase in understanding over time. However, beneficiaries who interacted with Volunteers (over 80 individuals) less frequently still reported a significant increase (91%) in their level of understanding about Americans.

**Host Family Member:** *“The PCVs were helping me to cook, clean, and play with my children. They are now my friends.”*

**Host Family Member:** *“[Volunteers] used to go to the weddings with us. They also used to come and visit even after they left .... They gave us love and we even gave them Setsmana names.”*

**Beneficiary:** *“[Day-to-day interaction] is crucial because sometimes people are shy to go to the hospital but they can be free to ask the Volunteer to have a discussion.”*

## Opinion of Americans After Interacting with Volunteers



Overall, communities strengthened their capacity to mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS. Individuals improved their ability to make healthy decisions related to HIV/AIDS and participants' opinions about Americans became more positive.