**Supporting Statement For**

**Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey (Part B)**

**B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods**

**B1. Describe (including numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g., establishments, State and local government units, households, or persons) in the universe covered by the collection and in the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form for the universe as a whole and for each of the strata in the proposed sample. Indicate expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection had been conducted previously, include the actual response rate achieved during the last collection.**

The potential respondent universe for the *Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey* consists of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) whose initial term of service ended in calendar year 1999, 2009, 2014, or 2017, corresponding to 20, 10, 5, and 2 years before an assumed December 31, 2019 cutoff date for inclusion in a 2020 survey administration. This cohort design, focusing on Returned Volunteers who served in certain years rather than the full universe of Returned Volunteers, was employed in order to (1) minimize burden to the overall RPCV population while maximizing the ability to examine issues of career progression with respondents who are generally still of working age, and (2) increase the efficiency of contact information collection and validation by targeting resources against a smaller subset of potential respondents. Sample size calculations are based on the Volunteers aligned to the cohorts above who meet the following criteria:

* + Initial service was in a 2-year Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) program
  + Initial service length was greater than zero days, defined as having a recorded oath date prior to end of service;
  + Not currently in service in any Peace Corps program
  + Not deceased

For each cohort, sample eligibility was restricted to Volunteers undertaking their initial service. A small percentage of Peace Corps Volunteers will serve in the Peace Corps more than once; as such, the decision to serve again may be considered an outcome of initial service. Thus, in order to investigate the link between Peace Corps Volunteer service and outcomes fairly, the decision was made to restrict cohort eligibility to those returning from their initial service. Respondents who are selected for a given cohort but have served in the Peace Corps in subsequent years will be identified as having multiple services for the purposes of analysis, but will be asked to respond to the survey in the context of their initial service. In a similar vein, potential respondents were excluded if their initial service was in a Peace Corps program other than the 2-year PCV program. The vast majority of Volunteers’ initial service was in a 2-year PCV program, and most of Peace Corps’ resources are aligned to the selection, training, support, and servicing of those Volunteers and Returned Volunteers. Finally, potential respondents currently serving in a Peace Corps program were excluded in order to conform to the mandate that the survey consider “former” Volunteers.

The estimated universe of eligible participants is stratified by time since last service (20, 10, 5, and 2 years; corresponding to Volunteers who returned in 1999, 2009, 2014, and 2017, respectively). Exhibit B1 shows the size of the universe.

**Exhibit B1. Estimated Universe Size for the *Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Cohort Year** | **Eligible Participants** |
| 1999 | 3,251 |
| 2009 | 3,918 |
| 2014 | 3,844 |
| 2017 | 3,336 |
| Total | 14,349 |

The sample will be drawn from the universe as described in Exhibit B1 above. The current availability and quality of contact information for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers will be a major challenge to implementing this survey successfully. Among the eligible population, current email addresses are available for 77% of participants (38% of 1999 participants, 84% of 2009 participants, 89% of 2014 participants, and 91% of 2017 participants). Email addresses are considered current if Returned Volunteers have chosen to disclose this information to the Peace Corps, typically when accessing Returned Volunteer Services. Email addresses are also collected during the initial Peace Corps application process. Thus, the actual rates of email address coverage are likely to be higher than described here, especially for potential participants from more recent cohorts since their email addresses at the time of initial application are more likely to still be valid. Mailing addresses are available for 99.9% of participants, though these records were collected during the original Volunteer application process.

One option would be to limit the sampling frame to potential participants with a known current email address. However, since the acquisition of an up-to-date email address currently requires that Returned Volunteers engage with the Peace Corps at some point post-service, limiting the sampling frame in the manner described may result in a sample prone to self-selection bias in favor of potential respondents who are inclined to stay connected with the Peace Corps. In other words, the current coverage gaps in contact list information may not be randomly distributed, so limiting the sampling frame to participants with known current email addresses may not be appropriate.

Thus, prior to the survey launch, we intend to select the sample independently of contact list availability. Once the sample participants are drawn, contact information gaps for selected participants who do not have current email addresses on record will be resolved through the use of a contact information verification and enhancement provider. Section B3 describes the steps to be taken to improve the quality of contact information and increase the likelihood of successfully reaching a participant.

The desired sample sizes for the four cohort strata are shown in Exhibit B2, below.

**Exhibit B2. Desired Sample Size for the *Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Cohort Year** | **Sample Size** |
| 1999 | 226 |
| 2009 | 272 |
| 2014 | 267 |
| 2017 | 232 |
| Total | 997 |

Note: Completed surveys

***Expected Response Rate***

The most recent systematic and comprehensive collection of survey data concerning the Returned Peace Corps Volunteer experience occurred in a survey conducted by the Peace Corps in 1996. This survey achieved a response rate of 54%. We hope to receive a similar response rate. However, we have chosen more conservative estimates of response rate by utilizing the response rates achieved in the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) *2016 AmeriCorps Alumni Outcomes Survey* as a proxy in estimating response rates for the Peace Corps survey. The estimated number of survey invitations required to achieve the desired sample size in each cohort are listed below in Exhibit B3.

