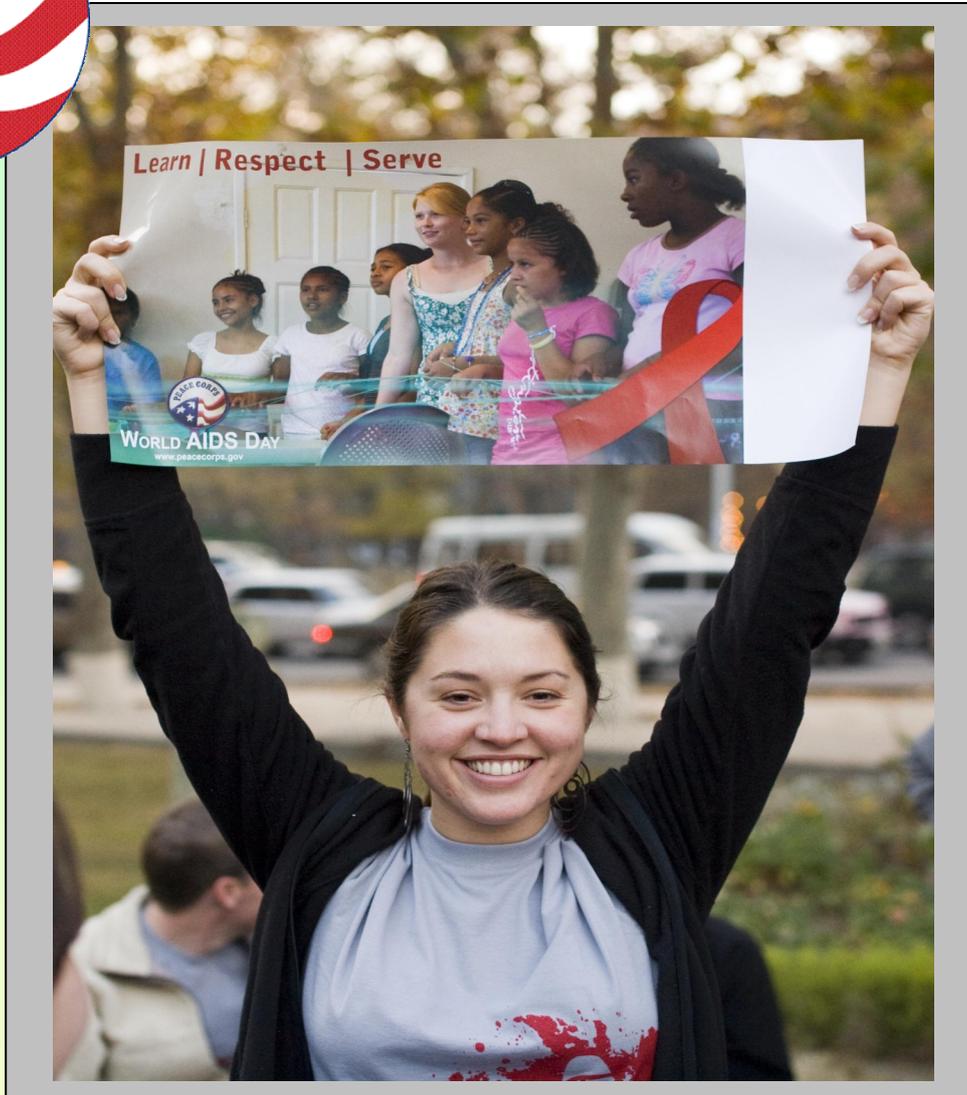


ANNUAL REPORT 2010



peace corps **Armenia**

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Kennedy's Promise

We will only send abroad Americans who are wanted by the host country, who have a real job to do, and who are qualified to do that job. Programs will be developed with care, and after full negotiation, in order to make sure that the Peace Corps is wanted and will contribute to the welfare of the other people. Our Peace Corps is not designed as an instrument of diplomacy or propaganda or ideological conflict. It is designed to permit our people to exercise more fully their responsibilities in the great common cause of world development.

**US PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY
MARCH 1, 1961**



ABOUT PEACE CORPS

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps to promote world peace and friendship by challenging Americans to live and work in developing

countries. Since then more than 200,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 139 host countries.

Volunteers serve for 27 months in their host countries, learning language and culture and living at the same level as the people they serve.

