

OVERVIEW

World Connect supports innovative ideas and solutions for the challenges facing women and youth in under-served communities worldwide. We are currently working in Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda and Senegal.

We recognize that the real expertise and ingenuity to solve local challenges lies in the knowledge and talents of the locals, both individuals and groups. Our role is to collaborate to bring their ideas to life. We pride ourselves on being quick to both recognize innovation and to respond to it.

Our on-the-ground work begins with YOU, Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs), our on the ground experts to identify Project Leaders and Community Organizations capable of executing the creative tactics they themselves propose. We support Project Leaders that have BIG ideas, but lack support to bring those ideas to life. World Connect provides micro grants ranging from a minimum grant of \$250 to a maximum grant of \$5,000, with the average grant size being \$2,500. In addition to providing micro grants, we provide planning, logistical and programmatic support for each project to ensure that goals are met.

It is our intention to build relationships with Community Organizations and Leaders that will evolve and grow, establishing longer-term connections with our grantees. World Connect provides multi-year funding for those projects that have met and surpassed their goals and have a clear vision for how they would like to scale or grow their impact. Furthermore, every year in December, World Connect awards a \$5,000 prize for what we consider to be the most outstanding, sustainable project, through our Charlotte Daniel Fund.

Eligibility Requirements

1. All projects must focus on women and/or youth:

- Our goal is for women to have the ability to lead healthy, productive lives through the participation in health, education and income generation projects.
- Our goal is to help disadvantaged kids enjoy childhood, embrace their creativity and become leaders through the participation in arts, sports, education and environmental projects.

2. All projects must be sponsored by a currently serving Peace Corps Volunteer who has been at his or her site for a minimum of three months and who has at least eight months remaining before close of service.

3. All projects must also be sponsored by a local Project Leader. The Project Leader must be a representative of a local **Community Organization*** that demonstrates a commitment to developing project management capacity and has a commitment to women and/or youth in leadership roles.

**Community Organization = We define a Community Organization as a local, in-country committee or group, formal or informal, who serves as the primary implementing partner on each project.*

4. All projects must demonstrate measurable goals, a plan to measure progress towards those goals, and a plan for sustainable success.

5. All projects must demonstrate local ownership with a minimum 25% community contribution of the total project budget (may be monetary or in-kind).

Application & Funding Process

World Connect funds all projects through the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP) to ensure that funds arrive in a timely and secure manner. We highly recommend following the process below:

1. Work collaboratively with your Project Leader to talk through their BIG idea and develop a project proposal.
2. Sit down with your Project Leader and complete your PCPP application (required) and submit it to your Country Office for approval. **Be sure to list World Connect as the sole referral on Section A of the PCPP Application.**
3. **After** you submit your PCPP Application to your Country Office, work with your Project Leader to complete and submit the World Connect grant application.
4. You're done, congratulations!

Application Review and Timeline

We accept applications on a rolling basis throughout the year and review on a quarterly schedule. We will begin accepting online rolling applications on January 15th, 2012 and will close the initial application review period on February 15, 2012. Applicants will be notified of their approval or their need to make revisions by the first week of March 2012.

Application Submission Date: _____

Project Title: _____

**Your project title will be used to showcase your project. Please pick a creative title that best describes your project.*

Project Primary focus (please select women or youth, followed by the *primary* project category):

- Women
 - Health
 - Education
 - Income Generation
- Youth
 - Arts
 - Sports
 - Education
 - Environment

Project Secondary focus (please select any relevant *secondary* project categories):

- Women
 - Health
 - Education
 - Income Generation
- Youth
 - Arts
 - Sports
 - Education
 - Environment

Country: _____

State/Province: _____

City/Town: _____

Community/Neighborhood: _____

Language/s spoken locally: _____

Access to Technology:

- No access to a computer
- Limited access to a computer
- Regular access to a computer
- Excellent access to a computer

- No access to the internet
- Limited access to the internet
- Regular access to the internet
- Excellent access to the internet

- No access to a webcam
- Limited access to a webcam
- Regular access to a webcam
- Excellent access to a webcam

- No access to a cell phone
- Limited access to a cell phone
- Regular access to a cell phone
- Excellent access to a cell phone

