



Peace Corps

Cameroon

Annual Report 2016



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About Peace Corps Cameroon

Peace Corps is an independent United States Government agency that provides volunteers to countries requesting assistance around the world. It has been operational in Cameroon continuously since September 1962. The agency traces its roots and mission back to 1961 when then Senator J. 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. On March 1, 1961, President Kennedy established the Peace Corps by executive order and named Sargent Shriver to officially lead the organization. Fifty-six years later, Peace Corps continues to promote peace and friendship through its three original goals:

Help people of interested countries meet their needs for trained men and women

Help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the people served

Help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans

Areas of Intervention



Health



Education



Agriculture



Youth Dev.

	AD	CE	E	LIT	NW	S	SW	W	TOTAL
AGRICULTURE	4	3	6	0	14	1	6	8	42
EDUCATION	7	1	5	0	11	1	4	9	38
HEALTH	9	5	3	0	13	1	9	4	43
YOUTH DEV	3	1	1	1	2			2	11
TOTAL	23	10	15	1	40	3	19	23	134

Letter From Our Country Director

I am pleased to present Peace Corps Cameroon's Annual Report for 2016. We ended 2016 with 100 volunteers serving in eight of Cameroon's 10 regions. In 2016, Peace Corps Cameroon had four programs:

- **Agriculture:** Our agriculture volunteers work closely with over 1000 smallholder farmers to improve integrated farming practices and farm business planning in an effort to increase their productivity and income from their farms
- **Community Health:** Our health volunteers work in the three main areas of HIV/AIDS prevention, malaria prevention and basic mother and child health with a focus on nutrition.
- **Education:** The work of our education volunteers is split in two programmatic areas - Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) for students in Francophone regions, and Math and Science for students in Anglophone regions.
- **Youth Development:** The youth development volunteers train youths to help them foster a positive identity, use positive communication, and develop skills in decision making, goal setting and leadership .

Volunteers in each of these programs have access to resources through a variety of initiatives that support their activities on the ground. Volunteers primarily use these initiatives to support technical training events, demonstrations and other village based services through small grants.

- **Stomp-Out Malaria initiative:** Volunteers reached over 5087 community members with information to promote behavior change for malaria prevention. 1885 individuals from this number are sleeping under insecticide treated bed nets.
- **Feed the Future/Food Security initiative:** Volunteers trained 1338 smallholder farmers on new techniques for agricultural production and food security. 1077 of these farmers applied a new technique to ensure sustainable food security and reduce global hunger.
- **HIV/AIDS – PEPFAR Initiative:** Volunteers trained over 17604 individuals in HIV prevention and successfully mobilized over 20876 for HIV testing and counselling services of which 5798 are adolescent girls and young women. Volunteers also reached 3108 orphans and vulnerable children and their care givers, as well as over 5000 people living with HIV linking them to appropriate support and care.
- **Let Girls Learn initiative:** Let Girls Learn is a United States government initiative to ensure adolescent girls get the education they deserve. Through clubs, sports and after school activities, volunteers help girls gain the skills, knowledge and confidence needed to break the cycle of poverty.

We are grateful for the excellent collaboration and support that our ministry partners, NGOs and other community organizations have provided



to our volunteers over the past year. In particular I would like to thank the communities of Santa, Babadjou and Kombou in the North-West and West regions for hosting our trainees. We look forward to returning to those communities again to prepare our new volunteers for their service in 2017. Finally, each volunteer is introduced by a community host or counterpart to the community where he or she will serve for two years. This is a very special service and we are very grateful for this support as it keeps our volunteers safe and helps them to get a quick start on their activities.

2016 was in some ways very challenging for us as many of our teachers were affected by the strikes in the North-West and South-West Regions towards the end of the year. Although Math and Science teachers were not able to teach from mid-November on, most of them have utilized their time very constructively supporting their communities by carrying out secondary projects.

