THE HARVARD FXB CENTER ENVISIONS A WORLD THAT FULFILLS THE HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLES AND PROTECTS THEM FROM INJUSTICES IMPOSED BY DISCRIMINATION, POVERTY, CONFLICT, AND DISASTER.
Dear colleagues,

In the two years since our last report, the major issues that drive our work have become more prominent and more exiguous. As of 2018, one of every 110 people on earth is either an asylum seeker, refugee, or internally displaced. The calamitous wars in Syria and Yemen, the ferocity of the Myanmar regime against its Rohingya citizens, extreme environmental volatility brought about by climate change, increasing political polarity and austerity in many countries, and a host of other sociopolitical issues have overwhelmed national and international systems created to ensure stability and protection for the world’s people.

In these years, the François-Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University (Harvard FXB) has sought to leverage its research and policy efforts to address three core program priorities: Child Protection, Distress Migration, and War and Crisis Studies. Within these areas we have pursued and published research and promoted pedagogy to explore and respond to the pressures now pushing millions of people into intensifying zones of inequity and insecurity.

In the last two years we have seen the systematic expulsion and ethnic targeting of the Rohingya in Myanmar; the murder of innocent civilians and healthcare workers and the burden of a now seven-year war in Syria; widespread livelihoods destruction caused by extreme weather uprooting millions across the Americas and Asia. We have investigated the sexual exploitation of refugee children in Greece and the holes in the protection framework for vulnerable civilians who are fleeing war and moving throughout the Mediterranean basin and across Europe. We have promoted dignity and equity for those, like the Roma people and others, who are oppressed by stigma or poverty across the world.

With issues so diverse and massive, we have aimed to be more nimble in our ability to address the ever-changing human rights landscape by bolstering our use of data science. In this information-rich era, early detection, early understanding, and early decision are pivotal in efforts to prevent or mitigate major crises, including outbreaks of mass atrocity.

In 2018, we have begun work on a number of important projects across the spectrum of our center’s research areas. With a team of collaborators, we investigated the effects of the devastation of Hurricane Maria on the island of Puerto Rico. In partnership with The Lancet and the American University of Beirut, we are investigating the burden of the ongoing war in Syria and the related refugee issues among neighboring countries. Projects are underway to examine the health and needs of refugees and host populations in Bangladesh, Lebanon, Greece, Ecuador, and elsewhere.

As we look toward the next phase for Harvard FXB, we find ourselves poised to be key leaders and collaborators in the rigorous investigation of the most serious threats to health and wellbeing globally. We celebrate the partnership with all of our colleagues across Harvard and the world and we thank the donors and supporters who have made our urgent work possible.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Leaning, MD, SMH
The Harvard FXB Center engages in research that focuses on three main areas of humanitarian need: Child Protection, Distress Migration, and War and Conflict Studies.

### CHILD PROTECTION
- Children on the Move
- Emergency Within an Emergency
- Médecins du Monde Greece Partnership
- UNHCR Refugee Youth Studies
- Harm Prevention in India
- Roma Program

### DISTRESS MIGRATION
- Rohingya Program
- Harvard - BRAC Research Partnership
- Disaster Preparedness in Hong Kong
- Repatriation Project

### WAR & CRISIS STUDIES
- Syria/Burden of War
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### PEDAGOGY

### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### FXB FACULTY, STAFF, & AFFILIATES
CHILD PROTECTION
Children on the move (CoM) refers to a broad category of children that travel within or between countries for a variety of reasons. Their journey may or may not be voluntary. Children on the move may be seeking employment and educational opportunities, escaping war and political violence, seeking reunification with family, or being forcibly trafficked. They travel alone or with family members, and may be classified as refugees, internally displaced persons, unaccompanied children/minors, or voluntary migrants.

**Program Goals**

Develop Recommendations for More Effective Policies
Our Children on the Move program seeks to influence the development of legal, social, cultural, and educational policies directly affecting children on the move. Insofar as the policies enforce human rights and have implications for social justice, integration, and child protection, they will also benefit those whose lives intersect with migrant children in origin, transit, and destination states.