**Exhibit B3. Estimated number of invitations required for the *Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cohort Year** | **Desired Sample Size** | **Estimated Response Rate** | **Estimated Number of Invitations Required** |
| 1999 | 226 | 10.0%\* | 2,260 |
| 2009 | 272 | 14.1% | 1,930 |
| 2014 | 267 | 24.4% | 1,095 |
| 2017 | 232 | 24.7% | 940 |
| Total | 997 | 16.0% | 6,225 |

\* Estimates of response rate were taken from the actual response rates achieved in the CNCS *2016 AmeriCorps Alumni Outcomes Survey.* That survey did not have a 20 year cohort (corresponding to Cohort Year 1999), so we are making an assumption that the response rate for the 20 year cohort will be lower than that of the 10 year cohort.

***Actual Response Rate in Previous Data Collection***

This is a new data collection.

**B2. Describe the procedures for the collection of information, including: Statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection; Estimation procedure; Degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification; Unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures; and any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.**

***Statistical Methodology for Stratification and Sample Selection***

The desired sample sizes shown in Exhibits B2 and B3 were calculated using proportional allocation. Overall sample size is determined by:

*n = (NZ2P(1-P)) / (d2(N-1) + Z2P(1-P))*

where

*n* = Total sample size (with finite population correction)

*N* = Total population size

*Z* = Z statistic (here, set for a level of confidence of 95%, or Z = 1.96)

*P* = Expected proportion (here, set to 0.5)

*d* = Precision (here, set to a margin of error of 3%, or d = 0.03)

Sampling fractions (*nh*) are then allocated to the four strata formed from the four cohorts (1999, 2009, 2014, 2017). For a given stratum, the sampling fraction is determined by:

*nh = ( Nh / N ) \* n*

where

*nh* = Sample size for stratum *h*

*Nh* = Population size for stratum *h*

*N* = Total population size

*n* = Total sample size

Within each cohort, the sample will be selected using a systematic random sample with implicit stratification. The sampling frame will be sorted by available demographic and programmatic data, with missing data included (e.g., sex would consist of female, male, and missing) and, at the lowest level, by a randomly generated number. This procedure reduces design effects compared to a simple random sample by ensuring proportional representation of groups within the stratum.

Exhibit B4, below, summarizes the previous tables, showing the relationship among (a) the universe of eligible participants, (b) the required sample to be drawn in order to reach (c) the desired number of completed surveys.

**Exhibit B4. Population and sample overview for the *Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cohort Year** | **Eligible Participants** | **Estimated Number of Invitations Required** | **Desired Sample Size** |
| 1999 | 3,251 | 2,260 | 226 |
| 2009 | 3,918 | 1,930 | 272 |
| 2014 | 3,844 | 1,095 | 267 |
| 2017 | 3,336 | 940 | 232 |
| Total | 14,349 | 6,225 | 997 |

***Estimation Procedures***

In order to obtain valid survey estimates, estimation will be done using properly weighted survey data. The weight to be applied to each respondent is a function of the overall probability of selection, and appropriate nonresponse and post-stratification ratio adjustments. Thus, a respondent’s weight may incorporate the following adjustments:

* Sampling design – The planned sampling rate of each cohort differs due to differences in estimated response rate. Thus, results may have to be adjusted to account for actual survey participation relative to expected survey participation for a given cohort. Population size adjustment is implicit since initial cohort sample allocation utilized a proportional approach.
* Nonresponse – Furthermore, results will be adjusted for differences in participation levels within cohorts, due to demographics and other characteristics. Logistic regression models will be used to calculate propensity scores of survey response driven by respondent demographics and other characteristics available for analysis. These scores will be used to create nonresponse weighting classes for statistical adjustment.

Nonresponse weights will be combined with sampling design weights to create the final weights for the analysis. As a final step, a raking algorithm such as Random Iterative Method (RIM) will be employed to adjust the calculated weights to insure that weighted totals match those of the population on the basis of demographic makeup and other characteristics.

***Degree of Accuracy***

A minimum estimate of 997 completed responses will be collected. Assuming there is no design effect, with a proportion estimate of 50%, point estimates based on the total sample will have a margin of error of about 3.0% at a 95% level of significance. The accuracy and reliability of the information collected in this survey will be adequate for point estimates based on the total Peace Corps survey sample. Comparisons involving point estimates of subsets of the total Peace Corps survey sample will be less precise but may still be acceptable depending on final response rates.

It may also be useful for the agency to compare results between cohorts. Assuming that a minimum estimate of completed responses are collected, estimates of cohort-level margin of error assuming 50% proportion estimates with no design effect are listed in exhibit B4 as follows:

**Exhibit B4. Estimated 95% Confidence Intervals for the *Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Cohort Year** | **Margin of Error (assuming minimum sample size)** |
| 1999 | 6.5% |
| 2009 | 5.9% |
| 2014 | 6.0% |
| 2017 | 6.4% |
| Total | 3.0% |

Margins of error for a statistic of 50% shown; margins of error will be lower for statistics above or below 50%.

The minimum detectable differences for each cohort comparison are listed in exhibit B5 as follows:

**Exhibit B5. Minimum Detectable Cohort Point Differences for the *Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Cohort Year Comparison** | **Minimum Detectable Percentage Point Difference (assuming minimum sample size)** |
| 1999 - 2009 | 12.4% |
| 1999 - 2014 | 12.5% |
| 1999 - 2017 | 12.9% |
| 2009 - 2014 | 11.9% |
| 2009 - 2017 | 12.3% |
| 2014 - 2017 | 12.4% |

Assuming that only minimum response rates are met, the survey, as designed, will be sensitive enough to detect large point estimate differences between cohorts. This survey’s goals are focused on examining the incremental impact of Peace Corps on Americans who chose to serve, regardless of cohort. Nevertheless, the ability to read small differences between cohorts may be limited. That said, sensitivity will increase if survey participation exceeds expectations.

