

2015



Climate Change Adaptation Plan

Kirk Longstein
Sustainability Programs Manager

Jim Pimpedly
Chief, Administrative Services

Garry Stanberry
Deputy Associate Director, Management
Chief Sustainability Officer

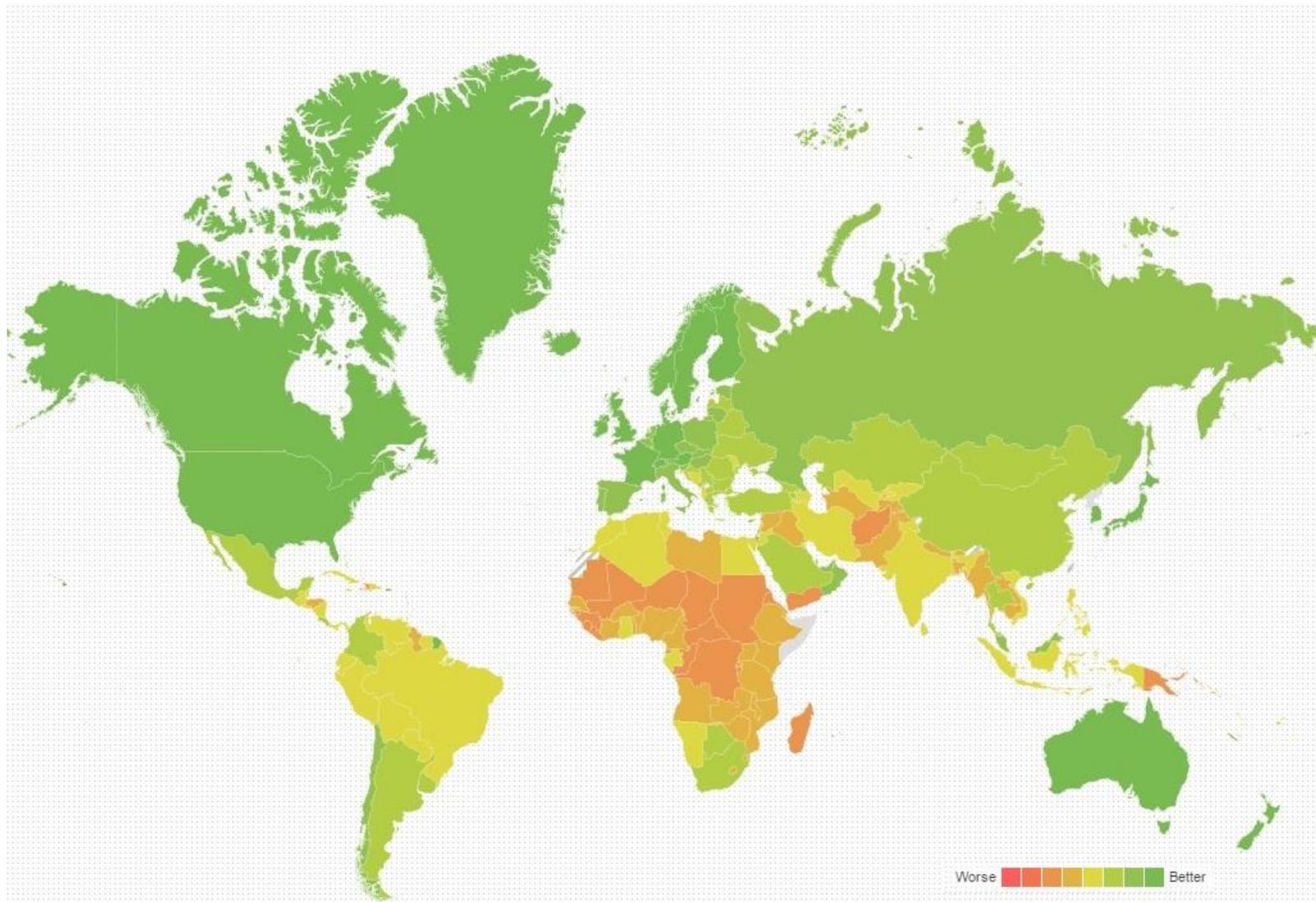


The Peace Corps

Climate Change Adaptation Plan | 2015

Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps Headquarters
1111 20th Street NW, Washington, DC 20526

This report is available at www.peacecorps.gov/docs. Send comments or questions to greenteam@peacecorps.gov or to the Peace Corps mailing address above.



This map, developed by the Notre Dame [Global Adaptation Index \(GAIN\)](#), depicts a 2013 Readiness Index of a country's ability to respond to climate change. Readiness targets the aspects of a country's economy, governance, and society that affect the speed and efficiency of climate change impact response. The map is one example of a tool the Peace Corps uses when determining the most-vulnerable countries based on their ability to respond to climate change.

Table of Contents

PEACE CORPS’ VISION FOR RESILIENCE 1

PEACE CORPS CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION POLICY FRAMEWORK 3

OVERVIEW OF PEACE CORPS MISSION, PROGRAMS, AND OPERATIONS 4

 Mission..... 4

 Programs 5

 Operations 7

PEACE CORPS 2014–2018 STRATEGIC PLAN 8

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMING 11

 Fiscal Year 2014 Climate Change Indicator Summary 12

PARTNERSHIPS 14

 Current Fiscal Year 2015 Partnerships 14

 Partnerships Planned for Fiscal Years 2016–2018 16

Peace Corps Response Climate Change Positions 19



PEACE CORPS' VISION FOR RESILIENCE

The Peace Corps' Vision: Communities depend on clean air, water, healthy soils, trees, and biodiverse resources to help maintain healthy livelihoods. However, a changing environment negatively impacts a community's ability to plan for the future. To counteract this, Peace Corps Volunteers and staff build host communities' capacity and availability of social resources for diverse adaptation activities. By applying the same principles of adaptation and resilience to its own operations, the Peace Corps models comprehensive sustainable business-management strategies for Volunteers and host country partners alike.

