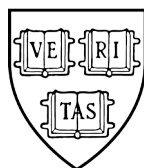


# **HARVARD** Humanitarian Initiative & Humanitarian Academy at **HARVARD**



## **YEAR END REPORT 2013**

*Advancing the Science and Practice of Humanitarian Response*



## **MISSION**

*The Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) is a university-wide center within the Harvard community that provides expertise in public health, medicine, social science, management, and other disciplines to promote evidence-based approaches to humanitarian assistance.*

### **HARVARD HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE**

The mission of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) is to relieve human suffering in war and disaster by advancing the science and practice of humanitarian response worldwide. HHI fosters interdisciplinary collaboration in order to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian strategies for relief, protection and prevention, instill human rights principles and practices in these strategies, and educate and train the next generation of humanitarian leaders.

### **HUMANITARIAN ACADEMY AT HARVARD**

The Humanitarian Academy at Harvard, affiliated with HHI, is dedicated to educating and training current and future generations of humanitarian leaders in the areas of disaster response, program monitoring and evaluation, crisis leadership, human rights and ethical frameworks, civilian protection, international humanitarian law, and other dimensions of providing aid in acute settings. The Academy aims to create a professional pathway for students and practitioners of all levels in the humanitarian space.



**Michael VanRooyen**  
MD, MPH, FACEP  
*Director*  
*Harvard Humanitarian Initiative*  
*Humanitarian Academy at Harvard*

Dear Friends of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative,

The events of 2013 have created a number of major challenges to the humanitarian relief community. The crisis in Syria has rapidly escalated, threatening to undermine wider regional stability, and created severe restrictions in access to war-affected civilians. Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines struck with devastating ferocity, displacing millions. Even now, the crisis in the Central African Republic is affecting millions and will further stretch the limits of humanitarian assistance and challenge the resolve of the international community to respond effectively.

The humanitarian aid community faces unprecedented challenges and has unique and powerful opportunities to improve the quality and impact of globalized assistance. New technologies, new actors and new challenges to humanitarian coordination, accountability and access will drive the way aid is mobilized in the years to come.

The Harvard Humanitarian Initiative was created to face these new challenges and build a home for innovation and exploration. This year was a period of rapid growth for HHI. Our programs in humanitarian technology, vulnerable populations, women in war, urbanization-climate and humanitarian policy have driven humanitarian innovation and created new models to assure quality care to the world's most vulnerable populations. The Humanitarian Academy at Harvard has generated new approaches to educating field workers and future leaders and created a center of excellence in humanitarian education.

Our mission continues to be driven by the demand to assist those in most desperate need, and assure the safety and rights of the planet's most vulnerable.

I am deeply grateful for the support of our staff, faculty, collaborators, supporters and all of you who make this innovative work possible. Thank you for the confidence that you have placed in HHI and for your support of Harvard's humanitarian efforts. We look forward to working with you to create a safer world.

Sincerely,

Michael VanRooyen, MD, MPH

Director,  
Harvard Humanitarian Initiative  
Humanitarian Academy at Harvard



## **Harvard Humanitarian Initiative FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Harvard Humanitarian Initiative was founded in 2005 to provide a multidisciplinary approach to research and education in the humanitarian field. HHI's research programs offer new tools and methods that advance the science and practice of humanitarian action and its programs are at the forefront of innovation in the field.

HHI's research programs continue to thrive because of the creativity and dedication of our research team and because of the innovative approaches they bring to the research process. HHI research projects are aimed at directly influencing field operations and humanitarian policy, and endeavor enhanced by the adoption of digital data collection tools and other technologies.

HHI research programs continue to build a solid evidence base that identifies resiliency measures designed by local communities, better characterizes their perceptions of local and international measures taken to respond to disaster, and create field-based research and evaluation methods that are attuned to identifying opportunities for providing informed assistance strategies designed to support local community initiatives.

2013 marked the achievement of many milestones for HHI and its exceptionally talented team of researchers and educators.

HHI Faculty member Maya Ariei was awarded the Symbol of the Future award by the Emperor and Empress of Japan for her work responding to the tsunami and subsequent nuclear disaster.

Alongside numerous research reports, papers, and journal articles the Signal Program on Human Security and Technology released Sudan: Anatomy of a Conflict, the first geospatial history of a conflict.

The Women in War Program released a report on the reintegration of former child soldiers in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Program on Urbanization and Humanitarian Emergencies focused on developing academic practitioner networks.

The leads of HHI's Vulnerable Population and Implementation Science and Evaluation Programs teamed up to expand the development of digital data collection tools designed to support research and information collection during humanitarian emergencies. They also released a report on victims' participation in transitional justice efforts in Cambodia, and were editors of and contributors to the 2013 World Disasters Report.

I hope you enjoy reviewing these many exciting contributions to the field!

Sincerely,

Vincenzo Bollettino, PhD

Executive Director,  
Harvard Humanitarian Initiative



## Humanitarian Academy at Harvard FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Humanitarian Academy at Harvard formally launched in May 2012 with the express goal of developing a center of excellence for humanitarian education and training. The Academy is built upon a foundation of competence-based humanitarian curriculum informed by the evidence base and breadth of field experience of faculty, researchers, humanitarian professionals, and students. We recognize the richness and depth that can be achieved in learning that:

- Brings together research, communities of practice, and communities of learning;
- Values the science (evidence base) and practice (experience) of humanitarian response;
- Provides safe and controlled environments for students to test their abilities in high-risk contexts through table-top and field-based simulations;
- Leverages lessons learned from past responses to inform new cycles of humanitarian efforts; and,
- Shares frameworks and a common lexicon for effective engagement, coordination, and delivery of aid.

In many ways, 2013 was a phenomenal year for the Academy in all of these respects.

The Lavine Family Humanitarian Studies Initiative conducted another completely successful **Humanitarian Response Intensive Course & Simulation** at Harvard Parker State Forest in North Andover with over 100 students and another 100 volunteers. We welcomed our first cohort of **Humanitarian Studies, Ethics, and Human Rights concentrators** through the Harvard School of Public Health. We developed a new field-based, graduate course (**GHP546**) that pairs Harvard students with students from a public health institute within a refugee camp on the Thai-Burmese border. We offered four new continuing education workshops: **Mixed Methods Monitoring and Evaluation, Digital Methods for Data Collection, Safety and Security, Urban Humanitarian Emergencies**. The **Building a Better Response** project made considerable progress toward its end-goal of accessible humanitarian e-learning. Finally, we've embarked on a new project in **curriculum innovation** focused on developing interactive learning tools.

Looking forward, the Academy's priorities include: sustaining the success of flagship programs; greater engagement with humanitarian organizations for institutional learning and development; expanded blended and e-learning; and, establishing learning assessment and evaluation frameworks for our offerings.

Ultimately, our measure of success will be humanitarian education whose impact translates into best supporting and empowering communities affected by crisis. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our work. We greatly appreciate your support!

Sincerely,

Negeen Darani

Executive Director,  
Humanitarian Academy at Harvard





## RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The Harvard Humanitarian Initiative hosts five programs aimed at advancing humanitarian data and evaluation science, and ensuring that new technologies make their way into the front lines of humanitarian action. The programs put communities at the center of humanitarian action, working with people around the world to better understand the needs and priorities of those most vulnerable to disasters and mass violence, and enabling responses that involve communities and support the development of local capacity and resilience.

### Technologies:

- The Signal Program on Human Security and Technology
- Evaluation and Implementation Science - KoBoToolbox

### Populations:

- Women in War
- Urbanization and Humanitarian Emergencies
- Program for Vulnerable Populations
- Evaluation and Implementation Science





## RESEARCH PROGRAMS

### THE SIGNAL PROGRAM ON HUMAN SECURITY AND TECHNOLOGY

The Signal Program on Human Security and Technology (Signal Program) utilizes the latest information and geospatial technologies to conduct research and provide education examining how these technologies may protect vulnerable populations affected by both man-made and natural disasters. The Signal Program was established in 2012 to explore how technology can be used to document and prevent human rights abuses and threats to human security around the world by bringing together leading technologists, organizations, and practitioners to develop innovation that benefits vulnerable populations.