Standard errors will be computed using statistical software, such as the *R “survey”* package for *Analysis of Complex Survey Samples,* which accounts for complex survey designs.

***Unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures***

Unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures are not anticipated at this time. All necessary steps to maximize response rates will be taken throughout the data collection period. Weighting procedures will also help address potential issues with nonresponse. However, a low response rate may necessitate an additional sub-sample of completed surveys from non-respondents in order to confirm if nonresponse bias is present in the sample.

***Use of periodic data collection cycles to reduce burden***

A participant will respond to the survey only once, and the burden on any sampled respondent will be low. Thus, a less frequent data collection cycle is not considered necessary.

**B3. Describe methods to maximize response rates and to deal with issues of non-response. The accuracy and reliability of information collected must be shown to be adequate for intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided for any collection that will not yield “reliable” data that can be generalized to the universe studied.**

The *Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey* will employ a number of strategies to maximize response rates while maintaining cost control. As described in Section B1, the availability and quality of contact information for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers may be a major driver of nonresponse. Furthermore, it is likely that restricting the sampling frame to participants with a known current email address would result in bias due to the non-random nature of email address coverage of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. The Peace Corps will select the sample independently of contact list availability and then will undertake a process to identify missing email and postal addresses for the selected participants, leveraging a contact information verification and enhancement provider. The availability of Social Security Numbers for all participants improves match rates compared to not having this information available. If contact information is still unavailable for a selected participant after this process, a replacement may be selected, if appropriate, by utilizing matching analysis (either propensity score matching or proximity matching, to be determined) to identify an unselected eligible candidate that most closely resembles the selection to be replaced.

The survey will be administered online, with participants being able to complete the survey on any internet-connected electronic device with a web browser. Respondents may also take more than one session to complete the survey. Survey communications will be by email for selected participants with a current email address available, whereas survey communications will be via print mailings for selected participants with only a current postal address.

Sampled participants with known current email addresses will be sent an invitation email at the survey launch date. The email will describe the intent of the survey and will include URL and QR code links to the survey unique to that participant. The email will utilize a peacecorps.gov sending address and will be signed by the Director of the Peace Corps in order to emphasize the legitimacy of the data collection request. An email reminder that also includes the participant’s unique URL link and QR code will be sent to non-respondents two weeks after the launch date. One reminder is currently planned in order to match the planned reminder frequency for participants invited via print mailing. However, we may increase the frequency of reminders if warranted.

An invitation letter will be mailed to sampled participants for whom a current email address is not available. The invitation letter will be mailed on Peace Corps stationery and will be signed by the Director of the Peace Corps. The content of the letter will match that of the emailed invitation, also containing the participant’s unique URL for the survey and including a QR code that can be used by respondents to go to their unique URL without having to manually enter the address. One reminder letter, mailed on Peace Corps stationary, matching the content of the email reminder and also containing the unique survey URL and QR code links will be sent to non-respondents two weeks following the invitation letter. Due to postage costs, one mailed reminder is currently planned. However, we may increase the frequency of reminders if warranted.

The survey field period is currently scheduled to last six weeks. This period may be extended in order to increase participation, if warranted.

To enhance response rates further, the Peace Corps will work with external stakeholder groups such as the National Peace Corps Association and Returned Peace Corps Volunteer affinity groups to publicize the survey prior to launch and encourage selected participants to respond.

To assess the impact of nonresponse bias in our study, we will conduct statistical analysis to identify any characteristics of respondents that are correlated with response. As discussed in Section B2, propensity scores from the logistic regression of survey response on explanatory variables will be used to create nonresponse weighting classes for statistical adjustment. These nonresponse weights will be combined with sampling weights based on our stratification plan to create the final weights for our analysis. These calculated weights will be further calibrated to insure that weighted totals match those of the population on the basis of demographic makeup and other characteristics.

**B4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken.**

Per Part A of this justification, the proposed survey instrument was designed to collect required data efficiently, with content heavily drawn from other surveys acknowledged to be of high quality, with conceptualizations, methodology, and content already developed and rigorously assessed for validity. Original question wording and construction were retained to the greatest extent possible. A fully-functional prototype of the proposed survey instrument was programmed on the online survey management software platform to be used in the actual data collection. This prototype underwent small-scale testing by agency employees who were also Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Initial testing indicated a respondent burden of about 15 minutes, with no issues reported with regards to clarity of survey instructions or content. Testing with agency employees, especially those who are Returned Peace Corps Volunteers will continue to take place, to uncover any issues in the survey’s instrument design, programming, and administration.

**B5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on statistical aspects of the design, and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.**

Peace Corps staff were responsible for the design of the *Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey*, and will be responsible for the data collection’s administration, analysis, and deliverables production.

The project lead at the Peace Corps for this data collection is:

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Other members of the Peace Corps Office of Strategic Information, Research and Planning (OSIRP) were also involved in the methodological and statistical design of the survey. They are:

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Stakeholders both internal and external to the Peace Corps were consulted on the content included in the data collection instrument. Contacts at other federal agencies were consulted on the proposed methodological and statistical design. However, the Peace Corps bears ultimate responsibility for this data collection’s design and execution.

**Appendix A1. Legal justification**

**H.R.2559 - Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018 Sec. 103**

**(22 U.S.C. 2501; Pub. L. 115–256, §1(a), Oct. 9, 2018, 132 Stat. 3650)**

**SEC. 103. PEACE CORPS IMPACT SURVEY.**

(a) In General.—Beginning not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and once every 2 years thereafter for the following 6 years, the Director shall conduct a survey of former Peace Corps volunteers.

