



PEACE CORPS IN THE PHILIPPINES

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Currently Peace Corps Philippines has about 137 Volunteers aged 21 - 68 working in the following three areas: Education; Children, Youth and Family (CYF); Coastal Resource Management (CRM). In addition, Peace Corps Philippines manages a Peace Corps Response Program (short-term assignments of approximately seven months). 75 Trainees will arrive on July 3, 2016 to begin their 27 month service. They will undergo 10.5 weeks of technical, language, and cultural training and will be sworn-in on September 14, 2016.

Priorities:

- **Education:** In 2006, the Philippine Department of Education asked the Peace Corps to play a larger role in the Department's efforts to reverse the downward trend in English fluency among Filipinos. In response, Peace Corps Philippines has designed its program such that Education Volunteers co-teach with Filipino teachers in elementary schools, high schools, Alternative Learning System centers (ALS), colleges, and universities. Volunteers work to improve English language proficiency, raise academic performance of students, and increase school community participation. They assist in curriculum development, enhance libraries, and improve reading abilities of students. Volunteers also organize teacher-training programs to provide alternative teaching methodologies for Filipino teachers focusing on communicative language teaching skills. They serve in both classrooms with more formal educational settings as well as community learning centers employing alternative learning systems.
- **Children, Youth and Family (CYF):** Children, Youth and Family (CYF) Volunteers work with the poorest and most disadvantaged segment of Philippines society. Volunteers serve as youth development facilitators, youth coaches/mentors and college counselors. The CYF project works closely with our government partner, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in implementing the National Government's flagship project on poverty alleviation - the Conditional Cash Transfer program (CCT), popularly known as Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and the Expanded Students Grant-in-Aid Program for Poverty Alleviation ESGP-PA). Volunteers also work in DSWD accredited Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) serving vulnerable children and youth.

- Coastal Resource Management (CRM):** Coastal Resource Management (CRM) Volunteers assist coastal communities' efforts to implement restoration and protection of marine habitats and to enhance food security through participative community action on fisheries management. Volunteers work with Local Government Units to implement integrated CRM plans, assist communities with environmental education and training, and establish the basis for legal protection of fish stocks and marine habitats. Although environmental education is a core function of the CRM sector, it is very much people-centered and participatory in its approach to conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources. Volunteer projects include restoration of degraded coastal and marine habitats, planning and hosting environmental camps and clubs, development of educational materials, and assisting in the formulation of conservation policies and reforms.
- Peace Corps Response:** Peace Corps Response Volunteers (PCRVs) are short-term (3 months to one year) and generally more technically advanced Volunteers. They support Peace Corps' core strategic areas of programming. In the Philippines, the five program areas where the Peace Corps Response program provides assistance are: (1) disaster risk reduction and management; (2) environment; (3) education; (4) child, youth and family and (5) HIV/AIDS. Since 2007, a total of 109 Peace Corps Response Volunteers (PCRVs) have worked in a variety of specialized positions across organizations within the national & local government agencies and NGOs. For FY 2015, we significantly increased our target input to 40 and plan to maintain this number for the future.
- Padayon Mindanao:** Padayon Mindanao is a three-year USAID-funded Education Project. It is designed to support peace building in select conflict-affected areas in Mindanao, and various Peace Corps sites by improving life skills of vulnerable youth through the implementation of leadership camps and literacy summits focused on promoting civic engagement and peace education. Padayon Mindanao supports Philippine Government priorities of improved literacy and peace building in Mindanao, which are challenged by the lack of opportunities at the community level - where the U.S. Peace Corps has a well-established niche and strong partner relationships with Philippine government agencies. From 2012 to 2015, a total of 259 ALS teachers and 274 youth leaders/peer educators from various parts of the country, particularly the contiguous communities of Basilan, Isabela City, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Cotabato, Zamboanga, Marawi and Kidapawan, have benefitted from the project.