Leadership: The agency's sustainability programs are organized under the Peace Corps Office of Management and directed by a chief sustainability officer, who establishes the agency's framework for achieving resilient programs and operational goals that align with cross-cutting goals in the Peace Corps Strategic Plan FY 2014–18.

Included in its 2014 report to policymakers, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) concludes two observations:

- Human influence on the climate system is clear, and recent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are the highest in history. Recent climate changes have had widespread impacts on human and natural systems.
- Warming of the climate system is unequivocal and, since the 1950s, many of the observed changes are unprecedented. The atmosphere and ocean have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, and sea level has risen.

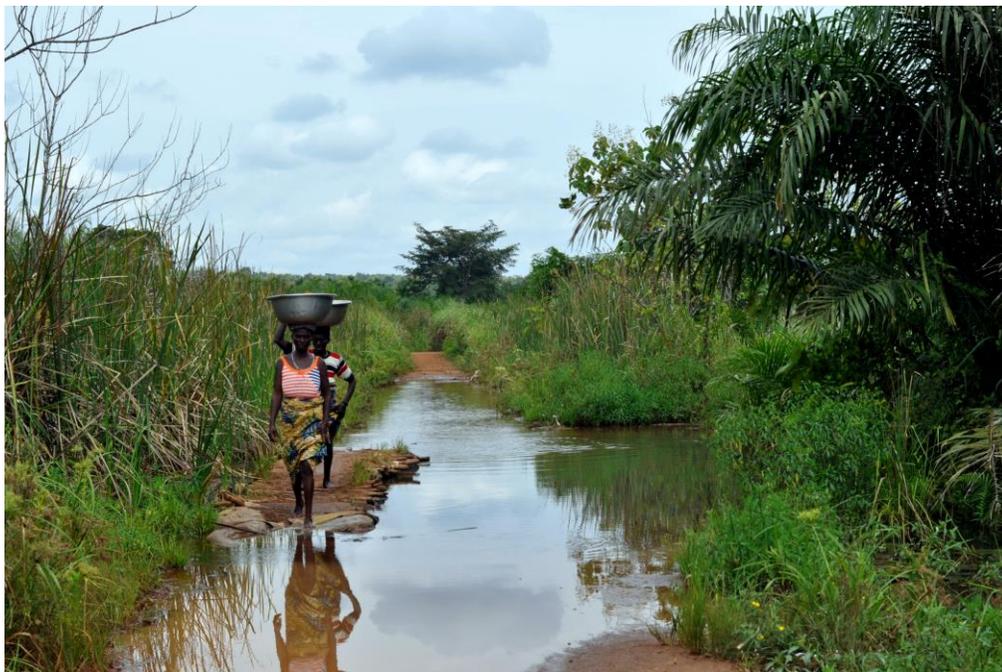
With these continued changes, the Peace Corps has a unique opportunity to assist rural communities to build their adaptive capacity to address climate change. One area where the Peace Corps is assisting this global challenge is in the area of "Readiness" as outlined by Notre Dame's ND-GAIN Index. The readiness score measures a community's ability to apply local resources and convert them to climate adaptation actions. Peace Corps Volunteers contribute to a country's ability to adapt to a changing climate by building the capacity of a community's social readiness. Social readiness impacts the factors of development such as social inequality, education, and innovation that enhance the mobility of investment and promote adaptation actions.

Peace Corps post operations located in island countries or low-lying coastal areas are particularly vulnerable to changes in the climate. According to the U.S. National Park Service Climate Change Response program, cyclones across the South Pacific have become increasingly intense in the past 30 years, corresponding to an increase in significant wave heights. There has been an increasing tendency toward intense hurricanes in the western Pacific and a decreasing tendency in the eastern Pacific since the 1980s. Increasing sea surface temperature is a critical factor for intense hurricanes. With these anticipated changes, the Peace Corps' continuity of operations is at risk from the incremental changes expected by a changing climate.

The Peace Corps 2015 Climate Adaptation Plan expands on previous years' efforts to align an organizational understanding of climate change and its impacts on Volunteer programs and administrative services. To evaluate impacts to mission, programs, and operations, the key climate stressors include the following:

- **Temperature change**—both short and long-term changes
- **Precipitation change**—variations in the amount, intensity, and seasonality of rainfall, and changes in hydrologic regimes
- **Sea level rise and storm surge**—changes in frequency, intensity, and duration of storm surges, coastal inundation, saline intrusion, and erosion
- **Extreme events**—changing trends and patterns of hurricanes, floods, droughts, windstorms, wildfires, and landslides

Considering the climate change stressors listed above, Peace Corps offices across the agency have taken a deep look at mission objectives outlined in the strategic plan, Volunteer programs, and management of post logistics and support to address mission vulnerabilities and potential program opportunities. This report reflects the current state of Peace Corps' efforts.



PEACE CORPS CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION POLICY FRAMEWORK

To address the vulnerabilities of climate change, the Peace Corps is adopting the following policy framework:

Policy Purpose

The Peace Corps aims to provide leadership in enhancing programs that build capacity and strengthen resilience among the most vulnerable communities where Volunteers serve. Policies and programs related to climate change are designed to help preserve the Peace Corps mission, enhance the resilience of climate-sensitive program sectors, and reduce the agency's risks to the continuity of operations worldwide.