#### SUDAN: ANATOMY OF A CONFLICT

The Signal Program released its first study, Sudan: Anatomy of a Conflict, in May 2013. Anatomy of a Conflict is the first geospatial data-based history of a conflict created primarily through a fusion of remote sensing and previously public event reports. The researchers of the Signal Program spent many months analyzing over 40,000 square kilometers of archival satellite imagery of Sudan and cross-referencing this data with more than 2,000 published reports of incidents occurring between January 2011 and mid-2012. Key findings of the study include evidence of the apparent intentional destruction of more than 2,000 civilian dwellings and other structures; the intentional targeting and destruction of four humanitarian

facilities; identification of specific armed actors, units, and chains-of-command allegedly involved in specific attacks in Sudan; and evidence of the mass displacement of civilian populations.

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#### MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

In April 2013, Signal Program director Nathaniel Raymond spoke at the UN Office of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) release of Humanitarianism in a Networked Age. This study is one of the first official UN documents to identify information as a basic need for vulnerable populations affected by disaster.

Signal Program researchers, Isaac Baker and Brittany Card, presented the Signal Program’s GRID methodology at the Corpses of Mass Violence and Genocide Conference hosted at the University of Manchester in September 2013. The conference gathered a multidisciplinary group of experts to discuss and present their work relating to the search and recovery of corpses in various contexts of mass crimes. GRID is a methodology for remotely corroborating eyewitness reports of alleged mass graves, or other phenomena relating to mass atrocities. This approach allows researchers to







capture a witness' geographic knowledge by incorporating the witness into the remote sensing analytic process. The University of Manchester will be publishing Baker and Card's work on GRID in a forthcoming journal.

Card also presented with HHI's Women in War researchers, Beth Maclin and Will Cragin, as part of "Art as Science: The Role of Visual Data in Research" in October 2013. Hosted by HHI and the Carr Center for Human Rights at Harvard Kennedy School, the panel examined different ways humanitarian researchers are incorporating visual data within their studies, specifically satellite imagery, conceptual mapping and photography.

In November, Raymond, representing the Signal Program's co-winning submission to the 2013 Humanity United and USAID Mass Atrocity Prevention Tech Challenge, spoke at the International Conference of Crisis Mappers in Nairobi, Kenya. He discussed the Signal Program's entry to the challenge, called AMALGAM, a unique approach to fusing together manual and algorithmic satellite imagery analysis methods to estimate populations and detect change to temporary structures, such as tents found at refugee camps.



In August, Nathaniel Raymond, HHI's Director of the Signal Program on Human Security and Technology, was named a 2013 PopTech Social Innovation Fellow. Raymond attended the 8-day, intensive fellowship in October 2013. Culminating in PopTech's annual conference in Camden, Maine co-sponsored by National Geographic, Raymond discussed whether there exists a human right to information during disaster.





## RESEARCH PROGRAMS

### WOMEN IN WAR

The Women in War program seeks to investigate and address women's needs in today's most troubled settings. Women face unique vulnerabilities in humanitarian settings, including gender-based violence, other forms of exploitation and abuse, and economic insecurity. HHI's research identifies consequences of social instability and violence on women's livelihoods as well as the key role women can play as agents of social change. The Women in War program employs a participatory research approach grounded in collaborations with international and local non-governmental organizations and community-based associations. This approach helps us bring the voices of the experts – the women affected by violence and instability – to practitioners and policy makers to catalyze the development of more effective programming.

The Women in War program released a new report while also launching two new projects this year. The Women in War program presented at numerous academic and policy fora, including the Great Lakes Policy Forum, the United Nations, the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum at the Institute of Politics, the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, the United States Institute of Peace, and the Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum. In addition, the Women in War Program acted as a convener for a series of seven events around the university titled, "Humanity Explored," which is detailed in the Events section of this report. Finally, the Women in War Program worked with several interns from Harvard's graduate and undergraduate programs this year as part of its ongoing effort to provide opportunities to students to engage with pressing real-world problems.

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#### **NEW REPORT EXAMINES REINTEGRATION OF FORMER CHILD SOLDIERS IN DRC**

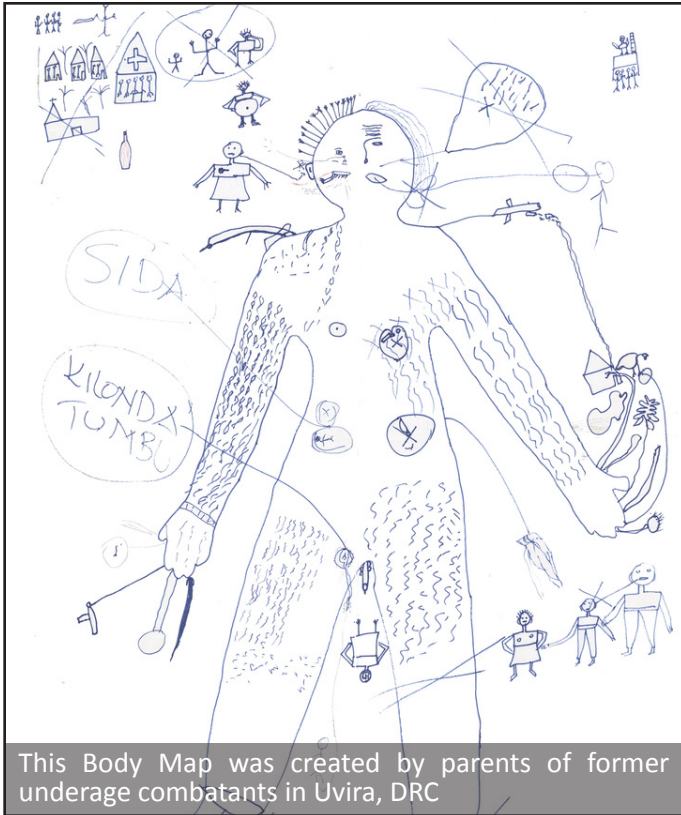
The Women in War program, in collaboration with Eastern Congo Initiative, released the report, "We

Came Back with Empty Hands": Understanding the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of Children Formerly Associated with Armed Groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in October. The report examines the experiences of former child soldiers and their host communities during the demobilization and reintegration process in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). This project was grounded in participatory action research, which involves working closely with local community partners to design, carry out and analyze research. Two art based methodologies - Photovoice and Body mapping - were employed to enable individuals and communities to self-identify the issues most important to them. All of the photographs and drawings, as well as the full report, can be viewed at [wecameback.org](http://wecameback.org).



*"Some of my siblings are happy with my coming but some rejected me."*

-Female Former Underage Combatant from Goma, DRC



This Body Map was created by parents of former underage combatants in Uvira, DRC

Coinciding with the report release, Women in War Program Director Jocelyn Kelly participated in a panel alongside Ishmael Beah, author of *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, and Leila Zerrougui, the Special Representative to the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict at the UN, where they discussed the problem of child soldiers globally at the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum at Harvard's Institute of Politics.

**EXAMINING THE REGIONAL IMPACT OF THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY**

This project explores the dynamics of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in four central African countries. Data collection in northern Uganda and South Sudan was completed this summer; members of the research team plan to travel to the Central African Republic and northeastern DRC in early 2014. Focus groups and interviews with key informants in communities will provide insight into community responses to, and needs resulting from, the LRA threat. This project also makes use of an innovative

technique called "conceptual mapping" to detail the threats and risks in each community through a participatory mapping process. The results of this investigation will aim to provide a new understanding of how this tightly controlled armed group can differentially impact countries based on the socio-political climate of each country.