Promote A Rights-Respecting Approach
The dominant approach to conflict prevention, migration and child protection, in both policy and practice, is siloed and incomplete. The project works to replace this approach with rights-respecting measures for CoM across national borders and within countries.

Promote Enforcement
The project also aims to promote systemic approaches to enforce the rights and wellbeing of children and young people affected by migration and who are at risk of violence, exploitation, marginalization, and deprivation.

**Our Approach**

In 2016, legal and policy approaches to CoM were compiled in a framing review, supplemented by a review of issues on sexual abuse and exploitation of CoM. Together with seven cases that illustrate the risks faced by CoM in different contexts, these efforts were published in the report, Children on the Move.

Harvard FXB performed substantial policy work in developing “Principles and Guidelines regarding Children on the Move.” These guidelines have been widely adopted and are influencing discussions related to the UN’s Global Compact for Migration.
In April 2017, the FXB Center released the report, Emergency Within an Emergency, on sexual abuse and exploitation of migrant children caught up in the recent massive flows of displaced people. Focusing on the most critical and acute phenomena of our time, the study explored the severe child protection challenges that migrant children face as they enter Europe through Greece, a key transit point of distress migration. This primary research documented the alarming patterns of their exploitation and abuse and revealed the risk factors driving their exploitation. The study also catalogued a series of significant gaps in both government and non-government response to the crisis and concluded with grassroots recommendations geared to public, private, and non-profit stakeholders operationally active in protecting migrant children and preventing their harm.

The report received significant media exposure, mobilizing discussions across countries, continents, and societal strata, essentially mainstreaming a previously “taboo” topic for policy makers and highlighting the current situation as evidence of a migration crisis, and also a crisis in child protection. Dissemination efforts culminated with a series of dialogues with key political and humanitarian stakeholders in Greece, where the need for a more robust and rights-based protection approach for children were discussed.

The findings of this study have paved the way for a series of upcoming research studies on migrant child protection.

MÉDECINS DU MONDE GREECE PARTNERSHIP

Leveraging the global impact of the Emergency within an Emergency report, the Harvard FXB Center in late 2017 launched a collaboration with Médecins du Monde Greece to develop and implement a pioneering program to train service providers working with unaccompanied migrant children on mechanisms and techniques to bridge the protection gaps of that uniquely vulnerable population.

This research project will train service providers to give voice to migrant children and encourage their agency in order to 1) incentivize their decision making and stimulate their resilience and, at the same time, 2) inform and shape policy and national level programs designed to enhance migrant children’s rights while protecting them from exploitative practices.

The ultimate aim of this intervention is to develop an integrated toolkit for social service providers that promotes protection mechanisms and develops opportunities for unaccompanied migrant children. This toolkit is designed for deployment throughout Europe, given that challenges facing Greek social service workers are similar in nature to those faced in Italy, Spain, Malta, Bulgaria and other European states.
STUDIES ON REFUGEE YOUTH IN ECUADOR AND ZAMBIA WITH UNHCR

Over sixty percent of the world’s 21.3 million refugees now live in urban areas, over half of whom are children. This requires a fundamental rethink of humanitarian strategies to meet their needs and of strategies traditionally designed for the challenges of refugee camps. The rethink also demands a corresponding shift in the emphasis of researchers. In 2016, Harvard FXB completed data collection on two studies that constituted UNHCR’s first systematic effort to understand the impact of its protection work with adolescent refugees living in cities. This project was conducted in two very different urban settings: in Lusaka, capital of Zambia, and in the cities of Quito and Lago Agrio, Ecuador.

Mixed methods research in both countries first sought to define and describe the existing protection system for urban adolescent refugees ages 15-19, and the role of UNHCR within that system. Second, the two projects assessed the effects of the existing protection system on the health and wellbeing of youth refugees by examining a wide range of indicators in the areas of education, livelihoods, psychosocial and physical health, home life, safety and violence, and knowledge and use of available programs.