Process

Consistent with the framework and principles set forth in [Executive Order 13677 on Climate-Resilient International Development](#), the agency will design, implement, monitor, and evaluate programs to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change with input from offices across the agency. Peace Corps programs will incorporate the best available science and technology, prioritize the most-vulnerable communities and populations, and integrate adaptation into development plans and programs to increase ecosystem resilience.

The Peace Corps works in collaboration with host country counterparts and partner organizations to achieve its goals. In the spirit of collaboration, the agency will focus on development and implementation of effective adaptation policies and programs and will promote the integration of adaptation trainings in sectors that are impacted by climate change, such as agriculture and environment, in addition to ensuring the safety and security of staff and Volunteers. The Peace Corps will work with other agencies, in particular White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and will utilize the technical expertise and financial resources of other agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Agency for International Development, and the U.S. Department of State.

OVERVIEW OF PEACE CORPS MISSION, PROGRAMS, AND OPERATIONS

Mission

The Peace Corps mission is to promote world peace and friendship through community-based development and intercultural exchange. The agency exemplifies the best of the American spirit by making it possible for Americans to volunteer their time to advance development and build cross-cultural understanding around the world. Through this unique approach to development, the Peace Corps is making a difference in the overseas communities it serves, in the lives of its Volunteers, and back home in the United States. More than 215,000 Volunteers have served in 140 countries since 1961.

In supporting its mission, the Peace Corps Act (1961) articulates three core goals to advance a vision of world peace, sustainable development, and friendship. These core goals remain at the heart of the Peace Corps mission, and are reiterated in three strategic goals that serve as the foundation of the Peace Corps Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2014–2018:

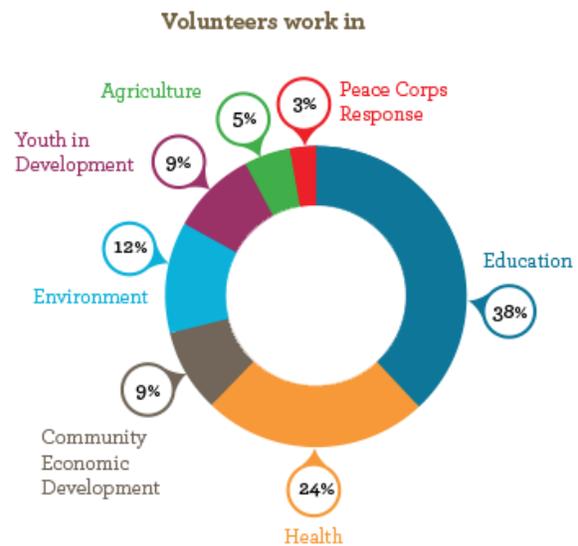
1. Strategic Goal 1: Building Local Capacity
 - Advance local development by strengthening the capacity of local communities and individuals through the service of trained Volunteers
2. Strategic Goal 2: Sharing America with the World
 - Promote a better understanding of Americans through Volunteers who live and work within local communities
3. Strategic Goal 3: Bringing the World Back Home
 - Increase Americans' awareness and knowledge of other cultures and global issues through Volunteers who share their Peace Corps experiences and continue to serve upon their return

This report further highlights how changing global climatic conditions could undermine the core mission of the Peace Corps: to drive sustainable development that enhances community-based, resilient livelihoods. Thus, Strategic Goal 1, which emphasizes community development, is the focus of discussion and planning of agency interventions needed to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of Peace Corps host communities in an increasingly precarious climatic future.

Programs

At the end of fiscal year 2014, nearly 7,000 Peace Corps Volunteers were working in 64 host countries in six program sectors: Agriculture, Community and Economic Development, Education, Environment, Health, and Youth in Development. Volunteers use participatory, community-led approaches to empower host communities to identify, prioritize, and solve local problems. Activities focus on building local technical capacity in the six programmatic areas through a wide range of formal and informal methods of community mobilization, education, and hands-on learning. The goal of local capacity-building is to ensure that development efforts are sustained over time, ultimately contributing to more resilient, prosperous, and self-reliant communities.

Across the six sectors, Agriculture and Environment have a more direct relationship to the physical environment and the influences of climate than the others. In FY 14, 17 percent of Volunteers served in the Agriculture and Environment sectors, which are more directly dependent upon and vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Comparatively, 38 percent of Volunteers served in the Education sector, the largest program sector, as teachers, mentors, and trainers, carrying out classroom instruction and related educational activities that are less immediately affected by or vulnerable to climatic processes. Nonetheless, some Education Volunteers integrate basic principles of climate science, vocabulary, and concepts into their lesson plans and educational curricula in working with local educators and administrators, contributing to building a knowledge base and enhancing learning on climate change.



The Agriculture and Environment program sectors are closely related, as efforts to improve agricultural production involve sound stewardship of natural resources, particularly efficient soil and water conservation measures. The overarching objective of Agriculture and Environment Volunteers is to help build resilient communities and maintain sustainable landscapes. Agriculture projects are designed to improve the lives of small farm holders by increasing farm productivity, profitability, and sustainability, as well as household nutrition and overall food security. Peace Corps Volunteers support efforts to improve local livelihoods by disseminating new or improved techniques and “climate smart” practices that intensify and diversify agricultural production, enhance small business development, and strengthen natural resource management, particularly soil and water conservation.

