

DT Institute

ANNUAL REPORT



DT Institute

2022



Catalyzing Peace in Development. Driving innovation, strengthening communities and leaders, and pursuing excellence in implementation.

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A Message from our Chairman and CEO

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This is our third annual update and we're glad to report it's been another meaningful year of progress toward establishing a sustainable non-profit demonstrating a new approach that nurtures activism through our work at DT Institute and encourages institutional development through our unique for-profit partner, DT Global. We are seeking to redefine the global peace and development community to allow us to deepen and broaden our efforts to create better societies by addressing development across the entire spectrum of change.

In 2022 we grew our implementation portfolio by adding 10 new programs across our technical divisions and awarding more than 20 impact grants to partners we are incubating in the ecosystems of change we seek to create. We know ecosystems are needed to create sustainable change and are proud to be funding these leaders and organizations who will drive change in the future.

Today, DT Institute has headquarters in Washington, D.C., holds offices in Berlin, Erbil, Baghdad and works closely with a variety of public and private donors to produce measurable outcomes, research, and analysis. In a time of rapid change and uncertainty in peace and stability, one thing will remain certain: we will endure and continue providing meaningful and positive change outcomes.

This is going to be a great year and we look forward to continuing to work with our partners and beneficiaries to drive positive change globally.

John DeBlasio
Chairman

Hugh Doyle
CEO



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John DeBlasio".

John DeBlasio
CHAIRMAN



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hugh Doyle".

Hugh Doyle
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

About DT Institute

DT Institute is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to “doing development differently.” We implement complex global development programs in conflict, fragile, and closed environments.

We fund grants and research initiatives through our private sector and philanthropic funds that drive innovation and improve lives through evidence-based programming.



Headquartered in Washington, D.C., DT Institute has programs and partnerships in more than 39 countries, as well as offices in Germany (Berlin), Iraq (Baghdad, Erbil), and representation in Spain (Madrid).

Our mission is to partner with communities and leaders to help build and preserve more resilient, equitable, inclusive, and democratic societies.

Our values reflect our team's hard-won knowledge, wisdom, and passion for helping those in need. They also reflect our professional and respectful approach to each other, our partners, our donors, and those we serve:

ETHICS

We aim to demonstrate responsibility, integrity, fairness, and respect in all that we do.

INNOVATION

We continually pursue new and better methods, find efficiencies, and seek ways to increase our peace and development impact.

COLLABORATION

We develop and facilitate long-term partnerships based on mutual trust and respect.

RADICAL TRANSPARENCY

As thought leaders, we commit to sharing our insights with the broader community of experts (within legal, ethical, and regulatory boundaries) to advance peace and development.

**International
Development,
Done Differently**

*“Being with
DT Institute
since almost the
beginning, it has
been my pleasure to
see this organization
grow and make
a positive impact
around the world.
I’m proud to be part
of this team and the
work we do.”*

Christina Rosales
Controller/Accounting Director



Update: A Force for Global Change

Washington, D.C., USA
HEADQUARTERS



DT Institute Offices



Countries with DT Institute technical programming, impact grants and/or research activities



