



PEACE  
CORPS

# Ukraine HOST COUNTRY IMPACT STUDY

## Purpose

In 2008, the Peace Corps launched a series of studies to determine the impact of Volunteers in meeting two of the agency's three goals: building local capacity and promoting a better understanding of Americans among local people in host countries. These Host Country Impact Studies are unique in providing feedback from the people who lived and worked with Peace Corps Volunteers. A Ukrainian research team conducted this study in the spring of 2010, interviewing 161 respondents in 20 communities, and submitted a final report to the post. The Peace Corps Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning developed the methods and protocols, trained the local researchers, and produced a series of reports from this and other Host Country Impact Studies.

## Study Focus: Teaching English as Foreign Language (TEFL)

As of 2011, 2,505 Volunteers have served in Ukraine since the Peace Corps opened in 1993. The goal of the TEFL Project is to improve teachers' and students' English communication skills and to encourage independent thinking and problem-solving among students through interactive learning and student-centered teaching methods.

### Peace Corps Goal One

*"To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women."*

### Findings

TEFL objectives achieved:

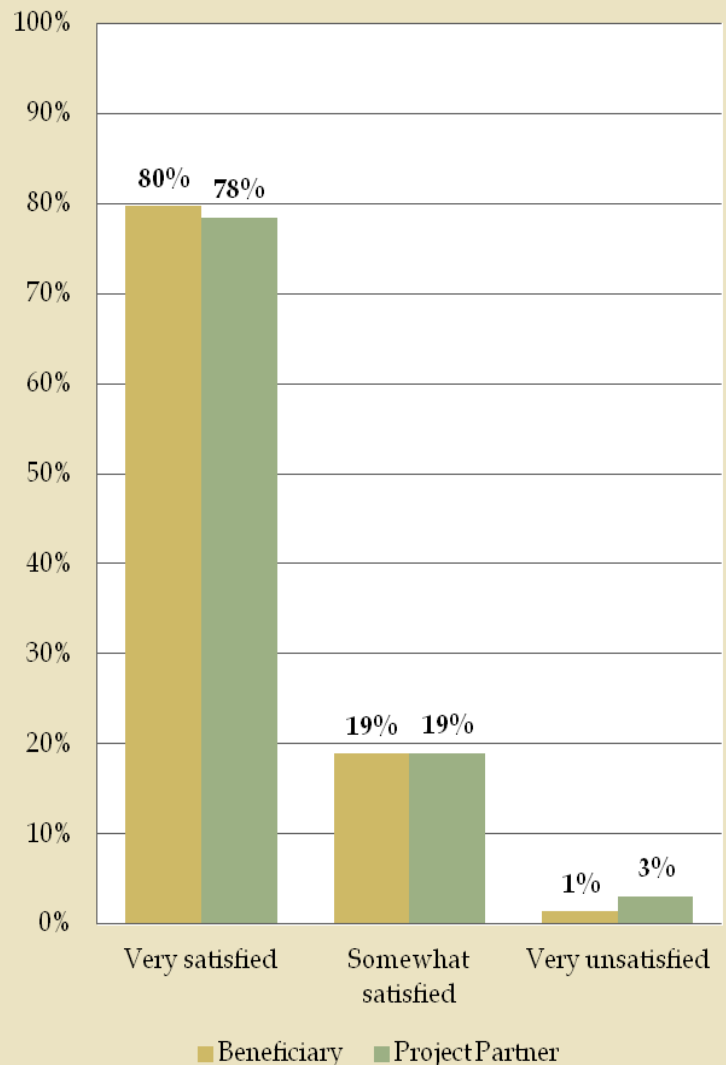
- 95 percent of teachers and students reported improved English language skills among students.
- 91 percent of teachers improved their use of creative and student-oriented teaching methods.
- 94 percent of respondents said they were better able to reach their professional goals.
- Teachers reported students had greater success in international competitions and schools developed resource centers and libraries.

Sustainability:

- 60 percent of the respondents reported using the professional skills gained from the Volunteer on a daily basis.
- 47 percent of teachers continued to use student-centered teaching methods five years after the Volunteers completed their service.

Teacher: *"My interaction with the Volunteer helped me advance my English skills. The training had a great impact. I use the knowledge gained in my classes with English teachers to conduct trainings on leadership and stereotypes. I taught other teachers how this information could be presented to children and how it could be used."*

### Satisfaction with Changes Resulting from Peace Corps' Projects





## Peace Corps Goal Two

*“To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the people served.”*

### Findings

*Before* interacting with Volunteers:

- 91 percent of project partners and beneficiaries had learned about Americans from television and movies.
- Ukrainian respondents simultaneously described Americans as educated, practical, straightforward, and also unkempt, irresponsible, greedy, and arrogant.
- Others respondents acknowledged they held stereotypes learned as part of the Soviet educational system.

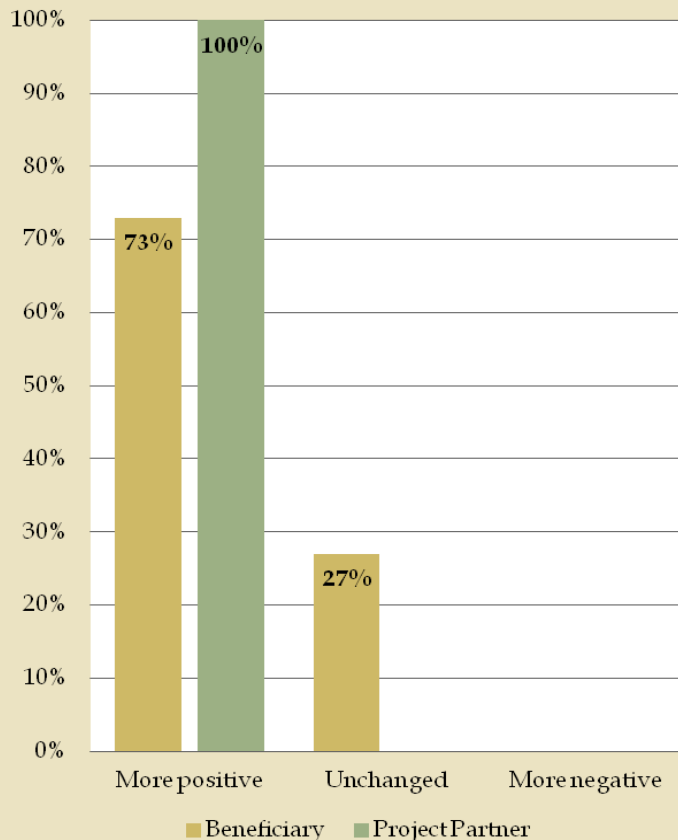
*After* interacting with Volunteers:

- Project partners and beneficiaries more often described Americans as helpful, friendly, responsible, open, kind, and hard-working.
- Project partners and beneficiaries stated they had become more punctual at work, more patient with students, more fair in their grading, more committed to completing their work on time, more results-oriented, confident, and organized.

Ukrainian respondent: *“During the Soviet times, Americans were presented as enemies. Later I understood that they are like us. There are good people among them and not so good as well.”*

Host family member: *“[My] outlook on Americans broadened. They do not have as easy a life as many of us might think. They have to work hard and study a lot in order to be successful.”*

Opinion of Americans After Interacting with Volunteers



Overall, students’ and teachers’ English significantly improved and teachers are using new creative teaching methods. Volunteers facilitated a more positive opinion of Americans.