Volunteers promote promising farm management practices that help communities adapt to deteriorating environmental conditions precipitated by a changing climate, along with other natural and human-induced factors. Environment projects are often two-pronged, supporting agricultural activities that preserve the environment and sustain the use of natural resources.

Volunteers support environmental education and awareness programs with both youth and adults, assist communities and government agencies in managing forests and protected areas, and promote effective conservation activities such as agroforestry, ecotourism, recycling, reforestation, soil and water conservation, and solid waste management.

In addition to the Peace Corps' traditional two-year Volunteer experience, Peace Corps Response provides qualified Americans the opportunity to serve in three to 12-month assignments in developing countries. To date, more than 2,500 Peace Corps Response Volunteers have served in over 75 countries in the Americas, Africa, the Pacific, Asia, and Eastern Europe. In addition, after Hurricane Katrina, 272 Peace Corps Response Volunteers served in the Gulf Coast region, supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency's relief operation. Peace Corps Response assignments include enhancing existing Peace Corps programs, responding to natural disasters, initiating first-time programs in new Peace Corps countries, and returning to countries that has not had a Peace Corps presence for some time. Peace Corps Response provides skilled Volunteers for short-term assignments to help build the capacity of local institutions and individuals to address the risks of climate threats.



Operations

The Peace Corps Office of Management Administrative Services handles post logistics support (overseas medical supplies, overseas vehicle fleet management), transportation (travel authorizations, personal property shipments, government travel card program), facility management (domestic building leases and maintenance, overseas building leases, U.S. vehicle fleet management, property management), mail and distribution, energy management, environmental sustainability, parking program, transit subsidy program, voting assistance program, warehouse operations, federal occupational health program, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration program.

| Agency Size and Scope | FY 2014 |
|--|----------------|
| Total Number of Staff (U.S. Direct Hire and Personal Services Contractors) | 792 |
| Total Acres of Land Managed | 0 |
| Total Number of Buildings Owned | 0 |
| Total Number of Buildings Leased (GSA and Non-GSA Lease) | 410 |
| Total Building Gross Square Feet | 2,222,130 |
| Number of Locations in U.S. | 8 |
| Number of Locations Outside of U.S. | 72 |
| Total Number of Fleet Vehicles Owned | 641 |
| Total Number of Fleet Vehicles Leased | 21 |



PEACE CORPS 2014–2018 STRATEGIC PLAN

Among the three goals stated in the Peace Corps Act, Goal 1, “To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women,” is the most directly related to the context of potential adverse effects of climate change. As noted below, the FY 2014–18 Strategic Plan reaffirms the overall technical development goal of the agency in Strategic Goal 1: Building Local Capacity:

- Advance local development by strengthening the capacity of local communities and individuals through the service of trained Volunteers

Strategic Goal 1 is supported by a series of strategic objectives, several of which could be compromised as a result of climate change. The table below presents the strategic goals and strategic objectives from the FY 2014–18 Strategic Plan.

Relationship between Strategic Goals and Strategic Objectives

| Strategic Objectives | Strategic Goal 1: Building Local Capacity | Strategic Goal 2: Sharing America with the World | Strategic Goal 3: Bringing the World Back Home |
|---|---|--|--|
| 1. Volunteer Well-Being | X | X | X |
| 2. Service Opportunity of Choice | X | X | X |
| 3. Development Impact | X | X | |
| 4. Cross-Cultural Understanding | X | X | X |
| 5. Continuation of Service | | | X |
| 6. Diversity and Inclusion | X | X | X |
| 7. Site Development | X | X | |
| 8. Train-Up | X | X | |
| 9. High-Performing Learning Organization | X | X | X |
| 10. Global Connectivity | X | X | X |
| 11. Measurement for Results | X | X | X |

Several strategic objectives have a direct link to climate change, while others have little or very indirect relationship to climate change effects. Objectives 1, 3, 7, 8, and 11 are most likely to be negatively impacted by climate factors. The risks in achieving these strategic objectives follow:

Strategic Objective 1: Volunteer Well-Being

Enhance the safety, security, and health of Volunteers through rigorous prevention and response systems and high-quality medical and mental health services.

Volunteers achieve the overall development mission of the Peace Corps by residing in host communities that are often located in remote, rural areas where exposure to natural hazards such as storms, flooding, extreme heat, and drought conditions is common. As such events increase in

intensity and magnitude under climate change scenarios, the well-being of Volunteers, along with their host communities, in terms of physical safety and security, is at increasing risk.

The Peace Corps is taking several measures to assure the well-being of Volunteers, including the following:

- Periodic evaluation of individual experiences with health care and safety and security support
- Implementation of regionally approved safety and security standards for site selection and monitoring
- Establishment of a data management system to track critical safety and security recommendations by posts and headquarters offices

Additionally, proactive measures to ensure the health and well-being of Volunteers are included in each post's emergency evacuation plan. This plan is managed by country-specific safety and security coordinators and covers current and projected physical threats to individual safety and security that could result from any natural hazards, including those triggered by an extreme climate event such as typhoons, hurricanes, or other natural disasters.

Strategic Objective 3: Development Impact

Advance community-based development by strengthening the capacity of local individuals and communities, focusing on highly effective technical interventions, and leveraging strategic partnerships.

This strategic objective addresses the program activities implemented in local communities by Volunteers across the six program sectors. Current and planned activities that support adaptation to climate change are detailed in the program sections of this report. These include a comprehensive set of actionable items that address project framework development, technical content, and pedagogical delivery of training materials and resources to Volunteers and their local counterparts, as well as new strategic partnerships that leverage additional financial and technical resources to broaden Volunteers' impact in strengthening local community development capacity.

