



PEACE  
CORPS

# Burkina Faso HOST COUNTRY IMPACT STUDY

## Purpose

In 2008, the Peace Corps launched a series of studies to determine the impact of Volunteers in meeting two of the agency's three goals: building local capacity and promoting a better understanding of Americans among local people in host countries. These Host Country Impact Studies are unique in providing feedback from the people who lived and worked with Peace Corps Volunteers. A team of Burkinabe researchers conducted the study in the summer of 2009, interviewing 133 respondents in 30 diverse communities. The Peace Corps Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning developed the methods and protocols, trained the local researchers, and produced a series of reports from this and other Host Country Impact Studies.

## Study Focus: Community Health Development Project in Burkina Faso

As of 2011, 1,748 Volunteers have served in Burkina Faso since the Peace Corps opened in 1967. The goal of the Community Health Development project is to revitalize primary health care at the village level by training peer educators and health care professionals.

### Peace Corps Goal One

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

## Findings

Awareness and practice of healthy behaviors and skills increased:

- 100 percent of respondents adopted healthier behaviors.
- Community members increased their participation in health education activities.
- 97 percent of local people reported an increase in both personal and community knowledge of health issues.

Management of community health organizations improved:

- 86 percent of project partners reported community-based organizations functioned better as a result of Peace Corps Volunteers' work.

Technical capacity was built:

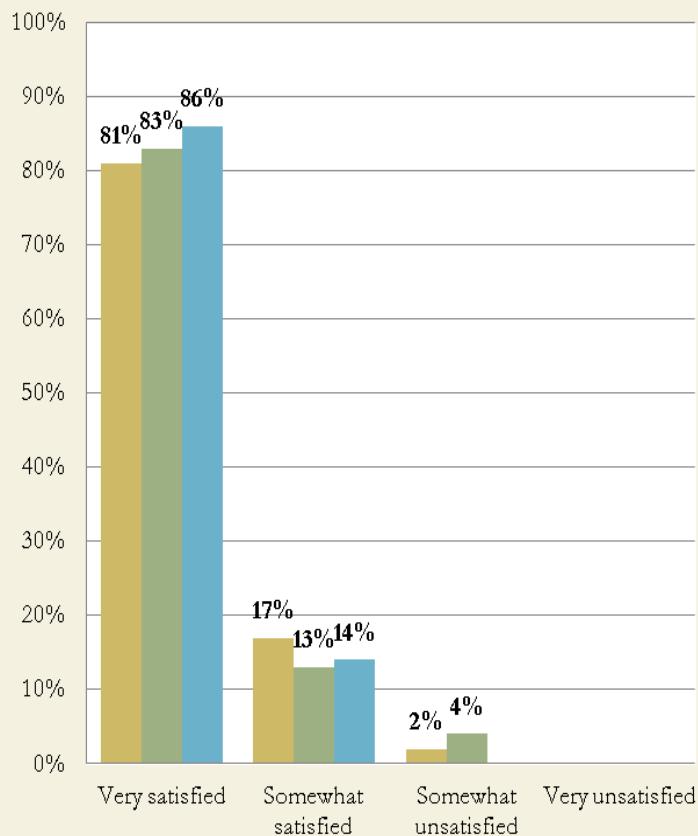
- 65 percent of Burkinabe respondents said Peace Corps training significantly contributed to building their technical skills in health care.

Sustainability:

- 91 percent of Burkinabe respondents said they sustained healthy behaviors after the departure of the Volunteer.

**Beneficiary:** *"When I feel the need, for example, I teach people about health issues at the market, in the fields, and outside. I now train people in the organization, thanks to the training I originally received [from the Volunteer]."*

### Satisfaction with Changes Resulting from Peace Corps Projects



■ Beneficiaries ■ Project partners ■ Health ministry officials



## Peace Corps Goal Two

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

## Findings

*Before interacting with Volunteers:*

- 69 percent of project partners and beneficiaries had learned about Americans from television and movies.
- Burkinabe respondents described Americans as serious, likeable, generous, open, and workaholics.

Burkinabe respondent: *"I didn't know much about Americans, except what I saw in films."*

*After interacting with Volunteers:*

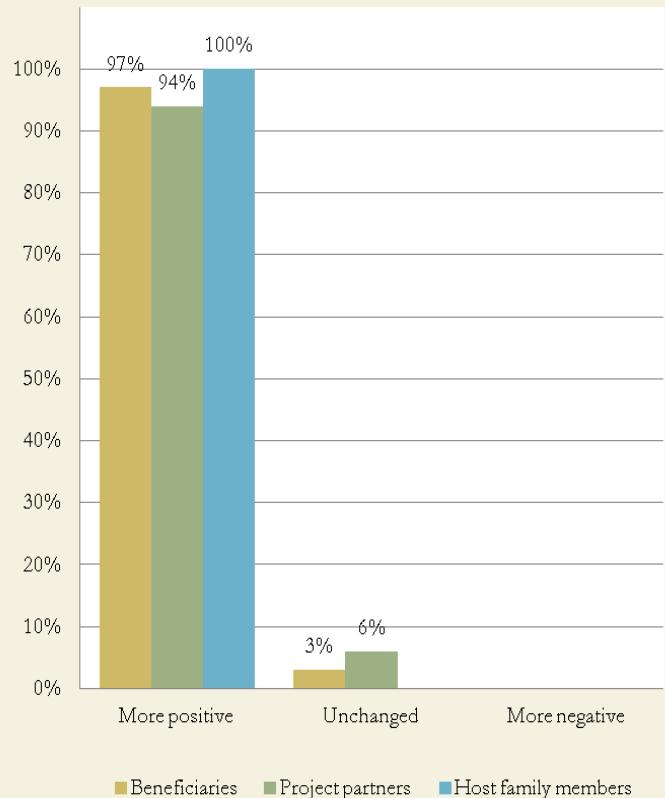
- Burkinabe respondents described Americans as pragmatic, caring, honest, not racist, generous, and considerate.

Project partner: *"They are kind and not different from other people. They do not look down on other people."*

Beneficiary: *"I think that they are hard workers and ready to help. They are curious and want to know everything."*

Beneficiary: *"They like work that is done well. They like everyone no matter the gender. They like to share their experience."*

Opinion of Americans After Interacting with Volunteers



Overall, participants adopted healthier behaviors and increased their participation in health educational activities. The community Health Committees improved their operations. Opinions about Americans became significantly more positive.