

PEACE CORPS IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



ANNUAL REPORT 2012



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We made two major changes in the spring of 2012. First, we moved our training site from the much beloved Kelechek orphanage in Kirgshelk to a orphanage in Voенno-Antonovka in Sokuluk Rayon. We did this because after 18 years in Issyk-Ata Rayon, our loyal host families were getting too used to having Americans around and speaking English instead of Kyrgyz to the trainees. Sokuluk rayon proved to be a great community. There were many challenges with finding new host families and working out transportation systems, but the staff did a wonderful job.

Our second major change was the adoption of new training materials developed by headquarters. We also had a new Training Manager, Director of Program and Training, and several new members of the training staff. Training went well, with one trainee breaking all the records for learning Kyrgyz. He went from Beginner to Advanced in just nine weeks.

Swearing-in for the new K-20 group of 38 Volunteers took place at the American University of Central Asia. American Ambassador Pamela Spratlen administered the Volunteer oath in an auditorium packed with host family members, counterparts, friends, and partners.

You will learn more about the accomplishments of the Volunteers in this report.

Looking forward, 2013 will mark the Peace Corps' 20th year in the Kyrgyz Republic. We plan to celebrate this milestone with a series of events designed to encourage Volunteerism throughout the country.

All of us associated with Peace Corps Kyrgyz Republic, both staff and Volunteers, are proud to be here and to have an opportunity to share in the success of this beautiful country.

Respectfully,



Seth G. Fearey
Country Director

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Cover photo by David Malana, Peace Corps Volunteer. Other photos in this report are by various Volunteers and members of the staff.

To Be a Volunteer

Volunteers agree to serve for 27 months, which includes an average of three months of in-country training and 24 months of Volunteer service.

Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to community service, leadership experience, and a willingness to learn a new language.

Volunteers receive a living allowance that covers housing, food, and incidentals, enabling them to live in a manner similar to the people in their local communities.

Volunteers must successfully complete a rigorous training program that includes learning technical skills, the local culture, and the language that is most appropriate for their site.

OVERVIEW OF GLOBAL PEACE CORPS

The Peace Corps is an independent U.S. Government agency that provides Volunteers to countries requesting assistance around the world. The agency traces its roots and mission to 1960, when 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. Thus, in 1961, President John F. Kennedy officially established the Peace Corps to promote world peace and friendship, and that mission has not changed. Since 1961, over 200,000 Volunteers have served in 139 countries. Today the U.S. Peace Corps is working in 76 countries around the world with more than 9,095 Volunteers, the largest numbers of countries served and Volunteers serving in 30 years. Peace Corps Volunteers around the world are committed to grassroots development by working and living hand-in-hand with local people of countries served in order to achieve the agency's three goals. Those goals are as relevant today as they were 50 years ago:

- Helping people of interested countries in meeting their needs for trained men and women.
- Helping to promote a better understanding of American people on the part of the peoples served.
- Helping to promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of American people.

Volunteers around the world share their time and talents by serving for a two-year commitment to work as teachers, business advisors, youth development specialists, information and technology consultants, health and HIV/AIDS educators and agriculture and environment workers. These Volunteers are women and men, young and old, married and single, and come from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds. They are committed to learning from their host families and partners and integrating themselves into the culture of the country where they serve as well as participating in community designed development and service projects. All Volunteers serve at the invitation of the host country government and work in partnership with a host agency. Funding for the Peace Corps programs around the world is allocated by the United States Congress and comes from the taxes paid by individual American citizens.

The Peace Corps Today

Acting Peace Corps Director:

Carrie Hessler-Radelet

Host countries:

76

Volunteers and Trainees:

8,073

Gender:

62% female, 38% male

Marital status:

93% single, 7% married

Minorities:

22% of Volunteers

Average age:

28

Volunteers over 50:

7% of Volunteers

Peace Corps Approach to Development

The word “development” is used in so many ways that it has come to mean different things to different people. Some speak of housing developments or the development of infrastructure, such as roads and bridges. Others speak of the economic development of countries. The Peace Corps uses the term “development” in human, people-to-people terms: helping people develop the ability to improve their own lives. By working within a human capacity-building framework, Volunteers focus on developing people, not things. The Peace Corps is not a grant making organization; our contribution is the energy, skills, and enthusiasm of our Volunteers, young and old. Our approach focuses on empowering local people to be their own decision-makers and develop the skills they need to carry out those decisions and improve their lives. The legacy of the Volunteers is the skills they transfer and the memories of living and working with people of other cultures.