(b) Scope Of Survey.—The survey required under subsection (a) shall assess, with respect to each former Peace Corps volunteer completing the survey, the impact of the Peace Corps on the former volunteer, including the volunteer’s—

(1) well-being;

(2) career;

(3) civic engagement; and

(4) commitment to public service.

(c) Report.—The Director shall submit a report containing the results of the survey conducted under subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(3) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

**Appendix A2. Data collection instrument**

Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey 2019 – Draft

**[INTRO SCREEN]**

**Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey**

Thank you for your service. In order to support current and future Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs), and in accordance with the Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018, we are asking you to answer some brief questions to better understand how your experiences after Peace Corps service may have been impacted by your time spent as a PCV.

This survey is conducted by the Peace Corps, and is entirely voluntary. Your responses will remain private to the extent permitted by law, as is provided for in the Privacy Act of 1974. This information is protected and maintained in the Peace Corps systems of record PC-17, PC-18 for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Your survey responses will be summarized in reports along with the responses of other returned Volunteers in aggregate form only. This survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. The OMB control number for this collection is #xxxx-xxxx, which expires on xx/xx/xxxx. For any questions, comments, or concerns that you may have, please email the Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey team at [RPCVsurvey@survey.peacecorps.gov](mailto:RPCVsurvey@survey.peacecorps.gov).

**[SURVEY BODY]**

**[SECTION 1. PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER SERVICE]**

We would like you to think back to your Peace Corps service. **If you served more than once**, either as a two year Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) or as a Peace Corps Response/Crisis Corps Volunteer, **you should refer only to your first service**. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability.

* 1. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements related to your Peace Corps service.

[SCALE: Strongly agree*,* Agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, Do not remember]

1. My Peace Corps service was personally rewarding
2. My Peace Corps service was professionally rewarding
3. I was able to transfer knowledge and skills to help individuals and organizations in my host country build their capacities
4. I was able to promote a better understanding of the United States and Americans among individuals and groups in my host country
5. I was able to promote a better understanding of my host country and its people among individuals and groups in the United States
6. I needed to spend a significant time away from my host community due to a personal health situation
7. I needed to spend a significant time away from my host community due to a safety and security situation (e.g., crime incident, political instability, natural disaster, etc.)

**[SECTION 2. EDUCATION]**

Now we would like to hear about some of your experiences both prior to your Peace Corps service and after your service ended.

2.1 What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? Select your expected degree, if you are currently enrolled in an education program.

1. Some college, no degree
2. Associate’s degree (for example: AA, AS)
3. Bachelor’s degree (for example: BA, BS)
4. Master’s degree ( for example: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)
5. Professional degree beyond a bachelor’s degree (for example: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)
6. Doctorate degree (for example: PhD, EdD)
7. Other (please specify): [open ended textbox]
   1. In what year were you most recently enrolled in school?

[Select Year from Dropdown Menu]

**[SECTION 3. CAREER/PUBLIC SERVICE ARC - BEFORE PEACE CORPS SERVICE]**

3.1 What were you doing in the **six months before** your first Peace Corps service? Please select all that apply

* 1. Employed part-time or full-time, including military service
  2. Enrolled in an education program part-time or full-time
  3. Serving in a national service program (e.g., AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, NCCC, or VISTA)
  4. Doing non-paid work, such as an internship or apprenticeship
  5. Seeking work, providing caregiving, or occupied outside of the workforce
  6. Retired
  7. Other (Please specify): [open ended textbox]

**[SECTION 4. CAREER/PUBLIC SERVICE ARC - TRANSITION AFTER PEACE CORPS SERVICE]**

* 1. What were you doing in the **six months after** your first Peace Corps service? Please select all that apply.

1. Employed part-time or full-time, including military service
2. Enrolled in an education program part-time or full-time
3. Serving in the Peace Corps or in a national service program (e.g., AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, NCCC, or VISTA)
4. Doing non-paid work, such as an internship or apprenticeship
5. Seeking work, providing caregiving, or occupied outside of the workforce
6. Retired
7. Other (Please specify): [open ended textbox]

**[If 4.1=Employed part-time or full-time, including military service ASK 4.2.1-4.2.8]**

4.2.1 What type of organization were you working in, **six months after** your first Peace Corps service?

1. For-profit company or organization
2. Non-profit organization (including tax-exempt and charitable organizations)
3. Local government (for example: city or county school district)
4. State government (including state colleges/universities)
5. Active duty U.S. Armed Forces or Commissioned Corps
6. Federal government civilian employee
7. Self-employed (Please specify): [open ended textbox]
8. Other (Please specify): [open ended textbox]

4.2.2 Did you supervise anyone in this job who was directly responsible to you?

1. Yes
2. No

4.2.3 How much do you agree or disagree that the following aspects of your Peace Corps service played a role in helping you obtain this job?

[SCALE: Strongly agree*,* Agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, Do not remember]

1. Skills and experience that you acquired during your service
2. Connections that you made during your service
3. Connections and resources available to you after your return because of your service (e.g., networking opportunities, job fairs, NCE status, etc.)

4.2.4 How much of your previous work experience, including your Peace Corps experience, and/or job skills did you make use of in this job?

