Navigating U.S. Foreign Assistance

CSIS EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

CSIS CENTER FOR STRATEGIC & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
HUMANITARIAN AGENDA
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 AM</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Introduction</td>
<td>Connect the Dots: Politics &amp; Policy in the</td>
<td>The Elephant in the Room: DOD's Humanitarian</td>
<td>Where &amp; How It Happens: Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>White House &amp; NSC</td>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 AM</td>
<td>Networking Session</td>
<td></td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 AM</td>
<td>History of U.S. Foreign Assistance from</td>
<td>Titles &amp; Taxes: Congressional Power Structures and Foreign Assistance</td>
<td>Setting the Table: Food Security</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WWII to Today</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 PM</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
<td>Crisis Simulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 PM</td>
<td>First on the Scene: Humanitarian Emergencies &amp; Responding Agencies</td>
<td>Public-Private Partnerships: The Role of the Private Sector</td>
<td>What the Doctor Ordered: Global Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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*All times and dates noted in Eastern Daylight Time*
Course Overview

This course features an in-depth, hands-on study of the latest trends and techniques today’s international development and humanitarian leaders need to successfully navigate the U.S. humanitarian assistance ecosystem and maximize impact. Through interactive seminars, expert-led case studies, and a culminating crisis simulation, participants will join a diverse network of industry professionals and pair their own unique in-the-field experience with CSIS’s rich array of coaching resources to bring back:

- A more comprehensive framework of who the key players are, where their respective interests lie, and the bureaucratic structures that bind them all together
- New tools and best practices to help spot trends and opportunities, make strategic decisions quickly and confidently, weigh resourcing trade-offs, and achieve meaningful results
- An expanded professional network that includes CSIS experts and industry practitioners

Register

DATES: April 19–22, 2021
TUITION: $3,000
LOCATION: Virtual
REGISTER: www.csis.org/foreign-assistance-course.
QUESTIONS: Please contact Joel Martinez at jmartinez@csis.org or John Goodrick at jgoodrick@csis.org.
Seminars

HISTORY OF U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FROM WWII TO TODAY
In the aftermath of World War II, the United States helped forge a new, rules-based global order in which humanitarian and development assistance would play a large role in mitigating human suffering in conflict. What were the lessons learned by U.S. policy makers from the implementation of the Marshall Plan and post-World War II reconstruction, and how are they applicable today?

Tracing today’s aid practices back to their roots, this course examines when, why, and how the United States began planning for and providing substantial foreign assistance.

FIRST ON THE SCENE
Humanitarian Emergencies and Responding Agencies
When natural disasters strike or conflict breaks out, the U.S. response is led and dictated by a range of humanitarian actors within the U.S. bureaucracy. USAID’s Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DART) are typically the first on the ground, drawing on resources from additional U.S. agencies.

Using recent examples of complex emergencies, this course unpacks the first response actors, the types of funding that can be accessed in the immediate aftermath of an emergency, and how U.S. government equities interact in time sensitive, or politically sensitive, environments.

CONNECT THE DOTS
Politics and Policy in the White House and NSC
Federal agencies have bureaucratic and programmatic responsibilities and funding levels, but ultimately, much of their work is impacted by an individual administration’s priorities and approaches to international assistance. With so many agencies, implementing partners, and converging policies at play, how does the United States attempt to align its foreign assistance with other policy priorities?

Through analyzing the key players and formal and informal policy statements, this session looks at the role of the National Security Council (NSC) in bringing together disparate aims into coherent policy and best practices for engaging with the White House.
TITLES AND TAXES

Congressional Power Structures and Foreign Assistance

Most public attention focuses on nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and funding agencies’ role in providing assistance, but the U.S. Congress plays a vital part in setting foreign assistance funding levels, directing the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development’s (USAID) priorities, and creating the legislative framework governing U.S. foreign assistance.

This seminar examines the current power dynamics on Capitol Hill and explores the relationship between domestic politics and funding for U.S. Foreign Assistance. The session identifies the key actors and their policy priorities and explores the political and policy interplay between the executive and legislative branch in design and implementation of foreign aid.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

The Role of the Private Sector

Public-private partnerships play an increasingly important role throughout U.S. government efforts to design, fund, and implement humanitarian and development programming. This seminar will focus on understanding how these programs compare with more traditional aid and development funding vehicles, including the benefits and drawbacks for recipient countries.

