Diplomacy Lab Project Requests: Spring 2014

Click on the project name to go to its description:

Project 01

Why Are Large African Banks Not Operating in the U.S.?

African Affairs Bureau – Economic Policy Staff Office (AF/EPS)

Overview:

In recent years, a number of U.S. banks have ceased providing banking services to foreign diplomatic missions due to multiple factors such profitability, regulatory compliance burdens, and other commercial reasons. As a result, some African missions have found themselves unable to obtain banking services. To help solve this problem, we would like students to research why large African banks are not present in the U.S. and, therefore, not serving African mission here. The students could contact the banks for their views and also do a basic assessment of the market potential and regulatory, competitive and financial issues involved. Upon completion, the study could be shared with African Embassies in the U.S.   If African banks did begin operating in the U.S., they could potentially help address not only embassy banking but provide other services like trade finance and facilitate remittances to the continent.

Among the banks to research are:

- STANDARD BANK GROUP (South Africa)
- ATTIJARIWAFA BANK (Morocco/Senegal)
- ECOBANK TRANSNATIONAL INC. (Togo)
- ZENITH INTERNATIONAL BANK (Nigeria)

Format of Final Product:

20-30 minute presentation on the students' work. Depending on the chosen projects, students may also produce an info-graphic, white paper, or one-pager on their findings.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

U.S. banking regulations, international finance

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 02

How Have Domestic Stock Exchanges Contributed to Wealth Distribution in Africa?

African Affairs Bureau – Economic Policy Staff Office (AF/EPS)

Overview:

Africa is on the rise economically, boasting the world's fastest growing economies. We would like to know how the stock exchange in Nigeria has contributed to the country's growth. Particularly, we would like to learn how the exchange has distributed wealth via entrepreneurship and a growing SME base throughout the country. This research project would also entail a basic comparative analysis of the inter-mechanics of how stocks are traded in the U.S. and Nigeria, outlining any associated transactional fees, costs, regulations, etc.

Format of Final Product:

A research paper no more than 20 pages in length with an Executive Summary that highlights the differences in the inter-mechanics of US and Nigerian stock exchanges along with a description of how the Nigerian stock exchange has contributed to the country's distribution of wealth (no more than two pages in length.)

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Capital markets, international finance

Comments:

Investing in African Stock Exchanges:

http://www.investinginafrica.net/

Africa's Economic Outlook:

http://www.afdb.org/en/annual-meetings-2014/programme/african-economic-outlook-2014/

Africa's Transformation Report:

http://www.afdb.org/en/annual-meetings-2014/programme/africa-transformation-report-growth-with-depth/

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 03

Americans Traveling Abroad

Bureau of Consular Affairs, Passport Services, Strategic Planning

Overview:

With increasing economic and political factors of instability and security affecting where Americans travel abroad, why do Americans travel overseas? The American passport allows travelers to travel to over 173 countries without a visa.

The research will unveil the economic and social aspects of today's travelers. The study should also analyze the social and economic impact of American travelers and how travel abroad affects diplomatic and political relations.

Project findings will assist Consular Affairs to better understand today's travelers in order to target outreach, and assist in predicting the behavior of future travelers and assignment of resources to those destinations.

Format of Final Product:

Executive Summary, 10 page research paper, and a presentation of findings.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Quantitative, political, and social analysis; Business/Economics, International Relations

Comments:

International Travel: http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country.html

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

Project 04

Comparison of the Passport Saturation Rates in the U.S. and Canada

Bureau of Consular Affairs, Passport Services, Strategic Planning

Overview:

The percentage of Americans with passports is about to reach 40 percent, while the percentage of Canadians with passports is approaching nearly 70 percent. The purpose of this project is to determine what social, political, and economic factors may—or may not—contribute this 30 percent difference. The findings will support the strategic planning efforts of the passport services directorate, in State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs.

Format of Final Product:

1 page executive summary, 10 page research paper, and a presentation of the project's findings.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International relations, political science, economics, quantitative analysis, statistics

Comments:

U.S. passport statistics: http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/passports/statistics.html

Passport Canada's annual report: http://passport.gc.ca/publications/ar_12.aspx?lang=eng

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

Project 05

The Risk Assessment Index for Security and Human Rights

Office of Security and Human Rights; Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor

Overview:

Military units, justice institutions, and law enforcement bodies that make up the security sector exist to maintain the rule of law, protect the autonomy of States, and prevent individuals or groups from compromising the rights of others. The collective body of evidence available to policy makers suggests that certain institutions of accountability and oversight, both within government and within civil society, are critical to preventing security force misconduct, but to date, there is no diagnostic tool available for making a preliminary determination of the risk of gross violations of human rights based on the presence or absence of any of these indicators. This project aims to collect and review the known indicators of risk in one place where policy makers can assign a relative risk profile to a partner nation's security forces based on an index that includes quantitatively sound data and equally sound qualitative analysis at its foundation. This index rating can help policymakers understand how to shape security force assistance and direct attention to areas of deficiency in preliminary planning processes, and so that later field assessments can benefit from early warning and areas of necessary attention.

The team will research the available body of literature related to security sector reform to inventory the institutional, technical, and societal variables that have been assessed by credible experts and institutions (to include commissions of inquiry and other investigative bodies) as important for the prevention of and accountability for gross human rights violations. Examples may include the role of internal investigative units or the importance of policies and regulations governing security force conduct. These criteria may be grouped into sets or scorecards for various themes (such as "internal accountability mechanisms", "regulations", or "public oversight mechanisms"). Teams may wish to consider information available from the World Bank, the Geneva Center for Democratic Control of the Armed Forces, Special Rapporteurs for Torture and Combating Impunity, and the UN and related agencies, and other credible research organizations that specialize in security sector issues. With their initial findings in hand, students will then assign a relative weighting to the variables to develop a scoring methodology that is easily disaggregated or analyzed for its constituent parts, i.e. a total index score should also provide clues for where the partner country has strengths and weaknesses.   The total relative score should provide a basic risk profile of any country and/or its security forces. The team will then demonstrate the applicability of the index by using it to remotely assess the risk quotient of a selection of security forces in countries that represent different regions of the world.

This project will be used by the human rights officers in DRL and elsewhere in an effort to inform policies related to security force assistance, security sector reform, and other areas of priority for improving and professionalizing security forces and related institutions. Teams may be divided into qualitative/research focus and a statistical/ quantitative tool focus.

Format of Final Product:

The final product should be a document, to be submitted in stages throughout the semester, including:

a. A literature review with preliminary findings

b. A qualitative description of a set of criteria to be used in an assessment index

c. a matrix of indicators, or an indicator assessment tool or "index", determined by the team to be related to the presence and persistence of civilian abuse by the security sector, with explanation

d. a section which uses the matrix to analyze case study countries in order to demonstrate relevance and applicability

The complete document does not need to be of any particular page length, but should be sufficient to include the above portions.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

This project is best suited for students participating in Political Science, International Relations, Economics, Statistics, Conflict Management, or Public Policy programs who are interested in human rights issues and quantitative assessment methodology. At least some students should have a background in statistics or research methods.

Maximum Number of Projects:

4 – 6 teams that could be divided by research and literature review, primary analysis and variable weighting, quantitative index development, model testing.

Project 06

How Can Muslim-Majority Countries Ensure that Implementations of Islamic Law (Sharia) Uphold their International Human Rights Obligations?

Office of International Religious Freedom (DRL/IRF)

Overview:

We're interested in a comprehensive report detailing to what extent countries undergoing a constitutional reform involving Islamic law (including moving towards Islamic law) have integrated human rights and the obligations of international human rights covenants into their reforms. Are there success stories? What are human rights and rule of law implications for countries who avoid such integration? What diplomatic or programmatic methods might help countries to better integrate such obligations? Islamic law is varied in its implementation is in various countries (mixed and full implementation, different schools, etc.), but examples, both negative and positive, and counterexamples can provide useful frameworks for future such efforts.

In discussion with DRL/IRF, the project team may further refine the topic to focus on a specific country of thematic area.

Format of Final Product:

Research paper, length as appropriate

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Political science, international relations, religious studies, law, history, anthropology, sociology

Maximum Number of Projects: N/A

Project 07

Regulatory and Legal Frameworks restricting Religious Freedom: An Assessment of Global Problems and Better Practices

Office of International Religious Freedom (DRL/IRF)

Overview:

Regulatory and legal frameworks affecting religious practice or organization are virtually universal. Many of these are largely benign bureaucratic processes: registration as a non-profit corporation for example. But others, in a variety of ways, serve to restrict individual and collective practice, sometimes severely or restrict other fundamental human rights on the basis of religious identity. Many governments restrict religions or certain types of religions that they do not trust or that are unwanted for various reasons. Others restrict all religions.

Registration requirements in particular can be fundamental basis for restrictions on religious freedom. These schemes may take many forms. In some cases, the government must determine whether the group in question is in fact a religion. In other cases, the government may simply seek to approve only the right sorts of religions—that is, those posing no threat to the state or those that accord with the state's values.

In addition, real estate, construction, dress, or public practices may be restricted, including through licensing or permit regulations or other are regulatory schemes that are justified as a means of government oversight, taxation, or for other reasons. Some such registration or regulatory regimes provide limited benefits to groups with minimal or insignificant effect on religious freedom. Others are far more restrictive. Illegal houses of worship may be destroyed for lack of permits for example or groups may be forbidden from obtaining favorable tax status because of size or lack of a centralized organizational authority.

In many cases, registration and regulatory schemes are layered and intertwined.   Thus, in Pakistan, "illegal" Ahmadi mosques are destroyed for lack of permit, but permits are unobtainable by Ahmadi because they are not allowed to register.

In some countries, the cumulative effect of such regimes virtually eliminates all religious diversity, but the government finds itself able identify itself as adhering to religious freedom principles. Efforts to encourage countries to eliminate these registration or regulation mechanisms have been largely unsuccessful. Countries are typically intransigent or slow to reform. **Our interest is in 1) assessing and categorizing the varieties of ways in which registration or other regulation restricts religious freedom and 2) obtaining a recommendation, based on that assessment, of whether any model of registration or regulation is less harmful and how these schemes might be implemented in ways that better support religious freedom.**

Format of Final Product:

Research paper or papers with copies of relevant laws or regulations. Any length.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Law, political science, relevant regional language

Comments:

Research is thin. Our human rights dialogues and conversations with various partners have focused closely on this (particularly in terms of the registration angle) but with little success. Note that this issue remains unaddressed in the 1981 UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

Some references:

Contemporary Evidence Regarding the Impact of State Regulation of Religion on Religious Participation and Belief, Sociology of Religion (2008) 69 (3): 245-271

http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/edumat/studyguides/religion.html

Maximum Number of Projects: N/A

Project 08

Eliminating the Malicious Automaton: Determining if Activities are Humans or Machines

Bureau of Diplomatic Security: Office of Computer Security

Overview:

Many modern fraudulent activities involve the use of an automated system to move content over legitimate communication avenues. Legitimate avenues are often used to circumvent or evade detection by security systems. The motivation of the content transfer can range from being a nuisance, slowing legitimate communication, or attempting to succeed in submitting either fraudulent material or malicious software. The point of this project is to research and construct a practical method for determining abnormal traffic patterns generated by automated systems.

As an example, consider only an internal network with less than 500 individual communicators or workstations. Each individual can communicate via several known communication avenues (e.g. standardized UDP/TCP ports and client/server protocols). There should be a normal set of communication occurring both by automated and human driven processes (e.g. large email activity occurring between 8am and 10am on workdays and all systems updating at 2am on Tuesdays using standard ports and protocols). What techniques can be used to establish the normal behavior and find abnormal behavior? Both detecting abnormal behaviors from an individual communicator in a single network as well as comparing two similar networks for significant differences is of interest. Assume the communication paths and metadata of all network entities may be observed, while the data payloads may not be readable, i.e. we are not interested in finding abnormal content but abnormal size and timing of communication.

