

# **BTI** Institute

Borders • Trade • Immigration

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A Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence

# Kickoff: Meeting Date

The Road Less Traveled: Bolstering the  
Absorptive Capacity of Southern Central  
American States to Facilitate the Southern Flow  
of Northern Triangle Immigrants

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# Project Overview

## Goals and Objectives:

1. Determine patterns of migration and relative #s of NT vs. non-NT migrants living in Panama & CR
  - Determine degree to which NT migrants are electing to migrate S.
2. Determine absorptive capacity for NT & non-NT migrants
  - Are Panama and CR being underutilized?
3. Determine investment needed to increase absorptive capacity
  - Analysis of short- & long-term investment strategies to support labor & humanitarian flows

# Data

## Desk Review:

- Panamanian govt. statistics: INEC, SNM
- CR govt. statistics: INEC
- Other govts.: Census Bureau & CBP (U.S.); SEGOB & INEG (Mex.)
- Non-govt.: PEW Global Attitudes Survey data, World Bank, Polity IV

## Fieldwork:

- Qualitative data derived from interviews in areas such as
  - Panama: Panama City, La Concepción, David, Capacho
  - CR: San José, Peñas Blancas, Los Chiles
  - KIIs with diverse audiences

# Student Involvement

As soon as funding is in place, we intend to hire a GRA to help w/data discovery, documentation, transcription and analysis.

# Tasks

ID	Task title	Duration	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
T.1	Kick-off Meeting	2 hours												
T.2	Collect Data Sources	1 month												
T.3	Prep for Field Work	4 months												
T.4	Data Analysis	4 months												
T.5	Field Work	1 month												
T.6	Code Qualitative Data	4 months												
T.7	Final Report/Publication(s)	2 months												

# Deliverables

- Methodological review & data dictionary
- Safety plan
- Data analysis report
- Fieldwork report/initial findings
- Final report
- Article submitted to an academic journal

# Milestones

M.1. IRB Approval – Complete

M.2. Collect Data Sources – Month 1

M.3. Make contact w/interviewees, lodging, and safety plan  
– Months 5-7



# Performance Metrics

Research & Innovation KPIs	Means of Verification
Descriptive and analytical statistical modeling of publicly available data to understand the dynamics of the NT & non-NT countries across CR & Panama	Illustrative charts, graphs and maps produced as a result of nested model of analysis using publicly available census and immigration data
Identifying the totality of immigration as well as immigration patterns out of the Northern Triangle and beyond	Bivariate analyses seeking mean differences between the NT & non-NT migrant population in the U.S., Mex., CR, & Panama
Higher order statistical analysis looking into the push and pull factors (i.e. the relationship between the levels of violence and economic indicators in sending vs. receiving countries) that impact the migration streams in the region	Bivariate and multivariate correlations, parametric and non-parametric regression analysis, and geospatial data modeling
Qualitative data collected from informants local to target areas in CR & Panama through interviews	Data recorded, transcribed and blind- double coded to ensure reliability

# Performance Metrics (Continued)

Dissemination KPIs	Means of Verification
Methodological review and data dictionary	Literature/methodological review and codebook
Safety plan	Travel advisory notices
Data analysis report	Data dictionary and project timeline
Fieldwork report and initial findings	Project timeline
Final report	Project timeline
Academic Publication	Confirmation of journal submission/Notice of journal acceptance if received in time

# Transition Plan

- Monthly stakeholder meetings
- Additional meetings as desired
- BTI annual meeting
- Academic conferences
- Briefing slides
- Visualizations
- Written reports
- Academic article

\*All activities will entail coordination w/project champions to maximize efficacy. Policy-relevant implications & resultant recommendations will be clearly elucidated

# Programmatic Risks and Mitigation Plans

ID	Description of Risk	Tasks	Severity*	Proposed mitigation measures
R.1	Travel to remote areas in Costa Rica and Panama	Fieldwork	High	Working with local partners as well as USG observing travel advisories to minimize risk

# Immediate Next Steps

- Project Start Date: TBD (UMD-START is waiting on a signed award)
- Hire GRA
- Begin desk research