

SECURITY THROUGH JUSTICE

Country Explorer



Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
U.S. Department of State

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Overview

Use the following study guide to connect your studies during this program to your role during deployment.



Prioritize your learning needs

What do you need to know about your host country to succeed? Brainstorm and organize your learning priorities for this program.



Explore your host country

Complete the study guide throughout the program to help you explore and organize key aspects of your host country. The study guide is divided into two sections:

1. **Country profile**
Discover and review general facts about your host country's history, people, culture, and more.
2. **Context of the criminal justice system**
Examine the current state of your host country's judicial, policing, and correctional capacity.

Use the resources available in the classroom (e.g., tablets, computers, guides, etc.) and the list below to aid your research.

Suggested Resources

U.S. Department of State (and other agencies)

- Travel.State.gov – Country Information: travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country
- U.S. Embassies: usembassy.gov
- INL guides/publications: state.gov/j/inl/publications

News & Reports

- UNDP Reports: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries>
- Refworld (UNHCR): refworld.org
- Law Library: www.loc.gov/law/help/guide/nations.php
- Reliefweb: reliefweb.int/countries

Country Overviews

- IMUNA: imuna.org/resources/country-profiles
- DLIFLC Familiarization: <http://fieldsupport.dliflc.edu>
- Transparency International: transparency.org
- World Culture Encyclopedia: everyculture.com
- World Factbook (CIA): cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook
- Wikitravel: wikitravel.org



Prioritize Your Learning Needs

Brainstorm and organize your learning priorities for this program.

Your Role

Describe your role and assignment.

Learning Priorities

List three important things you would like to learn about your host country that will help you be successful in your role.

1	
2	
3	



Part 1: Country Profile

Explore and research key aspects regarding your host country.

Research general facts about your host country and consider aspects that may affect your goals during your deployment. Refer to the list of resources on page 1 to help you get started.

This section is best completed during the Mission theme.



Country Overview	
Location	
Population	
Land borders	
Additional notes:	

Areas & Regions	
Capital	
Major states/counties	
Major cities	
Additional notes:	

History

Summarize the history of your host country, including ancient and modern history as applicable.

Economy

GDP per capita

Unemployment Rate

Youth unemployment

Poverty rate

Sources of revenue

Additional notes:

Political Structure

Describe the political structure of your host country. Consider aspects such as:

- What type of government is in place?
- Is there a guiding constitution?
- How are the executive, legislative, and judiciary functions fulfilled?
- How are elections conducted? Who is eligible to vote?

What is the current state of the political system?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fragile state | <input type="checkbox"/> Stable state |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging democracy | <input type="checkbox"/> Post-conflict |

Additional notes:

List any defining events or catastrophes that have occurred. Is the country recovering from any recent turmoil, such as a natural disaster, epidemic, war, or conflict?

People & Society

Describe the social, religious, and cultural practices that influence the people of your host country. Consider:

- Nationality
- Population
- Ethnicity
- Ethnic tensions
- Social structure
- Languages
- Literacy rate
- Education
- Gender issues
- Social and family structure
- Cultural norms
- Modes of greeting
- Dress
- Favorite pastimes
- Superstitions

What are the major religious or spiritual practices? List any connected holidays or celebrations.

Describe the dynamics of any significant ethnic or religious tensions present in your host country.

Daily Life & Safety

Research key aspects for daily life while deployed. Consider aspects such as:

- Food and water
- Security precautions
- Currency/exchange rate
- Lodging
- U.S. Embassy/Consulate location
- Obtaining cash/ATMs
- Roads and transportation
- Government locations
- Power adaptors
- Airports
- Places of interest

Currency		Exchange rate	
Voltage		Frequency	
Calling code	+		

Additional notes:



Part 2: Context of the Criminal Justice System

Examine the current state of your host country’s judicial, policing, and correctional capacity.

Explore the current conditions of your host country’s criminal justice system, factoring in the political, cultural, economic, and social issues at play. Depending on your role and focus, you may want to dive deeper for some topics in this section than others. This guide is designed to support you and your priorities.

This section is best completed during the Human Rights and Global Citizenship themes.



To help get started with each section, refer to the corresponding INL guides: *INL Guide to Justice Sector Assistance*, *INL Guide to Police Assistance*, *INL Guide to Corrections Assistance* found at www.state.gov/j/inl/publications/

Justice Sector Assistance

Political and developmental considerations: Describe which political dynamics could affect justice sector assistance during your deployment. What is the state of the political environment and how could that affect the level and type of assistance possible? (e.g., authoritarian regime, emerging or stable democracy)

Legal tradition: Describe the legal systems and trial processes used in your host nation.

Legal system primarily influenced by:

- Common law
- Customary law
- Civil law
- Religious law

Trial process:

- Adversarial system
- Mixed or other
- Inquisitorial system

Engaged institutions and actors: Identify the roles, functions, and existing capacities of justice sector institutions and actors. This primarily includes those entities responsible for investigating allegations of illegal conduct, prosecuting the guilty, exonerating the innocent, and remedying the needs of victims in a fair and efficient manner.

Current INL program: Refer to the *INL Guide to Justice Sector Assistance* to see if your host country has an existing profile for INL justice sector assistance. If so, what is the existing focus and priorities listed?

Regional standards: Many countries belong to regional and sub-regional organizations that have adopted binding and declaratory instruments. What are the regional standards for your host country?

Police Assistance

Type of police assistance program: Determine the type of police assistance occurring in your host country. If multilateral or coalition-based, list the other partners involved in the assistance.

- Bilateral assistance Multilateral assistance Coalition-based assistance

Policing model: Determine the organizational configuration of your host country's police force and describe any major features or issues with it.

- National forces Paramilitary forces State, provincial, or municipal forces

Entry to police service: Describe how, when, and at what level individuals may enter police service. Determine who has discretionary authority.

- Single-entry system Dual or multiple-entry systems (rank-and-file, sergeants, commissioned officers)

Criminal investigations: Describe role of the police in criminal investigations. This will be rooted in the legal system and trial process for police and can be found within the country's code of criminal procedure. If not handled by the police, describe who completes criminal investigations for the country.

Challenges: Are there known challenges to police capacity building, reform, and development in your host country? If none, based on your research and understanding of the current dynamics, which challenges do you expect to face?

- Resistance to change
- Ineffective organizational management
- Reactive rather than proactive policing
- Dual or multi-level entry into police service
- Existence of public corruption
- Absence of police accountability
- Host nation resource allocation favors military
- Human rights abuses
- Promoting meaningful participation of women in policing
- Poor coordination with criminal justice system

Corrections Assistance

Prison profile: If you were to create a profile of your host country's prison system, what would it look like? Consider:

- Who administers the correctional system in your host country? Is it a Federal system or national system?
- What is the management philosophy? Does it focus on a prison system, a corrections system, or both?
 - Confinement for breaking laws (prison system)
 - Goals for rehabilitation and reform (correction system)
- Are alternatives to incarceration commonly used? If so, what are some of those alternatives?
- What programs are in place to occupy the prisoners' idle time?
- How are juveniles confined?
- How are more vulnerable, at-risk minorities confined?

Challenges: What are some of the known challenges that your host country is facing in its corrections system, and how could these challenges affect your work as an advisor and capacity builder? Common issues often include, but are not limited to, human rights violations, overcrowding, criminal elements operating inside prisons, violence in prisons, poor conditions, and degraded infrastructure.