

In 2009, the Peace Corps addressed water and sanitation through:

- **56 health projects:** virtually all of which include *promotion of improved hygiene* within their objectives. Approximately 1,700 Volunteers served in these projects.
- **12 water and sanitation projects:** that include *water and sanitation infrastructure* within their objectives. Approximately 400 Volunteers served in these projects.
- **Community service activities:** at least 55 Volunteers, across a variety of projects, in collaboration with their communities, developed activities that address water and sanitation infrastructure.



The combined impact of these efforts resulted in:

FY 2009 water and sanitation project beneficiaries, by region				
Region	Beneficiaries with improved sanitation access	Beneficiaries with improved safe water access	Participants educated on improved hygiene	Total Beneficiaries
Africa	21,750	28,580	39,600	89,930
Europe, Middle East, North Africa and Asia	3,820	12,350	4,500	20,670
Americas and the Pacific	9,530	25,170	36,800	71,500
TOTAL	35,100	66,100	80,900	182,100

Household water treatment

Volunteers helped community members acquire and properly use affordable household water treatment methods including solar disinfection, boiling, ceramic filters, and biofilters.



Hygiene behaviors

The H1N1 pandemic of 2009 fueled great interest in prevention and response to pandemic influenza.

Volunteers across all regions promoted hygiene and hand washing with soap, including broad participation in Global Handwashing Day (October 15th). Volunteers particularly targeted women, who are the traditional food preparers and child caregivers, as well as children, to help them establish ingrained habits.



Peace Corps' "Healthy Schools" Model Replicated in Guatemala

For the past 13 years, the Peace Corps has worked to train and certify healthy schools, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. As a result of the success of these efforts, two departments have decided to implement the Peace Corps-piloted "healthy schools" strategy across their departments, and the Ministry of Education is working toward implementation of the "healthy schools" strategy nationwide. The strategy involves supporting schools to meet sustained infrastructure and student hygienic behavior criteria to be certified as a "healthy school."



Water and sanitation infrastructure

Volunteers facilitated the financing and construction or repair of community and school gravity-flow water systems, rainwater catchment systems, wells, soak away pits and latrines. They also trained local masons in techniques including ferro-cement tank construction.



Local operation, maintenance, and management of infrastructure

Volunteers helped strengthen the management of water and sanitation committees to ensure the sustainability of water and sanitation infrastructure, trained water system operators, and taught community members how to maintain latrines.



A Volunteer Global Handwashing Day Activity in Costa Rica

Two Volunteers and their partners taught a group of school children the importance of hand washing. The children made a promise to wash their hands and sealed the contract by placing their right hand in paint and stamping their handprint on a large poster board with hand washing slogans. Afterwards, they practiced proper hand washing techniques.



<i>Region</i>	<i>All health projects</i>	<i>All health Volunteers</i>	<i>Health projects including water and sanitation infrastructure</i>	<i>Water and sanitation Volunteers</i>
Africa	Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, Uganda, Zambia	980	Ghana, Mali, Uganda	147
Eastern Europe, Middle East, North Africa and Asia	Albania, Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Turkmenistan	177		0
Americas and the Pacific	Belize, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Vanuatu	571	Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru	265
<i>Total</i>	<i>56 projects in 46 countries</i>	<i>1728</i>	<i>12 projects in 11 countries</i>	<i>412</i>