Annual Conference Report
Fiscal Year (FY) 2023

The Peace Corps was established by President John F. Kennedy by executive order on March 1, 1961, and formally authorized by Congress with the passage of the Peace Corps Act, shortly thereafter. The Peace Corps is an independent agency in the executive branch of the U.S. government. The agency was founded with the mission of promoting world peace and friendship by fostering relationships between the people of the United States and the people in countries where Volunteers serve.

Domestic and overseas conferences are a critical mechanism for the delivery of essential training and for collaboration among staff members regarding agency programs, operations, and procedures. The Peace Corps recognizes that conferences improve performance and increase the competencies of its staff. Nevertheless, the Peace Corps has a responsibility to act as a careful steward of taxpayer dollars, ensuring that funds are used for purposes that are appropriate, cost effective, and important to the agency's core mission. The Peace Corps exercises discretion and judgment in ensuring that conference expenses are appropriate, necessary, and managed in a manner that minimizes expense.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued Memorandum M-17-08, amending M-12-12, Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations, which directs agencies to report conferences with expenses that exceed $100,000 for the previous fiscal year on their public website by January 31 of each year. This report lists all conferences that were sponsored by the agency during FY 2023 that meet the reporting threshold. Conference expenses were tracked by the sponsoring office; conference costs include participant travel costs, lodging, and meals and incidental expenses, as well as food, audio-visual and supplies, and venue expenses.

Peace Corps FY 2023 Annual Report on Conferences with Expenses in Excess of $100,000

Name of Conference	Conference Description	Start Date	End Date	Location	Attendee Count	Conference Cost
Africa Region (AF) Director of Management and Operations (DMO) Conference	The purpose of the Conference was to bring all DMOs together with their Deputy DMOs so they could share best practices and learn from each other. Staff from various HQ offices presented topics of emphasis or concern and demonstrated tools to enhance the work at Post.	10/2/2022	10/6/2022	Pretoria, South Africa	59	$ 147,532
Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) Continuing IT Education (CIE) Conference #1	IT infrastructure at overseas Posts is complex, and the work of both Volunteers and Post staff depends on the Post IT infrastructure. Therefore, it is critical that IT Specialists/IT Assistants (ITS/ITA) continually educate themselves, share best practices, and advance their technical and soft skills so they can better serve their users and support Post. The ITS/ITA were split into several conferences to accommodate all Post ITS/ITA.	10/24/2022	10/28/2022	Washington, DC	46	$ 130,646
Inter-Americas and Pacific Region (IAP) Management and Operations Conference	The purpose of this conference was to bring together the IAP Region's DMOs to collaborate on and to discuss topics of regional importance, including effective management practices, future budget implications, and current agency initiatives.	10/24/2022	10/28/2022	Cartagena, Colombia	62	$ 187,112
AF Programming, Training and Evaluation (PTE) Conference	The Africa Region Programming and Training (P&T) leadership convened for the purpose of improving Post management practices, addressing key agency P&T issues and initiatives, including, but not limited to: improving Volunteer site assignments and site management practices, staff training and development, PTE Alignment, enhancing language learning throughout service, fostering a diverse and inclusive culture of Volunteer support, and fostering and sharing best practices and innovative solutions.	10/31/2022	11/4/2022	Accra, Ghana	67	$ 221,047
Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia Region (EMA) DMO Conference	The purpose of this conference was to support DMOs at overseas Posts by allowing them to collaborate with each other and with key business offices at HQ. The conference provided the opportunity to set regional priorities, standardize processes across the region, and collaborate on a systematic approach to Post's administrative operations to meet FY22-26 Strategic Plan Performance Goal 3.8: Standardize Business Practices to Reduce Redundant Effort Across Posts.	11/14/2022	11/18/2022	Tbilisi, Georgia	48	$ 170,225
IAP Programming and Training (P&T) Conference	The purpose of this conference was to bring together the IAP Region's Directors of Programming and Training (DPT), Deputy DPTs, and other Programming Team Members to discuss and creatively engage on core P&T topics of regional importance, including effective management practices, support for service, and centering communities in our P&T approaches.	11/12/2022	11/19/2022	San Jose, Costa Rica	46	$ 198,186
Pacific Climate Change Summit	The purpose of this conference was to bring together Post staff, HQ staff and host country partners who all support the advancement of Peace Corps' contribution to host country efforts to combat climate change, and advance the Agency's Performance Goal 1.2, as noted in the Strategic Plan.	12/5/2022	12/9/2022	Nadi, Fiji	34	$ 112,213
EMA Programming and Training Unit (PTU) Conference: Evolve & Lead	The purpose of the PTE Conference was to highlight the Agency's programming and training priorities around the re-entry of Volunteers to service, COVID initiatives, and safety and security policies. This was also an opportunity for staff to exchange best practices across Posts.	12/12/2022	12/16/2022	Phuket, Thailand	73	$ 244,727

