



PEACE
CORPS

Togo 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 historic 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 Togo researchers conducted this study in the winter of 2011, interviewing 191 respondents in 20 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: Togo Community Health and AIDS Prevention (CHAP) Project

As of September 2012, 2,722 Volunteers have served in Togo since the Peace Corps opened in 1962. CHAP’s purpose is to provide women and youth with greater access to quality community health education services resulting in improved child, maternal, and family health and increased awareness about HIV/AIDS prevention strategies.

Peace Corps Goal One

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

Findings

Community health, HIV/AIDS awareness, and service management skills improved:

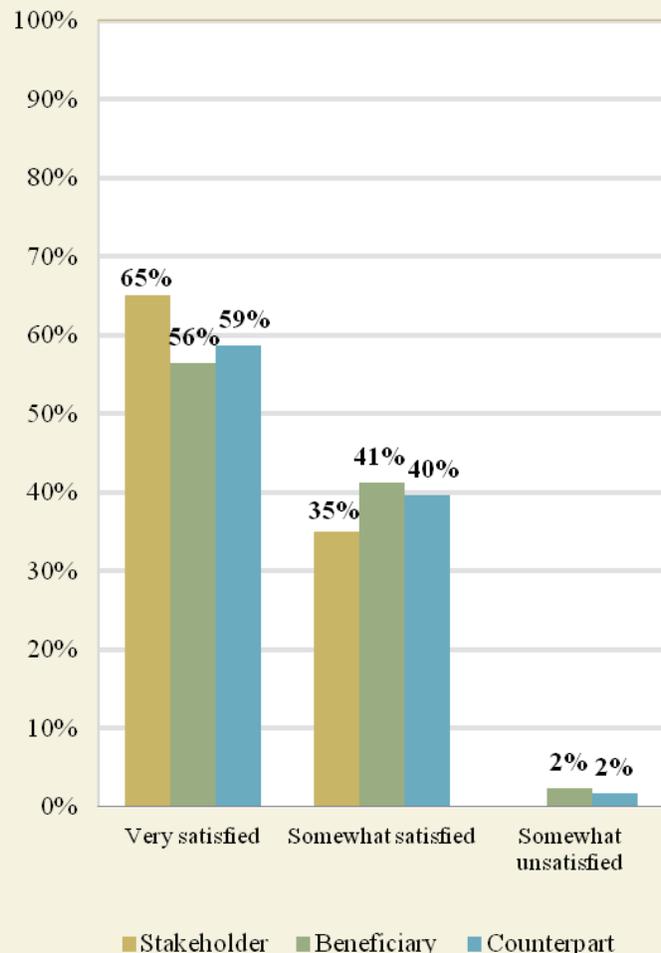
- 100 percent of the counterparts reported better health-related behaviors among the community members and 100 percent of the beneficiaries said the health of the community members improved.
- 98 percent of counterparts and 99 percent of beneficiaries said the community members’ knowledge of preventative health issues increased.
- 98 percent of counterparts and 96 percent of beneficiaries increased their knowledge of HIV/AIDS issues.
- 95 percent of counterparts and 89 percent of beneficiaries reported improved management and/or capacity of NGO’s to serve their community.

Sustainability:

- 76 percent of counterparts and 74 percent of the beneficiaries think the positive changes that came out of the Volunteers’ work have been maintained.

Beneficiary: *“She [taught] me how to control my nutrition, how to be sure that the water is drinkable before I drink it. In brief, she [taught] me how to pay attention to my health and the health of the family.”*

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:

- 76 percent of counterparts and 70 percent of beneficiaries had learned about Americans from school classes or textbooks.
- Togolese respondents described Americans as wealthy, superior, and frightening.
- Americans were also described as strong, sociable, hardworking, and curious.

Beneficiary: “My opinion of the Americans was that they are colonizers. People who dominate others.”

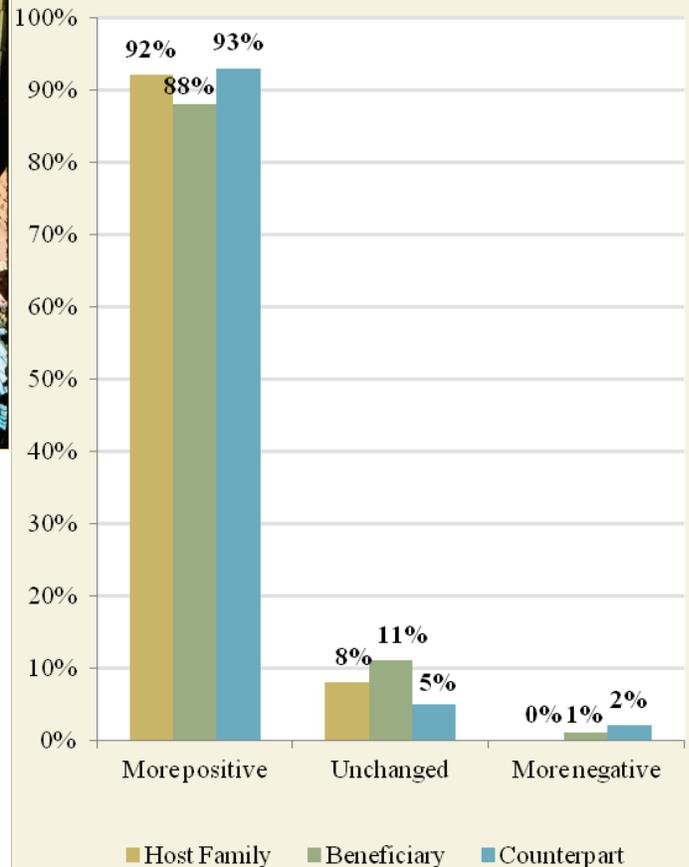
After interacting with Volunteers:

- Togolese respondents thought of Americans as hardworking, motivated, thoughtful, kind and respectful.

Counterpart: “There [are] also poor people in [the] US. The sociological conditions are like the same in Africa. The Americans help each other in order to improve lives of their people.”

Beneficiary: “I’ve learned that the Americans want the other people to be at the same level like them. They want to establish the human rights, the democracy, the good governance and the management of the enterprises.”

Opinion of Americans After Interacting with Volunteers



Overall, communities improved their health through better sanitation, nutrition, and HIV/AIDS training. Participants continue to use the skills and knowledge gained from the Volunteer in their daily lives, leading to sustained change.