Two focus group discussions took place in northern Uganda during the summer for the project examining the impact of the Lord's Resistance Army on communities.

**RESILIENT RESOURCES: VIOLENCE REDUCTION THROUGH RESEARCH-INFORMED PROGRAMMING IN EASTERN DRC**

Building upon the findings from the study on the experiences of former child soldiers with Demobilization, Disarmament, and Reintegration programming, the Women in War program, alongside HHI's Program on Vulnerable Populations and Program on Evaluation and Implementation Science, is working with Eastern Congo Initiative (ECI) to assess and address the factors that make youth vulnerable to forced labor, slavery, sexual exploitation, violence, and recruitment into armed groups in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Using a mixed methods approach, the HHI research team will both develop an evidence base with which ECI can develop programming that targets vulnerable youth and assess the efficacy of that programming.





## RESEARCH PROGRAMS

### URBANIZATION AND HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

The world is rapidly urbanizing with the majority of the world's population now living in urban areas. In many rapidly urbanizing states, the slum population now makes up over 60% of the urban populace. This demographic transition is creating complex urban landscapes with disproportionately large slums that concentrate hazards and vulnerabilities to natural and man-made disasters. As a result, humanitarian emergencies will increasingly affect urban populations. Governments will need to proactively create development and planning policies for their urban areas and preparedness plans based on evidence. Humanitarian actors must learn to respond to the unique challenges of urban contexts while exploiting the advantages.

HHI is taking the lead on these complex topics by determining how to appropriately prepare for and respond to urban humanitarian emergencies and the chronic crisis facing urban slum populations. Through the Urbanization and Humanitarian Emergencies Program, we advance knowledge on the chronic and acute needs of urban populations, address these challenges and investigate program and policy solutions. We partner with local actors, government authorities, international agencies and non-government organizations that have the ability to scale up our work and have an immediate impact.

#### URBAN SERVICE DELIVERY

Since 2012, the program has been developing a network of academics, aid organizations and UN agencies to develop strategies for delivering care to urban refugees through an integration approach. A focus on refugee integration with host populations as a model for care delivery is a novel concept for aid organizations and governments.

This has led to a continued collaboration with a leading urban refugee organization, Refuge Point, to

develop new programs and best practices aimed at serving their healthcare and welfare needs as well as a paper in preparation which proposes a novel instrument to measure refugee integration. In March 2013, Ronak Patel spoke on a panel in Brazil at the Humanitarian Action in Situations Other than War (HASOW) International Conference: The Politics of Protection and the Future of Humanitarian Practices. The program has also completed the first phase of an urban refugee integration study (with a paper forthcoming), completed the second phase of a refugee integration survey, completed data collection for sphere standards in slums in Nairobi.



#### APPLYING A HUMAN SECURITY LENS TO URBAN VIOLENCE

At the recent World Conference on Humanitarian Studies in October 2013, the program led a panel addressing the gaps that humanitarians grapple with in settings marked by internal conflict and extreme urban violence. Much of the discourse on confronting these issues has focused on the legal frameworks. But while these frameworks fail to address the growing myriad of violent environments, they increasingly demand attention from humanitarians. Other actors, such as local civil society organizations, churches, and “multi-mandate” international development NGOs, who do not frame their actions as humanitarian, are responding with different frameworks and mandates.





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**RETHINKING HUMANITARIAN AID: EXPERT PANEL  
SPONSORED BY CONRAD N. HILTON FOUNDATION**

In May, this panel brought together experts from philanthropic and operational humanitarian organizations alongside leaders from the academic and policy spheres to discuss how humanitarian aid might be best organized, delivered and supported in light of resource constraints, evolving challenges, and novel technologies present today.

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**2013 HUMANITARIAN ACTION SUMMIT: CLIMATE  
AND CRISIS**

HHI and the Harvard University Center for the Environment hosted the 5th Humanitarian Action Summit on May 13-14, 2013. The Humanitarian Action Summit is a leading invitational meeting on critical issues in humanitarian aid, research, and policy. The 2013 Summit brought together a select group of prominent researchers and practitioners with strategic level leaders from the climate science, humanitarian, and development communities, international NGOs, UN agencies, federal agencies and donors. The Summit provided a platform to explore approaches to address the human and material costs of climate change.



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**COURSES**

*(Re)Mapping Health: Interdisciplinary Workshop on Innovative Methods for Representing Spatial Data:* Bringing together the critical disciplines of urban planning and health and applying mapping technology to spatially represent urban health data for novel analysis.

*Urban Disasters Course:* A three-day training organized by the Humanitarian Academy's Lavine Family Humanitarian Studies Initiative to train humanitarian professionals on the current issues and practices involved in this unique and expanding area of research and practice.



## RESEARCH PROGRAMS

### EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE

Under the leadership of Dr. Phuong Pham, HHI’s Program on Evaluation and Implementation Science serves as a focal point for developing evidence-based strategies to effectively help individuals, families, and populations in times of war, conflict, and disaster. The program focuses both on research and the development of technology to help researchers and practitioners implement rapid digital data collection.

#### KoBoTOOLBOX

KoBoToolbox is an integrated suite of applications for handheld digital data collection. Digital Data collection is superior to paper-based methods in terms of speed, data quality, and security, and is a cost-effective alternative to manual data entry.



KoBoToolbox was co-founded by Phuong Pham and Patrick Vinck who were confronted by the challenges of collecting data in a secure fashion, increasing the quality of survey data, and making results available rapidly after data collection. It was first piloted in 2007 in northern Uganda, giving its name to the project, KoBo meaning “transfer” in Acholi, one of the local languages.

In 2013, HHI partnered with the International Rescue Committee and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to further develop KoBoToolbox for the purpose of rapid coordinated humanitarian assessment. The KoBoToolbox Coordinated Assessment Toolkit (KoBOCat) will be a readily available, secure and user-friendly tool and platform to help humanitarian agencies either jointly or independently plan, collect and analyze data rapidly and accurately.



The main objective is to improve the quality of information about the scale of the crisis, priority needs of the populations involved, and the capacity of government and local organizations in the immediate aftermath of a crisis. It is a critical period when humanitarian and donor communities need to make key decisions on how to best support the affected country or region and its people. Response teams need to quickly collect data on the immediate needs of the affected community so that they can deploy appropriate lifesaving relief operations and strategic planning. Most humanitarian operations still rely largely on manual data collection, significantly impacting the timeliness of the assessment results. Consequently, large-scale humanitarian operations have often been launched before assessment results are available increasing the potential for poorly targeted interventions, and misused resources. In addition, humanitarian



actors often gather information independently and with little coordination, resulting in an incomplete and sometimes conflicting picture of humanitarian needs. The lack of a coordinated assessment approach hinders humanitarian actors from reaching a common understanding of the situation and its likely evolution from the outset of an emergency.

KoBoCat is being designed to address shortcomings of previously existing software (such as EpiSurveyor, Open Data Kit and CPro). It uses open-source technology to ensure the tool is available to all free of charge, and is lowering the barriers to entry by ensuring end-users require little or no technical skills. Its purpose is also to encourage compatibility between data collection efforts of different agencies, and to support the practices of joint and coordinated needs assessment.

committed under the Khmer Rouge Regime. The report found an overall positive attitude toward the Court, but relatively low level of understanding and information, and high expectations for reparations.