1. Almost all
2. A lot
3. A little
4. Almost none
5. Do not remember

4.2.5 For each statement below, indicate how much you agree or disagree that it applied to this job.

[SCALE: Strongly agree, agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, Do not remember]

1. My job was secure
2. My income was high
3. My opportunities for advancement were high
4. My job left a lot of leisure time
5. My job was interesting
6. I could work independently
7. In my job I could help other people
8. My job was useful to society
9. In my job, I had personal contact with other people
10. My job had flexible working hours

**[If 4.1=Seeking work, providing caregiving, or occupied outside of the workforce ASK 4.3]**

* 1. What job seeking or caregiving were you engaged in **six months after** your first Peace Corps service? Please select all that apply.

1. Unemployed, looking for work
2. Unemployed, not looking for work
3. Employed, but looking for another job
4. Staying at home to care for one or more family or household members
5. Not working because of a disability or health reasons
6. Other (Please specify): [open ended textbox]

**[SECTION 5. CAREER/PUBLIC SERVICE ARC – CURRENT STATUS]**

5.1.1 What are you doing **now**? Please select all that apply.

* 1. Employed part-time or full-time, including military service
  2. Enrolled in an education program part-time or full-time
  3. Serving in a national service program (e.g., AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, NCCC, or VISTA)
  4. Doing non-paid work, such as an internship or apprenticeship
  5. Seeking work, providing caregiving, or occupied outside the workforce
  6. Retired
  7. Other (Please specify): [open ended textbox]

**[If 5.1.1=Employed part-time or full-time, including military service and 4.1=Employed part-time or full-time, including military service, ASK 5.1.2]**

**[If 5.1.1=Employed part-time or full-time, including military service and 4.1≠Employed part-time or full-time, including military service, SKIP 5.1.2, ASK 5.2.1-5.2.8]**

5.1.2 Are the job and organization at which you worked six months after your first Peace Corps service the same as the job and organization at which you work **now**?

1. Yes
2. No

**[If 5.1.2=YES SKIP to 5.3]**

5.2.1 What type of organization are you working in **now**?

1. For-profit company or organization
2. Non-profit organization (including tax-exempt and charitable organizations)
3. Local government (for example: city or county school district)
4. State government (including state colleges/universities)
5. Active duty U.S. Armed Forces or Commissioned Corps
6. Federal government civilian employee
7. Self-employed (Please specify): [open ended textbox]
8. Other (Please specify): [open ended textbox]

5.2.2 Do you supervise anyone in this job who is directly responsible to you?

1. Yes
2. No

5.2.3 How much do you agree or disagree that the following aspects of your Peace Corps service played a role in helping you obtain this job?

[SCALE: Strongly agree*,* Agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree]

1. Skills and experience that you acquired during your service
2. Connections that you made during your service
3. Connections and resources available to you after your return because of your service (e.g., networking opportunities, job fairs, NCE status, etc.)

5.2.4 How much of your previous work experience, including your Peace Corps experience, and/or job skills do you make use of in this job?

1. Almost all
2. A lot
3. A little
4. Almost none

5.2.5 For each statement below, indicate how much you agree or disagree that it applies to this job.

[SCALE: Strongly agree*,* Agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree]

1. My job is secure
2. My income is high
3. My opportunities for advancement are high
4. My job leaves a lot of leisure time
5. My job is interesting
6. I can work independently
7. In my job I can help other people
8. My job is useful to society
9. In my job, I have personal contact with other people
10. My job has flexible working hours

**[If 5.1= Seeking work, providing caregiving, or occupied outside of the workforce ASK 5.3]**

5.3 What job seeking or caregiving are you engaged in **now**? Please select all that apply.

1. Unemployed, looking for work
2. Unemployed, not looking for work
3. Employed, but looking for another job
4. Staying at home to care for one or more family or household members
5. Not working because of a disability or health reasons
6. Other (Please specify): [open ended textbox]

**[SECTION 6. SOCIAL NETWORK AND ENGAGEMENT]**

The following questions measure your social engagement and focus on your interactions with family, friends, neighbors, and members of your "Peace Corps network" in person, over the phone, or through the internet or social media. Your "Peace Corps network" refers to fellow Peace Corps Volunteers and other people you met or worked with during your Peace Corps service who you still engage with socially, professionally, or educationally.

* 1. In the past 12 months, how often did you talk to or spend time with the following people?

[SCALE: Basically everyday, A few times a week, A few times a month, Once a month, Less than once a month, Not at all]

1. Your friends and family
2. Your neighbors
3. Your “Peace Corps network” in the United States
4. Your “Peace Corps network” in your country(s) of service
   1. In the past 12 months, how often did you and your neighbors do favors for each other such as house sitting, watching each other’s children, lending tools, and other things to help each other?

1. Basically everyday

2. A few times a week

3. A few times a month

4. Once a month

5. Less than once a month

6. Not at all

* 1. In the past 12 months, how often did you talk to or spend time with people from a racial, ethnic or cultural background that is different than yours? This may have been in person, over the phone, or through the internet or social media.

1. Basically everyday

2. A few times a week

3. A few times a month

4. Once a month

5. Less than once a month

6. Not at all

* 1. In the past 12 months, how often did you discuss current events or social/local issues with the following people?

