



*Window on America*

Вікно в Америку

# Peace Corps

Window on America Center  
Kirovohrad Oblast Research Library Named After  
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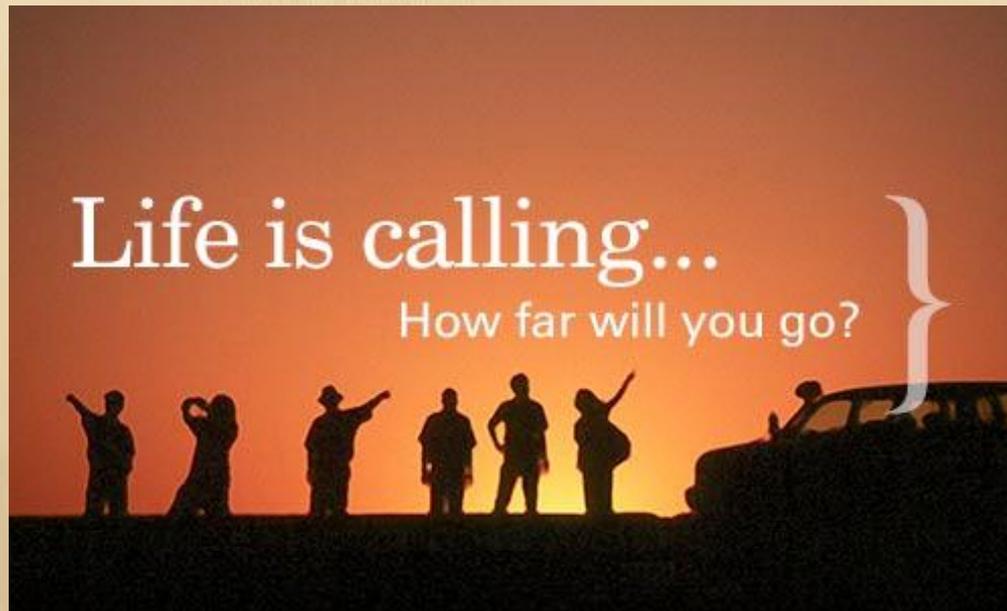
*Country Study Series*

*Karin N. Jones*

*Community Development Volunteer, Peace Corps Ukraine*

# What is Peace Corps?

- An independent U.S. government agency that provides volunteers for countries requesting assistance around the world.
- To date, more than 200,000 Americans have served in 139 countries.
- Currently are 8,655 volunteers are serving in 77 countries around the world.



# Peace Corps History

- Founded on March 1, 1961 by President John F. Kennedy.
- Since then, Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 139 countries.
- Peace Corps adapts and responds to the issues of the times.
- Volunteers work in villages, towns, and cities around the globe.
- The program has expanded to include Crisis Corps and Peace Corps Response, which enable experienced Peace Corps volunteers to respond to humanitarian crises and natural disasters.
- Peace Corps collaborates with:
  - Habitat for Humanity on projects in select regions of the world.
  - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to improve food security and the conditions of rural people across the globe.
- Through the World Wise School Initiative, Peace Corps Volunteers work with school classes in the U.S. in an effort to promote international awareness and cross-cultural understanding.



***President John F. Kennedy signing the Executive Order that created the Peace Corps in 1961.***

# Peace Corps Mission and Goals

- To help the people of interested countries in meeting their needs for trained men and women.
- To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
- To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of all Americans.



# Facts about Peace Corps Volunteers

- Average Age 28 years old
- Gender 60% female, 40% male
- Minority Volunteers 19% of PCVs
- Volunteers over 50: 6% of Volunteers
- Education: 96% have undergraduate degrees  
13% have graduate degrees