**VICTIMS PARTICIPATION BEFORE THE EXTRAORDINARY CHAMBERS IN THE COURTS OF CAMBODIA**

In 2013, The Evaluation and Implementation Science Program also released Victims Participation before the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) in collaboration with the Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association. The report constitutes a baseline analysis for the monitoring and evaluation of victims participation and representation in the trials at the ECCC set up to judge serious crimes



**VICTIMS PARTICIPATION BEFORE THE EXTRAORDINARY CHAMBERS IN THE COURTS OF CAMBODIA**





**RESEARCH PROGRAMS**

**PROGRAM FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

The Program for Vulnerable Populations works closely with the Evaluation and Implementation Science Program to conduct research and capacity building in countries experiencing complex emergencies and serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. The program focuses on the use of empirical and mixed research methods to give voice to survivors of mass violence and disasters. HHI works to ensure that the needs of survivors are recognized and acted on by governments, UN agencies, and nongovernmental organizations, and that they help improve the capacity of local organizations to collect and analyze data about vulnerable populations.



The program is leading the development of a world-wide monitoring and evaluation system (Peacebuildingdata.org) to assess local community needs, monitor progress toward peace and reconstruction, and measure impact of interventions aimed at peacebuilding. The various projects employ a mixed-method approach and focus on local capacity development.

**PEACEBUILDINGDATA.ORG - D.R. CONGO**

In 2013, the program launched a new research project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo where it has implemented a first large population survey of over 5,000 individuals (to be published in 2014) and will carry on regular polls over a three year period. The project focuses on measuring attitudes and perception about peace, justice and reconstruction, with specific polls about access to

justice and protection. The project is carried out in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Congo (MONUSCO).



**PEACEBUILDINGDATA.ORG - ABIDJAN**

In 2013, the program also conducted a large population survey in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, to assess perception and attitudes about Peace and Justice, with a specific focus on the role and impact of the International Criminal Court. The survey component included interviews of 1,000 adults randomly selected in Abidjan. They were interviewed on topics ranging from their experience during the post-electoral violence and their current attitudes about accountability and justice.





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## THE FUTURE OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

In 2013, the director of the Program for Vulnerable Populations, Patrick Vinck, edited the World Disasters Report, the flagship annual publication of the International Federation of the Red Cross. The report focused on technology and the future of Humanitarian action.



The report explores the ways in which information and communication technologies assist international and national actors, governments, civil society organizations and communities at risk to prevent, mitigate and prepare for the impact of a disaster and, in its aftermath, respond, recover and rebuild affected areas. The report examines how technologies can help put communities at the center of humanitarian action and considers the challenges and limitations, including the diminishing direct interaction between aid workers and communities at risk, and the emergence of new actors who are not necessarily grounded in humanitarian principles and ethical guidelines. It also argues for a more systematic evaluation of the contribution of technology to humanitarian action.



## THE HUMANITARIAN ACADEMY AT HARVARD



### MISSION/FOCUS

The Humanitarian Academy at Harvard is a university-wide project based at the Harvard School of Public Health and affiliated with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. The Academy is dedicated to educating and training current and future generations of humanitarian leaders in the areas of disaster response, program monitoring and evaluation, crisis leadership, human rights and ethical frameworks, civilian protection, international humanitarian law, and other dimensions of providing aid in acute settings affecting large populations.

### THE NEED

For the network of ~240,000 humanitarian aid works globally, there has historically been no established career path or comprehensive training and few major

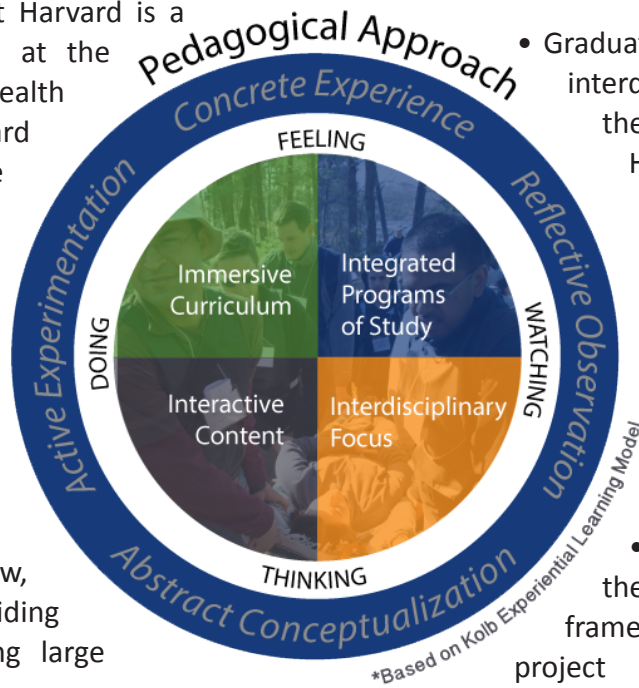
academic programs dedicated to addressing the multi-disciplinary nature of humanitarian response.

A growing international movement to increase the impact of humanitarian relief efforts has focused on professional skill building and rigorous measurement and analysis of best practices in humanitarian aid. A recent assessment identified the landscape for humanitarian education and training as "...ad hoc... with gaps in provision and a lack of pathways and progression routes for the sector, both for those wishing to enter... and those wishing to develop professionally within the sector."<sup>1</sup>

### ACADEMY PROGRAMS

#### **Interdisciplinary Graduate Concentration:**

*(Humanitarian Studies, Ethics, and Human Rights / HuSEHR)*



\*Based on Kolb Experiential Learning Model

- Graduate-level, certificate bearing interdisciplinary concentration at the Harvard School of Public Health
- Rigorous integrated program of study providing students with a solid foundation for pursuing a career in research or engaging in leadership positions across the humanitarian sector
- Competencies include the application of essential frameworks / research methods, project and team management, communication, collaboration, coordination, safety and security, leadership, negotiation, strategic planning.
- The 2013 pilot cohort includes 13 exceptional students with a diversity of backgrounds and interests

<sup>1</sup> Peter Walker and Catherine Russ. "Professionalising the Humanitarian Sector: A Scoping Study," Report Commissioned by the Enhancing Learning and Research for Humanitarian Assistance (ELRHA) collaborative network, April 2010, p. 1.





### **Lavine Family Humanitarian Studies Initiative:**

- Professional education bridging training gaps for humanitarian professionals and medical fellows working in the field
- Sustained success with flagship Humanitarian Response Intensive Course & Simulation (see inset)
- Well attended pilot offerings in 2013 including courses in Mixed Methods Monitoring and Evaluation, Digital Methods for Data Collection, Safety and Security, Urban Humanitarian Emergencies



A scene from the *Building a Better Response* interactive course

- Part of the “Building a Better Response: Strengthening Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Capacity and Engagement in the International Humanitarian Architecture” project

## 2013 Humanitarian Response Intensive Course



The Academy’s Humanitarian Response Intensive Course and Simulation has become a highly sought-after means of gaining entry to and staying relevant in the humanitarian sector. This innovative survey course and 3-day simulation intensive has trained over 600 participants in the past decade, including graduate students, as well as medical and mid-career students. Alumni of the course have moved into positions of leadership in some of the most active humanitarian organizations in the world.

As part of the simulation, participants camp onsite and role-play as NGO teams responding to a simulated complex humanitarian emergency. Students must complete assessments, develop emergency aid delivery plans and manage under rapidly changing, and often stressful, circumstances.