Format of Final Product:

~6-10 page report summarizing findings of various methods

Pseudo-code or flowchart of recommended procedure to determine a normal behavior and to extract abnormal behavior

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Statistics and mathematical modeling

Comments:

This project could be expanded or contracted to fit any timelines relevant to the participants.

Some relevant sources of information:

Mining Frequency Content of Network Traffic for Intrusion Detection. Mian Zhou and Sheau-Dong Lang.. http://www.cs.ucf.edu/csdept/faculty/lang/pubs/cnis.pdf

A Signal Analysis of Network Traffic Anomalies. Paul Barford, Jeffery Kline, David Plonka and Amos Ron. IN PROCEEDINGS OF ACM SIGCOMM INTERNET MEASUREMENTWORKSHOP 2002

Mining Trends From Network Traffic Data for Security Systems. Jennifer Li. http://www.truststc.org/education/reu/10/Papers/LiJ_paper.pdf

Network Traffic Classification by Common Subsequence Finding. Krzysztof Fabjański, Tomasz Kruk . Computational Science – ICCS 2008. Lecture Notes in Computer Science Volume 5101, 2008, pp 499-508

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 09

Women's Participation in STEM Fields in Japan

Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs: Office of Japanese Relations (EAP/J)

Overview:

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's efforts to reform the Japanese economy place special emphasis on "womenomics" – increasing women's workforce participation in government, academia, and the private sector. This research project will focus on a particular subset of women: those studying and working in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

As in many countries, Japanese women are underrepresented in STEM fields as compared to their male counterparts. In Japan, women comprise 43% of college students, yet they account for only 14% of those enrolled in STEM fields. This issue is also a concern in the United States, where President Obama has introduced initiatives to create new opportunities for women and girls in STEM education and professional fields.

We would like a research team to draft a series of short reports on women's participation in STEM fields in Japan, analyzing underlying factors that affect women's participation and identifying opportunities for the United States to help influence the issue through policy and programming. Though parts of the project will be comparative, the focus should be kept on Japan throughout the project.

Project Description:

Please address each of the questions listed below in a separate report. Reports should feature: 1) a one paragraph executive summary; 2) a report on findings which could run three to six pages and; 3) a two to four page policy recommendation section (if applicable) for each topic. As appropriate, a follow-on section in appendix or afterword format could explore how additional reflection might refine or develop suggested additional or subsequent policy courses to consider as well.

1.   Analyze factors affecting women's participation in STEM fields in Japan.

2.   Based on the in-depth analysis in report #1, identify key similarities and differences affecting women's participation in STEM fields in two or more other countries. (Note: Suggested comparative countries are: the United States, South Korea, China. Please discuss in more detail with project POC before embarking on the comparative research.)

3.   Please choose at least two of the following topics:

   A.   Suggest novel program approaches to promote women's participation in STEM fields with a total cost of less than $100,000. Design your own program for each of the following age groups: high school students, undergraduate students, and young professionals. Evaluate the costs and effectiveness of your programs if they were to be implemented in Japan.

B.   What are some examples of current or past work by non-governmental organizations, universities, corporate social responsibility foundations, and others on promoting women's participation in STEM fields in Japan and, if necessary, in other countries? What has been the impact of these programs? Are there lessons apparent from this on the effective use of resources in the promotion of women's participation in STEM fields?

C.   For Japan, which non-STEM fields have the highest and lowest participation rates for women and why? How does workforce participation in non-STEM fields compare with STEM fields? What percentage of women with STEM degrees continue in these fields professionally?

Format of Final Product:

At least four papers of five to 10 pages in length. If students wish to explore additional aspects of the issue in more depth, we are willing to discuss other potential project outputs.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economics, Sociology/Anthropology, Public Policy/Public Administration, East Asian Studies, Japan Studies, Women's Studies

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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Project 10

Have the Cake and Eat it Too: Policy Trade-Offs in our Efforts to Eradicate Hunger, Save the Environment and Grow Our Economy

Economic Bureau, Trade Policy Programs, Agriculture, Biotechnology and Textile Affairs

Overview:
World population growth will require us to increase the global food supply by 60% in 2050. Policymakers will have to make difficult policy tradeoffs in eradicating hunger, protecting the environment and promoting economic development for the world's poor. For example, growing consumer preferences for organic methods may require more land, which might, in turn, lead to greater deforestation. Another possible trade off is that grassroots farmers may not be able to compete with modern agriculture businesses and will need to find other sources of employment or income, increasing rural to urban migration

The general public could benefit from a web-based application in which they can visualize the results of policy options they select to meet the food needs of the global population in 2050 (e.g., limiting/increasing GMOs, promoting small farm or large agriculture businesses). This application/game would be like the game "Risk" but for agriculture, where policy choices have different consequences. While models cannot predict the future, this application could give the layperson a better understanding of the trade-offs that policy makers will have to face in the coming years.

Format of Final Product:
This project could take the form of a web-based application that allows the user to select her own policy priorities, and based on modeling (with limited degrees of freedom), how these policy prescriptions play out by 2050 in terms of world hunger, protection of the environment (deforestation or degrade landscapes), and global poverty rate.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Computer science, statistical modeling, political economy, environmental science, agriculture

Comments:
We envision this game as a simplified and narrowly tailored version of "Civilization". Further complexity could be added to the game if users selected to play individual countries with specific agricultural profiles. This project could be done in modules, over the course of a couple of semesters, or whatever the team determines is most feasible.

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

Project 11

Game On! Create an Exciting Video Game About How the State Department Does Diplomacy

Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, Office of Policy Analysis and Public Diplomacy (EB/EPPD)

Overview:

Diligent and daring diplomacy saves lives and averts wars; but those stories often go unseen and unheard, not because they are intentionally kept secret but because the world tends to focus on the failures that lead to war, death, disease, and famine, rather than the successes that thwart them. Whether it's fighting hunger in Africa, combatting deadly viruses in Asia, or marshalling aid after a natural disaster strikes the Caribbean, the State Department often leads the way overseas for the U.S. government. Could a video game demonstrate the tools of diplomacy in action? How would a video game illustrate some of the "carrot and stick" tools of diplomacy, such as targeted sanctions and foreign aid?

We're looking to work with creative students who can help translate the real world of diplomacy into an exciting game that can eventually be played online or downloaded as an app onto a portable device. Secretary of State John Kerry has said that "economic policy is foreign policy" and the heart and soul of this game will be how the State Department uses America's economic power to protect American lives and enrich American society. The State Department doesn't have the vast expanse of resources available to the Department of Defense, and our activities don't lend themselves to the adrenaline rush of some action games, so we're not expecting a civilian version of "Call of Duty". (But who knows?) Maybe our game will be more like "The Sims" or "Civilization." But we'll leave it to the design team to explore which video game genre works best: adventure, sandbox RPGs or Action RPGs, MMORPGs, life simulations, strategy, 4X, MMORTS, etc. The right genre will help tell an exciting story and compel players to return.

Perspective will be left to the developer as well: should the game take a broad strategic view, with the player making global decisions from Washington; or should the game be more tactical, from the perspective of a an embassy that's in the throes of a crisis? These are questions that the developers and the Department can explore together.

While the purpose is to broaden understanding of how modern diplomacy works in the 21st century, and increase interest in the activities of the State Department, the game should be fun. Fun isn't the sort of thing most people think of when they think of foreign policy, or the Department of State….can you help us change their minds?

Format of Final Product:

We would like to see a playable proof-of-concept that demonstrates the feasibility of the game.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Game design, computer programming, animation, graphic design, foreign policy

Comments:
We don't expect the design team to know everything about what the State Department does, so we'll work closely with you to make sure the "script" is true to life as much as possible.
http://diplomacy.state.gov/discoverdiplomacy/
http://diplomacy.state.gov/discoverdiplomacy/diplomacy101/issues/205069.htm
http://diplomacy.state.gov/discoverdiplomacy/diplomacy101/people/170305.htm
http://www.afsa.org/OutreachPrograms/InsideaUSEmbassy.aspx

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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Project 12

Powering Africa From the Bottom – Can Cell Phones Expand Power Generation in Remote Areas of Africa?

Office of the Regional Energy Counselor for Africa, ENR/FO

Overview:
Making the business case for investment in power generation in rural areas in Africa is a tough sell. Traditional investment approaches to new power generation -- which combine sophisticated demand and reliable revenue estimates to draw in scarce investment dollars -- have little relevance in small remote villages which have no history of access to centrally generated power and extensive informal economies that are hard to measure or predict. Must power generation investments at the bottom of the power pyramid be forever the exclusive purview of aid agencies – or is there a way to build a business case for private sector investment that is profitable, scalable, and which creates incentives for economic activity and growth?

This project sets out to do three things. First, it proposes to harvest cell phone payment data from micro-utility companies currently selling solar power to individuals in rural Mali, Uganda and Kenya and analyze whether this data can be used to predict growth in economic activity and demand for power in rural areas. (This is based on the broad assumption that access to power in and of itself is a catalyst for growth and higher demand for power.) Second, the project will examine a range of low wattage renewable off-grid generation options to build a "step ladder" of increasingly larger generation options (e.g., gravity lights on the low end and 5-15 MW mini-hydro at the high end). Third, the project will examine whether the data collected in the first part of the project can be used to create a viable business model at each stage of electricity demand growth -- one that incentivizes micro-utilities to grow their business into ever more sophisticated forms of generation while also creating incentives for villages to engage in economic activity that could create the business case for better and more broad based electricity access.

A successful study would help lay the ground work for a new approach to attracting private investment and small-scale power producers to opportunities in rural Africa.

Format of Final Product:
The final product of this work will be a paper outlining the findings of the study, to be accompanied, (as appropriate) with a presentation to an audience from the State Department, Department of Energy, USAID, OPIC, Ex-Im, USTDA, and Treasury.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Power sector, economic modeling, cell phone technology

Comments:

The following papers and articles might be of interest to those who are considering this project:
1) http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20111202005054/en/Econet-Solar-Launches-Home-Power-Station#.U4iBd_mSzH4
2) http://bennu-solar.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/ICTD_2012.pdf

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

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Project 13

Harnessing the Potential of Science Diasporas to Solve Global Challenges
Office of the Science and Technology Adviser (E/STAS)

Overview:
A diaspora is a community of people with a common ancestral homeland who are settled in a new geographic location. Science diasporas have such ancestral linkages but are also "knowledge networks" of scientists, engineers, and innovators who have specific expertise as well as equipment, funding, and networks. Although science diaspora members live outside of their country of origin, their common scientific and cultural understandings provide additional opportunities for developing relationships between countries. These relationships can build partnerships to promote scientific cooperation and spur economic growth and innovation. The United States has a long history and a significant global role in hosting science diasporas. Not only is the United States among the top countries in receiving large numbers of skilled scientists from other nations but, in a recent survey, 38% of scientists working in the United States were foreign-born. Understanding the role of science diasporas in the United States for their economic, scientific, and cultural impact on countries of origin and in the United States will help guide and advance American science and technology development as well as development and diplomacy initiatives spurred by these advances and the potential that is yet to be tapped.

Science diaspora studies over the last 10 to 15 years have noted the increasing internationalization of science to meet the demands of a global, knowledge-based economy to tackle increasingly complex challenges. Questions remain about which science diasporas exist in the United States and how they engage with their countries of origin. Understanding how well-developed diaspora networks remain sustainable, as well as which groups (e.g., universities, businesses) and activities they engage and leverage can inform how early-stage networks could grow and how we can support them. Importantly, data describing priorities, accomplishments, and challenges will help define effective ways to measure impact in countries of origin and in the United States.

Format of Final Product:
The desired output is a research paper with data on what relevant science diaspora groups exist and where they are, as well as an analysis of what their impact has been to date and what their untapped potential might be to further our diplomacy and development goals.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Economics, international affairs, development. An interest in immigration policy, science diplomacy and innovation for development will be useful.

