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Creating Safer Programming Environments for Women and Youth

Peace Corps

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The Peace Corps Mission

To promote world peace and friendship by fulfilling three goals:

1. To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
2. To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
3. To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

Peace Corps has approximately 7,000 volunteers working in 60 countries.



Preparing Peace Corps and its Volunteers for Engagement with Communities

Creating consistently safer programming environments starts well before the program design phase - it starts at your own front door!



Know your people and set expectations!

- To what degree do you review an employee or volunteer's background?
- When do employees first learn about your organization's expectations for professional conduct both inside and outside the organization?

Here is what Peace Corps does...

...and the associated challenges



Create the necessary policy and procedural frameworks to build your operations around.

- Does your organization have policies and procedure governing both internal AND external conduct?
- How are staff and volunteers made aware of the policies and procedures? (optional reading, required reading, training?)
- Is it a one-time event or ongoing?

Here is what Peace Corps does...

...and the associated challenges



Understanding the context in which your programs/interactions take place.

- Teaching context can be easy, except when it is not!
- Is there a difference between knowledge of context and the ability to successfully navigate it?
- Beyond professional expectations and in to the personal realm...
- Is everyone on the same page...staff and volunteers.

Here is what Peace Corps does...

...and the associated challenges



Don't leave your staff and volunteers out in the wild when they venture into their programming responsibilities!

- Do your volunteers and staff have the necessary support and guidance to be successful?
- Are there ways to promote good practices that mitigate program risks (e.g. procedures, templates, checklists)

Here is what Peace Corps does...

...and the associated challenges



Conclusion/Discussion



Conclusions:

Afirmation that establishing a holistic internal organizational security framework better enables an organization to create safer programmatic environments.