Partners in our simulation included: the Headington Institute, Center for Safety and Development, the Standby Task Force, the US Navy Maritime Civil Affairs Training Command and Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB)

### **Building a Better Response:**

- E-learning certificate course developed in partnership with International Medical Corps, Concern Worldwide, and Tufts University

- Uses interactive tools and scenario-based teaching to build the capacity of NGO personnel to engage with the humanitarian systems in a manner that improves overall coordination and service delivery

### **Curricular Innovation:**

- Funded through the Weintz Family edX Seed Fund
- Participant-centered and content-rich learning
- Immersive learning tool development including case studies and simulations
- Capturing lessons learned and best practices from past responses
- Current project includes development of interactive, multi-media case studies in humanitarian response

### **Field-based Learning:**

*GHP 546: Field Research Methods in Humanitarian Crisis – Refugee Health at the Thai-Burma Border*

GHP 546 offers Harvard graduate students a practical, field-focused experience in research and program assessment with the broader goal of solving public health problems in a challenging setting, supporting



## Student Profile: Will Cragin



2-year Master candidate in the Department of Global Health and Population at the Harvard School of Public Health, HuSEHR Concentrator

One of the reasons I came to HSPH and the HuSEHR concentration was to ground my previous field work in the sector with the theoretical underpinnings of humanitarian action. I also wanted to gain a set of skills that I thought would make me a better humanitarian worker. One of the realizations I've had while working in the sector for the past four years with the NGO International Medical Corps, including assignments in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), South Sudan, and the Dolo Ado and Dadaab Refugee

Complexes in Ethiopia and Kenya, was that I was not nearly as effective of a humanitarian worker as I wanted to be. In my field work on community resilience and protection, I also realized that there is a startling disconnect between community perceptions and needs and large agency priorities and interventions.

## Student Profile: Michelle Niescierenko



MPH candidate at the Harvard School of Public Health, HuSEHR Concentrator

I started working in Global Health as a student / resident and then as a pediatrician. The projects that I worked on were all in the area of development and long-term programming, interesting for a pediatrician focused on building communities and sustainable structure. Humanitarian aid is an important part of global health but significantly different from traditional global health that is focused on development. In humanitarian aid, the delivery of care, the partners, the tight timeline and often difficult ever-changing working conditions make it unique. Additional training in best practices for

delivery of aid and methodology on assessing the provision of services is critical to humanitarian work. Children are often overlooked or under planned for due to limited pediatric expertise. This is why I am concentrating in Humanitarian Studies, Ethics, and Human Rights (HuSEHR) at HSPH — applying unique training in pediatric emergency medicine to tackle some of these problems.

the model of working with disaster-affected communities to make meaningful impact. Partnering with the Public Health Institute (PHI) in the Umpiem Mai refugee camp on the Thailand-Burma border, the Academy will offer a Twinning Course that pairs HSPH students with PHI students in order to provide

practical, public health field education. Students will learn public health skills together, including issues facing women and children, infectious diseases, water and sanitation, and common tools used to develop and assess public health programming.





## FELLOW WORK

**Frederick Burkle** is a Senior Author along with nuclear science colleagues from the Institute for Disaster Management, College of Public Health, in Athens, Georgia published highly technical model estimates of nuclear war casualties between Israel and Iran showed that “any rational analysis of a nuclear war would result in utterly unacceptable outcomes for either nation.” This study was in the top 10 articles published worldwide.

### *Publications include:*

Bell, William C., Frederick M Burkle, Jr., Antonio Caruso, Cham E Dallas, David J Stewart. Nuclear war between Israel and Iran: lethality beyond the pale. *Conflict and Health* 2013, 7:10. <http://www.conflictandhealth.com/content/7/1/10>

**Patrick Meier** is a UNICEF Innovation Fellow and a Rockefeller Foundation and PopTech Fellow. He authored a chapter for the World Disaster Report entitled “Next Generation Humanitarian Technology.” He launched Artificial Intelligence for Disaster Response (AIDR) and MicroMappers. AIDR powers consumer applications such as MicroMappers, a set of microtasking apps customized for humanitarian response. Meier also organized the fifth International Conference of Crisis Mappers.

### *Publications include:*

Meier, Patrick. “World Disaster Report: Next Generation Humanitarian Technology.” *iRevolution*. October 17, 2013. <http://irevolution.net/2013/10/17/world-disaster-report/>

Meier, Patrick. “AIDR: Artificial Intelligence for Disaster Response.” *iRevolution*. October 1, 2013. <http://irevolution.net/2013/10/01/aidr-artificial-intelligence-for-disaster-response/>

Meier, Patrick. “MicroMappers: Microtasking for Disaster Response.” *iRevolution*. September 18, 2013. <http://irevolution.net/2013/09/18/micromappers/>

Meier, Patrick. “Opening Keynote Address at CrisisMappers 2013.” *iRevolution*. November 20, 2013. <http://irevolution.net/2013/11/20/opening-keynote-crisismappers-2013/>

**Niamh Gibbons**, HHI Fellow, works with the programs on Evaluation and Implementation Science and Vulnerable Populations at HHI, where she studies the issue of complementarity under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), specifically how state willingness or political will could be defined and measured in that context. Since 2010, promoting complementarity – or the primary responsibility of States to prosecute crimes falling under the ICC’s jurisdiction – has been a major focus for the ICC, its State Parties, international organizations and civil society. Efforts have focused on building State capacity to prosecute Rome Statute crimes without equal attention to the need for State willingness or political will. Niamh’s research looks at how political will could be defined and measured in relation to prosecuting war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, and how this could contribute to overall efforts to foster complementarity.

**Ali Ardan** provides World Health Organization (WHO) with consultancy on health emergency management. Eastern Mediterranean is a region faced with protracted conflicts, wars and frequent natural disasters. Ali Ardan is taking part in the WHO/EMRO initiatives, as an advisor, to develop frameworks for health emergency training and emergency risk assessment. He also works with WHO/ Geneva, amongst a group of international experts, to revise the Hospital Safety Index (HSI). HSI is a widely used tool for hazard and vulnerability assessment of hospitals that was initially developed by PAHO. Ardan also leads efforts to integrate disaster risk reduction into the primary health care system of Iran. Iran has a well-established system for primary health care (PHC), but lacks an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR). Ali Ardan, HHI Fellow, as an advisor to Deputy Minister of Health of Iran and chair of Disaster and Emergency Health





Academy at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, has developed a pilot project in 10 provinces of Iran to integrate the DRR programs into PHC system. The program includes monitoring of DRR indicators as part of the Health Information System; surveillance of disaster impacts on PHC centers; HVA of PHC facilities; and households' education on disaster preparedness and risk reduction. This effort is based on his researches that have been published in the world leading journals such as DMPHP, PDM and PLoS Curr: Disasters.

**Ingvill C. Mochmann** attended a meeting in German Parliament to inform about Children Born of War. As a founder of the "Interdisciplinary Network for International Research on Children Born of War", Professor Mochmann met with a member of the German Parliament to inform about important issues in securing the rights of children born of war both in past, present and future conflicts. In this context she was also invited to speak at the first Get-together of children of GI's which took place in the German Parliament in October. One of the main issues she has been analyzing and which she addressed at the meetings is the question of how to obtain information about hidden, marginalized and sensitive populations such as the "children born of war" and how this knowledge may be used as empirical evidence base in both political decision-making processes and humanitarian interventions.

**Adele Waugaman** is project manager for Code of Resilience, an initiative of the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR) that is partnering disaster risk management experts with software developers to increase the use of locally relevant information and communication technologies (ICTs) in preparing for, mitigating the risks of, and recovering from major natural disasters. In 2014, Code for Resilience 'hackathon' events will be held across Asia. Waugaman also co-led a technical assistance mission to Bangladesh for the World Bank to determine the most suitable technologies to power a new ICT-enabled social accountability project

seeking citizen feedback on the delivery of public services. Also for the World Bank, she led a strategy to engage citizens and technologists in building mobile apps and other ICT-based solutions to local sanitation sector development challenges as part of a global 'hackathon' held in 40 cities. Furthermore, supported by USAID, she conducted community stakeholder interviews to identify and document major opportunities and gaps in the availability of ICT tools for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health.

*Publications include:*

Waugaman, Adele. Using Technology for Social Good: An Exploration of Best Practice in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for Development. United Methodist Communications, December 2013.

Waugaman, Adele (ed.). Best Practice in ICT4D: A Discussion. United Methodist Communications, 2013. Web. 13 August 2013. <http://bestict4d.wordpress.com/>



## **HHI EVENTS**

HHI faculty and staff hosted and participated in numerous events. Here is a selected list of key presentations and workshops.

