

Peace Corps Volunteers & GRASSROOTSOCCER

Since 2011, Grassroot Soccer and Peace Corps have partnered to provide PCVs with access to Grassroot Soccer's fun, evidence-based programs that use the power of soccer to reach youth with critical health information. We have provided curricula, training, and materials to thousands of Peace Corps Volunteers and counterparts in more than 40 countries. Volunteers utilize lessons designed specifically to address health education needs of the rural communities in which they serve, and deliver meaningful interventions for youth at site.

Partnership with Individual Volunteers

Volunteers interested in using GRS programs at their sites should contact PCSkillz@GrassrootSoccer.org to request more information. GRS can mail a kit of materials at no cost to the Volunteer with all of the basics needed to run GRS programs with a group of 20 to 25 youth. If local mail is unreliable, Volunteers can also receive digital materials. GRS follows up with Volunteers periodically to check progress and offer support in sharing best practices.

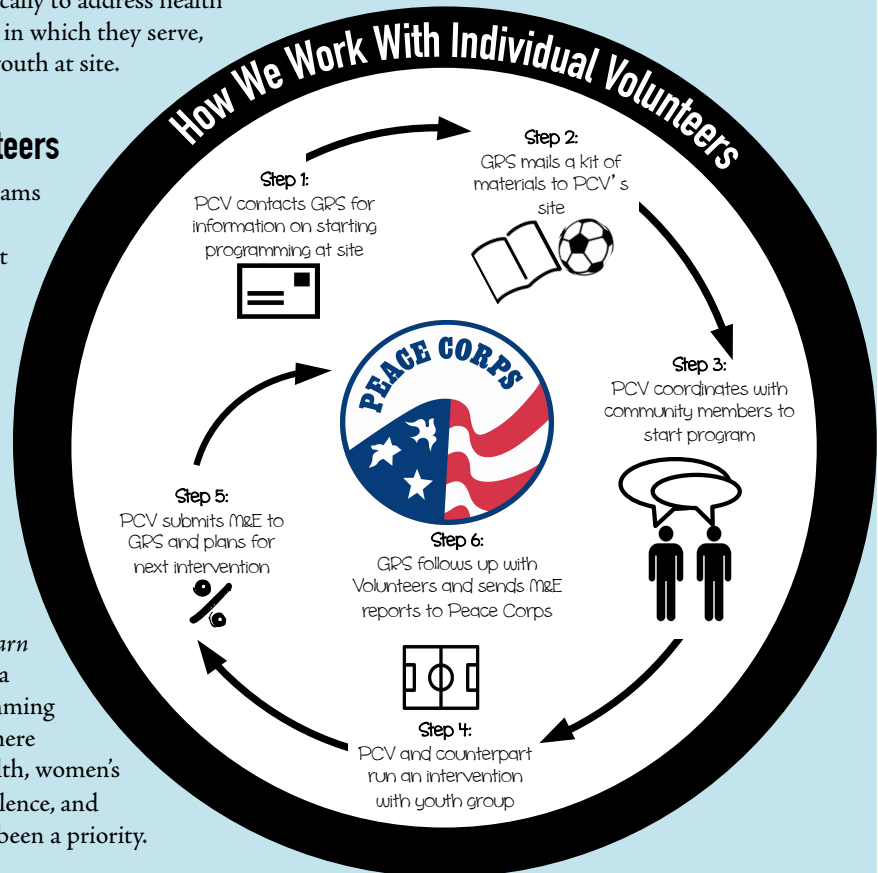
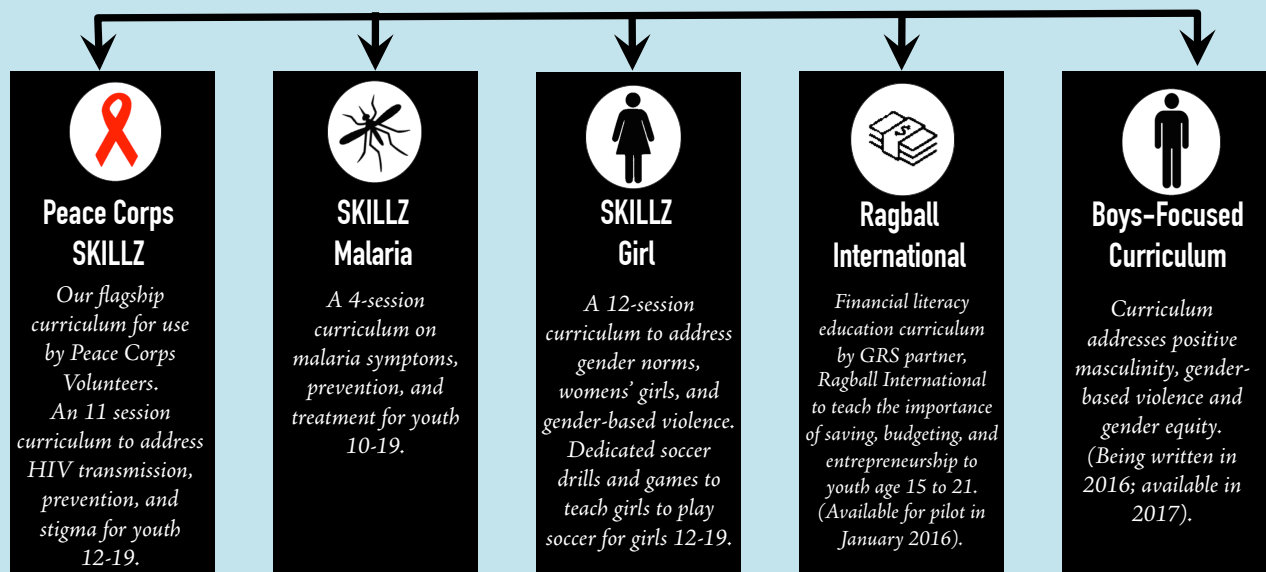
Gender-Focused Programming