Ecuador is host to Latin America’s largest refugee population. The country has a remarkably progressive approach to migration, which serves as a powerful counter-example to current global trends of border securitization and social exclusion of migrant populations. Nevertheless, study results demonstrate considerable room for improvement in how this progressive vision is realized in the lives of urban adolescent refugees in Ecuador. Problems persist, primarily in implementation of current law and policy, but also with program design. These are compounded by structural, social and political challenges relevant to this highly vulnerable and hidden group. Many refugee youth do not gain the education and skills that would allow them to flourish and contribute to Ecuadorian society. Many do not receive the necessary support to counteract mental and physical harm inflicted before, during, or after migration.

Unlike Ecuador, Zambia has an official encampment policy that restricts most of the country’s estimated 57,000 refugees to settlements. It limits the number allowed in urban areas, and criminalizes those who move to the city without the required permissions. Zambian law limits refugees’ rights to elementary education and wage-earning work. The Harvard FXB study found that the protection system for youth refugees living in Lusaka has highly limited reach and visibility. There are stark differences across nearly all outcomes for those youth living in the city with required permissions, and those without. The restrictive legal and policy framework, combined with pervasive discrimination in the public and private spheres, compound to violate refugees’ rights and stifle their long-term contributions to Zambian society.
HARM PREVENTION IN INDIA

The Understanding Prevention project explores community-level strategies in India for preventing child abuse, exploitation and neglect. Despite the well-documented limitations of post-harm programs to address and eliminate serious violations of children’s rights, there has been little rigorous academic research to date that examines the crucial importance of targeted, community-level child protection initiatives that seek to prevent such harm before it occurs.

This research addresses that gap. The project intends to document and assess the harm prevention strategies of three successful and well-regarded Indian nonprofits: MV Foundation, Aangan Trust, and Child In Need Institute (CINI). The aim is to develop evidence that will guide policy development, and make the case for increased investment in community-level preventative programs, as well as to develop rigorous research methods that can be used to evaluate these programs: a “prevention science” that will spark further research in this field.

The study separately evaluates the operations of all three nonprofit organizations, as well as the results that they achieve for vulnerable children, their families, and various child protection stakeholders. Each case study will collect data from an intervention and a comparison site, and include a representative quantitative survey with children and primary caregivers, as well as qualitative interviews with all relevant stakeholders (including policemen, teachers, healthcare workers, elected representatives, and civil servants).

Data collection for the evaluation of the first nonprofit, Aangan Trust, was completed in February 2018. Resulting analysis will critically unpack what “prevention” means for each of these organizations and synthesize findings: commonalities and differences in approach, as well key lessons for successful prevention programs and challenges experienced.

The second stage of this project, conducted in collaboration with UNICEF and government, will involve using this research to design targeted training tools for relevant categories of local stakeholders that are central to community-based prevention programs, and to work with government officials to incorporate this research into budgeting and priority-setting. This project is also being conducted with the support of Harvard Global, the South Asia Institute at Harvard, Tata Trust, and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences.
The goals of the Roma Program are to move Romani studies away from the margins of academic interest and toward a central place in social and political theory; and to stimulate multidisciplinary, multi-thematic, and multi-regional research. We seek to place Roma rights on academic and policy agendas in the United States and elsewhere by amplifying the voices of established and emerging Romani scholars and leaders through research, events, and publications.

ROMANI CHAMPIONS: 2015-2017

The Romani Champions project continued a partnership between the Harvard FXB Center and the Center for Interactive Pedagogy, in which the two organizations implemented both the Reclaiming Adolescence Project, a participatory action research initiative with Romani and non-Romani youth in Serbia, and the Romani Champions project in Serbia in 2015-2016.

Building off of the community strengths and needs recognized in the Reclaiming Adolescence project, Romani Champions added a different approach. While maintaining the participatory element of the previous project, Romani Champions also partially shifted the focus from addressing obstacles to investigating drivers of success and factors of resilience. The project partners aimed to identify the triggers that have enabled those very few “champions” to succeed in enrolling into a university (1% of Roma youth reach university), despite the discrimination they faced, and despite the limited social mobility of their community.