### **Innovative Participatory Research with Former Child Soldiers in Eastern Congo**

Preventing recruitment of children and fostering successful reintegration.

### **The Humanitarian Crisis in Syria Live Web Seminar**

In collaboration with PRI's The World and WGBH, to examine the practicalities and decision-making driving the humanitarian response to this unfolding world event. Featured speakers included Paul Spiegel, Jennifer Leaning, Michael VanRooyen, Recep Akdag, and Jeanne Guillemin.



### **World Disasters Report 2013 Launch Event**

Release of the World Disasters Report 2013, edited by HHI Faculty Vinck, and examining the impact of technological innovations on humanitarian action. Events held in Cambridge (HHI), Geneva (IFRC), London (ODI), Berlin (Red Cross) and Vienna (Red Cross and UNOSAT).

### **Realizing Roma Rights: Addressing Violence, Discrimination, and Segregation in Europe**

The first conference at Harvard University to examine the rights of the Roma, Europe's largest ethnic minority, hosted by the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights in partnership with the Mahindra Humanities Center and the Center for European

Studies at Harvard, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

### **National Conference on Wilderness and Travel Medicine**

Focusing on ways to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian strategies for relief, protection and prevention, co-sponsored by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative and the University of Illinois Center for Global Health.

### **Corpses of Mass Violence and Genocide Conference**

Signal Program researchers Isaac Baker and Brittany Card presented the Signal Program's GRID methodology at the conference hosted at the University of Manchester in September 2013.

### **Advancing Human Rights**

HHI Faculty Patrick Vinck spoke at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

### **Data, Mapping, and Conflict Prevention**

HHI Faculty Patrick Vinck spoke at the World Bank Conference on the Role of ICTs in Preventing Violence.

### **Humanitarianism in a Networked Age**

HHI Signal Program director Nathaniel Raymond spoke at the UN Office of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

### **Humanity, Arts, Science, and Technology Advanced Collaboratory Conference**

Socially Engaged Scholars in the Digital Age/Panel.

### **The 3rd KINU Chaillot Human Rights Forum, Seoul, Korea**

Human Rights Situation in North Korea Economic & Social Rights Panel / Discussant.

### **Ground Zero**

An Eyewitness Account of a Humanitarian Aid Worker in Aleppo/ Moderator.



**African Studies Association**

African Studies in the Age of MOOCs, Digital Humanities, and Open Access.

**PopTech’s Annual Conference**

Co-sponsored by National Geographic, Nathaniel Raymond discussed whether there exists a human right to information during disaster.

**International Conference of Crisis Mappers**

Nathaniel Raymond discussed the Signal Program’s co-winning submission to the 2013 Humanity United and USAID Mass Atrocity Prevention Tech Challenge.

**United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs’ Fourth Annual Conference, Bucaramanga, Colombia**

HHI Executive Director Vincenzo Bollettino delivered a keynote address on opportunities for closer collaboration between academia and humanitarian action.

**Humanitarian Partnership Conference, Nairobi, Kenya**

Vincenzo Bollettino delivered a keynote address on “Bridging the Gap between Academics and Humanitarian Practitioners.”

**Libraries Without Borders Symposium, Paris, France**

Vincenzo Bollettino discussed the role of technology in evaluating humanitarian action.

**HUMANITY EXPLORED**

In October and November, the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, led by the Women in War Program, along with multiple Harvard partners co-hosted HUMANITY EXPLORED, a series of events that examined the role of art, design and visual storytelling in the fight for human rights in some of the world’s more unstable and challenging environments. The series paired multi-media exhibits provided by the ART WORKS Projects for Human Rights with weekly panel discussions, lectures and brownbag events hosted by centers from around Harvard University.

***La Teta Asustada / The Milk of Sorrow* Film Screening**

A film screening followed by a discussion with Kimberly Theidon, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Harvard University.

**Wine + Art + Human Rights**

Projected and print photographs exploring human rights issues from around the world.

**Art as Science: The Role of Visual Data in Research**

How humanitarian researchers incorporate visual data within their work, with Vincenzo Bollettino, Beth Maclin, Will Cragin, and Brittany Card.

**Caught in Conflict: The Journeys of Child Soldiers**

This panel discussion tackled the problem of child soldiers around the world today. Panelists, like former child soldier Ishmael Beah and the UN’s Leila Zerrougui, reflected on their personal experiences with this issue. This event served as the launch of a new report from the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative’s Women in War program on the reintegration of former child soldiers in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.



***War Photographer* Film Screening**

A film screening preceded by an introduction from South African photojournalist Greg Marinovich, a current Nieman Fellow and an associate of Nachtwey, the subject of the film.





**Bending the Frame: Photojournalism, Documentary and the Citizen**

Fred Ritchin, Professor of Photography and Imaging at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, discussed his latest book, *Bending the Frame*, which examines the complex relations between social justice and photojournalism in today's oversaturated political and media climates.

**Human Trafficking and Forced Labor in Focus: Photography Exhibit and Discussion**

The FXB Center partnered with ART WORKS Projects for Human Rights and the International Labor Organization (ILO) to host "Human Trafficking and Forced Labor in Focus," a photography exhibit and panel discussion at Countway Library, featuring photography from James Whitlow Delano.



**PROGRAM PUBLICATIONS**

**CRISIS MAPPING AND EARLY WARNING**

**Sudan: Anatomy of a Conflict**

This study is the first geospatial-based history of a conflict created primarily through a fusion of remote sensing and previously public event data. The researchers of the Signal Program spent many months cross-referencing and analyzing over 40,000 square kilometers of archival satellite imagery of Sudan with more than 2,000 published reports of incidents occurring between January 2011 and mid-2012.

Key findings of the study include evidence of the apparent intentional destruction of more than 2,000 civilian dwellings and other structures; the intentional targeting and destruction of four humanitarian facilities; identification of specific armed actors, units, and chains-of-command allegedly involved in specific attacks in Sudan; and evidence of the mass displacement of civilian populations.



**While We Watched: Assessing the Impact of the Satellite Sentinel Project**

By Nathaniel A. Raymond, Benjamin I. Davis, Brittany L. Card, Ziad Al Achkar, and Isaac L. Baker

The Georgetown Journal of International Affairs published an article authored by Signal Program staff in which they detail the technology, perceived impact and lessons learned from running operations for the Satellite Sentinel Project. This inside assessment of the Satellite Sentinel Project has been offered open source by the journal in order to inform humanitarian practitioners, scholars and the public.



**Problems from Hell, Solution in the Heavens?: Identifying Obstacles and Opportunities for Employing Geospatial Technologies to Document and Mitigate Mass Atrocities**

By Ben Yunmo Wang, Nathaniel A. Raymond, Gabrielle Gould, and Isaac Baker

As a documentation tool, satellites have the potential to collect important real-time evidence for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity. However, the field remains experimental and ill-defined, while useful court evidence cannot be produced without a standard methodology and code of ethics. In this paper, members of the groundbreaking Satellite Sentinel Project review the historical development of satellite documentation and some of its landmark projects, and propose necessary measures to advance the field forward.





**#Westgate Tweets: A Detailed Study of Information Forensics**

By Brittany Card, Justine MacKinnon, and Patrick Meier

Al Shabaab's horrific attack of the Westgate Mall in Nairobi generated over 730,000 tweets during the four-day siege in September 2013. The purpose of this study is to analyze the authors, content and frequency of these tweets in the hour leading up to the attacks and during the two hours after the onslaught began. The Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) partnered with GNIP to collect the 730,000+ tweets within hours of the attack unfolding. QCRI Research Assistants Ms. Brittany Card and Ms. Justine MacKinnon carried out the subsequent categorization and analysis of tweets under the guidance of QCRI's Director of Social Innovation, Dr. Patrick Meier.

