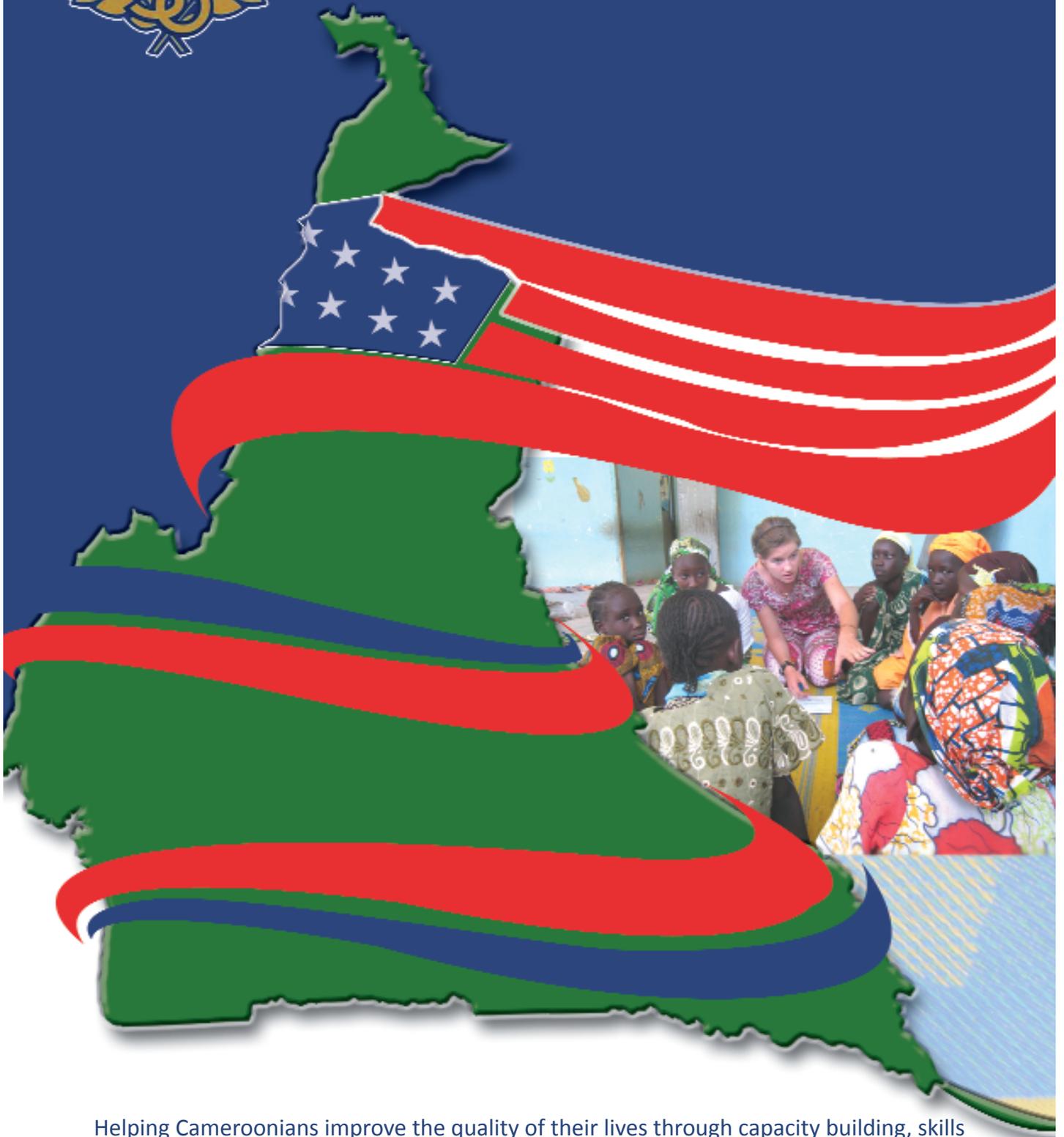




Peace Corps Cameroon Annual Report 2011



Helping Cameroonians improve the quality of their lives through capacity building, skills transfer, cultural exchange and promotion of self-reliant development since 1962



