2014 Annual Volunteer Survey Results

Global Tabular Report

October 2014

Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning

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Introduction

The Peace Corps is pleased to present results from its 2014 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 towards the agency's strategic goals by tracking the perceived impact of Volunteers' work. The survey also captures Volunteers' assessments of Peace Corps training effectiveness, their personal health and safety, their overall service experience, and in-country staff support.

Key Findings

- ***Volunteers' commitment to serve remained strong in 2014.*** Nearly all respondents (97%) intended to complete their service, and most (90%) would recommend Peace Corps service to other qualified candidates.
- ***Respondents felt most effective in advancing Peace Corps Goal Two (Sharing America with the World).*** Eighty-five percent of respondents felt that they were effective in promoting a better understanding of Americans to their counterparts (Goal Two), while 65 percent felt that they were effective in transferring knowledge and skills to counterparts (Goal One).
- ***Peace Corps training and field experience prepared Volunteers to meet challenges.*** Just over half of respondents (55%) felt prepared to meet the challenges of Peace Corps service when they first arrived at their host countries. After Peace Corps training and field experience, the vast majority (90%) felt prepared.
- ***Volunteers were able to discover the areas of need in their communities.*** Although only half of Volunteers (55%) indicated that meaningful work was available to them when they first arrived at site, 70 percent felt that they had enough work to do at their sites by the time they took the survey.
- ***Most Volunteers felt safe. Peace Corps safety and security services received the highest Volunteer satisfaction ratings.*** More than nine in ten respondents (93%) felt safe where they lived. However, 76 percent had experienced insensitive comments, harassment, or discrimination towards them in their host countries. Of the six major support functions surveyed, respondents were the most satisfied with safety and security support and services (84%).

Method

The Annual Volunteer Survey was conducted online using a self-administered questionnaire that was available through an open-access link from June 9 to August 15, 2014. A total of 5,344 Volunteers participated (a 91.3% overall response rate). Geographically, the results represent all 60 posts where Peace Corps Volunteers served while the survey was in the field.

Since the inception of the survey, the agency has undertaken a number of initiatives to improve survey methodology to ensure high data quality and cost-effective survey administration. In 2014, these efforts led to a significant redesign of the survey questionnaire. In order to enhance data quality and improve respondent confidentiality, the 2014 instrument was shortened from 105 to 55 questions, response scales for 18 questions were changed from unbalanced to balanced formats, and all demographic questions were moved to the end of the survey. A detailed description of the survey methodology is available in section VIII 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 (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. The sum of percentages in each table, row, or column may not total to 100 percent either due to rounding, or due to more than one response that respondents provided when answering multiple response questions. Definitions of the key survey terms that appear in this report are included in section VIII.

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 2014.*** Nearly all respondents (97%) intend to complete their service, and 9 in 10 participating Volunteers (90%) would recommend Peace Corps service to other qualified candidates.
- ***The three main factors behind respondents' motivation to join the Peace Corps were altruism, pragmatism, and a sense of adventure.***[2] Helping others was the most important reason why respondents accepted their Peace Corps invitation (96%), and the challenging U.S. job market was the least important (40%).
- ***Of the three Peace Corps Goals, Volunteers felt more successful at sharing American culture with the world.*** Respondents felt more effective in advancing Goal Two (82%–85%) than Goal Three (80%) or Goal One (61%–73%).

Table 1. Motivation for Peace Corps Service

q7. 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%	<0.5%	3%	31%	65%	5,343
Gaining work experience	2%	5%	12%	36%	44%	5,340
Opportunity to help others	<0.5%	<0.5%	3%	29%	68%	5,334
Gaining international experience	1%	2%	7%	29%	62%	5,332
Learning a new language or enhancing foreign language skills	1%	4%	15%	35%	44%	5,342
Personal growth	1%	1%	5%	28%	66%	5,336
Challenging U.S. job market	12%	17%	31%	23%	17%	5,337
Opportunity to serve my country	6%	12%	28%	33%	21%	5,337
Travel/adventure	1%	1%	7%	37%	54%	5,338

* Note: This question was included in the 2011 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from 3 to 5 points, which may have resulted in little to no impact on the survey results for this question.

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[1]   Peace Corps. "Strategic Plan FY 2014–2018 and Annual Performance Plan FY 2014–2015," 2014. http://files.peacecorps.gov/multimedia/pdf/policies/pc_strategic_plan_2014-2018.pdf (accessed March 21, 2014).
[2] Based on principle component (PCA) analysis with varimax rotation (57 percent of variance explained). Based on the covariance among each of the questions presented in Table 1 and underlying latent factors, *altruism* includes serving the country and helping others; *pragmatism* includes gaining work experience, challenging job market, international experience, and learning foreign language; and *sense of adventure* includes exposure to different cultures, travel/adventure, and personal growth.

Table 2. Motivation for Peace Corps Service—Average Ratings
(1 = very unimportant; 5 = very important, based on respondents who rated all provided motivational factors)

q7. How important were the following factors in accepting your Peace Corps invitation?*	Average Rating	Number of Respondents
Exposure to a different culture	4.60	5,292
Gaining work experience	4.16	5,292
Opportunity to help others	4.63	5,292
Gaining international experience	4.49	5,292
Learning a new language or enhancing foreign language skills	4.17	5,292
Personal growth	4.57	5,292
Challenging U.S. job market	3.15	5,292
Opportunity to serve my country	3.51	5,292
Travel/adventure	4.41	5,292

* Note: This question was included in the 2011 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from 3 to 5 points, which may have resulted in little to no impact on the survey results for this question.

Table 3. Assessment of Peace Corps Service

q3. 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%	5%	45%	47%	5,273
Primary assignment/project	3%	9%	17%	51%	20%	5,154
Secondary project/community service activities**	1%	3%	13%	48%	35%	4,772
Experiences with other Volunteers	1%	3%	9%	38%	49%	5,300
Work with counterparts/community partners	2%	7%	17%	48%	26%	5,245
Experiences with other host country individuals	1%	4%	12%	45%	37%	5,276

* Note: This question was included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in more positive survey results for this question.
** 11% of respondents indicated "Not applicable" or "Don't know."

Table 4. Assessment of Peace Corps Service—Average Ratings
(1 = very unrewarding; 5 = very rewarding, based on respondents who rated all service aspects)

q3. How personally rewarding do you find your:*	Average Rating	Number of Respondents
Overall Peace Corps service	4.38	4,625
Primary assignment/project	3.77	4,625
Secondary project/community service activities	4.14	4,625
Experiences with other Volunteers	4.32	4,625
Work with counterparts/community partners	3.89	4,625
Experiences with other host country individuals	4.14	4,625

* Note: This question was included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in more positive survey results for this question.

Table 5. Recommendation of Peace Corps and Commitment to Serve

	Definitely Not	Probably Not	Undecided	Probably Yes	Definitely Yes	Number of Respondents
q4. Today, would you still make the same decision to serve with the Peace Corps?*	1%	3%	6%	26%	64%	5,330
q5. Would you recommend Peace Corps service to others you think are qualified?*	1%	3%	7%	31%	59%	5,328

* Note: These questions were included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in little to no impact on the survey results for this question.