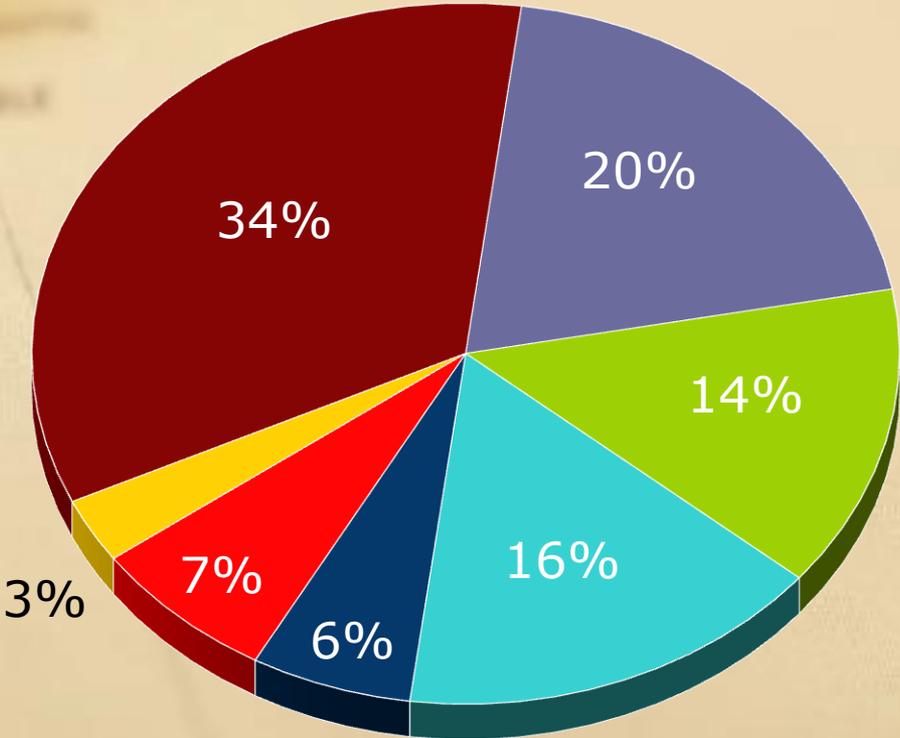
# Where do Volunteers Serve?

## Regions

- Africa – 37%
- Latin America – 24%
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia – 20%
- Asia – 7%
- Caribbean – 4%
- North Africa and the Middle East – 4%
- Pacific Islands – 4%



# Volunteer Programs



- Education
- Health and HIV/AIDS
- Environment
- Business Development
- Agriculture
- Other
- Youth



# Peace Corps in Ukraine

- Started operations in May 1992.
- Operates on the basis of a bilateral government agreement.
- Currently 400 Volunteers work all over Ukraine.
