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DoD GHE Snapshot

WHAT IS THE CONTEXT OF YOUR DOD GLOBAL HEALTH ENGAGEMENT EFFORT?

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The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU's) Center for Global Health Engagement (CGHE) is pleased to share the fourth issue of the Department of Defense Global Health Engagement (DoD GHE) Snapshot. The DoD GHE Snapshot is intended to create self-publishing opportunities for GHE professionals to share knowledge and experiences and learn from one another in real time. We hope you enjoy and please refer to our social media and website for real time updates.

WHAT IS THE CONTEXT OF YOUR DOD GLOBAL HEALTH ENGAGEMENT EFFORT?



Context matters. Understanding the context for your DoD GHE program, project, or activity is a critical enabler for success. Developing a contextual understanding is synonymous with the Mission Analysis of your planning process or the Assessment phase of your Assessment, Monitoring, and Evaluation process. Regardless of the label, understanding yourself - the U.S. Context - and understanding your partner - the Partner Nation Context - are critical and very necessary steps if we are to experience success in DoD GHE efforts.

An effort to understand the U.S. Context for a DoD GHE effort should begin with defining the 5Ws (who, what, when, where, why, and how) of an engagement effort, or contribute to developing the same. An effort to understand the Partner Context will complete that understanding - or complete it as best can be understood in the absence of direct contact and a sustained relationship. Our contextual understanding will never be complete. Understanding the context for an engagement effort is a continuous process of learning, refining, and validating...or learning anew.

At an Operational level, the Geographic Combatant Commands (CCMDs) with their supporting Service component commands provide the general context for GHE efforts. Consider the CCMD Campaign Plan and any/all supporting plans to include written DoD GHE guidance, usually developed by the Command Surgeon's GHE practitioners. Other operational-level context will include annual planning and funding cycles as well as any written guidance, meetings, and/or conferences that enable them. Both health and operational perspective should be considered.

If your role is at the CCMD level, understanding the interest and capacity of each service component command contributes to your context, as does understanding the role, place, interests, and capacities of other U.S. government agencies in the space. Think through: Who else is active in the space? Who addresses similar topics? What human and financial resources are available to support? How do you access them? To round this out, an understanding of the history of GHE efforts will be beneficial. This list is of course not all inclusive - other items may also be critical.



CGHE's Health Context Analysis structure serves as a guide to understanding our partners. This structure includes the country context (history, geopolitics, politics, security, economy, infrastructure for health, and the environment, the health care system, a profile of the general health of the population), and the health culture of the partner (how is health viewed, practiced, accessed, and received). Understanding the military within this context is yet another element of the effort.

Remember that understanding the U.S. and Partner Nation contexts is never done or complete at a point in time. It is an ongoing process that is maybe never complete... but one that is always important and will enable a chance at success.



For questions or additional information, please contact us at cghe@usuhs.edu or visit our website at cghe.usuhs.edu

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