The activities were implemented in four university cities in Serbia: Belgrade, Novi Sad, Kragujevac, and Nis. Using a mixed-methods approach, Harvard FXB examined the triggers that have enabled 100 Romani adolescents to succeed and examined the differences between these students and similarly located 100 Romani adolescents who have not made it to college. Four Roma students were recruited as members of the research team and three as mentors, with the purpose of continuing our participatory approach to the discipline of Roma-related research. Results from this study appeared in the Harvard Educational Review in the summer of 2017.

CULTURE BEYOND BORDERS: THE ROMA CONTRIBUTION, APRIL 9-10, 2017

The Harvard FXB Center hosted the Fifth Annual Roma Conference at Harvard University, Culture Beyond Borders: The Roma Contribution, to mark International Roma Day. While previous events have centered on social, political, and legal issues, the 2017 conference added a new emphasis to the discussion by documenting and contextualizing Roma creative and artistic achievement across a range of domains.

REALIZING ROMA RIGHTS

Continuing the tradition of publishing event proceedings, in 2017, the University of Pennsylvania published Realizing Roma Rights, an edited volume of papers from the 2015 conference:


Realizing Roma Rights inquires, from the standpoint of a range of different disciplinary and professional perspectives, why the Roma minority continues to face issues of discrimination and stigmatization, and concomitant deprivations across a range of central socio-economic indicators, including education, child mortality, nutrition, and poverty. A primary goal of the book is to promote reflection on historical and contemporary Roma marginalization and to correct the invisibility of Roma issues in current social and political theory. The book also contextualizes Roma policy formulation and its implementation within a broader governance and accountability discourse.

As a collaborative project, the volume targets both academic and policy audiences, as well as non-legal advocates, civil society organizations, and Roma institutions across a range of contexts. Its goal is to generate a rich intellectual exchange between differently positioned scholars while at the same time stimulating creative policy initiatives and experiments by those charged with governance.
DISTRESS MIGRATION
ROHINGYA PROGRAM

The Rohingya people of Myanmar have been forced out of their homeland by state-sponsored campaigns of discrimination and violence and have been pushed to find refuge in Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, and other countries. Since August 2017, the latest wave of aggression resulted in an influx of 700,000 refugees into Bangladesh alone.

In an effort to identify needs, the Harvard FXB Center has been leading a mixed-methods survey of the Rohingya population in Bangladesh. The project team interviewed more than our target of 265 people and the information from this significant geographically based cluster sample is on track to provide the most in-depth understanding of the plight of the Rohingya in Bangladesh yet developed in any setting for any audience.

In a separate effort from the Bangladesh study, executive director Arlan Fuller and FXB director Jennifer Leaning joined colleagues from Harvard Medical School to publish a December 2016 article in The Lancet on the persecution of Rohingya. The article, which reported health access and outcomes were consistently worse for Rohingya than for other populations in Myanmar, received widespread media attention.

Additionally, the FXB Center has remained engaged with key stakeholders as new waves of thousands of Rohingya are attempting to flee persecution in Myanmar and cross the border into Bangladesh. In doing so, the Center has been vocal about the plight of the Rohingya through its social media platforms, such as the FXB Center blog, Facebook page, and Twitter account.

HARVARD-BRAC RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

The Harvard FXB Center has partnered with BRAC, the Bangladeshi-based international nongovernmental organization, to support an interdisciplinary team of researchers from Harvard and Bangladesh. The objective is to examine a range of issues facing vulnerable populations in and around South Asia. The partnership provides a platform for collaborative participatory research driven by regional needs.

Current projects are focused on the Rohingya forced migration crisis, encompassing a wide range of topics, including outbreak surveillance modeling, social network analysis, economic integration, resettlement policies, public health impact, and others.