- Volunteers work in three projects: Teaching English as a Foreign Language, Community Development and Youth Development.
- Volunteers live and work in the smallest villages and some of the largest cities.





# Peace Corps Ukraine Programs

## Community Development (CD)

NGOs  
Charitable Foundations (CF)  
City Councils  
Local Administrations  
Libraries  
Museums

## Youth Development (YD)

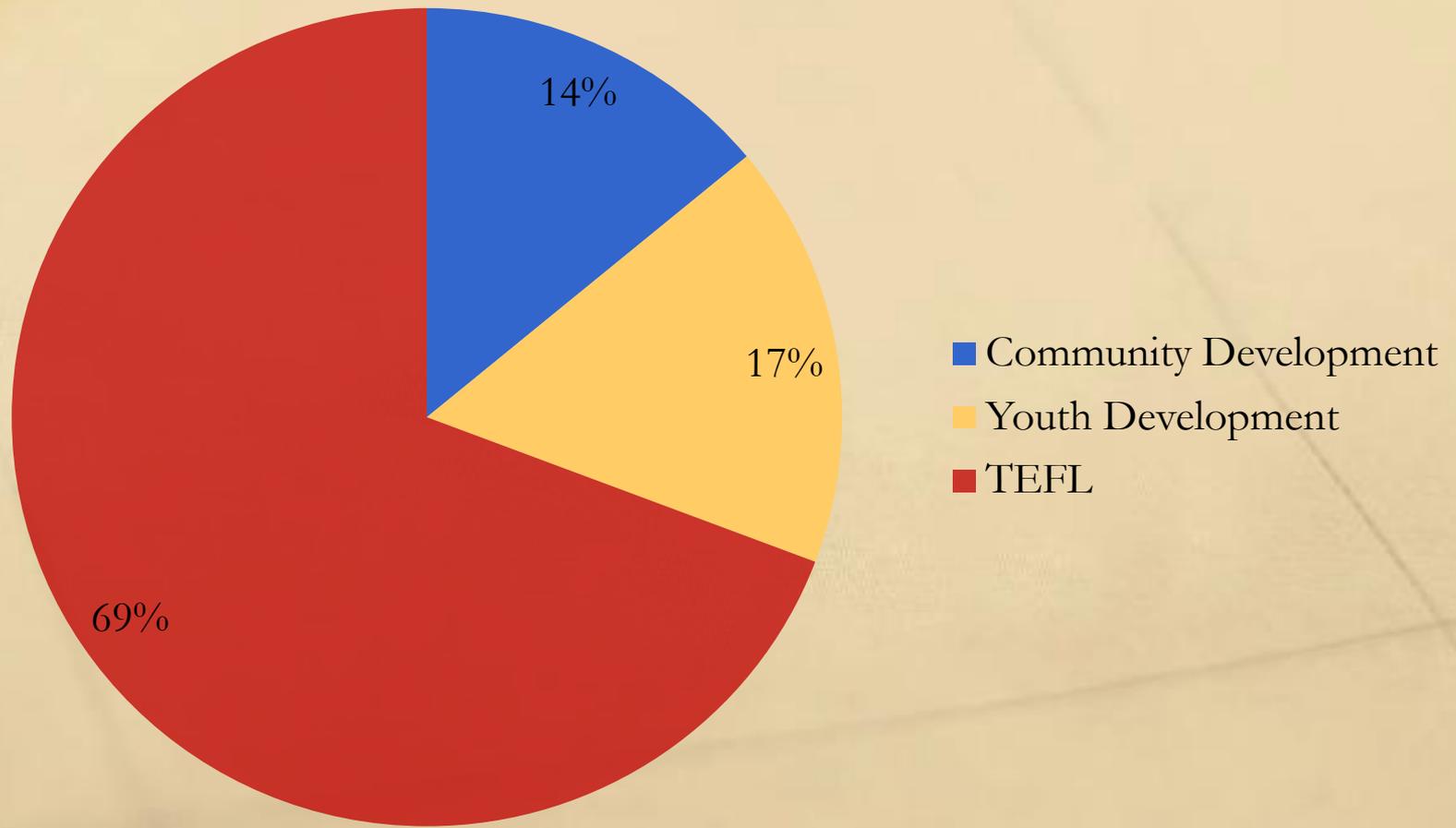
Secondary Schools  
Boarding Schools  
Youth Organizations  
Extracurricular Educational Establishments

## Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)

Secondary Schools  
Higher Education Establishments  
In-Service Teacher Training Institutes



# Volunteer Numbers Across Projects





# Community Development Program

- **Purpose**

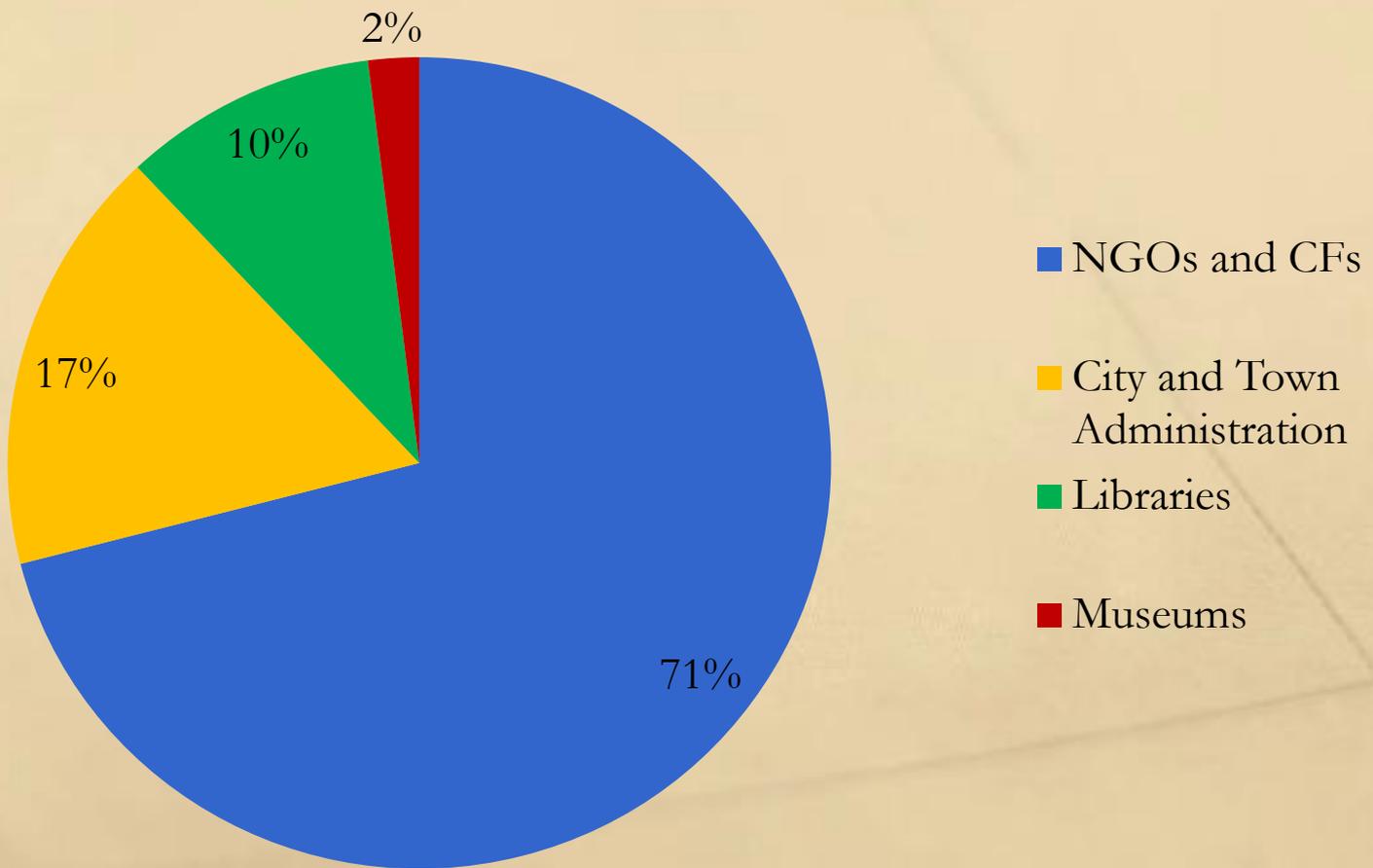
- Individuals, service providers, organizations and communities will increase their capacity to address local needs through community-based activities, projects and programs.