Table 6. Interest in Extending Peace Corps Service

q6. Do you intend to complete your Peace Corps service?	Definitely Not	Probably Not	Undecided	Probably Yes	Definitely Yes	Might Extend	Number of Respondents
Percentage of respondents	<1%	<1%	2%	9%	69%	19%	5,343

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

q21. 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
Your counterpart/community partner	3%	9%	24%	51%	14%	5,309
Group(s) with which you work closely	1%	4%	22%	62%	11%	5,306
Members of your host community	1%	7%	31%	55%	6%	5,312

* Note: This question was included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in more positive survey results for this question.

Table 8. Effectiveness in Sharing America with the World (Goal Two)

q22. 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
Your counterpart/community partner	1%	2%	12%	57%	28%	5,309
Group(s) with which you work closely	<0.5%	1%	14%	60%	25%	5,303
Members of your host community	1%	3%	15%	59%	22%	5,315

* Note: This question was included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in more positive survey results for this question.

Table 9. Effectiveness in Bringing the World Back Home (Goal Three)

q23. How effective are you in promoting a better understanding of host country nationals among Americans?*	Very Ineffective	Ineffective	Neither Ineffective nor Effective	Effective	Very Effective	Number of Respondents
Percentage of respondents	<0.5%	2%	18%	61%	19%	5,312

* Note: This question was included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in more positive survey results for this question.

Table 10. Effectiveness in All Three Goals—Average Ratings
(1 = very ineffective; 5 = very effective, based on respondents who rated all host country individuals and groups on all three goals)

q21–q23. How effective are you in…*	Average Rating	Number of Respondents
Goal One—Your counterpart/community partner	3.65	5,226
Goal One—Group(s) with which you work closely	3.79	5,226
Goal One—Members of your host community	3.58	5,226
Goal Two—Your counterpart/community partner	4.08	5,226
Goal Two—Group(s) with which you work closely	4.08	5,226
Goal Two—Members of your host community	4.00	5,226
Goal Three—Among Americans	3.97	5,226

* Note: These questions were included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in more positive survey results for these questions.

Table 11. Facilitation of Direct Interactions Between Americans and Host Country Nationals

q25. Did you facilitate direct interactions between Americans and host country nationals in the last 12 months?	Yes	No	Number of Respondents
Percentage of respondents	57%	43%	5,330

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). Responses to questions about pre-service training and in-service training fielded in 2013 were highly correlated; therefore, the 2014 survey focused on Peace Corps training overall, without differentiating between pre-service and in-service training. The only exception is three questions gauging whether selected safety and security skills were taught during pre-service training, were learned, and applied.

Key Findings

- ***Peace Corps training and field experience prepared Volunteers to meet the challenges of service.*** More than half of respondents (55%) felt prepared or very prepared to meet the challenges of Peace Corps service when they first arrived at their host countries. After Peace Corps training and field experience, the great majority (90%) felt prepared or very prepared.
- ***Safety and security was the highest-ranked of the 11 Peace Corps training components surveyed.*** Eighty-six percent of respondents indicated that training in maintaining personal safety and security was effective. Training in monitoring and evaluating their project goals and outcomes was perceived the least effective (with 57% of respondents rating this training effective or very effective).
- ***Peace Corps trained Volunteers more effectively in cultural adjustment than in the development of skills for their primary work assignment****.* On average, respondents rated the effectiveness of training components related to cultural adjustment higher than of those related to work assignment skills.
- ***Many Volunteers felt they could not communicate well in local languages.*** After training and at least one month of field experience, only 42 percent of respondents reported they could communicate well or very well in local languages spoken in their communities.
- ***Volunteers mitigate risk.*** About half of respondents (49%) used their "RADAR" or personal security skills in the past 12 months, while about one third used sexual assault awareness skills (34%), and twenty-nine percent used Bystander Intervention skills.

Table 12. Preparedness for Peace Corps Service

	Very Unprepared	Unprepared	Neither Unprepared nor Prepared	Prepared	Very Prepared	Number of Respondents
q8. How prepared for Peace Corps service did you feel when you arrived in country?*	2%	13%	30%	44%	11%	5,337
q11. In general, how prepared do you feel today to meet the challenges of Peace Corps service?*	<0.5%	2%	8%	59%	31%	5,328

* Note: These questions were included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in more positive survey results for this question.

Table 13. Preparedness for Peace Corps Service—Average Ratings
(1 = very unprepared; 5 = very prepared, based on respondents who rated both time frames)

	Average Rating	Number of Respondents
q8. How prepared for Peace Corps service did you feel when you arrived in country?*	3.49	5,321
q11. In general, how prepared do you feel today to meet the challenges of Peace Corps service?*	4.18	5,321

* Note: These questions were included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in more positive survey results for this question.

Table 14. Effectiveness of Peace Corps Training in Host Country Adjustment Skills

q9. 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%	5%	13%	61%	20%	5,328
Adjust to your physical living conditions	1%	6%	16%	53%	24%	5,294
Use language needed in your work/community	2%	9%	13%	51%	25%	5,299
Maintain your physical health	1%	7%	22%	50%	20%	5,293
Maintain your mental/emotional health	3%	10%	27%	46%	14%	5,305
Maintain your personal safety and security	1%	3%	11%	52%	34%	5,312

* Note: This question was included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in more positive survey results for this question.

Table 15. Effectiveness of Peace Corps Training in Host Country Adjustment Skills—Average Ratings
(1 = very ineffective; 5 = very effective, based on respondents who rated all skills)

q9. Please evaluate the effectiveness of your Peace Corps training in preparing you to:*	Average Rating	Number of Respondents
Manage cultural differences	3.93	5,207
Adjust to your physical living conditions	3.94	5,207
Use language needed in your work/community	3.88	5,207
Maintain your physical health	3.81	5,207
Maintain your mental/emotional health	3.59	5,207
Maintain your personal safety and security	4.16	5,207

* Note: This question was included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in more positive survey results for this question.

Table 16. Effectiveness of Peace Corps Training in Primary Work Assignment Skills

q10. Please evaluate the effectiveness of your Peace Corps training in preparing you to:*	Very Ineffective	Ineffective	Neither Ineffective nor Effective	Effective	Very Effective	Number of Respondents
Perform technical aspects of your work	4%	13%	20%	49%	14%	5,287
Work with counterparts/community partners	2%	13%	26%	49%	10%	5,301
Conduct a community needs assessment	3%	11%	24%	47%	14%	5,199
Work on your project goals and objectives	2%	9%	20%	56%	13%	5,287
Monitor/evaluate project goals and outcomes	3%	13%	26%	47%	10%	5,265

* Note: This question was included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in more positive survey results for this question.

Table 17. Effectiveness of Peace Corps Training in Primary Work Assignment Skills—Average Ratings
(1 = very ineffective; 5 = very effective, based on respondents who rated all skills)

q10. Please evaluate the effectiveness of your Peace Corps training in preparing you to:*	Average Rating	Number of Respondents
Perform technical aspects of your work	3.55	5,118
Work with counterparts/community partners	3.51	5,118
Conduct a community needs assessment	3.57	5,118
Work on your project goals and objectives	3.70	5,118
Monitor/evaluate project goals and outcomes	3.48	5,118

* Note: This question was included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in more positive survey results for this question.