FXB RAPID ASSESSMENTS

In March 2018, researchers at BRAC and Harvard FXB conducted a rapid assessment household survey among 800 Rohingya and the local host communities in Ukhaa and Teknaf. The study underscored the alarmingly low levels of vaccination among the Rohingya in Myanmar, the high mortality rate among young men, the larger number of female-headed households in the Rohingya families, and the low levels of literacy and skills among them—all of which impact planning education services and livelihoods integration for the hundreds of thousands that have migrated in the last year.

FXB - BRAC FOCUS GROUP STUDIES

Our research teams will conduct in-depth focus group discussions with the Rohingya to understand their needs, priorities and expectations around integration, repatriation, livelihoods, education and the future for their families and their children. Following a pilot phase, the study is expected to be administered through July 2018.

COLLABORATION WITH THE CENTER FOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASE DYNAMICS

Professor Caroline Buckee, Dr. Ayesha Mahmud and others (in collaboration with Dr. Balsari et al. at the FXB Center) will work with researchers in Bangladesh to pilot a data standardization and interoperability platform on a specific monsoon-related disease outbreak for sharing data during public health emergencies. The first team-wide meeting supported by the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Studies is scheduled for June 2018.
Asia experiences more natural disasters than any other region. Compounding the issues of urban density and infrastructure, Asia’s vulnerability to earthquakes, typhoons, and major floods requires that significant financial and human resources for emergency preparedness and response each year.

Launched in August 2014, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Disaster Preparedness and Response Institute (HKJCDPRI) aims to strengthen capacity in the Asia Pacific region and close the gap between best evidence and implementation in disaster response and preparedness at individual, community, and organizational levels. As part of a multi-institute collaboration between the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM), the Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK (CCOUC), and Hong Kong University (HKU), the Harvard FXB Center led the development of advanced training curricula, rigorous research, and policy focused on the impacts of disaster in Asia. Harvard FXB developed five case studies to promote learning of best practices in disaster response, all of which are now taught in Hong Kong or here at home, at Harvard, in the Societal Response to Disaster and War course, taught by Professor Leaning and Dr. Bahari. These documents are open access and available for download from the HKDPRI website (http://www.hkjcdpri.org.hk/)

1. On Shaky Ground: Disaster Preparedness and Response in Nepal (October 2015)

2. Fukushima Daiichi: The Path to Nuclear Meltdown (January 2016)

3. The Surge After the Storm: The Impact of Hurricane Sandy on Hospitals in New York City (April 2016)

4. Preventing the Preventable: 2015 Tianjin Explosions (February 2017)


Following an extensive survey-based research project that included consultations with Hong Kong’s senior bureaucrats and first responders, Harvard FXB faculty led the writing and publication of the following reports:

- Disaster Preparedness in Hong Kong: A Scoping Study (November 2015)
- Community Engagement in Disaster Planning and Response: Recommendations for Hong Kong (October 2015)
- HKJCDPRI Center of Excellence in Disaster Training and Response: Forging a Collaborative Regionally-Focused and Community-Centric Agenda (April 2016)
- Responding to Mental Health Needs in Disasters: Recommendations for Policy and Practice in Hong Kong (May 2016)
- Improving Urban Health System Disaster Preparedness and Response in Hong Kong: Lessons from Complex Disasters (August 2017).

This two-and-a-half-year-long project concluded in 2017 and laid the foundation for an ongoing partnership with researchers from Hong Kong and China, led by FXB fellows Professor Emily Chan and Dr. Elizabeth Newnham.
The Harvard FXB Center is acutely aware of recent trends in European migration policy and their impact on the lives and wellbeing of displaced migrants. Of particular concern to the Center is the growing practice of repatriation of migrant children and youth trapped in the Mediterranean basin as a result of exclusionary EU migration policies, and its impact on durable migration solutions.

Since December 2017, the FXB Center has been developing an action-research project intended to generate an empirical evidence base to assess the impact of repatriation on the lives of affected migrants. In collaboration with UNICEF and the International Organization for Migration, agencies intricately involved in both the return process and the subsequent protection of returned children, the FXB Center is participating in a pilot study to lay the foundation for a broader study across five Western African repatriation countries. Through interviews with repatriated children, governmental actors, and agencies in the field, the study will document the nature, reasons and dangers of the migration journey, the conditions children faced while in Libya, the modalities of repatriation, the circumstances that children find themselves in their home countries, and the capacities of the countries of origin to protect and re-integrate these children.

