



**Peace Corps**

## **Peace Corps Small Grants Program**

### **Guidance for Determining Participants vs. Beneficiaries**

Volunteers and their communities are required to record on the small grants application and final report the number of people in their community who participate in and benefit from the project. Peace Corps has specific definitions for these terms in the context of a small grants project. This document provides guidance on these terms, how to determine the number of participants and the number of beneficiaries for each project, and how to avoid double counting.

#### **Definitions: Participants vs. Beneficiaries:**

Participants are those who are directly involved in the design and implementation of the project, including those who attend trainings or workshops.

- Participants are usually involved in the project during the project planning and/or implementation phases.
- Participants receive a transfer of knowledge, skills, and attitudes as a result of participation in project activities and might go on to teach what they learned during the project to other community members.

Beneficiaries receive an indirect benefit from the execution of the project, but are not involved in the planning or execution.

- Beneficiaries often profit from the execution of the project after the main period of project implementation has passed.
- Beneficiaries may receive a transfer of knowledge, skills, or abilities from participants who were trained during the main period of project implementation.

#### **Who Should Not be Counted as Participants or Beneficiaries?**

- Community members who could potentially participate in or benefit from the project if they chose to but are not reasonably expected to do so.
- The entire population of a village, unless they all actually participate in or benefit from the project in a tangible, measurable way.
- Community members who receive a benefit from the project at an indefinite point in the future.

As a rule of thumb, PCVs and their communities can be reminded that they should not feel compelled to report high numbers, since they are not being judged on the number of people reached. A PCV might do excellent capacity-building work with just a few people! PCVs are simply expected to do their best to report on these figures **accurately**. The purpose of reporting these numbers is to have a clear idea of the number of people involved or benefiting from the project.

## Examples of Direct Participants vs. Indirect Beneficiaries

- 1) A community works with their Volunteer to develop a teacher training project. The project is to be regional in scope, involving the travel of ESL teachers from 10 villages to the regional capital to take part in a three-day workshop. Following the training, the teachers will utilize new activities and teaching techniques that they learned at the training in their classrooms. There will be 10 teachers at the workshop and each teacher has three classes of approximately 60 students.

For this project, the teachers are the participants and those they will teach after the training are the beneficiaries. Thus, the totals are as follows:

- 10 participants
- 1,800 beneficiaries

- 2) A youth group approaches a Volunteer asking him to help them raise funds for a community youth center. Together, they develop a project that includes building the center and planning a series of events to take place at the center that will focus on giving information about educational and work opportunities available to youth in the area. There are 15 youth in the group and there is an expected attendance at the events of an additional 70 youth. Following the planned events, it is expected that a portion of the youth in the community will make use of the new space for meetings and other events.

For this project, the participants are the 15 youth in the youth group and the 70 youth who will attend the initial informational sessions. The beneficiaries are those who will likely use the meeting space in a reasonable time frame following the project's implementation. Assuming there are about 800 youth in the town in general, but that not all of them will make use of the center, the beneficiaries could be determined by the Volunteer and the community making an informed guess of what portion of those youth would use the center. Thus, the totals are as follows:

- 85 participants
- 400 beneficiaries (assuming half of the village youth would make use of the space)

- 3) A Volunteer works with the water committee of a town to plan a project to build a large-diameter well in a part of town where water is scarce. The population of the town is 5,000, but the Volunteer and the Water Committee estimate that only about 200 people will make regular use of the well.

The participants of this project are the members of the water committee and the beneficiaries are the citizens who will make regular use of the well. Thus, the totals are as follows:

- 8 participants (the water committee)
- 200 beneficiaries