Table 18. Ability to Communicate in Local Language

q42. How well can you communicate in the language used by most local people in your community?	Not at All	Poorly	Adequately	Well	Very well	Number of Respondents
Percentage of respondents	1%	18%	40%	27%	15%	5,329

Table 19. Ability to Communicate Personal Boundaries

q47. How well can you communicate your personal boundaries in the situations that make you feel uncomfortable?	Not at All	Poorly	Adequately	Well	Very well	Number of Respondents
Percentage of respondents	1%	9%	38%	35%	17%	5,314

Table 20. Using Safety and Security Skills Learned at Pre-Service Training

	Used this skill	Learned, but did not need to use	Learned, but I was unable to apply	Learned, but do not remember	I was not trained on this skill.	Number of Respondents
q12. Have you used your "RADAR" or personal security skills in the past 12 months?	49%	29%	2%	17%	3%	5,330
q13. Have you used Sexual Assault Awareness skills to mitigate unwanted sexual advances in the past 12 months?	34%	54%	4%	6%	2%	5,324
q14. Have you used Bystander Intervention skills in the past 12 months?	29%	59%	2%	7%	3%	5,334

III. Work of Volunteers

This section presents information on Volunteers' work activities, their reflections on working with counterparts 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 worked close to full-time.* Volunteers spent on average 33 hours per week on work-related activities. About two-thirds of that time was devoted to primary project activities and one-third to secondary projects or community service. Seven in ten Volunteers felt that they had enough work to do at their sites (70%) and agreed that their skills are a good match to the work they did (72%).
- *Volunteers were committed to their primary project assignment.* Generally, work activities of Volunteers were closely aligned with their primary project sector: 87 percent to 99 percent of respondents were involved in activities within their respective sectors.
- *Not all Volunteers worked with Peace Corps-assigned counterparts, but many of those who did were satisfied.* Nearly 7 in 10 respondents (68%) worked with their Peace Corps-assigned counterparts. Of those, more than six in ten were satisfied with their partnership with their counterparts in terms of their project work (63%) and their integration into the community (72%).

Table 21. Primary Project Sector

q52. Please select the project to which you are assigned. [Categorized]	Percentage of Respondents
Agriculture	6%
Education	37%
Environment	10%
Health	23%
Community Economic Development	10%
Youth in Development	10%
Other	1%
Prefer not to answer	2%
Total	5,324

Table 22. Work Activities
(Percentage of respondents may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided)

q15. What do you do as part of your Peace Corps work?	Percentage of Respondents	Number of Respondents
English teaching	59%	3,143
Youth as resources/working with youth	50%	2,665
Community development	42%	2,253
Gender equity/women's empowerment	41%	2,161
HIV/AIDS	36%	1,904
Girls education	34%	1,808
Teacher training	29%	1,549
Nutrition education	27%	1,423
Sports/fitness	24%	1,282
Literacy	22%	1,196
Environment work	22%	1,170
Library development	21%	1,121
Malaria prevention	20%	1,070
Food security--community/household	20%	1,041
Income generation	19%	1,035
Health extension	19%	988
Water and sanitation	17%	911
Arts	17%	893
Agriculture/fish/livestock	16%	869
Maternal, child, and neonatal health	16%	833
Volunteerism/V^2	15%	809
Business advising	14%	768
Math/Science teaching	13%	669
NGO development	12%	650
Rural development	12%	642
Agroforestry	9%	490
Technology for development/ICT	9%	465
Microenterprise development	8%	418
Working with people with disabilities	7%	397
Other	4%	204
Total		5,324

Table 23. Sector Based on Work Activities
(Percentage of respondents may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided)

q15. What do you do as part of your Peace Corps work? [Categorized]	Percentage of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Agriculture work activities	16%	869
Education work activities	80%	4,270
Environment work activities	25%	1,320
Health work activities	67%	3,566
Community Economic Development work activities	57%	3,030
Youth in Development work activities	50%	2,665
Cross-sector work activities	54%	2,889
Other activities	2%	129
Total		5,324

Table 24. Sector Based on Actual Work Activities by Assigned Primary Project Sector
(Percentage of respondents may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided)

Project sector based on work activities	Primary Sector: Agriculture	Primary Sector: Education	Primary Sector: Environment	Primary Sector: Health	Primary Sector: Community Economic Development	Primary Sector: Youth in Development
Agriculture work activities	89%	3%	47%	10%	19%	3%
Education work activities	60%	99%	57%	66%	71%	90%
Environment work activities	62%	8%	93%	17%	22%	15%
Health work activities	87%	48%	65%	99%	40%	80%
Community Economic Development work activities	69%	39%	61%	60%	98%	62%
Youth in Development work activities	34%	42%	41%	56%	53%	87%
Cross-sector work activities	51%	49%	41%	59%	53%	78%
Other activities	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%
Total	343	1,966	522	1,205	544	538

Table 25. Average Amount of Time Spent Per Week on Primary and on Secondary Activities

q18. How many hours do you spend on your primary work and secondary projects or community service during an average work week?	Average Number of Hours	Median Number of Hours	Number of Respondents
Primary work	22.2	20.0	5,223
Secondary projects or community service	10.5	10.0	5,223
Total	32.7	32.0	5,223

Table 26. Status of Working Relationship with Peace Corps-assigned Counterparts

q19. Do you currently work with one or more Peace Corps-assigned counterpart(s)/community partner(s)?	Yes	No	Number of Respondents
Percentage of respondents	68%	32%	5,335

Table 27. Satisfaction with Working Relationship with Peace Corps-assigned Counterparts
(Based on respondents who worked with Peace-Corps assigned counterparts at the time of the survey)

q20. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of working with your Peace Corps-assigned counterpart?	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither Dissatisfied nor Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Number of Respondents
Accomplishing your project work	5%	14%	18%	39%	24%	3,510
Integrating into your community	4%	9%	16%	37%	35%	3,562

Table 28. Satisfaction with Working Relationship with Peace Corps-assigned Counterparts—Average Ratings
(1 = very dissatisfied; 5 = very satisfied, based on respondents who rated both aspects)

q20. 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	3.64	3,489
Integrating into your community	3.89	3,489

Table 29. Quality of Work at Site

q16. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Number of Respondents
I have enough work to do at my site	5%	12%	13%	37%	33%	5,275
My skills are a good match to the work I do at site	4%	8%	16%	43%	29%	5,267
My work is directly related to what my community needs	3%	7%	19%	45%	26%	5,194

Table 30. Quality of Work at Site—Average Ratings
(1 = strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree, based on respondents who rated all aspects)

q16. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?	Average Rating	Number of Respondents
I have enough work to do at my site	3.82	5,138
My skills are a good match to the work I do at site	3.85	5,138
My work is directly related to what my community needs	3.85	5,138

Table 31. Opinion on the Future of the Peace Corps Program and Primary Project in the Host Country

q17. In your view, which of the following options would benefit your host country the most?	Discontinued/ Phased Out	Reduced	Maintained As Is	Expanded	Number of Respondents
Your project/primary work assignment should be:	9%	10%	48%	33%	5,276
The Peace Corps program (the post and all projects) in this country should be:	5%	11%	47%	36%	5,279

IV. Site Characteristics

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

Key Findings

- *Peace Corps Volunteers tended to live in remote locations.* More than three quarters of respondents (77%) lived in sites that are located in villages, rural areas, or rural towns. A typical Volunteer needed to travel half an hour from his or her site to reach the nearest Volunteer, and four hours to reach the nearest Peace Corps office.
- *Volunteers generally felt safe, but were not immune to negative treatment.* The great majority of respondents (93%) felt safe where they lived. Yet, 76 percent had experienced insensitive comments, harassment, or discrimination in the past year, primarily based on race/color/ethnicity (53%) or gender (50%).
- *Access to modern conveniences at site varied greatly both by geographic region and the extent of community urbanization.* The majority of Volunteers had daily access to cell phone service at their residence (93%), and three in four respondents had daily access to electricity (75%). Fewer respondents had daily access to running water (62%) or Internet (52%).
- *Volunteer opinions were split on the question as to whether Peace Corps sites were well-prepared when they arrived.* Slightly more than half of respondents agree or strongly agree that meaningful work was available when they arrived at site (55%), and 54 percent thought that host country individuals were prepared for their arrival.
- *Most Volunteers felt integrated into their communities.* Nearly three in four respondents (73%) felt well-integrated into their communities at the time of the survey.

