



Peace Corps **Georgia** English Education Project

Project Purpose

Peace Corps Georgia works in close collaboration with the Georgian Ministry of Education and Science on an **English Education** project. The project began in 2001 and operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry (most recently renewed in 2013). The project helps Georgian students, youth, teachers, and other community members to gain access to personal, professional, and academic opportunities through English language learning and critical skills development. Currently, **49** Volunteers work side-by-side with Georgian teacher counterparts in schools across the country (*as of February 2014*).

Project Goals and Activities

The English Education project has three major goals: 1) Youth will improve their English language proficiency and skills in critical thinking, gender sensitivity and teamwork and enhance confidence and motivation through in class instruction and extracurricular activities. 2) English teachers will improve their English language communication skills, teaching practices, and professional skills. 3) Students, teachers, and community members will have increased access to English language learning resources and external opportunities. Volunteers and their Georgian teacher counterparts conduct classroom lessons, hold after school clubs and weekend and summer camps, organize extracurricular activities, facilitate teacher professional development sessions, organize local and national spelling, writing, art, or other competitions, and bring education resources and opportunities to their communities.

Project Impact in 2013

In 2013, **77** Volunteers worked in **80** schools in **10** regions across Georgia. Of the 80 school placements, approximately **30%** serve IDPs, ethnic minorities, or other socially vulnerable students or reach underserved populations in more rural/remote areas. Major accomplishments include:

12,000 youth increased their English proficiency through interactive classes tailored to their different learning styles, practiced problem-solving skills, and learned about leadership and teamwork through extracurricular activities. They gained knowledge and confidence through participation in activities focused on life skills, fitness, gender, leadership, and careers.

- **800 teachers** improved their English language communication skills and increased their use of English inside and outside of the classroom. They gained skills in lesson planning and new teaching methodologies through one-on-one or group trainings.
- **4,000 community members** accessed resources for improving English language pronunciation, listening, speaking, and writing through computers, audio speakers, CD players, projectors, PowerPoint presentations, movies, YouTube videos, and puzzles.

***About the Peace Corps:** As the preeminent international service organization of the United States, the Peace Corps sends Americans abroad to tackle the most pressing needs of people around the world. Peace Corps volunteers work at the grassroots level with local governments, schools, communities, small businesses and entrepreneurs to develop sustainable solutions that address challenges in education, health, economic development, agriculture, environment and youth development. When they return home, volunteers bring their knowledge and experiences – and a global outlook – back to the United States that enriches the lives of those around them. President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961 to foster a better understanding among Americans and people of other countries. Since then, more than 215,000 Americans of all ages have served in 139 countries worldwide. Over **500** Volunteers have served in Georgia in the English Education, Individual and Organizational Development, and Response projects.*