



PEACE  
CORPS

# Mexico 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 Mexican research team conducted this study from February-November 2010, interviewing 71 respondents in 14 sites, and submitted a final report to the post upon completion of the fieldwork. The Peace Corps Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning (OSIRP) developed the methods and protocols and trained the local researchers on the protocol for this study. OSIRP has produced a series of standardized reports from this and other Host Country Impact Studies.

## Study Focus: Technology Transfer for Sustainable Economic Development Project

As of September 2013, 260 Volunteers have served in Mexico since the Peace Corps opened an office there in 2004. The goals of the Technology Transfer for Sustainable Economic Development project were to strengthen technological capability, organizational and management capacity, and technology transfer.

### Peace Corps Goal One

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

### Findings

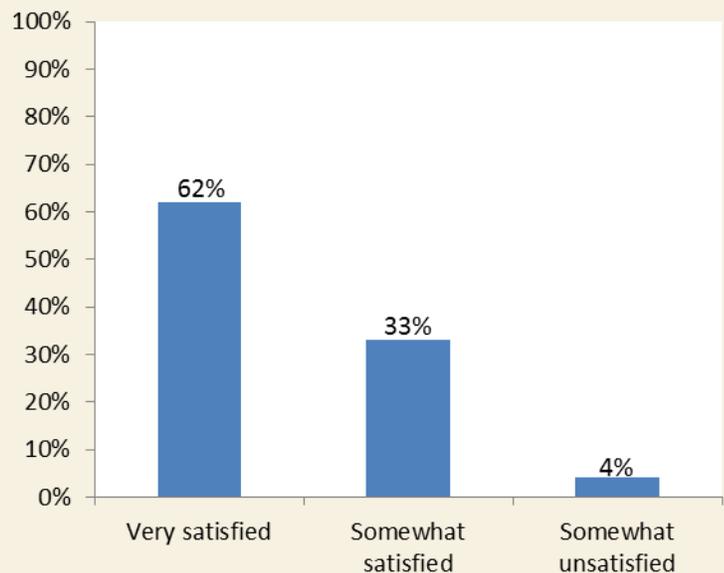
The technology transfer project built capacity:

- 90 percent of counterparts said the Volunteers' work was effective in strengthening the technical and technological capacities of the staff at their Center.
- 96 percent of counterparts reported that technical English language skills had been strengthened in their organizations.
- 86 percent of Center leaders reported that at least one technical element of the project (e.g.: engineering, applied technology, organizational management, collaboration with partners, development of new services, or marketing) met their Center's needs 'completely' or 'in large part.'

Changes were sustained:

- Of the 68 percent of counterparts who reported increased capacity in engineering and applied technology, 97 percent reported that these changes were sustained.
- Of the 43 percent of counterparts who reported strengthened management and leadership skills, 100 percent reported that these changes were sustained.
- 69 percent of counterparts reported using their new skills at least weekly in their professional life.

### Counterpart Satisfaction with Changes Resulting from the Peace Corps Project



Counterpart: *"I learned new ways to interact with the companies, how to gather information and organize it..."*

Beneficiary: *"I learned about how to supervise better and better control quality."*

Counterpart: *"...[The changes] do endure because of the professional way they worked, the commitment the Volunteer showed and because they convinced the work team."*

Beneficiary: *"The vision which the Volunteers brought contributed to establishing the foundation for many more projects on competitive advantage."*



Analyzing a Project

## Peace Corps Goal Two

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

### Findings

*Before* interacting with Volunteers:

- 33 percent of counterparts had either a very positive or somewhat positive opinion of Americans.
- 32 percent of counterparts felt they had little or no knowledge of Americans.

*After* interacting with Volunteers:

- 81 percent of counterparts had either a very positive or somewhat positive opinion of Americans.
- The percentage of counterparts with little or no knowledge of Americans dropped to 6 percent.
- 96 percent of counterparts expressed a desire to work with another Volunteer.
- All 9 stakeholders were satisfied with the project.

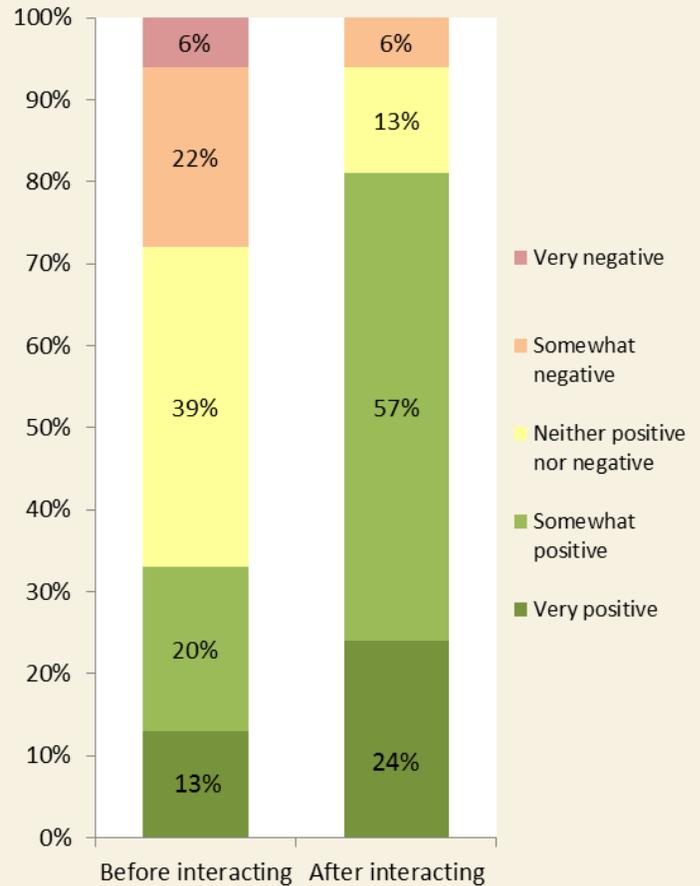
Counterpart: *“[The Volunteer]...is very respectful of the organization and relationships, was always available, did whatever was asked of him... They are very generous people to give the best of themselves; I appreciate it very much.”*

Counterpart: *“On one occasion we had to present the progress of the [technology] transfer model for Mexico. There were late nights; we worked overtime. There was a lot of effort. These are the teammates that one always wants to have. They suffer with you and celebrate with you. At the end the whole team celebrated.”*

Counterparts: *“My stereotypes of the American people have changed.”*

Counterparts: *“The Volunteers that I have worked with have been wonderful, empathetic people. Peace Corps recruits them. They have brought us the best of the Americans.”*

## Counterparts' Opinions of Americans Before and After Interacting with Volunteers



Water Treatment

The Technology Transfer for Sustainable Economic Development Project was successful in meeting both Goal One and Goal Two objectives. The project results illustrate how the two goals were interconnected, with Mexican counterparts frequently commenting about Volunteers who were engaged and committed to their work teams and how these relationships evolved both professionally and socially.