- **Goals**

- Individuals and service providers, through formal and informal meetings, consultations and trainings, will increase their knowledge and skills needed to enable them to improve the quality of their lives.
- Local organizations will increase their capacity to sustain their operations and take a leading role in local community development processes.
- Community members will increase their participation in determining, designing and implementing projects that address their community needs and opportunities for development.



# Community Development Placement Structure





# Community Development Activities

- Cooperate with community organizations on project development and execution.
- Assist NGOs and other organizations to strengthen their potential and capacity by improving their planning, programming, financial management, marketing, public relations, financial sustainability, and networking abilities.
- Work with local community groups to foster cooperation among businesses, civil society, and local government.
- Conduct trainings on management, support project development, and facilitate community dialogue.
- Facilitate projects that include as their themes leadership education, environmental cleanups, assistance to disadvantaged groups, healthy lifestyle education, and many other topics.
- Introduce electronic data management technology and training and teaching modern forms of project planning, problem solving, and management.





# Youth Development Program

- **Purpose**

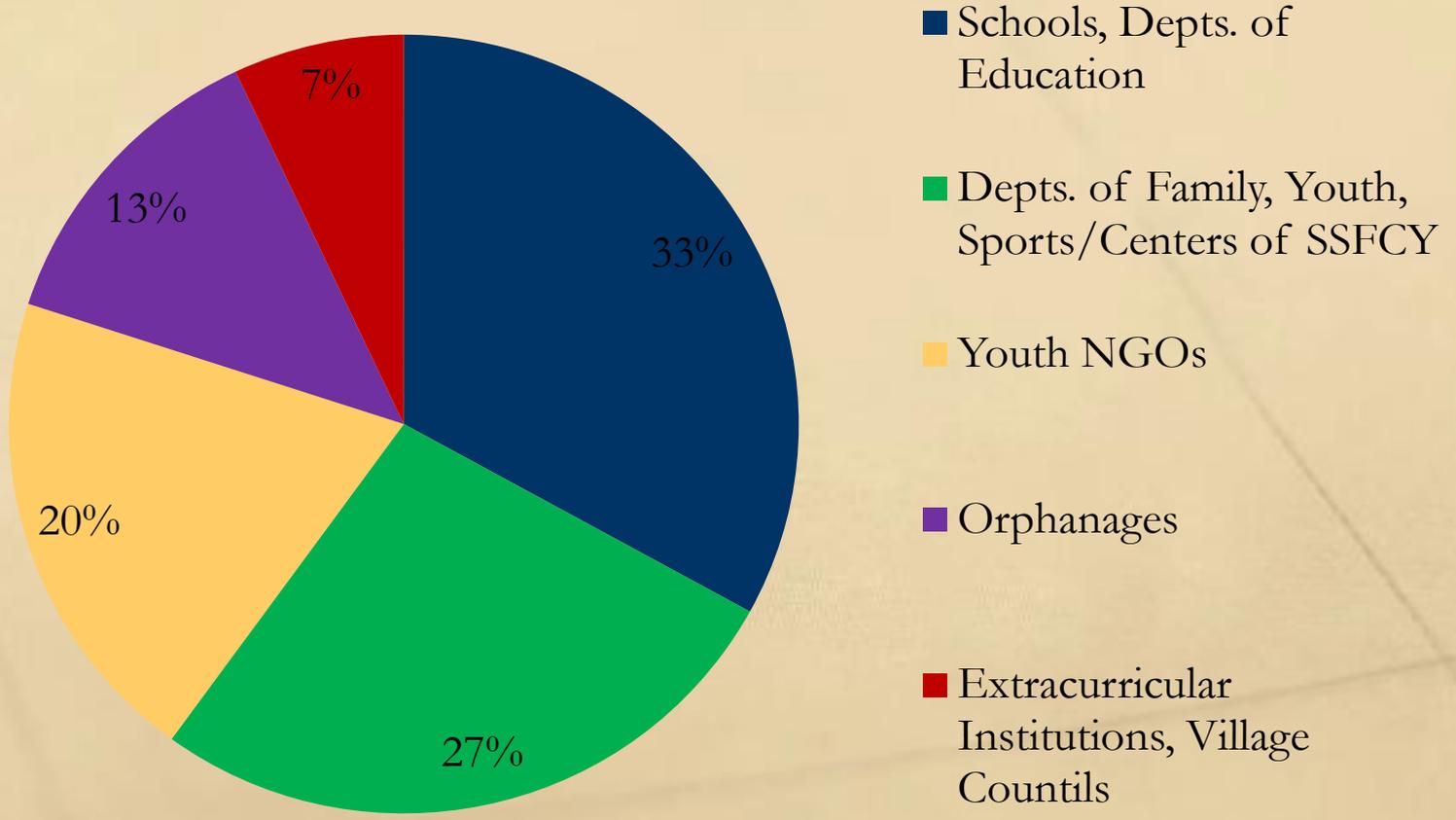
- Youth from disadvantaged communities will improve their ability to lead healthy lives, obtain remunerative employment, be active and responsible citizens of Ukraine.

- **Goals**

- Youth will gain more opportunities for success in their social and professional lives.
- Youth will take a proactive role in addressing community and youth development issues.
- Service providers will develop or improve youth extracurricular methodology, curriculum and programs for furthering youth empowerment.



# Youth Development Placement Structure





# Youth Development Activities

- Teach secondary school students and organize extracurricular clubs addressing healthy lifestyles.
- Conduct seminars and trainings on vocational skills.
- Work with counterparts to organize Family Days.
- Conduct civic trainings.
- Teach volunteerism and service learning.
- Organize community-benefiting projects.
- Help build Youth Centers.
- Provide trainings for local government social workers and NGO staff.





