

AROUND THE GLOBE

Quarterly Newsletter of The Defense Institute for Medical Operations (DIMO)



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A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

The world has changed. With the onslaught of COVID-19 and the devastating loss of human life that has taken place as a result, the field of global health has been challenged in a profound manner. In the midst of overwhelming devastation, hope for a brighter future can be found in the invaluable lessons that have been learned and in

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the knowledge that has been gained. Advancements in scientific, medical, and whole-of-society cooperation contribute to a pandemic response capability that will empower the global community to handle future viral outbreaks with greater degrees of effectiveness and efficiency.

The Defense Institute for Medical Operations (DIMO) has been in the business of advancing global pandemic preparedness and response capability for many years. Since its inception in 2002, our historical contributions in global health engagement have been through direct infectious disease, disaster preparedness, and biosecurity education and training. Infection control courses on HIV, Ebola, malaria, and other disease threats have integrated the most

advanced knowledge to provide our international students with a robust and relevant curriculum. Alongside our partners, DIMO continues to help partner nations build their own capacity for an all-hazards approach to critical global health issues.

Throughout this pandemic, the organization has remained committed to its mission of achieving security cooperation through health education and training by building strong and resilient international partnerships and providing top-quality, world-class global health courses. Within this issue of *Around the Globe*, we take a moment to highlight a few of the ways in which DIMO has strived to truly make a difference in the world. None of these accomplishments would be possible, however, without the tireless commitment of our Air Force Medical Service leadership, the DIMO staff, joint service and interagency volunteer instructors, and thousands of former students to the advancement of global health. This work is transformative, lasting, and ongoing.

Like most of our partners within this dynamic field, DIMO is grieved by the devastating toll that COVID-19 has taken on nearly every aspect of life. Nonetheless, we are galvanized in our commitment to securing a better world for future generations. There have perhaps been few more glaring historical examples of the necessity for health and medical security cooperation. Education and training of this type is a transcendent capability that makes critical impacts on the global stage. Collaborative education and training with international partners is a proven and unifying countermeasure for facing global challenges such as the current pandemic. DIMO is proud and honored to join its partners at the forefront of this worldwide charge to support improved security, stability, and unity of effort through health engagement and diplomacy.

Edwin K. Burkett, Col, USAF, MC, FS
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DIMO CONDUCTS MALARIA INFECTIOUS DISEASE COURSE IN PERU