Table 32. Site Urbanization

q50. Please choose the best description of your assigned site.	Percentage of Respondents
Capital of the country	3%
City (population over 25,000) - not the capital	19%
Rural town (population 2,000+ to 25,000)	37%
Village/rural area (population under 2,000)	40%
Outer island (regardless of size)	1%
Total	5,268

Table 33. Distance to the Nearest Peace Corps Office and Volunteer

q51. 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	364	240	5,181
Nearest Volunteer in minutes	60	30	5,106

Table 34. Time Living with Host Country Individual or Family

q40. How long have you lived with a host country individual or family in total?	Average	Median	Number of Respondents*
Number of months	8.7	5.0	5,136

* 2% of respondents who did not live with host families and reported 0 months are not included.

Table 35. Access to Modern Conveniences at Site

q43. How often are the following services available at your residence?	Electricity	Running water	Cell phone service	Internet connectivity
Service not available	19%	28%	2%	27%
Less than once a month	<0.5%	1%	<0.5%	1%
At least once a month, but not every week	1%	2%	1%	4%
At least once a week, but less than daily	5%	8%	4%	16%
At least once a day	75%	62%	93%	52%
Number of respondents	5,321	5,318	5,328	5,286

Table 36. Frequency of Internet Use

q44. How frequently do you typically use the Internet?	Percentage of Respondents
Less than once a month	3%
At least once a month, but not every week	16%
At least once a week, but not every day	31%
At least once a day	48%
Typically do not use	2%
Total	5,332

Table 37. Safety Perception

q45. 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%	39%	54%	5,325
Where you work	<0.5%	1%	3%	38%	58%	5,323
When you travel in-country: transportation safety	5%	17%	25%	42%	11%	5,327
When you travel in-country: personal security	1%	6%	21%	56%	16%	5,323
In the city where your country's main PC office is located	2%	11%	26%	45%	15%	5,326

* Note: This question was included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in little to no impact on the survey results for this question.

Table 38. Safety Perception—Average Ratings
(1 = very unsafe; 5 = very safe, based on respondents who rated all environments)

q45. How safe do you feel in the following environments?*	Average Rating	Number of Respondents
Where you live	4.44	5,297
Where you work	4.53	5,297
When you travel in-country: transportation safety	3.36	5,297
When you travel in-country: personal security	3.82	5,297
In the city where your country's main PC office is located	3.61	5,297

* Note: This question was included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in little to no impact on the survey results for this question.

Table 39. Exposure to Insensitive Comments, Harassment, or Discrimination in Host Country
(Percentage of respondents may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided)

q46. 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
Race/color/ethnicity	53%	2,720
Gender	50%	2,589
Age	19%	994
Religion	12%	639
Sexual orientation	6%	300
Gender or transgender identity expression	4%	225
Disability	1%	42
Other	2%	124
Did not experience	24%	1,207
Total		5,129

Table 40. Initial Work Availability at Site

q16. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Number of Respondents
Meaningful work was available for me when I arrived at site	9%	20%	17%	36%	19%	5,307
Host country individuals with whom I would be working were prepared for my arrival in the community	9%	19%	18%	37%	17%	5,313

Table 41. Initial Work Availability at Site—Average Ratings
(1 = strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree, based on respondents who rated all aspects)

q16. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?	Average Rating	Number of Respondents
Meaningful work was available for me when I arrived at site	3.37	5,138
Host country individuals with whom I would be working were prepared for my arrival in the community	3.36	5,138

Table 42. Integration into the Local Community

q41. How integrated into your community do you feel?*	Very Poorly Integrated	Poorly Integrated	Neither Poorly nor Well Integrated	Well Integrated	Very Well Integrated	Number of Respondents
Percentage of respondents	1%	4%	23%	52%	21%	5,318

* Note: This question was included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in little to no impact on the survey results for this question.

V. 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

- ***Peace Corps staff was in contact with Volunteers.*** Nearly all respondents (94%) reported that a Peace Corps staff member had visited their site in the past 12 months; 96 percent reported that they received healthcare from their medical officers (PCMOs) in the past 12 months.
- ***Volunteers felt that Peace Corps culture is inclusive.*** Eight in ten respondents (80%) agreed or strongly agreed that the Peace Corps organizational culture is inclusive of diverse people.
- ***The great majority of Volunteers were satisfied with the Peace Corps' safety and security and medical services.*** Of the six major support functions surveyed, respondents were the most satisfied with safety and security support (84%), followed by medical support (78%) provided by Peace Corps in-country staff.

Table 43. Satisfaction with In-Country Peace Corps Staff Support

q26. 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	3%	9%	13%	46%	29%	5,301
Emotional	4%	11%	27%	39%	19%	4,961
Medical	2%	8%	12%	40%	38%	5,282
Project specific technical skills	4%	13%	22%	41%	20%	5,215
Safety and security	2%	4%	10%	41%	43%	5,277
Site selection/preparation	8%	15%	18%	35%	24%	5,295

* Note: This question was included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in more positive survey results for this question.

Table 44. Satisfaction with In-Country Peace Corps Staff Support—Average Ratings
(1 = very dissatisfied; 5 = very satisfied, based on respondents who rated all functions)

q26. How satisfied are you with the following types of support provided by in-country Peace Corps staff?*	Average Rating	Number of Respondents
Administrative/logistical	3.88	4,816
Emotional	3.57	4,816
Medical	4.03	4,816
Project specific technical skills	3.60	4,816
Safety and security	4.19	4,816
Site selection/preparation	3.52	4,816

* Note: This question was included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in more positive survey results for this question.

Table 45. Country Director's Awareness of Issues

q28. To what extent is your current Country Director aware of Volunteer issues and concerns (through in-person, phone, or electronic interactions with Volunteers)?*	Very Unaware	Unaware	Neither Unaware nor Aware	Aware	Very Aware	Number of Respondents
Percentage of respondents	5%	8%	17%	47%	22%	5,266

* Note: This question was included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in little to no impact on the survey results for this question.

