

The Development of a Project Management Methodology for Peace Corps Mauritania

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Abstract

Projects exist in all communities, both developed and developing. Project management in the developed world has been documented, studied, reviewed, and revised. Unfortunately, the standard project management methodology is not tailored to the realities of working in the developing world. One of the roles of the engineer in development work is project manager. Engineers must be well versed in project management techniques in order to deliver quality projects.

This report provides an overview of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Peace Corps service therein. The Project Management Institute's Process Group methodology is described next. The Project Management Institute's Process Group methodology defines five process groups with forty-four elements that encompass all aspects of project management. By using this framework the project manager can better ensure project success. As the limitations of the PMI method to Peace Corps project work are considerable, a new project management strategy is developed and suggested. This work introduces a new project management methodology more appropriate to projects in developing countries and presents two validation project studies in Peace Corps Mauritania.

This framework was applied to projects in Peace Corps Mauritania. The Cereamine project was presented first. From the analysis of this project, the importance of local knowledge and community ownership of projects is demonstrated. The aquaculture pilot project describes the installation of the first fish ponds in Selibaby, Mauritania. From this project, the importance of personal involvement in the project is demonstrated.

Both of these projects illustrate how the new project management methodology applies to project work in Peace Corps Mauritania.