We hope that this document conveys a good measure of Peace Corps Cameroon's success in achieving development goals that are shared by the Government of Cameroon and by Peace Corps. We also hope that it does so in a manner that is respectful of the culture and dignity of those served.

This report is also available online on our website: www.peacecorps.gov/cameroon. To get regular updates of our Volunteers' activities in the field, please follow us on Facebook: @cameroon.peacecorps and Instagram: [instagram.com/peacecorpscameroon/](https://www.instagram.com/peacecorpscameroon/)

Mark A. Orlic



Mark Orlic
Country Director

Agriculture

The Peace Corps Agriculture program supports the Cameroon rural development plan through an integrated farming system approach that aims at increasing productivity and profitability of rural smallholder farmers. Peace Corps Volunteers work hand-in-hand with smallholders and extension agents to develop and implement sustainable farm plans that integrate crops, vegetables, trees and livestock that coexist independently from each other.



Areas of Intervention	Achievements in 2016
Farmers Trained in Farm Plans	50
Farm Plans Created	39
Farmers Implementing Farm Plans	27
Farmers Implementing Improved Animal Husbandry	50
Individuals Practicing Better Bookkeeping	29
Individuals Practicing Improved Gardening	184
Total New Gardens	42
Farmers Who Adopted New Crops	86
Trees Planted	6,583

Volunteer Success Story

Mushroom Cultivation to Support Rural Populations, North-West Region

The farmers of the Kumbo area in North-West Cameroon rely on the success of their crops for food and a limited income generated from small market activities; an income which is often insufficient to provide school fees for children, medical bills, and other unforeseen expenses. This type of subsistence lifestyle greatly hinders development efforts in the region, because despite many efforts on the part of local leaders to improve quality of life and education in the area, the average family's income is too unreliable to generate capital necessary for community development projects.

Gilbert, the manager of a local NGO that works with rural farming communities to introduce and utilize sustainable agriculture practices, saw mushroom cultivation as an opportunity to increase nutrition and financial solvency of the local population. Along with Peace Corps Volunteer Kat and Clifford, the manager of a women's empowerment embroidery center, Gilbert attended a mushroom cultivation workshop sponsored by the West Africa Food Security Program in partnership with Peace Corps Cameroon. During this workshop, both formulated an action plan to work with Mushroom Cameroon for the creation of a mushroom cultivation center in Kumbo which will serve as a seed distribution center as well as a resource for local farmers to learn about mushroom cultivation. Additionally, they plan to hold mushroom cultivation workshop in order to sensitize farmers and other interested people on the benefits of mushroom cultivation and consumption.

Through this mushroom cultivation workshop, Gilbert and his team seek to transfer the knowledge and skills necessary for these vulnerable farmers to add an income generating activity to their farming, thereby increasing their financial solvency and quality of life. Furthermore, they hope to educate participants on the benefits of mushroom consumption, including the nutrition and medicinal value of mushrooms, in order that they, as well as their friends and families, might increase their overall health and well-being.