Comments:
Useful References:
1) Global mobility: Science on the move. *Nature*. 2012 Oct 18;490(7420):326-9.

2) http://www.sciencediplomacy.org/perspective/2013/potential-science-diasporas

3) Vivek Wadhwa, *The Immigrant Exodus: Why America Is Losing the Global Race to Capture Entrepreneurial Talent*, (Kauffman Foundation, 2012).

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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Project 14

Economic Opportunities in the Azores
Office of Western European Affairs

Overview:
The United States and Portugal have enjoyed a long and beneficial partnership. One enduring facet of that relationship, since the 1940s, has been the U.S. Air Force (USAF) presence at Lajes Air Field on Terceira Island, in the Azores. In November 2012, the Department of Defense (DoD) announced it would significantly streamline the USAF presence at Lajes due to changing defense needs and budgetary constraints. Although the downsizing will free up defense resources, it will create local job losses and negatively impact the local economy. DoD and the State Department are working with the Portuguese government to identify new opportunities in the Azores to minimize the economic impact. A study of the economic opportunities available in the Azores, an evaluation of which ones are most viable, and suggestions for implementing ideas would be very useful to assist the Azoreans.

Format of Final Product:
4-page options memo and a presentation

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Economics; Business

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 15

Fueling the Future - a Study of European Energy Security

Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Office of Western Europe (EUR/WE)

Overview:
Recently, the Ukraine crisis catapulted energy security to the foreign policy forefront. In May, G-7 leaders met in Rome to discuss the future of Europe's energy on the heels of Russian statements regarding cutting off its gas supplies to Ukraine and potentially further in Europe. The European Commission said Europe must diversify energy supplier countries and routes by maintaining and building relationships with reliable partners. It also suggested increasing indigenous energy production including renewables and sustainable production of fossil fuels, likely shale gas, which could compensate for declining conventional gas production if it overcomes public and environmental concerns. Is the European Commission's plan the best way forward for European energy security? If so, who are the most "reliable partners?"

Format of Final Product:
10-page research paper with a one page options memo and data analysis

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Political Science, Economics, Sustainable Development

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 16

T-TIP: Separating Facts from Fiction

Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Office of Western Europe (EUR/WE)

Overview:
The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP) is a trade agreement currently being negotiated between the United States and the European Union. The negotiations aim at removing trade barriers (tariffs, unnecessary regulations, restrictions on investment) in a wide range of economic sectors to make it easier to buy and sell goods and services across the Atlantic. When completed, some predict T-TIP will benefit the United States by $130 billion and the EU by $163 billion annually, as well as contribute almost $140 billion to the world economy.

Despite its economic promise, T-TIP topics such as genetically modified organisms (GMOs), consumer and investment protection, and environmental standards are not always well understood by the public and are subject to misinformation campaigns by T-TIP opponents. While the State Department and our European embassies and consulates are actively working to promote T-TIP and make the agreement as transparent as possible, increasing awareness and support of T-TIP is still ongoing and more effort is needed to inform public opinion.

Here's where you come in. We would like to partner with 2-3 university teams to research some of the most contentious issues in T-TIP negotiations. What are the facts behind these issues, and what about them drives anxiety and concern in the United States and EU? What impact will T-TIP have on each issue? We are especially interested in identifying possible changes directly benefitting the consumer (such as cost reductions or improved availability) and those that benefit companies with no negative impact on consumers (like mutual recognition of near-identical standards), as well as identifying potential pitfalls.

Format of Final Product:
We would like a research paper focusing on T-TIP topics selected during initial discussions with the group, including a side-by-side comparison of facts and data with current public perception. Data analysis may be required. The product should have thoroughly documented and properly cited examples that can withstand scrutiny and public challenges.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
International relations, the economics of international trade, science and technology, public affairs, and data analysis. The detail required in this project likely makes it best suited for the graduate student level.

Comments:

This proposal is from the Germany Desk in the Office of Western European Affairs, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, at the Department of State. We propose one semester (~4 months) for this project, but welcome extending it for a longer period of time if needed.

Further information on T-TIP can be found at:

http://www.ustr.gov/ttip

http://useu.usmission.gov/ttip.html

http://www.state.gov/e/rls/rmk/207997.htm

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transatlantic_Trade_and_Investment_Partnership

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

Project 17

Germany-Russia Relations

Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Office of Western Europe (EUR/WE)

Overview:
Germans like to say their relations with Russia differ from those of their neighbors. While Germany remains embedded in the Western communities of the European Union and NATO, many Germans would like to see Germany as a mediator between Moscow and NATO. Many suspect Germany of taking a softer line with Moscow than its allies, preferring "change through engagement" rather than pressure through sanctions or other tools.

We would like you to explain why Germany and the United States tend to approach Russia differently. Political, economic, cultural, and historical reasons will all factor into this analysis. Why do so many Germans see themselves as distinct from Western Europe? Is there indeed a special relationship between Germany and Russia?

Format of Final Product:
A concise paper of up to 10 pages explaining the nature of Germany's relations with Russia.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
German international relations and German and Russian history

Comments:
This proposal is from the Germany Desk in the Office of Western European Affairs, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, at the Department of State. We propose one semester (~4 months) for this project.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 18

U.S. Foreign Policy Options to Tackle Migration in the Mediterranean Sea

Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Office of Western Europe (EUR/WE)

Overview:
Illegal immigration to Europe from North Africa via boat in the Mediterranean Sea is a growing problem, particularly for Italy, Spain, Greece, and Malta. The EU Member States receiving the migrants and refugees have sought to persuade all EU Member States to treat this problem as a shared one. However, the EU has had limited success tackling the problem to date. Traditionally, this issue has been viewed by the U.S. government as an internal matter for the individual countries and/or the EU. However, increasingly there are concerns that there uncontrolled migration flows could have negative national security implications for the United States. Most of the migrants and refugees are not from North Africa. Instead, they are primarily from the Middle East, the Horn of Africa, and elsewhere in Africa. There is the risk that extremists will slip into Europe using these migration routes.

The U.S. government's policy options are limited. The project would be to develop a list of foreign policy options the U.S. government could pursue – unilaterally, bilaterally, and multilaterally (in ad hoc arrangements as well as international organizations and other fora) – to address this issue.

Format of Final Product:
The final product should be short (2-5 pages) options memo with an appropriate amount of background information about the current state-of-play regarding the UN, EU, and European and African national government efforts to provide context.

Maximum Number of Projects: 3
Although this project could be tackled by one team, three would be the maximum number of teams: 1) to examine multilateral options; 2) to examine bilateral options; 3) to examine unilateral options.

Project 19

Rise of the Far-Right Parties in Europe and Political Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy

Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Office of Western Europe (EUR/WE)

Overview:

Far-right? Extreme-right? Nationalists Parties? Euro-skeptic Parties? Neo-Fascists? Recent discussion on the success of right-wing parties in the European Parliamentary elections suggests a "rise" of the right throughout Western Europe. There is certainly a convergence of issues that seems to be feeding this impression: tensions with Russia in Ukraine, uncertain economic recovery in the Eurozone, increasing calls for withdrawal from the EU, etc. But what does this mean for U.S. foreign policy?

This project should take a look at the recent elections in Europe and the presumed successes of the right-wing parties. It should identify what the common issues are for the right, but point to the differences between them they are unlikely to bridge in any pan-European coordination. It should challenge or confirm the notion of a "rise" of the right, as well as challenge or confirm the notion that all parties on the right are anti-immigrant, racist, or separatist. The project should also look at the general political picture in several key EUR/WE countries (UK, France, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy) to determine whether this "rise" of the right will benefit the center-left or center-right political parties and the implications, if any, this will have on several U.S. foreign policy objectives, namely: promoting the T-TIP agreement, prospects for increased defense/security spending in Europe, responding to the threat of Foreign Fighters in Syria, combatting anti-Semitism, and promoting religious freedom.

Format of Final Product:

The final product should be a five to ten page policy paper that includes a description of the issues/background, graph/info-graphic of where the parties stand on the various issues in the "right-wing" agenda and what, if any, impacts they will have on U.S. foreign policy in Europe.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Ability to consult local news media in the focus countries, election data analysis, European political party knowledge.

Comments:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/harold-meyerson-what-caused-the-rise-of-the-euroright/2014/05/29/dcf8afc0-e693-11e3-a86b-362fd5443d19_story.html?hpid=z3

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/30/world/middleeast/foreign-jihadis-fighting-in-syria-pose-risk-in-west.html?hp&_r=0

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/23/world/europe/vote-for-european-parliament-seen-as-bellwether-for-the-right.html?action=click&module=Search&region=searchResults&mabReward=relbias%3Aw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fquery.nytimes.com%2Fsearch%2Fsitesearch%2F%3Faction%3Dclick%26region%3DMasthead%26pgtype%3DHomepage%26module%3DSearchSubmit%26contentCollection%3DHomepage%26t%3Dqry35%23%2Ffar+right+in+eu+elections

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/04/opinion/wergin-america-needs-a-pivot-to-europe.html

http://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2014/05/daily-chart-16

<u>Maximum Number of Projects</u>:   3

Project 20

Achieving Development Progress in Afghanistan Post-Conflict

Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources (F)

Overview:
What development progress has Afghanistan made, or lost, during and following its various extended conflicts since 1979? Afghanistan has a long history of conflict and we are interested in analysis examining development in a post-conflict setting. What role has non-US donor assistance played and how has it changed over time? From a development perspective, where was Afghanistan before the US began its military engagement in 2001, where is it now and what are the likely development trajectories going forward? Waxing and waning prior US engagement in Afghanistan between 1980-2000 may serve as one point of comparison. What conditions have been important in post-conflict settings for development to take place? As the US prepares to drawdown its troops in Afghanistan, having greater data and insight into these questions and others will provide better insight as we continue to formulate a long-term development strategy.

If feasible, it would also be interesting to make comparisons with other countries that experienced extended conflicts. What lessons can be learned from past US military engagements and what factors are particularly important for a country to successfully develop in a post-conflict environment?

Format of Final Product:
Report of no more than 30 pages describing Afghanistan's historical development trajectory and the main drivers behind it, bringing in, when relevant, and comparisons to other countries.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
This project would best be addressed through an interdisciplinary approach, potentially drawing upon history, international relations, economics or the sciences more broadly to understand the geography or technical capacity.

Comments:
You can learn more about our office (F) at our public site: http://www.state.gov/f/
Past US foreign assistance amounts can be found here: www.foreignassistance.gov
Other donor assistance can be accessed here: OECD,
http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

Project 21

What Can The U.S. Government Do To Increase Gender Equality In Developing Countries?

Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources, Policy Analysis

Overview:
We have gathered some statistics on gender parity in a number of sectors for every country for which we give foreign assistance over a minimal amount. Using these and other indicators, we would like to know which countries are moving toward gender equality, and which are moving away? What factors seem to contribute to the movement in either direction?

We would like a research team to tackle this issue and produce a report detailing what we know about gender equity; how aid programs have successfully and unsuccessfully had an impact; and to identify factors that can contribute to greater equity and those that are more likely to decrease equity—factors that are within policy control and those outside of policy control as well.

Given the project's potential breadth and complexity, you are invited to shape it. We would like a focus on education, economic empowerment, and/or political rights and participation. The successful interventions and contributing factors may vary by region, so a regional approach is possible. (Though, we prefer that the regions analyzed have developing countries within them.)

Format of Final Product:
Report of no more than 50 pages describing the state of gender equality in the developing world as well as factors that contribute to it and detract from it, as well as lessons learned from programs or policies that promote equality.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Social studies, gender studies, interest in development

Comments:
The Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance is an office under the Secretary of State. Its mission is to ensure the strategic and effective allocation, management, and use of foreign assistance resources.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 22

Where Should We Spend Health Foreign Assistance Funds?

Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources, Policy Analysis

Overview:
The US government spends billions of foreign assistance funds on health each year, taking many factors into account (prevalence of a variety of diseases, where we have field presence, etc.). This question has two parts, and answering them will improve the distribution of foreign assistance- helping to ensure it is targeted to where it is most needed.

Part I of this question: Can you make a model that shows the various factors we are currently taking into account to make budget allocations for the various streams of health funding? The goal would be to be able to "predict" what funding level would likely be decided upon given several factors, some of which we are aware and can discuss if students choose to work on the question. In fact, multiple models (one for each stream of funding- HIV/AIDS, malaria, maternal and child health, etc.) might be appropriate.

Part II of this question: Which model would be better? To achieve the goals of the funding, disease prevalence is clearly important. But what else? Should we take into account GDP, health expenditures, out-of-pocket, equity, or other factors? How much should each be weighted? How close is the ideal model to the one that describes current allocations?

Format of Final Product:
Two models with explanatory information of no more than 25 pages (fewer may be needed).

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Math, economics, physics, or other science or social science (ability to create mathematical models), an interest in development.

Comments:
The Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance is an office under the Secretary of State. Its mission is to ensure the strategic and effective allocation, management, and use of foreign assistance resources.

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

Project 23

How Do Different Political Systems Affect Economic Prosperity?

Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources, Policy Analysis

Overview:
In the development literature (e.g., Easterly, Carothers), democracy has been frequently identified as a key component of broad-based economic growth. Yet, certain countries (e.g., China) seem to provide a counter-example to the link between democracy and economic development. Is there a consensus in the literature on the connection between democracy and economic growth in developing countries? What do the data (e.g., from the World Bank, Freedom House) show? Can and should economic fluctuations due to political transitions or catastrophic events (e.g., drought, flood, earthquakes) be analyzed separately to determine a country's economic development? Are there additional factors that should be considered in evaluating the relationship between economic growth and democracy?

Format of Final Product:
A report of no more than 25 pages that offers a quantitative and descriptive analyses of the relationship between economic growth and different political systems from countries around the world.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Interest in development policy, political theory and economics

Comments:
http://www.foreignassistance.gov/web/default.aspx offers information on countries and programs supported by the United States.

Maximum Number of Projects: 6

Project 24

How to Measure the Enabling Environment for Science, Technology and Innovation in Developing Countries

Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources, Policy Analysis

Overview:
Advances in science, technology and innovation (STI) will likely solve many of the world's most critical challenges, and U.S. foreign assistance funding is increasingly supporting the development of STI capacity through programs in the developing world. However, we lack a measure that can be applied to countries around the world to compare their enabling environments for STI. Some factors that are likely to be conducive to STI include: access to higher education, pro-business growth environment, social standing of scientists and entrepreneurs, legal protection for intellectual property, public and private research funding, etc. The recently developed Global Innovation Index (http://www.johnson.cornell.edu/gii/) offers one way of comparing the local dynamics of innovation. Is it the only one of its kind? Is it sufficiently representative of countries that receive U.S. foreign assistance? Are there other factors that should be considered? An indicator or an index of indicators that represents the critical components for the development of STI capacity would help us identify gaps (thematic and regional) and target programs more effectively.

Format of Final Product:
A report of no more than 25 pages that surveys currently available STI indicators and proposes (with justifications) an indicator or two of countries' STI enabling environment.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Background in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), and STEM education, along with interest in development work, would be useful.

Comments:
http://www.foreignassistance.gov/web/default.aspx offers information on countries and programs supported by the United States.

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

Project 25

Teaching Information Literacy
Foreign Service Institute, Office of the Director (FSI)

Overview:
Information Literacy (IL)—the art of finding meaning and authenticity in the deluge of information that is available today—requires that an individual (1) recognizes when there is a need for information, (2) has the technical skills to access multiple layers of data, (3) evaluates both the data and the sources, and finally (4) effectively uses the data to solve a problem.

Domestically and internationally, K-12 education systems have identified Information Literacy as a distinct skill set that contributes to an individual's and a nation's economic well-being. In the US, the Presidential Memorandum in October 2009 brought further attention to the growing need for this skill set and as a result, many schools, universities and institutions have worked to incorporate Information Literacy into their curricula. However, such programs target students as opposed to working adults who are already using and developing this skill set.

The Foreign Service Institute (FSI) is the Federal Government's primary training institution for officers and support personnel of the U.S. foreign affairs community, preparing American diplomats and other professionals to advance U.S. foreign affairs interests overseas and in Washington. FSI is interested in creating a 2-hour module that will create awareness for how the Foreign Service Officer is currently (and perhaps unconsciously) using these skills in his/her work and will train the participants to be more informationally literate through experiential learning exercises.

Format of Final Product:
The final product should be a curriculum to include: syllabus, goals, objectives, facilitator's guide, pre-course reading lists, exercises, and suggested means for course evaluation. A final presentation that demos the course (or portions thereof) could be held via teleconference.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Background in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), and STEM education, along with interest in development work, would be useful.

Comments:
Additional Resources:
Presidential Proclamation, 1 Oct 2009 http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/presidential-proclamation-national-information-literacy-awareness-month/
Information Literacy Standards for Higher Education (currently being revised)
http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org.acrl/files/content/standards/standards.pdf

Eisenberg, Michael (March 2008). "Information Literacy: Essential Skills for the Information Age". *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology* **28** (2): 39–47.
Mitchell, Erik and Sharpless Smith, Susan (2009) "Bringing Information Literacy into the Social Sphere: A Case Study Using Social Software to Teach Information Literacy at WFU". *Journal of Web Librarianship*, 3:183–197, 2009 ISSN: 1932-2909 print / 1932-2917 online. (http://wakespace.lib.wfu.edu/bitstream/handle/10339/16174/jwl-article-mitchell_smith.pdf)

<u>Maximum Number of Projects</u>:   2

Able to work with two teams/institutions on creation of training materials. Would be able to pursue as two separate curriculum development projects, or facilitate two groups in dividing goals and objectives.

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Project 26

Cyprus: How Can Media Engagement Boost "Yes" Votes on its Reunification Referendum?

Regional Coordinating Office for EUR and EAP, Bureau of International Information Programs

Overview:

The 40-year division of Cyprus between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities exacerbates tensions between NATO allies Greece and Turkey, complicates Ankara's relations with the EU, and undercuts EU-NATO cooperation. The Administration has stated that a bi-zonal, bi-communal, federal solution to the Cyprus Problem is a critical component of our strategic priorities. A 2004, U.N.-led referendum, the Annan Plan, attempted to create such a federation, but Greek Cypriots voted against it. In February 2014, a framework for renewed negotiations was agreed. If successful, the negotiations could lead to another referendum within the next year-plus.

Within each of the two communities, we believe certain demographic groups either oppose reunification out of fear (of the unknown future or of being seen as a collaborator), or decline to get involved out of apathy. We are sure of the benefits of a successful reunification referendum, however, since the status quo stifles both communities' natural potential, and a reunified Cyprus would bring economic and social benefits to both sides. Also, we believe that the inherent risks of a reunification, post-referendum, can be managed when proper care is taken.

We request our university partners undertake a study of each community to help guide us in our ongoing efforts to train government officials, civil society organizations, and citizen journalists in the use of media engagement (primarily social media, but some traditional media means, as well) to get their message out to the people and to enable their audiences to provide feedback to their leaders. Stages of the project might include identifying target groups by examining data from the failed 2004 referendum (i.e., finding the "No" voters and determining their motivations/concerns), gathering information on what types of media target groups consume (or better yet, respond to), developing themes and perhaps even materials that would enable the leaders we're training to sway public opinion, and, critically, advise us what media channels (traditional, social, TV, Facebook, etc.) offer the best chances for success.

Format of Final Product:

An options memo presenting the conclusions of the team on who our local influencers should be reaching out to, what media they should be using, and what messages will produce the desired "Yes" vote.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Public Diplomacy, Political Science, New Media, Social Media Analytics, Greek language, Turkish language, (interest in) peaceful reunification of a long-divided nation/providing a model for other nations in similar straits (Ukraine, Korea, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Nigeria, Georgia/S. Ossetia, etc.).

Comments:

International Information Programs (IIP) enables policymakers in the Department of State to engage with foreign audiences to advance U.S. foreign policy goals. We provide platforms for the rest of the Department, including our Embassies and Consulates overseas, which combine digital and in-person places for public engagement and facilitate long-term relationships. We design and execute the programs that enable our colleagues to engage the public, and we create and curate editorial products that advance understanding of specific U.S. foreign policy goals among key foreign audiences. With video, social media, and traditional media content producers all under one roof, along with highly-creative technical experts in the area of information distribution, IIP is well-placed to provide U.S. policymakers the tools and methods needed to support the Cypriots in their efforts to reunite as a nation.

This project will take place during United Nations-led Cypriot negotiations that are intended to result in a referendum among the Cypriots on reunification. Also, during the Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 semesters, IIP already will be training some Cypriot local influencers on the use of social media to amplify their messaging on the issues of the day, and also to engage their audiences with the goal of not only building support for reunification, but also ensuring the public's positions, concerns, and questions are heard by their local leaders. The proposed study would ideally be completed during the Fall 2014 semester, so results can be folded into the second round of training planned for the Spring 2015 semester, greatly enhancing the value we can provide to these local influencers. A follow-on effort during that second semester is possible, but not required.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2
2 would be ideal; one team could work on the Greek Cypriot community and the other on the Turkish Cypriot side

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Project 27

Combating Organized Crime and Illicit Markets Involved in Trafficking of Arts and Antiquities

Office of Anti-Crime Program (INL/C), Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, DHS ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)

Overview:
Cultural property, art and antiquities of nations, whether from ancient ages or relatively modern times, are physical embodiments of a society's cultural roots and ethnic traditions, creating an important part of its cultural heritage. Art, in its diverse mediums, represents a period of time, significant people and events, cultural values and beliefs or modes of expression that enrich the culture of the world. Though priceless in its impact, it is the object of a thriving profit-driven international market. The emerging crime of theft of cultural patrimony affects developed and developing countries alike. The illicit trafficking in cultural heritage is a multi-billion dollar transnational criminal enterprise that affects the countries of origin, transit and final destination. The illicit trade in works of art and antiquities is sustained by the demand from the arts market, the opening of borders, the improvement in transport systems and the political instability of certain geographic regions. The trafficking of arts and antiquities occurs on a global scale without regard for laws, borders and nationalities or the significance of the treasure smuggled.

There is a lack of research in this area. In coordination with law enforcement, INL/C and ECA, which helps lead international diplomatic efforts on addressing illicit markets associated with the trafficking of antiquities and cultural property, request that a research team examine linkages to organized crime and networks involved in the illegal trade of antiquities by looking at pathways and vulnerabilities associated with the illicit trafficking of cultural artifacts, the types of organizations involved in cross-border trafficking and methods of moving them into the global supply chains.

INL/C and INL/CAP – in partnership with DHS ICE HSI -- will work with the research team to identify species and trafficking organizations that could provide the base examples to use to identify.

Format of Final Product:
15-20 page paper

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Organized Crime, Forensic intelligence, Illicit markets

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

Project 28

Policing Gender Based Violence in the Caribbean

Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/CAP)

Overview:
Sex crimes and gender based violence has been at near epidemic proportions in some Caribbean countries. In the first three weeks of 2012 alone, St. Vincent—a country with a population of roughly 120,000—lost three women to domestic violence. In 2007 St. Vincent had the third-highest rate of reported rapes in the world, according to a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime report. According to data available from the UNODC's Crime Trends Survey, based on police stats, three of the top ten recorded rape rates in the world are in the Caribbean. All of the island nations from which data was gathered -- Bahamas, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago -- experienced a rate of rape above the un-weighted average of the 102 countries in the 2007 survey.

We would like a research team to tackle this issue and produce a report detailing what we know about gender based violent crime rates in the Caribbean; how states have tackled rising gender based violence crimes through policing methods; and to identify gender based violence policing best practices from other parts of the world that can be applied to the Caribbean.