Peace Corps Cameroon Staff

Pictured - Back row left to right: Tamboula Dieudonné, Janitor; IYA Ibrahima, Janitor; Tawouefang Antoine, Driver; SITCHEU Michel, IT Specialist, Boko Daniel, Mail Clerk ; Ngoubè Sylvie, Health Program Manager, Oumarou Toumbaya, Training Assistant Logistician, Mbuyongha Maureen, HE Program and Training Assistant; Vernyuy Francis, Education program Manager; Salle Ibrahim, Logistician; Beighle James, Associate Director/Small Enterprise Development; Yisah Joseph, Driver; Nyanga Paul, Finance specialist; Fonkou Gaston, Language & Culture Coordinator; Bailabar Thérère, Agro Program & Training Assistant; Toukour Amadou, Youth Development Program Manager;

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Front row left to right: Martin Nogo, temporary driver; Ahanda Kim, Director of Program & Training; Tiki Manga Theophile, Program Manager; WOGU Ann, Medical Officer; Lekunze Ruth, Safety Security Coordinator; Dr LaHoma Romocki, Country Director; Teku Samuel, Driver; Dhedet-Lanza Genevieve, Director of Management Operation; Issock Victorine, Executive Secretary; Waah Sally, Records and Volunteer travel Clerk;

Not pictured - Boubakary, Driver/Garoua; Issa Haman, Driver/ Ngaoundéré ; Mbassa Rikam, Property Manager; Mbella Mary, Receptionist/Secretary; Talajo Djanabo, Regional Logistics Coordinator (Ngaoundéré) ; Alobwede Peter, Regional Logistics Coordinator (Bamenda).

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PC Cameroon Director with US Ambassador Robert P. Jackson and two Ministry officials at Launch of 50th anniversary

Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends

Fifty years ago, President John F. Kennedy challenged citizens of the United States to join the humanitarian struggle against poverty, inequality and injustice throughout the world. From these words, a generation of Americans responded and today, more than 200,000 have volunteered to serve in a clear and true expression of support and solidarity with other nations and peoples. The creation of the Peace Corps has sought to promote peace and cultural understanding in a very practical way --through community-based development activities that address the most basic needs in the places where they serve. Peace Corps Volunteers remain one of the largest volunteer organizations worldwide and represents one of the best examples of those working and promoting progress, development, cross cultural understanding and prosperity for all.

Fifty years ago, the first Peace Corps Volunteers were sent to Ghana and one year later, 39 volunteers arrived at the airport in Douala – on September 13, 1962. Since that time we have been working with the government of Cameroon, our international and local partners, and host country counterparts to further the goals of our organization and promote the kind of changes that build capacity and improve lives.

For fifty years, Peace Corps Volunteers in Cameroon, have taught English in hundreds of classrooms to thousands of students. Volunteers have trained entrepreneurs in all ten regions to improve the management of their small and medium sized businesses. Volunteers have helped raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, improve water supplies and support cholera prevention strategies to the most remote locations. Volunteers have created computer labs and helped train students and adults with technological skills needed in the new global information age. Volunteers have also taught farmers how to increase the yield of their farms, while also planting trees throughout the north to ward off deforestation.

As we mark this historic moment for our organization, we thank all of you. We also celebrate our close partnerships with all of our collaborating officials and organizations and the many accomplishments that we have realized together. We look forward to continuing these efforts in the years ahead.



*With very best wishes,
Dr. LaHoma Smith Romocki
Country Director*



Peace Corps' Approach to Development

Peace Corps the Agency

Peace Corps is an independent U.S. government agency that provides Volunteers for countries requesting assistance around the world. The agency traces its roots and mission to 1960 when then Senator John F. Kennedy challenged students at the University of Michigan to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries. Since that time, more than 200,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 139 host countries.



Although times have changed, the Peace Corps continues to promote peace and friendship by remaining true to its mission, established in 1961:

1. To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women;
2. To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served;
3. To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

Peace Corps' Approach to Development – The Peace Corps Difference

The Peace Corps is a development agency that differs from bilateral donors, non-governmental organizations and other development organizations in that it is:

Independent

The Peace Corps is not involved with the day-to-day conduct of US foreign policy, it is not involved with intelligence activities and its programs do not depend on outside funding that may be politically-driven.

Community-based

Peace Corps is a people-to-people organization; its focus is on the development of people, not things. The majority of Volunteers lives and works with the low-income rural and urban communities that Peace Corps serves.