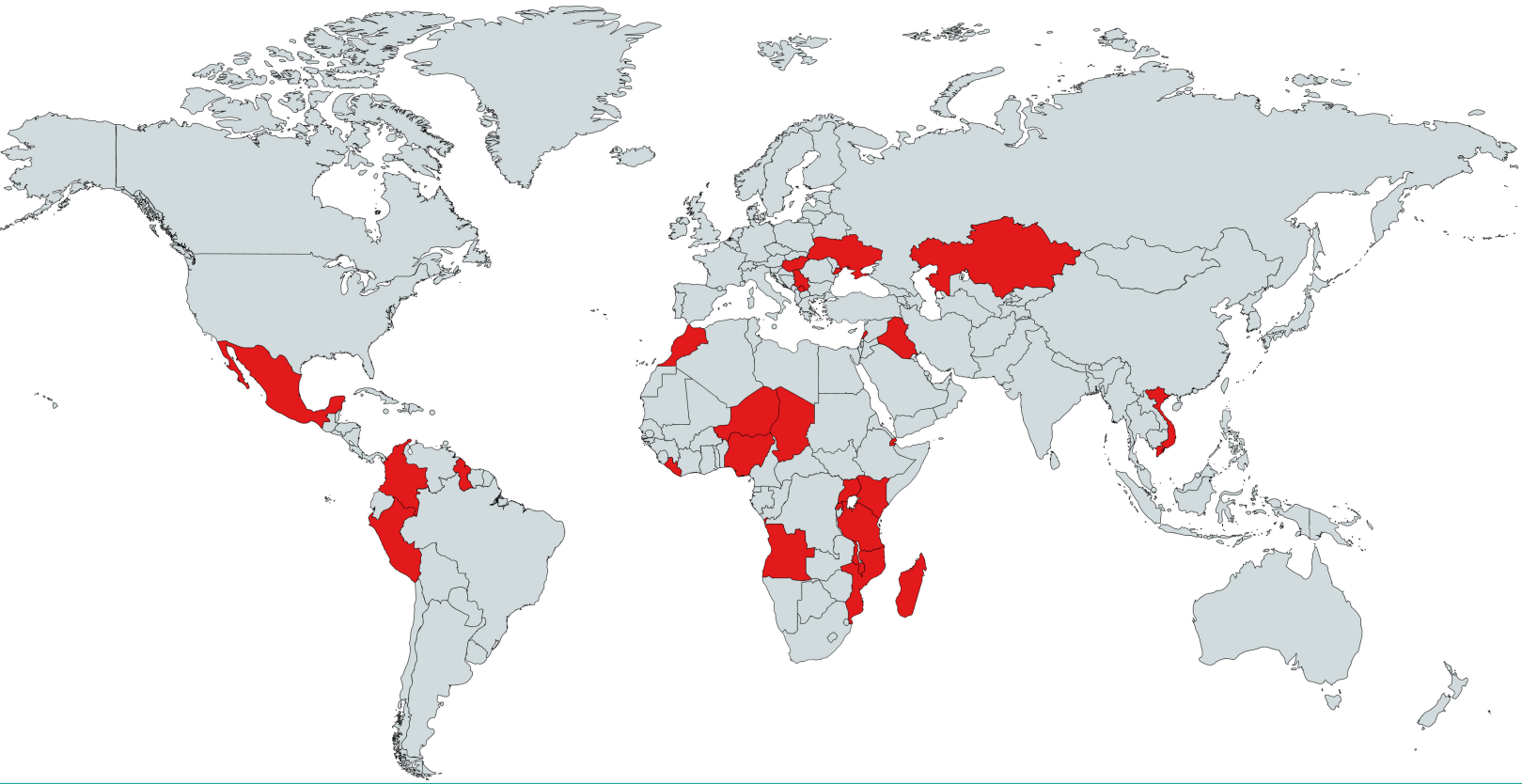


DIMO prepared a course in collaboration with medical leads in the French, Uruguayan and Peruvian militaries addressing the end-to-end aspects of a force health protection program specific to malaria for peacekeeping operations and highlighting other endemic infectious diseases in central Africa that cause fever.

The DIMO team—consisting of Infectious Disease and Preventive Medicine physicians and an Entomologist—represented a One Health approach and provided subject matter expertise across the spectrum of a malaria prevention program. The expertise and depth of information was greatly enhanced by presentations and participation of subject matter experts from France, Uruguay, and Peru.

Course feedback was positive; participants indicated that they will apply the information and skills they learned during the course in their job and during their upcoming deployment. The Centro de Entrenamiento y Capacitacion para Operacions de Paz (CECOPAZ) leadership indicated interest in future course iterations. Teaching support from NAMRU-6 contributed greatly to the success of the week. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive that the materials and exercises were relevant, helpful and applicable. Course participants remained actively engaged throughout and the team received many positive comments at the close of the course. Additional feedback from participants included praise for the professionalism of the team and appreciation for information sharing from other countries.

DIMO AT A GLANCE

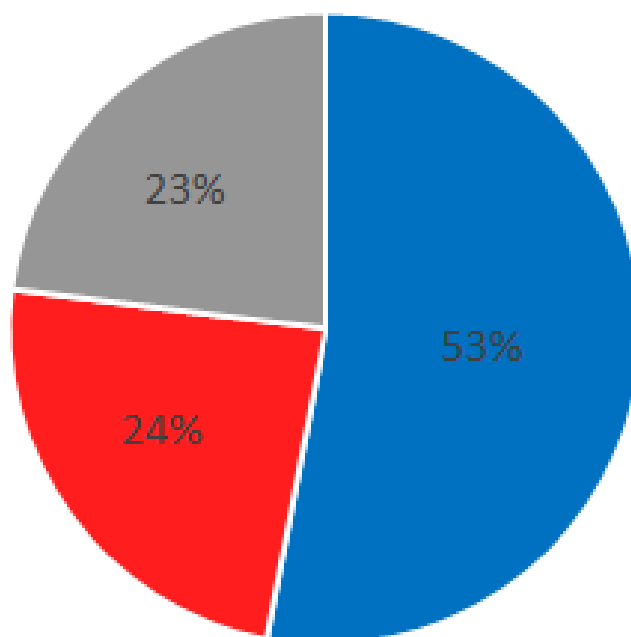


**52 Mobile Training Missions
Conducted in 2019**

29 Unique Countries Visited in 2019*

*Countries include Lebanon, Peru, Liberia, Rwanda, Ukraine, United States (Resident), Kenya, Nigeria, Chad, Uganda, Iraq, Kosovo, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Angola, Mozambique, Serbia, Vietnam, Djibouti, Seychelles, Niger, Mexico, Hungary, Tanzania, Madagascar, Malawi, Guyana, Colombia.