Participants will discuss what effective public-private partnerships look like, how they can be improved, and the role they will play in U.S. government foreign assistance and other areas of innovation in foreign assistance.

DEVELOPING THE DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

Implementing New Development Strategies

The United States’ development agenda has a longer-term framework than humanitarian assistance, which is intended for immediate relief. U.S. development initiatives are tailored toward establishing self-sustaining economic capacity and stability. In addition to providing direct bilateral assistance, development programs also draw upon international lending institutions for large-scale, structural economic development.

This seminar generates a greater understanding of the interplay between hands-on development packages and financial instruments, and the connections between short-term humanitarian assistance and long-term development programming. This session will also offer insight into how a new administration will seek to balance long-term development spending with short-term humanitarian action, and the interplay with Congress.
THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

DOD’s Humanitarian Portfolio

Under international humanitarian law (IHL), the U.S. military has a responsibility to provide humanitarian assistance where its activities create humanitarian need. Beyond this obligatory role, the military’s logistical capacity is unsurpassed and gives structural backbone to rapid response efforts around the world. With an annual budget relative to USAID and the U.S. Department of State’s allocations for humanitarian assistance, the Department of Defense (DoD) functionally plays a significant role in facilitating the provision of U.S. humanitarian aid.

This course unpacks the latest trends and developments in DoD’s statutory role in humanitarian action and explores how it interacts with other U.S. equities in humanitarian response in both natural disasters and in complex conflicts where the U.S remains engaged in military activities.

SETTING THE TABLE

Food Security

Global food security has declined in recent years, and second-order impacts from the Covid-19 pandemic paint an even bleaker picture for food security in 2021. Parts of Yemen, Burkina Faso, South Sudan, Somalia, and Nigeria face the prospect of famine, as the intersection of conflict, climate change, and Covid-19 erodes communities’ ability to access and purchase food.

This session explains the historical and political dimensions of U.S. food security assistance, identifies the U.S. government agencies active in promoting global food security, and how the United States funds and carries out food security programming.

WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED

Global Health

The Covid-19 crisis shone a light on global health as a cross-cutting theme with serious implications for the world’s economic, political, and developmental stability. With decades of progress in vaccination campaigns and health system capacity-building programs at stake, global health assistance is certain to remain a priority focus for the United States even beyond the current pandemic.

Drawing on the work of the CSIS Global Health Security Commission, comprised of leading voices in the global health community, this seminar explains the U.S. role in providing health assistance by outlining the international responsibilities of organizations including USAID, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health and Human Services (HHS) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
WHERE AND HOW IT HAPPENS

Africa | Asia | Latin America | Middle East

The United States provides humanitarian assistance in dozens of countries globally, but countries with complex emergencies that create massive humanitarian needs receive a large share of U.S. funding. On the development side, key emerging economies receive significant U.S. development financing.

This closing seminar discusses several of the priority recipient countries and unpacks how the involved U.S. agencies interact in simultaneous humanitarian responses and development projects.

Capstone Crisis Simulation

The crisis simulation will consist of a fast-moving, complex emergency that requires participants to work in small groups and apply their newfound knowledge to make strategic, capability, and resourcing trade-offs, and identify ways to achieve meaningful results.

Following the exercise, CSIS experts will assess each team’s performance and provide detailed feedback.
About the Humanitarian Agenda

The Humanitarian Agenda explores and highlights the changing landscape of humanitarian assistance in the 21st century and leverages the expertise and research of a variety of CSIS programs. With an unprecedented number of humanitarian crises around the world, the Humanitarian Agenda contributes policy solutions to novel challenges in the modern era. Our program identifies evolving trends and facilitates expert dialogue and analysis across public, private, and NGO sectors. The program seeks to develop and advance avenues for increasing access to suffering populations – particularly in protracted conflicts.

About CSIS Executive Education

The Center for Strategic and International Studies' (CSIS) Executive Education Program convenes professionals from diverse backgrounds at Washington, D.C.'s premier bipartisan think tank for transformative programming in leadership, communication, and global issues. For over 60 years, CSIS has brought independent research, innovative ideas, and practical policy solutions to some of the greatest security, regional, and transnational challenges facing policymakers and international thought leaders. Ranked the number one think tank in the United States by the University of Pennsylvania’s “Global Go To Think Tank Index,” CSIS is led by Chairman Tom Pritzker and President and CEO John J. Hamre.