Format of Final Product:
20 page report

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Gender based violence, Caribbean policing, domestic violence and policing, sexual violence policing, crime in the Caribbean

Comments:
http://www.unodc.org/pdf/research/Cr_and_Vio_Car_E.pdf
http://blogs.state.gov/stories/2012/12/31/inaugural-caribbean-dialogue-rule-law-and-gender-based-violence-catalyst-action
http://www.svri.org/SexualViolenceLACaribbean.pdf

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 29

The Future of Criminal Justice Reform in Latin America: Trends and Directions

Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/CAP)

Overview:
Over the past several decades, the United States has focused heavily on investing in reform and development of various Latin America criminal justice systems. In the 1960s, the U.S. sponsored and funded reform efforts focused on Law and development; in the 1980s and 1990s on administration of justice and the rule of law; and since the 2000s on the adoption and implementation of criminal codes and criminal procedures. In the last 5 years, INL takes a holistic approach towards justice sector reform and when implementing programs in a criminal justice system (looking at law enforcement, justice and corrections).

As INL continues to focus on Latin America as a key region, we are requesting a research team to perform a trends analysis to examine the current state of rule of law and justice sector reforms in four key INL countries, Mexico, Colombia, El Salvador and Ecuador and to map possible justice sector reform trends over the next 10 years through 2025. Key questions we would like to be addressed are:

1) Which path(s) will reform take in these countries over the next ten years?
2) Based on an understanding of where these countries are in the present day, do they require foreign assistance for rule of law reforms at this point or in the near future?
3) Have other political and justice sector models in Latin America made inroads in these countries to provide counterpoints to U.S. funded and supported rule of law reforms? If so, how can the U.S. work within these rule of law counter-point models to support the development of justice and rule of law reform?

We would request the research team focus on justice reform trend analysis in the requested countries. Best practices in justice sector reform would be supplemental to the trends analysis.

Format of Final Product:
15 pages per country addressed

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
International rule of law, rule of law and justice reform, Latin American justice models, Colombia justice system, Mexico justice system, El Salvador justice system, Ecuador justice system

Comments:
http://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/justice-reform

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/working_papers/2012/RAND_WR948.pdf
http://csis.org/files/media/csis/pubs/0609_latin_judicial_reform.pdf
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTLAWJUSTINST/Resources/DonorSupportedCriminalJusticeReform.pdf

Maximum Number of Projects: 2
Groups can pick which of four requested countries to focus on: Mexico, Colombia, El Salvador and/or Ecuador.

Project 30

The Role of the Public Defender

Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/CAP)

Overview:

In countries transitioning from an inquisitorial to an adversarial system, the roles and responsibilities of justice sector actors have to change – judges and prosecutors have to adapt to a larger, more proactive role of the defense counsel. In some countries, public defender services are nascent or ill-equipped for this change. The goal of the project is to examine various regional models of public defense, set forth their common characteristics, as well as what sets them apart, look at the challenges they face ant the methods they utilized for success, and make an analytical determination on best practices for a public defender service.

As part of INL/CAPs continuing search for functional models and best practices on justice and rule of law development, we request a research project to choose and examine four public defender systems in four regions: Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Asia and identify trends and best practices for the development of public defender systems in developing countries.

Questions we would like to be addressed, in addition to those mentioned above, should include:

1) How do the public defender models differ regionally?
2) Are there specific models of public defender systems that are more prevalent? Why are some models more likely to be adopted than others?
3) What are the characteristics of countries without viable public defender systems but which have functional justice systems?

Format of Final Product:
Case study format of four public defender models, maximum 60 pages (15 pages per case)

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Rule of law development, public defender models, international criminal justice reform

Comments:
http://www.nlada.org/Defender/Defender_Publications/International_Manual_2010
http://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/Handbook_on_improving_access_to_legal_aid_in_Africa.pdf
http://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/UN_principles_and_guidlines_on_access_to_legal_aid.pdf

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 31

Getting Past The CSI TV Factor In International Forensics Development

Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/CAP)

Overview:
Forensic laboratory development is the assistance to the apparatus called sciences applied to law to corroborate or dismiss the association of a person(s) to a crime or criminal activity otherwise known as Forensic Sciences. It is an important component of the international criminal justice system reform. As an often overlooked aspect of a well-developed criminal justice system, forensics sciences can act as a valuable Investigative tool to law enforcement but also as a multiplier force after an initial investment into education, training and infrastructure by enabling the use of scientific disciplines such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Molecular and other physical sciences such as postmortem medical examination to assist the investigative body and the judicial sector to convict or exonerate a suspect. INL has provided forensic development assistance through agencies and organization such as DOJ, USAID, and numbers of other implementers dedicated to the development of forensic programs abroad, in the form of mentoring, guiding, equipping and management. INL has consistently seen the need to further investigate in depth data on forensic lab development in emerging democratic countries after years of strife.

We request that a research team examine how <u>four</u> developing world countries in the past ten years have built a forensic lab and capabilities and have incorporated forensics into their criminal justice systems. We are interested in a team identifying what are the methods and tools that a poorly resourced or otherwise impeded criminal justice system has used to incorporate forensics and other investigative criminalist tools components into the criminal justice system. The project would also identify best practices and develop recommendations on how to incorporate forensics into other under-resourced criminal justice systems.

CAP will assist in identifying countries of interest for case study selection as well as provide guidance on appropriate resources to use to address the research questions.

Format of Final Product:
20 page report

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Forensic science, international criminal justice development

Comments:
http://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/cjat_eng/Forensic_services_and_infrastructure.pdf
https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/scientists/laboratory-and-forensic-science-services.html?ref=menuside

http://www.nuffic.nl/en/capacity-building/niche/countries-and-projects/uganda/niche-uga-028

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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Project 32

International Seaport Security: Translating Domestic U.S. Seaport Security to the International Arena

Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/CAP)

Overview:

The United States has a strong record of maritime and port security. The 2004 Maritime Transportation and Safety Act (MTSA) led to the international adoption of the International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) Code. With this level of background in maritime and specifically port security, U.S. seaports are well positioned to serve as models for port authorities and port security stakeholders in other countries. However translating the U.S. seaport experience with multi-agency strike forces and multi-jurisdictional agencies is at times difficult.

There is a dearth of research examining how best practices at U.S. seaports, which have been identified through multiple studies may be applicable in ports overseas. While it is contextually important to recognize the site-specific characteristics of ports outside of the U.S. , seaports are more homogenous now than at any time in history due to the presence of multi-national shipping terminal organizations, multi-national shipping lines, coupled with the strictures of the ISPS code which is nominally applied as the base port security framework for many seaports.

We request that a research team identify best practices in port security in the U.S. and examine the utility of those practices for ports in less developed nations. The project would be two pronged, first identifying best practices through literature and open source research on domestic U.S. seaports and then examining the utility of those practices in a selected group of non-U.S. ports.

CAP would assist in identifying literature and non-domestic U.S. seaports for inclusion in the study.

Format of Final Product:
30 page report

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Maritime security, port security, customs security

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 33

<u>Women in Criminal Justice: Measuring Outcomes</u>

Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law
Enforcement (INL/CAP)

<u>Overview</u>:

With a focus on the post-conflict and transitioning context, INL/CAP would like to know what reforms
have been successful in increasing the recruitment and retention of women as professionals in the
criminal justice system, as police, prosecutors, judges and corrections personnel.   We are particularly
interested in understanding the policies that drove the reforms, what the reforms were, and whether they
have been sustainable.

Research teams could focus, for example, on 3-4 post-conflict countries and 3-4 transitioning countries,
and could focus on one or all sectors (police, justice or corrections).

<u>Format of Final Product</u>:

20 page report

<u>Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest</u>:

Gender equality, women police, gender and criminal justice issues

<u>Comments</u>:

http://www.inclusivesecurity.org/wp-
content/uploads/2004/07/19_women_s_participation_in_the_international_criminal_tribunal_for_the_for
mer_yugoslavia_icty_transitional_justice_for_bosnia_and_herzegovina.pdf
http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/222034.pdf

<u>Maximum Number of Projects</u>:   3

We are open to multiple ways of addressing this question, either through a multi-country analysis, a
specific case study analysis or through multiple or single methods analysis

Project 34

Organizational Change in Corrections Systems: Examples from the Former Soviet Union (FSU)

Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/CAP)

Overview:
In some countries, corrections systems are rigid organizations with set hierarchies and top-down leadership. Less rigid systems which push decision making to the lowest levels are able to utilize the skills and talents of staff, increasing the ability to be a dynamic rather than static organization. FSU countries are primarily composed of rigid organizational structures that have had difficulty responding to new circumstances. CAP performs corrections system assessments and assists in developing corrections systems reform recommendations for INL and partner countries and has extensive experience in FSU corrections systems.

Effecting organizational change is one of the key objectives when providing recommendations to reform corrections system but there is a dearth of research on the topic. We request a research project to choose 2-4 FSU countries and examine their corrections systems and address the following primary research questions:

1) Provide an analysis of the corrections system organization in each country;
2) Identify issues with the corrections systems ;
3) Identify country-specific methods and specific recommendations on how to best effect organizational change leading to favorable outcomes in the respective corrections system.

CAP will assist the research to identify the most relevant countries for study, will provide background information on the corrections systems if possible, and assist in the identification of favorable outcomes.

Format of Final Product:
20-30 page report

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Former Soviet Union corrections systems, organizational change, corrections systems management

Comments:
http://www.penalreform.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Information-Brochure-English.pdf
http://openjournals.gela.org.ge/index.php/CSSR/article/view/210

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 35

Trafficking Of Female Prisoners: Prevalence Rates and Database Development

Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/CAP)

Overview:

Female prison populations are a vulnerable incarcerated population and have been subject to exploitation by corrupt staff and prisoners with criminal network connections. The knowledge of the prevalence of sexual exploitation of female prisoners around the world is at this point primarily an anecdotal exercise of media reports and unverified accounts. However, the prevalence of this type of exploitation has deep and important impacts on U.S. programs and funding for criminal justice and, specifically, corrections reform.

As a fact-setting research project we request that a research team examine broadly the prevalence of sex trafficking of female prisoners, particularly by corrections staff. As there is a dearth of data on this topic, we would recommend that the research team perform an extensive content analysis of open source information to identify countries, corrections systems, and specific institutions where this activity has occurred and to develop a database (MS Excel or MS Access) listing the following characteristics: Country of incident, Institution affected, Individuals involved in activity, Number of exploited female prisoners, Length of time of the activity, and dates is available, Criminal prosecutions and convictions, Sources of data, Other variables to be discussed and developed by participating research team.

We would request that the research team examine this from a global perspective, and then sub-divide by continent. Using the database we request a report examining prevalence rates globally, and by continent, defining characteristics of incidents and differences among incidents.

Format of Final Product:
20 page report

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Women in prison, human trafficking and prison systems, sex trafficking, corruption in corrections systems

Comments:
http://inpublicsafety.com/2014/01/combatting-human-trafficking-networks-within-prison-walls/
http://www.hrw.org/reports/2001/prison/

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 36

Best Practices for International Law Enforcement Advisor Training

Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/CAP)

Overview:

The United States is one several countries worldwide that train and deploy law enforcement advisors overseas. CAP develops and delivers curriculum to INL-contracted police, corrections, and justice advisors and instructors to effectively prepare them for service overseas. Since establishing a training facility in Sterling, Virginia in 2011, CAP has conducted pre-deployment training for INL programs in Afghanistan, Liberia, West Bank, Lebanon, International Police Peacekeeping Operations Support (IPPOS), Mexico, Egypt, South Sudan, and Haiti.

The current course is structured as an eight-day module-based workshop where advisors learn about INL programs and current events in the countries in which they are being deployed. Advisors are briefed on a range of topics including human rights, incorporating women into the criminal justice system, mentoring and advising, gender-based violence, first aid, cultural practices and regional history, legal systems, and stress management. Training is conducted by outside subject-matter experts, CAP's own training team, INL program officers, and other DoS technical expert staff. Students participate in modules on a wide range of topics in an adult-learning format that encourages self-directed study through the use of interactive activities that foster collaborative and professional relationships amongst the group.

