

**US Peace Corps in Ukraine  
Annual Report  
2009**



# US Peace Corps in Ukraine

2009 marks the 17th year of service to the Ukrainian people by Peace Corps Volunteers. Peace Corps' partnership with Ukrainian government and institutions and organizations began in May 1992. In support of the Ukrainian Government's goals of entry into the global community, U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers have offered practical language, management and youth development skills education.

Over the past 17 years, Volunteers have taught more than 100,000 Ukrainians English, management skills, economics, ecology, healthy lifestyles and civics. Their principal worksites are secondary schools and nongovernmental organizations. Many Volunteers have also carried out projects in teacher training and helped to strengthen community participation in civil society by teaching critical thinking, leadership, project planning and implementation, gender education, computers and internet technology.

As Peace Corps Volunteers work in collaboration with host organizations and counterparts, this annual report demonstrates the cooperation of many government partners, organizations and individuals across Ukraine who have made possible and productive the service of over 2300 Volunteers in Ukraine.





● Towns and villages, where US Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 2009

With 285 Volunteers currently serving in Ukraine, Peace Corps' Ukraine program is the largest in 73 countries where Peace Corps operates.

The three goals of Peace Corps in Ukraine are:

- To help the people of Ukraine to meet their needs for technical expertise;
- To help promote a better understanding of the American people on the part of Ukrainians;
- To help promote a better understanding of the Ukrainian people on the part of Americans.

Funding for the Peace Corps program in Ukraine is allocated by the United States Congress and

comes from the taxes paid by individual American citizens. Peace Corps Ukraine currently has three main projects: Teaching English as a Foreign Language, Community Development, and Youth Development. In addition to these 3 main directions, Peace Corps Ukraine also has a specially targeted effort to educate young people on how to prevent the further spread of HIV and reduce stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Peace Corps Volunteers presently work in 215 towns and villages in all Ukrainian oblasts. Peace Corps continually seeks to maintain a balance of Volunteers in all of Ukraine's regions. The program particularly seeks placement of Volunteers in small or economically disadvantaged areas.

# English Language Education

The Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) project develops the English language skills of Ukrainian students and teachers. Volunteers work as English teachers and English teacher trainers, bringing resources and methodologies to the Ukrainian educational system and fostering teacher-to-teacher links to promote the exchange of information on the best teaching methods.

Many TEFL Volunteers provide assistance to their schools and communities in establishing or expanding English teaching resource centers and contributing to curriculum development and the production of innovative English teaching materials. During the summer, TEFL Volunteers help organize and lead language and sports camps for Ukrainian youth. When school is in session, they participate in English clubs; assist with in-service teacher training; sponsor student newspapers; organize essay and debate contests; and share information on health topics, information technology, gender issues, and many other subjects through their English lessons and extracurricular activities with their students.



TEFL Volunteers have four goals:

**Goal 1:** Ukrainian secondary school and university/college students at all levels will develop self-confidence and empowerment through the use of the English language.

**2009 Results:** 106 TEFL Volunteers taught English and related subjects to approximately 14,150 Ukrainian students at secondary schools. 20 TEFL University Volunteers taught 2,500 students at universities and colleges. Through the creation of an interactive learning environment and use of contemporary methods and materials, Volunteers enhanced communication abilities of students as well as encouraged independent thinking and problem solving.

**Goal 2:** Ukrainian teachers will provide better English language education by utilizing innovative techniques and applying improved conversational skills.

**2009 Results:** 130 Volunteers actively participated in teacher training by planning and conducting methodological seminars promoting the use of the communicative approach to foreign language instruction in their sites and their respective communities. Four Volunteers who served at oblast re-certification institutes conducted

long-term trainings, workshops and seminars to 1800 local teachers focusing on the communicative methods and the language acquisition.

**Goal 3:** Ukrainian English teachers in collaboration with Peace Corps Volunteers will enhance and/or produce English language curriculum materials for schools and universities.

**2009 Results:** 640 teachers and 12,450 students have access to modern supplemental materials in their classrooms. 17 Volunteers supported community efforts to improve English language education and established teacher development resource centers equipped with modern resources and technology.

**Goal 4:** Ukrainians in collaboration with Peace Corps Volunteers will take an active role in community projects aimed at the betterment of local communities.

**2009 Results:** As a result of Volunteer initiated summer schools, discussion clubs, sports groups and debate tournaments, over 4,000 young Ukrainians have been exposed to community awareness issues and training in leadership skills, civic responsibility, and healthy lifestyles.



# Youth Development

The Youth Development Project focuses on providing education and skills to youth that will improve their ability to lead healthy lives, obtain remunerative employment, and be active and responsible citizens of Ukraine. The focus group is young people aged 12-22 from small towns and villages.

Youth Development Volunteers offer young people in-school lessons and extracurricular activities. They conduct community projects aimed at preventing substance abuse and the spread of HIV, and promoting a healthy lifestyle. They help youth develop skills in information technology, business, leadership, civics, ecology, and career development. Volunteers and their Ukrainian colleagues organize summer camps promoting active citizenry, initiate journalism programs, implement Big Brother/Big Sister programs mentoring orphans and disadvantaged youth and conduct educational seminars for teachers.

Volunteers are based at schools and cooperate with local partners such as youth centers, cultural organizations, Departments of family, youth and sport, Centers of social services for youth, Children's Services, youth nongovernmental organizations and boarding schools.



YD Volunteers have three goals:

**Goal 1:** Youth will gain more opportunities for success in their social and professional lives.

**2009 Results:** Volunteers in collaboration with their counterparts taught 6094 secondary school students and organized extracurricular clubs for 1920 participants addressing crucial life skills.