Strategic Objective 7: Site Development

Establish an environment conducive to Volunteer success through an integrated approach to developing effective projects, preparing work sites, and successfully collaborating with local partners.

Appropriate site selection for placing Volunteers in rural communities is a critical element that shapes the potential success and impact that a Volunteer can have in facilitating local development activities. The agency implements post-specific site development criteria, policies, and procedures to assure the safety, security, and medical and mental health needs of a Volunteer. Potential threats from natural disasters are considered during the site selection process, including the history and frequency of landslides, high storm winds, flooding, and other climate-related disruptions, to assure that there is minimal risk to Volunteer safety and that appropriate evacuation and emergency response measures are in place. An amplification of

extreme climate events in the future, such as flooding, storm surges, extreme heat, drought, or similar phenomena, could result in the discontinuation of higher risk at Volunteer sites, and reassignment of Volunteers to areas of lower climate risk in a host country.

Strategic Objective 8: Train-Up

Develop a highly effective Volunteer corps through a continuum of learning throughout service.

The Peace Corps is undergoing a major transformation of program strategy as a result of an extensive agencywide assessment conducted as part of the agency's 50th anniversary. Recommendations for a new programmatic strategy and vision, termed Focus In/Train Up, called for a comprehensive overhaul, which included narrowing the scope of program activities, reducing and strengthening core competency pillars, and standardizing improved technical training materials for a new cadre of generalist Volunteers.

As part of the new programmatic focus on high-quality training materials, the agency is now mainstreaming and integrating a climate lens in the technical training of Volunteers. This is most evident in the Agriculture and Environment program sectors, and referred to as "climate-smart agriculture." The overall safety and security training of Volunteers increasingly addresses the risks posed by climate change to better prepare Volunteers in terms of safety protocol and preparedness planning for natural disaster events.

Strategic Objective 11: Measurement for Results

Advance the agency's ability to measure progress, improve performance, and demonstrate impact through integrated monitoring, reporting, and evaluation practices.

In response to recent executive orders, the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010, and directives from the Office of Management and Budget, the Peace Corps has significantly expanded its emphasis on the use of research and evaluation for evidence-based decision making, instituting new monitoring, reporting, and evaluation policies, procedures, and practices at all levels of the agency. Thus, new guidelines and systems, including technical training on monitoring, reporting, and evaluation, are being implemented for all staff and Volunteers. This includes the continued development of monitoring indicators on climate change adaptation and mitigation for all six program sectors. These improvements in monitoring as they relate to climate change are detailed in the program sections of this report.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMING

Total Fiscal Year 2014 Environment Sector Investment: \$18,112,331

Environment Sector Volunteers encourage communities to adopt sustainable environmental behaviors that will improve the quality of their lives, their futures, and their environment. To be successful, Volunteers need to identify barriers that are preventing individuals from changing their behaviors. Through the lens of climate change, Peace Corps Volunteers are in a unique position to help build the adaptive capacity and availability of social resources through behavior change specific adaptation at a community level. Because climate change is expected to impact many different activities in an individual's daily life, Volunteer activities are intended to reduce those sensitivities as a result of a changing climate. While the majority of the Peace Corps' Volunteer activities related to climate change resilience take place in Environment projects, many activities occur across sectors, with Volunteers in the Agriculture, Community Economic Development, Education, Health, and Youth in Development sectors integrating environmental themes in their work. In this way, a major effort underway by the Peace Corps is addressing current cross-sectorial activities and sector specific project frameworks that capture climate change adaptation activities within the communities where Volunteers serve.

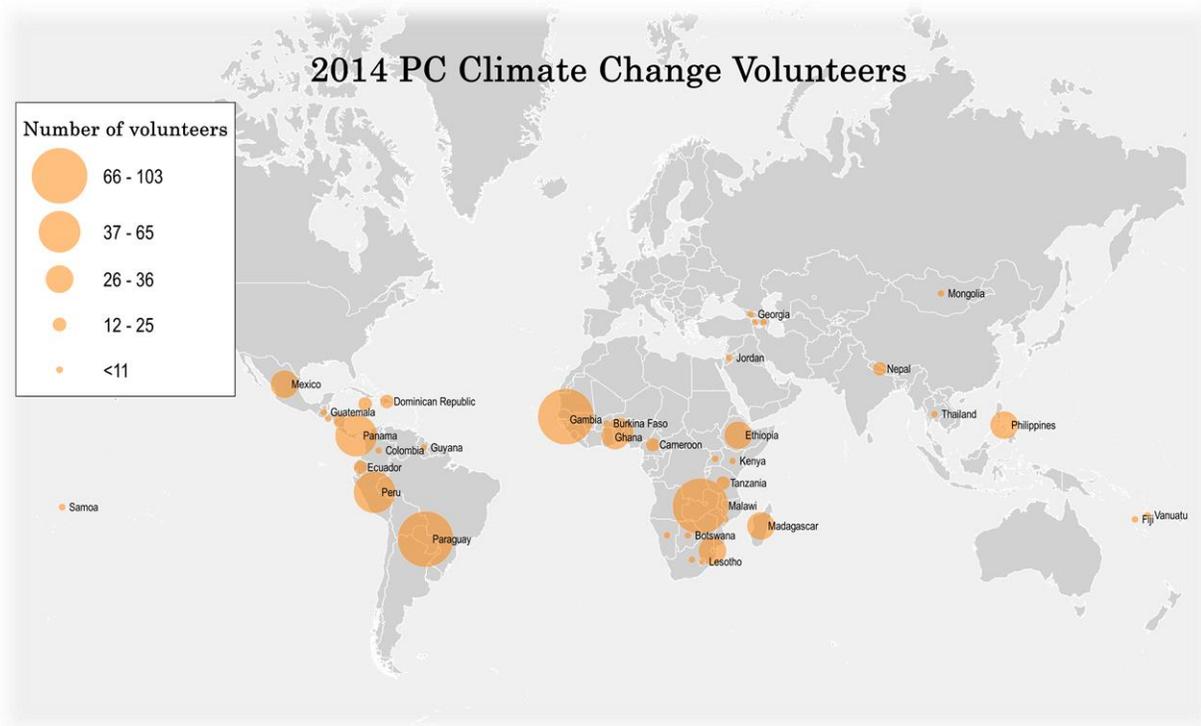
| Benefiting Country | Environment |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Armenia | \$22,035 |
| Benin | \$863,429 |
| Cameroon | \$1,089,580 |
| Costa Rica | \$11,147 |
| Ecuador | \$807,892 |
| El Salvador | \$5,316 |
| Ethiopia | \$580,270 |
| Fiji | \$91,420 |
| Gambia, The | \$442,171 |
| Ghana | \$131,133 |
| Guatemala | \$3,746 |
| Guinea | \$555,652 |
| Jamaica | \$1,044,538 |
| Macedonia | \$22,058 |
| Madagascar | \$527,010 |
| Malawi | \$896,889 |
| Mexico | \$1,309,313 |
| Morocco | \$51,859 |
| Nicaragua | \$588,039 |
| Panama | \$1,279,499 |
| Paraguay | \$1,010,814 |
| Peru | \$901,661 |
| Philippines | \$908,702 |
| Senegal | \$1,419,951 |
| Tanzania | \$97,872 |
| Togo | \$944,319 |
| Zambia | \$2,506,016 |