Focused on Capacity Building

Peace Corps builds the capacity of host country people and organizations at the grassroots level, to shape their own development. Peace Corps does not fund infrastructure projects. The Peace Corps also plays a valuable role in building the capacity of future development workers.





CED/ED swearing in August 2011

Peace Corps Cameroon provides a unique comprehensive on-going 27 month training to all volunteers to address the KSA (knowledge, skills and attitudes) needed to effectively serve in Cameroon.

Activities

Activity	Period
PST (Pre-service Training)	11 weeks, Community-based and comprehensive
IST (In-service Training)	6 days, sector-specific
MST (Mid-service Training)	2 days, sector specific
COS (Close of Service)	5 days

PST Components: Language, Technical, Cross-culture, Personal Health and Safety

Results

- 50 Education Volunteers and community hosts were trained and 25 volunteers sworn-in in August 2011
- 36 Business Volunteers and community hosts were trained and 18 volunteers sworn-in in August 2011
- 28 Agroforestry volunteers and community hosts were trained and 19 volunteers sworn-in in December 2011
- 44 Community health volunteers and community hosts were trained and 22 volunteers sworn-in in December 2011
- 24 Youth development volunteers and community hosts were trained and 12 volunteers sworn-in in December 2011
- 9 Volunteers received a 4 week intensive French immersion training in August 2011
- 95 families in Bafia and Bokito hosted trainees in 2011

Testimonial

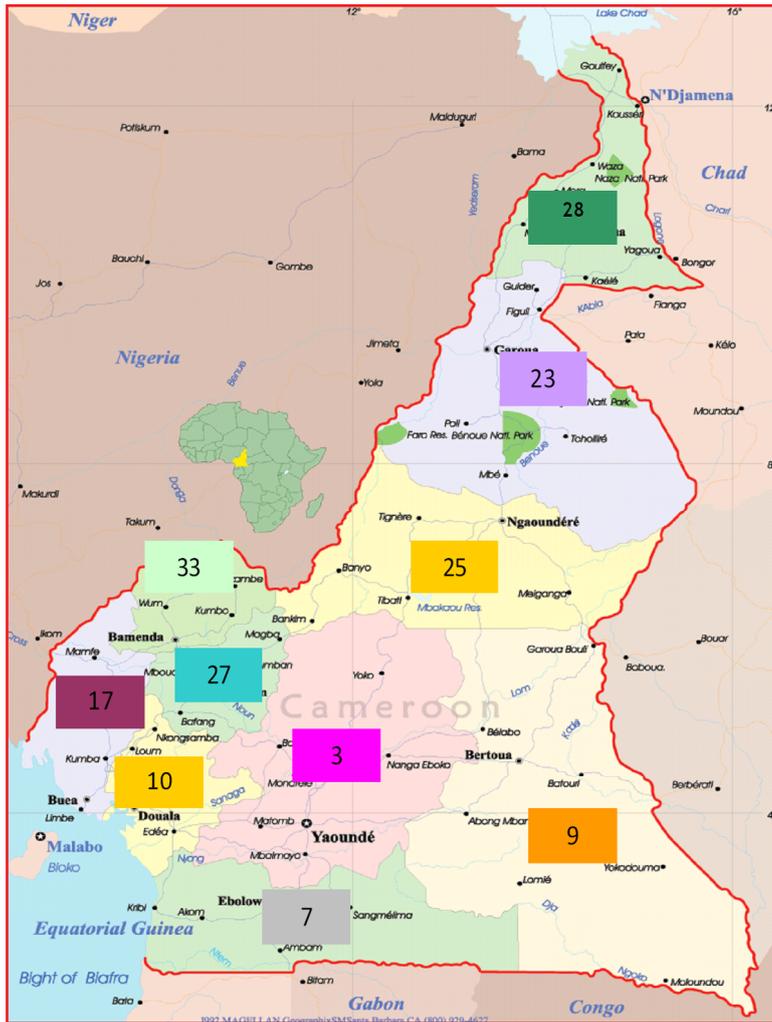
“As we get ready to leave our homes in Bafia and Bokito for the 10 regions of Cameroon, we may wonder whether there are still any expectations. Certainly yes, but no problem because each of us has learned a lot during training...”
Shane Downing (Agroforestry Volunteer)



AGRO/HE/YD swearing in Dec 2011



PCVS DISTRIBUTION BY REGION



Third Year PCVS

In 2011, 8 volunteers extended their service in Cameroon: 2 Education PCVs moved respectively to the Community Health and Youth Development programs; 2 Agroforestry and 2 Community Health volunteers continued working in the same sectors; 3 Community Health PCVS took up new specific assignments (the first with ACMS working on HIV-AIDS, the second with UNICEF focusing on Water Sanitation and the third with ACMS building capacities in Life Skills).

