

## Ghana - Fact Sheet – Education Project

### History and Background

The very first Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) were teachers in Ghana. For 50 years, the Education Program has been fielding Americans in Ghana schools through the longest running, uninterrupted Peace Corps program in the world.

From the inception of the program, more than 600 public schools have benefited from the services of Education PCVs. Currently, 60 PCVs work in rural schools so that:

*Students will realize their optimum potential by participating in innovative and gender-sensitive educational opportunities in the classroom and community.*

### Mission Objectives

To address a shortage of trained and skilled teachers, in Ghana, PCVs are assigned to teach Mathematics, Science, Visual Art and Computer (ICT) skills in approximately 30 public schools every year. They teach about 28 periods a week to a class size averaging 40 students (70 for the core subjects). Some PCVs teach Visual Art in Schools for the Deaf.

PCVs teach in four focus areas:

1. Junior High School (JHS)
2. Senior High School (SHS)
3. Colleges of Education
4. District and Regional Education Offices

### Education Partners

Peace Corps' major partner in the Education Program is the Government of Ghana. On the national level, Peace Corps collaborates with the Ghana Education Service to implement the Ghana Government's educational policy. PCVs, therefore, do not generally work in private schools. PCVs work closely with their counterpart teachers under the supervision of the head of school.

Other partners include:

- West African Examinations Council (WAEC)
- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)
- Other International Volunteer Organizations (JICA, VSO)
- Rural communities

### Accomplishments

Over the years, Volunteers have made significant impact in satisfying the manpower needs of the country. PCVs have developed teaching and learning materials including resource manuals and guides for both students and teachers. They have been involved in setting up and managing Science and Computer laboratories as well as Art studios to facilitate practical hands-on activities for students. They are able to use locally available materials where resources are scarce and through innovative teaching methodologies, they motivate their students to acquire life skills and realize their optimum potentials.

The Peace Corps Education Program has been, and continues to be, very effective. Many high ranking civil and public servants of Ghana have stated, "the fact that I was taught by a Peace Corps volunteer during my school days has helped me to get to where I am today."

### Secondary Activities

PCVs have also been involved in many secondary activities. They have accessed funding to build dormitory and classroom blocks, schools and community libraries, and public latrines. PCVs have organized various educational programs for the benefit of both students and community members.

Education PCVs also integrate Gender and Youth Development, food security, and HIV/AIDS education and prevention in their development activities.



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