2020 DIMO STUDENT DATA (RANK)

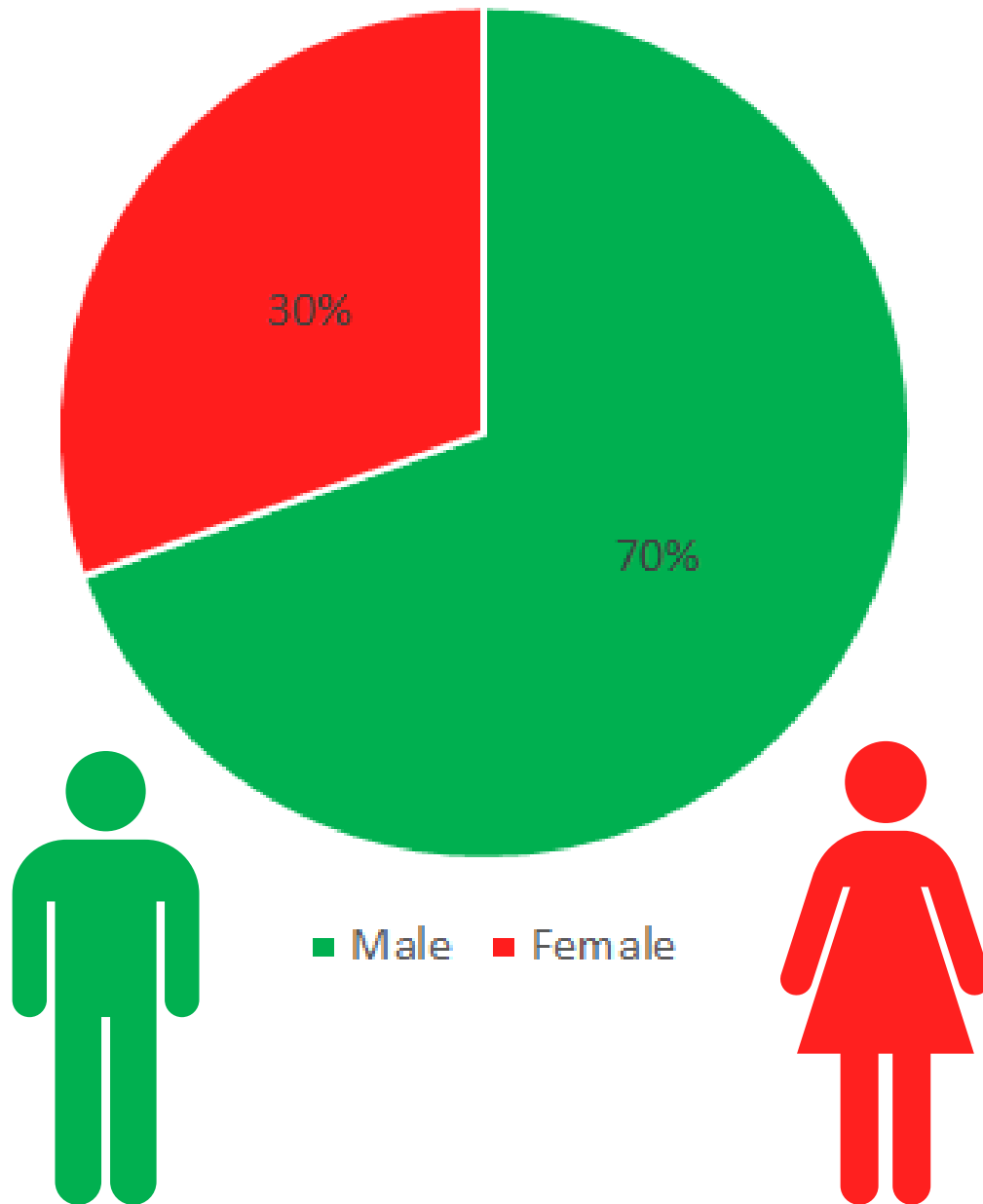


■ Officer ■ NCO ■ Civilian



998 Total Students Taught in 2019
53% Officer Students Taught in 2019
24% NCO Students Taught in 2019
23% Civilian Students Taught in 2019

2020 DIMO STUDENT DATA (GENDER)



998 Total Students Taught in 2019

304 Female Students Taught in 2019

694 Male Students Taught in 2019

DIMO CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL PANDEMIC RESPONSE CAPABILITY (FY2010 TO FY2020)

DIMO's historical contribution to partner nations' pandemic response capability has been either through direct infectious disease training, disaster preparedness, or biosecurity training. Since its inception, DIMO has made tactical, strategic, and policy impacts on countries' pandemic response that have enhanced their capacity to respond to COVID-19. While the process metrics below do not indicate specific outcomes, it is our continued goal to help partner nations' overall capability and to help them build capacity for these types of global health issues. Overall, from FY2010-FY2020 DIMO has employed 109 mobile training teams/mobile education teams (MTT/MET) to deliver 15 different courses as formal security assistance education and



training that have content supporting pandemic response. In particular, they delivered knowledge, skills, and abilities to 3,364 partner participants/students in 57 different countries that should enhance their capability to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Additionally, from FY2010-FY2020 DIMO has hosted 13 Resident Courses in San Antonio, TX as formal security assistance education and training that have content supporting pandemic response. In particular, they delivered knowledge, skills, and abilities to 307 partner participants/students from over 80 different countries that should enhance their capability to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Prevent the spread of COVID-19 in **7 STEPS**

- 01** Wash your hands frequently
- 02** Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- 03** Cover your cough using the bend of your elbow or a tissue
- 04** Avoid crowded places and close contact with anyone that has fever or cough
- 05** Stay at home if you feel unwell
- 06** If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early — but call first
- 07** Get information from trusted sources



SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



Defense Institute for Medical Operations

Achieving security cooperation through health education and training in the global health environment

Learn more at
<https://www.dimo.af.mil>



Since 2019, DIMO has fallen under the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine. As part of the Air Force Research Laboratory's 711th Human Performance Wing, USAFSAM optimizes and sustains Airmen health and performance through world class education, expert consultation, and operationally focused research, helping the 711 HPW assure the warfighter's readiness to execute the operational mission in any environment.

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