Volunteers in the Kyrgyz Republic

Officially opened on:

November 5, 1993

Volunteers:

78

Gender:

53% female, 47% male

Marital status:

90% single, 10% married

Minorities:

22% of Volunteers

Average age:

26

Volunteers over 50:

2.5% of Volunteers

Key Government Partners

Ministry of Education and Science

Ministry of Youth, Labor, and
Employment

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Emergency Situations

THE PEACE CORPS IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

It has been almost 20 years since the United States Peace Corps opened in the Kyrgyz Republic in 1993 with an official country agreement signed between the governments of the Kyrgyz Republic and the United States of America. In that time, more than 900 Peace Corps Volunteers have helped over 100,000 people learn English, develop management and leadership skills, engage in environmental protection and build healthy lifestyles. The government-to-government agreement establishes the principal worksites of Volunteers as secondary schools, higher academic institutions, municipal and non-governmental health and environmental agencies and small and medium-size business organizations. The many generations of Volunteers that have served the country have also carried out successful projects in teacher training and HIV/AIDS prevention. These Volunteers helped strengthen community participation by teaching teachers advanced teaching methods and promoting critical thinking, leadership, project planning and implementation, gender education, computers and Internet technology. Volunteers work closely with local counterparts; they do not replace members of the staff.

Peace Corps in the Kyrgyz Republic has three main programs:

- Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)
- Sustainable Organizational and Community Development (SOCD)
- Health Education (HE)

An important theme that underlies many of our programs is a focus on developing youth. Most Volunteers work in secondary schools, participate in summer and winter camps, and teach young people about health, including how to prevent the further spread of HIV.

All Volunteers receive technical training in their program. They learn a language, Kyrgyz or Russian according to where they will be posted, and study Kyrgyz culture.

Peace Corps Volunteers presently work in 41 villages, 10 rayon centers, and 5 major cities in four Oblasts: Talas, Chui, Issyk-Kul and Naryn. The program particularly seeks sites in small or economically



disadvantaged areas. By working both in rural and urban communities, the Peace Corps is able to maximize its potential in the country with a limited amount of human and financial resources.



Towns and villages, where Peace Corps Volunteers have served.

Investment

Through its operations, Peace Corps Kyrgyz Republic directly invests about \$1.4 million per year in the local economy. The majority of these funds are spent on staff compensation and operations. Almost a quarter of the funds goes to Volunteers to pay for housing, food, utilities, and transportation. Other funds go to hotels and transportation services for training events and meetings.

The staff of 33 host country nationals includes trainers, program managers, accountants, doctors, facilities operations, an information systems specialist, guards, drivers, and Volunteer support personnel. Staff members receive continuing training from the Peace Corps, often including travel to other countries. The Peace Corps also provides training in educational techniques for local language and cultural trainers, and in project design and management for counterparts.



In addition, Peace Corps Volunteers help their communities and partner organizations apply for grants for school renovations, libraries, computer technology, summer camps, and more. In 2012 communities received a total of \$163,500 in grants through the Small Projects Assistance (SPA), Volunteer Activities and Support (VAST) and Peace Corps Partnerships (PCPP) programs.



CORE PROGRAMS

English Language Education

Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic experienced difficult economic conditions and a lack of resources to support the transition to a market economy. Because English language skills can provide opportunities to advance careers, and access the information and technology needed to stay up-to-date with developments in all fields, the Ministry of Education and Science has determined that English must play an important role in schools. Therefore, the Ministry has invited the Peace Corps to help build the capacity and skills of local English teachers in rural areas.

TEFL Volunteers work toward four goals:

- **Capacity Building for English teachers.** Team-teach with local English teachers to improve their confidence in English and teaching methods in the classroom. They also train English language teachers in communicative teaching methods to encourage student-centered participatory learning and critical thinking.
- **Capacity Building for Students.** Teach formal student-centered English lessons with local English teachers to help students improve their English language and critical thinking skills. Conduct clubs and other extra-curricular activities to create a safe learning environment for students to practice English.
- **Resource Development.** Help counterparts acquire, adapt, or develop, communicative English language teaching resources to support and implement the national curriculum.
- **Community Development.** Work with community members to identify local needs and develop projects to address them.



These goals were agreed on in an official Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic and the United States Peace Corps that was renewed and signed in November 2011.

The TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) Program develops the English language skills of students and teachers. Peace Corps



Volunteers work as team teachers and teacher trainers, bringing resources and methodologies to the local education system and fostering teacher-to-teacher links to promote the exchange of information on the best teaching methods. Since inception in 1993, more than 556 TEFL Volunteers have served as teachers at 189 secondary schools and 15 regional universities.

Many TEFL Volunteers provide assistance to their schools and communities in establishing or expanding English teaching resource centers, contributing to curriculum development, and production of innovative teaching materials. During the school breaks in summer and winter, TEFL Volunteers help organize and lead language and sports camps for Kyrgyz youth. When school is in session, they teach English lessons, lead English clubs, assist with in-service teacher training, sponsor student newspapers and direct drama performances. They also organize essay and debate contests as well as share information on health topics, information technology, gender issues and other subjects through their English lessons and extra-curricular activities with their students.



TEFL PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Working with English teachers:

- Fifty-nine TEFL Volunteers team-taught English to approximately 2,500 students at 60 secondary schools through the creation of an interactive learning environment and use of contemporary methods and materials. Together with their Counterpart teachers, Volunteers conducted trainings on improving curriculum and lesson planning among teachers in their schools. It included two one-hour sessions covering Curriculum Development and Lesson Planning, as well as warm-up activities and classroom games.
- Fifteen Volunteers organized and conducted a 2-day FORUM ETA's National conference for 100 English teachers throughout the country supported by the American Embassy, Lingua Language School, and the FORUM Association. The goal of the conference was sharing new techniques and methodologies to improve teaching skills of the teachers.
- Two Teacher Trainer Volunteers mentored new FORUM trainers/teachers in Issyk-Kul oblast in trainings in Tyup Rayon and Karakol schools on lesson planning, writing SMART objectives, giving instructions and comprehension check questions. The Volunteers attended the trainings and provided feedback to the mentees.
- Two Teacher Trainer Volunteers conducted a two-day teacher training workshop for 20 English teachers and introduced Teaching Critical Thinking Skills, using Videos to practice Speaking and Listening Skills, and Interactive review activities in teaching English.
- Three Teacher Trainer Volunteers conducted a 22-hour TESOL extensive course for English Department graduate students at the State University named after K. Tynystanov in Karakol. The course gave future English language teachers the skills necessary to use technology and innovative methods in their classroom. The course consisted of micro-teaching, peer feedback and a presentation on assessment in the classroom.
- One Volunteer, together with Bakai-Ata Educational/Methodology Department specialist provide methodology training for the teachers of all subjects in 25 secondary schools in Bakai-Ata rayon in Talas Oblast.
- Three Volunteers teach English at the Bishkek City Prosecutor's Office. They help them enhance their ability to communicate with other foreign judicial professionals, increasing their chances for a promotion and encouraging them to continue their education in the workplace.

Working with students:

- Volunteers conducted various extra-curricular clubs for the students to develop their students' language, critical thinking, problem-solving, self-esteem, and leadership skills.
- Volunteers organized life skills training camps throughout the country for over 600 children to promote youth leadership, volunteerism, HIV/AIDS education and prevention, gender issues awareness, problem solving, and decision-making skills. They co-facilitated ACCESS, Youth Development camps, a TAG (Tech Age Girls) conference, FLEX Pre-Departure Orientation, Youth Theater for Peace, Take Our Children to Work Days, and ACCESS camp activities with local trainers and experts.

Resource Development:

- Four Volunteers and their counterpart teachers acquired new furniture and equipment including desks, chairs, a television, a projector, a computer, a printer/copier/scanner, bookcases and curtains for their new English resource center.
- One Volunteer and her Counterpart opened a methodological center for teachers of all subjects in school # 1 in Bakai Ata village for the TEA program alumni assistance grant.
- Two Volunteers and their counterparts developed a multi-project center for the Issyk-Kul FORUM resource library. The Center provides training and meeting space for community leaders and English language teachers throughout Issyk-Kul oblast.
- A teacher trainer Volunteer in Naryn created reproducible textbooks for use in 10th and 11th form English classes. The books are tailored to Kyrgyzstan and have an easy to follow format for both students and teachers.
- One Volunteer helped the Talas English Teachers Association secure a license for the oblast-wide distribution of a school scheduling software program. The program helps local schools efficiently create school-wide class schedules. The program was paired with the distribution of the trilingual "Teach like a Lion" teacher training manual to create a "school starter kit" for the 2012-2013 school years.
- A PCV raised funds to start a Komuz club in Ugut village in Ak-Talaa Rayon, Naryn. She purchased 8 komuzs and komuz music books. The Volunteer taught a music teacher how to read two musical styles of notation (Western notes and komuz-specific), and to relate them to pitch via a pitch pipe. Nine students have been selected and taught to play komuz.



