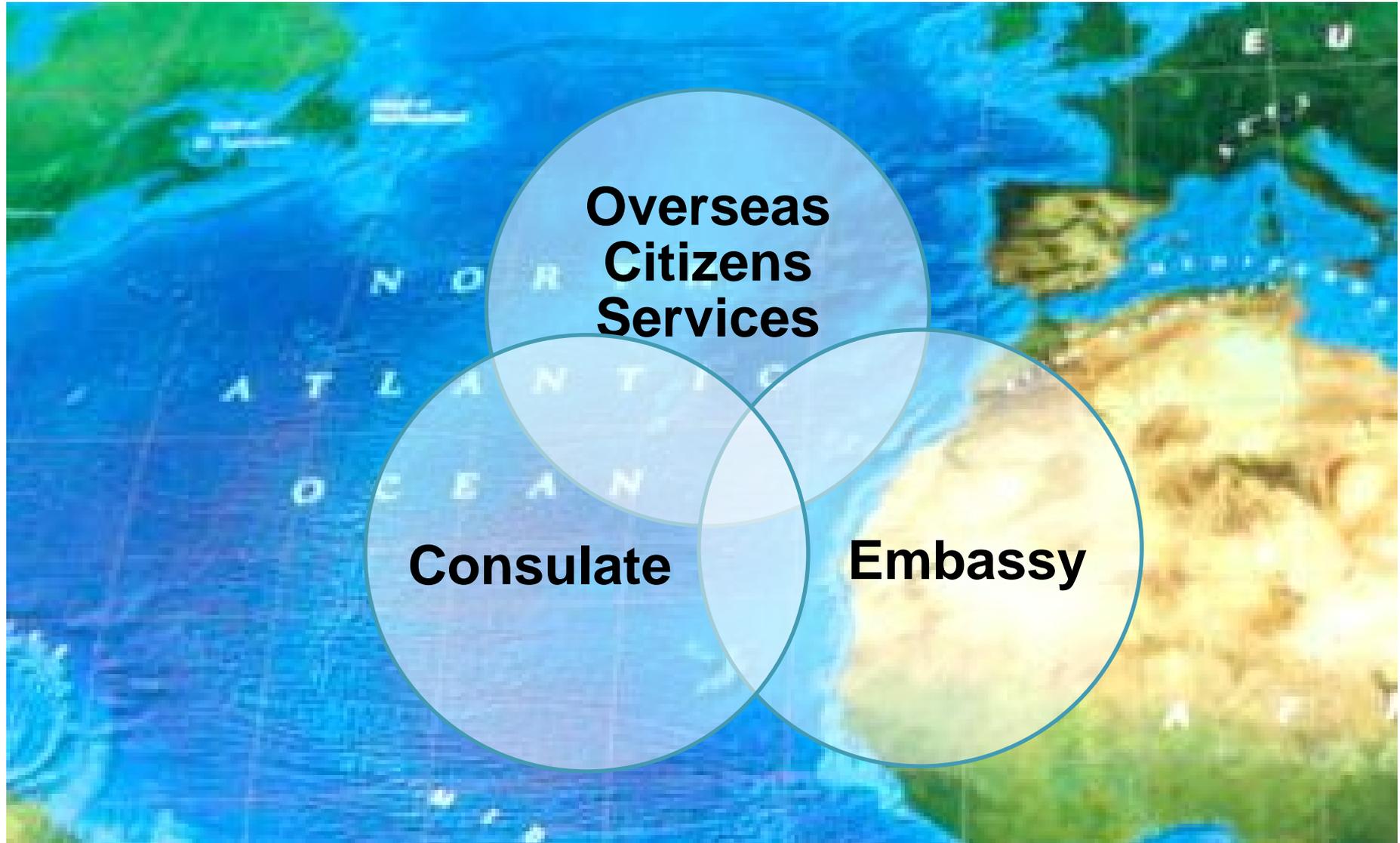




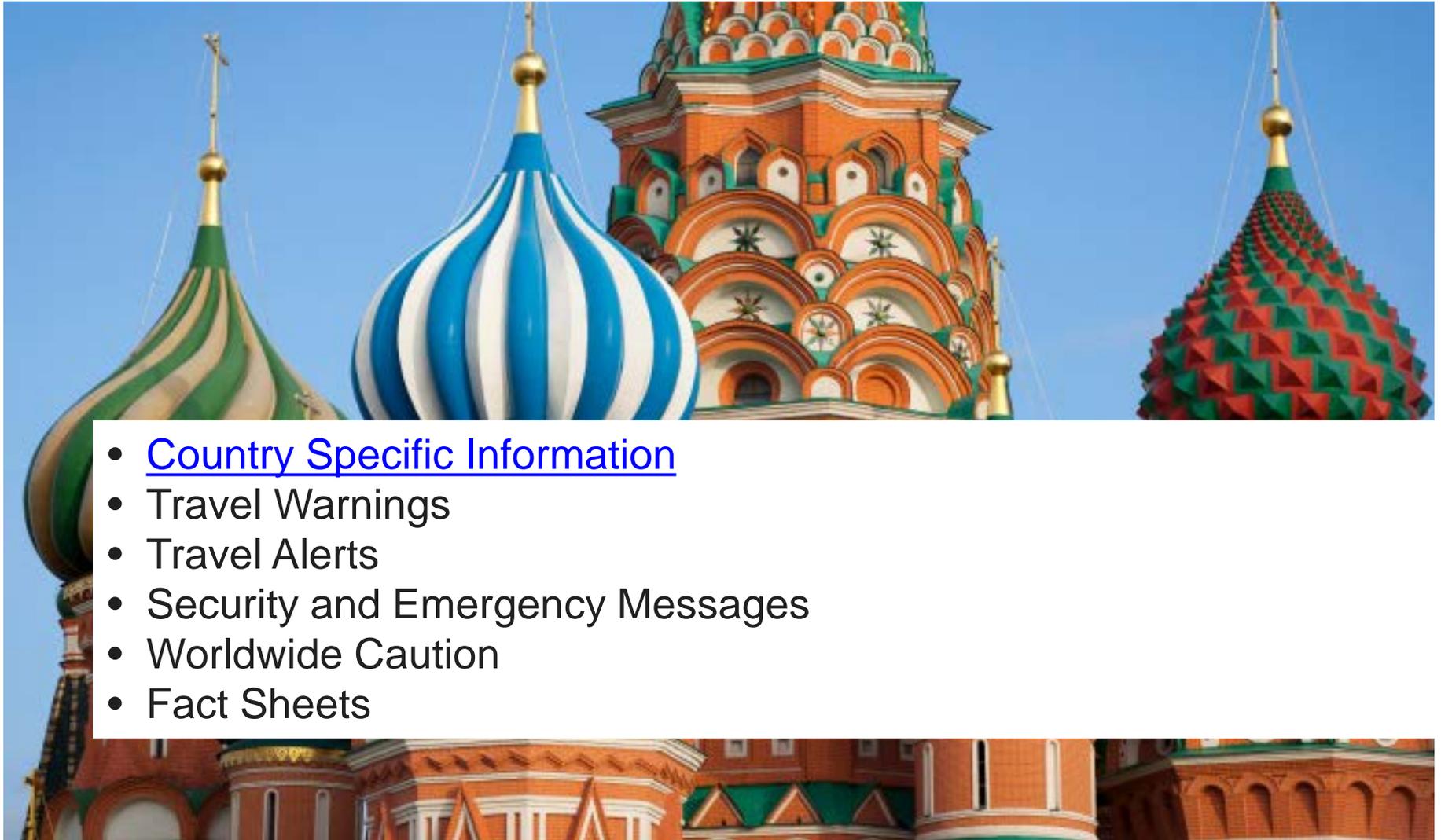
Helping U.S. Citizens Abroad:

Current Topics 2016

Around the clock. Around the world.
Helping U.S. citizens abroad.



Get Informed: *travel.state.gov*



- [Country Specific Information](#)
- Travel Warnings
- Travel Alerts
- Security and Emergency Messages
- Worldwide Caution
- Fact Sheets

Local Resources

Photo by Hari Om Prakash

1

Determine the **NEEDS** of the community

2

Identify **ESSENTIAL GAPS** in local resources

3

Build **Local Relationships** to close gaps

4

Share the **INFORMATION**

American Liaison Network

- The Office of Overseas Citizen Services has analyzed our existing warden networks to identify best practices
- The resulting American Liaison Network (ALN) is in the final stages of clearances and will be implemented worldwide by the end of 2016
- The ALN at each post will be comprised of Citizen Liaisons, members of U.S. citizen communities overseas
- The ALN emphasizes greater communication between Citizen Liaisons and our embassies, helping our posts to address security, safety, and health issues affecting U.S. citizens