Do you have a smart phone? _____

Locate the community on a Google Map (as best you can) and share the link. _____

Total amount requested from World Connect: _____

Has your PCPP application been submitted to your Country Office? _____

If yes, has your PCPP application been approved by your Country Office? _____

PCPP Number, if assigned: _____

GRANT APPLICATION
PAGE 2 - PROJECT SPONSORS



Question	Response
Name of Peace Corps Volunteer requesting a grant:	
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy):	
Male or Female:	
Local Address:	
Email:	
Phone:	
Highest Level of Education:	
	No formal education
	Primary education
	Secondary education
	Associate's Degree
	Bachelor's Degree
	Graduate Degree
Please provide a rationale for why you are qualified to lead this project, listing any additional relevant experience, skills or certifications.	
Assigned sector within Peace Corps:	
Time in current site (in months):	
Close of service date (mm/dd/yyyy):	
U.S. Hometown (city, state):	

Question	Response
Name of Project Leader requesting a grant:	
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy):	
Male or Female:	
Local Address:	
Email:	
Phone:	
Highest Level of Education:	
	No formal education
	Primary education
	Secondary education
	Associate's Degree
	Bachelor's Degree
	Graduate Degree
Please provide a rationale for why you are qualified to lead this project, listing any additional relevant experience, skills or certifications.	

Question	Response
Name of Community Organization requesting a grant:	
Office address:	
Phone number:	
What year was your community organization founded?	
How many years has your organization been actively involved in managing activities in the community?	
Total number of active members:	
	Men (25 and older)
	Women (25 and older)
	Boys (24 and younger)
	Girls (24 and younger)
What is the mission of the organization?	
What are your organization's current programs / activities?	

Question	Yes	No	Explanation
Is your organization legally registered? - If "Yes", provide the identification number. - If "No", describe the plan to become registered or why registration is not necessary.			
Does your organization have an elected governing body? - If "Yes", describe how leaders are elected. - If "No", please describe the organization's leadership structure and decision-making process.			
Do women hold 50% or more of the leadership positions within the organization? Please describe the number and types of positions held by women.			
Do youth (24 and younger) hold 50% or more of the leadership positions? Please describe the number and types of positions held by youth.			
Does your organization have a bank account with more than one authorized signatory? - If "No", describe how the organization manages finances.			
Is the organization affiliated with the government at any level? - If yes, describe the affiliation.			

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Instructions: World Connect provides support and resources to community organizations to build their capacity and meet the needs of women in their community. To figure out the best way to support your organization, please rate your organizational capacity below to the best of your ability from 1-5. Please give us your honest assessment and remember that this information **WILL NOT** be used in the selection process; we are collecting this information to best identify how we can meet your organizational needs.

CAPACITY	Level 1	X	Level 2	X	Level 3	X	Level 4	X	Level 5	X
Project Design and Management	Organization is unaware of need for sound project planning, evaluation and implementation.		Organization is mostly passive in designing and managing project activities and sees this as role of project leaders only.		Organization is aware of need for sound project planning, evaluation, and implementation and has dedicated people to develop skills in this area.		Organization participates in all aspects of project implementation with guidance from leaders.		Organization independently leads project planning, evaluation, and implementation.	
Financial Management	Organization is unaware of need for accountability in managing project finances.		Organization is mostly passive in managing project finances and sees this as role of project leaders only.		Organization is aware of need for sound project financial management and has dedicated people to develop skills in this area.		Organization manages project finances with guidance from leaders.		Organization independently manages finances and keeps project on budget.	
Sustainable Linkages	Organization is unaware of external resources for projects and is content to wait for support to come to them.		Organization is mostly passive in seeking external support for projects and sees this as role of project leaders only.		Organization is aware of possible contacts to identify longer-term resources and services and has dedicated people to develop skills in this area.		Organization is able to develop proposals for potential sources of external support with guidance from leaders.		Organization is able to independently develop proposals for potential sources of external support.	
Community Participation	There is little, if any, voluntary participation in development efforts. Women and youth have no role in the decision-making process of the community. Problems are addressed in an ad hoc manner.		Participation in community groups and activities is still very limited. There are some special work days for which significant numbers engage; but sustained involvement is unusual.		Greater participation in implementing projects over a sustained timeframe (6-12 mos) is recognizable, and systems to organize labor and resources exist.		Participation happens spontaneously in response to issues and ideas without a great deal of nudging from leaders.		There is widespread community participation in development efforts and an overall equity in the distribution of project benefits.	