**#Westgate Tweets: A Detailed Study in Information Forensics**  
By Brittany Card, Justine MacKinnon and Patrick Meier at QCRI<sup>1</sup>

**INTRODUCTION**

Al Shabaab's horrific attack of the Westgate Mall in Nairobi generated over 730,000 tweets during the four-day siege in September 2013. The purpose of this study is to analyze the authors, content and frequency of these tweets in the hour leading up to the attacks and during the two hours after the onslaught began. The Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) partnered with GNIP to collect the 730,000+ tweets within hours of the attack unfolding. QCRI Research Assistants Ms. Brittany Card and Ms. Justine MacKinnon carried out the subsequent categorization and analysis of tweets under the guidance of QCRI's Director of Social Innovation, Dr. Patrick Meier.

We are actively soliciting feedback on this study to inform the next phase of our research. Our aim is to categorize and study the entire Westgate dataset. To do this, we are considering the use of machine learning for the automatic categorization of tweets and also exploring a potential partnership with HUB Research in Kenya.

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

The research questions that drove this study are listed below. These were formulated by QCRI and by readers who posted suggestions on iRevolution.<sup>2</sup>

- 1 Who authored the most tweets? Eyewitnesses, Civilians, Hostages, Local Journalists, International Journalists, Government, Police, NGOs?
- 2 How did the frequency of tweets posted by Eyewitnesses change over time and why?

<sup>1</sup> Published by Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) on November 18, 2013. For media enquiries or other information, please contact: [patrick@qcri.org.qa](mailto:patrick@qcri.org.qa)  
<sup>2</sup> [www.facebook.com/qcri](http://www.facebook.com/qcri) for providing the email addresses to their platform.  
<sup>3</sup> Meier, Patrick (2013). "Forensic Analysis of Westgate Tweets." October 3, 2013. Available online: <http://irevolution.org/2013/10/03/forensic-analysis-of-westgate-tweets-16>. Anala Ayala first interviewed me for details on the research questions.

**"We Came Back with Empty Hands": Understanding the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of Children Formerly Associated with Armed Groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

This report documents the experiences and attitudes of former underage combatants in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) who went through the reintegration process, the families and communities who received them and the organizations that funded and implemented reintegration programming. The project, a collaboration between HHI and Eastern Congo Initiative, used DRC as a case study to examine the community experiences and attitudes around Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programming to generate lessons learned for improving future programming for former underage combatants and at-risk youth.

**We Came Back with Empty Hands**  
Understanding the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of Children Formerly Associated with Armed Groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

**EASTERN CONGO** **HARVARD HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE**

**An Assessment of Attitudes Toward Gender Inequitable Sexual and Reproductive Health Norms in South Sudan: A Community-Based Participatory Research Approach**

By Jennifer Scott, Sarah Averbach, Anna Merport Modest, Michele Hacker, Sarah Cornish, Danielle Spencer, Maureen Murphy, and Parveen Parmar

Communities in South Sudan have endured decades of conflict. Protracted conflict exacerbated reproductive health disparities and gender inequities. This study, conducted prior to the country's 2011 independence, aimed to assess attitudes toward gender inequitable norms related to sexual relationships and reproductive health and the effects of sex, age, and education on these attitudes.

Scott et al. Conflict and Health 2013, 7:24  
<http://www.conflictandhealth.com/content/7/1/24>

**RESEARCH** **Open Access**

An assessment of attitudes toward gender inequitable sexual and reproductive health norms in South Sudan: a community-based participatory research approach

Jennifer Scott<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Sarah Averbach<sup>3</sup>, Anna Merport Modest<sup>4</sup>, Michele Hacker<sup>5</sup>, Sarah Cornish<sup>6</sup>, Danielle Spencer<sup>6</sup>, Maureen Murphy<sup>7</sup> and Parveen Parmar<sup>8</sup>

**Abstract**

**Background:** Communities in South Sudan have endured decades of conflict. Protracted conflict exacerbated reproductive health disparities and gender inequities. This study, conducted prior to the country's 2011 independence, aimed to assess attitudes toward gender inequitable norms related to sexual relationships and reproductive health and the effects of sex, age, and education on these attitudes.

**Methods:** Applying a community-based participatory research approach and quota sampling, 600 adult male and female respondents were interviewed in seven sites within South Sudan in 2009-2011. The verbally administered survey assessed attitudes using the Gender Equitable Norm scale. Data were stratified by sex, age (25 years and >25 years), and education.

**Results:** Of 600 respondents, 352 were female, 248 were male, and 2 did not indicate their sex. The majority of women (77%) and men (74%) agreed "a man needs other women, even if things with his wife are bad". Respondents who reported no education (80%) were more likely than those who reported any education (40%) to agree "if a woman is married, she should have sex with her husband whenever he wants to, even if she doesn't want to" (p<0.001). The majority of women (74%) and men (72%) agreed "it is a woman's responsibility to avoid getting pregnant". Respondents who reported no education (87%) were more likely than those who reported any education (13%) to agree with this statement (p<0.001). There were no statistically significant differences in responses across both sexes and both age groups, agreed "it would be outrageous for a wife to ask her husband to have a condom" and "women often cause conditions are unfair". There were no statistically significant differences between the two age groups for any of the assessed gender inequitable norms.

**Conclusion:** The study reveals differences in attitudes toward gender inequitable sexual and reproductive health norms among those surveyed in South Sudan when stratified by sex and education. As a new nation seeks to strengthen its health system, these data can inform sexual and reproductive health policy and programming in South Sudan.

**Keywords:** South Sudan, Conflict, Sexual health, Reproductive health, Gender, Inequitable norms, Gender Equitable Norm scale

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<sup>1</sup>Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University, 665 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115, USA  
<sup>2</sup>Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Harvard University, 79 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA  
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

**BioMed Central**

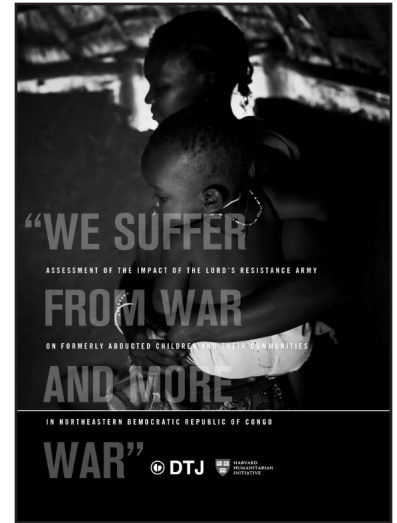




**“We Suffer From War and More War”: An Assessment of the Impact of the Lord’s Resistance Army and Formerly Abducted Children and their Communities in northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo**

By Lindsay Branham and Jocelyn Kelly

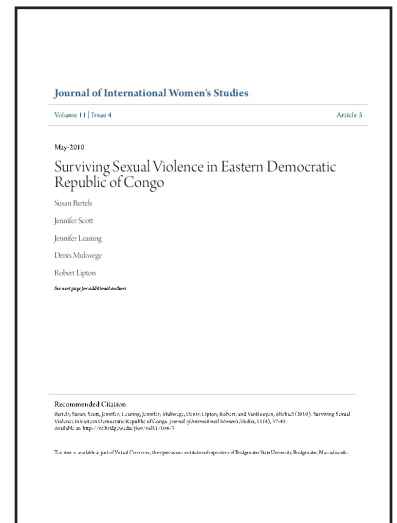
This study highlights the voices of individuals currently affected by the Lord’s Resistance Army to detail the extensive and systematic devastation felt specifically by formerly abducted children and their communities in northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Respondents stressed that the international community must assist with providing essential services through long-term engagement, including life-saving health services; improving water and sanitation access; and providing psychosocial and educational interventions to formerly abducted children and adults. While these communities are facing emergency-level challenges now, the need for solutions that will last into the future.