The ultimate goal is to document the impact of European and international policies on distress child migrants fleeing conflict, abuse or destitution in their countries of origin. Building on this evidence base, the Harvard FXB Center will generate an empirical case for the development of sound, rights protective policies and recommendations for child migrants in the region, responsive to the views of the children themselves and their aspirations for a dignified and fulfilling life, at a time of lively discussion of the global migration framework.
The Harvard FXB Center’s work on the Syrian refugee crisis grows directly out of the Center’s long-standing efforts to bring the perspective of human rights to populations affected by disasters and war. Since 2013, Harvard FXB faculty experts from law, medicine and the humanities have traveled frequently to the region (to Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, and Greece) to highlight the impact of war (and inaction) on children and families, now and in the future, as the conflict continues on with no end in sight.

The Lancet and the American University of Beirut in 2017 launched the Lancet-AUB Commission on the War in Syria, chaired by Professor Iman Nuwayhid, Dean of the AUB Faculty of Health Sciences. As one of the two co-chairs of this Commission (Dr. Samer Jabbour of AUB is the other), FXB Professor Jennifer Leaning has worked with the secretariat at AUB and a technical team established at the Harvard FXB Center to develop the evidence base for the impact of the war in Syria and throughout the region. The aim of the Commission is to describe, analyze, and interrogate the calamity of the Syrian War through a public health lens. Major topics include the burden of war on those inside Syria, the work of the formal and informal health systems, the effectiveness of the international response to the humanitarian and political crisis, and policy options for next steps.

The Commission is in the final stages of its deliberations, with the report due out in November 2018.

The Syrian conflict has drastically changed the society of its neighbor, Lebanon. An estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees flooded into Lebanon from 2011 until the Lebanese Government closed the border in 2015. As a result, the Syrian refugee crisis places an extraordinary burden on the Lebanese social system, and on the health system in particular.

Under the leadership of Dr. Jennifer Leaning, the FXB Center supported a comprehensive evaluation of women and children’s access to primary health care (PHC) and its utilization among catchment populations served by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)-supported health structures in Lebanon. This mixed-methods study was performed in the summer of 2017. A quantitative component consisting of a household-based survey and a clinic-based survey attempted to ascertain the extent that targeted beneficiaries were utilizing the available health care services in ICRC-supported PHC structures in Lebanon. A qualitative component, including focus group discussions within the local Lebanese community and among Syrian refugees, further explored the specific barriers to utilization of care for women and children.

Overall, more than 1595 respondents participated in the study between the household survey, clinic survey, and focus group discussions. The findings have provided a compelling argument for a holistic approach to strengthening the health system in order to deal with large refugee flows. While health outcomes for Syrian refugees were often worse, it was clear that the refugees and local host communities were both in great need of health services, as well as other social support. The study report will be accessible online by fall 2018.
FXB INTERSECT

As an interdisciplinary team, Harvard FXB Intersect examines cutting-edge issues at the intersection of medicine, data science, technology and the law. Drawing on researchers from across the University, FXB Intersect adopts a multi-faceted approach to exploring contemporary challenges in health delivery and human rights advocacy the world over. FXB Intersect is currently focused on leveraging the power of (big) health data, cloud-based analytics, and mHealth devices to advance healthcare delivery in resource poor settings.

THE 3T PROJECT
The 3T (Training, Task-shifting, Technology) Program was launched at both rural and urban primary healthcare centers (PHC) in Maharashtra. After an early needs assessment, we established a research partnership with Seth GS Medical College and MAHAN Trust in 2017.