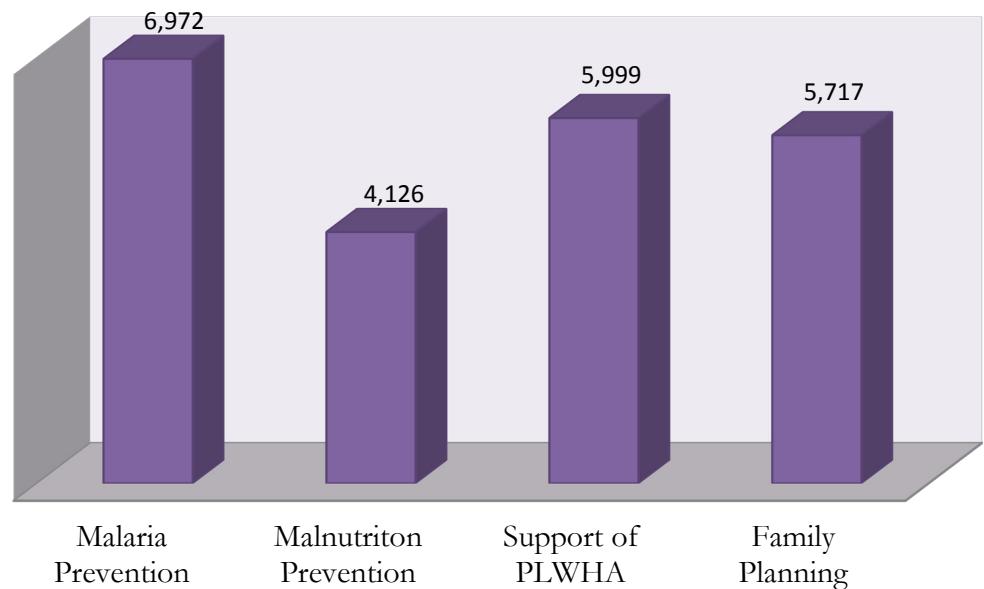


Community Health

The Peace Corps Community Health program supports the Cameroonian Government's goals to improve maternal and child health and reduce the incidence of malaria and HIV/AIDS. Peace Corps Volunteers work closely with health care providers and beneficiaries to mobilize communities on behavior change, the establishment and management of care groups, as well as linkages to care, support and treatment services.



Individuals Trained in 2016



Volunteer Success Story

Introducing moringa in the Adamawa region

"I launched a Moringa/Nutrition Project [at my post] with my counterpart and the nurse, and I went to the market and handed out samples of moringa sauce with couscous to convince people to come to the training we were holding the next day. At the market, I explained the basics of moringa to the people who tasted the sauce and told them I would be giving out free seeds and seedlings to people who attended the training the next day. We had 14 attendees show up for the training and each received a short manual on moringa cultivation along with a seedling and three seeds. Behavior change is hard, but because moringa is widely known, has a name in Fulfulde, and tastes like what people eat here on a daily basis, I am finding that people I approach in village are very willing to adopt it into their diets."

-Peace Corps Volunteer Diane



Education

The Education Program has three main goals: 1. to improve teaching through student-centered, gender equitable techniques that integrate literacy methods. 2. To increase student success by improving their subject proficiency, reading comprehension and leadership skills. 3. To increase community participation in school and/or community activities that improve students' learning.



Areas of Intervention	Achievements in 2016
Teachers Who Received Literacy Training	361
Teachers Using Gender Equitable Practices	37
Teachers Using General Improved Practices	166
Students Participating in Clubs and Camps	2,784
Students Gaining Leadership Skills	1,234
Students with Improved Reading Comprehension	1,340
School Community Members with Positive Attitudes Towards Gender Related Activities	263
Participants in DEAR Day Activities	2,058

Volunteer Success Story

Building Reading Culture in school, Adamawa region

"A challenge to encouraging reading culture is in access to reading materials. My administration wanted to expand the library, but students were not excited at reading. Aissatou and I decided to hold an after-school storytelling hour. Ten senior students worked in several sessions, found stories, made and illustrated big books. Each brought five younger students to the event to whom they read and discussed their big book. Every 20 minutes, groups rotated permitting students to read all the stories. The students' attitude toward reading has been transformed. The older students were excited about their stories, and how much the younger students understood. Since then, the students have asked when we will be doing storytelling again." - Peace Corps Volunteer Alex



Youth Development

The program aimed at building the capacity of youths to develop into healthy, responsible, and educated community members. To achieve this, Volunteers carried out activities such as sports, youth clubs and camps, education on HIV/AIDS transmission, prevention, and impact mitigation; training and discussions on sexual reproductive health, leadership and assertiveness skills. In the course of these activities, Volunteers laid special emphasis on promoting girls' empowerment. Peace Corps has since phased out the Youth Development program from its framework, starting in 2017.