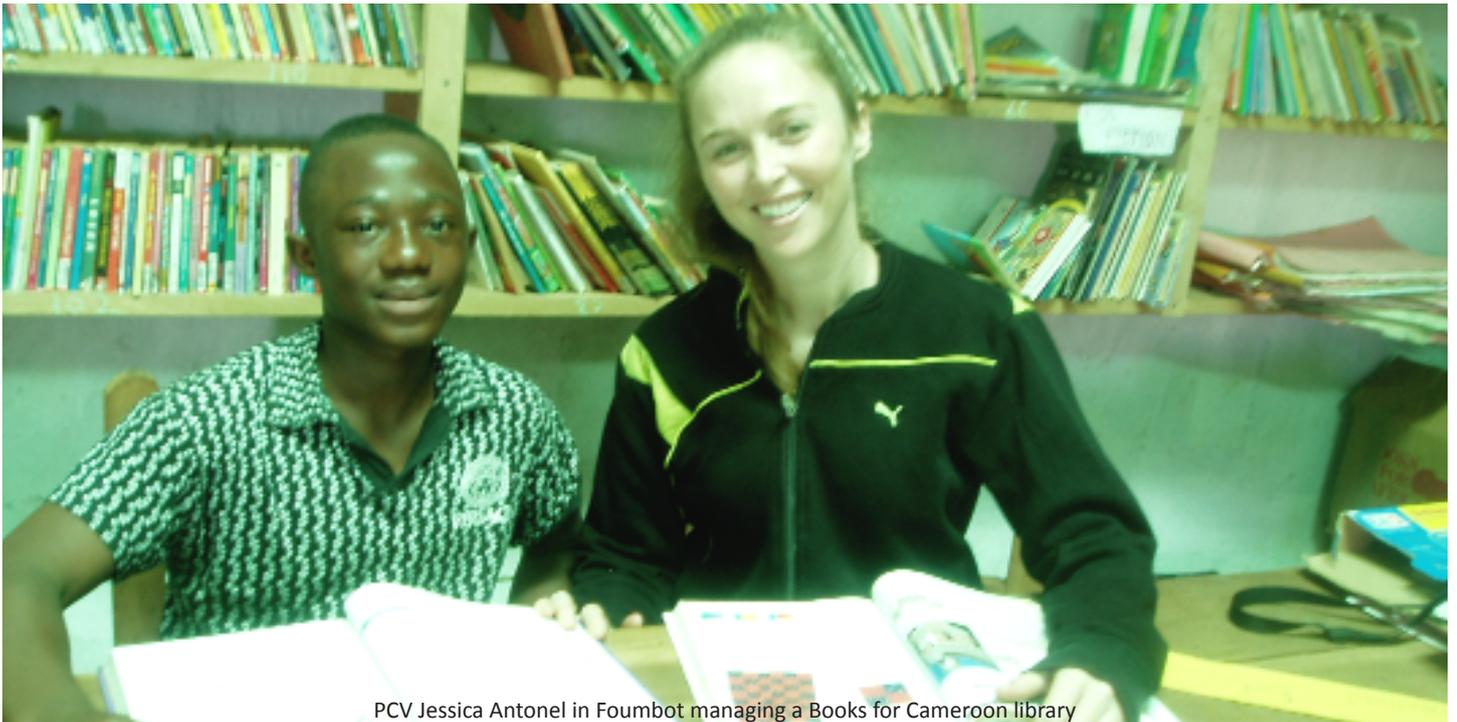


PCVS DISTRIBUTION BY PROGRAM						
	CED	HE	AF	ED	Total	%
EN	5	7	9	7	28	15
North	5	4	9	5	23	13
AD	5	12	4	4	25	14
CE	2	1	0	0	3	2
EST	2	1	0	6	9	5
LIT	4	1	3	2	10	5
NW	6	8	8	11	33	18
West	8	3	4	12	27	15
SW	3	4	2	8	17	9
South	0	1	4	2	7	4
TOTAL	40	42	43	57	182	100
%	22	23	24	31	100	/



PCV Stephen Finney with Youth in Far-North

Community Economic Development (CED)	Community Health (HE)	Agroforestry and Environment (AF)	Education (ED)



PCV Jessica Antonel in Foubot managing a Books for Cameroon library

In 2011, Peace Corps Cameroon introduced the Youth Development program, to support the Government of Cameroon, NGOs, and communities to foster healthy and equitable development of girls and boys.

