



Pictures taken during a RSWB visit (Photo: Gilley)

## RSWB Country Need Priorities

The RSWB program has identified countries that appear to have special radiation safety infrastructure needs and lack a national health physics professional society. These have been grouped into priority 1 (greatest need) and priority 2 (next greatest need) nations.

### Priority 1 Countries

Bahamas	Gabon	Tajikistan
Benin	Guatemala	Thailand
Botswana	Haiti	Uganda
Cameroon	Jamaica	Venezuela
Chad	Macedonia	Zambia
Cote d'Ivoire	Seychelles	Zimbabwe
D.R. Congo	Sierra Leone	
Eritrea	Sri Lanka	

### Priority 2 countries

Albania	Dominican Rep	Moldova
Armenia	Ecuador	Mongolia
Azerbaijan	Georgia	Nicaragua
Bangladesh	Indonesia	Panama
Belarus	Jordan	Paraguay
Bolivia	Kazakhstan	Qatar
Columbia	Kenya	
Costa Rica	Kuwait	



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# Health Physics Society



## Radiation Safety Without Borders Initiative

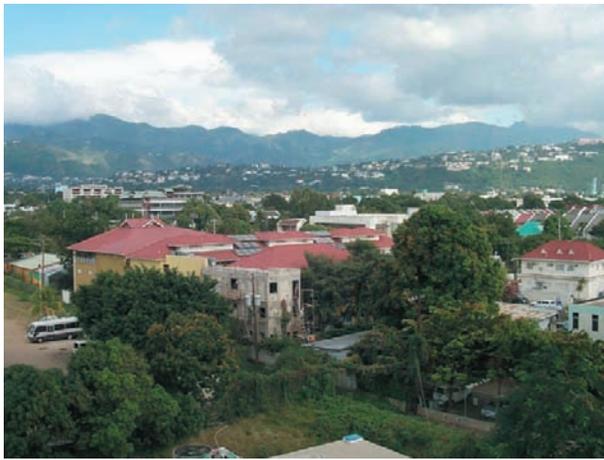
The Radiation Safety Without Borders (RSWB) initiative provides peer support to radiation safety professionals in developing countries, which bolster the country's infrastructure and may lead the way for IRPA Associate membership.

The Health Physics Society (HPS) recognizes that many nations do not possess the infrastructure to adequately control and beneficially use ionizing radiation. In a substantial number of countries, organized radiation protection programs are minimal.

Several severe accidents involving ionizing radiation have occurred in developing countries that have resulted in serious injuries or death. Likewise, there are concerns in the United States because of the potential uses of radioactive materials by terrorist organizations.

The original 2002 HPS international safety initiative, "Radiation Safety Without Borders" continues to have significant beneficial impacts, including:

- Improving the radiation safety infrastructure of the countries that participate;
- Assisting those countries without professional radiation safety societies to form one;
- Strengthening the humanitarian efforts of the United States;
- Enhancing Homeland Security efforts through improved control of radioactive material internationally.



*A RSWB venue. The primary purpose of the visit was to review security and control of radioactive material. A secondary purpose was to review the actual use of radioactive material in medical, academic and industrial applications.*

## The Process

The RSWB initiative relies on HPS volunteers to assist countries with emerging health physics and radiation safety programs, but whose resources are limited, to provide tools that promote and support infrastructure and help these countries help themselves.

Various agencies and sectors in the US have shown that by providing reused refurbished instruments, promoting visits to a HPS venue or visiting a country “just to look” provide valuable technical and social infrastructure experiences often missing in the developing nation’s cadre of radiation safety professionals.

HPS/RSWB with the assistance of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) pairs chapters with a country, with the expectation that the country’s professional radiation safety personnel will form a foreign HPS chapter, and the country eventually will become an IRPA associate.

## RSWB Contact Information

If you have an interest in participating in this program or are seeking additional information, about the Radiation Safety Without Borders program, contact the HPS Secretariat at [hps@burkinc.com](mailto:hps@burkinc.com), .

## RSWB Chapter Volunteers

The process to become a RSWB volunteer begins with the Chapter determining members’ interests with the expectation to provide long-term follow-up. For Chapters whose members have professional colleagues or associates in a developing nation, an initial introduction may mean an invitation to a chapter event or an official HPS annual or midyear meeting.

HPS chapters interested in supporting a country should select a Point of Contact (POC), which may be the President of the Chapter or another person identified for such task, and advise the RSWB Chair of their interest.

The chapter should identify special strengths, e.g., medical physics or regulations or availability of instrumentation. This first effort assists the IAEA in assessing a country’s needs in relation to the Chapter’s assets to better match the country and its POC to the Chapter.

RSWB is considering workshops for HPS members who might volunteer for RSWB. Workshops could be held in conjunction with the annual or midyear HPS meetings or could be hosted by a Chapter locally.

## A Vision for the Future

The RSWB program was founded on the voluntary participation of individual HPS Chapters and individual chapter members. In the HPS vision of the RSWB program, a Chapter would link itself to a country and over a number of years the chapter would get to know the professional HPS in that country, their culture, and their regulations, and how best to support them in their work.

## “Lessons Learned”

Although still in its formative stage, RSWB nonetheless has gotten valuable information in spite of the small number of missions.

Patient overexposures indicate the need for training to use and maintain healing arts radiation equipment; and with little information available on radioactive waste disposal, the need exists for attention to waste handling procedures.



*RSWB mission to deliver refurbished instrumentation. Representatives of RSWB, US Department of State, and US Embassy view reused instrumentation (pocket ionization chambers and reader, multiple count rate meters with pancake probes, ion chambers) presented to and graciously accepted by country Officials. (Picture: Gilley)*