Volunteer Success Story

Youth Education through Soccer, North-West

Peace Corps Volunteer Jon used Grassroots Soccer (GRS) curriculum as a base to organize a community wide soccer tournament in his village. “Having used the GRS HIV curriculum with counterparts to teach the students and train other facilitators, I found that students become more involved and present at each week’s lesson because football is the main learning tool. Playing football with the students before or after the lesson allows them to open up and become familiar with me, creating the chance to have conversations we would not have had otherwise. Without this program, youth in my community would miss the chance to learn this crucial information about the concerns of HIV, gender equality and unwanted early pregnancy.”

-Peace Corps Volunteer Jon

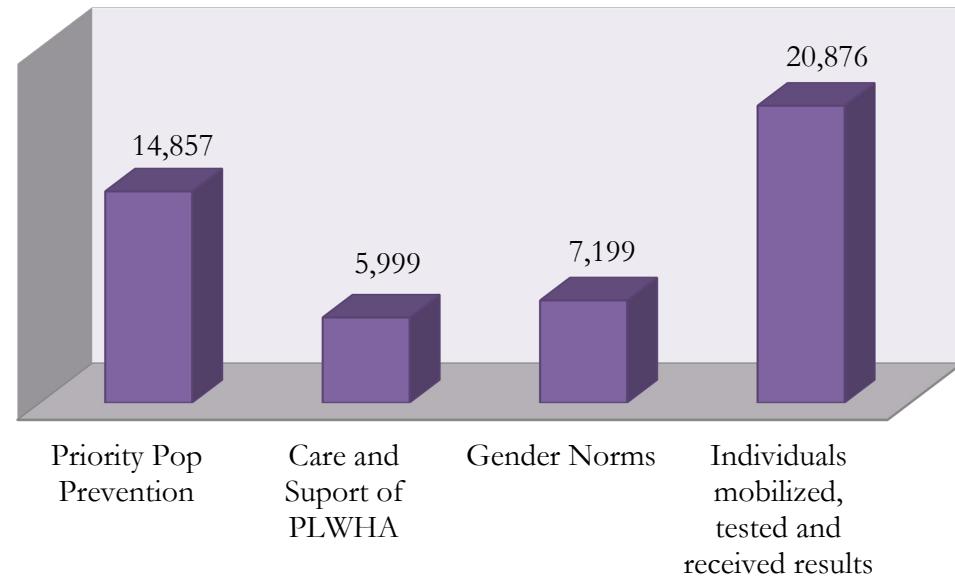


HIV/AIDS – PEPFAR

This cross-sector initiative focuses on HIV Prevention for Adolescent Girls and Young Women; Support to Orphans and Vulnerable Children; as well as support for treatment adherence for People Living with HIV/AIDS. Through this initiative, Peace Corps contributes to attaining the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS' (UNAIDS) ambitious 90-90-90 global goals. As a member of Cameroon's country team of the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Peace Corps Cameroon leverages allocated PEPFAR resources to support HIV interventions in the North-West, South-West and Center regions of Cameroon.



Individuals Trained in 2016



Volunteer Success Story

Linking People Living with HIV/AIDS to complementary support services. South-West region