The U.S. is only one of a small group of nations that conducts this type of training. Other countries such as Canada and Germany have similar programs that use different methods of training criminal justice professionals. We request that a research team identify the following topics:

1. Identify other countries that conduct pre-deployment training
2. Identify the audience and how they are selected (i.e. Is participation in overseas work required? Is this work only available to officers of a certain rank?)
3. Identify curriculum in other programs and how curriculum is determined
4. Identify methods and best practices

CAP will assist the research team in identifying other countries that perform law enforcement advisor training before deployment.

Format of Final Product:
20 page report

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Law enforcement training, international police deployment, training curriculum development, international criminal justice reform

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 37

Hybrid Legal Systems: The Convergence of Common Law and Civil Law Legal Traditions and its Implications for Global Justice Reform

Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/CAP)

Overview:

Today most justice systems are best classified as hybrid legal systems. Although many were traditionally strictly civil law or common law systems, as a consequence of development these systems are converging in many areas around the globe. In the United States Louisiana provides a unique example of how a mixture of legal traditions can operate side by side with a state system rooted in the civil law tradition and a federal system based in common law. Louisiana's success in walking the common law civil law divide can serve as a great example to countries dealing with similar issues.

We request that a research team study hybrid legal systems where common law and civil law traditions successfully work in tandem. We request that the research begins by focusing on Louisiana and then chooses two examples of non-U.S. justice systems that have successfully integrated both civil law and common law components. We would like the team to examine these systems with a focus on how they can provide a model to other nations undergoing justice sector reform.

Specifically the research team should provide a brief overview of the examined common law-civil law hybrid systems and what characteristics permitted the two legal traditions to successful mix together. The research should focus on what implications these models have for other justice systems around the world with both common law and civil law influences that are going through reform.

CAP will assist in identifying countries currently seeking assistance in this area to help focus the research team's efforts.

Format of Final Product:
20 page report

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Common-Civil Law hybrid systems, international justice reform, international law, Louisiana state law

Comments:
http://digitalcommons.law.lsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=6210&context=lalrev
http://weblaw.usc.edu/assets/docs/contribute/83_3KimforWebsite.pdf

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 38

Financial Crimes Involved In Wildlife Trafficking

Office of Anti-Crime Program (INL/C), Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/CAP)

Overview:

Wildlife crime and wildlife trafficking are multi-billion dollar activities that involve complex financial transactions and financial instruments. The cross-border nature of wildlife trafficking often involves the involvement of multiple actors, including financiers and business firms. These criminal networks provide the financial backing for trafficking groups to acquire wildlife and wildlife products, while other groups provide the money laundering services required to disguise illicit proceeds.

There is a lack of research in this area, and INL/C which carries the primary wildlife trafficking portfolio in INL, and INL/CAP, request that a research team examine the types of financial crimes involved in the illegal trade in wildlife by looking at the types of financial crimes that are involved in various types of wildlife trafficking.

INL/C and INL/CAP will work with the research team to identify species and trafficking organizations that could provide the base examples to use to identify the financial crimes and the "follow the money" concept.

Format of Final Product:
15-20 page paper

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Wildlife trafficking, wildlife crime, environmental crime

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 39

Measuring Benefits of U.S. Foreign Assistance to Combat Wildlife Trafficking
Office of Anti-Crime Program (INL/C), Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/CAP)

Overview:
INL funds multiple foreign assistance projects that focus on enhancing law enforcement and criminal justice efforts to combat wildlife trafficking either through capacity building training and technical assistance. However it is difficult to discern the benefits of these various programs without an in depth understanding of their effects on the illicit trade in wildlife.

Working with INL/C and INL/CAP, we would request that a research team examine the effects that US foreign assistance programs have on law enforcement efforts have on combating wildlife trafficking and to develop best practices. INL/C will assist in the provision of information of U.S. programs targeting wildlife trafficking and will assist in choosing viable measures and data sources. We are particularly seeking an innovative approach to identifying the impact of USG funding internationally that identifies outcomes and not just outputs of such funded programs.

Format of Final Product:
10 page paper

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Wildlife trafficking, wildlife crime, environmental crime, program management

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 40

Criminal Justice Responses to Wildlife Trafficking as a Crime and Impacts
Office of Anti-Crime Program (INL/C), Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/CAP)

Overview:
INL funds multiple projects that focus on enhancing law enforcement and criminal justice efforts to combat wildlife trafficking either through capacity building and technical assistance and was successful at the UN Crime Commission April 2013 to co-sponsor a resolution that was adopt encouraging Member States to treat wildlife trafficking as a serious crime under the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. INL supports NGOs, IGOs (such as UNODC) and other stakeholders to focus on supporting various criminal justice responses to address wildlife trafficking.

Working with INL/C and INL/CAP, we would request a research team to examine the various criminal justice responses and criminal legislation for treating wildlife trafficking as a serious crime, under the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime that are available to tackle wildlife trafficking and examine the benefits and drawbacks of these various approaches by examining case study examples where these approaches have been applied and been successful or failed. Furthermore, the research project should identify an in-depth analysis of countries criminal response to such a crime and successful criminal justice responses that may have utility in preventing or responding to wildlife trafficking.

Format of Final Product:
15-20 page paper

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Wildlife trafficking, wildlife crime, environmental crime, criminology

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 41

Western Hemisphere Firearms Trafficking: Pathways from the U.S. to the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico

Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/CAP)

Overview:

Firearms trafficking from the U.S. to the Caribbean, Central America, and Mexico is a serious and ongoing concern for our U.S. partners in these regions. However, the differential regional impact and application of firearm laws and regulations in the United States allows some states and municipalities to be the site of higher rates of firearms acquisitions, some of which are trafficked to the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico. While domestic firearms regulations and laws are the purview of the states the international effects of firearms trafficking are dependent on the ready availability of both firearms and ammunition.

We request that a research team examine and report the following:

1. What is the prevalence of firearms trafficking by U.S. regions, to the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico? This question can be addressed in multiple ways and we will assist the research team in identifying the ideal structure to address the question considering the open source data available.
2. Does the differential application and presence of firearms control regulations and laws in the U.S. affect the trafficking of firearms to the Caribbean, Central American, and Mexico?
3. How does the concept of "straw purchases" affect the trafficking of firearms?
4. What lack of firearms regulations and/or laws contributes to the movement of firearms outside of the United States to the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico? Does the lack of these regulations and/or laws contribute to trafficking, either directly or indirectly?
5. Develop recommendations on how to address trafficked firearms by focusing on domestic U.S. firearms regulations or laws (such as the creation of a firearms trafficking law in the U.S.).
6. Develop a map displaying identified pathways of firearms trafficking, by state and if possible, municipality or other jurisdiction to the Caribbean, Central America, and Mexico.

Format of Final Product:

30-40 page report

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Firearms trafficking, domestic U.S. firearms policy, gun control, U.S.-Caribbean foreign relations, U.S.-Mexico foreign relations, U.S.- Central America foreign relations

Comments:

http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-709

http://www.wilsoncenter.org/GoodmanFirearmsTrafficking
http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/research/gun_trafficking.html
http://catcher.sandiego.edu/items/peacestudies/way_of_the_gun.pdf

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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Project 42
Multilateral Moneyball: Correlates of Influence on Multilateral Voting Behavior

Bureau of International Organization Affairs, Office of Policy, Regional, and Functional Organizations (IO/PRF)

Overview:
State Department analysis of voting patterns at the United Nations and in other multilateral venues has been primarily qualitative, despite the large amount of quantitative data on country positions and negotiated outcomes readily available on UN and other international organization websites. "Multilateral Moneyball" is an attempt to apply statistical methods to identify trends in voting coincidence and suggest for U.S. diplomatic engagement that will promote policy goals.

Of particular interest to policy makers are the following issues:

- Trends and anomalies in voting coincidence.
- Effects of blocs and regional institutions, especially the influences of defection from bloc cohesion.
- Inflection points, i.e., changes in voting behavior.
- Effects of personnel or reputation in the negotiation process.

The project will augment interagency understanding of multilateral voting behavior and diplomatic outcomes and to assess the utility of U.S. initiatives and diplomatic engagement in achieving policy. The team will leave behind policy oriented reports based on their analysis for senior policymakers and datasets to be used in future research. In addition, members of the team will have an opportunity to collaborate with Department of State officials in the design of the research and to present its findings and policy recommendations to senior officials in the interagency.

Format of Final Product:
- Set of short related analytical reports on the factors of influence on voting behavior of states in the United Nations or other multilateral institutions
- Datasets suitable for further study on the topic

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Political Science, Political Economy, Econometrics, Quantitative/Statistical Methods, Mathematics

Comments:
Existing resources on these topics include research literature on UN voting behavior, the State Department's Voting Practices in the United Nations, and UN voting records.

Maximum Number of Projects: N/A

Project 43

Building Compliance: National Reporting to the UN Security Council

Office of Counter-Proliferation Initiatives (CPI), Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation (ISN)

Overview:
All effective international compliance regimes depend heavily on good reporting about implementation. Many UN Member States fail to submit such reports to the UN Security Council, often citing "reporting fatigue" among low-capacity states as the major reason. Nonetheless, many low-capacity states do submit reports. Why?

The project will look at the reporting to one UN Security Council subsidiary body, the 1540 Committee, which monitors efforts to combat WMD terrorism, and compare the non-reporting States against low-capacity States that have reported to explore what factors have influenced reporting behavior besides low-capacity. Possible research approaches could include cross-case analysis or more comprehensive quantitative studies of possible determinants. Based on this research, the participants would recommend options for improving reporting that would be shared with the 1540 Committee.

Format of Final Product:
Deliverables would include a presentation covering their methodology, findings and recommendations, plus a short policy brief for inclusion in the *1540 Compass* or similar outlet.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
An interest in governments of low-capacity States, particularly but not limited to sub-Saharan African or small island States, will prove helpful. French or Portuguese language skills will help in the study of some States.

Comments:
UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) creates more than two hundred obligations on all States to combat the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and their means of delivery, to non-State actors, including terrorists. For more information on the resolution, see the website of the 1540 Committee, the subsidiary body of the UN Security Council that monitors its implementation (http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/).
The issue of non-, late-, or inadequate reporting, especially by low-capacity States, plagues many efforts by international bodies to monitor compliance, upon which finding effective and efficient ways to enhance compliance depend. Results of this study would not only contribute to the work of the 1540 Committee itself, but address the larger issues of reporting and compliance in international regimes.

Maximum Number of Projects: 3
Up to 3, particularly if participants wish to focus on English, French or Portuguese speaking non-reporting UN Member States.

Project 44

Cross-Border Human Trafficking Between Laos and China
Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP)

Overview:
Research human trafficking from Laos into China, for commercial marriage and other types of trafficking (for work in the sex industry, as domestic servants, in forced labor, etc.). Draft a short paper, under five pages, with an extensive reference list of any literature you find on the topic. "Literature" should be interpreted broadly and could include newspaper articles from Laos, China, or neighboring countries, academic research, blog posts, postings/articles on NGO websites, etc.

Trafficking from Laos into China is an area about which we know very little, but many people, especially women and girls, disappear across the border. The cross-border dynamic between Laos and its other neighbors (Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam) is well-known and documented, but there is a dearth of information on the dynamic in Northern Laos and its border with China.

The findings from your work would be used to guide future programming to better assist Lao populations living along this international border.

Format of Final Product:
The final deliverable should be a succinct paper (no more than five pages) that provides an overview of the dynamic based on the available literature. The paper should include a detailed bibliography clearly citing where the information was derived.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
This project is well suited for students in the Social Sciences (particularly Sociology, Anthropology, and/or Social Work), International Affairs, East Asia Studies, Political Science, etc.