Is there anything additional about your community organization that World Connect should know?

When will this project start (month, year)? _____
 What is the estimated duration of this project in months? _____

Provide a description of the community that will be impacted by this project. Please include what part of the country the community is located in, the climate and topography. Describe the community members with regards to challenges they face, ethnicity, language, important cultural traditions and sources of local employment.

Provide a detailed project description. Include details as to how this project will positively impact the target population and community.

Please provide a description of what sustainability will look like for this project and how it will continue and perhaps grow. World Connet heavily weighs the sustainability of projects when making decisions about potential funding.

Describe what aspects of this project, if any, could be replicated in other communities to improve the conditions of women and/or youth. World Connect strives to share "best practices" and tools that have proven successful, and would greatly appreciate your insight and suggestions.

Please describe in detail a typical day in the lives of the beneficiaries of this project.

Number of expected direct beneficiaries - individuals impacted directly by your project's activities

Female (24+)	_____	Male (24+)	_____
Female (18-23)	_____	Male (18-23)	_____
Female (6-17)	_____	Male (6-17)	_____
Female (0-5)	_____	Male (0-5)	_____

Total EXPECTED Direct Beneficiaries **0**

Describe in detail the roles and responsibilities of each of the key participants below in managing the design and implementation of the project.

Community Organization: _____
 Project Leader: _____
 Peace Corps Volunteer: _____

Describe in detail the roles and responsibilities of each of the key participants below in managing the finances of the project.

Community Organization: _____
 Project Leader: _____
 Peace Corps Volunteer: _____

GRANT APPLICATION

PAGE 5 - GUIDANCE FOR PROJECT DESIGN, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Below we have included information to help you in the process of developing a strong Project Plan with clear goals, activities and indicators for measuring success throughout the life of your project. Please use the information below to complete your detailed Project Plan.

Goals: Goals are intended to help you define the success of your project. Think about what you want to accomplish and how to express it in a measurable and attainable fashion. Make sure that your goals are SMART: specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound and be clear about your target population (numbers, location, characteristics). Here is an example of a SMART goal, "To provide high quality HIV/AIDS prevention education to 5,000 at-risk women in the project area through a network of 200 community health workers during the first 6 months of the project."

Activities: This is where you will need to describe everything that needs to happen in order to achieve your project's goals. Using the example above, an activity to achieve that goal could be to "Host training for at-risk women about HIV/AIDS prevention." Please be as specific as possible.

Time Frame: This is where you will include a deadline for each activity indicating when you aim to have that activity completed by. With the example above, the training for at-risk women could have a time frame of "within six months of project start." Again, be as specific as possible, including dates if available.

Total Expected Beneficiaries: Here you will describe the specifics of your target population for each activity. We are looking for a description of who and a quantity of how many. With the example above, the training for at-risk women could be expected to reach "200 women 24 and older and 50 girls 23 and younger."

Indicators: Indicators are intended to help you measure whether or not you are meeting your project's goals. You will need to select an indicator for each goal. **When selecting your indicators, please be sure to include AT LEAST ONE from the list of World Connect Common Indicators (described in detail further below). This is CRITICAL so that we can summarize the success of the projects that we support. It is key to measure your progress at different points throughout your project, such as:

- 1. Baseline:** This is your starting point. You will need to collect this information to show where you began. Continuing with our example of HIV/AIDS prevention education, you will need to measure what the group of at-risk women being trained knew prior to your stellar training. You can then use the same instrument (a survey, for example) at the end of your training to show how successful your project was.
- 2. Midline:** Measuring progress made on completed activities half-way through your project is a great way to ensure that things are on track or to make necessary adjustments. Using our example, you could learn at midline that you are increasing knowledge within your target of at-risk women on some topics but not on others. You can then make adjustments to ensure that your overall goal is achieved by the project's end.
- 3. Final:** It is essential to measure your indicators at the completion of your project. This will allow you to celebrate your success based on data. For example, if at baseline your students scored an average of 60% on your HIV / AIDS knowledge pre-test, but scored a stellar 99% on the post-test you've shown considerable achievement.

