



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SMALL PROJECT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

USAID and Peace Corps have partnered for the past 35 years on the Small Project Assistance (SPA) Program, the objective of which is to catalyze host country individuals, organizations, and communities to meet their own development needs and priorities as part of the Journey to Self-Reliance.

Managed by the Office of Local Sustainability, the SPA program is implemented through an agreement between USAID and the Peace Corps. The SPA program funds community-initiated small grants, capacity-building trainings, and program support costs, such as site visits and training materials. Since 1983, SPA has been active in 116 countries with a USAID investment of \$76 million in nearly 27,700 grant projects. Since 2000, nearly \$44M in USAID funds have leveraged over \$34M in local community contributions and third party contributions. This has allowed the USG to support more than 15,000 grants, more than 1,000 technical trainings, and reach nearly 30 million people. The average SPA grant has a 40.3 percent community contribution – showing both community commitment and ownership and strategically-leveraged USAID funding.

The SPA program combines the unique expertise and capabilities of each agency to enhance development impact. The program taps into the Peace Corps' ability to leverage the skills of trained Volunteers living and working in hard-to-reach communities with USAID funding and technical expertise. Building on the results and lessons learned from the past decades, the Agency put in place a new five-year Inter-Agency Participating Agency Program Agreement (PAPA) with Peace Corps earlier this year, dedicating \$3.4 million for SPA implementation in 33 countries.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: FOOD SECURITY IN CAMBODIA

A Peace Corps Volunteer in Cambodia and two local counterparts accessed a SPA grant to train 12 rural families on gardening techniques and nutritional information. The first segment of training covered the USAID Harvest model and associated techniques in soil preparation, composting, efficient irrigation, crop rotation, and field maintenance and pest control. The second segment of the training focused on the importance of nutritionally-diverse diets. Eleven of the participating families created home gardens to implement the knowledge gained from the training. Each of these families also provided information to neighbors; after the first gardening season, each of these families reported sharing second generation seeds with their neighbors. This training built lasting knowledge within the community, leading to a greater possibility of food security in the future.



JOSEPHINE MAHLIE/PEACE CORPS

CONTACTS

Office of Local Sustainability
Email localsustainability@usaid.gov