

## HARVARD HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE





Annual Report 2018 - 2019

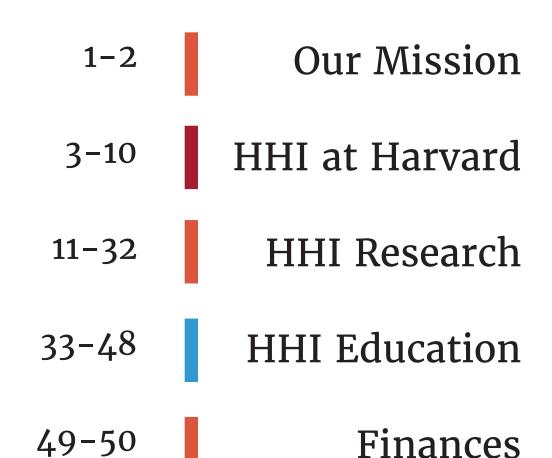
## 2019 HHI Annual Report

# Table of Contents









## A letter from HHI's Faculty Director

Our Mission

Dear Friends of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative.

The past year has presented unprecedented challenges in the humanitarian space, as well as unique opportunities. The aid world continues to grapple with ongoing challenges: international conflicts continue, protracted conflicts are on the rise with grave security threats to aid workers and severe limitations on humanitarian access, and accelerating effects of climate change continue to displace populations and intensify conflicts around the world.

As the demand for expertise in the humanitarian space increases, HHI's team of researchers, practitioners, and educators are working to build the evidence-base within the field and translate this evidence to improve humanitarian practice and to empower vulnerable populations. In the context of our rapidly changing world, HHI reworded our mission statement to research and education to empower communities in crisis. Relatedly in 2018, we were pleased to award Nadia Murad, a then soon-to-be Nobel Peace Prize Winner, with our Weintz Humanitarian Award for her work with the Yazidi community.

In our research, HHI programs explored topics critical to communities affected by crises, such as disaster preparedness, risk resilience, humanitarian negotiation, gender-based violence, program evaluation, and the ethical use of data in humanitarian settings. HHI has been particularly active in identifying and developing emerging trends and themes in the sector: the humanitarian triple nexus, the

localization of aid, the proliferation of digital technologies, and the negotiation and leaderships skills necessary to manage complex emergencies. HHI also increased domestic work on humanitarian concerns within the United States. We partnered with EnRoot, a Cambridge-based NGO focused on advancing mentorship for young immigrants, and supported Physicians for Human Rights work with the Navajo Nation.

As for humanitarian education, we were pleased to announce the Humanitarian Student Association to connect our Harvard community via series of talks, events and resources, and were thrilled to launch our "Spark" grants for student humanitarian research. Online, our free courses through HarvardX and Building a Better Response (BBR) reached over 100,000 learners globally, including professionals responding to active crises.

We look forward to a year of growth and continued innovation around these specific challenges in trying times. We are grateful to our dedicated supporters and collaborators who make this critical work possible and who join us to advance the future of effective humanitarian response.

Thank you,





Director | Harvard Humanitarian Initiative

Lavine Family Professor of Humanitarian Studies | Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

J. Stephen Bohan Professor of Emergency Medicine | Harvard Medical School

Chairman | Brigham Health Department of Emergency Medicine

Research and education to empower communities in crisis.