Also in 2017, we introduced a basic digital epidemiological counter at the Malwani Urban Health Center to map the diurnal and seasonal variations in presentations to the clinic. These trends helped establish the top ten diseases for which we are now developing standardized primary care clinical pathways, based on global standards, national guidelines, and local practice. Each protocol will combine task-shifting with mHealth devices and apps to optimize care outcomes. We are developing an API-enabled digital PHC health platform to track epidemiology, demography, and practice patterns. Through a participatory design approach, clinical providers will observe and improve on their prescription practices, with a particular focus on antibiotics. This project aims to develop standardized protocols for the Health and Wellness Clinics being developed by the National Health Protection Scheme.

INDIA HEALTH DATA NET
FXB Intersect leads a university-wide multi-center partnership, in collaboration with iSPIRT, the engineers of the Universal Payment Interface in India (India’s financial tech spine), to advance digital health data standardization, interoperability, and accessibility in India. This partnership includes a series of projects spanning the entire healthcare ecosystem, including primary care centers, tertiary hospitals, and large research centers. Key Harvard faculty include Professor Tarun Khanna (HBS), Professor Barbara Bierer (HMS), Professor Ken Mandl (HMS), Professor John Halamka (HMS), Dr Merce Crosas (IQSS), Dr Leo Celi (MIT), Dr. Caroline Buckee (Harvard Chan), and others.

PUERTO RICO ALL-CAUSE MORTALITY STUDY
To determine the impact of Hurricane Maria on mortality in Puerto Rico, FXB Intersect conducted a household-based study there, in collaboration with Professor Caroline Buckee’s data lab at the Center for Communicable Disease Dynamics (Harvard Chan), FXB Fellow Dr. Jay Lemery of the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and others at Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health and Carlos Albizu University. The team adopted sophisticated geospatial mapping and analytic sampling techniques to select a statistically robust and representative sample of over 3000 households. The study’s publication in the New England Journal of Medicine in May 2018 received a great deal of attention in the US press. The study’s findings suggest that official estimates seriously undercounted hurricane-related deaths, that suffering continued long after the end of the hurricane, and that about one third of the deaths arose from lack of healthcare access.
The Child Protection Certificate program offers Harvard graduate students the opportunity to obtain an interdisciplinary certificate in the field. The program expanded in 2017-2018 to incorporate a mandatory biweekly seminar series designed to enable candidates to consolidate their understanding of the child protection field, in both the domestic and international arenas, through exchange with invited expert speakers and mentorship by senior child practitioners. CPC candidates had the opportunity to interact with, and learn from, speakers such as Cornelius Williams, the Associate Director and Global Chief of Child Protection for UNICEF’s Programme Division; Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children; and Sherry Lachman, founder of Foster America. Students were also encouraged to share their child protection research and experiences and engage with their peers.

Candidates participating in the Child Protection Certificate Program select from over fifty courses across Harvard graduate schools and must successfully complete a set, distributed across five multidisciplinary domains relevant to the complex field, including protection for children against violence, children in conflict or in contact with the law, social change and family strengthening, and leadership skills such as advocacy and negotiation.

This year we added a networking framework, the “Child Protection Connection.” Candidates were assigned to small groups, randomized by graduate school, gender, and national origin to allow for maximum cross-pollination of learning, idea sharing, and lifetime networking opportunities.

Over the past year, in addition to the enhancements to the Child Protection Certificate curriculum, the Harvard FXB Child Protection program has expanded to reach a broader audience. Two key developments have been the creation of an open-access online course (HarvardX), and an intensive Child Protection Executive Education course.

The HarvardX course, “Introduction to Global Child Protection: Concepts, Law, Policy and Practice,” will launch in autumn 2018, and will be accessible and free online to interested participants around the globe. It is expected to attract 1,000+ participants during its debut, and is intentionally designed to reach a broad audience of multiple disciplines and levels of expertise.

The Child Protection Executive Education course, also in development with a planned inaugural launch in June of 2018, is a one-week in-residence course designed as a pilot for UNICEF child protection professionals and their national counterparts, with the intent to expand to participation to other international and domestic agencies active in child protection work. This course will offer mid-career professionals a rigorous curriculum aimed at strengthening participants’ capacity to develop and manage integrated, multidisciplinary protection systems that provide a holistic response to children threatened with violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, and deprivation of liberty.