**FY 2014 Total Agency Obligations by
Benefiting Country**

Fiscal Year 2014 Climate Change Indicator Summary

| Project Framework Use | | | Reported by Volunteers | |
|-----------------------|-------|----------|------------------------|------------|
| Sectors | Posts | Projects | Posts* | Volunteers |
| Agriculture | 21 | 28 | 45 | 904 |
| Environment | | | | |
| Health | | | | |
| Youth in Development | | | | |

* In FY 2014, Volunteers could report on the Peace Corps' standard indicators that were not a part of their posts' project frameworks.



The map depicts the number of Peace Corps Volunteers self-reporting to all standard sector indicators that assist communities with adaptation activities as a result of climate change.

The Peace Corps sector indicators highlighted in this section are an initial effort by the agency to summarize Volunteer activities addressing climate change, both in terms of sector indicators used by posts in current project frameworks as well as in the use by Volunteers as reported through an existing Volunteer reporting tool. Although the agency is able to pull preliminary numbers, there are concerns about data quality and the use of preliminary indicator results as an accurate baseline representation of ongoing activities.

Peace Corps sector indicators are self-reported by Peace Corps Volunteers and used, when possible, as measures of progress toward objectives and indicators in project frameworks. Currently, the following Peace Corps sector indicators are being used to monitor climate change-related activities by Peace Corps Volunteers in the field:

- Number of stakeholders implementing risk-reducing practices/actions to improve resilience to climate change as a result of Volunteer/partner assistance
- Number of stakeholders using climate information in their decision making as a result of Volunteer/partner assistance
- Number of individuals, out of the total number trained by Volunteer/partner, who adopted at least one new soil improvement practices
- Number of individuals, out of the total number of individuals the Volunteer/partner worked with, who implemented one or more new or improved garden practices
- Number of teachers, out of the total number of teachers the Volunteer/partner worked with, who presented one or more new lessons that focus on environmental issues relevant to the country
- Number of communities, out of the total number of communities the Volunteer/partner worked with, that produced a plan that addresses a local environmental issue
- Number of communities, out of the total number of communities the Volunteer/partner worked with, that implemented a new environmental activity
- Number of individuals trained on the health benefits of using improved cookstoves
- Number of individuals trained on the construction and maintenance of improved cookstoves
- Number of individuals able to identify at least two benefits of an improved cookstove
- Number of individuals who are able to demonstrate how to construct an improved cookstove
- Number of cookstoves (new or rehabilitated) purchased or constructed for households or institutions (e.g., health clinics, schools) with assistance of Volunteers or partners
- Number of households having a properly maintained improved cookstove that is being used for at least 90 percent of household cooking needs
- Number of individuals living in households benefiting from new or rehabilitated cookstoves

PARTNERSHIPS

Current Fiscal Year 2015 Partnerships

The Peace Corps is committed to strategic partnerships as outlined in the agency's FY 2014-18 Strategic Plan. The Peace Corps anticipates the following climate-change related partnerships for FY 2015

- USAID/Peace Corps Global Food Security Agreement (July 2011–September 2017)
- Department of State/Peace Corps Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) (August 2010–September 2015)
- USAID/Peace Corps Small Project Assistance Program (SPA) (FY 2012–17)

USAID/Peace Corps Global Food Security Agreement

In July 2011, the Peace Corps and USAID/Bureau for Food Security signed a global agreement to implement activities related to food security and nutrition. The overarching goal of the agreement is to sustainably reduce global hunger and poverty by tackling the root causes and employing proven strategies to achieve large-scale, sustainable impact. USAID, through its offices, bureaus, and missions, has committed multi-year funding to the Peace Corps over five years to enhance the Peace Corps' food security programming, which includes climate change adaptation. The Peace Corps' food security work crosses various sectors, with Volunteers in the Agriculture, Community Economic Development, Environment, and Health sectors implementing food security activities. All Agriculture Volunteers and most Environment Volunteers working on agriculture/natural resources management activities are engaging beneficiaries in activities that address at least one of the three pillars of climate smart agriculture: intensification, adaptation, and/or mitigation.

Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA)

The partnership advances the goals of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA). The initiative complements other projects supported by the Department of State by bringing ECPA down to the grassroots level so that local organizations, businesses, families, and individuals can take part in the hemisphere wide partnership. The Peace Corps engages in local communities in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador (activities ended in FY 2013), El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru, Panama, and Paraguay to address energy poverty throughout the Americas by increasing access to and use of environmentally friendly energy technologies and educating communities on climate change, energy conservation, climate mitigation, and adaptation. To achieve the initiative's objectives, the Peace Corps convenes training workshops on regional, national, and community levels; supports local and international experts to design energy and climate projects and training modules; develops or acquires materials to educate Volunteers and their community partners on clean energy, climate change, and energy conservation; and supports small, community-initiated grants to enable access to

appropriate technologies and provide grassroots capacity-building. The State Department obligated \$1 million to the Peace Corps for the five-year partnership. To date, 438 Volunteers have implemented small community-level activities under this agreement.

USAID/Peace Corps Small Project Assistance (SPA)

This longstanding partnership supports climate change adaptation efforts by funding small grants and training activities under USAID program element 4.8.2, Clean Productive Environment. In support of this, Peace Corps posts design grants and trainings to engage and train individuals and families on the risks of climate change and the benefits of a clean indoor air environment. Additional post-specific objectives include training in natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, innovative agricultural practices, and climate change adaption techniques. In FY 2014, \$365,510 of SPA funding was obligated to Cambodia, Fiji, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Tonga, and Vanuatu for these activities. Sixty grants and 14 training activities took place in FY 2014 supporting these objectives. Volunteers and their community counterparts designed and implemented various small grant projects, including environmental education and awareness efforts, installation of improved cookstoves, promotion of waste management, and increasing water storage capacity in drought-prone areas.



Partnerships Planned for Fiscal Years 2016–2018

- Peace Corps signed a memorandum of understanding with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in June 2015.
- The ECPA partnership received a no-cost extension from December 2014, and ends September 2015.
- USAID/Peace Corps Small Project Assistance Program (SPA) (FY 2012–17)
- The USAID/Peace Corps Global Food Security Agreement will end September 30, 2017.
- In FY 2015, the Peace Corps participated in interagency meetings convened by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the National Security Council.

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Peace Corps signed a memorandum of understanding with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). As part of this agreement, Peace Corps Response will help local counterparts and stakeholders in the Pacific region better address issues related to climate change, protecting biodiversity, environmental law, and improved information sharing and collaboration among Pacific Island nations. Additionally, the Peace Corps is exploring the feasibility of a broader regional Climate Change Adaptation project, which will support communities in some of the highest-risk areas of the island nations in the Pacific where the Peace Corps serves. Peace Corps Response Volunteers are also supporting the Philippines by collaborating with local government units in enhancing climate change adaptation plans and community resiliency in confronting climate change-related natural disasters.

Energy and Climate Change Partnership of the Americas

Guatemala held a training workshop for Volunteers and their counterparts, focusing on best practices for cookstove project implementation, with the intent of enabling the Peace Corps/Guatemala to continue constructive renewable energy efforts. Representatives from 11 municipalities, 10 community leaders, and 12 Ministry of Health officials met to discuss options, along with seven cookstove providers, each of whom presented their models to the group. Participants agreed that bringing individuals from different organizations to discuss future cookstove programming in the country was enormously constructive.

In Panama, eco stove projects in four communities are now complete, constructing 87 new cookstoves and training 170 individuals in cookstove construction and maintenance. In addition, the solar panel project in San Pedro, Coclé, is now complete, with 39 solar panel systems installed and training 78 community members on maintenance and repair.

Peace Corps Small Project Assistance Program (SPA):

The USAID/Peace Corps SPA program will continue funding small grants and trainings in support of climate change adaption under program element 4.8.2, Clean Productive Environment. FY 2015 funding for this program element has been obligated for Fiji, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu, for a total of \$546,250.

Program Element: Natural Resources and Biodiversity

Number of Activities: 7 grants. 3 training activities

Countries: Ecuador, Mexico, Philippines

The Small Project Assistance (SPA) program funded seven small grant projects and planned three training activities in FY 2014 under the natural resources and biodiversity program element in Asia and Latin America. Activities focused on training individuals on how to increase economic benefits as a result of sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity conservation. Projects included the enhancement of a marine education center, educational training, and watershed monitoring.

Volunteer Story

With SPA funding, a Volunteer in the Philippines implemented a project to strengthen the Marine Protected Area in a local government unit. The project goal, to strengthen management of four coastal marine protected areas (MPA)/fish sanctuaries, was achieved through three distinct objectives: (1) to conduct a habitat assessment and install boundary markers/signs, (2) train individuals in management boards and draft a management plan, and (3) conduct information, education, and communication trainings for community members. Seventeen representatives attended a workshop and drafted a unified MPA management plan. Boundary installations and signs were constructed and completed, and three assessments of the MPAs were completed. As a result of this project, there is now stronger support from communities for the welfare of their MPAs, and new boundary markers assist communities in monitoring and enforcing penalties for illegal fishing. By increasing the level of awareness and participation of coastal residents on the benefits of MPAs, including increased fish populations, they will benefit from a more stable and secure livelihood from fishing. The project requested \$3,500 in SPA funding to purchase equipment and facilitate installation of boundary signs. The community contributed nearly \$2,500 for labor, equipment, and transportation.