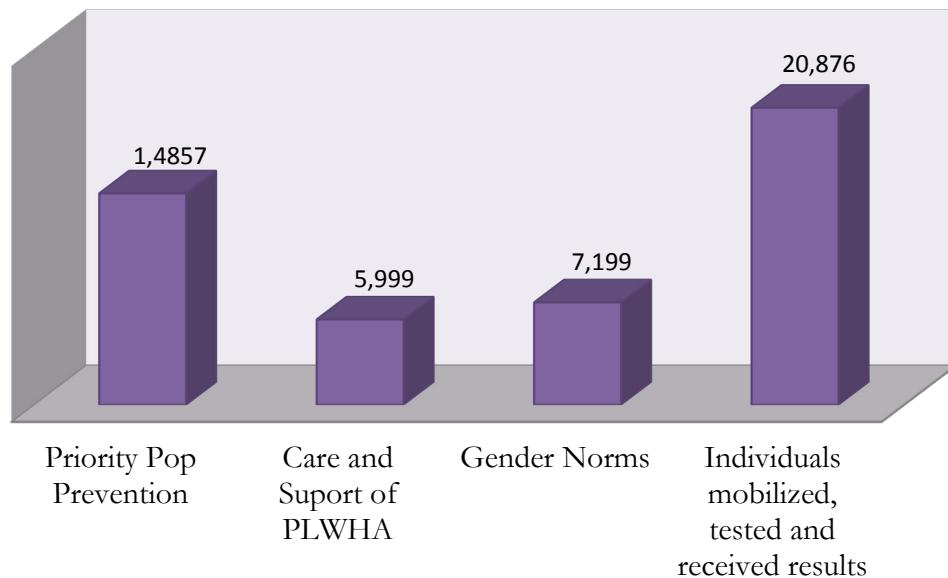
The District Hospital where Peace Corps Volunteer Javaris works serves a very large health area and the services offered there are not always based on a psychosocial approach that is, providing patients with quality life-changing counseling as well as lifesaving drugs. The center once received an HIV pregnant patient in her 8th month. She had infected her last child during breastfeeding as she had issues with her nipples cracking and bleeding during breastfeeding. A mother of four, she was expecting twins but due to insufficient resources she could not afford baby formula. Following an individual need assessment conducted by Javaris, the mother was linked to a local NGO that could provide resources and financial assistance while offering support system for the family with other mothers and families. The mother is now an active member of a support group for women living with HIV. Though treatment centers provide antiretroviral drugs, People Living with HIV/AIDS need to be linked to other services that the facility is unable to provide so as to ensure that holistic care and support services are provided. Peace Corps volunteers are a great resource in identifying local community resources to meet non-clinical needs of clients, thus fostering treatment adherence and retention in care.



Stomp-Out Malaria

Created in 2011, the Stomp-Out Malaria Initiative is aimed at revitalizing the fight against malaria and assisting the Government of Cameroon in reducing the burden of the disease. Volunteers from all sectors are encouraged to participate in the Malaria initiative, promote and document best practices for malaria prevention education.

Achieved in 2016



Volunteer Success Story

Malaria Sensitization Campaign. South-West region

Peace Corps Volunteer Elizabeth organized a community-led bed net hang up campaign with her local health center and resident community health workers. Over 170 persons received a lecture on malaria and 117 nets were hung. In addition, Elizabeth completed a malaria household survey and Grassroot Soccer Malaria Skillz program where she reached 72 children at her local primary school.