[SCALE: Basically everyday, A few times a week, A few times a month, Once a month, Less than once a month, Not at all]

* + - 1. Your friends and family
      2. Your neighbors
      3. Your "Peace Corps network" in the United States
      4. Your "Peace Corps network" in your country(s) of service

6.5 Think about your social engagement before you joined the Peace Corps. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

6.5.1 My Peace Corps service increased my social engagement.

a. Strongly Agree

b. Agree

c. Neither Agree nor Disagree

d. Disagree

e. Strongly Disagree

6.5.2 My Peace Corps service had no effect on my social engagement.

a. Strongly Agree

b. Agree

c. Neither Agree nor Disagree

d. Disagree

e. Strongly Disagree

6.5.3 My Peace Corps service decreased my social engagement.

a. Strongly Agree

b. Agree

c. Neither Agree nor Disagree

d. Disagree

e. Strongly Disagree

**[SECTION 7. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT]**

The next few questions will ask you about your participation in your community.

* 1. In the past 12 months, did you attend a public meeting, such as a zoning or school board meeting, to discuss a local issue?

1. Yes
2. No
   1. In the past 12 months, did you contact or visit a public official–at any level of government–to express your opinion?
3. Yes
4. No
   1. People sometimes belong to different kinds of groups or associations. For each type of group, please indicate whether you: belong and actively participate, belong but don't actively participate, used to belong but do not any more, or have never belonged to it?

[SCALE: Belong and actively participate, Belong but don’t actively participate, Used to belong but do not anymore, Have never belonged to it]

1. National Peace Corps Association
2. An RPCV group
3. Trade union or professional association
4. Church or other religious organization
5. Sports, leisure, or cultural group
6. Other voluntary organization or association (Please specify): [open ended textbox]
   1. In the past 12 months, did you spend any time volunteering for any of the following types of organizations? Please select all that apply, and include activities that you do infrequently or for children’s schools or youth organizations.
7. Peace Corps (e.g., Speakers Match program)
8. National Peace Corps Association
9. An RPCV group
10. Civic, political, or professional organization in the United States
11. Civic, political, or professional organization in your country(s) of service
12. Educational or youth service organization in the United States
13. Educational or youth service organization in your country(s) of service
14. Environmental or animal care organization in the United States
15. Environmental or animal care organization in your country(s) of service
16. Hospital or other health organization in the United States
17. Hospital or other health organization in your country(s) of service
18. Public safety organization in the United States
19. Public safety organization in your country(s) of service
20. Social or community service organization in the United States
21. Social or community service organization in your country(s) of service
22. Religious organization in the United States
23. Religious organization in your country(s) of service
24. Sport, hobby, cultural or arts organization in the United States
25. Sport, hobby, cultural or arts organization in your country(s) of service
26. Other international organization, not associated with your country(s) of service
27. Other (Please specify): [open ended textbox]

**[If 7.4=one or more selected responses, ASK 7.5]**

7.5 In the past 12 months, how often did you volunteer in each of the organizations you selected above?

[Every organization selected in question 7.4 will appear and have a dropdown with the following answer categories:]

1. Basically every day
2. A few times a week
3. A few times a month
4. Once a month
5. Less than once a month
6. Not at all
   1. In the past 12 months, did you give money or possessions with a combined value of more than $25 to a non-profit organization, such as a charity, school, or religious organization?
7. Yes
8. No

7.8 Think about your participation in your community before you joined the Peace Corps. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

* + 1. My Peace Corps service increased my participation in my community.

a. Strongly Agree

b. Agree

c. Neither Agree nor Disagree

d. Disagree

e. Strongly Disagree

7.8.2 My Peace Corps service had no effect on my participation in my community.

a. Strongly Agree

b. Agree

c. Neither Agree nor Disagree

d. Disagree

e. Strongly Disagree

7.8.3 My Peace Corps service decreased my participation in my community.

a. Strongly Agree

b. Agree

c. Neither Agree nor Disagree

d. Disagree

e. Strongly Disagree

**[SECTION 8. PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING]**

Now, please answer a few questions about your physical and emotional well-being.

8.1 Would you say that in general your health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

1. Excellent
2. Very good
3. Good
4. Fair
5. Poor

8.2 Now thinking about your physical health, which includes physical illness and injury, for how many days during the past 30 days was your physical health not good?

[Select 0 to 30 in drop down menu]

8.3 Now thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?

[Select 0 to 30 in drop down menu]

* 1. During the past 30 days, for about how many days did poor physical or mental health keep you from doing your usual activities, such as self-care, work, or recreation?

[Select 0 to 30 in drop down menu]

8.5 Think about your physical and emotional well-being before you joined the Peace CorpsTo what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

8.5.1 My Peace Corps service increased my physical and emotional well-being.

a. Strongly Agree

b. Agree

c. Neither Agree nor Disagree

d. Disagree

e. Strongly Disagree

8.5.2 My Peace Corps service had no effect on my physical and emotional well-being.

a. Strongly Agree

b. Agree

c. Neither Agree nor Disagree

d. Disagree

e. Strongly Disagree

8.5.3 My Peace Corps service decreased my physical and emotional well-being.

a. Strongly Agree

b. Agree

c. Neither Agree nor Disagree

d. Disagree

e. Strongly Disagree

**[SECTION 9. FINAL QUESTIONS]**

To close, we would like to ask you three more questions.

* 1. Including yourself, how many people live at your residence?

1. Adults, 18 years of age or older [number entry textbox]
2. Children, under the age of 18 [number entry textbox]
   1. Finally, can you describe one experience from your Peace Corps service that has guided you to where you are now?

[Open ended textbox]

**[THANK YOU SCREEN]**

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the survey. We truly value the information you have provided and experiences you have shared to better understand your Peace Corps service experience.

