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A Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence

Uncovering Human Trafficking Patterns from Guatemala to the U.S.



VOIR DIRE INTERNATIONAL, LLC

Project Team Profile

Uncovering Human Trafficking Patterns from Guatemala to the U.S.

- Project Start Date: OCT 2016
- Anticipated End Date: JUN 2018
- Gary J. Hale, Project Principal Investigator.
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Problem Statement

Uncovering Human Trafficking Patterns from Guatemala to the U.S.

Develop the “Unknown Got-Aways” element of the Interdiction Effectiveness Rate (IER) Formula

The IER is comprised of the following formula:

Apprehensions + Turn-Backs

Divided by

Apprehensions + Turn-Backs + Known Got-Aways + Unknown Got-Aways

Whereas DHS and USBP have data on Apprehensions, Turn-Backs and Known Got-Aways, they do not have the remaining data to complete the formula, namely the Unknown Got-Aways.



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Methodology:

- Identify and map transit routes and support structures from the Guatemala-Mexico border to the Mexico-U.S. Border. (How are they migrating and where are they getting support?)
- Conduct surveys of migrants primarily from Central America

Results:

- The resulting data will allow DHS/USBP to complete the IER Formula and thereby develop a first-time estimate numbers of migrants in the stream, or “Unknown Got-Aways.”



Beneficiary / End User Profile: Jobs

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- Who are the beneficiaries / end-users of this research (the “jobs”)?
 - Statisticians who apply raw data to the IER Formula.
 - Program Analysts who respond to Agency, Department, Congressional and Presidential mandates.
 - Executive Managers who allocate border Patrol resources in the field.



Beneficiary / End User Profile: Desired Gains

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- What are the main outcomes and benefits that the end user desires (the “gains”)?
 - Provide DHS the ability to develop and implement specified metrics to measure the effectiveness of security between ports of entry;
 - Provide DHS the ability to evaluate and update metrics to ensure that they meet DHS's performance management needs and are suitable to measure the effectiveness of border security



Beneficiary / End User Profile: Pain Points

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- What are the main issues the capability/knowledge gap is causing (the end user “pains”)?
 - Previous inability to respond to Presidential and Congressional Mandates (The National Defense Authorization Act of 2017 (H.R. 4909) and Department of Homeland Security Border Security Metrics Act of 2015 with Unknown Got-Aways Data
 - Previous inability to respond to the annual "State of the Border" report that includes trends for selected metrics for the last 10 years and selected analysis into related aspects of illegal flow rates; specifically with Unknown Got-Aways Data.



Products & Services

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- What products & services are the outcomes of this research project?
 - Tools: Voir Dire International GIS Mapping Service is under development that will plot the routes, support structures and population data that quantify migrant flows (the Unknown Got-Aways)
 - Knowledge Products: An Analytical Report will be produced that will provide the statistical basis for development of the Unknown Got-Aways element of the IER Formula.



Gains Created

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- What are the gains achieved and how are they measured?
 - Data collected on existence, use and estimated census of presence of migrants at Support Structures, via open source research; Measured as compared to no previous data.
 - Data collected on the number of migrants in the stream via Surveys; Measured as compared to no previous data.



Pains Alleviated

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- What are the pains alleviated and how are they measured?
 - Voir Dire International GIS Mapping Service provides unique geospatial tool to track support structures in use by migrants and to estimate the number of migrants in the stream
 - Voir Dire International Algorithm will provide the statistical basis for the Unknown Got Aways.



Key accomplishments

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- This project collected and analyzed unique data heretofore not used in the IER calculus.
- This project will confirm, refute or validate existing USBP data on migrant flows.
- This project will provide statistically valid data to USBP regarding push-pull factors, smuggler contracts, migrant motivations, U.S. government policy perceptions.
- This project will provide current and updated data to the USBP.



Transition Pathways

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How will the work reach the end-user? What is the proposed transition pathway?

- The Project team is frequently meeting with DHS Office of Immigration Statistics and USBP Strategic Analysis and Planning Division, as well as GIS Analysts to develop a Mapping Service that will fold seamlessly into USBP systems.
- The Project is working with the same Champions and end-users to determine how best to employ the new element of the IER.
- The Project will conduct a hand-off of the Mapping Service and statistical algorithm as per the work plan timeline.



Transition Engagement

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- What mechanisms has project staff used for engaging with the potential customer(s)?
 - The Validated Survey was developed with the assistance of Dr. Nathan P. Jones who was recruited for his experience with Human Subjects Research.
 - The Team of Interviewers was developed with the assistance of Voir Dire team member Alfonso Moreno who is a retired Border Patrol Supervisor and who used his network of retirees to provide Subject Matter Experts
 - The Team conducted various field visits to USBP Sector and other field offices to obtain buy-in, coordinate interview team logistics and to fine-tune data collection requirements.
 - The Team collaborated with Stakeholders and End-Users from the first month of the project and obtained their input as to project mission and deliverables



Transition Challenges (if applicable)

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- What does the project team perceive to be the challenges they will face in the near and long term going forward?
 - Short term: the lack of funding for additional interviews will impact negatively on the volume of data needed to provide a sound statistical model.
 - Long term: The lack of continuity. Failure to continue to collect the same data used to populate the Mapping Tools will render the Statistical Algorithm useless.



Conclusions

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Donald Rumsfeld said: “You don’t know what you don’t know,: referring to the unknown-unknowns.

This project is the first attempt to fill that gap in knowledge by developing new and unique data that will provide a statistical model for the Unknown Get-Aways. We are converting “Unknown-Unknowns” to “Known-Unknowns”

The end result of this project is better management at the DHS and USBP of policy, strategic, operational and tactical resource deployment.



Disclaimer

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