## HHI at Harvard

## HHI at Harvard

## Graduate Students at Harvard

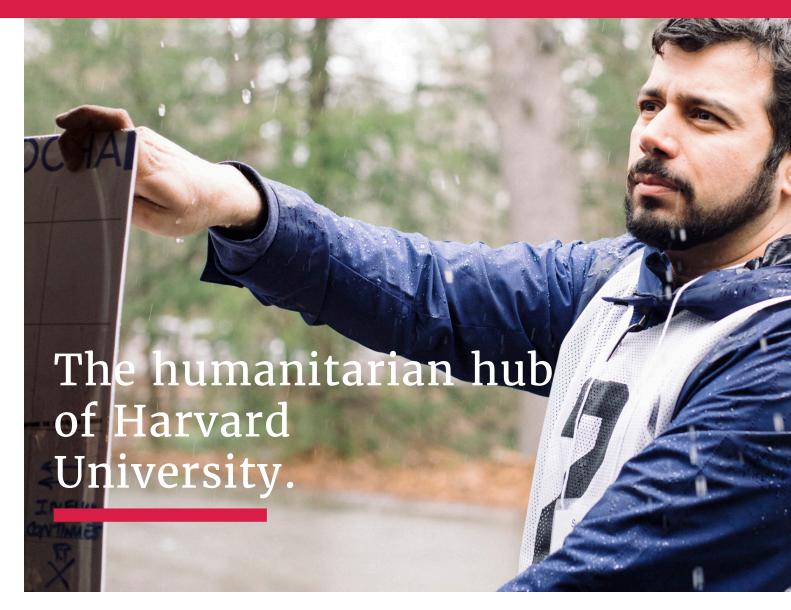


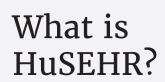


## University-Wide Resources









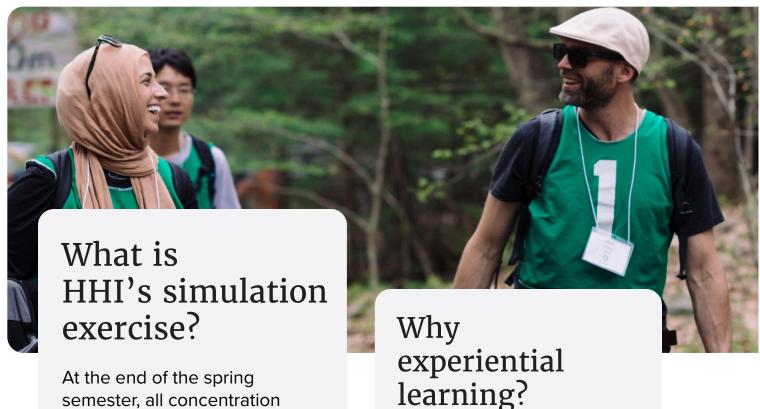
HHI manages the Graduate
Concentration on Humanitarian Studies, Ethics and Human
Rights (HuSEHR). The concentration consists of four courses
offered at the Harvard Chan
School and is designed to
prepare students for managerial and practical roles in the
humanitarian field.

Why HuSEHR?

Our students leave with the skills to be leaders in the global humanitarian and human rights community.

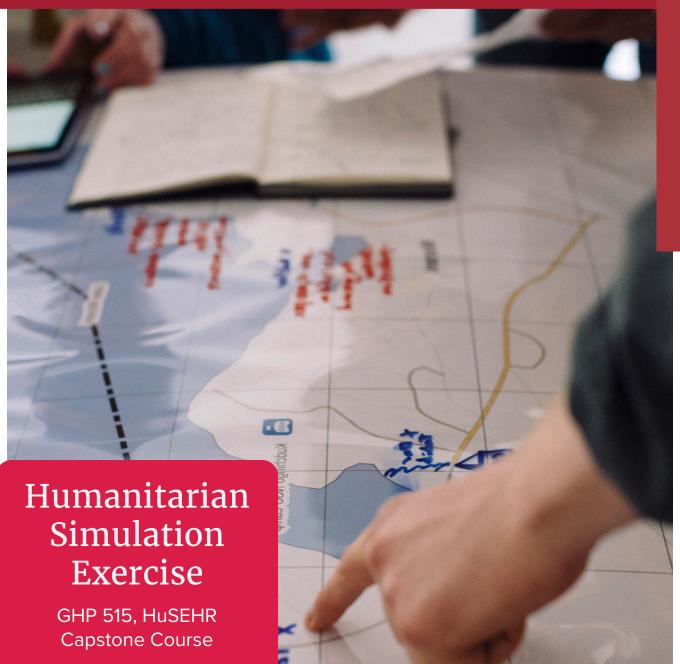


## GHP 515: Simulation Capstone Exercise



At the end of the spring semester, all concentration students take part in HHI's annual Humanitarian Response Simulation Exercise, a three-day intensive experiential training event simulating a complex humanitarian emergency in Harold Parker State Forest.

Students have an opportunity to test concepts learned in the classroom in a live role-play setting with experienced humanitarian professionals, before potentially going to the field.



## **Humanitarian Student Association**

## Student Research Funding



HHI aims to connect humanitarian-minded student groups and individuals across Harvard to better support student humanitarian activities. HHI hosts events and has a Harvard-wide student newsletter.

## People

HHI's student activities and the HuSEHR concentration are managed by Samuel Plasmati, Educational Programs and Operations Manager at HHI.



Claudio Reck Rivera Harvard Undergraduate

**Project:** Summer Internship, Semilla Nueva (Food Security NGO), Guatemala



#### Esias Bedingar HuSEHR Concentrator

**Project:** "Beliefs, Knowledge and Attitudes Regarding Malaria Prevention Practices Among Caregivers of Chidren Under Five: A Mixed Methods Study in N'Djamena, Chad"

## Student Spark Grants

Humanitarian Research & Project Funding "I firmly believe that the findings of this project have the potential to help the Government of Chad plan for their future malaria prevention programs." -Esias Bedingar

## HHI Research

# HHI Research

### **Humanitarian Strategies**



Evaluation & Implementation Science Transitional Justice

Risk, Resilience, and Response

Infectious Disease in Humanitarian Response

Peace & Human Rights Data

Resilient Communities Women in War

Technology and Innovation



KoBo ToolBox





## Overview

# ATHA: Advanced Training Program on Humanitarian Action



**People** 

**Anaide Nahikian** Program Manager

Niamh Gibbons
Research &
Evaluation
Manager

Rob Grace Senior Project Associate The ATHA Program promotes policy reflections and decision-making in the humanitarian system toward more locally-driven approaches to assistance, protection, and development.

