



Johns Hopkins University/United States Institute of Peace
Public Health and Conflict Task Force: Phase One
Friday, April 28, 2006
JHSPU Room W2008, 1-5 pm

Project Title: Understanding Conflict to Promote Public Health

Context: New public health graduates are frequently asked to work in zones of conflict or tension without a clear understanding of the many aspects of conflict analysis and the political, social, and economic precursors and consequences of their activities. Many public health professionals will learn such skills through trial and error on the job, but they will better serve their employers and fulfill their own objectives in promoting health if they are equipped with these analytical tools as a part of the public health educational experience. The U.S. Institute of Peace is an independent nonpartisan institution established and funded by Congress to help prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts by providing others with knowledge, skills, and resources, as well as by direct involvement in peacebuilding efforts. USIP will serve as a facilitator and co-sponsor of this project, and will explore the possibility of publishing a report and/or website disseminating the results.

Project Goals: Bring the social sciences and health sciences – as represented among the Johns Hopkins faculties – together to compare approaches and share expertise. Extract lessons learned into a usable menu of competences for application in the Public Health Curriculum. Discuss the possibility of further cross-campus cooperation and collaboration (joint degrees, visiting faculty, curricular reform).

Project Leads: Linda Bishai, USIP

Gilbert Burnham, JHSPH
Courtland Robinson, JHSPH
David Bishai, JHSPH
Emily Agree, JHSPH
Nan Astone, JHSPH

Project Plan: The project involves two phases. Phase 1 is the April 28th task force meeting of 10-20 invited faculty members from the Johns Hopkins academic communities to discuss the necessary skill sets that will enhance the capacities of new public health graduates. This meeting will proceed as follows:

- Presentations by faculty who are currently covering conflict analysis material in their teaching;
- Breakout sessions in three groups to discuss 1) competencies of politics in health; 2) competencies of health in politics; 3) case studies illustrative of both types of approach;
- Presentations by breakout groups; Discussion and synthesis; planning for fall activities.

Phase 2 will continue in fall 2006 and may include a workshop or symposium series that expands the audience to include non-Hopkins experts and potential future employers of public health graduates (the NGO and international organization community). The focus will be on learning from the interdisciplinary exchange to develop new competencies for professionals both in the classroom and in the field.