This Youth Development program focuses heavily on the empowerment of young girls, through mentoring programs, skills development, education, and other diverse activities, while also focusing on the development of boys throughout Cameroon with similar activities.

Despite the inception of this new project in 2011, Youth Development has been a component of other sector programs, as highlighted in the sector descriptions that follow.



PCV Elizabeth Loftus leading a Behaviour Change workshop



Agroforestry & Environment Program

The Peace Corps Agroforestry/Environment program aims to assist the Cameroonian government in implementing its agriculture development strategy that encompasses food security and sustainable natural resource management through the promotion of market-oriented agriculture and environmental education.



Agro PCVs visiting a community-managed tree nursery (Njinikon, NW region)

Results

- 07 community water sources improved/constructed
- 11 watershed reforested & protected with live fences
- 22 community medicinal plant gardens established & 18% sale increase of medicinal plant products.
- More over 19,300 economic and highly marketable tree species planted

Activities

- Improved/constructed community water sources and cleaned up, protected and reforested of watersheds,
- Developed community medicinal plant gardens and improved medicinal plant products' sales.
- Planted economic and highly marketable tree species.
- Identified market structures & channels and assisted small-scale farmers and cooperatives in market research and promotion
- Promoted value added products from under-utilized crops (Moringa oleifera, soy)



Agro PCVs & farmers discussing about integration of fish farming and animal husbandry (Bello, NW region)

Testimonials

PCV Carl Tepe, Forestry Extension Agent in Batibo, North West

"The Agro forestry program with Peace Corps Cameroon strives to counteract the ever approaching realization of the desert to people that depend on the land they farm. Volunteers in the Agro forestry program learn to adapt their methods in rural setting Cameroon to build the capacity of people we work with our neighbors. The sharing of ideas is a unique experience that qill never be forgotten by the volunteer and hopefully his or her neighbors."

From Mme Angamba Maforth, Coordinator of the North West Farmers' Organization (NOWEFOR), NW region:

"I wish to thank you sincerely for the smooth collaboration we have shared with American Peace Corps since 2005. We are very grateful for the Volunteers and the numerous achievements they've recorded in the zones we've worked with them, specifically on the areas of cane rat rearing and income generating opportunities. We plead that the number of PCVs increases "



In collaboration with health care and community development professionals, the Community Health Project supports the Ministry of Health to empower communities, improve their quality of life by assessing their needs and resources, and undertaking their own projects to strengthen local health and community conditions. Volunteers work in seven regions with public hospitals, health centers, nongovernmental organizations, youth and education centers, schools and local community groups and associations.

Activities

- Trained Health Educators to implement effective Behavior change Interventions
- Facilitated health education on various topics including (nutrition, Mother and Child Health, Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Family Planning, Life Skills) with community health workers
- Developed messages to promote health and peer support education
- Supported youth and women empowerment initiatives
- Initiated gender equality and equity discussion with men groups



PCV Melanie with her "Club Santé"



Peer Educator Training at EFA

Results

- 3003 young boys and 3422 young girls have been trained as community health educators/workers
- 7206 boys and 7342 girls have been trained on common health issues and life skills to live healthy lives
- 3814 women and 1514 men educated on common health issues affecting themselves and their families
- 1096 women and 537 men living and affected by HIV/AIDS trained on how to live positively and create a more supportive environment for HIV/AIDS stigma

Testimonials

"I developed a 3 days seminar focused on maternal health (which had previously been identified as a major health concern for my community) with the men in my village covering: health pregnancy with a focus on nutrition, danger signs during pregnancy, importance of delivery at the health center, danger signs during delivery, post-natal care, the benefits of birth spacing and family planning methods. The seminar was received extremely well in village with attendance by village leaders and the village chief. The men became more engaged and came to better understand the connection between the health of their wife and the health of their family."