In September 2016, HarvardX launched “Humanitarian Response to Conflict and Disaster,” an online course focused on the principles guiding humanitarian response to modern emergencies. Co-taught by Center director Jennifer Leaning and Harvard Humanitarian Initiative director Michael Van Royen, the course has proven very popular, with more than 16,000 students from 188 countries enrolling in the initial offering.

In May 2018, HarvardX will offer the course for the third time.
Harvard FXB is developing case studies on armed conflict and state oppression through the lens of applicability of international humanitarian and human rights law. This initiative aims to prepare graduate students, humanitarian professionals, and international agency officials to assess and analyze the legal aspects embedded in the strategic problems and operational choices they face when initiating and conducting humanitarian support to affected populations in crisis settings.

In ten case studies, we highlight questions raised within the context of international humanitarian and human rights law and the Refugee Convention regarding obligations of humanitarian actors to provide support to civilians faced with violence meted out by their own state against them; or fleeing a state to seek protection in neighboring or more distant countries. Our selection also provokes legal consideration of weapons not yet considered in Hague Law, such as drones; the possible sanctions to take regarding the use of prohibited weapons, such as chemical warfare; and the scope of humanitarian action to take in instance of use of force by a state in situations that may not rise to the definition of Additional Protocol II. We look at past and present situations in Syria, the United States, India, Europe, and the Balkans.

FXB Field Education Internship (FXB FEI) provides an opportunity for Harvard students to expand their knowledge and field experience in community development, health, and human rights for impoverished and marginalized populations, and to contribute to an agency’s program capacity building, advocacy, and public policy. The FXB FEI consists of qualitative and participatory action research.

The program is focused on fostering a community of learning. Summer internships in eight countries aim to use qualitative research to open a dialog between community networks and stakeholders locally and internationally. At the end of their research internship students will share their findings and recommendations with practitioners through community meetings/seminars and a written report, as well as potential publications. All participants will take part in pre-departure workshops during the spring semester before commencing their work abroad, consisting of workshops and two months in the field.
The Harvard FXB Center’s Health and Human Rights Journal is now entering its 24th year of publication. Since its start in 1994 it has been a leading journal in its field and this is now reflected by its steadily increasing impact factor and volume of articles.

The number of papers in each of the twice yearly editions of the journal has been steady rising over the past years. In the past two years average issue size has been between 25 and 30 articles. The Journal carries special sections in each edition, in addition to its general papers. These sections feature global leaders as guest editors. Topics over the past two years include: Romani People and the Right to Health with FXB’s Jacqueline Bhabha and Magda Mateche, and Teresa Sorde Marti; HIV and Human Rights, with UNAIDS; Abortion and Human Rights with Alicia Ely Yamin (Georgetown University), Paola Bergallo and Marge Berer; Universal Health Coverage and Human Rights with Audrey Chapman (University of Connecticut), and TB and Human Rights with the Chicago Law School.

The December 2017 section on HIV and Human Rights has a French translation also published online, and print editions in French and English – a first for the Journal, thanks to UNAIDS support.

The Journal underwent a re-design in December 2017. Its new look has a dynamic landing page with rotating images linking to recently published papers and articles. In addition to the twice yearly editions, papers are published online as papers-in-press when they complete the editorial and production processes, and blogs are uploaded regularly. These provide readers with opportunities to stay up-to-date with important events and news in the global health and human rights arena. The Journal engages with its global following through social media – Facebook and Twitter – on a daily basis.

HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS JOURNAL

Young academics are encouraged to publish in the Journal through blogs as well as an annual essay competition. The latter provides outstanding students with the opportunity to have their work published in an academic forum.

The Impact Factor has attained a score of 1.51 in 2017 – up from 1.0 in 2015. In the June 2017 release of Thomson Reuters Impact Factor results, the journal attained its first five-year impact factor, with a score of 1.453.

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BOOKS


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