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Harvard School of Public Health
Francois-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights

Founded through support of the Association François-Xavier Bagnoud
The François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights was founded at the Harvard School of Public Health in January 1993. The Center considers the promotion and protection of health and the promotion and protection of human rights to be inextricably linked. The Center is dedicated to exploring the conceptual dimensions and practical applications of this critical relationship. Through its concentrated focus on the intersection of health and human rights, the Center also seeks to help revitalize the field of public health and broaden human rights thinking and practice.

The Harvard School of Public Health includes more than 200 faculty members working in various disciplines of public health. The overriding mission of the School—to advance the public’s health through learning and discovery—comprises four objectives: to educate scientists, professionals, and leaders in public health; to foster new discoveries and develop better technologies for improved health of individuals and populations; to inform and influence debate on key public health issues; and to strengthen capacities and services that meet health needs in the community.

The Association François-Xavier Bagnoud currently supports worldwide programs in humanitarian assistance, aerospace research for the benefit of people, and community life in the Swiss canton of Valais. Humanitarian assistance focuses on children’s rights—especially the right to medical care—of children who are orphaned, abandoned, or sick, many of whom have AIDS or are HIV-infected. Projects are located in Thailand, India, Switzerland, Kenya, Uganda, Uruguay, Colombia, and the United States. The Association François-Xavier Bagnoud bears the name of a young Swiss helicopter rescue pilot who died in a helicopter accident while flying over the desert in Mali in 1986.
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