



Office of Private Sector Initiatives (OPSI)
Information Series

**PEACE CORPS PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAM CRITERIA**

**Project is Community
Initiated and Directed**

This guideline insures that the community is the driving force behind the project and will take "ownership" of it once it has been completed. Who first proposed this project? To what extent are the intended beneficiaries involved in its planning and controls?

**Project Meets a
Pressing Community
Need**

This guideline helps to establish the merit of this particular project among a host of other expressed needs. What clear indication do you see that this project will meet a need that people consider important? Will it help people become more self-reliant in the future? Are there any benefits including quantifiable ones - that might not be immediately apparent to a potential sponsor? What will happen if the project is not implemented?

**Community Provides
at Least 25% of the
Project Cost**

In order to guarantee "community buy-in" to the project and enhance its long term sustainability, the Partnership Program requires at least a 25% community contribution which should include the costs of all manual labor involved in the project. Host community contributions might also include - but are not limited to - direct financial contributions in the form of cash or material donations, including locally available raw materials. Contributions from local or other in-country sources, such as indigenous organizations or government ministries, can also be factored into the "community" contribution. Keep in mind that, on average, Partnership projects include a community contribution well above the minimal 25% requirement. Please note that an international NGO with representation within the host country is not considered community contribution.

If the proposal budget includes any government or local/ international NGO funding, a letter of certification verifying the NGOs registration with the government or the NGO's recognition among community leaders and a letter of monetary intent to support the project should be secured and included in the PCPP proposal. If a Volunteer has acquired local or international NGO support and the amount is under

\$5,000, the CD can accept this unconditional gift. If it is over \$5,000 the unconditional gift must be given directly to OPSC. The CD will verify receipt of funds and inform OPSC. Once all NGO/government funding has been received and PCPP has raised the remaining funds, the authorization memo will be sent. If the government or NGO withdraws its support, a new budget must be submitted reflecting the corresponding new PCPP participation and community contribution.

Community Demonstrates a Well-Developed Plan for Project Implementation and Sustainability

In this section, you and community members need to focus on issues that may directly or indirectly affect how successfully the project can be implemented. Such considerations should include:

Gender, Racial, or Religious, Equitability: How do you see this project affecting the well-being of women as well as men in the community? Will the project benefit all members of the community regardless of race, gender or religion? Although many cultural and social factors weigh into this particular consideration, efforts should be made to include as much equal access and benefit as possible.

Local Situation: Oftentimes, local politics have a greater bearing on the outcome of a project than do national politics. Given the local situation, can you reasonably expect that the project will reach completion and be maintained as intended? Does the project successfully integrate all key players within the community?

In-Country Means of Support: Have all sources of financial, material, and technical support been explored which could bring the community more into the mainstream of local and national development efforts? Are there adequate resources (material, technical, and financial) to maintain the project once it has been completed?

Resources and Time: Is there appropriate staff available to implement and continue the project? Can the services of a qualified builder, plumber, teacher, nurse, architect, electrician or other necessary personnel be obtained (preferably locally)? It is required that you include a timeline for the successful implementation and completion of the project. Avoid specifying exact dates but rather use terms such as "week 1 " or "first month," etc. to indicate time periods. It is highly recommended that you include any special circumstances that will affect implementation time and schedule, such as a rainy season.

Environmental: What impact will the project implementation have on the environment? Are locally available resources being used wisely and judiciously? What measures are being taken to counteract any possible negative impact on the environment?

Sustainability: Does the community have the resources (human, financial or material) to sustain the project in the long-term? How long do you anticipate this project will be in use or have an effect? How will the buildings, parts, or machinery be repaired or replaced? Could the community replicate or teach the implementation of this project in the

future? Please include a letter of intent outlining the plan for long-term maintenance and repair (identify individuals responsible for maintenance and the source and sustainability of funds).

List your indicators of success

In this section, you should consider what will be the measure of success for your project in the two main groups below.

A. Quality of Life.

of beneficiaries experiencing a change.

of beneficiaries who perceive a change in their quality of life.

of total beneficiaries acquiring new skills.

of total beneficiaries achieving new level of literacy.

of beneficiaries with changed perception of self and others.

Degree of acceptance or rejection and sense of inclusion and participation in decision-making.

B. Organizational Capacity

Demonstrated capacity to define goals and objectives.

Demonstrated and systematic approach to planning, monitoring, and evaluation.

Capability to mobilize resources.

Partnership Funds Restricted to Proposed Project.

The community understands that Partnership funds are to be used only for costs associated with project implementation as detailed in the proposal budget, and there can be no further request made of project sponsors outside of the Partnership Program. In addition, the host community understands that proposal acceptance and circulation to potential sponsors does not guarantee that funding will be identified.