2016 Olympics – Rio de Janeiro



- Assistance to U.S. citizens during the Olympics
- Engaging with travelers
 - On-the-ground support & information-sharing
 - Traditional and new media
- Information about Zika



Victim Assistance



Interagency Collaboration

- Assist families of U.S. citizen hostage victims
- Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell
- Terrorism incident response collaboration

Overseas Citizens Services



Office of Victims' Assistance



Drug Mule Scams



- Unsuspecting drug transport overseas – arrests increasing
- Largely internet-based scams, targeting older U.S. citizens
- Promise of free trips, employment opportunities, charity work
- “Free” luggage or fee paid to transport bag
- Other types of scams



Consular Notification and Access



- Obligation under multilateral and bilateral treaties
- United States counts on reciprocal action from foreign governments



Consular Crisis Management



- Department's Role in a Crisis
- Recent Examples
- How We Can Help Our Constituents



Children's Issues

International Parental Child Abduction

- Prevention
- Incoming
- Outgoing
- New Hague Convention Partner:
 - Thailand



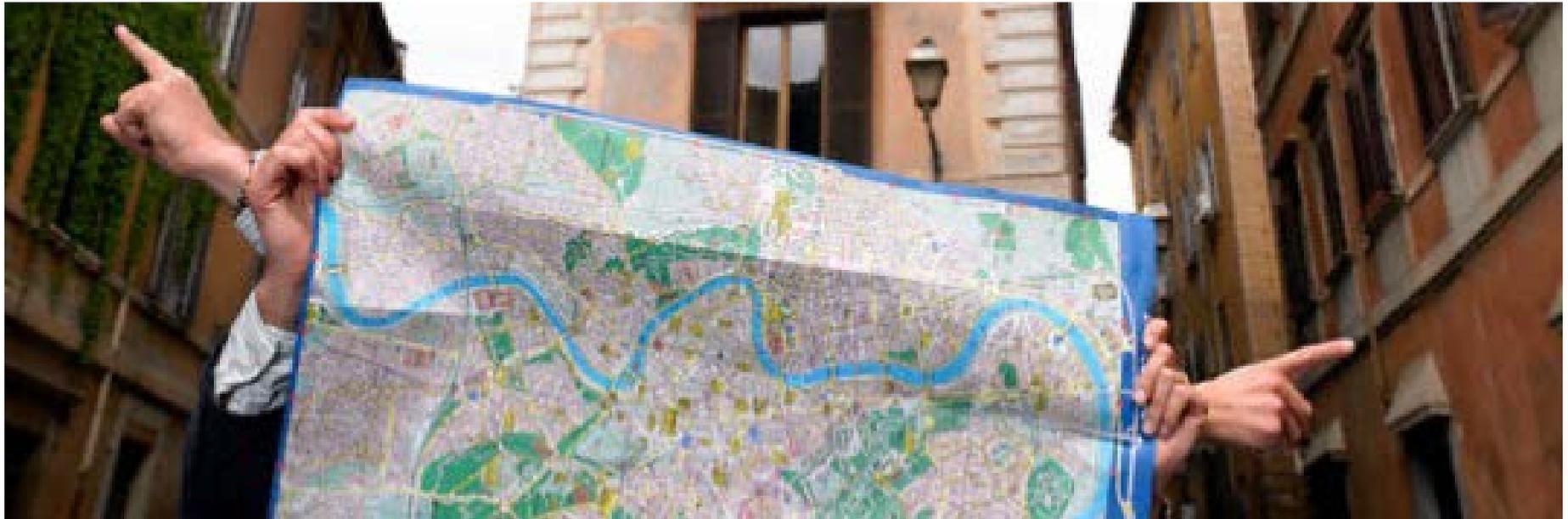
Intercountry Adoption

- Support intercountry adoption as an option for children in need of permanency
- New Adoption Strategy



Schengen Passport Validity

- U.S. citizens increasingly turned away in 26 European countries
- Recommend 6 months' passport validity
- Check country requirements on ***travel.state.gov***



Voting Abroad

- Register to vote and request absentee ballot at [FVAP.gov](https://www.fvap.gov).
- Complete [Federal Post Card Application](#) (FPCA) *each year*.
- Return completed ballots at U.S. embassy or consulate.



Contacts

Overseas Citizens Services 24/7:

Constituents

888-407-4747 (North America)

202-501-4444 (from overseas)

travel.state.gov

Congressional Liaison Office

202-485-6100 (business hours)

202-647-4000 (after hours)

Hill-Liaison@state.gov

travel.state.gov/congress

