



1961–2011

## Ghana - Fact Sheet – Programming and Training

### History and Background

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps to promote world peace and friendship. That year, the first volunteers arrived in Ghana and started a legacy of partnership in development that has lasted uninterrupted for 50 years. Today, Peace Corps volunteers work in a variety of development programs throughout the ten regions of Ghana.

#### Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs)

PCVs are U.S. citizens, of different ages and from diverse backgrounds, who commit to serve for two years. The aim of a PCV is to build the capacity of others and to share different ways of life. They live and work as members of a community at the same economic level as the people they serve.

#### Associate Peace Corps Directors (APCDs)

APCDs are Ghanaians who work for Peace Corps to coordinate development programs throughout Ghana. They are responsible for identifying viable projects and placing PCVs in communities whose needs match the volunteer's skills and experience. APCDs liaise between PCVs and project partners to ensure volunteers are safe, supported and productive during their service.

### Development Programs

#### Education

PCVs work at Junior and Senior High Schools and teach math, science, ICT, and art. Some work in deaf schools and others support Teacher Training Colleges. Their objectives:

- Improve student and teacher performance
- Build a quality learning environment
- Extend education to the community

#### Environment

PCVs work to establish agroforestry and alternative livelihood practices for food security and to conserve Ghana's natural resources. They help plant trees and raise awareness about the environment. Their objectives:

- Train farmers to establish tree nurseries
- Network farmers with development organizations
- Empower environmental groups

#### Small Enterprise Development (SED)

PCVs work to develop community-based business initiatives. They transfer business skills and help write business plans. Their objectives:

- Strengthen business acumen
- Improve product quality and market access
- Develop viable tourism activities

#### Health/Water and Sanitation

PCVs work to build awareness of healthy lifestyles in Ghana. They help fight against guinea worm and other water-borne illnesses. Their objectives:

- Promote family health education and delivery
- Improve water quality
- Promote HIV/AIDS prevention

#### Cross-Sector Initiatives

PCVs across all sectors are encouraged to integrate a variety of other programs in their projects. This helps to ensure that projects address development priorities of Ghana and engage under-served populations

#### Gender and Youth in Development (GYD)

PCVs promote gender equality and empowerment in their projects by engaging women and youth in their development activities.

#### Information Communication Technology (ICT)

PCVs encourage the use of emerging technology to assist with addressing development issues. PCVs promote computer literacy, internet technology, and mass media to reach broad audiences.

#### HIV AIDS

PCVs contribute to the Ghana national response to HIV and AIDS by helping community members adopt healthy behaviors and promote care activities for people living with HIV and AIDS.

#### Food Security

PCVs work to provide access at all times to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet dietary need for an active and healthy life. PCVs work with farmers, communities, and businesses.

### Training

PCVs with their Ghanaian counterparts train throughout the year so they may address development issues with current study and best practices.

#### Pre-Service Training (PST)

PST is an intensive ten-week training program that transfers technical, language, and cross-cultural knowledge and skills to newly arrived PCVs to prepare them for service in Ghana.

#### In-Service Training (IST)

ISTs are held throughout the year and address the training needs of PCVs and their counterparts throughout a PCV's service.

#### Close of Service (COS)

The COS conference is designed to help PCVs transition from life in Ghana back to life in the U.S. As Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs), these Americans are responsible for sharing their stories of Ghana back home.