Comments:
Please visit our office website to learn more about our work, www.state.gov/j/tip.
The timeline for this project is restricted to one semester.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 45

Addressing the Demand Side of Sex Trafficking
Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP)

Overview:
This project has two components – one, a literature review of programming to address demand reduction as a means of combating sex trafficking. What studies have been conducted and by whom (e.g. which governments, NGOs, UN agencies, private foundations, etc.)? What programs have been funded and by whom? Were they successful? If so, explain how. If not, explain why. Two, based on the research, provide a series of insights and recommendations for future programming that might better reduce the demand for commercial sex.

In order to limit the scope of the project, we ask students to focus their research on one of the following regions: East Asia and the Pacific Islands; Europe; South and Central Asia; Africa; North Africa and the Middle East; or the Western Hemisphere: Canada, the Caribbean, Central, and/or South America. The area of focus must be outside of the United States and its territories.

Very little funding goes to support demand-side programming to combat sex trafficking. This study will be useful to assess the potential utility of such programming and help the Department in its ongoing assessment of how to best spend limited foreign assistance funds to combat human trafficking.

Format of Final Product:
The final deliverable will be a short summary/overview of the demand-side projects or studies conducted in a given geographic region with an analysis of the utility of those projects – 4 pages; this will be followed by a series of insights and recommendations for future demand-side funding (including the potential recommendation not to fund demand-side projects) – 1 page. The 5 page paper will be followed by a reference list citing all identified studies and projects reviewed in the given geographic area.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Social Sciences (particularly Sociology, Anthropology, and/or Social Work), Public Administration, Public Health, or International Affairs.

Comments:
Please visit our office website to learn more about our work, www.state.gov/j/tip.
The timeline for this project is restricted to one semester.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 46

Trafficking in the Fishing Industry

Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP)

Overview:
Human trafficking in the global fishing industry is an area of increasing global concern. For numerous years, there has been significant research and interest in the area of environmental sustainability and fishing. Until recently, however, there has been limited research into labor exploitation within the fishing industry supply chain (from recruitment of fishers, to fishing on board ships, to packaging plants, etc.).

Our office has been tracking research related to human trafficking in the fishing industry for a number of years, and we are looking for a student team to help us with that effort over the course of one semester.

The assignment would be to track all *new* research related to trafficking in the fishing industry, read the publications, and compile an annotated bibliography. The annotations (no more than 6 sentences per publication) should summarize the methodology used, the key findings and shortcomings, and make a brief assessment of the credibility and utility of the given publication.

Format of Final Product:
Annotated bibliography – no more than four pages total.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
International Law, Environmental Studies, Labor Studies, Business and Management, Supply Chains, Health

Comments:
Please visit our office website to learn more about our work, www.state.gov/j/tip.
The timeline for this project is restricted to one semester.

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 47

Industrial Wastewater Treatment and Water Quality Monitoring: Pakistani Textile and Iraqi Energy Industries and their Impact on Drinking Water

Office of Conservation and Water (ECW)

Overview:

In both Iraq and Pakistan industrial wastewater and its proper management are issues of key concern for population centers downstream from heavy industries such as textile manufacturing (Pakistan) and energy production (Iraq). These countries rely upon these industries for a significant percentage of their GDPs; however, much of the industrial wastewater generated by these facilities goes untreated, either at the source, or by local municipalities. Untreated water poses a number of health and environmental threats that could be ameliorated through the implementation of best practices.

Our embassies field regular complaints from regional stakeholders about wastewater issues and we would like to be more responsive to requests for information. Therefore, we would like to have a compilation of industry best practices for point source treatment and municipal best practices for industrial wastewater management as a learning tool for our Embassies and a starting point for more educated discussions on these issues with our country interlocutors.

Format of Final Product:

2 case studies: one for Iraq and the energy industry; one for Pakistan and the textile industry which outline best practices for point source treatment for the appropriate industries and best practices for rural and municipal industrial wastewater management. The case studies would outline possible solution options for Iraq and Pakistan as we understand not all solutions may work in these environments.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Students with regional knowledge and who have legal/ engineering/ urban planning/ natural resource management backgrounds would be best suited to the issues. Language skills would be a bonus, but probably not necessary given most of the literature would be in English.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

If two teams address the topic, each could focus on one of the case studies above.

Project 48

Sudan and the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD): Political, Social and Economic Costs and Benefits

Office of Conservation and Water (ECW)

Overview:
Ethiopia's construction of the massive GERD dam along the Nile is one of the most significant diplomatic trans-boundary water challenges in the world at this time. Egypt and Ethiopia both rely on the Nile River as a source of water for energy, food and domestic productivity. The Nile River has cultural significance for both and is a focal point of national identity and pride. The Department of State has been working with these countries and other Nile Basin riparians for more than a decade to support their efforts to manage these resources cooperatively; however, the dam remains a significant challenge as does Sudan's pivotal role as a central riparian country.

Understanding Sudan's impact on regional dynamics surrounding the GERD and the dam's potential political, social and economic impacts (positive and negative) on Sudan are key to developing a better strategy for Nile basin engagement. This project would allow us to fill a gap in our understanding what Sudan stands to gain or lose with the construction of the GERD and how to better engage Sudan on this topic.

Format of Final Product:
20-25 page report

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Regional expertise and an energy/ economics background

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 49

Water Sharing and Water Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in the Tigris-Euphrates Basin between Iraq's Ethnic Groups and It's Neighbors

Office of Conservation and Water (ECW)

Overview:

Water issues are likely a contributing factor to state fragility and failure and regional tensions within the Tigris-Euphrates basin. Iraq, in particular, has minimal technical, legal and diplomatic capacity to address trans-boundary water issues within its domestic constituencies and with its regional neighbors (Iran, Syria and Turkey). Iraq recognizes that it needs to increase its ability to manage trans-boundary water disputes and is working toward key domestic legislation which would establish a National Water Council with appropriate experts in the field. The United States is working with Iraq on this initiative as well as assisting Iraq with concrete technical expertise on smaller issues like dam safety.

In order to find a model that could work for Iraq, or a series of models, it would be useful to understand how countries in the Tigris-Euphrates handle water-related disputes. In particular, it would be useful to understand informal mechanisms such as tribal councils or other types of tools that ethnic tribes and groups use to mediate conflict. National programs and legislation may work in some cases, but it may be that more localized solutions could be more effective on a smaller scale.

Format of Final Product:

20-25 page report, analyzing traditional and modern decision-making models, with examples, and some analysis of whether there are elements of these models that could be helpful in addressing existing and future trans-boundary water challenges.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Regional expertise and Arabic language preferred as source materials may be in Arabic

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 50

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Large Hydropower Projects

Office of Conservation and Water (ECW)

Overview:
Hydropower provides the largest share of renewable power worldwide, with significant impacts on ecosystems and human rights. After a brief period where little large hydro was built outside of China, there has been recent interest from international financial organizations on funding large hydropower projects in order to bring power to underserved areas. Proponents claim that that large hydro offers cheap, renewable and climate-neutral power, while opponents point to the social and environmental costs and reference studies which suggest certain hydropower projects have as much greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as conventional coal fired power.

The United States Government is considering suggestions that an analysis of greenhouse gas emissions in all phases of the project cycle be included as part of the evaluation of any international project. In order to better educate those who will be evaluating these analyses, we are hoping to obtain a succinct and clear overview of the mechanisms by which greenhouse gases are released by large hydropower projects, how these mechanisms can be mitigated or avoided, and how large hydropower projects compare to other sources of electricity in terms of GHG releases.

Format of Final Product:
We are looking for a research paper, 20-25 pages and summary presentation in PowerPoint form, analyzing existing literature on greenhouse gas emissions from dams through their entire lifecycle (Design, construction, operation and decommissioning), summarizing the key factors that control GHG gas releases from hydropower, and highlighting any existing guidance for best practices to develop hydropower with reduced carbon/GHG impacts. We would also like to present their research to the office to the office either in person or via teleconference.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Civil engineering, climate science, atmospheric science, freshwater ecology, water resources management

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 51

Hidden Water Wars: A Guide for Practitioners and Policy-Makers on How to Avoid Today's Conflicts Over Water

Office of Conservation and Water (ECW)

Overview:

Water is among the most shared resources on earth. More than 260 watersheds cross the political boundaries of two or more countries, and approximately 40 percent of the world's population lives in river and lake basins that cross national borders. Worldwide, about 2 billion people depend on groundwater, which includes approximately 300 trans-boundary aquifer systems. As the 2006 UNDP Human Development Report noted, managing that hydrological interdependence is "one of the great human development challenges facing the international community".

Increasing population, economic, and climate change pressures will likely intensify tensions over shared water resources around the globe. Impending "Water Wars" – conflicts over water – have grabbed attention in global headlines. Yet researchers have found that since 1948, there have been only 37 incidents of acute multi-country conflict over water, while during the same period, approximately 295 international water agreements were negotiated and signed. This has been done many times from a water perspective. We are more interested in how to address these challenges within a global economy (and other strings that connect countries across the globe), increasing access to capital, and emerging drivers of nationalism, tribalism, etc.

- **What is the role of water in conflict and cooperation?**
- **Does its role and impact vary across scales and geographies?**
- **What is the role of power in trans-boundary water management?**
- **How should practitioners and policy-makers view the risk of conflict between neighboring countries/communities/stakeholders?**

Format of Final Product:

1-3 page policy summary describing the high-level findings and priority areas, together with a series of policy recommendations.

A roadmap document outlining a strategy for how the USG can achieve the policy recommendations.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Political Science, Geography, International Affairs, Anthropology, Hydrology

Maximum Number of Projects: 2-4

Project 52

Sustainable Hydropower – Myth or Reality?

Office of Conservation and Water (ECW)

Overview:
By 2035, the International Energy Agency estimates that the world will require 30% more energy than today and that 90% of net energy demand growth will be by emerging economies. Hydropower accounts for approximately 15% of global electricity needs and it is estimated that only 1/5 of the world's technically feasible hydropower resources have been developed. While hydropower is often considered a clean, renewable source of energy, these projects often come with high environmental and social costs that range from loss of fisheries, agriculture, and livelihoods to displacement of people and communities. Alternatively, dams and reservoirs associated with hydropower facilities also have benefits including flood control and water storage for irrigation. Several challenges threaten the development of hydropower including availability of financing, political and market risks, and local environmental considerations.

Is there such a thing as sustainable hydropower? This project seeks to define a suite of characteristics that comprise an ideal "sustainable" hydropower facility. Using this definition, students will assess whether or not there are any existing hydropower plants worldwide that fit this definition. If there are examples, students will work to identify why these projects were successful and whether or not this model of hydropower development can be implemented elsewhere in the world. If there are no examples, students will work to identify how sustainable hydropower can be developed and where in the world the political, environmental, and social conditions might facilitate sustainable hydropower development.

Format of Final Product:
20 page report

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
1-3 page policy summary describing the high-level findings together with a series of policy recommendations.
A roadmap document outlining a strategy for how the USG can achieve the policy recommendations.

Comments:
The International Hydropower Association developed a sustainability assessment protocol and the World Bank has well-defined environmental and social safeguards criteria for potential hydropower projects in their funding pipeline. International Rivers maintains a database of existing and proposed hydropower projects worldwide.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2-4

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Project 53

Creative Messaging to Reduce Demand for Illicit Wildlife Products

Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental & Scientific Affairs: Office of Conservation & Water (OES/ECW)

Overview:

Wildlife trafficking is a multi-billion dollar global criminal enterprise that thrives only when a robust demand exists for illegally traded wildlife and wildlife products. OES has worked with private-sector partners and our U.S. Embassies around the globe to raise awareness to this pernicious trade since 2004. Many NGOs have produced excellent campaigns to safeguard keystone species, such as elephants and rhinos. The goal of this project is to develop an innovative social media strategy to raise public awareness and change consumer behavior patterns among young adults in key countries/regions for threatened species receiving less public attention.