Sustainable Organizations & Community Development (SOCD)

Since independence, more than 8,000 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have sprung up in the Kyrgyz Republic to address social problems and community needs. Because they represent a significant force and may themselves lack sufficient resources, the Kyrgyz Government has asked the Peace Corps to place Volunteers in selected institutions as business advisors and organization developers.

Today SOCD Volunteers work with NGOs, small businesses and other initiatives. They promote social and economic development at the grassroots level.

SOCD program goals are to:

- increase the capacity of individual community members and service providers,
- assist local institutions in achieving organizational sustainability, and
- foster cross-sector cooperation between NGOs, government entities and private enterprises.

The program strengthens cooperation between local community members and organizations, and enables them to more effectively assess, plan and implement community, social and economic development projects that will improve their quality of life.

Volunteers contribute in three areas:

- **Individual Professional Development.** Develop and strengthen the professional skills of counterparts in organizations, communities and municipal agencies to increase their future opportunities.
- **Organizational Development.** Improve the quality of the services community-based organizations provide by strengthening their organizational structures and planning abilities.
- **Community Development.** Work with community-based organizations, local businesses and governmental organizations to conduct community assessments. Develop and implement projects that promote community engagement and achieve locally identified goals.



SOCD Accomplishments

- Volunteers created booklets and brochures to introduce the activities of their organizations to potential clients, donors and sponsors.
- Volunteers developed or updated websites for their organizations and trained local staff how to maintain them. They also trained them on how to create and implement an electronic inventory system.
- Three Volunteers were involved in Conflict Resolution and Peace Building program with their respective local host agencies.
- Volunteers provided trainings on domestic violence, bride kidnapping and human trafficking to service providers and at-risk persons across Talas and Issyk Kul oblasts.
- Around 10 Volunteers assisted local NGO in holding a summer Felt Handicrafts Festival targeted towards tourists and locals and bringing them together with local handicraft and foodstuff producers. Forty local producers came from the surrounding area and taught buyers about their products. The Volunteers trained the handicraft producers and community members on grant writing and project design.
- One Volunteer conducted a series of ICT trainings for different aged youth.
- Volunteers conducted business trainings for local small business organizations (guest houses and handicraft cooperatives) on marketing, business planning, management, organizational development, pricing, basic accounting.
- With the help of Volunteers, a few young professionals applied for and received scholarships for studying abroad and enhancing professional development. One of them was invited to the International AIDS Conference in Washington D.C.
- Many Volunteers organized Life Skills workshops, professional trainings, critical thinking clubs, and Business English clubs for more than 600 young people in Kyrgyzstan.



Health Education (HE)

In June 2012, the Kyrgyz Government approved a new National Health Reform Program in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2012-2016, called “Den Sooluk”. After launching this national health reform program, the Ministry of Health (MOH) invited the Peace Corps to participate in a range of activities including extending the Ministry’s work with communities through the “Community Action for Health” program, involving urban populations in health promotion and disease prevention, and enhancing the role of media in the promotion of health.

The Peace Corps program has three main goals:

- **Health Promotion.** Provide adults, youth, and children with greater access to quality preventive health information that promotes positive health practices.
- **Building Capacity.** Help service providers increase their capacity to promote healthy practices that respond to the changing health and social needs of Kyrgyzstan.
- **Healthy Lifestyles.** Encourage communities to actively engage in activities that promote healthy lifestyles and practices.

The first group of Health Volunteers began work in 2007. They work with a wide variety of organizations in the Kyrgyz Republic. Some Volunteers work at the regional or grassroots level in health promotion units in towns or villages across the country. Others work in health institutions, local health-promotion schools, NGOs or other health-focused community-based organizations.

The strategy for placing Health Education PCVs changed after a review of Volunteer recommendations and an analysis of their achievements. Currently 70% of the HE PCVs are placed in sites in cities, district villages, and only 30% are placed in small villages, representing a shift from 50% in cities and 50% in small villages. A new type of site was recently developed to work with water sanitation associations and with maternity sections in oblast hospitals. A PCV working group was organized and 10 key health topics for Volunteers were selected.