\$1.7M

Philanthropic funds

8

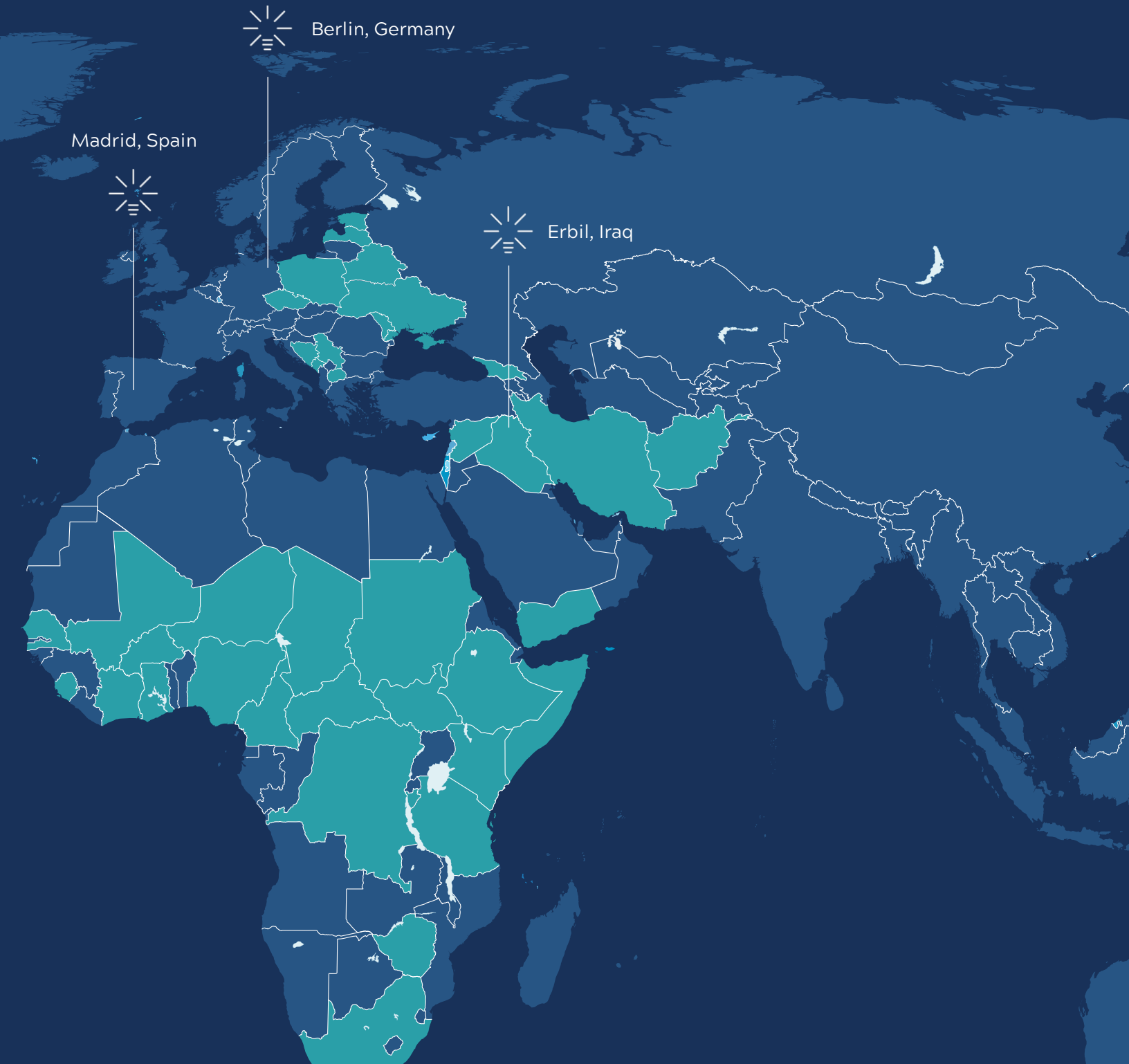
New public funded projects

17

Major philanthropic grantees

39+

Countries and counting



Technical Area Highlights

Part I: Implementation

As an implementer, DT Institute focuses on strengthening communities and leaders, working with local organizations, and developing new approaches through action-oriented research across two divisions:

- **Stabilization, Transition, and Peacebuilding** •
- **Independent Media, Technology, and Human Rights** •



DT Institute works in complex contexts, closing democratic spaces, and in conflict zones around the world, including in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Iran, and Ukraine.

DT Institute is a trusted implementing partner for the U.S. Department of State, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Global Affairs Canada, and other funders.

By working with and building the capacity of civil society, independent media, social movements, democratic institutions, and government partners, DT Institute promotes a whole-of-society approach to empower local actors to advocate for the promotion and protection of democratic values.