The Peace Corps Armenia program was established in 1992. Since that time over 700 Volunteers have served in villages, towns, and cities around Armenia. Currently 95 Volunteers work in the following areas:

- Teaching English as Foreign Language
- Community and Business Development
- Community Health Education
- Environmental Education

Peace Corps is an independent agency of the United States government.

PEACE CORPS ARMENIA PROJECTS

Community and Business Development

- NGO capacity building
- Small and medium enterprise development
- Business and IT training for students of local colleges and other community members

The Peace Corps Mission

- Helping the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
- Helping promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the Armenian peoples served.
- Helping promote a better understanding of Armenians on the part of Americans.

English Education

- Teaching English
- Teacher professional development
- Resources development
- Community development projects

Community Health Education

- Healthy Lifestyles & Sports
- HIV/AIDS awareness seminars
- Resources development
- Community development projects

Environmental Education

- Environmental awareness seminars
- Summer camps & after school clubs
- Resources development
- Community development projects

Peace Corps Ministry Partners are:

Ministry of Economy
Ministry of Education and Science
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Nature Protection
Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs

A LETTER FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Dear Ministers and Staff of the Republic of Armenia, staff of Non-Government Organizations and Volunteers:

I am pleased to report that Peace Corps Volunteers and their Armenian counterparts have been working very hard over the last year to improve schools, non-government organizations, and businesses. I hope you will enjoy reading this report which highlights some stories of their successes. Currently 96 Volunteers serve across the country, largely in rural communities where they work with schools teaching English, leading environmental and health clubs, and working with local NGOs and businesses. They strengthen nongovernmental organizations and help to expand the range of community services.

Peace Corps wants to thank our partners and other stakeholders especially the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Nature Protection, the Ministry of Healthcare, the Ministry of Economy, and the Ministry of Sport and Youth. Thank you for your support of our programs. We would also like to thank the many teachers, school directors, community leaders, and host families that give so generously of their time to make these Americans feel welcomed and at home in Armenia.

Respectfully,



David Lillie
Country Director
United States Peace Corps, Armenia

STUDENTS IN ARMENIA TAKE SCIENCE INTO THEIR OWN HANDS

As in many countries, schools in Armenia are undergoing dramatic changes. The educational system is moving to a 12-year plan, requiring re-writes of textbooks and curricula. Larger schools are absorbing the top grades from smaller schools, and many schools will be closing entirely. On top of this, the grading scale has moved from a 5- to a 10-point system, and the natural sciences are expected to incorporate environmental and health curricula. Somehow lost among these major changes was a very important addition to the grading standards – the inclusion of hands-on activities in science lessons.

Even disregarding the national requirements, hands-on learning is critical to science education. Without actually experiencing the subject matter, students do not learn the most important aspect of scientific study – the ability to repeat an experiment and make their own discoveries. In most schools, students do not have the opportunity to learn practical skills and thus do not reinforce their theoretical knowledge. Many teachers don't have experience leading or evaluating hands-on activities, and though they are now required to include a laboratory component in their grading, there is no grading rubric on which to assess students' work.

In their small corner of Armenia, the "Kapan Teachers" NGO and Peace Corps volunteer Joe Heffron organized and held the first science fair in Armenia to emphasize the importance of hands-on science education. The process involved seven teacher-training seminars, numerous school visits and nearly a year of preparing Armenian-language materials. In the end, 37 students from 15 schools in southern Armenia took part in the first Kapan Science fair on May 10, 2010. Projects included the effect of alkaline soil on earthworms, the composition of two brands of potato chip, methods for collecting bee venom, different ways to grow a kiwi tree from a shoot, the effect of magnetism on plant growth, the cleanliness of local rivers, and many others.

In order to participate, students had to design and conduct an experiment following the steps of the scientific process laid out in the science fair instructions. Each student had to register their experimental question and hypothesis as well as their procedure before receiving their project notebook and poster-board. They then recorded their process and results in the project notebook and made a poster presentation to present his or her experiment before a panel of judges. The judges graded the projects using a rubric developed by Joe and his counterpart, Lilit Babayan. Based on a 10-point system like the new Armenian grading standards, the rubric was appropriate for use in the classroom as well.