Kimberly Ocheltree, Tourningal, Adamawa region

I have learned many different things which will help me, my family, friends and the community of Abuh to benefit, to increase and improve the ways of living and also those of nearby communities, due to the volunteer Samantha DeAlto Trainings since she came to Abuh Village.

A Community Member in Abuh Village, North West Region



Community Economic Development Program

The Peace Corps SED program helps community members to increase their standard of living by improving the local business environment through the development and sharing of resources available to businesses and entrepreneurs and by strengthening community members' management and business skills through training and consulting.

Activities

- Assisted host partner institutions to improve their policies, practices and procedures to better serve their communities.
- Shared informational resources on business practices and regulations so that communities have access to information relevant to the start-up and operation of a business.
- Encouraged linkages and collaboration among businesses, and institutions to stimulate new and more efficient markets and information sharing.
- Conducted business classes and counseling sessions in order for individuals and groups to learn business practices and incorporate improved business skills into their operations.
- Worked with women and youth groups through trainings, activities and mentoring to empower them to use basic business practices and life-skills.



Jessica Veldman at an orphanage near Dschang



Girls at sewing class in Maroua receive training certificates

Results

- 40 institutions successfully implemented and adhered to newly defined policies and procedures.
- 284 individuals became aware of resources in their community that can help them to create an income generating activity or improve a business.
- 387 individuals and 47 groups were connected in the creation of new markets and linkages for communication.
- 681 individuals and 67 groups incorporated newly learned business skills into their entrepreneurial activities.
- 3270 women and youth were empowered by learning basic business practices and life skills.

Testimonials

PCV

"Whether it's directly empowering young girls with confidence or training teachers in a child-friendly financial curriculum, I feel some of the greatest impacts that a PCV can make will be on the youth of Cameroon"

Krystina Nguyen, SED Volunteer in Ngaoundere

Partner

"Par notre partenariat avec le Peace Corps, le programme Aflatoun [youth savings] est très bénéfique et avantageux pour les enfants dans les mesures où il développe chez ceux-ci un esprit d'éveil, d'initiative, et de partage. Et faisant, ainsi d'eux des personnes responsables dans l'avenir."

Julienne Renée NGO NJOCK, chargé de programme d'Aflatoun à Lagdo.



The Peace Corps Education Program contributes to implementing the education strategies of the Ministries of Education in Cameroon by improving skills of students, teachers and teacher trainees in English, Science and Information and communication Technology in Schools and institutions of the Ministries of Secondary and Basic Education.

Activities

- Taught English, Science and ICT in Secondary Schools, Teacher Training Colleges and Higher Institutions of Learning
- Trained Staff of Regional Delegations of MINESEC and MINEDUB in ICT skills
- Developed materials for teaching and learning and to train teachers in teaching large classes, multi-level classes and special needs classes
- Trained students and teachers in management and basic maintenance of computer labs
- Organized clubs, camps and seminars to train students and youth in life skills to mitigate HIV impact



Innovative teaching and learning: Rhet and Rachel (PCVs) teach children in Nkongsamba Chess in order to improve on critical thinking skills



Homemade Aloe Vera Soap with Jacqueline's student teachers

Results

- 10766 (4591 female) students improved their knowledge of Science, English and ICT in 45 schools
- 105(35 female) resource teachers(Inspectors) in MINESEC and MINEDUB regional delegations skilled in ICT
- Improved and sustained maintenance of computer labs in schools by students and teachers
- 2482(1315 female) primary school teachers and teacher trainees improved their ability to teach computer literacy and English
- 3522(2466 female) students recognize the need to change behavior with respect to HIV, 80(48 female) of whom are peer educators

Testimonials

Rose Barah: CI/ICT NW Region

"PCVs are really enthusiastic and eager to do things. With Ruth, we developed a teachers' handbook and trained teachers in nursery education – they are the best teachers I've had. With Gabriel, we trained a lot of teachers particularly in the teacher training colleges. Jack has been able to take off effectively from where Gabriel left things and presently we are developing ICT training material for delegation staff who are currently on training."

Jacqueline Ehrner, PCV Higher Teacher Training College

"My goal was to have future chemistry teachers learn and practice how to teach science in a resource-scarce environment. They gained first-hand experience and confidence that they are able to make their students visualize certain Chemistry concepts and they can show them how their everyday environment is filled with Chemistry."