Conflict Prevention & Resolution

DT Institute’s Conflict Prevention and Resolution (CPR) work expanded in 2022. We added a new program named Building Inclusive Peace in Sudan, that focuses on building the capacity of youth, including young women, and community stakeholders in Darfur, Blue Nile State, and South Kordofan to work together to identify and address community vulnerabilities to conflict through community action planning and small grants activities. In addition, our team expanded our work in Syria and Iraq, specifically in the continuity of programs designed to empower community members to identify and implement locally-owned solutions by using a trauma-informed approach that addresses root causes of problems rather than simply treating symptoms.



Preventing Reprisals & Mitigating Violence

Our Preventing Reprisals and Mitigating Violence model (PRMV) program is making significant progress in the Anbar, Ninawa, and Diyala provinces of Iraq by building constructive channels and strengthening dialogue between citizens and the government. We have achieved this by focusing on building capacities and expertise for dialogue and participation among tribal leaders, civil society activists, and local government representatives.



PROGRAM EXAMPLE: DT Institute's PRMV program and Crisis Committees:

- Covered 13 districts in these provinces;
- Received 346 cases from displaced people and returnees who were perceived to be affiliated with ISIS, as well as victims' families who were objecting to their return;
- Successfully resolved 264 cases, which benefited 635 women/youth and 582 men- who were (with our help) able to return to their communities.

The success of our work in PRMV is not only measured by the number of returnees, but by the sustainability experienced upon their return and their successful reintegration into home communities. We are very pleased to report that none of the returnees or Internally Displaced People who received our support experienced retribution or second displacement. The Crisis Committees have built a credible reputation with local organizations, leading them to refer to them with cases of return and reintegration.

We are proud of our program's success, and we remain committed to continuing our work to bring sustainable peace and stability to affected communities.

Stabilization & Early Recovery

DT Institute's Stabilization and Early Recovery work explores solutions to some of the most pressing issues that affect Syria and the Middle East and how they might impact future generations.

PROGRAM EXAMPLE TAZIZ (meaning “strengthen” in Arabic): In 2022, the Syrian political process remained stalled, with no meaningful breakthroughs in the UN-led negotiations between the government and opposition groups. The main issues continued to be the fate of President Bashar al-Assad, the makeup of a transitional government, and the issue of constitutional reform. Meanwhile, with the international focus on the war in Ukraine, a resolution to Syria's war is more distant than ever, with talks between the Syrian government and the opposition again breaking down. Despite these challenges, the TAZIZ program continued to support its partners to increase citizen participation, awareness, and understanding and expand the moderate space, while improving communication mechanisms with and among constituents and key stakeholders.

In addition, TAZIZ, with its partner SSU, endeavored to raise political knowledge and awareness in North Syria. TAZIZ and SSU found that Syrian citizens unaware of the political process could not engage with it themselves. In this spirit, SSU has been holding a variety of political awareness-raising activities in Northern Syria to address and discuss the Geneva track and the constitutional negotiations' stances on national identity, plurality, public rights, and freedoms of expression and association.

PROGRAM Example WIAAM II: In 2022, WIAAM II implemented in Northeast Syria continued increasing the ability of civil society organizations, advocacy organizations, and individuals to serve, represent, and advocate for Syrians while holding local and nascent governance structures accountable to the communities they served.



“The impact of DT institute is measured not only by the projects that we undertake but by the individuals and communities that we are able to empower. For me, doing development differently means fostering sustainable growth and leaving a legacy of positive change that transcends borders.”

Allison Reed, Program Officer



Highlighting WIAAM II activities:

WIAAM II Partner Empowers Youth in Human Rights and Gender. While implementing civil society support activities in Syria, DT Institute has amassed an abundance of Syrian civil society organization (CSO) partners across the country with diverse areas of expertise. During the summer of 2022, the WIAAM II Team delivered a Human Rights and Gender Mainstream Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop in Northeast Syria. WIAAM II trained representatives from four CSO partners in the principles of human rights and gender equity, as well as training and facilitation delivery techniques.