As the judges listened to students present their experiments, the remaining students were invited to get their hands dirty in a series of small activities. PCVs Sierra Starnier, Vincent Cleveland, Andrea Trowbridge, Danya Augustus, Barbara Colson, Shannon Priddy, Sam Rankin and Susan Fullam all assisted children in using pH indicator, writing invisible messages with lemon juice, discovering life in a drop of pond water, separating colors with chromatography, calculating the number of dolma (a stuffed cabbage- or grape-leaf) between the Earth and the Sun, and measuring the voltage created by a series of potatoes.

"Above all, I wanted the science fair to be a celebration, and the other PCVs really made that happen. It's amazing that I can rely on so many talented people. I will always remember that a Peace Corps volunteer is someone who can explain a scientific experiment to forty Armenian children at a moment's notice."

Though the science fair only involved two cities this year, Heffron hopes that the effects will continue to build in the coming years, "Many teachers and parents have come up to me and said their student or child wants to be a doctor or a naturalist now," he said, "and people occasionally approach me and share something they've discovered – how sparrows always move around in small flocks, or what kinds of spiders they found in their garden. For me, that has been the most rewarding part of my service."

Joe completed his service in August 2010, but he still hopes to help "Kapan Teachers" NGO write a manual in Armenian about the science fair and low-cost, low-preparation ideas for hands-on science in the classroom.



- Joseph Heffron (A16 EE Volunteer)

GAVAR STATE UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT FAIR

Working with a counterpart from Gavar State University, Papin Muradyan, PCV Nicole Cashin organized a development fair for NGOs and clubs focused on volunteering in Gavar. Eight organizations attended with great enthusiasm: Gavar State University's newspaper, Gavar State Public Relations department, Jinishian Memorial Foundation, Caritas, Gegharkunik Chamber of Commerce and Industry/Advocacy & Assistance Center, Peace Corps, Sevan Youth Club, and Shah Women's Center. In the invitation, the organizations were told:

"You are invited to a market-place style event for students and faculty of Gavar State University, in which each organization will have a table to set up brochures where representatives can speak to visitors about the work that your organizations do in Gavar. This is a great opportunity for you to advertise your organization's development work in the community, and to network and to inform students about ways to volunteer for NGOs in Gavar."

The rector of the university, various NGOs, Nicole and her counterpart Papin, all gave speeches about the importance of community development to the students and Kyavar TV covered the on the local news.

Approximately 150 students visited the various booths and listened to the speeches.

As a result, the university became motivated by the success of the event and plan to conduct an other market place event in the future.

-Nicole Cashin (A16 Volunteer)



2010 TAVUSH MARZ POETRY RECITATION COMPETITION

On Sunday, 2 May 2010, at 11:00am, with the support of the American Councils for International Education and the British Council Peace Corps Volunteers conducted the First Annual Tavush Marz English Poetry Recitation Competition at the Culture Center of Ijevan, the capital of the Tavush Region. Approximately 60 student competitors aged 10 to 16 from various towns, villages, and cities throughout Tavush Marz recited English language poems before a panel of judges who decided the top places for students in each of the six forms represented (forms 6 through 11).

All competitors attending the event placed in the top three positions for their age group at one of four similar, regional competitions held earlier in the year, which was also organized by PCVs. The 4 regional competitions were held in Ijevan, Berd, Noyemberyan, and Dilijan, and included students from the surrounding towns and villages.

The event provided a valuable opportunity for English students and their teachers to further their understanding of the English language through the exploration of English poetry. The success of the regional competitions held earlier in the year and the interest in the competition demonstrated that students and teachers throughout Tavush Marz are eager to strengthen their English skills to benefit themselves and their communities.

-Andrew Smith (A17 Volunteer)

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ORGANIZE HIV/AIDS FLASH MOB

On December 1st, 2010, at 5:45 p.m., the U.S. Peace Corps HIV/AIDS Initiative members organized a flash mob to raise awareness for HIV/AIDS. About 80 Volunteers from all sectors participated. They were joined by host country nationals as well. Overall, participation was estimated at 100 people.

In order to raise awareness for this deadly disease, Volunteers worked together to brainstorm, plan, and create a flash mob on the south side of the Opera House in Yerevan on International World AIDS Day, December 1, 2010. During planning, the Initiative group had to generate support from fellow Volunteers and host country nationals. It also had to obtain clearance from Peace Corps staff, as a flash mob could be seen as a political demonstration. Other planning activities included organizing a T-shirt design contest, selling t-shirts, creating posters with HIV/AIDS facts, making HIV ribbons, and arranging for a post-flash mob get together.