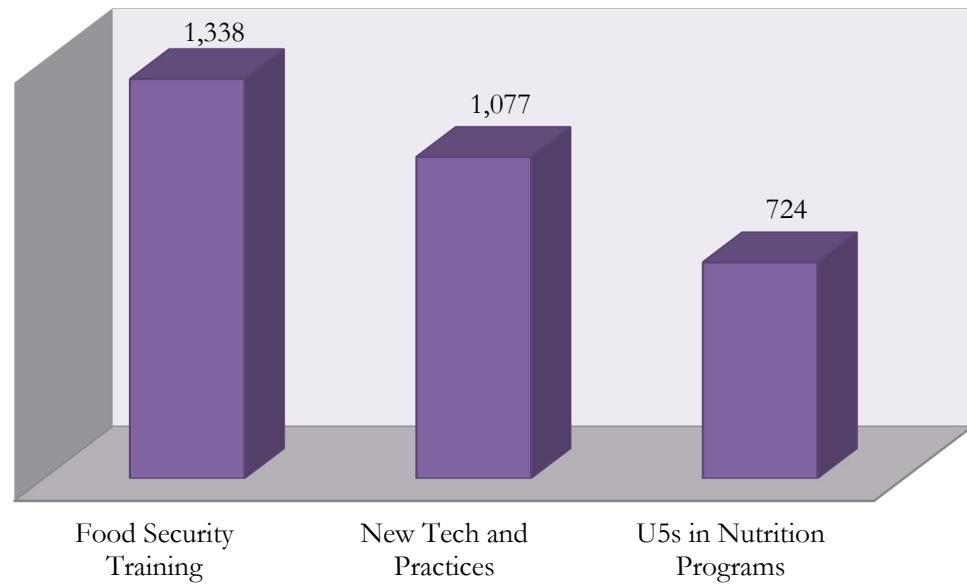


West Africa Food Security Partnership

The goal of the West Africa Food Security Partnership (WAFSP) is to address food insecurity by enabling Peace Corps Volunteers to build grassroots capacity in their communities. This is accomplished through multiple interventions including improved agricultural production, gardening, small animal husbandry, nutrition education, economic development projects, food processing and conservation and promotion of income generating activities.



Achieved 2016



Volunteer Success Story

Using waste to create new sustainable jobs that fight malnutrition,
East region

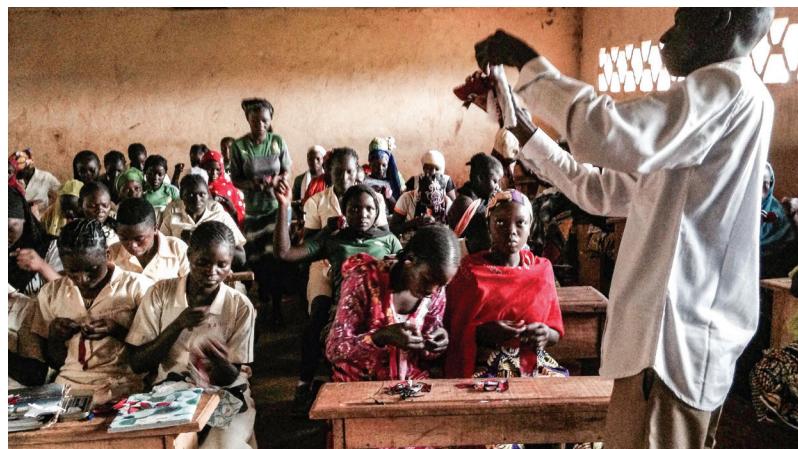
At Peace Corps Volunteer Paul's site, malnutrition, shortage of staple foods during the dry season and lack of sustainable jobs are major development challenges. Local farmers spend considerable amounts on chemical compost each season. However, conversely, a lot of organic waste is discarded along the main roads instead of being used for composting or to help improve soil management.

Paul and his counterpart decided to address these issues using a permaculture approach. Permaculture sees sustainable communities and ecological systems as inherently integrated, and emphasizes stacking-functions: identifying the ways one solution can solve multiple problems. Using discarded wood from the local lumber company, Paul and his counterpart built public compost bins next to the community trash site, and filled them with organic waste and free sawdust from nearby carpenters. In 4 months, these bins produced compost and it was sold to farmers at half the price they normally pay, creating one new job for a Cameroonian who now manages the bins.



Let Girls Learn

Let Girls Learn is an initiative that addresses the constraints that girls face in completing their education and achieving their potential. It aims at producing outcomes that improve opportunities for girls to attain quality education; increase girls' leadership and overall perceived sense of agency and increase community engagement in support of positive, gender-equitable norms that facilitate girls' education and full participation in economic and community life.