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Office of Global Health and HIV (OGHH) President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Finance Training Conference	The purpose of this conference was to train DMOs, DDMOs, and PEPFAR Financial Assistant personnel from PEPFAR countries on PEPFAR financing. This conference included training on Country Operational Plan (COP) cycles, roles and responsibilities, COP tools, and budget and execution. This training helped PEPFAR Posts prepare to better implement PEPFAR and Peace Corps health programs and initiatives.	1/23/2023	1/27/2023	Gaborone, Botswana	41	$ 118,113
OGHH PEPFAR Programming Conference	PEPFAR has unveiled a new strategic direction, Reimagine PEPFAR. The purpose of this conference was to brainstorm how our work aligns with the new strategic direction, define common approaches for Peace Corps HIV programming, effectively capitalize on our PEPFAR funding, and tell our story of how we contribute to ending the HIV/AIDS pandemic.	1/30/2023	2/3/2023	Pretoria, South Africa	60	$ 152,693
AF Training Managers (TM) Workshop	The TM Workshop improved Post training practices, addressed key programming and training initiatives and related strategic plan priorities, including: Training Design & Assessment implementation, staff training & development, fostering a diverse/inclusive culture of Volunteer support, & sharing best practices and innovative solutions to address P&T gaps and needs including strengthening TM support to initiatives-climate, malaria, PEPFAR, & Volunteer Service Initiatives	4/24/2023	4/28/2023	Cotonou, Benin	34	$ 107,725
Office of Health Services (OHS) Continuing Medical Education (CME) Conference #1	The purpose of this CME conference was to provide Peace Corps Medical Officers (PCMOs), Regional Medical Officers (RMOs), and US-based Peace Corps clinical staff with an opportunity to earn CME credits required to maintain professional medical/nursing licenses, to remain credentialed to practice healthcare, and to gain knowledge on current policy and practice guidelines.	4/30/2023	5/4/2023	Marrakesh, Morocco	93	$ 338,869
AF DMO Conference	The purpose of the Conference was to bring all DMOs together with their Deputy DMOs in order to share best practices and learn from each other. Staff from various HQ offices presented topics of emphasis or concern and demonstrated tools to enhance the work at Post.	5/8/2023	5/11/2023	Livingstone, Zambia	62	$ 228,780
OHS CME Conference #2	The purpose of this CME conference was to provide Peace Corps Medical Officers (PCMOs), Regional Medical Officers (RMOs), and US-based Peace Corps clinical staff with an opportunity to earn CME credits required to maintain professional medical/nursing licenses, to remain credentialed to practice healthcare, and to gain knowledge on current policy and practice guidelines.	5/9/2023	5/13/2023	Marrakesh, Morocco	94	$ 357,602
Inter-Americas Regional Climate Change Conference	The overall goal of this Regional Climate Change Conference was for participating Posts to be able to access relevant and host country-specific climate change information and to use this to implement an informed process to identify opportunities and, where appropriate and feasible, integrate activities into a current sector development programming that address host country and community-level climate change risks as outlined in Performance Goal 1.2 – Climate Change.	5/22/2023	5/26/2023	Panama City, Panama	50	$ 125,228