After a last minute change of plans (foot traffic at the Opera was sparse), the flash mob came together on Northern Avenue and “froze”, or stood completely still, for one minute. The group consisted of PCVs and Armenians from the American Councils’ FLEX alumni program. Participants held various posters, both handmade and from Peace Corps, illustrating facts about HIV/AIDS in Armenia and the world. Time stood still as curious onlookers strolled by. Upon the final whistle, the entire group dispersed as if nothing happened, handing out red ribbons along the way.

The Peace Corps HIV Initiative sold AIDS T-shirts for 3,000 AMD. The cost of the t-shirts supported the HIV Initiative’s general fund and flash mob activities. The T-shirt was designed by Peace Corps Volunteer Michael Zier.

In addition, the Initiative group organized an HIV poster contest for children throughout Armenia. Volunteers in the marzes collected posters from children in their villages and towns at the end of November.

Volunteers judged the posters at the Peace Corp’s All-Volunteer Conference in Yerevan, with the winning children receiving prizes. This contest aimed to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS in teenagers throughout Armenia’s regions.

- Kevin Crookshank (A18 Volunteer)

Community and Business Development Program

GOAL# 1

Local business, government and community organizations and motivated individuals, particularly youth and women, will increase their opportunities and effectiveness by learning and using new business practices for effective use of local resources.

Objective #1:

By 2013 Volunteers and their community partners will assist 400 motivated individuals, 40 local businesses and 40 organizations to increase their professional effectiveness through training and follow-up support in improving customer service, financial management, time management, marketing and business planning.

Number of Individuals Assisted: 70

Number of Service Providers Assisted: 21

Number of Organizations Assisted: 15

Number of Communities Assisted: 12

Objective #2:

By 2013 Volunteers and their community partners will assist 400 motivated individuals, 40 local businesses and 40 organizations in learning, practicing and using participatory tools and techniques to research, plan and implement business and community projects.

Number of Individuals Assisted: 82

Number of Service Providers Assisted: 38

Number of Organizations Assisted: 15

Number of Communities Assisted: 10

Objective #3:

By 2013, Volunteers and their community partners will work with at least 2000 individuals (particularly women and youth) to expand their understanding of their work and career options and skills development (through formal and informal meetings, consultations and trainings).

Number of Individuals Assisted: 205

Number of Service Providers Assisted: 25

Number of Organizations Assisted: 18

Number of Communities Assisted: 10

GOAL# 2

Businesses, informal community groups and community based organizations (including municipalities and NGOs) will serve their communities through effective use of organizational management, teamwork and leadership skills.

Objective #1:

By 2013 Volunteers and their community partners will have assisted 400 motivated individuals, 40 businesses and 40 community based organizations (including local governmental organizations and NGOs) to improve their organizational structures and their management skills.

Number of Individuals Assisted: 88

Number of Service Providers Assisted: 58

Number of Organizations Assisted: 20

Number of Communities Assisted: 15

Objective #2:

By 2013, Volunteers with their community partners will assist 400 motivated individuals, 40 businesses and 40 organizations (formal and informal) to learn and practice techniques to strengthen teamwork and enhance leadership.

Number of Individuals Assisted: 118

Number of Service Providers Assisted: 0

Number of Organizations Assisted: 5

Number of Communities Assisted: 15

Community and Business Development Program

GOAL# 3

Community-based organizations, Municipalities, NGOs, businesses and informal community groups will effectively serve their communities by developing communication skills and networks of cooperation within their communities as well as externally.

Objective #3:

By 2013, Volunteers and their community partners will assist at least 80 community based organizations to develop and improve their network of contacts and their outreach, marketing and service delivery techniques.

In 2010

Number of Individuals Assisted: 10
Number of Service Providers Assisted: 8
Number of Organizations Assisted: 5
Number of Communities Assisted: 8

Participants in Volunteers secondary activities outside the program (e.g. civic engagement activities)
Total Project Participants

In 2010

Number of Individuals Assisted: 130
Number of Service Providers Assisted: 14
Number of Organizations Assisted: 5
Number of Communities Assisted: 8

Totals 2010

Total Project Participants

Organizations95
Communities 83
Organizations844
Communities162

Objective #1:

By 2013 Volunteers and their counterparts will work with 40 businesses and formal and informal community based organizations to improve their internal and external communication through developing writing, communication, publicity and ICT skills.