Table 46. Satisfaction with Timeliness and Quality of Feedback from Peace Corps Staff

q27. 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	4%	12%	19%	42%	22%	5,096
Quality	4%	10%	19%	44%	23%	5,088

Table 47. Satisfaction with Timeliness and Quality of Feedback from Peace Corps Staff—Average Ratings
(1 = very dissatisfied; 5 = very satisfied, based on respondents who rated both aspects)

q27. How satisfied are you with the timeliness and quality of feedback from Peace Corps staff about your work?	Average Rating	Number of Respondents
Timeliness	3.65	5,047
Quality	3.72	5,047

Table 48. Satisfaction with Peace Corps Health Care

q33. How satisfied are you with the health care that you have received from your PCMO(s)?*	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither Dissatisfied nor Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Did Not Receive Healthcare	Number of Respondents
Percentage of respondents	2%	6%	11%	38%	38%	4%	5,278

* Note: This question was included in the 2013 Annual Volunteer Survey. In 2014, the response scale was changed from a 5-point unbalanced format to a 5-point balanced format, which may have resulted in little to no impact on the survey results for this question.

Table 49. Peace Corps Staff Visits to Volunteer Sites in the Last 12 Months (Any Representative)

q29. In the last 12 months, have any of the following Peace Corps representatives visited you at your site? [Categorized]	Percentage of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Peace Corps representatives visited site in the past 12 months	94%	4,847
Peace Corps representatives did not visit site in the past 12 months	6%	326
Total	100%	5,173

Table 50. Peace Corps Staff Visits to Volunteer Sites in the Last 12 Months (Specific Representatives)
(Percentage of respondents may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided)

q29. 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/Program Assistant	78%	4,056
Post staff other than Country Director or Program Manager (DMO, DPT, PCMO, S&S Coordinator)	46%	2,377
Peace Corps Volunteer Leader (regional, technical, etc.)	25%	1,288
Country Director	22%	1,151
Peace Corps representatives did not visit my site during the past 12 months	6%	326
Total		5,173

Table 51. Inclusion in Peace Corps' Organizational Culture

q48. 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?	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Number of Respondents
Percentage of respondents	1%	5%	14%	51%	29%	5,327

Table 52. Gaps in the Culture of Inclusion at Peace Corps
(Based on respondents who disagree that the organizational culture of the Peace Corps is inclusive of diverse people. Percentage of respondents may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided)

q49. Where do you see gaps in the culture of inclusion in the Peace Corps?	Percentage of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Race/color/ethnicity	71%	228
Socioeconomic status	44%	142
Sexual orientation	39%	125
Age	33%	105
Gender	28%	90
Gender identity	27%	88
Disability	24%	78
Religion	22%	72
National origin	20%	63
Language	14%	44
Family structures	12%	39
Veteran status	11%	34
Other	8%	24
Total		322

Table 53. Frequency of Usage of Peace Corps Digital Materials

q30. How often did you use Peace Corps digital materials in your work in the last 12 months?	Percentage of Respondents
At least once a day	3%
At least once a week, but not every day	19%
At least once a month, but not every week	26%
Less than once a month	28%
Did not use in the past 12 months	23%
Total	5,311

VI. Health of Volunteers

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

Key Findings

- ***Volunteers felt less stressed, but also less healthy compared with their first 30 days at post.*** Compared with the start of their service, respondents' stress levels lowered moderately, from a median rating of 7 to 5 on a 10-point scale. Respondents reported a median score of 8 on a 10-point personal health assessment scale at the beginning of their service, but that number declined to 7 when they rated their current health.
- ***Inability to maintain a healthy lifestyle obstructed Volunteers' physical health while work-related factors contributed to increased stress.*** Unhealthy local diets (78%), followed by lack of exercise (49%), were cited as major health limitations by those whose health ratings decreased. Work (72%), followed by counterparts/community partners (57%), were the top two factors contributing to stress among those whose stress levels were above the 25th percentile.
- ***Most Volunteers engaged in activities that promoted good health.*** Nine in ten respondents (91%) exercised on four or more occasions per month; nearly all (98%) got enough sleep four or more times per month, and only one in ten (11%) smoked four or more times per month.

Table 54. Personal Health Assessment

q31. How would you rate your physical health when you first arrived at your site, and during the last 30 days? [Categorized]	Percentage of Respondents
Physical health has improved since entering service	27%
Physical health has stayed the same since entering service	26%
Physical health has worsened since entering service	48%
Total	5,292

Table 55. Personal Health Assessment—Average and Median Ratings
(1 = not at all healthy; 10 = exceptionally healthy, based on respondents who rated both time periods)

q31. 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	7.7	8.0	5,292
Last 30 days	7.1	7.0	5,292

Table 56. Personal Stress Level Assessment

q32. 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
Stress level reduced	55%
Stress level remained the same	17%
Stress level increased	29%
Total	5,299

Table 57. Personal Stress Level Assessment—Average and Median Ratings
(1 = little to no stress; 10 = a great deal of stress, based on respondents who rated both time periods)

q32. 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 Rating	Median	Number of Respondents
Month when first arrived	6.4	7.0	5,299
Last 30 days	5.3	5.0	5,299

Table 58. Respondents Involved in Health-Related Activities: Once per Month or More Often
(Percentage of respondents may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided)

q34. During a typical month in your service, how many days do you engage in the following activities?	Percentage of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Get enough sleep	99%	5,242
Eat healthily	98%	5,187
Exercise	95%	5,038
Drink alcoholic beverages	84%	4,478
Smoke	18%	941
Total		5,310

Table 59. Respondents Involved in Health-Related Activities: Four Times per Month or More Often
(Percentage of respondents may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided)

q34. During a typical month in your service, how many days do you engage in the following activities?	Percentage of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Get enough sleep	98%	5,203
Eat healthily	96%	5,068
Exercise	91%	4,816
Drink alcoholic beverages	50%	2,630
Smoke	11%	565
Total		5,301

Table 60. Average Time per Month Spent on Health-Related Activities

q34. During a typical month in your service, how many days do you engage in the following activities?	Average Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Number of Respondents*
Eat healthily	21.1	22.0	5,187
Drink alcoholic beverages	5.6	4.0	4,478
Exercise	16.4	15.0	5,038
Get enough sleep	22.8	25.0	5,242
Smoke	10.2	5.0	941

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

Table 61. Factors Limiting Personal Health
(Based on respondents whose health ratings were lower than at the time when they arrived at the site. Percentage of respondents may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided.)

q36. Do any of the following factors currently limit your ability to maintain your physical health?	Percentage of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Local diet	78%	1,674
Lack of exercise	49%	1,050
Lack of trust in local medical resources	19%	416
Distance from health care	19%	404
Lack of trust in Peace Corps medical care	16%	339
Lack of access to clean water	15%	315
Other factors (options presented below are coded based on short open-ended responses to this question)	9%	195
Environmental reasons at post	4%	75
Stress/too busy	2%	50
Not enough money to maintain healthy diet	2%	46
Inability to exercise outside	2%	45
Safety and security	2%	42
Total		2,152