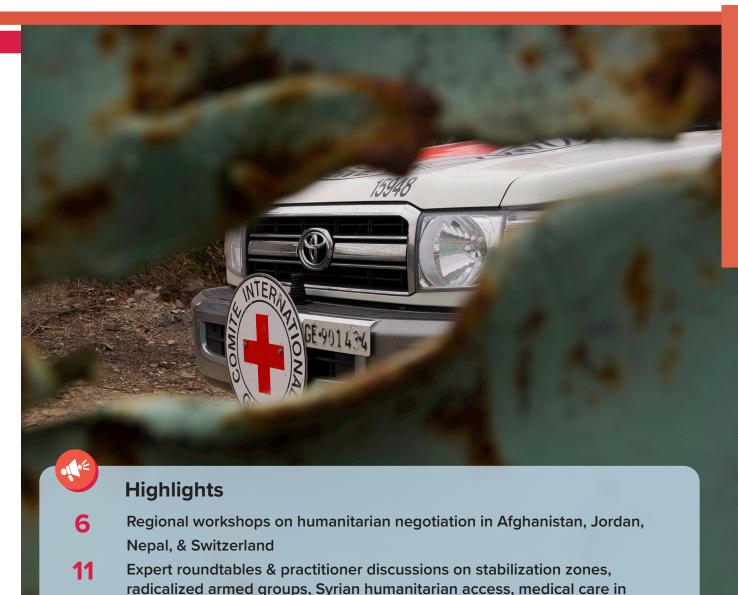
#### **Program Year in Review**

- Launched the Humanitarian Action at the Frontlines (HAF) initiative in direct response to demand in the humanitarian community for sharing of lessons learned and tools regarding humanitarian negotiation and access.
- Led country-specific, professional development workshops on humanitarian negotiation implemented in partnership with the Center of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation.
- Hosted an online portal, including a blog and podcast, for dicussion of key policy challenges facing the humanitarian system.

#### **Selected Publications**

"Fragile Future: The Human Cost of Conflict in Afghanistan." **Scholarly Paper** 

"Humanitarian Access Obstruction in Somalia: Externally Imposed and Self-Inflicted Dimensions." **Scholarly Paper** 



conflict, refugee returns, and civilian security & protection

Overview

**People** 

Phuong Pham Director

Patrick Vinck
Co-Director

Katrina Keegan Project Manager, Colombia

Julie Ricard Project Manager, Brazil

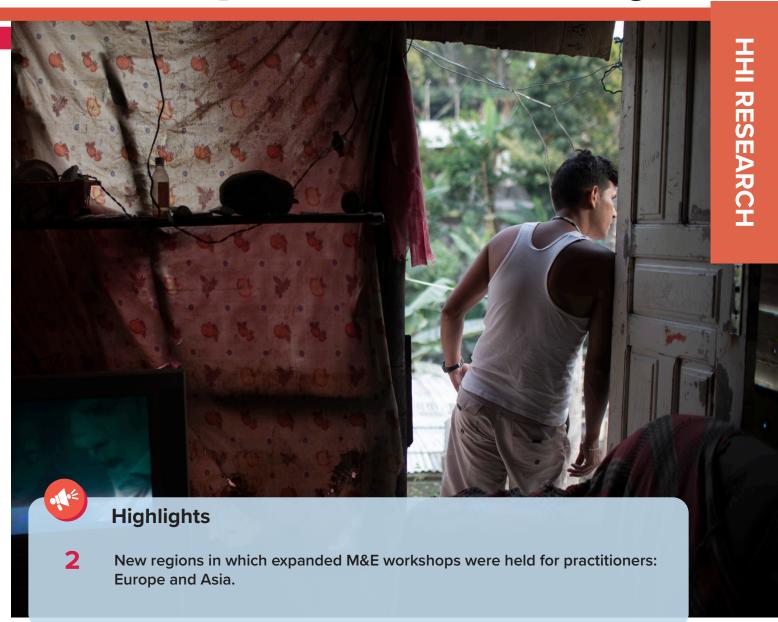
Kevin Coughlin Senior Program Coordinator The Evaluation and Implementation Science Program works to strengthen monitoring and evaluation research and its uptake with an aim to better address the needs of vulnerable populations affected by conflict and disaster. The program aims to build the capacity of organizations to develop monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

#### **Program Year in Review:**

- Continued to engage in a three-year external impact evaluation of the Disasters and Emergencies Preparedness Program (DEPP), a humanitarian capacity development program aimed at improving the quality and speed of humanitarian response, funded by DFID.
- Conducted a series of case-based workshops on monitoring and evaluating research principles and methodologies, with an emphasis on practical application for humanitarian researchers. and practitioners.