In 2010

Number of Individuals Assisted: 61
Number of Service Providers Assisted: 10
Number of Organizations Assisted: 9
Number of Communities Assisted: 5

Objective #2:

By 2013, Volunteers and their community partners will help 15 Business Support organizations and 100 local businesses develop and use networks of contacts with lenders, commercial enterprises and international organizations.

In 2010

Number of Individuals Assisted: 23
Number of Service Providers Assisted: 5
Number of Organizations Assisted: 8
Number of Communities Assisted: 8

Teaching English as a Foreign Language Program

GOAL# 1

Learners of English throughout Armenia, both youth and adults, will develop and improve their English language communication and critical thinking skills through classroom instruction, extracurricular activities and self-evaluation.

Objective #1:

Between 2006-2010, 70 Volunteers and their Armenian team-teaching counterparts will provide instruction in English language and critical thinking skills to 13,000 students in regular classroom settings (using alternative sources of information including ICTs, in addition to existing textbooks).

In 2010

Number of Individuals Assisted: 2550

Number of Service Providers Assisted: 122

Number of Organizations Assisted: 25

Number of Communities Assisted: 20

Objective #2:

Between 2006-2010, 70 Volunteers and Armenian team-teaching counterparts will help 4,000 students to examine individual, civic, cultural, social, and environmental topics, through participation in English clubs and other extra-curricular activities (using alternative sources of information including ICTs).

In 2010

Number of Individuals Assisted: 1590

Number of Service Providers Assisted: 90

Number of Organizations Assisted: 50

Number of Communities Assisted: 70

Objective #3:

Student Self-evaluation Activities: Between 2006-2010, 70 Volunteers and their Armenian team-teaching counterparts will teach 13,000 students strategies to evaluate themselves as part of their educational experience and will create opportunities for these students for self-review and reflection.

In 2010

Number of Individuals Assisted: 357

Number of Service Providers Assisted: 170

Number of Organizations Assisted: 15

Number of Communities Assisted: 18

GOAL# 2

English teachers throughout Armenia will improve English communication skills, teaching practices, methodologies and assessment program, through skills transferred from Volunteers.

Objective #1:

Between 2006-2010, 70 Volunteers will interact regularly through co-planning, informal meetings, social activities, and team-teaching with 850 Armenian teachers to help them improve their English communication skills.

In 2010

Number of Individuals Assisted: 82

Number of Service Providers Assisted: 89

Number of Organizations Assisted: 20

Number of Communities Assisted: 35

Objective #2:

Between 2006-2010, 1,200 Armenian English teachers (counterpart/non-counterpart) will learn new teaching methodologies including communicative methods and acquire team work skills by participating in teacher training workshops, seminars, conferences, and through team-teaching.

In 2010

Number of Individuals Assisted: 148

Number of Service Providers Assisted: 156

Number of Organizations Assisted: 25

Number of Communities Assisted: 40

Teaching English as a Foreign Language Program

Objective #3:

Between 2006-2010, Volunteers will work with 850 Armenian English teachers to increase their capacity to conduct formal and informal assessment of student performance.

- Number of Individuals Assisted: 61*
- Number of Service Providers Assisted: 80*
- Number of Organizations Assisted: 20*
- Number of Communities Assisted: 35*

Goal # 3
Armenian English teachers will enhance existing English language curricula and assessment practices through the Volunteer/Counterpart production and/or acquisition of appropriate educational materials for schools and other local organizations.

Objective #1:

Between 2006-2010, 70 Volunteers will collaborate with 850 English teachers to create appropriate educational materials, using existing and new resources, including ICTs, and incorporate them into the existing English language curriculum.

- In 2010*
- Number of Individuals Assisted: 36*
 - Number of Service Providers Assisted: 58*
 - Number of Organizations Assisted: 20*
 - Number of Communities Assisted: 25*

Objective #2:

Between 2006-2010, 70 Volunteers will collaborate with 850 English teachers of 13,000 students to acquire appropriate education materials; will train teachers on educational resource acquisition, adaptation, and implementation; and how to catalogue and organize new materials in libraries, resource, and ICT centers.

