



Peace Corps

BURKINA FASO

A Partnership
between the
American and
Burkinabè
people



2016 Annual Report



Staff of Peace Corps Burkina Faso with the United States' Ambassador to Burkina Faso

Director's Message



To the Government of Burkina Faso and all of our Partners,

It is my pleasure to present our 2016 Annual Report, highlighting the amazing work our Peace Corps Volunteers have achieved in collaboration with many dedicated counterparts and community members. The results presented in this report reflect the combined efforts of many institutions, organizations and individuals in the areas of Community Economic Development, Education and Health.

Peace Corps was created by John F. Kennedy in 1961 with the mission to promote world peace and friendship. Peace Corps' approach to development is a grass roots approach, with Volunteers living and working hand in hand with the members of their host communities. Since its creation in 1961, more than 220,000 Americans have served in 141 countries around the world. We are honored to work in Burkina Faso at the invitation of the Government in support of their development goals.

We are eternally grateful for the tremendous support and encouragement that we have received and look forward to continued fruitful collaborations in the future.

Keith Hackett, Ph.D.
Peace Corps Burkina Faso Country Director

"Peace requires the simple but powerful recognition that what we have in common as human beings is more important and crucial than what divides us"

Sargent Shriver

CONTENTS

3	About us	6	Community Economic Development Program
4	Community Health Program	7	Let Girls Learn
5	Education Program		

About Us

Peace Corps' Mission and Goals

To promote world peace and friendship by fulfilling three goals:

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

Peace Corps Burkina Faso

More than 2,100 Volunteers have served proudly in Burkina Faso since Peace Corps was first invited by the Government of Burkina Faso in 1967. Peace Corps continues to enjoy a close and productive relationship with the government and the Ministries with which we work. In 2016, 143 Volunteers worked in three sectors : Health, Education and Community Economic Development.

Our Volunteers

Volunteers are U.S. citizens with university degrees who make a two year commitment to work with communities across Burkina Faso. They have a common spirit reflected in the belief that service to others, a commitment to hard work, and healthy idealism are catalysts for positive change. Ranging in age from 20-70, they represent a variety of geographical, cultural, religious, and educational backgrounds.

Volunteers undergo ten weeks of intensive village-based language, cross cultural and technical training in Burkina Faso to prepare them for integration into their host communities and to bring relevant skills to their health centers, schools, and communities. All Volunteers are trained in malaria and HIV/AIDS prevention, as well as the promotion of gender equity.



Community Health

What We Do

Volunteers in the health sector are assigned to rural health centers (CSPS) and serve the health center catchment areas. Along with their counterparts, they successfully worked on the three goals of the health project framework in 2016: Capacity building of the community health care providers; improving maternal, neonatal, and child health; and promoting healthy living.

Success Story

As a Peace Corps Volunteer Facilitator for the most recent group of trainees, my counterpart and I participated in training together. We were asked to discuss how we worked together to do the initial community assessment and use the analysis tools. It was a new approach this year to have counterparts present during Pre-Service Training with volunteers. I think that it was beneficial for both trainees, to see the relationship that can develop between counterpart and volunteer, and also for the counterparts' professional development. During one of the presentations my counterpart described what he has gained from working with Peace Corps and me. He said that he has gained so much in personal and professional development by being my counterpart. He has more respect in the community now and has had many opportunities for professional growth through trainings with Peace Corps. This has helped to build his capacity as a community health worker. This is a success story related to Peace Corps Goal 2. Also it is a personal moment of pride and honor for me, as until that moment I was not aware of how he felt about being my counterpart.



Awareness raising on malaria by Volunteers in Nebrou



Training on liquid soap

Our Impact

These figures reflect the collective accomplishments of communities, Volunteers and counterparts:

- 315 Community Health Agents showed ability to use two non-formal Education Techniques to Promote Behavior Change after being trained by volunteers;
- 4,737 individuals received BCC/IEC outreach promoting malaria prevention and care seeking;
- 2,470 individuals were trained on proper water, sanitation and hygiene activities, including hand-washing stations and diarrhea and rehydration treatment;
- 507 women demonstrated how to make a nutritious meal from locally available foodstuffs;
- 2,981 individuals were trained in sexual reproductive health;
- 110 youth reported adopting at least one healthy behavior related to reproductive health.

Community Economic Development

What We Do

The CED Project was developed in response to the lack of food security in many areas of Burkina Faso and the government's efforts to develop sustainable livelihoods through agricultural-based business opportunities for farmers, particularly youth and women. Its goal is to help rural, small scale farmers improve their agriculture-based enterprises in an effort to advance and sustain their food security and, ultimately, their resiliency.

The Volunteers work with community based organizations (CBOs), women's associations, and producers groups to improve their activities and/or introduce new income generating activities. They train producers groups on market study and research, bookkeeping, and planning associated with their activities. They also train women on transformation techniques such as soy into tofu, milk and yogurt, tomatoes into paste and sauce, mangoes into jam, and the business skills to sustain their activities.