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EMA Country Director (CD) Conference	The purpose of this conference was to bring together the region's Country Directors to discuss topics of regional importance, including effective management practices, support for Volunteers, and Volunteer resiliency and retention.	6/3/2023	6/9/2023	Colombo, Sri Lanka	41	$ 126,656
EMA Management and Operations Conference	This conference focused on meeting the needs of our Management and Operations locally employed staff at Post overseas by allowing them to collaborate with each other and with key business offices at HQ. The conference provided the opportunity to set regional priorities, standardize processes across the region, and collaborate on a systematic approach to Post's administrative operations to meet FY22-26 Strategic Plan Performance Goal 3.8: Standardize Business Practices to Reduce Redundant Effort Across Posts.	7/16/2023	7/21/2023	Philadelphia, PA	51	$ 201,226
IAP CD Conference	The purpose of this conference was to bring together the IAP Region's Country Directors to discuss topics of regional importance, including effective management practices, Volunteer support, and upcoming Operating Plans.	7/16/2023	7/21/2023	Antigua, Guatemala	40	$ 135,821
Office of Volunteer Recruitment and Selection (VRS) Training	This Conference provided an opportunity for all VRS staff to come together to share, connect and impact each other as a team. It provided a platform to share knowledge, resources towards professional development as individuals and as a team to advance the agency's mission.	7/17/2023	7/21/2023	New Orleans, LA	167	$ 208,712
IAP Management and Operations Conference	The purpose of this conference was to bring together the IAP Region's DMOs and Financial Analysts to collaborate on topics of regional importance, including effective management practices, future budget implications, and current agency initiatives.	8/14/2023	8/18/2023	Queretaro, Mexico	49	$ 201,163
OCIO CIE Conference #2	IT infrastructure at overseas Posts is complex, and the work of both Volunteers and Post staff depends on the Post IT infrastructure. Therefore, it is critical that IT Specialists/IT Assistants (ITS/ITA) continually educate themselves, share best practices, and advance their technical and soft skills so they can better serve their users and support Post. The ITS/ITA was split into several conferences to accommodate all Post ITS/ITA.	8/28/2023	9/2/2023	Washington, DC	45	$ 133,392
EMA Regional Climate Change Conference	The overall goal of this Regional Climate Change Conference was for participating Posts to be able to access relevant and host country-specific climate change information and to use this to implement an informed process to identify opportunities and, where appropriate and feasible, integrate activities into a current sector development programming that address host country and community-level climate change risks as outlined in Performance Goal 1.2 – Climate Change.	9/11/2023	9/15/2023	Kathmandu, Nepal	60	$ 145,978
Women's Economic Empowerment through Digital Literacy (AF and IAP)	The conference facilitated knowledge exchange and learning opportunities on the topics of women's economic empowerment and digital literacy (WEE-DL) and provided resources and support for staff to incorporate related activities into their programming and training approaches. The goal was to inspire and equip Post staff with the knowledge and skills to integrate a WEE-DL activity into their existing programming & training work to support Volunteers in implementing such activities in their communities.	9/12/2023	9/15/2023	Washington, DC	50	$ 213,416

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University Programs' Coordinator Conference	The Peace Corps Office of University Programs conference gathered more than 200 university program coordinators from the Peace Corps Prep and Paul D. Coverdell Fellows partnership programs from universities across the country. Peace Corps headquarters staff from different offices led interactive sessions to inform our partners and expand their knowledge of our programs.	9/17/2023	9/19/2023	Tacoma, WA	213	$ 158,424
2023 Sexual Assault Response Liaison (SARL) Initial Training and All-SARL Conference	The purpose of this conference was to provide initial training to new Sexual Assault Response Liaisons and satisfy the 2023 continuing education requirement for all Sexual Assault Response Liaisons, as mandated by the Kate Puzey Act.	9/11/2023	9/20/2023	Orlando, FL	142	$ 474,034
AF Programming, Training, and Evaluation Conference	The purpose of this conference was to improve and share PTE best practices, addressing key agency P&T issues/initiatives, including, but not limited to: improving site management, staff training and development, training design and assessment, climate change, Volunteerism, PST implementation, integration of technology, enhancing language learning throughout service, and fostering a diverse and inclusive culture of Volunteer support.	9/18/2023	9/22/2023	Washington, DC	39	$ 153,737