With the introduction of the *Let Girls Learn* Initiative, SKILLZ Girl is rising to meet a growing need for gender-focused programming in participating Peace Corps countries, where education on reproductive and sexual health, women's rights, access to services, gender-based violence, and Positive body image has not traditionally been a priority.

Grassroot Soccer's boys-only program was piloted internally in 2015 and will be adapted for PCVs in 2016.

Please note that some of our curricula require in-person trainings by GRS Master Coaches for use by Volunteers and counterparts.

Grassroot Soccer Curricula



Grassroot Soccer as an Anchoring Activity

Some posts have begun using Grassroot Soccer as an anchoring activity for their Volunteers working in health, education, and youth development. Because our curricula are evidence-based and field-tested by more than 1,800 PCVs, they make great off-the-shelf tools for Volunteers to successfully deliver effective youth empowerment programs. Our robust M&E system means Volunteers, posts, and headquarters can easily see the impact PCVs are making in their communities. Grassroot Soccer can work with posts to adapt our curricula to project frameworks and specific indicators and adjust online data dashboards to emphasize indicators most useful for individual posts.



Training of Coaches

Where wide interest and training resources exist, GRS works with Peace Corps posts to bring our dynamic 3- to 5-day trainings to groups of 20-50 Volunteers and their counterparts. In-person “Training of Coaches” are the most effective way to bring GRS to Peace Corps sites, as they actively engage Volunteers alongside counterparts to build facilitation skills and strengthen working relationships. These trainings effectively instill the interactive, fun GRS culture that makes our programs so successful at engaging youth.

During a Training of Coaches, PCV/Counterpart coaching teams participate in the practices they will facilitate with youth groups in their communities and develop the skills necessary to connect with and enable youth to make healthy decisions on and off the field. GRS trainers work to empower local counterparts and GRS will continue to partner with any counterpart even after a Volunteer closes service. In-person trainings dramatically increase implementation rates and data reporting; 79% of Volunteers successfully running GRS interventions were reached through either trainings or in-person information sessions led by GRS staff and nearly all project data submitted comes from trained PCVs.

More than 21 posts in all three Peace Corps regions Africa, EMA (Eastern Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia) and IAP (Inter-America and Pacific) have hosted GRS trainings. Local language materials can be developed in collaboration with post.



Learn More: PCSkillz@GrassrootSoccer.org ----- www.grassrootsoccer.org ----- [grspcskillz](https://www.facebook.com/grspcskillz)