Let Girls Learn Grants for 2016

Regions	Number of LGL grants awarded	Individuals benefiting from LGL grants
Adamawa	2	28
North West	3	304
Center	1	77
West	2	113
South West	1	168

Volunteer Success Story

Educating adolescent mothers on reproductive Health., Center region

Peace Corps Volunteer Jodie and her counterparts brought together young adolescent mothers who, after training, formed a dynamic group called “Tantines de Bokito”. This supportive and educative network enables young women to make informed decisions about their reproductive health.

“After giving birth, I was afraid of being isolated. I was wondering how I would be able to make friends. This is the first time I can talk among other girls.” – a participant

The group meets two times a week and actively participates in community education events, individual education with peers, as well as events in schools.

“I believe this group has given young women the confidence to be positive role models for other girls in the future.”-Peace Corps Volunteer Jodie

“I live with my elder sister. At home, I can’t talk as much as I do here. I’m happy to have met youths like me to share our experiences. It helps me grow.” - A Participant

These girls are passionate about making positive changes in their lives as well as becoming amazing role models for other community members.





Our Supporters

Peace Corps mission in Cameroon cannot be achieved without the support of our partners.

We are particularly grateful to:

- The communities in Babadjou and Kombou in the West region; Santa and Mbengwi in the North-West region, who opened their homes to our volunteers during pre-service training.
- The Administrative and security officials of the West and North-West Regions.
- The Cameroonian Government through our ministry partners, specifically: the Ministry of Public Health, The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries, and Animal Husbandry; the Ministry of Secondary Education; the Ministry of Basic Education, the National AIDS Control Committee, and the National Malaria Control Committee.
- The Ku-Bome Fish Breeding and Training Center in Mbengwi for hosting our Agriculture pre-service training.
- UNAIDS, Catholic Relief Services, and the many other international organizations that have continuously been supporting Peace Corps program in Cameroon.
- The NGOs, Common Interest Groups, and community-based organizations which host and collaborate with our Volunteers in the field.

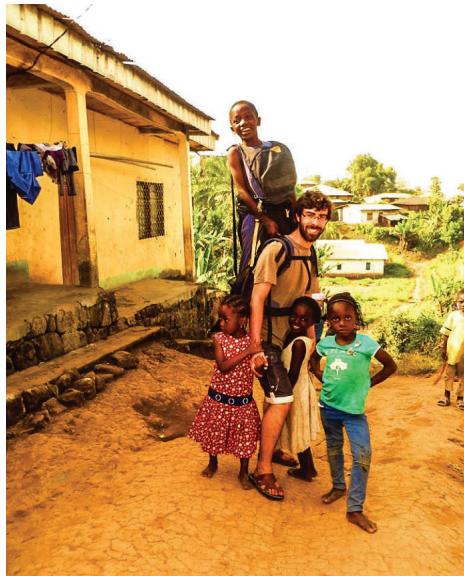
In their own words: What They Wish Americans Knew



"....that it cannot be compared to the USA. Cameroon is a developing country with its positives and negatives and it should not be compared to a developed country like the USA that has one of the world's largest economies by GDP. There is an abundance of assets here that is sometimes ignored or overlooked, because people are too busy comparing the culture, people, and country to the USA. Take time to appreciate what Cameroon has to offer rather than dwell on what may be missing." - Nerly

"You won't become bored. If you are bored, go out and find something to do or someone to interact with! People are easy to converse with and enjoy sitting down to discuss. Find a few people who are good to sit and share a meal or drink over conversation with. They will be your most treasured friends and give you the best ideas."

- Jon



"It is one of the most beautiful places I have ever lived in. The climate is second to none."

- David

"Their resilience. My friends and neighbors are so much stronger than I could ever be. Over the summer, my next door neighbor lost her eldest son in a car accident. But within just a few days, she and her younger children were visiting friends, laughing, and being as kind and generous as ever, with no mention of their loss. I've seen this ability to recover from tragedy in a number of friends and acquaintances, and the strength of these people amazes me every time."

- Lydia





<http://cameroon.peacecorps.gov>



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