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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sunday, September 6, 2026

Peace Corps set to reopen program in Solomon Islands

HONIARA, Solomon Islands – Peace Corps Acting Director Christopher Landau and Solomon Islands Foreign Affairs and External Trade Minister Rick Houenipwela today signed a bilateral country agreement to reestablish a Peace Corps program in Solomon Islands. The signed agreement officially renews the partnership between the United States and the Pacific island nation after a 26-year absence of Peace Corps volunteers since the program was suspended in 2000 and closed in 2008.

During the signing ceremony, Acting Director Landau expressed the importance of the program saying, “The reestablishment of the Peace Corps program in Solomon Islands will help to strengthen the historic ties between our nations and our shared goal of a free and open Pacific. I’m grateful to this government for taking steps to enable the next generation of Solomon Islanders and Peace Corps volunteers to work together and build skills that will support economic development between our two countries.”

Solomon Islands Foreign Affairs and External Trade Minister Rick Houenipwela remarked, “This agreement is a practical expression of a broader truth: that Solomon Islands values genuine partnership—partnership that is respectful of our sovereignty,

responsive to our development priorities, and rooted in people-to-people connection rather than transaction alone. The return of Peace Corps Volunteers will, in time, mean more capacity in our classrooms, more support for our health workers, more skills transferred to our communities, and more young Solomon Islanders exposed to new ideas and new friendships.”

Peace Corps staff will work with the Solomon Islands government to identify communities that will be best served by Peace Corps volunteers. The agency expects the initial group of volunteers to arrive in the Pacific island nation in early 2028 and support shared priorities in the education sector.

From 1971 to 2000, more than 700 Peace Corps volunteers served in Solomon Islands, collaborating with communities on education, community economic development, and health projects. A testament to the effectiveness and value of the agency’s work as well as the strong relationships between the two countries, Solomon Islands formally invited the Peace Corps to return in 2019 and renewed its invitation in 2026. In July 2026, Acting Director Landau and Prime Minister Wale signed a letter of intent to return the Peace Corps to Solomon Islands.

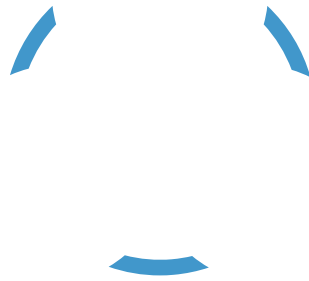
The Peace Corps marked its official return to another Pacific island nation, Palau, in July 2026. The agency also recently signed a letter of intent with the governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau demonstrating the three nations’ mutual interest in establishing a unified North Pacific Peace Corps program.

Peace Corps volunteers collaborate with host country partners on locally prioritized projects, gaining skills and experience, while fostering mutual understanding, and promoting American values. Interested individuals are encouraged to visit peacecorps.gov to learn more about the Peace Corps and apply for service.

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About the Peace Corps: The U.S. Government's premier international volunteering agency, the Peace Corps sends passionate and skilled Americans abroad to collaborate on projects that advance both American and host country priorities. This year, the agency commemorates 65 years of putting purpose, passion, and skills to work for America and the world

through volunteer service while partnering with [America250](#)  to encourage more Americans to give back. Since 1961, the Peace Corps has played a vital role in advancing U.S. global engagement through the work of close to 250,000 volunteers serving in 144 host countries. For more information, visit peacecorps.gov and follow the agency on [Facebook](#) , [Instagram](#) , [LinkedIn](#) , [X](#) , and [YouTube](#) .



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