Commemorating 50 years of Peace and Friendship
From the Director,

Not long after United States President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps, the Kingdom of Morocco cordially invited the Peace Corps and its Volunteers into its country and marked the beginning of a wonderful relationship that has lasted nearly fifty years. This relationship is enriched every day by the hard work and dedication to the mission of world peace and friendship of the Volunteers and the Moroccan people with whom they work.

Despite the vast changes that have taken place since Peace Corps’ birth in 1961, we have never deviated from our belief in the powerful role that cross-cultural understanding plays in the creation of a lasting world peace. By learning the languages and working side by side with local counterparts, our Volunteers embody this belief and demonstrate our commitment to and respect for those who host us not only during our service but long after we have left.

This book is comprised of the memories of Volunteers, their counterparts, Peace Corps staff and those with whom Peace Corps has worked. It is dedicated to the lasting friendship between the United States and Morocco and those who have made such a relationship possible.

Peggy McClure
Country Director
Peace Corps Morocco
Thanks to all the Staff, Volunteers and Moroccans who had participated with Peace Corps throughout the years and shared their memories and photos.
After four months of training in the United States, the first 56 volunteers arrived in Morocco in February 1963.

His majesty the King Hassan II with John F. Kennedy
Peace Corps Goal 1

To help the people of interested countries and areas in meeting their needs for trained workers.
Since 1963, over 4,400 volunteers have helped Morocco meet its needs in a number of areas.

Fisheries  English Teaching  Land Surveying
Youth Development
"Our sector assignments can be deceiving, because we can work on a variety of projects that cover a vast array of subjects."

Christian Fowkes, PCV 1998-2000
Peace Corps Goals 2 & 3

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 Americans.
"I really appreciate the opportunity to participate in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival and showcase Moroccan crafts to Americans. I also appreciate all the great work that the Peace Corps Volunteers do in Morocco. Coming to the Festival was my first time on a train or a plane..." (Translated from Tashlheit)

Khadija Ighilnassaf, Moroccan counterpart artisan and carpet weaver, on the 2011 Smithsonian Folklife Festival
"Peace Corps has taught me that life is a journey of a thousand miles that starts with one step. I also learned to think beyond boundaries and recognize all human beings are equal."

Houssaine Baali, English Teacher, Former student of a Volunteer in 1993
"I had the privilege, a few years ago, to work with two Peace Corps Volunteers in a rural area. A two-year period during which we had completed several projects. More importantly, this experience allowed me to discover how wonderful, serious and committed to their mission these people are. The mentality they had passed to all those who worked with them closely."

Dr Rabii Larhrissi, Physician and Counterpart, Taroudant Province
“Most Peace Corps Volunteers will say they feel they gained more from their service than they gave, and that Peace Corps changed their life. I am no exception.”

Marilee McClintock, PCV 2000-2002
"اختزالاً لتجربتي مع 7 من متطوعي المنظمة، لقد ساهم هؤلاء في تطوير قدرات الشباب في مختلف المجالات التي تعد الداخل الأساسي للتنشئة الاجتماعية. كما استفادوا هم كذلك وتشبعوا بالثقافة المغربية الأصيلة المنتمية بقابلي الانفتاح على الآخر. فشكرا لكل هؤلاء على كل ما قدموه من خدمة لفكرة التعاون المشترك بين بلدينا.

إبراهيم عنقاش
مدير دار الشباب قلعة إمكونة
"I can still smell the spices in the marketplace, the fish stalls in Essaouira and recall the beauty of masses of carpets in Marrakech and Tazenacht...
All these images and experiences give us insight, perspective and appreciation for other cultures as well as our own.
I'm so happy to have had the opportunity to serve."

Bonnie Schultz Platzer, PCV 2006-2008
"Peace Corps celebrates 50 years in Morocco. I wish a long continuation and success to Peace Corps and all the Volunteers and staff everywhere in the world.

Keep working and sending the message of peace, love and happiness. Fifty years of doing a noble duty... to see another vision of our [world] full of peace [and] respect, living the real meaning of humanity."

"Peace Corps is another window to see the meaning of cultural diversity. We consider it one of the members of our family."

Lahoussaine Lahoum
Dar Chabab student, Ait Melloul
"The highlight of my service was the people."

"I am glad I had a chance to explore Morocco, to see it from grand taxis rather than a tour bus and to speak the language. I went all over-the mountains, the desert, the ancient and modern cities... I went to villages that tourists don’t see."

Sharon Keld, PCV 2006-2008
عملنا معا للتحضير للنشاط. وفي نفس الوقت خَاورنا ضحكاتنا وتبادلنا النكات وتناولنا الطعام مجتمعين.
كان هاجسنا النجاح..."

السيد أميس
أب عائلة مستضيفة. رئيس جمعية محاربة داء السيدة فرع تارودانت.
لم يكن يجمعنا دين ولا ثقافة ولا لغة

ولكن هدف واحد نبيل هو حب الإنسان لأخيه الإنسان. ولهذا الخب إحتكنا في تداريب عديدة.

ندرس معاً و نعمل معاً و نأكل معاً و نشرب معاً و نلعب معاً و ننام معاً و نسافر معاً.

عرفنا فيها جميعاً معنى التضحية والتضامن والسلام و الأخبة. تعلمنا فيها أن لا شيء مستحيل حيث الإرادة والنية الصالحة.

محمود الزعييم
مكتوب في اللغة والثقافة المغربية 1970 - 1980
"The possibility of my professional career is a result of my time in Morocco. Peace Corps Morocco gave me initial credibility, which combined with French (and Arabic) language skills, perhaps cross-cultural sensibility, adaptability and tolerance for change, has led to a satisfying career in international development first with the Forest Service and now with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Present at the creation and for the last 25 years, I have been active in Friends of Morocco, now serving as President. During that time, we have seen the establishment and growth of Associations of Moroccan-Americans across the United States, the establishment of the High Atlas Foundation and now CorpsAfrica, the rise of the internet, a Free Trade Agreement and Millennium Challenge Compact, many Ambassadors to and from Morocco, a cadre of supportive Peace Corps Morocco Directors and a growing body of RPCVs from Morocco spreading across the U.S. bringing the world back home, including knowledge about Morocco, Islam and the Arab world, and continuing to serve in a myriad of ways, domestically and internationally.
I am honored to be among the almost 5000 Americans who have been fortunate to have served as Peace Corps volunteers in Morocco."

Tim Resch, PCV 1970 - 1974
President - Friends of Morocco
Thanks to all the Staff, Volunteers and Moroccans who had participated with Peace Corps throughout the years and shared their memories and photos.
مرحبا بكم في أرض المغرب
يا شيا ب أمريكا
مرحبا بكم بعيدا و قريبا
في ربيع المملكة
itchens المغرب نساهموا
في تنمية هاد البلاد
itchens نتعلّموا
و نجّدوا ميناق جداد
 лечения نتعلّموا العربية
واخ كيقولوا صعبّة و تامازغت حتّى هيّ
كلّنا آمال و رغبة
و نساهموا في ميدان التعليم
و الفلاحه و الصحة
キッチン كم طالبين التّسليم
ما تبخلو بالنصبحة
إلى زلفنا بعض المراّت
لترمّسوا ليتناشيعر
حتّا فمتلقي الثقافات
محتاجين سعة الصّدر

جمَّي محمد
مُكوّن في اللغة و الثقافة للغربة - 1970

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