#### **Learn More**

about these professional workshops and other HHI trainings in the **Professional Education** section.



Overview



People

Phuong Pham Director

Patrick Vinck
Co-Director

Razzaq al-Saiedi Project Manager, Iraq

> Kevin Coughlin Senior Program Coordinator

> > **Partners:**

**University of Mosul** 

Public Policy Institute, Iraq The Transitional Justice Program works with communities to address legacies of abuse regarding progress towards peace, democracy, rule of law, and respect for human rights. The program assesses perspectives of conflict-affected populations and engages with key stakeholders to implement transitional justive programming.

#### **Program Year in Review**

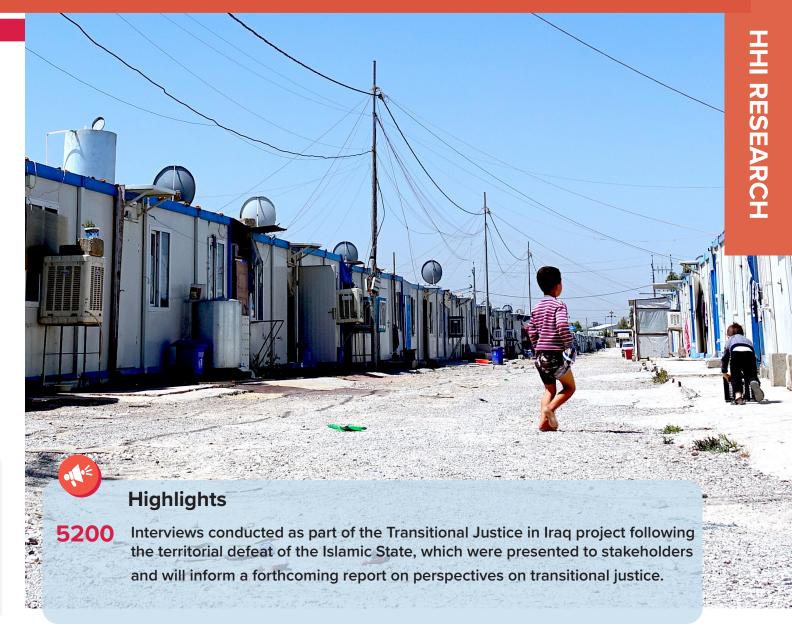
- Studied perspectives on justice among conflict affected communities in northern Iraq as part of the *Transitional Justice Perspectives: Transitional Justice in Iraq project* started after the territorial defeat of the Islamic State.
- Undertook a longitudinal cohort study with Yazidi refugees in Germany as part of the Transitional Justice Perspectives: Trauma & Integration Among Yazidi Refugees project.

#### **Selected Publications**

"A Framework for Assessing Political Will in Transitional Justice Contexts." **Scholarly Paper** 

"Technology and Transitional Justice, Editorial Note" Scholarly Paper

"Transitional Justice in the Age of Social Media." Scholarly Paper



# Research – Risk, Resilience, and Response Overview

# IDEP: Infectious Disease and Epidemics Program



**People** 

**Eric Nilles**Program Director

Kara Durski Program Manager

Michael de St. Aubin Data Manager IDEP reduces the impact of infectious diseases in crises by conducting research on the transmission of epidemic-prone diseases. The program works on: understanding risks and behaviors; developing tools to effectively prevent outbereaks; detecting outbreaks; and convening collaborators to define research priorities and share best practices.

#### **Program Year in Review**

- Launched a community survey to characterize key sociobehavioral factors driving Ebola transmission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, resulting in a oft-cited paper in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal.
- Hired a new Deputy Program Director and became a lead partner with the WHO Health Emergencies Programme to develop global reference guidelines for early warning surveillance and response in humanitarian emergencies.

#### **Selected Publications**

"The Role of Institutional Trust and Misinformation in Outbreak Response: A Community Survey During the 2018 Ebola Outbreak in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo." Scholarly Paper



Overview

## Peace and Human Rights Data



#### **People**

Patrick Vinck Director

Phuong Pham Co-Director

Mychelle Balthazard Project Manager, CAR

Edward Sloan Project Manager, DRC

Manasi Sharma
Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Kevin Coughlin Senior Program Coordinator

