



**PEACE
CORPS**

Cape Verde 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 Cape Verdean research team conducted this study in the spring of 2011, interviewing 93 respondents in 10 communities, and submitted a final report to the post upon completion of the field work. The Peace Corps Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning developed the methods and protocols, trained the local researchers, and produced a series of standardized reports from this and other Host Country Impact Studies.

Study Focus: Education Project

A total of 524 Volunteers served in Cape Verde between 1988 and 2012. The goal of the Education project was to build the capacity of teachers and school staff in teaching methods and teacher training, improve student performance, and strength the relationship between schools and communities.

Peace Corps Goal One

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

Findings

Educational objectives achieved:

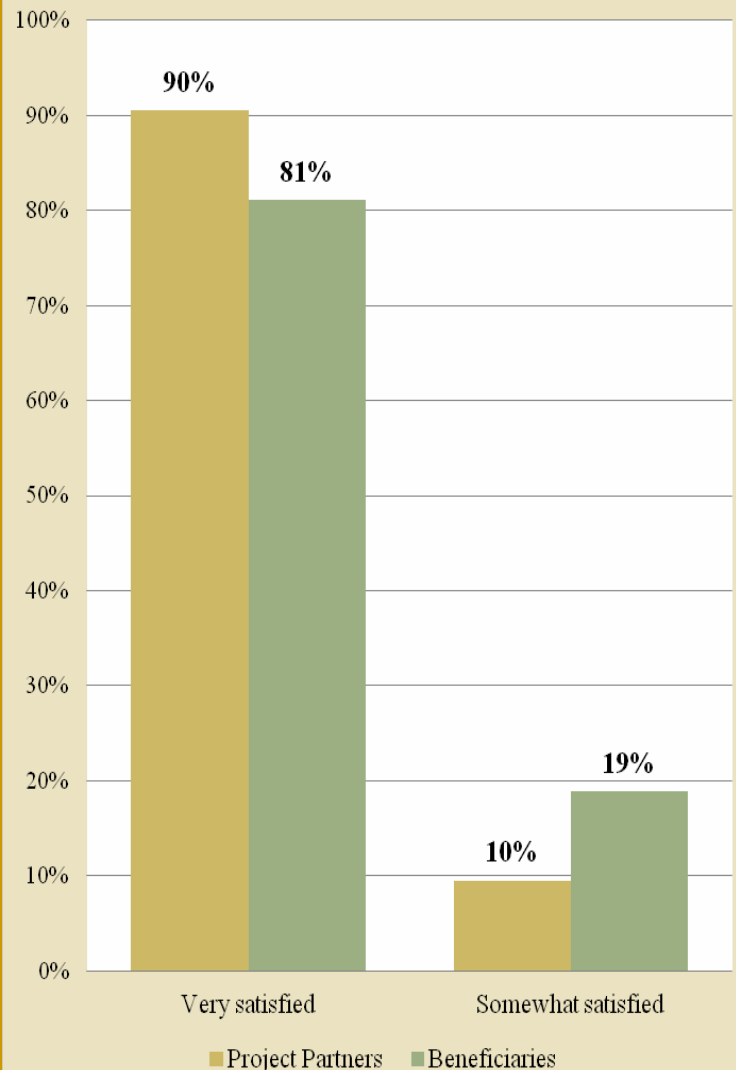
- 89 percent of beneficiaries (school teachers and administrators) said their English language skills improved.
- 70 percent of students said their English language Skills greatly improved after working with the Volunteer.
- 95 percent of project partners and 92 percent of Beneficiaries reported increased critical thinking skills after working with the Volunteer.
- 73 percent of beneficiaries reported increased knowledge of and sensitivity to gender and HIV/AIDS.
- Two positive but unintended outcomes of the project were a better student-teacher relationship and increased evidence of civic responsibility after working with a Volunteer.

Sustainability:

- 81 percent of partners reported using the professional skills they learned from the Volunteer on a daily basis.

Ministry of Education and Sports: *“The Ministry of Education is trying to introduce the principle of volunteerism in the national curriculum. This is a result of the impact from the Volunteer.”*

Satisfaction with Changes Resulting from Peace Corps Projects





Peace Corps Goal Two

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

Findings

Before interacting with Volunteers:

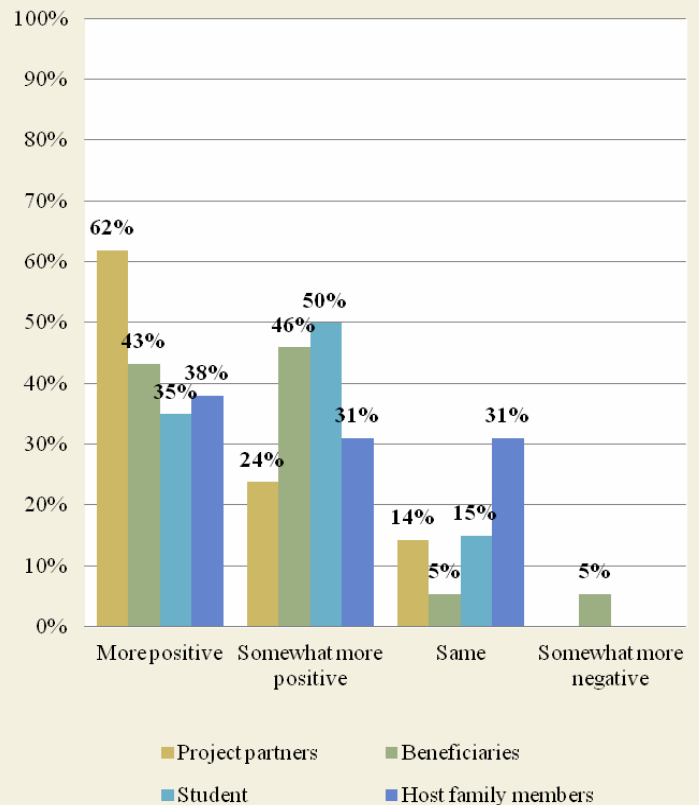
- 86 percent of project partners and 68 percent of beneficiaries had learned about Americans from television or movies.
- Cape Verdean respondents described Americans as racist, selfish, nationalistic, and rich.
- They also described them as hard workers who lived in the “land of dreams.”
- Students most often described Americans as demanding workaholics.

After interacting with Volunteers:

- Project partners and beneficiaries more often described Americans as humble, hard workers who stood for equality and were willing to learn another culture.
- Students most often described Americans as “regular people,” who like to help students and treat them equally.
- Project partners and beneficiaries stated they had learned to overcome barriers, to achieve goals even if it requires extra work, to help each other, and to be more socially responsible by engaging in civic activities.

Cape Verdean Counterpart: *“The way teachers relat[ed] to students. Teachers now talk more with students individually. Even when a student misbehaves, teachers now wait until the end of the class to point this out and have a talk with the students, instead of doing it in the presence of the whole class.”*

Opinion of Americans After Interacting with Volunteers



Overall, participants improved their English language skills, and teachers and students developed a more participatory rapport with each other. Participants also increased their awareness of HIV/AIDS and gender issues, and gained a sense of civic responsibility. Participants’ opinions about Americans became more positive.