Possible region-product pairings include:
- Southeast Asia (as a region or country specific) or China – pangolins as food/medicine, turtles as food/pets
- Middle East/Gulf States – exotic pet trade (big cats)
- Europe – reptile skins in consumer products
- Latin America – exotic pet trade (birds)

This project asks students to assess social media platforms, purchasing patterns, and cultural factors influencing consumption in the respective region in order to develop effective messaging to reduce global demand for illegal wildlife products. Effective messaging will challenge young adults in the region to reexamine their purchasing patterns in a broader context than personal desire or cultural tradition. We encourage students to consider platforms that maximize outreach and minimize costs. Creative social media approaches will be incorporated into our broader strategy to reduce the global demand for illegal wildlife products and used by our U.S. embassies overseas to raise awareness in the region.

Format of Final Product:

A five-page memo describing the students' research methodology (0.5-1 page), analysis (1-2 pages), and recommendations list (2-3 pages) detailing messaging/platform options that can be implemented with nominal resources.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Sociology, psychology, international marketing, communications, region/country/language of interest.

Comments:

U.S. National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking
State efforts to combat wildlife trafficking

Maximum Number of Projects: 6

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Project 54

<u>Health Co-Benefits and the Case for Low-Emissions Growth: What's the State of the Science?</u>

Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Office of International Health and Biodefense (OES/IHB)

<u>Overview</u>:
There is a growing global consensus that the world will not meet its health, climate, and air quality goals without sizeable investments in clean energy, clean transport, and other emissions-mitigating interventions. However, governments and private companies often view these investments as costly in both political and economic terms. Understanding the public health benefits ("co-benefits") that result from these investments can improve both the economic and political calculus that goes into such decisions, especially since health effects are often very large in both economic magnitude and political valence.

While health co-benefits are often referenced in abstract or rhetorical terms, Remais et al have shown that scientific analysis of the size and scope of co-benefits remains disjointed (http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/1306744/). Such analysis is especially complicated at local scales in developing countries, where significant data gaps may exist. In the absence of a robust and consistent approach, the policy relevance of such calculations is likely to be limited.

OES/IHB is seeking a Diplomacy Lab team to conduct a comprehensive review of the international literature, in order to identify which authors incorporate health co-benefits into their studies and reports. We will then ask the team to consider the plausibility of various strategies for measuring health co-benefits, and the extent to which these methods could be applied to different regions of the world and development contexts. Finally, we will ask the team to recommend ways that international health, environmental, and/or scientific cooperation could be used to expand and harmonize analysis of health co-benefits. Answers to these questions will inform U.S. science and technology cooperation in these areas, strengthen the economic foundations of environmental policy, and elevate global health as a key component of global sustainability.

<u>Format of Final Product</u>:
Presentation, with accompanying formal memo. The presentation will be given either in person (if the team is local) or via DVC (non-local) to selected policymakers and action officers in the Department of State and and other relevant U.S. government agencies. An accompanying paper (format to be determined in consultation with the team), summarizing the findings and recommendations from the presentation, will be sent via OES/IHB to selected policymakers for further consideration and/or action.

<u>Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest</u>:

Experience in public health, health economics, public policy, environmental economics, and/or cost-benefit analysis is required. Experience living and/or working in international settings, especially developing countries, is a plus.

Comments:
We do not anticipate that this project will take more than one semester; however, if students are interested, we anticipate there will be future avenues for presenting findings and engaging in follow-on activities.

The Office of International Health and Biodefense is part of the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, which is the Department's primary bureau for addressing environment, science, technology, and health (ESTH) issues. We work with other department offices and U.S. government agencies, with ESTH officers at embassies and consulates around the world, and with bilateral and multilateral partners to improve global health and address emerging health challenges.

Some suggested background readings (inclusion/exclusion implies neither endorsement nor critique):

Remais et al (2014) on co-benefits analysis: http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/1306744/
Anenberg et al (2012) on co-benefits related to black carbon and methane:
http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/1104301/
World Bank (2014) on cost-benefit analysis and black carbon from diesel engines:
http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/04/29/cleaning-up-diesel-exhaust-improves-health-climate
Environmental Defense Fund and American Lung Association (2014) on co-benefits of California's transport fuel policy:
http://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/content/edf_driving_california_forward.pdf
WHO (2011) on health co-benefits of mitigating transport emissions:
http://www.who.int/hia/green_economy/transport_sector_health_co-benefits_climate_change_mitigation/en/
Third U.S. National Climate Assessment (2014):
http://www.globalchange.gov/
Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (2011) on co-benefits calculations:
http://www.unep.org/transport/gfei/autotool/understanding_the_problem/Netherlands%20Environment%20Agency.pdf

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 55

Digital History of U.S. Foreign Relations
Office of the Historian (PA/HO)

Overview:
Traditionally, the history of U.S. foreign relations has been studied through primary sources collected in archives and libraries and in secondary sources in articles and books. But in our digital age, how can new digital tools make the history of U.S. foreign relations even more rich and useful? In other words, what would a digital history of U.S. foreign relations look like? Certainly such a resource would include vast full-text searchable databases of primary sources, with dynamic, historically-sensitive maps; the possibilities are endless. The Office of the Historian has the key ingredients for this digital history – a rich set of sources and a database of historical place names and U.S. diplomatic posts abroad – but we need your research skills, critical thinking, and expertise in areas like geospatial mapping and digital humanities to make this dream a reality.

An initial goal of this project is to complete and improve our database of Historical Country Names and Diplomatic Posts, which is 85% complete now and requires some additional research and review. Once your team helps complete this database, it will serve as the foundation of your next project: using this database to integrate one of the Office of the Historian's many datasets (our primary source documents, essays, or other digitized resources) and, optionally, an external dataset of your choice. The goal of this project would be to create a resource demonstrating the potential power of digital methods to enhance the history of U.S. foreign relations. It could link text with maps, allow searching and browsing by time or place, or a capability that you propose. The database will be integrated into the Office of the Historian's public website and released publicly as an open dataset for anyone to use and build on, and the resource you create will be evaluated for the same ends.

Format of Final Product:
A completed database of Historical Country Names and Diplomatic Posts and a proof of concept digital history resource integrating the database with one of the Office of the Historian's digital history datasets.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
History, geography, and digital humanities, would be ideal. The key qualities are a love of research and the desire to apply creative and critical thinking to a challenge.

Comments:
Please visit the Office of the Historian's website at http://history.state.gov to learn more about us and view the digital history resources we make available to the public: the primary source documents in the "Historical Documents" section, the databases of ambassadors and records of the travels of presidents and secretaries of state in the "Department History" section, and the essays on the history of U.S. foreign relations in the "Milestones" and "Countries" section. Some background on our digital initiatives is

available in "history.state.gov: A case study of Digital Humanities in Government" (Journal of Journal of the Chicago Colloquium on Digital Humanities and Computer Science, Vol 1, No 3, 2011), online at https://letterpress.uchicago.edu/index.php/jdhcs/article/view/80.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 56

Trafficking in Persons and Human Rights
Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, Office of Regional Affairs

Overview:
This project provides the opportunity to engage in groundbreaking work on the intersection of human trafficking and human rights. Trafficking in persons is a horrific crime that requires a law enforcement response. There has, rightly, been significant research and thought given to how to ensure law enforcement efforts are victim friendly. However, there remains a gap in our understanding of how best to ensure we uphold defendant rights while combatting trafficking. Students will be asked to research and analyze where current human trafficking law and policy may, or does, infringe on fair trail standards and provide recommendations on how to effectively respect due process while combatting trafficking.

Format of Final Product:
A memo laying out key findings and policy recommendations

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Law

Comments:
Suggested Preliminary Reading:
Trafficking Victims Protection Act, 2000 and subsequent reauthorizations
Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children
Amnesty International's Fair Trial Manual, Second Edition

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

Project 57

<u>Saving Mothers: The Costs of Reducing Maternal Mortality Based on Existing Infrastructure</u>
Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (S/GAC)

<u>Overview</u>:
The purpose of this project is to: 1) evaluate the existing resources (human, financial, infrastructure) in representative states in India, Nigeria, and Uganda directed at maternal and child health through the country governments and through existing donors; 2) evaluate the needs for demand creation, health facility placement or enhancement, emergency and comprehensive obstetric and newborn care training, communication and transportation systems, and supply chain improvements; and 3) calculate the unit costs of these activities.

The project report should contain the following evaluations. In Nigeria, a high HIV prevalence/high maternal mortality state and a lower HIV prevalence/high maternal mortality state would be selected to evaluate cost based on different existing infrastructure. In India, an urban and a rural state would be selected. Data on health facility location, geography, and population density, demographics, attendance at first antenatal and the recommended four antenatal visits, health facility delivery rates, fertility rates, and skilled health care workers are readily available. Health spending and donor information should also be available. Using this information with the expenditure and cost data from the SMGL project, the relative need for various services and costs can be developed and compared to those in SMGL, where a fairly extensive platform of care already existed based on the PEPFAR and USAID maternal child health (MCH) platforms. The need for community education and demand creation, facility development, and training is likely to vary significantly between settings. This project will provide important information for potential donors interested in contributing to reducing maternal mortality in high burden countries. Background/Rationale: Maternal mortality remains a serious global problem. While the maternal mortality ratio (pregnancy related deaths/100,000 live births) has decreased 45% worldwide since 1990, 289,000 maternal deaths still occurred in 2013,[1] causing significant hardships for families and increasing the risk of child deaths. The maternal mortality ratio in developing countries was over ten times higher than in developed countries. The countries with the highest number of maternal deaths/year are India (50,000 to 72,000 deaths/year) and Nigeria (37,000-40,000 deaths/year) together accounting for nearly one third of maternal deaths worldwide.[1,3] A large proportion of these deaths are preventable with uptake of prenatal care, with appropriately trained birth attendants and timely referral in the event of complications, and with availability of family planning to allow appropriate spacing of pregnancies. The pilot phase of an ongoing project in Uganda and Zambia, Saving Mothers Giving Life (SMGL), recently demonstrated a 35% reduction in the facility maternal mortality ratio in one year in the targeted districts in each country.[2] Interventions were directed at remediating the three delays: delay in seeking care, delay in reaching a health facility, and delay in receiving quality care in the health facility. A comprehensive approach was used directed primarily at the labor/delivery/immediate postpartum period when the majority of maternal deaths occur and included ensuring an adequate number of delivery facilities offering emergency obstetric care accessible within two hours of the onset of labor or an obstetric

complication, an integrated communication and transportation system to encourage demand for prenatal care and facility delivery and to facilitate referral to higher level facilities as needed, a functional supply chain for drugs, other commodities, and equipment, and a system to record all births and maternal and neonatal deaths. More recently, newborn resuscitation training has been included, helping to reduce neonatal mortality. The district-level initiative in Uganda and Zambia built on the existing systems supported by the country governments and USG-funded global health programs that address the platforms of maternal child health services (USAID) and HIV/AIDS, especially the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)). An expenditure analysis has been completed in Uganda for the SMGL intervention, and a costing study is ongoing.

Format of Final Product:
A research paper of about 20 pages outlining existing infrastructure and conditions regarding maternal health care, identified needs, and relative costs in selected districts in India, Nigeria, and Uganda.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Public health, maternal health, demography, costing studies

Comments:
1. Trends in maternal mortality: 1990 to 2013. Estimates by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, The World Bank and the United Nations Population Division. Available at http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/monitoring/maternal-mortality-2013/en/
2. Saving Mothers Giving Life : Making childbirth safer in Uganda and Zambia, annual report 2013. Available at http://www.savingmothersgivinglife.org/doc/SMGL%20Annual%20Report%202013.pdf.
3. Kassebaum NJ, Bertozzi-Villa A, Coggeshall MA, et al. Global, regional, and national levels and causes of maternal mortality during 1990–2013: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013. Lancet, published May 2, 2014, available at http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)60696-6.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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