Table 62. Factors Contributing to the Elevation of Stress Levels
(Based on respondents whose stress ratings were 4 or above on a 10-point scale.
Percentage of respondents may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided)

q38. Which of the following factors contribute to elevating your stress level?	Percentage of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Work	72%	2,764
Counterparts/community partners	57%	2,190
Cultural adjustments	52%	2,003
Isolation/loneliness	52%	2,002
Communicating in the local language	50%	1,923
Personal health maintenance	37%	1,441
Family, friends, loved ones back home	37%	1,436
Interactions with other Volunteers	27%	1,045
Interactions with Peace Corps staff	27%	1,036
Your host family	25%	978
In-country dating/relationships	23%	872
Personal safety	20%	781
Other sources of stress (options presented below are coded based on short open-ended responses to this question)	3%	133
COS and future after the Peace Corps	2%	77
Sexual and nonsexual harassment	2%	69
Transportation	1%	46
Interacting with public/host country nationals	1%	41
Boredom/lack of work	1%	32
Money	1%	30
Total		3,866

Table 63. Number of Drinks per Alcohol Consumption Session Among Volunteers Who Drink

q35. When you drink alcohol, how many drinks do you usually have?	Average	Median	Number of Respondents
Number of drinks	2.7	2.0	4,397

Table 64. Reasons for Alcohol Consumption Reported by Volunteers who Drink More Than Three Drinks per Session
(Percentage of respondents may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided)

q37. What are some of the reasons why you might drink alcohol during your Peace Corps service?	Percentage of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Personal enjoyment	88%	770
Drinking habits of fellow Volunteers	62%	543
Stress reduction	50%	437
Continued my U.S. drinking habits here	45%	388
In-country cultural norms	41%	355
Boredom	30%	257
Easy availability of alcohol	28%	248
Isolation/Loneliness	16%	135
Other reasons (option presented below is coded based on short open-ended responses to this question)	2%	15
Social reasons	6%	56
Total		872

Table 65. Stress Management Activities
(Percentage of respondents may not add to 100 due to multiple responses provided)

q39. Which of the following activities do you do to help manage stress?	Percentage of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Listen to music	80%	4,270
Read	80%	4,244
Exercise, walk, or otherwise make an effort to stay fit	79%	4,221
Spend time with friends	73%	3,874
Contact friends or family in the United States	71%	3,769
Leave your community/travel	64%	3,424
Get involved in additional projects, work, or studying	51%	2,738
Eat more or less than usual	36%	1,928
Meditate	28%	1,513
Drink alcohol	25%	1,349
Pray	19%	1,012
Shop	13%	672
Smoke	9%	470
Attend religious services	8%	402
Attend counseling session(s)	5%	245
Other (options presented below are coded based on short open-ended responses to this question)	3%	177
Watch movies	3%	139
Write or journal	2%	128
Watch TV	2%	92
Arts and crafts	2%	78
Play music, sing, or dance	1%	76
Sleep, nap, or rest	1%	55
Cook or bake	1%	47
Phone or text	1%	35
Surf internet, use the computer, or play video games	1%	34
Spend time with people (not specified as friends)	1%	24
None of the above	<0.5%	7
Total		5,333

VII. Participant Profile

A total of 5,344 Volunteers across 60 countries participated in the 2014 Annual Volunteer Survey. Of those, 46 percent were serving in the Africa region, 25 percent in the Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia region, and 29 percent were serving in the Inter-America and Pacific region. Survey participants were representative of the Volunteer population in terms of gender, age, geographic location, 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.
- In 2014, a typical respondent was 25 years old and had served for one year and 3 months at the time of the survey.
- Six in ten respondents were assigned to either Education (37%) or Health (23%) sectors, which reflects the proportion of the Volunteer population assigned to the two largest project sectors.

Table 66. Status as a Peace Corps Volunteer

q1. Are you a Peace Corps Volunteer or trainee in [POST]?	Percentage of Respondents	Percentage of All Eligible Volunteers
Volunteer at site one month or longer	93%	90%
Third year/extended Volunteer, including PCVL	7%	10%
Other	<0.5%	—
Total	5,344	5,853

Table 67. Time Spent in Host Country

q2. When did you first arrive in the country where you are currently serving? [Categorized]	Percentage of Respondents	Percentage of All Eligible Volunteers
6 months or shorter	17%	18%
7–12 months	19%	24%
13–20 months	27%	21%
21–27 months	31%	32%
28 month or longer	6%	6%
Total	5,179	5,853
Average number of months	16.3	16.3
Median number of months	15.0	14.8

Table 68. Gender

q53. What is your gender?	Percentage of Respondents	Percentage of All Eligible Volunteers
Female	61%	62%
Male	35%	38%
Prefer not to answer	4%	—
Total	5,292	5,853

Table 69. Age

q54. What is your age? [Categorized]	Percentage of respondents	Percentage of All Eligible Volunteers
23 or younger	19%	21%
24–28	61%	58%
29–55	14%	16%
56 or older	5%	5%
Total	4,705	5,853
Average	28.1	28.3
Median	25.0	25.0

Table 70. Primary Project Sector

q52. Please select the project to which you are assigned. [Categorized]	Percentage of Respondents	Percentage of All Eligible Volunteers
Agriculture	6%	5%
Education	37%	38%
Environment	10%	12%
Health	23%	25%
Community Economic Development	10%	11%
Youth in Development	10%	9%
Other	1%	—
Prefer not to answer	2%	—
Total	5,324	5,853

Table 71. Peace Corps Administrative Region

	Percentage of Respondents	Percentage of All Eligible Volunteers
Africa	46%	47%
Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia	25%	25%
Inter-America and Pacific	29%	28%
Total	5,344	5,853

VIII. Methodology

From June 9 to August 15, 2014, the Peace Corps conducted a survey of currently serving Peace Corps Volunteers—the Annual Volunteer Survey. The 2014 survey is the nineteenth in a series of studies designed to collect feedback from all Volunteers globally. The first global survey of Volunteers was administered in 1975.

The objective of this study is to obtain Volunteers' perspectives on the current state of the Peace Corps program as well as to help the agency improve its performance by better understanding how practices in the field contribute to program outcomes and 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 15, 2014.

The survey population includes 5,853 Peace Corps Volunteers serving in a two-year program at 60 Peace Corps posts worldwide.[3] By the response cut-off date, 5,344 Volunteers had completed the survey, for an overall response rate of 91.3 percent.

Table 72. Response Rate

	All eligible	Participated	Response rate
Volunteers	5,853	5,344	91.3%
Posts[1]	60	60	100.0%

1. Volunteers at four posts— Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, and Sierra Leone were evacuated during the survey administration.

Survey Administration

The 2014 Annual Volunteer Survey questionnaire contained 55 detailed questions—although some questions may not have been applicable to all respondents. A copy of the survey instrument is available in Appendix. The survey was conducted online. A typical respondent spent 28 minutes to complete the survey.[4]

The survey was administered through country directors at 60 Peace Corps posts.[5] Country directors were asked to distribute the survey invitation and URL to all of their eligible Volunteers on or about June 9. Nearly all posts (94%) launched the survey within the first week. By June 23, the survey had been distributed to Volunteers at all posts.

Table 73. Survey Distribution Schedule

	Number of posts	Percentage of posts
June 9	28	47%
June 10–June 15	28	47%
June 16–June 23	4	7%
Total	60	100%

Notable Events during Survey Administration

During the survey window, several events occurred that influenced responses in selected geographic locations. Most notable of these events were 1) evacuation of Volunteers in Kenya due to escalating security concerns; and, 2) evacuation of Volunteers in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone due to the spread of the Ebola virus. These

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[3] Peace Corps Ukraine, from which all Volunteers were evacuated in February 2014, and Peace Corps Kosovo, the newest post where the first group of Volunteers arrived in June 2014, were not included in the 2014 survey.