**Please click the right arrow to submit your responses.**

The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C § 552a) requires that the following notice be provided: The information requested in the Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey is collected pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2501; Pub. L. 115–256, §1(a), Oct. 9, 2018, 132 Stat. 3650 of the Peace Corps Act as amended. Purposes and Uses - The information requested is collected for the purposes of assessing the impact of the Peace Corps program on returned Volunteers. Routine Uses - Routine uses may include disclosure of the information to federal, state, or local agencies pursuant to lawfully authorized requests. The information will not otherwise be disclosed to entities outside of the Peace Corps without prior written permission. Effects of Nondisclosure - The information requested is not mandatory. For any questions, comments, or concerns that you may have, please email the Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey team at [RPCVsurvey@survey.peacecorps.gov](mailto:RPCVsurvey@survey.peacecorps.gov).

**Appendix B1.1. Survey invitation (Email)**

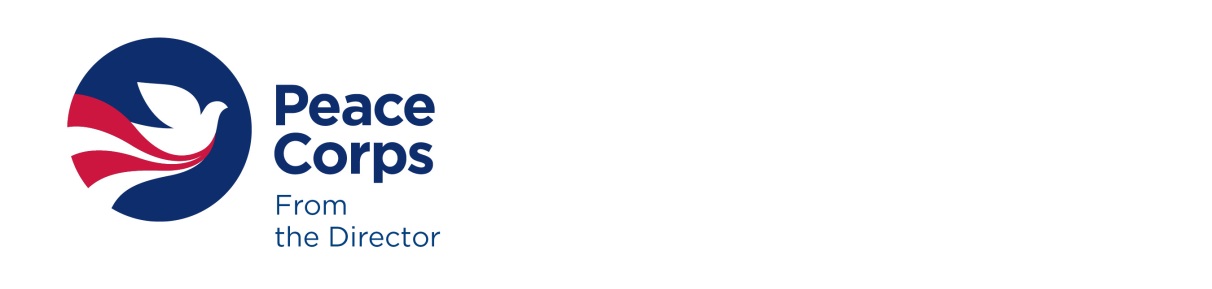
Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey – Survey Invitation (Email)

To: Survey invitees with known email addresses

From: “Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey” (RPCVsurvey@survey.peacecorps.gov)

When: Survey launch

Subject: Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey



Dear [$First Name],

Thank you for your service.

I am writing to ask you to participate in a new survey of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Through the survey, we hope to learn how you and other Returned Volunteers continue to be impacted by your Peace Corps experience. We want to better understand how your service influences your well-being and the well-being of the people that you touch, whether it is through your career path, community engagement, or commitment to public service.

The information gathered will be used to improve the Peace Corps experience not just for those who have returned from service, but also for current and future Volunteers. Your responses will also help the Peace Corps, in its position as a federal agency, continue to tell its story to Congress and the American people.

You were selected because you returned in [$year] from your [$add “first” if more than one service] Peace Corps Volunteer service in [$post]. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. If you have any questions about the survey or need assistance, please email [$mailto: “RPCVsurvey@survey.peacecorps.gov”].

To take the online survey, please click the link below, or copy and paste it to your internet browser:

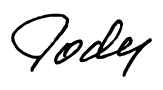
[$URL]

Or you may scan this QR code with your smartphone:

[$QR]

Again, thank you for your service as a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



Jody K. Olsen

Director

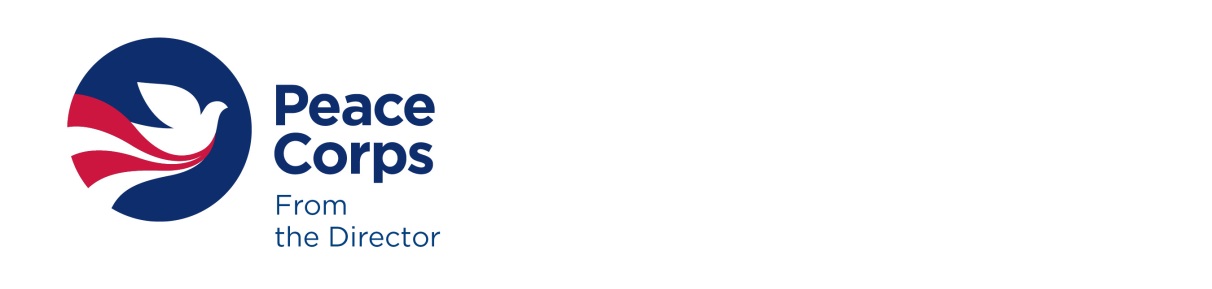
To opt out of receiving future emails about this survey, please click [$URL:”here”].

**Appendix B1.2. Survey invitation (Print Mailing)**

Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey – Survey Invitation (Print Mailing)

To: Survey invitees without a known email address, but with a known current mailing address

When: Survey launch



January xx, 2020

[$Full Name]

[$Mailing Address]

Dear [$First Name],

Thank you for your service.

I am writing to ask you to participate in a new survey of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Through the survey, we hope to learn how you and other Returned Volunteers continue to be impacted by your Peace Corps experience. We want to better understand how your service influences your well-being and the well-being of the people that you touch, whether it is through your career path, community engagement, or commitment to public service.

The information gathered will be used to improve the Peace Corps experience not just for those who have returned from service, but also for current and future Volunteers. Your responses will also help the Peace Corps, in its position as a federal agency, continue to tell its story to Congress and the American people.

