

<b>STANDARD SECTOR INDICATOR CODE:</b> YD-026-F	<b>Parent Communication:</b> Number of parents, out of the total number of parents the Volunteer/partner worked with, who reported improved communications or relationships with their children. (YD-026-F)	
<b>YOUTH SECTOR</b>	<b>Sector Schematic Alignment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Project Area:</b> Support for Youth</li> <li>• <b>Project Activity Area/Training Package:</b> Parent Support</li> </ul>	
<b>Type:</b> Outcome	<b>Unit of Measure:</b> Parents	<b>Disaggregation:</b> <b>Sex:</b> Male, Female
<b>Definitions:</b> <p><b>Partner/s</b> – refers to the local counterpart who is co-facilitating communication or relationship-building activities with the Volunteer.</p> <p><b>Parent(s)</b> - refers to the biological parents or other adult caregiver to a young person.</p>		
<p><b>Rationale:</b> The presence of a caring adult has been determined to be the most critical asset out of the forty developmental assets that are the foundation of youth development work.<sup>1</sup> An increase in the number of parents reporting improved communication or relationships with their children shows that this critical asset is more likely to be present in a young person’s life, enabling them to engage in positive behaviors and avoid negative, destructive behaviors.</p>		
<p><b>Measurement Notes:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Sample Tools and/or Possible Methods (for Peace Corps staff use):</b> Volunteers should use data collection tools to measure progress against project indicators. Please check the intranet page through <a href="#">this link</a> to see if one or more approved tools exist for this indicator, select the most appropriate tool for the post, and adapt it at the post level for their Volunteers’ use. Please check often, as tools will be uploaded frequently during the year. If no tool is available, this indicator could be measured using private surveys or interviews, though there may be other data collection methods that are appropriate as well. For more information on the suggested methods, please see <a href="#">Appendix I in the MRE Toolkit</a>. Once a tool has been developed, post staff should have a few Volunteers and their partners pilot the tool, and then distribute and train Volunteers on its use.</li> <li>2. <b>General Data Collection for Volunteer Activities:</b> All Volunteer activities should be conducted with the intention of achieving outcomes – knowledge change (short-term), skills demonstration (intermediate-term), and behavioral changes (intermediate to long term) as defined by the progression of indicators within the objectives of a project framework. The progression of measurement for all Volunteer activities should begin with baseline data being conducted prior to the implementation of an activity (or set of activities), followed by documenting any outputs of the activities and then later at the appropriate time, measurements of specific outcomes (see “Frequency of Measurement”).</li> <li>3. <b>Activity-Level Baseline Data Collection:</b> Activity-level baseline data should be collected by Volunteers/partners before or at the start of their activities with a parent or group of parents. It provides a basis for planning and/or assessing subsequent progress or impact with these same people. The information for the baseline measurement will be the same or very similar to the information that will be collected in the follow-on</li> </ol>		

<sup>1</sup> C. Theokas and R.M. Lerner, “Promoting Positive Development in Adolescence: The Role of Ecological Assets in Families, Schools, and Neighborhoods,” *Applied Developmental Science* 10, no.2 (2006): 61-74.

measurement (see “Frequency of Measurement”) after the Volunteer has conducted his/her activities and it is usually collected using the same data collection tool to allow for easy management of the data over time.

Because Volunteers are expected to implement relevant and focused activities that will promote specific changes within a target population (see “Unit of Measure”), taking a baseline measurement helps Volunteers to develop a more realistic snapshot of where parents within the target population are in their process of change instead of assuming that they are starting at “0.” It also sets up Volunteers to be able to see in concrete terms what influence their work is having on the parents they work with during their service. Please note that data collection is a sensitive process and so Volunteers will not want to take a baseline measurement until they have been able to do some relationship and trust-building with the person/people the Volunteer is working with, and developed an understanding of cultural norms and gender dynamics.

4. **Frequency of Measurement:** For reporting accurately on this outcome indicator, Volunteers must take a minimum of two measurements with parents of the target population reached with their activities. After taking the baseline measurement (described above), Volunteers should take at least one follow-on measurement with the same parent(s), typically after completing one or more activities focused on achieving the outcome in this indicator and once they have determined that the timing is appropriate to expect that the outcome has been achieved. Once Volunteers have measured that at least one parent has achieved the indicator, they should report on it in their next VRF.

Volunteers may determine to take more than one baseline and one follow-on measurement with the same parent (or group of parents) for the following valid reasons:

- a. Volunteers may want to measure whether or not any additional parents initially reached with activities have now achieved the outcome in the indicator, particularly for any activities that are on-going in nature (no clear end date);
- b. Volunteers may want to enhance their own learning and the implementation of their activities by using the data collected as an effective monitoring tool and feedback mechanism for the need to improve or increase their activities;
- c. A Peace Corps project in a particular country may choose to increase the frequency of measurement of the indicator and Volunteers assigned to that project will be required to follow in-country guidance.

In all cases, any additional data collection above the minimum expectation should be based on the time, resources, accessibility to the target population, and the value to be gained versus the burden of collecting the data. Following any additional measurements taken, Volunteers should report on any new parents achieving the outcome in their next VRF.

5. **Definition of Change:** The minimum change to report against this indicator is any parent reporting improved communications or relationships with their children.
6. **General Reporting in the VRF:** The “number achieved” (or numerator) that Volunteers will report against for this indicator in their VRFs is the number of parents who, as a result of working with the Volunteer, reported improved communications or relationships with their children. The “total number” (or denominator) that Volunteers will report on for this indicator in their VRFs is the total number of parents who participated in the activities designed to meet this indicator.
7. **Reporting on Disaggregated Data in the VRF:** This indicator is disaggregated by “Sex. When reporting in the VRF, a Volunteer should disaggregate the parents who achieved the outcome based on male and female gender.

**Data Quality Assessments (DQA):** DQAs are needed for each indicator selected to align with the project objectives. DQAs review the validity, integrity, precision, reliability, and timeliness of each indicator. For more information, consult the Peace Corps MRE Toolkit.

**Alignment with Summary Indicator:** YOUTH PARENTING