Through interaction with Peace Corps Volunteers, the students improved their knowledge and skills in such areas as prevention of substance abuse and the spread of HIV, achieving a healthy lifestyle and effective communication.

**Goal 2:** Youth will take a proactive role in addressing community and youth development issues.

**2009 Results:** Volunteers in collaboration with their counterparts conducted civic trainings for 1066 youth. The students increased their self-esteem, knowledge about democracy, active citizenship and ability to advocate for their rights.

Volunteers taught volunteerism and service learning approach to 785 youth and organized 41 community

benefiting projects, thus increasing young people's civic awareness and motivating them to an active role in their communities.

**Goal 3:** Service providers will develop or improve youth extracurricular methodology, curriculum and programs for furthering youth empowerment.

**2009 Results:** Volunteers have conducted "open lessons" and held training seminars for 226 teachers. Volunteers held Project Design and Management trainings for local government social workers and staff of interested NGOs. Volunteers and their counterparts established nine resource centers that included additional educational materials like modern books, DVDs/CDs, software and necessary equipment to support local teachers and encourage them to be more active in their schools and communities.



# Community Development

Community Development Volunteers work primarily at non-governmental and charitable organizations (NGOs) but also at local municipalities, libraries, museums in partnership with local government bodies, businesses, and educational institutions. They promote social and economic development at the grass-root level. Volunteers' goals are to increase the capacity of individual community members and service providers, to assist local institutions in achieving organizational sustainability, and to foster cross-sector cooperation between NGOs, government entities and private enterprises.

The Project's overarching goal is to help establish new and strengthen existing cooperation between community members and groups, to enable them to more effectively assess, plan and implement community, social and economic development.



YD Volunteers have three goals:

**Goal 1:** Individuals and service providers, through formal and informal meetings, consultations and trainings, will increase their knowledge and skills needed to enable them to improve the quality of their lives.

**2009 Results:** Volunteers and their Counterparts conducted trainings and seminars on Career Development, Job Search Techniques and Professional Skills Development. As a result of these activities, 728 beneficiaries acquired new skill strengthening their potential as employees.

As a social issues awareness component, Volunteers together with their Counterparts, conducted legal awareness trainings/campaigns on human rights awareness, democratic values of diversity, tolerance, and freedom of speech. As a result of these activities, more than 8000 community members all over Ukraine increased their awareness of urgent social issues of Ukraine and almost 3000 people became actively involved in resolving these issues.

**Goal 2:** Local organizations will increase their capacity to sustain their operations and take a leading role in local community development processes.

**2009 Results:** Volunteers and their Counterparts assisted their hosting and other community organizations in various aspects of organizational development, particularly in improving their planning processes, organizational structure, management processes.

As a result of these activities, 35 organizations created strategic, project, or financial plans, and 26 organizations improved their management process through trainings and new technologies implementation. Almost 50 organizations established new or extended existing partnership networks.

**Goal 3:** Community members will increase their participation in determining, designing and implementing projects that address their community needs and opportunities for development.

**2009 Results:** 36 communities/ community groups developed a vision and/or plan for local development, and 48 local community-driven and local needs based sustainable projects were successfully designed and implemented.



# Cross Cutting Initiative: HIV/AIDS Prevention

Peace Corps/Ukraine began implementing its HIV/AIDS prevention program in Ukraine in 1997. Volunteers from all three projects and their counterparts raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and help combat stigma and discrimination of the people living with the virus. Since 2005, these efforts have been scaled up with the financial support of the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), launched in 2003 to prevent new HIV infections and support care and treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Using PEPFAR resources, Peace Corps Ukraine contributes to the Ukraine National Strategic Program on HIV/AIDS by empowering communities to implement HIV prevention projects throughout the country.



In 2009, the following activities have been completed within the framework of the PEPFAR project:

- Conducting trainings for NGO leaders, social workers, peer educators;
- Organizing community-wide events, such as HIV awareness concerts, world AIDS days, planting memorial gardens, organizing HIV-themed marathons;
- Organizing local HIV training centers run by Ukrainian service providers who have gone through HIV training. Besides literature on HIV, these centers offer regular trainings for students and teachers on various topics related to HIV and healthy lifestyles;
- Creating youth peer educators' clubs to discuss HIV and healthy lifestyles;
- Organizing drama performances for youth;
- Setting up information tents and organizing mobile consultation points;
- Holding HIV-related summer camps for peer educators.

Examples of the many projects implemented in 2009 include:

- 3 trainings on HIV and injection drug use prevention for Peace Corps Volunteers and their Ukrainian counterparts. They participated in sessions on HIV biology/transmission, negative effects of drug use and ways to discuss risky behaviors with teenagers.
- 41 small funds projects were funded for an average cost of \$1500 each.
- The Cure newsletter has been produced by the Volunteer HIV/AIDS working group.
- 25 trainings for service providers were conducted at Volunteer sites by national experts in HIV/AIDS.

## Looking ahead to 2010

250 new Volunteers expected to arrive in Ukraine

- 35 Community Economic Development Volunteers
- 40 Youth Development Volunteers
- 175 Teaching English as a Foreign Language Volunteers

## Partners:

- Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
- Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of Ukraine
- Ministry of Economy of Ukraine



**Peace Corps** is a non-political and non-religious organization of the US Government that seeks to promote peace and friendship among peoples of different nationalities and cultures. For more than four decades, Peace Corps has provided technical assistance in 139 countries through the implementation of programs in education, business development, environmental protection, agriculture, and health.

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