You were selected to take part in the Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey because you returned in [$year] from your [$add “first” if more than one service] Peace Corps Volunteer service in [$post]. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. If you have any questions about the survey or need assistance, please email RPCVsurvey@survey.peacecorps.gov.

To take the online survey, please enter the following link on your internet browser:

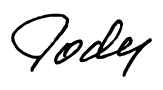
[$URL]

Or you may scan this QR code with your smartphone:

[$QR]

Again, thank you for your service as a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



Jody K. Olsen

Director

**Appendix B2.1. Survey reminder (Email)**

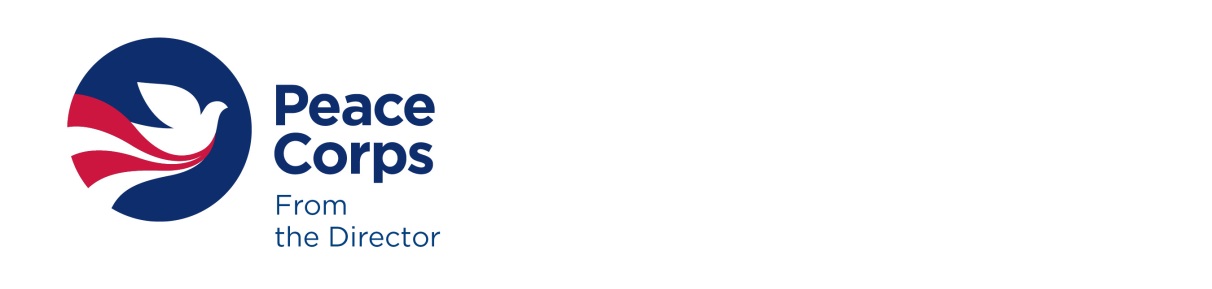
Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey – Survey Reminder (Email)

To: Survey non-respondents with known email addresses

From: “Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey” (RPCVsurvey@survey.peacecorps.gov)

When: Two weeks after survey launch

Subject: Reminder: Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey



Dear [$First Name],

We recently invited you to take part in the new Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey. We really value your experiences and opinions and hope that you will be able to take part in this important survey.

To take the online survey, please click the link below, or copy and paste it to your internet browser:

[$URL]

Or you may scan this QR code with your smartphone:

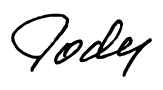
[$QR]

The survey asks about how you and other Returned Volunteers continue to be impacted by your Peace Corps service and how that experience influences your well-being, career, community engagement, and public service. The information gathered will be used to improve the Peace Corps experience for current, returned, and future Peace Corps Volunteers; and to aid the Peace Corps, in its position as a federal agency, in telling its story to Congress and the American people.

You were selected because you returned in [$year] from your [$add “first” if more than one service] Peace Corps Volunteer service in [$post]. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. If you have any questions about the survey or need assistance, please email [$mailto: “RPCVsurvey@survey.peacecorps.gov”].

Thank you for your service as a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



Jody K. Olsen

Director

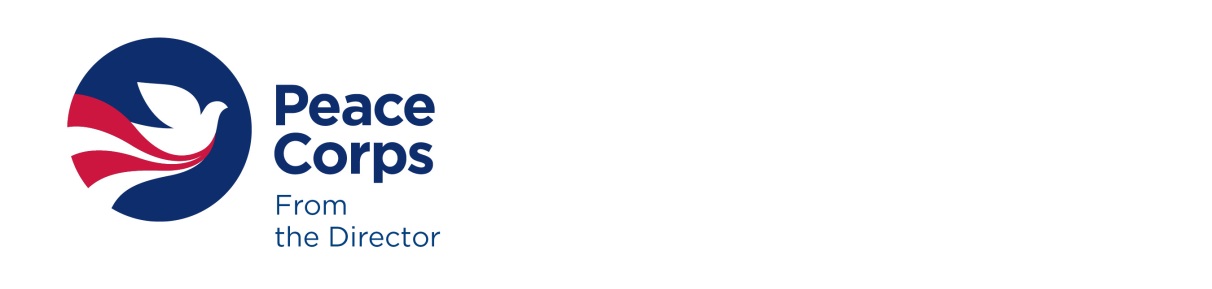
To opt out of receiving future emails about this survey, please click [$URL:”here”].

**Appendix B2.2. Survey reminder (Print Mailing)**

Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey – Survey Reminder (Print Mailing)

To: Survey non-respondents without a known email address, but with a known current mailing address

When: Two weeks after survey launch



February xx, 2020

[$Full Name]

[$Mailing Address]

Dear [$First Name],

We recently invited you to take part in the new Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Impact Survey. We really value your experiences and opinions and hope that you will be able to take part in this important survey.

To take the online survey, please enter the following link on your internet browser:

[$URL]

Or you may scan this QR code with your smartphone:

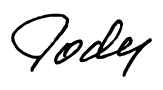
[$QR]

The survey asks about how you and other Returned Volunteers continue to be impacted by your Peace Corps service and how that experience influences your well-being, career, community engagement, and public service. The information gathered will be used to improve the Peace Corps experience for current, returned, and future Peace Corps Volunteers; and to aid the Peace Corps, in its position as a federal agency, in telling its story to Congress and the American people.

You were selected because you returned in [$year] from your [$add “first” if more than one service] Peace Corps Volunteer service in [$post]. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. If you have any questions about the survey or need assistance, please email RPCVsurvey@survey.peacecorps.gov.

Thank you for your service as a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



Jody K. Olsen

Director