Goals 2 & 3 Cultural Exchange and Awareness



PCV Liz Adamo discussing with Girls in Mora, EN

Goal 2 :
Helping promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the people served

Peace Corps Volunteers play an important role in helping to increase awareness and strengthen bonds between American and Cameroonian cultures. The many creative ways that they do this is through sharing of favorite American recreational activities and games, conducting summer “American” camps for youth, or cooking their favorite foods on American holidays. They also like to engage friends in discussions on a variety of topics ranging from popular culture to the latest music video and “Zumba” dance steps.



Bamenda Volunteer Carmen Chang hula-hooped for HIV/AIDS awareness and getting youth involved

Goal 3 :
Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans

Volunteers, through their first hand experiences, learn local languages, participate in local practices and traditions and work alongside community members to actively contribute to issues important to the community. They share these experiences with their friends and family members back home, who come to know about Cameroon, from the websites, photos, blogs, facebook and other social media. Some family members visit Volunteers, and return home with a better appreciation for the day to day activities about life in country. They in turn share their experiences with even more Americans who will only be able to know Cameroon through these opportunities.



HIV & AIDS

Volunteers across Peace Corps' program sectors work to address HIV/AIDS in their communities.



Martin Case is showing the girls how to make lotion

Peace Corps' HIV/AIDS program is focused on strengthening and expanding HIV/AIDS prevention and impact mitigation efforts of rural communities. In 2011, with the use of PEPFAR funds, Peace Corps supported additional HIV/AIDS related training for volunteers and counterparts and provided small grants for community driven activities.

WID/GAD

In 2011, Volunteers worked with their communities to address the needs of vulnerable groups including women and youth through skill building initiatives to strengthen women in development/gender and development (WID/GAD).

Testimonial

"As a PLWHA, I have been empowered through testimonies that I have made thanks to Peace Corps. It was difficult at the beginning but now, I am fine. After testimonies, I often receive phone calls and with appointments to talk about how I manage to lead a healthy life and above all, how I talk with courage about my life and illness. "

Activities

- HIV/AIDS , Life Skills and peer education training
- HIV/AIDS awareness interventions through mass media events
- Individual and small group HIV prevention interventions such as health education with youth groups, school clubs and trough youth camps
- Organization of voluntary counseling and testing events
- Care and support of people infected by HIV/AIDS and affected (PLWHA) through support in IGA development & management, "positive living" counseling and nutrition support
- Income generation projects (such as a jewelry making business for orphans and honey production with women's groups)



World AIDS day in Bamenda

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT):

In 2011, Peace Corps Volunteers reached out to 5602(2761 females) Cameroonians in 72 organizations in 58 communities. Volunteers teach computer literacy courses to youth and partner organization staff. Some PCVs teach GPS usage to partner and Public institutions, and create databases. The peopled reached in 2011 included 198 service providers who continue to train more Cameroonians.



Every year Peace Corps Volunteers help their host communities to implement grassroots projects to alleviate poverty and strengthen skills using funding opportunities channeled through Peace Corps. The raison d'être of the funding remains the capacity building of the community, organizations and individuals.



Water Catchment in Ngalan, Ebolowa by Lauren Redmore

To be eligible a project must:

- Respond to community identified needs
- Be strategic and comprehensive
- Be community backed, demonstrating a tangible commitment (25% community contribution)
- Have a solid monitoring and evaluation plan to demonstrate results
- Strengthen community self-reliance and not encourage future dependency

Results

PCPP

The Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP) channels private sector contributions to support Peace Corps efforts to promote peace and friendship around the world. In 2011, \$47,985 was granted for 22 projects in six regions of the country. These projects include four sectors (Agriculture, Food Security, Health Education (HIV and cholera awareness), and Income Generating Activities) reaching 159,455 beneficiaries.

SPA

With the assistance of USAID funding (\$23,000) for “Small Project Assistance” (SPA), Peace Corps Cameroon supported 13 water and sanitation projects in seven regions of the country providing communities with potable water, sanitation facilities and improved hygiene practices. All projects were community driven and focused on skills transfer and sustainability.