Tom O'Mealia Researcher

Anupah Makoond Researcher

#### Partners:

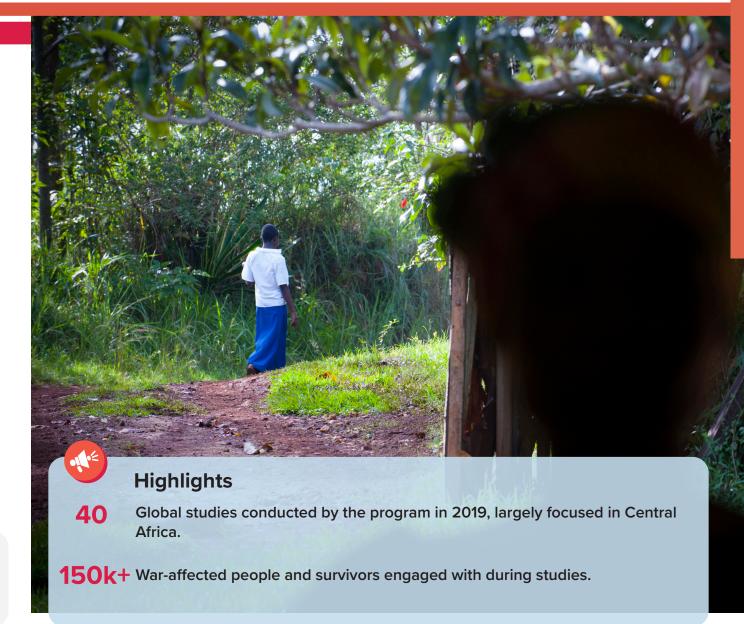
Echelle (Central African NGO) Université Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs Université de Bunia Université Catholique de Bukavu The Peace and Human Rights Data Program utilizes rigorous research methods to assess needs, perceptions, and behaviors among those affected by conflict and other forms of violence, with a focus on justice, peacebuilding, and social cohesion. The program also builds local research capacity.

#### **Program Year in Review**

- Undertook series of surveys in the DRC examining factors influencing Ebola-related behaviors including vaccine acceptance and care-seeking behavior.
- Published multiple reports and engaged with local and international stakeholders on critical findings like trust and effectiveness of peacebuilding operations in the Congo.
- Implemented series of bi-annual surveys to monitor violence and perception of peace and security, with a focus on social dynamics in CAR.
- Undertook participatory research to identify positive factors that decrease violence in communities, with a focus on cross-border dynamics in the Great Lakes Region.
- Launched a program to strenthen capacity of African academics and researchers to enhance the peacebuilding field.

#### **Selected Publications**

"The Role of Institutional Trust and Misinformation in Outbreak Response: A Community Survey During the 2018 Ebola Outbreak in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo." Scholarly Paper



### Overview



**People** 

Vincenzo Bollettino Program Director

**Ariana Marnicio Program Manager** 

Sarah Schwartz
Program Coordinator

Mark Toldo
Communications
Specialist

Lea Manzanero Project Lead PRC produces evidence and learning to support communities, organizations, and governments in developing lasting solutions to the varied threats posed by natural hazards. The program seeks to establish a foundation for more integrated, coordinated, and evidence-based preparedness and response to natural disasters, and promote participatory action research with communities.

#### **Program Year in Review**

- Relied on the strong talents of the team at Harvard and in the Philippines. Fellows lead research on the ground, identifying communities vulnerable to natural hazards and engaging them in training and activities designed to support and enhance local leadership.
- Mapped institutions working in disaster preparedness in the Philippines and Bangladesh. The program also explored resilience in territories exposed to both natural hazards and conflict.
- Developed a Resilience Scorecard for Bangladesh, a monitoring tool for Concern Worldwide to assess ongoing disaster resilience of communities to provide early warning on community needs and program design.

#### **Selected Publications**

"Humanitarian Access Obstruction in Somalia: Externally Imposed and Self-Inflicted Dimensions." **Scholarly Paper** 



### Overview



**People** 

Jocelyn Kelly Program Director

Meredith Blake Research Coordinator

Vandana Sharma HHI Fellow The Women in War Program (now known as the Gender, Rights and Resilience Program) seeks to investigate and address issues relating to gender, peace, and security in fragile states. Diverse faculty, fellows, and researchers explore pressing issues that impact the security of women and girls as well as men and boys throughout the world.

#### **Program Year in Review**

- Collaborated with the International Rescue Committee to provide a mixed method, real-time assessment of risk mitigation and inclusion for their cash-based programming in Afghanistan.
- Worked with the Congolese women and men involved in the artisanal mining sector to support due diligence efforts to regulate mineral supply chains in DRC. Conducted a qualitative research study to assess the impacts of industry diligence efforts on the roles of women in mining communities in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Investigated and addressed challenges related to gender, peace, and security in fragile states by partnering with a number of humanitarian agencies, including UNICEF and the International Rescue Committee.