- In 2010*
- Number of Individuals Assisted: 565*
 - Number of Service Providers Assisted: 169*
 - Number of Organizations Assisted: 16*
 - Number of Communities Assisted: 20*

Objective #3:

Between 2006-2010, Volunteers will collaborate with 850 Armenian English teachers to increase their capacity to develop formal and informal assessment tools.

In 2010

- Number of Individuals Assisted: 87*
- Number of Service Providers Assisted: 82*
- Number of Organizations Assisted: 20*
- Number of Communities Assisted: 25*

GOAL# 4
Communities will be strengthened through Volunteers' collaborative efforts with colleagues, NGOs, youth, parents, civic and business leaders and local community organizations, bringing community groups together to implement local, regional, national and international projects.

Objective #1:

Between 2006-2010, Volunteers will provide 5,000 community members (both youth and adult) within 150 communities with a range of opportunities for developing personal and professional skills (e.g. English language, resume writing, ICT use, etc.)

- In 2010*
- Number of Individuals Assisted: 335*
 - Number of Service Providers Assisted: 190*
 - Number of Organizations Assisted: 54*
 - Number of Communities Assisted: 50*

Objective #2:

Between 2006-2010, 70 Volunteers, in collaboration with Armenian English teachers, youth, parents, educational institutions and other organizations will have organized events, educational activities, or development projects serving 5,000 community members within 150 communities.

- In 2010*
- Number of Individuals Assisted: 1950*
 - Number of Service Providers Assisted: 96*
 - Number of Organizations Assisted: 130*
 - Number of Communities Assisted: 80*

Totals 2010	
Total Project Participants	
Individuals	8240
Service Provider s.	526
Organizations	215
Communities	270

Environmental Education Program

GOAL 1

Educational institutions throughout Armenia will establish and/or strengthen their environmental education programs by introducing environmental education curricula and teacher trainings.

Objective 1

Volunteers and their counterparts assisted 33 Schools and organizations organize and implement environmental education activities and extra-curricular clubs in secondary schools to complement the curricula.

Objective 1.2

Volunteers and their counterparts have conducted or supported training in environmental education for 91 teachers and community members.

GOAL 2

Educational institutions, environmental non-governmental organizations and community unions will protect their local environment by organizing and/or participating in projects and extra-curricular activities that raise environmental awareness and increase youth participation in community environmental stewardship.

Objective 2.1

Volunteers and their counterparts organized and implemented community environmental activities involving 133 volunteer participants from urban and rural communities.

Objective 2.2

Volunteers and their counterparts established 3 community youth watch groups to monitor environmental quality.

Community Health Education Program

GOAL 1

Communities will have increased awareness of local conditions and issues that affect their health.

Objective 1.1

Volunteers and counterparts have surveyed 10 communities using participatory tools to determine and prioritize their health and social needs and assets.

Objective 1.2

Volunteers and their counterparts trained 10 service providers to design small community projects to address health and social issues.

GOAL 2

Community educators will establish and strengthen sustainable public health education programs focusing on preventive health care practices and healthy lifestyle choices.

Objective 2.1

Volunteers and their counterparts distinguished culturally and age appropriate health education materials to 195 community members.

Objective 2.2

Volunteers and their counterparts conducted various health educational activities for 1,425 community members.

Objective 2.3

Volunteers and their counterparts assisted 14 service providers in integrating and adapting health education materials into their regular curriculum and/or activities.

GOAL 3

Existing organizations and/or programs will increase their capacity, and will be able to respond effectively to the changing health and social needs of the community.

Objective 3.1

Volunteers and their counterparts conducted seminars, workshops, and/or training in organizational capacity skills for 11 local organizations.

Objective 3.2

Volunteers and their counterparts support 8 organizations to use new skills, information, and other capacity to carry out health or social services

GOAL 4

Community members will participate in community projects to gain skills to improve various aspects of their lives.

Objective 4.1

By the end of 2010 80 Volunteers and their counterparts will have incorporated priority content themes in their health lessons and community projects for 2,000 community members.



This journal is not intended to cover all volunteer activities, and merely represents a snapshot of Peace Corps Armenia's in-country programs and activities.

For more information about Peace Corps Armenia, its activities, its volunteers, its programs or related information, please contact Mariam Arzumanyan at 010-524-450.

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