[4] Median time.

[5] Reliance on secondary distribution channels prevents the researchers from ensuring that survey administration is uniform across all respondents. Consequently, incentive methods and solicitations varied by post in both their content and frequency. Also see the *Limitation* section.

events occurred in the middle of the survey administration, with all Volunteers being evacuated from affected posts by July 2014. By the time these evacuations were completed, most of the Volunteers from other posts had completed the survey. With the intention "to hear the Voice of every Volunteer," and understanding that such events are not unprecedented for the organization that operates in vulnerable regions of the world, these responses from evacuated areas are included in this year's data.

Survey Redesign

The survey questionnaire underwent a significant redesign in 2014. The goals of these changes were to improve data quality and strengthen respondent confidentiality.

The questionnaire length was significantly reduced—from 105 questions in 2013 to 55 questions in 2014—in order to improve data quality and the survey-taking experience. A detailed analysis of previous years' data, matched with best practices from the survey research field, guided the redesign decisions. Questions that were highly correlated, that posed risks to respondent confidentiality, and questions that typical respondents would have inadequate knowledge to answer were excluded from this year's survey.

To reduce measurement error and follow best survey research practices, adjectival scales (unbalanced unipolar), which had been intended to measure attributes that are bipolar in nature, were changed to Likert scales (balanced bipolar) in 2014. Adjectival scales were first introduced in the Annual Volunteer Survey questionnaire in 2010; prior to that, survey questionnaires primarily consisted of visual analog scales (VAS) with only the end points labeled. The change from unbalanced to balanced scales affected 18 questions of the 55-question instrument.

To strengthen respondent confidentiality, all demographic questions were moved to the end of the survey. This change allowed respondents to make an informed decision about disclosing their optional demographic data after having answered all of the substantive questions on the survey. Consequently, the data quality of survey responses to non-demographic questions was expected to improve.

Due to these changes to the survey instrument, it will not be possible to directly compare the results from 2014 to earlier years. Moving forward, however, comparisons over time will once again be possible (comparing the 2015 results to 2014, for example). Generally, a change from unbalanced to balanced scales has resulted in consistently more positive ratings. The agency was not able to quantify the effect of the reduction of the length of the questionnaire and improvements to respondents' confidentiality.

Data Analysis

Findings reported in this publication are based on survey responses from participating Volunteers who represent a very high percentage (91.3%) of, but not all, Volunteers. Therefore, the data are subject to error, including coverage error, self-selection error, and nonresponse error. Because the survey is administered by third parties, the data are also subject to administrative errors, including sample selection error as well as bias that is introduced by variations in incentives offered to respondents, and variations in solicitation methods and frequency.

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) its unknown non-response bias; 2) inconsistent survey administration processes employed by posts, including inconsistent solicitation messaging and incentives; and, 3) the tracking at post of the individual survey completion status.

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 8.7 percent who did not respond. Therefore, conservative population estimates should always be employed. These estimates should include a range resulting from assigning all non-respondents to the most positive ratings

on a given scale, to assigning all non-respondents to the most negative ratings on a given scale—a process that essentially redistributes survey results based on the population totals.

The decentralized survey distribution through Peace Corps posts resulted in the inconsistent timing of the survey launch, and inconsistent timing and number of survey follow-ups. In addition, survey messages and incentives were not standardized globally. Therefore, differences in responses between geographies may be attributable to differences in survey administration.

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. Responsibilities may include 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): 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 the Volunteer's primary work partner within their primary project.

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

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

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

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

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

Participatory Analysis for Community Action (PACA): 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: Peace Corps divides its operations into three regions. In the summer of 2014, Africa included Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia. Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia (EMA) included Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Georgia, Indonesia, Jordan, Kyrgyz Republic, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Philippines, Romania, Thailand, and Ukraine. Inter-America and Pacific (IAP) included Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Eastern Caribbean, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Micronesia, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Samoa, Suriname, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

Peace Corps Medical Officer (PCMO): Peace Corps staff member who is responsible for assisting Volunteers in maintaining their health while in their country of assignment.

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 training received before Volunteers are sworn-in.

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

Program Manager/Associate Peace Corps Director (APCD): Peace Corps staff member responsible for programming, administration, or support of Volunteer projects in-country.

RADAR: RADAR stands for **R**ecognize the danger, Assess the situation, **D**ecide what's 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.

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 selection and preparation: A number of collaborative responsibilities of Peace Corps staff with active participation of host country representatives undertaken before Volunteers arrive at 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 2014 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
- Basic Demographic Information

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

Welcome to the 2014 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' Acting Director, as well as to other members of the Peace Corps staff worldwide. What we learn from you will help both to improve Peace Corps' ability to meet the needs of the communities in which you serve and to enrich your service as a Volunteer.

1. **Are you a Peace Corps Volunteer or trainee** in **[COUNTRY FROM LINK USED]?**

    a. Volunteer at site <u>one month or longer</u>
    b. Volunteer at site <u>less than one month</u> **[TERMINATE SURVEY]**
    c. Trainee/not yet sworn-in at site **[TERMINATE SURVEY]**
    d. Third year/extended Volunteer, including PCVL
    e. Peace Corps Response Volunteer **[TERMINATE SURVEY]**
    f. I am not a Volunteer currently serving in **[COUNTRY FROM LINK USED] [TERMINATE SURVEY]**
    g. Other (please specify): **[OPEN ENDED RESPONSE]**

2. **When did you first arrive in the country where you are currently serving?**

Year	[YEAR SCALE]
Month	[MONTH SCALE]

To begin, we would like to ask you a few questions about your Peace Corps service <u>overall</u>.

3. 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]

4. 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

5. 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

6. 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

Now, we would like to ask you about your   perceptions prior to entering the Peace Corps.

7. 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.	Other (please specify): **[OPEN ENDED RESPONSE]**	[SCALE]

8. 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

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

9. 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]

10. 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]

11. 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

The next few questions in this section are about Pre-Service Training (PST), which includes any training that you received before being sworn in as a Volunteer.

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 I was unable to apply it when I needed it.
d. I learned this skill, but I 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 advances in the past 12 months?

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

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

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

- ❑ Agriculture/fish/livestock
- ❑ Agroforestry
- ❑ Arts
- ❑ Business advising
- ❑ Community development
- ❑ English teaching
- ❑ Environment work
- ❑ Food security--community/household
- ❑ Gender equity/women's empowerment
- ❑ Girls education
- ❑ Health extension
- ❑ HIV/AIDS
- ❑ Income generation
- ❑ Library development
- ❑ Literacy

- ❑ Malaria prevention
- ❑ Maternal, child, and neonatal health
- ❑ Math/Science teaching
- ❑ Microenterprise development
- ❑ NGO development
- ❑ Nutrition education
- ❑ Rural development
- ❑ Sports/fitness
- ❑ Teacher training
- ❑ Technology for development/ICT
- ❑ Volunteerism/V^2
- ❑ Water and sanitation
- ❑ Working with people with disabilities
- ❑ Youth as resources/working with youth
- ❑ Other (please specify): [OPEN ENDED RESPONSE]

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

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

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

[SKIP IF THE PROGRAM OR PROJECT WILL BE DISCONTINUED]