UNICEF and UNFPA agreed to use Volunteers as outreach resource volunteers for improving knowledge and practices in their health



education areas and agreed to provide PCVs with training materials. The newly focused health education program has been developed cooperatively with the Regional Health Program supported by the German International Agency for Cooperation.

Volunteers work with their counterparts to increase the awareness and understanding of healthy lifestyles and practices among the people of the Kyrgyz Republic. They do this by building the professional capacity of trained health professionals and educators, by improving access to health information and community awareness programs, and by establishing preventive health practices. In addition, the project supports government and non-government initiatives which promote healthy lifestyles and educates communities on issues of health that affect them. All Volunteers have the opportunity to participate in a Peace Corps initiative to teach life skills to teachers, students and youth. They organize camps for children, and they work at schools, youth service center and community groups to provide training and to build awareness of health issues such as dental hygiene, HIV/AIDS, youth reproductive health and women's health.





CROSS CUTTING PROGRAMS

HIV/AIDS Prevention

In 2007, Peace Corps Kyrgyz Republic began implementing the PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) HIV/AIDS prevention program to prevent new HIV infections and support care and treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS. Since then, funding has increased, from \$20,000 to \$125,000. These funds support Volunteers' and their counterparts' joint efforts to raise awareness and combat major misconceptions about HIV/AIDS.

Using PEPFAR resources, the Peace Corps/Kyrgyz Republic program aims to contribute to the Kyrgyz National Strategic Program on HIV/AIDS by empowering communities to implement HIV education programs focused especially on youth and educators in small towns and villages throughout Kyrgyz Republic.

PEPFAR activities include:

- Conducting trainings for Volunteers and their local partners (students, parents, teachers, health and social workers) on HIV and drug use prevention, behavior change, gender aspects of HIV, combating stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV and affected by HIV.
- Organizing community-wide events, such as HIV awareness concerts, World AIDS Day programs, planting trees in memory of those who died of AIDS, organizing HIV-themed marathons, and creating murals on buildings.
- Organizing local HIV training centers run by host country national service providers who have gone through HIV training. Besides literature on HIV, these centers offer regular training to students and teachers on topics related to HIV and healthy lifestyles.
- Creating a team of youth peer educators and peer educator clubs to discuss HIV and healthy lifestyles.
- Organizing drama performances for youth.
- Setting up information tents and organizing mobile consultation points.
- Holding life skills based HIV-related summer camps.



HIV/AIDS Accomplishments

- Forty-two Peace Corps Volunteers were involved in HIV/AIDS activities in 2012. They reached 2,600 youth and adults with HIV-education and prevention activities, trained 100 peer-educators and 200 service providers (social workers and school teachers).
- VAST (Volunteer Activities Support and Training) grant Program supported 24 community projects totaling \$43,500. These grants supported:
 - 4 youth camps focused on HIV, life skills, leadership and empowerment of youth;
 - 4 peer education trainings
 - 2 trainings/seminars for service providers (social workers, village health committee members, school teachers);
 - 3 parent-teen seminars of HIV and reproductive health;
 - 10 HIV and life skills educational seminars for youth.
- Chui PCVs organized a youth camp training where they focused specifically on teachers of high schools in 7 Rayons of Chui oblast with the aim of promoting HIV/AIDS awareness, and dispelling myths about HIV/AIDS. After the training, teachers developed posters and slogans that were displayed in the entrances of their schools to deliver a message about the information they acquired at the training.
- A PCV and a local health worker in one of the villages of Naryn oblast educated young leaders in their community about the biology and transmission of HIV/AIDS. They developed an activity to demonstrate the negative effect of stigmatizing HIV-positive people using a Keith Haring murals. Keith Haring was a famous New York graffiti artist living with HIV/AIDS who painted murals in subway tunnels. His works contained information about HIV and anti-stigmatizing ideas. By painting these murals, young people experienced creative expression and learned how art can be used to achieve changes in attitudes towards people living with HIV/AIDS.



Community Development

The **Small Project Assistance (SPA)** program provides support for small-scale community grants and targeted skills training for men, women, boys, and girls in grassroots organizations and communities around the world. The program is a partnership between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Peace Corps, originally established in 1983.