#### **Selected Publications**

"Safer Cash: Ensuring Risk Mitigation and Inclusion in Multipurpose Cash Assistance." **Practitioner Brief** 

"Measuring GBV risk mitigation interventions in humanitarian settings." Guidance Note



# Research – Technology and Innovation Overview

# Big Data Science and Data-Pop Alliance



**People** 

Patrick Vinck
Director

Phuong Pham Co-Director

Julie Ricard Program Manager

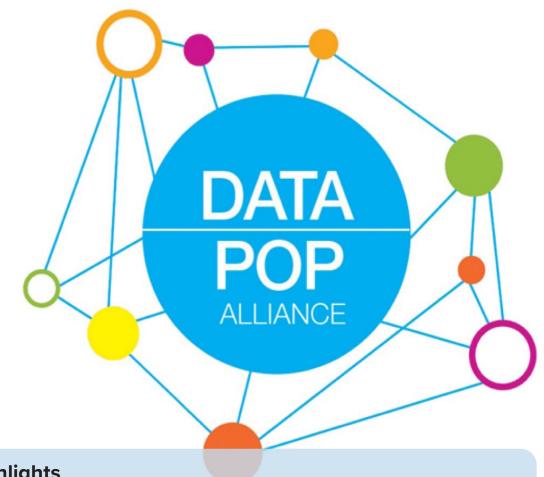
**Emmanuel Letouzé** Senior Adviser Since 2014, HHI has collaborated with the MIT Media Lab, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), and Flowminder to bring together researchers, experts, practitioners, and activists to promote a people-centered Big Data revolution through collaborative research, capacity building, and community engagement.

#### **Program Year in Review**

- Launched the Crimes and Impunity in Columbia / Big Data Practice study on factors that drive criminality and violence in Colombia. The program, in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank, Data-Pop, and the Fondazione Bruno Kessler, aims to improve security in urban areas of Colombia through Big Data.
- Advised and evaluated the *Data 4 Refugees Challenge (Turkey) / Big Data Practice Challenge* organized in partnership with Turkish Telekom. Research teams were granted access to aggreggated, anonymized data sets to explore measures of social, spatial and economic integration and to evaluate the potential of CDRs to inform humanitarian action.

#### **Selected Publications**

"Guide to Mobile Data Analytics in Refugee Scenarios - The 'Data for Refugees Challenge' Study." **Scholarly Paper** 





#### Highlights

- Collaborators: MIT Media Lab, Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and Flowminder
- Partnerships with organizations from all sectors.

#### People

Phuong Pham Co-founder

Patrick Vinck
Co-founder

Tino Kreutzer Senior Advisor

John Milner Lead Developer

Olivier Leger Leszek Pietrzak Anji Tong Stephane Aloo Kalyan Lama Alex Dorey

Michael de St. Aubin Project Coordinator

**Kevin Coughlin**Administrator

KoBoToolBox is a digital data collection platform co-founded by HHI faculty, and has been supported by the United Nations and non-governmental humanitarian agencies since 2013.



#### **Program Year in Review**

- Celebrated the software's status as the leading platform for humanitarian and development actors and their operations.
- The platform is now adopted by UNOCHA, UNHCR, IOM, and many other local and international non-governmental organizations. Its functionalities and ease of use have been designated as a "game-changer" by many local stakeholders.



## Overview





People

**Rob Baker Program Director** 

Isaac Baker Research and Data **Analysis Manager** 

**Caitlin Howarth Program Manager** 

> Saira Khan Consultant. **Data Analyst**

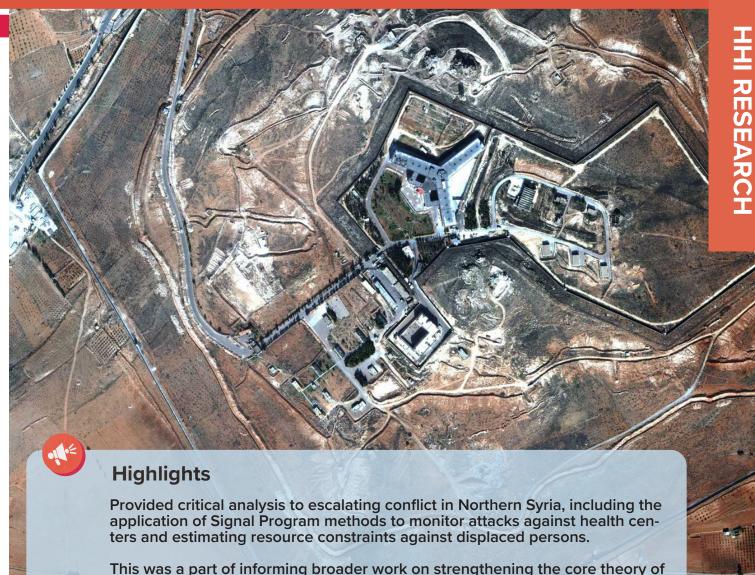
The Signal Program on Human Security and Technology conducts research and education that advances the ethical and effective application of information communication technologies (ICTs) during humanitarian responses to crises. It trains and equips professional practitioners with tools needed to responsibly use these technologies as part of operations.

#### **Program Year in Review**

- Conducted critical research in conjunction with GovLab and UNICEF with support from the World Bank on the use of geospatial, agent-based modeling methods to simulate migratory changes of pastoralists in Somaliland.
- Extended research on the relationship between mental health and digital access for refugees with support from Mercy Corps on refugee camps in Italy, including the release of a Humanitarian WiFi Guide for more rigorous standards for refugee connectivity that may serve as a first step toward stronger arguments for data as a human right.