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

[SCALE: Discontinued/phased out, Reduced, Maintained as is, Expanded]

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

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

    a.   Primary work [OPEN ENDED NUMERIC]
    b.   Secondary projects or community service [OPEN ENDED NUMERIC]

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

    a.   Yes
    b.   No

[ASK IF WORKS WITH A PEACE-CORPS ASSIGNED COUNTERPART]

20. **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]

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

21. **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]

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

22. **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]

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

23. **How effective are you in promoting a better understanding of host country nationals among Americans?**

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

[ASK IF "INEFFECTIVE" OR "VERY INEFFECTIVE" IN IMPLEMENTING AT LEAST ONE OF THE THREE GOALS]

24. **Please explain any challenges that may have prevented you from being more effective in achieving Peace Corps goals.**

[OPEN ENDED RESPONSE]

25. **Did you facilitate direct interactions between Americans and host country nationals in the last 12 months?**
   Please include in-person and virtual interactions (e.g., match programs participation, social media, web conferences, etc.).

   a. Yes
   b. No

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

26. **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]

27. **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]

28. **To what extent is your current Country Director aware of Volunteer issues and concerns (through in-person, phone, or electronic interactions with Volunteers)?**

    a.   Very Unaware
    b.   Unaware
    c.   Neither Unaware nor Aware
    d.   Aware
    e.   Very Aware

29. **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/Program Assistant
    c.   Post staff other than Country Director or Program Manager (DMO, DPT, PCMO, S&S Coordinator)
    d.   Peace Corps Volunteer Leader (regional, technical, etc.)
    e.   Other Peace Corps representatives (please specify): [OPEN ENDED RESPONSE]
    f.   Peace Corps representatives did not visit my site during the past 12 months [EXCLUSIVE]

30. **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 through 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

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

31. **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]

32. **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]

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

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

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

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

[ASK IF DRINKS ALCOHOL ON 1+ DAYS/MONTH DURING SERVICE]
35. **When you drink alcohol, how many drinks do you usually have?**

    [OPEN ENDED NUMERIC]

[ASK IF HEALTH DETERIORATED: (HEALTH WHEN FIRST ARRIVED) < (HEALTH IN LAST 30 DAYS)]
36. **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 water
    g. Other factors (please specify): [OPEN ENDED RESPONSE]

[ASK IF TYPICALLY CONSUMES 4+ DRINKS WHEN DRINKING]

37. 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.   Other reasons (please specify): [OPEN ENDED RESPONSE]

[ASK IF CURRENT STRESS LEVEL IS GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO 4]

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

   a.   Communicating in the local language
   b.   Counterparts/community partners
   c.   Cultural adjustments
   d.   Family, friends, loved ones back home
   e.   Isolation/loneliness
   f.   In-country dating/relationships
   g.   Interactions with other Volunteers
   h.   Interactions with Peace Corps staff
   i.   Personal health maintenance
   j.   Personal safety
   k.   Work
   l.   Your host family
   m.   Other sources of stress (please specify): [OPEN ENDED RESPONSE]

39. 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.   Spend time with friends
   f.   Contact friends or family in the United States
   g.   Eat more or less than usual
   h.   Attend religious services
   i.   Meditate
   j.   Drink alcohol
   k.   Leave your community/travel
   l.   Shop
   m.   Smoke
   n.   Attend counseling session(s)
   o.   Pray
   p.   Other (please specify): [OPEN ENDED RESPONSE]
   q.   None of the above

The next few questions will focus on your <u>everyday life</u> in your community.

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

[OPEN ENDED NUMERIC] year(s)
[OPEN ENDED NUMERIC] month(s)

41. 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

42. 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

43. **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]

44. How frequently do you typically use the Internet?

   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.   Typically do not use

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.

45. 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]

46. 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? *Please check all that apply.*

a. Age
b. Disability
c. Gender
d. Race/color/ethnicity
e. Religion
f. Sexual orientation
g. Gender or transgender identity expression
h. Other (please specify): [OPEN ENDED RESPONSE]
i. Did not experience

47. 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

48. 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, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, veteran status, and family structures.*

a. Strongly Disagree
b. Disagree
c. Neither Disagree nor Agree
d. Agree
e. Strongly Agree

[ASK IF DISAGREE THAT THE ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE OF PEACE CORPS IS INCLUSIVE OF DIVERSE PEOPLE]

49. 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. Gender
f. Age
g. Religion
h. Sexual orientation
i. Gender identity
j. Socioeconomic status
k. Veteran status
l. Family structures
m. Other (please specify): [OPEN ENDED RESPONSE]

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

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

50. 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 2,000+ to 25,000)
d. Village/rural area (population under 2,000)
e. Outer island (regardless of size)
f. Prefer not to answer

51. 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 Volunteers   [OPEN ENDED NUMERIC] hours [OPEN ENDED NUMERIC] minutes

52. Please select the project to which you are assigned:

[LIST OF COUNTRY-SPECIFIC PROJECTS, FILTERED BY COUNTRY. INCLUDE "I don't see my assigned project listed" AND "Prefer not to answer" OPTIONS]

[ASK IF "I don't see my assigned project listed" SELECTED]
52OE. To which project were you assigned in [COUNTRY FROM LINK USED]? *You may leave this field blank if you prefer not to answer this question.*

[OPEN ENDED RESPONSE]

53. What is your gender?

    a.   Female

    b.   Male

    c.   Prefer not to answer

54. What is your age? *Please enter your age in years in the space provided below. You may leave this field blank if you prefer not to answer this question.*

    [OPEN ENDED NUMERIC]

In conclusion, we would appreciate it if you would share any additional thoughts that you might like to convey to us, but which were not captured elsewhere in the survey.

55. Please use the space below to share any additional comments that you believe would be valuable to Volunteers in improving their impact at your post, Peace Corps staff supporting Volunteers, or to the researchers who design next year's survey.

    [OPEN ENDED RESPONSE]

Please click the "Submit Your Survey" button below to submit your answers to the 2014 Annual Volunteer Survey.

Concluding Note

The Peace Corps extends its sincere appreciation to all Volunteers for their service and for contributing their time and reflections to the 2014 Annual Volunteer Survey. Their participation in this research ensures that the Voice of the Volunteer is heard by the agency, Congress, other U.S. government agencies, and the general public.

Contact Information

For questions or comments regarding the survey findings, methodology, or data, please contact Peace Corps Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning (OSRIP) at osirp@peacecorps.gov.

About the Peace Corps

The Peace Corps sends Americans abroad to tackle the most pressing needs of people around the world. Peace Corps volunteers work at the grassroots level with local governments, schools, communities, small businesses and entrepreneurs to develop sustainable solutions that address challenges in education, health, economic development, agriculture, environment and youth development. When they return home, volunteers bring their knowledge and experiences – and a global outlook – back to the United States which enriches the lives of those around them. President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961 to foster a better understanding among Americans and people of other countries. Since then, more than 215,000 Americans of all ages have served in 140 countries worldwide. Visit www.peacecorps.gov to learn more.

About the Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning

It is the mission of OSIRP to advance 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.

Other Publications in this Series

Other annual publications based on the 2014 Annual Volunteer Survey data will include:

- *2014 Voice of the Volunteer*—a publicly released report which will be available at peacecorps.gov/open that focuses on a subset of significant survey findings and implications.