The SPA program increases the capacity of local communities to conduct low-cost, grassroots level, sustainable, development. The program works toward this objective through grants and field assistance. Grants provide small sums of capital for community-initiated, sustainable, projects through a competitive process designed to select the most feasible and sustainable projects. To enhance the sustainability of these small projects, skills training can be provided to host country and community counterparts through targeted training workshops. In 2012, with the aid of almost \$85,500 in SPA funds, Volunteers and their counterparts helped community organizations implement projects that improve facilities, repair unsanitary conditions, improve health, address environmental issues, promote the safety of the children, and enhance the training capabilities of hospitals, kindergartens and secondary schools. Community members helped build two outhouses, one for a school and one for an elder house, and three playgrounds. In addition, a hospital conference room and a school for children with disabilities were renovated. More than 50 English language resource centers have been developed through SPA funds over the last 5 years. Examples of outstanding projects accomplished in 2012 are:

- Bathrooms reconstruction projects in secondary schools
- Livestock hygiene facility rehabilitation and training project
- Series of professional trainings for adults
- Diabetes prevention project in Bakay-Ata rayon, Talas oblast
- Textbooks for schools projects throughout country
- Stop the racketeering education project in Issyk-Kul oblast
- Building greenhouses in communities





The **Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP)** connects interested groups or individuals to the pressing needs in developing communities where Peace Corps Volunteers serve. PCPP does not directly fund projects, but serves as a link to groups, foundations, service organizations, and individuals wanting to contribute to the valuable work Volunteers do within their host communities. Grants range in size from a few hundred dollars to several thousand, averaging \$2,500 each.

In the Kyrgyz Republic, over 170 PCPP projects have been implemented in the last five years. In 2012, donations totaled \$35,000 in support of 15 projects. The majority of the projects were directed towards creating English language resource centers, youth centers and American culture centers. Volunteers also used the funds to conduct environmental clean-up events, organizing boys and girls summer leadership camps, conducting trainings for teachers and tourism service providers, setting up a women's sewing cooperative, and building a greenhouse.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GenEq)

The Women in Development (WID) committee of Volunteers was first formed in June of 2005 in Peace Corps/Kyrgyz Republic. In recent years it has come to be known as the GenEq committee to reflect the recognition that men's and women's issues are inter-related.

Peace Corps Volunteers have taken an active stance in working with host country nationals to explore how gender issues affect development in the Kyrgyz Republic and to disseminate useful information to fellow Volunteers.

One of the most useful ways to pass along information is through project booklets. For example, the Bride Kidnapping Toolkit was distributed to every member of one Volunteer group along with an orientation session. These booklets contain information and history on non-consensual bride kidnapping, a still common, though outlawed practice, in rural Kyrgyzstan. It also contains lesson plans, multimedia tools and tips on how to approach discussions on this sensitive subject. This toolkit was developed by local Kyrgyz people and





Volunteers. It has been shared through the GenEq network of Peace Corps.

GenEq Accomplishments in 2012:

- Training of trainers for the Mom's Clubs nutrition, fitness, and reproductive health program.
- Gender and HIV conference in February 2012.
- Take our Children to Work Days in all four oblasts by oblast coordinators.
- Series of trainings on bride kidnapping using skits, plays, and interviews.
- A Domestic Violence Toolkit was developed for working with militia, local crisis centers, and communities. It is available in Kyrgyz, Russian, and English.
- Gender Conferences were held in all 4 oblasts where we have Volunteers.
- Assisted UN Women with the implementation of their programs in Women Entrepreneurship and Peace and Conflict Resolution at the community level.
- GLOW and TOBE summer camps on life skills, leadership, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS held in 4 oblasts were hugely popular with young people.



The Peace Corps is a non-political and non-religious organization of the U.S. Government that seeks to promote peace and friendship among peoples of different nationalities and cultures. Since President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps by executive order on March 1, 1961, more than 210,000 Americans have served in 139 host countries. Today, 8,073 volunteers are working with local communities in 76 host countries in agriculture, community economic development, education, environment, health and youth in development. Peace Corps volunteers must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age. Peace Corps service is a 27-month commitment and the agency's mission is to promote world peace and friendship and a better understanding between Americans and people of other countries.

Visit www.peacecorps.gov for more information.

This report is not intended to cover all activities implemented by the Peace Corps in the Kyrgyz Republic and merely represents a key snapshot of Peace Corps Kyrgyz Republic in-country programs and activities.

For more information about Peace Corps Kyrgyz Republic, please contact Mahabat Sultanbekova, External Resources Coordinator at 996-312-650-494 x103.

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