One of the WIAAM II partner CSOs participating in the Human Rights and Gender Mainstreaming ToT was the GAV Organization, a program partner since 2020. From August through September 2022,

GAV organized four workshop training sessions, which included 40 participants. The sessions were held in both Raqqa and Hasaka. Each training workshop was conducted over the course of three days, and targeted 20 trainees in two different training groups. At the end of the training workshops, a dialogue session was conducted between the two groups of participants under supervision of the trainers, discussing topics including immigration, the right to an education, early child marriage, and issues surrounding gender-based violence.

Rule of Law

Throughout 2022, DT Institute continued to make significant strides in promoting the Rule of Law, thus upholding the belief that all individuals, nation states and institutions are accountable for wrongs and violations under national and international law as part of the universal commitment to protect human rights. We expanded our reach, with new programs in both Yemen and Sudan.

- Under our Yemen portfolio, the work on several reports has been in process throughout 2022 and is planned to be published in 2023. These reports include findings on human rights violations against journalists, personal liberties, children, and human rights violations resulting from indiscriminate attacks against civilian infrastructure.
- DT Institute has been working with its coalition of Yemeni CSO partners to support on-the-ground human rights documentation and international advocacy activities under the small grant subawards. These small grants to Yemeni CSOs have supported local efforts to carry out evidence-informed international advocacy aimed at promoting awareness of human rights violations committed during the conflict, as well as to create momentum for the use of documented evidence in legal, reconciliation, and transitional justice and accountability mechanisms.



- Our partners have launched online and offline international outreach and advocacy activities to promote awareness of documented evidence of human rights abuses and its use in emerging and future legal, reconciliation, and transitional justice processes. Published materials reached over 500k online individuals. Local partners have covered different themes, including personal liberty, violations against women's rights, freedom of opinion and expression for journalists, internally displaced persons (IDP), violations against children's rights, and landmines.

Independent Media & Countering Malign Influence

DT Institute's independent media program is dedicated to:

1. Combating democratic erosion, and
2. Promoting the resilience of civil society through mechanisms, technologies, tools, and techniques that prevent disinformation and propaganda from shaping news, media, and pop culture.

It remains critically important to counter negative narratives, working with independent media to promote factual information and rational arguments about the importance of democracy, but also by evoking strong positive emotions and promoting basic human values, so we can foster a resilient, democratic culture.

PROGRAM EXAMPLE: In 2022, DT Institute completed the implementation of the Information Access Fund (IAF) program and among other initiatives, started two new projects that work to counter, combat, and advocate against mis/dis/mal-information in Eastern and Central Europe. By its completion, the IAF worked in 27 countries including Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Poland, Czech Republic, and Serbia, and supported independent media and civil society organizations, creating innovative solutions such as Euroradio's "the Cringe of the Week," which took a satirical approach to countering Belarusian state propaganda, using humor to counter fear. In addition, through IAF, DT Institute developed a personalized Organizational Strengthening Plan for each sub-awardee to address any organization-specific capacity gaps with the aim of strengthening the sustainability and financial independence of each entity. The Organizational Strengthening Plans included recommendations such as increasing financial reporting; enhancing monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) outputs and reporting; and identifying and addressing internal capacity gaps, such as adding a researcher, translator, or MEL professional to the team.

PROGRAM EXAMPLE: Following the 2022 invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces, DT Institute and its regional partners initiated the Strategic Response to Russian Interference (SRRI) program to reduce overall vulnerability to Russian disinformation and malign influence. This rapid response program utilizes a regional, normative approach to malign influence which seeks to counter the effects of disinformation on democratic norms and overall social cohesion. DT Institute and its partners in Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, and Ukraine work to increase publicly available knowledge and analysis of the regional impact of Russian disinformation, increase engagement with regional policy and industry leaders, and support Ukrainian foreign policy experts that fled Ukraine after the invasion.

