



Harvard Humanitarian Initiative— Building Better Humanitarian Responses



The Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) brings together Harvard faculty, students, and alumni with governments and non-governmental organizations to relieve human suffering in war and disaster and to further the science, practice, and professional development of humanitarian emergency response worldwide.

Challenges of Natural and Man-made Disasters

Humanitarian emergencies, including wars, refugee crises, and large-scale natural disasters, often beget untold civilian suffering, human and environmental degradation, disease, and famine.

NATURAL DISASTERS

- Intensity and frequency of major natural disasters is increasing, from 100 per year in the 1970s, to more than 500 currently—due mostly to global warming.
- In the 1990s, large-scale natural disasters affected 200 million people yearly.
- The 2005 Southeast Asian tsunami affected over 2.4 million people, leaving over 286,000 dead and more than 7,000 missing.
- The 2005 Pakistan earthquake left 53,000 dead, 75,000 injured, and 3.3 million homeless.

CONFLICTS/WARS

- The number of conflicts/wars from 1990 to 2003 ranged from 18 to 40 per year, with the majority in Africa and Asia.
- 95 percent of war-related deaths are civilians.
- With forced migration now a prevalent feature of war, persons forced to move within their own country now outnumber refugees.
- Currently there are 35 million people uprooted because of conflict and wars.



The Economics of Disaster

The loss of life combined with the mental, social, economic, and humanitarian havoc leaves an enduring scar across affected populations—and threatens the security of entire countries and regions.

- In the 1990s, \$6.3 billion was lost yearly around the world due to major natural disasters.
- In the wake of the Southeast Asian tsunami, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Somalia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand lost a combined \$250 million in their fisheries industries alone.
- In Indonesia, 700,000 people lost their homes due to the Southeast Asian tsunami.
- Hurricane Katrina had a strong effect on employment in Louisiana and Mississippi, depressing levels by about 232,000 and 58,000, respectively, through June 2006.
- Statistics suggest that every dollar invested in disaster preparedness yields savings of \$4–\$11 in disaster response, relief, and recovery.



HHI Impact

HHI has developed significant capacity to rapidly mobilize health and public health providers in crisis zones. Its strategic partnerships with major relief and development organizations help improve their capacity to provide, assess, and measure their services.

- HHI serves as a source for technical, research, and training assistance to more than 40 humanitarian agencies, including WHO, Oxfam, CARE, and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, through which HHI can reach 18,000 aid workers and over 1 billion recipients worldwide. (See “Global Partners” below.)

HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA

- HHI mobilized emergency public health experts in response to Katrina to develop and implement the emergency public health response for the American Red Cross (ARC) in numerous field posts.
- HHI deployed over 25 public health physicians to conduct epidemiologic and mental health assessments and surveillance of affected populations.

PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE

- HHI provided technical support for health systems reconstruction in the earthquake-ravaged Kashmir region, in partnership with the International Rescue Committee.

SOUTHEAST ASIAN TSUNAMI

- HHI physician-epidemiologists served as public health experts and as professional staff for the International Rescue Committee (IRC).
- HHI served as the academic reviewer of the Synthesis Report of the NGO Impact Initiative, commissioned by former U.S. President Bill Clinton as the UN Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN CRISES

- **Darfur:** HHI documented human rights abuses in partnership with Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), which published *PHR Calls for Intervention to Save Lives: Field Team Compiles Indicators of Genocide*.
- **Ethiopia and Somalia:** HHI partnered with Oxfam America to assess the humanitarian situation of large numbers of people displaced by ethnic conflict and drought in the Somali region of southern Ethiopia.
- **Angola:** HHI is analyzing the mental health and economic costs to Angolan families living in heavily land-mined areas as a result of the Angolan Civil War.

GLOBAL PARTNERS

Through strategic partnerships, Harvard conducts humanitarian response research and provides training and technical assistance to strengthen the ability of a broad range of international organizations to provide humanitarian relief. Partners include:

- World Health Organization
- American Red Cross
- Americares
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Doctors Without Borders/EpiCentre
- Physicians for Human Rights
- Save the Children
- Emergency
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- International Rescue Committee
- CARE
- Oxfam America
- Samaritan's Purse

Why Invest in Harvard School of Public Health

With its world-class talent, experience, and resources, HHI stands uniquely positioned to lead the charge in building better humanitarian response. HHI:

- Provides comprehensive programs in education and training; management and performance; research and evaluation; and policy development, tailored to meet the needs of professionals specializing in disciplines related to disaster relief.
- Unites experts from across the Harvard community with major relief and development organizations worldwide. (See “From Across Harvard.”)
- Maintains an impressive roster of seasoned public health professionals, physicians, epidemiologists, and disaster management experts who can be deployed to provide assistance, advice, and conduct research in crises on short notice.
- Offers a series of on-site training programs for non-governmental organizations’ workers in the field, tailored to fit each organization’s needs.
- Leads humanitarian response reform with its longstanding relationships with governments, NGOs, and international agencies and its extensive experience helping organizations implement best practices.
- Combines research and teaching with service and advocacy to bring human rights needs into humanitarian relief planning.
- Has at its core a deep and tested commitment to relieving human suffering in war and disaster by advancing the science and practice of humanitarian response worldwide.

Next Chapter

HHI will continue to apply a scientific framework to the humanitarian environment; promote equitable distribution of resources to those affected by conflict and disaster; and educate the next generation of humanitarian response leaders. HHI's goals are to:

- Further strengthen the Rapid Response Unit, HHI’s emergency health and public health outreach program that deploys public health practitioners, physicians, epidemiologists, and disaster management experts to crisis settings.
- Launch an international placement desk to help HSPH students plan their field internships in crisis settings.
- Expand the capacity of the Humanitarian Studies Initiative, a multi-university certificate program, to meet rising demand for well-trained humanitarian response workers and leaders.
- Expand the Program for Humanitarian Effectiveness, a series of conferences and trainings designed to assist government and non-government organizations in improving relief responses and sharing lessons learned.
- Continue its working relationship with ARC and International Committee of the Red Cross.
- Advance scholarship on the social, economic, and psychological impact of war and crisis on civilian populations.
- Encourage the integration of human rights into the field of humanitarian assistance.
- Address sexual violence in the Congo by sending gynecologists and legal advocates to support a local treatment center.
- Launch a web-based resource that maps developing humanitarian crises in real time for targeting relief to the people most in danger.

FROM ACROSS HARVARD

HHI fosters collaboration and innovation in humanitarian assistance among faculty from:

- Harvard School of Public Health
- Harvard Medical School
- Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences
- John F. Kennedy School of Government
- Harvard Business School
- Harvard Law School
- Harvard Graduate School of Education
- Harvard University Committee on Human Rights Studies
- Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study
- Major Harvard-affiliated Medical Centers: Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Children’s Hospital Boston, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Giving Opportunities

As the number of humanitarian crises grows, the need for more professionals in the field of humanitarian response and research, education, and training also increases dramatically. With major financial support HSPH can apply its experience and expertise to meet this critical demand.

SCHOLARSHIPS

\$500,000 establishes a named endowed scholarship for international students

\$250,000 establishes a named endowed scholarship for domestic students

\$250,000 establishes a named current-use scholarship for five years

\$50,000 establishes a named current-use scholarship for one year

ENDOWED TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP – \$250,000–\$1,000,000

- These named endowed fellowships support master and doctoral candidates in humanitarian studies, funding travel and living expenses for required field internships in crisis areas.

ENDOWED SENIOR PROFESSORSHIP – \$4 MILLION

- These named endowed professorships support senior faculty specializing in areas such as humanitarian practice, civilian protection in conflict settings, disaster preparedness, war and the environment, and human rights.
- Includes \$1 million match from Harvard Professorship Challenge Fund, if eligible.

ENDOWED JUNIOR PROFESSORSHIP – \$1.5 MILLION

- These named endowed funds support young faculty trained in epidemiology and disaster management to focus on humanitarian practice, crisis response, and helping major aid organizations improve.
- An additional \$500,000 match from Harvard Professorship Challenge Fund is available, if eligible.

ENDOWED FACULTY INNOVATION FUND – \$1.5 MILLION

- A named endowment for the development of innovative approaches to humanitarian response in crisis settings.
- Includes \$500,000 match from Harvard Professorship Challenge Fund, if eligible.

RESEARCH AND TRAINING FUNDS – CURRENT-USE

Humanitarian Studies Initiative – \$1.2 million for two years

A partnership between HSPH, Tufts University, and MIT, this certificate program trains the next generation of humanitarian workers through intensive course work, a seminar series, field internships, and disaster simulation training.

Crisis Mapping Initiative – \$1.5 million

Funds the development and implementation of a centralized and robust online international resource for reporting and mapping humanitarian crises; available to scholars, policy makers, public health practitioners, and the general public.

Program of Humanitarian Effectiveness – \$2 million for two years

Program assists leaders of governments, NGOs, and international agencies in improving the quality of their programs.

For more details, please contact

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