#### **Selected Publications**

To date, Signal has become a leader in the development of ethical applications of ICTs with Signal Code, as well as developing new methodologies specific to remote sensing and assessing the connectivity of displaced populations. signalcode.org



early warning forecasts in conflict and fragile state environments.

## **HHI Education**

## HHI Education

### **Professional Education Workshops**

Humanitarian Response Intensive Course

M&E for Humanitarian Programs

Remote Sensing for Humanitarian Programs

Urban Humanitarian Emergencies Course



## Online Learning

Building a Better Response





### Overview

## HRIC: The Humanitarian Response Intensive Course



**People** 

Stephanie Kayden Course Director, Director of **Lavine Family Humanitarian Studies** Initiative at HHI

> Samuel Plasmati Manager

**Katie Farineau Program Coordinator**  Participants gain familiarity with the primary frameworks in the humanitarian field through presentations and hands on table top exercises offered by faculty and quest lecturers who are experts in their topic areas.

The two week classroom-based workshop is followed by a three-day field simulation exercise portraying a complex disaster and conflict scenario (together with HHI's HuSEHR graduate students).





#### **Local Focus**

Our workshops emphasize the importance of training practitioners coming from local organizations. HRIC fully funds a handful of humanitarians working for small organizations; in 2018 and 2019 our local practitioners came from contexts across the globe. Apply for a fully funded spot for next year's course at hhi.harvard.edu.

Overview

# Monitoring and Evaluation for Humanitarian Programs Workshop



**People** 

**Phuong Pham Course Director** HHI

Vandana Sharma **Course Instructor** HHI

**Patrick Vinck** Course Instructor HHI

Samuel Plasmati Manager

An overview of the basic principles and methodologies for program monitoring and evaluation with emphasis on practical application for humanitarian researchers and practitioners.

The course provides conceptual, quantitative and qualitative frameworks for mixed methods use in program monitoring and evaluation.





Starting in summer 2018, the Professional Education Workshops increased global impact by expanding internationally to serve humanitarian students in Shanghai, China and Brussels, Belgium. Running courses in these locations helped HHI reach humanitarian practitioners who otherwise would be unable to access trainings.

Overview

## Remote Sensing for Humanitarian Programs Workshop



**People** 

Rob Baker Course Director HHI

> Isaac Baker Instructor HHI

Gregg Greenough Instructor HHI

Caitlin Howarth Instructor HHI

Saira Khan Instructor HHI Samuel Plasmati Manager The Remote Sensing for Humanitarian Programs Workshop is designed to equip participants with the necessary expertise to manage, design, and utilize geospatial technologies in humanitarian emergencies. Through lecture, tech demos and practical exercises, participants learn how to process and analyze satellite imagery and GIS datasets that pertain to humanitarian crises.





In 2019, the Professional Education Workshops reported its greatest reach yet, serving over 150 practitioners from over 50 countries. To date, the workshops have trained over 1000 students and professionals from across the globe.

Overview

## Urban Humanitarian Emergencies Course



**People** 

Stephanie Kayden Course Director HHI

David Sanderson Instructor UNSW Australia

> Ronak Patel Instructor HHI

Samuel Plasmati Manager Humanitarians and populations affected by crises increasingly find themselves in urban settings, complicated physical layouts, unprepared institutions and infrastructure, and mixed target populations of refugees and underserved communities. The Urban Humanitarian Emergencies Course trains humanitarian professionals on current issues and best practices involved in this ever-expanding and unique area of research and practice.





#### **Future Focus**

The Urban Humanitarian Emergencies Course thinks critically about how cities operate in crisis, especially in the face of climate emergency and pandemics with the added focus on the evolving nature of humanitarian migration.