Human Rights

Through our Human Rights work - and in an effort to increase the availability and accessibility of legal information with resources pertaining to labor rights - DT Institute developed a resource and information-driven website with a readily available training course developed in-house, including a resource library of 213 itemized content aggregated and created by the team. This website includes a full-service helpdesk staffed by 25 DT Institute-trained local lawyers that took on 50 pro bono labor rights cases

representing approximately 130 workers from marginalized groups across 19 provinces. In addition, DT Institute supported a labor rights hotline that fielded and resolved 1,212 inquiries from underserved areas and populations. Lastly, DT Institute implemented workshops to empower working-class minority women by training and supporting a local, small cooperative.



*“The work that **DT Institute** undertakes in framing misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation as human rights violations has the potential to significantly empower civil society, enabling them to better hold both the government and the tech sector accountable for their failure to safeguard the public from harmful media content.”*

Vukasin Petrovic, Vice President



Internet Freedom & Civic Technology

DT Institute developed and deployed bleeding edge technical solutions to help users in closed societies bypass government censorship. Collectively, these solutions empower more than 800,000 unique monthly active users to securely access the open web and increase their digital safety.

DT Institute also deployed an innovative solution to combat internet shutdowns by sending large amounts of digital content through an at-scale satellite datacasting technology.

The solution provides daily tailored and timely digital content to more than 400,000 households totaling more than 1,500,000 beneficiaries.

Using artificial intelligence, cutting edge censorship measurement techniques, and a unique censorship simulation lab, DT Institute has identified new ways of bypassing government censorship. The highly technical data has been used to sponsor the development of next generation circumvention solutions for closed societies through an agile small grants program called Open Net Fund.

Part II:

Impact Grants

DT Institute's philanthropic agenda complements our implementation work. We award impact grants to non-profit organizations, think tanks, civil society organizations, and individual researchers to build, test, and advance bold, innovative approaches to development.

DT Institute advances this work through the following five funds: Peace & Stability Fund, Free & Independent Media Fund, Prosperity for All Fund, Clean World Fund, Leadership Accelerator Fund.



PEACE & STABILITY FUND

Funds research and programs that identify, prevent, or counter drivers of radicalization, promote stability, and build lasting peace.



LEADERSHIP ACCELERATOR FUND

Equips emerging and established leaders with the skills to build transformative social, economic, and political movements.



PROSPERITY FOR ALL FUND

Advances research and program activities that create economic opportunities for individuals and communities globally.



CLEAN WORLD FUND

Supports activities that address the environmental and climate change-related challenges that threaten global development.



FREE & INDEPENDENT MEDIA FUND

Funds research and program activities that improve the quality and availability of news and information to strengthen societies' resilience against disinformation.

In support of this agenda, we build relationships with funders and philanthropic networks, inviting them to augment our impact through co-investment. Whether leading government or privately-funded programs, backing grantees, expanding our corporate social responsibility and philanthropic work, or augmenting existing donor-funded programming, our approach is the same: We relentlessly create, iterate, and measure our ability to drive innovation in partnership with others.

Grantee Highlights



Peace & Stability Fund

Throughout 2022, DT Institute supported Football for Peace (FFP), an organization dedicated to bringing dialogue through sport initiatives to communities throughout the world.

In November 2022, FFP delivered an educational football program in Abuja, Nigeria, creating 50 young leaders.

The program unified a diverse group of 50 youth participants, both male and female, from Abuja, Kaduna, and Kogi states spanning 36 different regions. The program focused on how football can be used as a tool to build resilience to a range of social harms; strengthen youth safeguarding; and create positive pathways from conflict and violence.