Data Collection Method & Person Responsible: This is where you should specify who is responsible for measuring the indicator and how it will be done. Using our example, you could measure the changes in knowledge among at-risk women using a survey and it could be the responsibility of the project leader to make sure all the data are collected.

World Connect Common Indicators: In selecting the indicators for your project, you must include AT LEAST ONE indicator from the list below. We have provided a general format that you can use to plug in the specifics related to your project.

KNOWLEDGE

Use a KNOWLEDGE indicator if your goal is to improve education related to HIV/AIDS prevention, family planning methods, nutrition, cultural history, local flora and fauna, recycling, musical performance, etc.

General Format: Increase in knowledge related to (type of information) among (how many)(describe population)

Example: Increase in knowledge related to HIV/AIDS prevention among 5,000 at-risk women

ACCESS

Use an ACCESS indicator if your goal is to improve access to local nutritious food sources, clean water, sanitation, family planning methods, HIV/AIDS screening, recycling bins, sports equipment, music classes, educational resources, etc.

General Format: Increase in access to (specify what) among (how many) (describe population)

Example: Increase in access to locally produced eggs among 150 families

BEHAVIOR/SKILL

Use a BEHAVIOR/SKILL indicator if your goal is to improve an activity among your target population such as ability to read, ability to write, ability to generate income, etc. or changes in behavior such as exclusive breastfeeding, incorporating local nutritious foods into diet, increased school attendance, decreased delinquency, etc.

General Format: Increase in (behavior/skill) among (how many) (describe population)

Example: Increase in exclusive breastfeeding immediately after birth among 25 new mothers

INCOME

Use an INCOME indicator if your goal is to increase the amount of funds available to your target population by supporting them to learn a marketable skill, start a small enterprise, etc.

General Format: Increase in income from (what) to (what) among (how many) (describe population)

Example: Increase in income from \$0/week to \$10/week among 20 women trained in sewing techniques

1. Please attach your completed PCPP Application, which should include a detailed budget that aligns with the goals and activities of this project.*
*World Connect provides micro-grants ranging from a minimum grant of \$250 to a maximum grant of \$5,000, with the average grant size being \$2,500.
2. Please submit all relevant photos (please read the photo guidance below).
3. Please submit or provide a link to all relevant videos.

Guidance for Photos

Nothing speaks to readers/viewers more powerfully and immediately than good photographs. We rely on you to document your project using story-telling photos so that we can share your good work, and ours, with others.

Your grant agreement with World Connect outlines how to send us your work, photos should be sent with your initial application as well as with subsequent progress and final reports. Below please find some tips to help you to capture what we have found to work best.

What should we take photos of?

We are looking for photos that showcase your project, the activities and the people involved (photos that show progress are great). We like for photos to be at the level of the subject. Make sure that your photos capture the work in action and are not all posed portraits. Group shots of smiling unidentified people don't capture the essence of your work. Instead, please fill the lens with closeups of folks, playing, working, and thinking. If you want, try a few creative shots: closeups of hands at work, feet on the football, backs of heads watching an activity, etc. Show us emotion and energy: excitement, abandon, joy, frustration, laughter, and concentration. Make the viewer feel as if s/he is there. Also, we'd like before and after shots that show what your project accomplished as well as photos of the project leaders and the beneficiaries. Identify as many people as possible.

Are there minimum size requirements for photos?

Yes. Photos should be a minimum of 300 dots per inch (dpi) or 400 x 300 pixels. The larger, the better.

How should we send photos to World Connect?

Photos should be sent to World Connect via email as JPG or PNG files. Each photo should be named following the convention, "Country-Subject-Photographer", including first and last names where possible. Please feel free to zip or compress the photos in order to share photos with World Connect.

How will World Connect use my photos?

By sharing photos with World Connect, you are consenting to allow us to use your photos on our website and in print materials and that the subjects have passively consented to their image/likeness being used in this way. Once photos are sent to World Connect, they become the property of the organization; however, we are happy to give credit where credit is due, so let us know if you'd like to be listed in a photo credit.

We will look forward to seeing your project in action. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask us at:

patrick@worldconnect-us.org

You're finished, congratulations!