Volunteers were also very successful starting school gardens in their local schools to improve the nutrition of students. Last but not least, Volunteers train men, women and the youth on Entrepreneurship and management techniques through camps, clubs, and workshops.

Our Impact

These figures reflect the collective accomplishments of communities, Volunteers and their counterparts:

- 1,282 individuals received trainings in the area of food security through community garden startups, and trainings on nutrition and agricultural productivity;
- 229 individuals started their Income Generating Activities in the areas of agriculture and/or animal breeding;
- 1,100 individuals received a training on management and/or IGA start-ups;
- 242 individuals received a financial management training;
- 35 New enterprises developed;
- 19 organizations improved their marketing.



Community Garden of Ramsa

Success Story

The northern village of Ramsa is filled with eager community members constantly looking to improve their livelihoods. However, its development has been slower than desired due to chronic economic and health issues. Malnutrition, especially with young children, and a scarcity of dry-season work are two major problems faced by the village.

In early 2015, community members approached the Volunteer with these two difficulties, and after many hours of collaboration they found a promising solution. They secured financial aid using West Africa Food Security Partnership (a US-AID funded project) funds to construct a moringa and garden space. This project will be a source of income-generation and nutritious foods. The community's work and motivation pushed the garden to completion in December 2015. In addition there is a newly-dug well to provide a year-long water source. To ensure sustainability with this project the Volunteer and his counterpart, along with other actors, supplemented this project by injecting a variety of pertinent trainings, including: composting, drip-irrigation, natural insecticide, vegetable transformations techniques, moringa and nutrition. Fifty villagers partook in the first cycle of potato gardening and 111 individuals have received a food-security related training stemming from this project.

This endeavor was not without some challenges along the way. Nevertheless, the Volunteer is confident in this garden's longevity because of the additional trainings the villagers received. With this crucial knowledge, the villagers of Ramsa understand all of the positive externalities that can come from a garden, as well as the comprehension of how to continually produce, maintain and utilize their gardening products. This project recipe, a garden space supplemented by relevant trainings, will combat Ramsa's malnutrition and provide dry-season work, speeding up Ramsa's development one vegetable at a time.

Education

What We Do

Peace Corps Burkina Faso, through its education program, accompanies the Burkina Faso government in reaching its educational objectives.

Peace Corps Volunteers intervene in secondary schools where they help reduce the deficit of teachers, and in the preschools where their capacity building on pedagogical techniques of *petits papas* and *petites mamans* contribute to improving the classroom practices and pedagogical approaches.

In addition to teaching, education volunteers work:

- to build the capacity of students through extra-curricular activities such as tutoring, clubs, and camps.
- to support Student Parents' Association members to be more involved in community school decision making processes and general managerial skills.



Success Story

PC Burkina Faso was decorated on December 11, 2016 with the medal “Ordre des Palmes Académiques” in recognition of the exceptional contributions of Volunteers in the domain of Education in Burkina Faso during more than 40 years of Peace Corps presence in Burkina Faso. This decoration is certainly a great honor for Volunteers, counterparts, communities and staff, but it is also an invitation to pursue excellence.



Reading session by a PCV and her preschool students



A Volunteer teaching his students

Our Impact

These figures reflect the collective accomplishments of communities, Volunteers and their counterparts:

- 33 Education volunteers in 11 regions out of 13, and in 21 provinces out of 45;
- 18 volunteers in secondary school (TEFL and Math/Science) and 15 in preschool;
- 664 preschool-aged students have been taught by eleven Volunteers;
- 1,068 Math and Science students have been taught by ten Volunteers;
- 2,269 English students were been taught by 19 PCVs;
- 1,497 students participated in clubs, camps, tutoring or other extracurricular activities led by 19 volunteers;
- 199 new individuals accessed libraries and/or ICT resource center;
- 260 community members increased their participation in activities that strengthen the school community.

Let Girls Learn

Launched in March 2015 to promote an enabling environment for girls and young women to learn and develop for a healthy and productive life, the Let Girls Learn initiative has three objectives:

1. Improve opportunities for girls to attain quality education.
2. Increase girls' leadership and overall perceived sense of agency.
3. Increase community engagement in support of positive, gender-equitable norms that facilitate girls' education and full participation in economic and community life.

In 2016, Peace Corps volunteers and their Burkinabe counterparts reached thousands of young girls and boys through activities such as:

- Girls' and boys' Camps and clubs
- Student Friendly Schools (non-violence)
- Engaging men and boys for gender equity
- Sexual and reproductive health of young people with special emphasis on menstrual hygiene management.

In total, 41 volunteers and their counterparts implemented gender and girls' education activities that reached 7,762 individuals, including 4,530 females and 3,232 males.



A participant of LGL training



Playing football during the break at a Let Girls Learn camp in Bobo, in December 2016

Thank you!

Thank you to our partners for their constant support and spirit of collaboration. Together we are working to successfully tackle some of the most pressing development issues in Burkina Faso.



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Contact details:

Rue 13-14, #217, Zone du Bois-01
BP 6031, Ouagadougou 01, Burkina Faso
www.peacecorps.gov