John DeBlasio, Chairman of DT Institute, said “Sports bring youth together and empowers them to build teams that have a positive impact on their communities. With every teammate that builds bonds through

sports, you find parents, grandparents, and communities that see the world through their lens as teammates. Youth sports is a new and important part of our conflict and stability programming and we look forward to supporting more initiatives like Young Peace Leaders in Nigeria in collaboration with Rotary, Spirit of America, and other like-minded donors around the world.”



Free & Independent Media Fund

DT Institute supported Center E8, an organization focused on working with young people throughout Serbia on the topics of healthy lifestyles, gender equality, violence prevention, and the importance of being active in society. The Center E8 team consists of young experts in the processes of advocacy and lobbying in the field of youth policy, education, and organization of campaigns of public importance, who actively work in the field of human rights in Serbia.





DT Institute's support further positioned Center E8 as one of the leading organizations in the field of combating toxic narratives and misinformation in the local context. Likewise, in the areas of promotion of media and information literacy, as key skills for life in modern society.

In the summer of 2021, DT Institute awarded an impact grant under the Free and Independent Media Fund. The Editor project was designed to decrease the presence of toxic narratives in society and relax the hostile atmosphere in Serbia using transmedia storytelling methodology.

Tactics include:

- Organized several workshops and trainings for young volunteers and members of the editorial staff of the Zoomer.rs portal
- Recorded 19 episodes of the "Editing" podcast
- Performed the theater play "Editor" six times
- Filmed three episodes of the educational web series "Video Dictionary of Media Literacy" and three episodes of the radio drama "Editor"
- Improved our methods of using transmedia storytelling to promote democracy and the values of civil society.



Prosperity for All Fund

In partnership with Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH), DT Institute supports the Social-Labor Insertion Program. This program works to reduce the unemployment and underemployment rates in Honduras/Guatemala for youth with intermediate and advanced degrees by increasing the number of youth participating in the workforce through stable, formal employment opportunities. NPH operates residential alternative care centers that provide full support to children and youth who, due to violation of their basic human rights, are unable to live with their biological families. Their mission is to give young people the skills and support they need to become economically viable, with a focus on creating a more just and healthy society for all. In 2022, the Social-Labor Insertion Program created activities and strategies to train and empower young men and women in the moment when they are seeking personal, labor, and social independence.

The beneficiaries are young men and women who belong to different programs of our Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos Foundation, which includes:

- Population of high school students under 18 who live at our NPH Guatemala home.
- High school students over 18+ who live in the community near our NPH Guatemala home.
- University students, most whom have grown up at the NPH Guatemala home.
- Older Brothers/Sisters Program, which is made up of young men/women who grew up in NPH. Currently they live in the community and have begun their own family.
- One Family Program, dedicated to providing support to people who live in the community. NPH Foundation contributes to offering community families



Leadership Accelerator Fund

As part of our portfolio under the Research and Grants Division, DT Institute supports West Point Military Academies' Center for the Study of Civil-Military Operations (CSCMO) through our impact grant portfolio. DT Institute collaborates with CSCMO to provide education on contemporary development and peacebuilding practices to West Point cadets and promotes the concept of Civilian-military cooperation to new audiences. We are building closer ties between civilian and military entities that often exist simultaneously in sensitive, post-conflict environments by introducing development concepts to the future leaders of the United States Army. We are further promoting the concepts of Civilian-military cooperation by participating in the CSCMO convenings and academic study.

In the summer of 2022, DT Institute hosted the first cohort of four West Point cadets as part of its collaboration with CSCMO. The four cadets conducted research on a number of topics including looking at Gendered Disinformation in Eastern Europe. Cadet Nancy Astabie wrote the report Gender Disinformation in Eastern Europe to inform DT Institute's work in fighting foreign malign influence and promoting healthy democracy in Eastern Europe. The report explores the complex topic of gendered disinformation, explaining why disinformation should be examined through a gendered lens considering the ubiquity and malignancy of gender-based attacks online. Drawing on the evidence and analyses presented by researchers and experts on the topic, the paper presents:

- The narratives that dominate gender-based attacks
- The common tactics used to disseminate the disinformation
- The safeguards in place to defend against this type of disinformation, and issues with those defenses
- Strategies civil society organizations should employ to effectively defend against gendered disinformation and mitigate its effects

Part III:

Thought Leadership

Research and thought leadership are core to
DT Institute's identity.