# TEFL Program

- **Purpose**

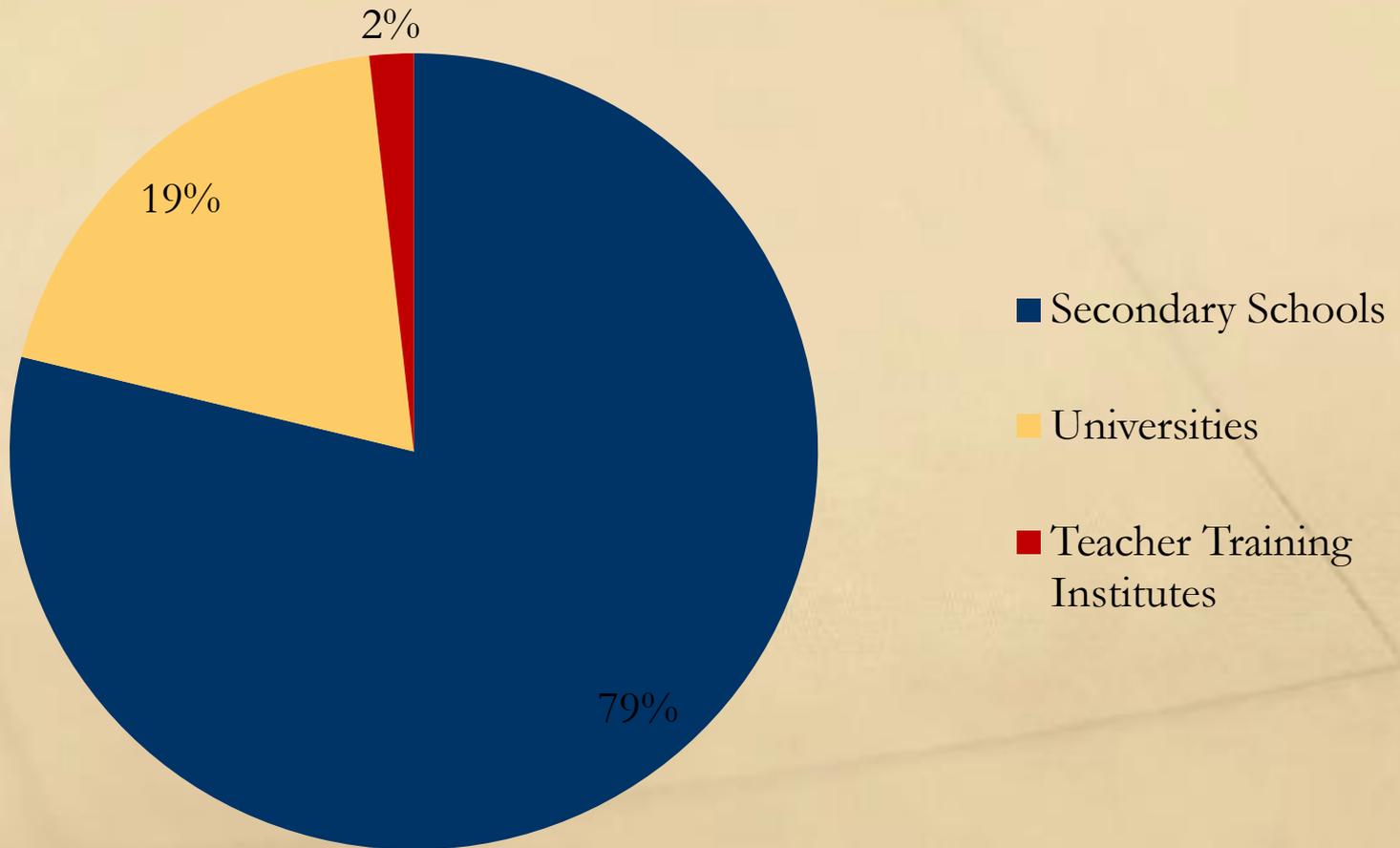
- Ukrainians will have better social, educational and cultural opportunities to become active participants in the global marketplace through improved quality of EFL education and raised community activism promoted by Peace Corps Volunteers.

- **Goals**

- Ukrainian secondary school and university/college students at all levels will develop self-confidence and empowerment through the use of the English language.
- Ukrainian teachers will provide better English language education by utilizing innovative techniques and applying improved conversational skills.
- Ukrainian English teachers in collaboration with Peace Corps Volunteers will enhance and/or produce English language curriculum materials for schools and universities.
- Ukrainians in collaboration with Peace Corps Volunteers will take an active role in community projects aimed at the betterment of local communities.



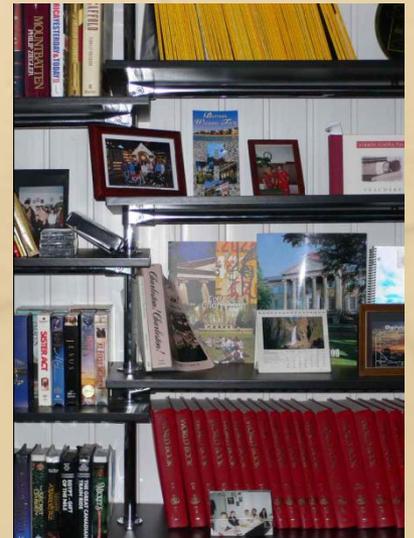
# TEFL Placement Structure





# TEFL Activities

- Help develop and teach courses in:
  - Practical English
  - U.S. Country Studies
  - Creative Writing
  - American/British Literature
  - Business English
- Conduct methodological and professional development trainings, seminars and workshops for teachers.
- Help teachers from rural communities improve their English language proficiency.
- Create resource centers.
- Develop TEFL-related manuals.
- Provide computer trainings.
- Develop Olympiad materials.
- Conduct English-language summer camps.



# Why do people join Peace Corps?

- To live in another country for two years.
- To learn a new language and culture.
- To help people in other countries understand people in the U.S.
- To help people in the U.S. understand people in other countries.
- To share personal values.
- To make a difference and help others.
- Personal development, personal growth.
- Professional development, professional experience.
- To contribute to world peace through friendship.