PCPP medicinal plants Drying House



Government Organizations

Ministry of Public Health
 Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
 Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Family
 Ministry of Youth and Civic Education
 Ministry of Sports
 Ministry of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises,
 Social Economy and Handicraft
 Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
 (MINADER)
 Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF)
 Ministry of Fishery and Animal Husbandry
 (MINEPIA)
 Ministries of Secondary and Basic Education
 Comité National de Lutte Contre le SIDA (CNLS)

International Organizations

Association Camerounaise de Marketing Social
 (ACMS)
 Reach Out
 Better Family Foundation (BFF)
 Développement Sans Frontières
 Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
 Cercle International pour la Promotion de la
 Création (CIPCRE)
 World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
 Heifer Project International (HPI)
 World Agroforestry Centre/ICRAF (WAC/ICRAF)
 Trees For The Future (TFTF)
 Plan Cameroon
 GIZ
 Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
 Volontaires Français du Progrès
 Volunteer Service Overseas (VSO)
 AISEC
 International Medical Corps (IMC)



Memorandum of Understanding with Heifer Project International

Local Organizations

Diocesan Development Committee (CDD)
 Education Fights AIDS (EFA)
 ETAYA
 ADAF
 Crédit du Sahel
 MC2
 CamCCUL
 BATOCCUL
 Nkumu Fed Fed
 MICRODEC
 North West Farmers' Organization (NOWEFOR)
 Association pour la Promotion des Actions de
 Développement Endogènes Locales (APADER)
 CAMELTA
 Betterworld Cameroon
 RELUFA
 RIDEV
 ACREST
 FEPES
 Nkong Hilltop
 Link Up
 Guiding Hope
 KOOKAE
 GIC Esperance
 GIC Agropastorale



Memorandum of Understanding with PLAN Cameroon



In 2012, Peace Corps Cameroon will place increased emphasis on two critical cross-sector development issues: HIV and AIDS and Malaria.

HIV and AIDS

Cameroon has a generalized HIV epidemic with a population prevalence among the highest in West and Central Africa at 5.5%. In support of the Government of Cameroon's five year strategic plan for HIV and AIDS, Peace Corps is providing increased training and support to Volunteers and their counterparts to further strengthen community-based HIV and AIDS activities across sectors. As the highest HIV prevalence of all age and sex groups is among young women 25-29 (at 10.3%). Peace Corps is placing a particular emphasis on programs and activities to reduce girls' and women's vulnerabilities.

With the assistance of PEPFAR funding, Peace Corps Cameroon ensures community-level HIV and AIDS interventions that support the US government's country operational plan. In addition to Peace Corps' long-standing work in community-based HIV prevention, in 2012 greater focus will be placed on the prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) and reducing girls and young women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. Peace Corps will focus specifically on strengthened community based approaches and improved linkages between communities and health services.

- Volunteers and their community counterparts will receive additional training and support to implement proven effective community-based interventions based on region-specific needs
- In collaboration with CDC, USAID and the State department, Peace Corps will strengthen community-level maternal and child health interventions and outreach for PMTCT specifically
- Through the new Youth Development program as well as synergistic approaches across sectors, Peace Corps will address direct and underlying causes that render girls and young women more vulnerable to HIV through education, capacity building and income generating opportunities

Malaria

Likewise, in response to Cameroon's malaria pandemic, also a critical cross-cutting issue, Peace Corps is increasing training and support to further boost community-based malaria prevention activities in 2012, building on partnerships created in 2011.

- Additional training, guidance and Volunteer support will ensure targeted community-based interventions that reinforce national-level campaigns and key messages adapted to the rural context and reinforced through inter-personal communication
- In support of the Ministry of Health's malaria prevention program, a Peace Corps Response Volunteer will be strategically positioned with the Malaria No More initiative for improved coordination between national-level and community-level interventions
- As a pilot initiative, a third year Volunteer will be placed at the Ministry's regional office in Bamenda to support logistics and coordination, specifically related to bed net distribution



Community Health Volunteer Kim Peven

Food Security

Urban cities' markets in Cameroon are flooded with farm products throughout the year. A visitor who lands in Cameroon for the first time will obviously notice this. On the contrary, in rural areas of the East, North, Far North and Adamawa regions, food security remains a threatening issue and a major challenge to meet. Across all its sectors (Education, Community Health, Youth Development, Community Economic Development and Agroforestry), Peace Corps Cameroon will continue to foster activities towards combating food scarcity in these regions through skill transfer with small scale appropriate technologies for food processing, transformation and conservation; the utilization of under-utilized crops for nutrition and income opportunities.