Overview

# NNPHL: National NGO Program on Humanitarian Leadership



**People** 

Vincenzo Bollettino Program Director

Ariana Marnicio Program Manager

Sarah Schwartz
Program Coordinator

Consortium:
Concern Worldwide

International Medical Corps

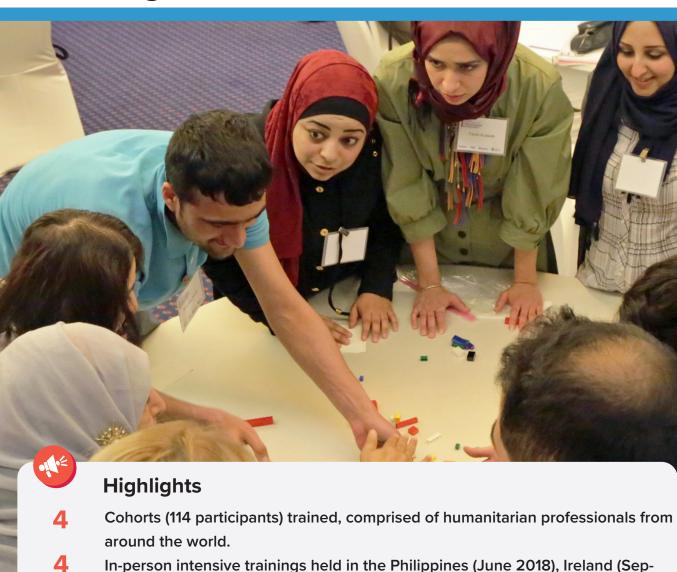
The National NGO Program on Humanitarian Leadership (NN-PHL) offers dynamic and relevant training opportunities that help humanitarians build their skills, knowledge, and confidence to take on leadership responsibilities to improve delivery of services to those in need. NNPHL is an innovative blended-learning leadership training program for national and local humanitarian practitioners that combines in-person and online learning.

## National NGO Program on HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP

NNPHL uses a regional approach that focuses on national staff and provides training at no cost to the participants. NNPHL has recently launched the NNPHL Online Course, an e-learning platform that delivers open-access leadership training to humanitarians and all those passionate about humanitarian action.

#### Learn More

NNPHL.org/online



tember 2018), Jordan (March 2019), and Kenya (July 2019).

## HHI Education - Online Education

Overview

## BBR: Building A Better Response



People

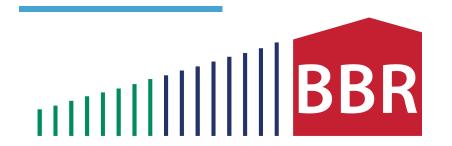
**Stacie Constantian Program Delivery** Manager

**Aaron Van Leesten Media Production Specialist** 

Consortium:

Concern Worldwide

International **Medical Corps**  The "Building a Better Response (BBR): Strengthening Capacity for Coordination in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies" project is an online training that aims to strengthen the capacity of humanitarian actors to engage with the international humanitarian coordination system during complex humanitarian emergencies, and to improve coordination and response to the needs of affected populations.



#### **BBR** includes:

- A 6-unit online certificate course in English, French, and Arabic.
- 70 + links to essential resources and training tools freely available to aid workers.
- A webcast series with nearly 30 short lessons.
- A downloadable curriculum manuscript in 9 languages, and curriculum for 1, 2, and 3-day workshops, that has been rolled out to 1,500 participants from every region of the world.

#### **Learn More**

http://buildingabetterresponse.org/



## HHI Education - Online Education

Overview

## HumanitarianX on edX: Humanitarian Response to Conflict & Disaster



People

Michael VanRooyen HHI Faculty Lead

Katie Farineau Teaching Assistant This course from the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative and HarvardX seeks to prepare learners to recognize and analyze emerging challenges in the humanitarian field. The course explores the ethical and professional principles that guide humanitarian response to conflict and disaster.



#### **About the course:**

Through four case studies covering the responses to crises in Goma (Zaire), Somalia, the Balkans, Afghanistan and Pakistan, participants engage with Harvard faculty, current practitioners, and one another. Cases focus on major trends affecting humanitarian response. Participants may become better informed and aware humanitarian practitioners, scholars, policy-makers, and global citizens.

#### **Learn More**

https://www.edx.org/course/humanitarian-response-to-conflict-and-disaster



## HHI Fiscal Year 2019 in Review

## Finances



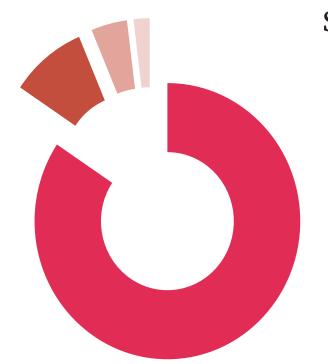
People

Susan Tannehill Interim Executive Director

Brendan Kelley
Project and
Administrative
Coordinator

Marsha Scott
Assistant
Director of
Finance
GHP

Source	Amount
Sponsored Awards, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Pub- lic Health & Brigham and Women's Hospital Emergency Department	\$4, 487,929
Professional Education	\$494,011
Endowments	\$223,417
Gifts and Other Revenue	\$103, 873
TOTAL	\$5,319,230





- Sponsored Awards | Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Brigham and Women's Emergency Department
- Professional Education
- Endowments
- Gifts and Other Revenue

HHI is extremely lucky to have generous donors who support both research and educational endeavors, including a named professorship for HHI's director, Dr. Michael VanRooyen. The Offices of External Relations and Sponsored Program Administration as well as the Department of Global Health and Population at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health support the management of gifts and sponsored awards.

Additionally, HHI sponsored awards are executed via Brigham and Women's Hospital as most HHI core faculty are both professors at Harvard Medical School and clinicians in the Emergency Department at Brigham and Women's Hospital, where Dr. Van Rooyen is the Chair of Emergency Medicine.