Program Element: Clean Productive Environment

Number of Activities: 60 grants, 14 training activities

Countries: Cambodia, Fiji, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Tonga, Vanuatu

The Small Project Assistance (SPA) program funded 60 small grant projects and planned 14 training activities in FY 2014 under the Clean Productive Environment program element in Asia and Latin America. Activities focused on training and improving institutional capacity to address climate change. Projects included camps, workshops, infrastructure improvements, and reforestation efforts.

Volunteer Stories

Peace Corps/Peru implemented training using \$2,138 in SPA funds, which included a project design and management workshop for Volunteers and their counterparts. The two-day workshop trained participants on the process of designing and planning out the steps needed to execute a small community project. The workshop was followed by a three-day technical training on rural sanitation, with the following objectives: (a) improve access to safe, reliable water and improved hygiene and sanitation and b) improve water and sanitation management. Specifically, Volunteers were trained to (1) help water committees and other local community groups improve

their organizational skills; (2) work with elected municipal officials and other leaders on improving community awareness of responsible water use; and (3) train and support municipal workers in designing, developing, and implementing solid waste management plans. As a result of this training, small project proposals requesting funding better represent community needs and emphasize community commitment, prioritizing behavior change to support sustainable solutions. Additionally, Volunteers and counterparts gained technical skills that benefit their communities and the environment.

A Volunteer in Fiji worked with his community on the remote outer island of Kioia to design and construct a 70-foot seawall. The process involved building baskets filled with stones, constructing cement boulders to help protect the seawall and break the waves, and transplanting soil and plants in front of the wall to create a “living seawall” and further strengthen the structure. The project was a great success, and once the materials and supplies were delivered, took only two-and-a-half days to complete. The whole community played an important role in the construction and took ownership and pride in the project. The project requested \$4,500 in SPA funding for equipment and supplies and transportation. The community contributed over \$5,000 in labor to construct the seawall.





The following are Peace Corps Response Volunteer positions developed with Peace Corps posts during fiscal year 2015 and currently under recruitment.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Specialist (*Philippines*)

Peace Corps Response is placing Volunteers in the Philippines to support the local implementation of Republic Act 10121, which calls for strengthening the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) System and establishes its framework. The responsibilities and authority for implementing disaster risk reduction management measures have been decentralized to local governments since 2010. One of the declared policies in the DRRM act is to mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change in development processes. To be effective in protecting the lives and livelihoods of the poor, strategies for reducing risks need to be community-centered and require the use of easily understood tools that enable people to make informed decisions. Specific responsibilities of the incumbent Peace Corps Response Volunteers include assisting local government units in the review and enhancement of local climate change adaptation plans.

Environmental Law Adviser and Trainer (*Samoa*)

Peace Corps Response is seeking to place a Volunteer with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP), in Apia, Samoa, to build the capacity of local environmental lawyers. SPREP is at the forefront of regional climate change intervention and resiliency strategies in the Pacific and believes that building capacity in all staff and development partners in matters relating to environmental policy and law will, in the long run, reduce the current dependence on SPREP legal advisers. The Volunteer will design and conduct training workshops for program implementers and stakeholders in member countries, on topics including environmental law, multi-country management, and other topics as determined by a needs assessment. Of particular importance are more complex commercial contracts in one or more island countries regarding the purchase of goods or services, for example the design, procurement, and construction of renewable energy systems. The Volunteer will assess issues in relation to liability, efficiency, and effective implementation of a stronger legal system. The goal of this assignment is to improve local legal capacity and build the capacity of SPREP stakeholders and strengthen institutions that are directly involved in climate change activities in the Pacific.

Climate and Weather Services Trainer and Adviser (*Samoa*)

Peace Corps Response is placing a Volunteer with SPREP to support efforts to build local capacity and regional cooperation in the area of meteorology and climate variability. SPREP, in cooperation with the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP) and with project funding from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), is supporting the implementation of the Pacific Meteorological Strategy 2012–21 (PIMS) and the project on Strengthening Climate Services in the Pacific Region. The project aims to enhance resilience in social, economic, and environmental systems to climate variability and climate change through the development of effective and sustainable regional and national climate services under the Global Framework for Climate Services in the Pacific regions. The Volunteer will work with the PMDP to provide expert advice on the different activities and approaches taken by the PMDP to support the implementation of PIMS through regular consultations with climate services providers and other stakeholders in the region and building the capacity of Pacific Meteorological Services to produce and disseminate standard climate information and services and develop and implement drought-management policies.

Water & Climate Change Specialist (*Guatemala*)

Peace Corps Response is placing a Volunteer to support the USAID Nexos Locales Project in rural Guatemala. The project will increase the capacity of local governments to raise revenue and respond to citizen concerns in various areas, including food insecurity and global climate change. The project specifically aims to improve water quality and water access and reduce vulnerabilities of climate change in 30 Guatemalan municipalities. Due to the expanse and remoteness of the project's geographical coverage, Nexos Locales would benefit from the experience and training of a Volunteer with water and climate change background to assist the project in reaching its stakeholders and building local capacity to increase access to potable water, develop municipal plans to reduce climate change vulnerability, and implementation of these plans.



Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps Headquarters
1111 20th Street NW, Washington, DC 20526