



PEACE
CORPS

Morocco 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 Moroccan research team conducted this impact study in the winter of 2010, interviewing 74 respondents in 21 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 in Rural Morocco Project

As of 2011, 4,419 Volunteers have served in Morocco since the Peace Corps opened in 1963. The aim of the Community Health in Rural Morocco Project is to respond to local health needs, promote personal health and appropriate health behaviors, and build the capacity of local individuals, health professionals, and community-based organizations through formal and informal training and skill development.

Peace Corps Goal One

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

Findings

Health and sanitation practices improved:

- 90 percent of beneficiaries (nurses, community members, students, and teachers) and 71 percent of project partners reported improved hygiene and nutrition practices.
- A majority of beneficiaries noted more women attended prenatal check-ups, and health professionals devoted more time to health education.
- A majority of project partners improved solid waste disposal and water sanitation practices.

Factors affecting change:

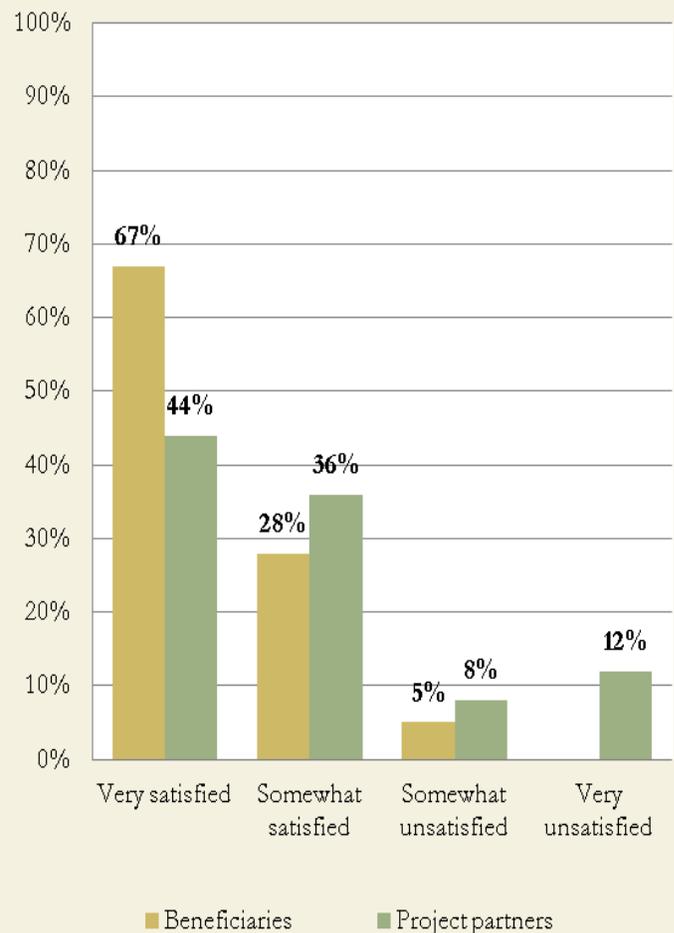
- Volunteers’ enthusiasm was the most frequently mentioned factor in the success of the project.
- While some of the project outcomes were achieved, the largest obstacles to project success included lack of funding and lack of training.

Sustainability:

- 71 percent of beneficiaries and 36 percent of project partners said changes were sustained either completely or to a large extent after the departure of the Volunteer.
- 71 percent of project partners said the project was either very effective or somewhat effective in building local capacity to improve rural community health.

Beneficiary: *“I noticed that the Volunteer treated people equally and I have thought about that and try to treat people justly and equally. I think I learned that from the Volunteer. Also, I learned about punctuality and responsibility.”*

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:

- 70 percent of Moroccan respondents had learned about Americans from television.
- Moroccan respondents described Americans as generous, educated, hardworking, fair in treating people equally, and trustworthy.
- They also described them as rich, cruel, politically motivated, selfish, and aggressive.

After interacting with Volunteers:

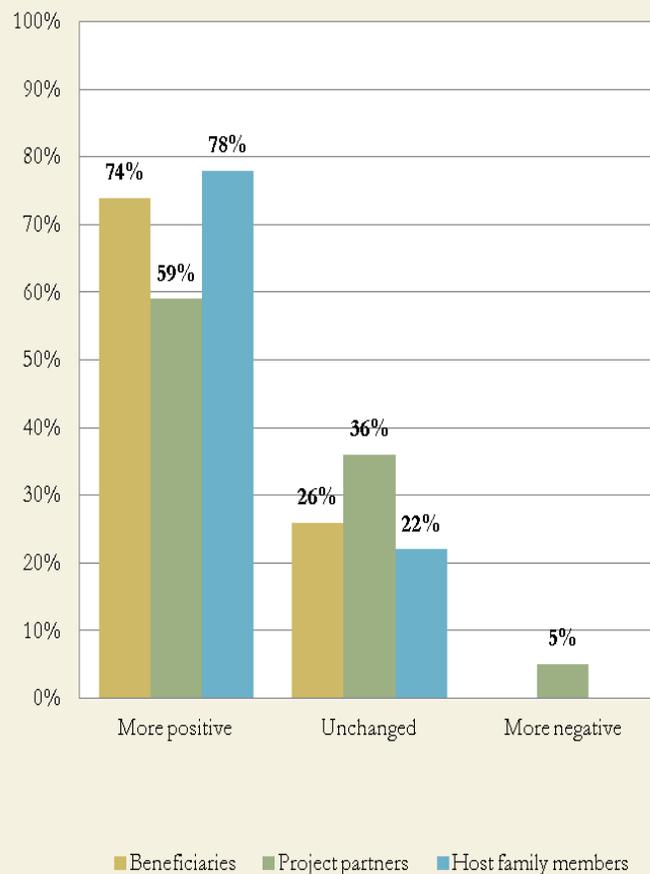
- 65 percent of respondents reported having a moderate or thorough understanding of Americans.
- 60 percent of respondents had a better opinion of Americans.
- Many noted their positive opinion of individual Volunteers, but also their inability to judge all Americans based on these individual experiences.

Beneficiary: *“They are helpful and just. They respect our culture and try to do what we Moroccans do.”*

Project partner: *“I have discovered that Americans came to help Morocco and that they don't have any political reasons. They are honest and trustworthy. They value the work and they don't lie.”*

Project partner: *“I am a risk-taker now, I take the initiative to do things and to participate in social activities and be part of my community's development...voluntary work is becoming part of me.”*

Opinion of Americans After Interacting with Volunteers



Overall, the study found that the Community Health in Rural Morocco Project was successful in facilitating learning about Americans and somewhat successful in meeting locally defined needs.