We are driven to fill research gaps by continuously improving how we operate, by building teams to approach complex problem sets through academically sound approaches, and by creating new tools and methodologies from which others can benefit. We partner with top academic institutions and universities and convene our peers virtually and in-person.

Highlights

Papua New Guinea: Characterizing Pre-Election Facebook Activity of Papua New Guinean Politicians

In 2022, DT Institute released “Characterizing Pre-Election Facebook Activity of Papua New Guinean Politicians,” research focusing on how the events and technological change of the last five years has impacted the informational landscape in Papua New Guinea. DT Institute and DT Global joined forces in the run-up to the June elections to study Facebook activity linked to nine incumbent MPs in Papua New Guinea, and assess the presence and potential impact of misinformation. The platform has a mixed track record spotting and removing false or misleading information in Papua New Guinea, including through the COVID-19 pandemic. Facebook was temporarily banned in 2018 due to concerns over its moderation practices. While none of the nine politicians appeared to use Facebook to disseminate false or misleading information, this research identified a significant amount of inauthentic behaviour on the platform, centered around accounts and pages claiming to represent political office holders. Facebook can do more to help safeguard the upcoming Papua New Guinea national elections. This research also provides recommendations for additional analyses of the elections that should inform research to help Papua New Guinea and supporting international partners as they prepare for both interim local elections and the 2027 national elections.



Syria Research, relative influence: Assessing Relative Influence for Peace and Development Programming



DT Institute has published *Assessing Relative Influence for Peace and Development Programming*, helping implementers to understand local power dynamics to improve aid delivery and targeted development investments.

This report presents findings from an exploratory research effort to improve understanding of relative influence in conflict areas. It provides the international peace and development community with an evidence-driven prototype assessment instrument, as well as

summary findings from a more detailed assessment conducted in mid-2020 of relative governmental and nongovernmental influence in three municipalities in Northeastern Syria: Qamishli, Raqqa, Hajin. This approach is expressly intended to identify areas which are more or less suitable for the delivery of international humanitarian aid and, over the longer term, development programming delivery.



Iraq: Implementing a Way Forward

A new report, *Iraq: Implementing a Way Forward*, authored by Atlantic Council staff and fellows C. Anthony Pfaff, Ben Connable, and Masoud Mostajabi, lays out findings and recommendations to assist the Iraqi government and its international partners in improving political, social, economic, and security conditions to enhance national stability, stabilize Iraq's democratic processes, and promote broad-based, Iraqi-generated economic growth.



Convened by the Atlantic Council's Iraq Initiative the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and DT Institute, the Dialogue consisted of a series of workshops to identify policies to help address Iraq's political, socioeconomic, and security challenges. Dialogue participants included former and current high-level officials and experts, all of whom are committed to a better future for Iraq.



Ukraine Civil Society Emergency Response Fund

In the summer of 2022, in the midst of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, DT Institute sought to provide assistance through an emergency response fund to Ukrainian civil society organizations (CSOs) through a Request for Application (RFA). Grants under this RFA provided rapid, short-term support to cover emergency programming in the areas of 1) upholding rule of law and fundamental human rights; 2) facilitating access to services (especially at the community level) during the war; 3) supporting



independent journalism and countering Russian propaganda (including through international advocacy); and 4) supporting urgent, basic operational needs for Ukrainian CSOs and their staff impacted by the Russian invasion.

For example, one organization that received funds through this grant was the International Leadership and Development Center. Through this grant, they were able to fund multiple education-based initiatives and projects, including campaigns aimed at educating children and teachers on safety skills and knowledge. By the end of the campaign, 779 teachers successfully completed the program and reached 11,608 children.



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