**Surviving Sexual Violence in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo**

By Susan Bartels, Jennifer Scott, Jennifer Leaning, Denis Mukwege, Robert Lipton, Michael VanRooyen

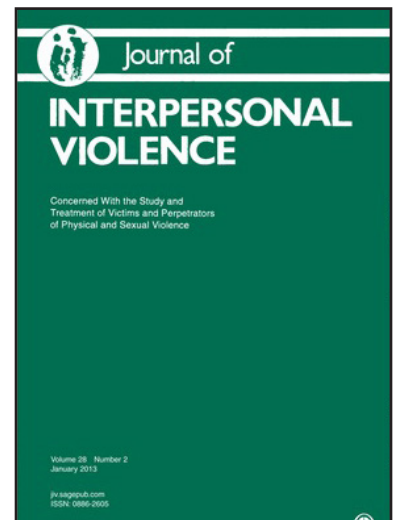
Since 1996 a deadly conflict has been ongoing in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Within this conflict, sexual violence has been inflicted upon women as a strategic weapon of war. Given the challenges of working in this setting, this sexual violence epidemic has not been well studied. The current work is a retrospective chart review of women presenting to Panzi Hospital in 2006 requesting post-sexual violence care. The goals were to describe the demographics of sexual violence survivors and to define the physical and psychosocial consequences of sexual violence in Eastern DRC.



**Militarized Sexual Violence in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo**

By Susan Bartels, Jocelyn Kelly, Jennifer Scott, Jennifer Leaning, Dennis Mukwege, Nina Joyce, Michael VanRooyen

Eastern DRC has been the site of a protracted conflict in which sexual violence has been a defining feature. The method used was a retrospective registry-based study of sexual violence survivors presenting to Panzi Hospital between 2004 and 2008. This analysis aimed to describe the patterns of sexual violence described by survivors and to analyze perpetrator profiles. These data suggest that a high proportion of sexual assaults in South Kivu are perpetrated by armed combatants. Protection of women in South Kivu will require new strategies that take into account the unique nature of sexual violence in DRC. Engaging with local communities, the UN and other aid organizations is necessary to create new context-appropriate protection programs.



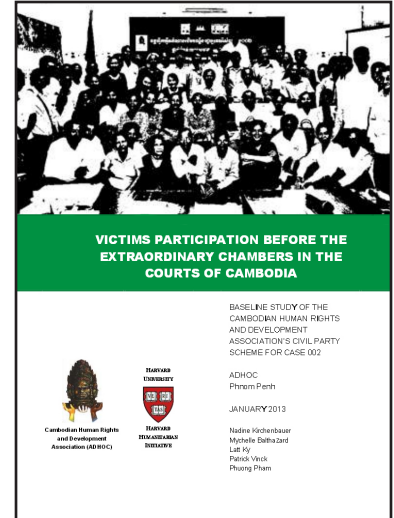


## **EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE and PROGRAM FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

### **Victims Participation before the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia**

By Nadine Kirchenbaur, Mychelle Balthazard, Lat  
Ky, Patrick Vinck, Phuong N. Pham

This report constitutes a baseline analysis for the monitoring and evaluation of victims participation and representation in the trials at the ECCC set up to judge serious crimes committed under the Khmer Rouge Regime. The report found an overall positive attitude toward the Court, but relatively low level of understanding and information, and high expectations for reparations.



### **Association of Exposure to Intimate-Partner Physical Violence and Potentially Traumatic War-Related Events with Mental Health in Liberia**

By Patrick Vinck and Phuong N. Pham

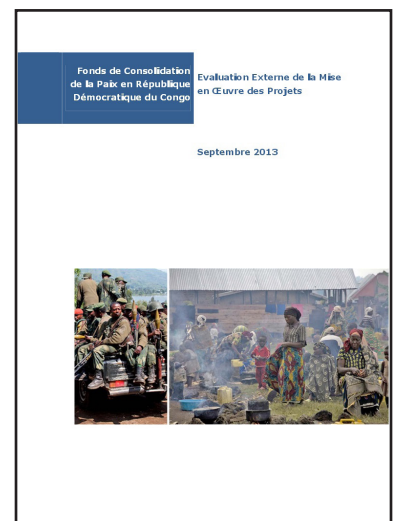
Liberia's wars between 1989 and 2003 resulted in hundreds of thousands of casualties and millions of victims. Gender-based violence was widespread during the conflict. Since the end of the war, however, little attention has been paid to ongoing violence against women, especially within the household. This research examines the relationships between intimate-partner physical violence, war experiences, and mental health nearly ten years after the end of the war. The findings suggest that intimate-partner physical violence may be a continued stressor in post-war societies that needs to be recognized and addressed as part of the reconstruction effort.



### **Peacebuilding in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

By Patrick Vinck

Following the launching of the national STAREC programme (Programme of Stabilization and Reconstruction of Armed Conflict Zones) in the Eastern Provinces of DRC, the UN approved the International Security and Stabilization and Support Strategy (ISSSS) in 2008 to support its implementation. Because of the rather volatile and unstable situation on the ground, the donor community was initially quite reluctant to finance at risk programmes. The United Nations Peace Building Fund (PBF) was therefore approached by the UN leadership to kick-start the ISSSS programme in a timely fashion in view to catalyze further donor support through crucial peacebuilding programmes. An external, independent evaluation was taken by Patrick Vinck in April 2013, which will inform future decisions of PBF, as far as DRC is concerned.





World Disasters Report 2013: Technology and the Future of Humanitarian Action

By Patrick Vinck (Editor)

In 2013, the director of the Program for Vulnerable Populations, Patrick Vinck, edited the World Disasters Report, the flagship annual publication of the International Federation of the Red Cross. The report focused on technology and the future of humanitarian action.

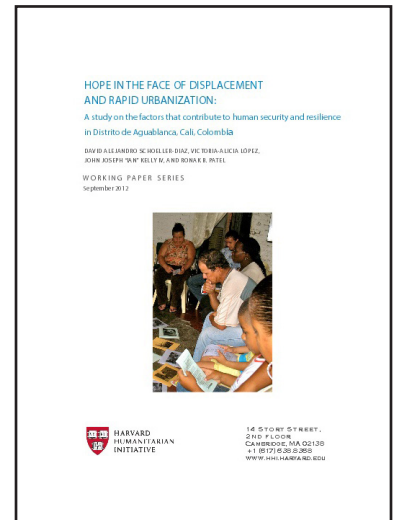


URBANIZATION AND HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

Hope in the Face of Displacement and Rapid Urbanization: A Study on the Factors that Contribute to Human Security and Resilience in Distrito de Aguablanca, Colombia

By David Alejandro Schoeller-Diaz, Victoria-Alicia Lopez, John Joseph "Ian" Kelly IV, and Ronak B. Patel

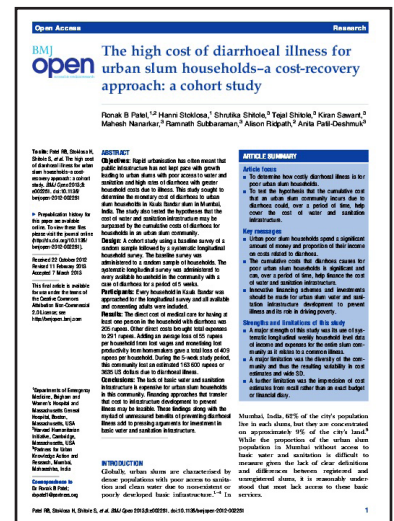
This study seeks to offer a practical examination of resilience in complex urban landscapes for the academic community and humanitarian actors at the local and international levels. Distrito de Aguablanca in Cali, Colombia, a complex settlement area with some 600,000 residents, functions as a case study in human security and resilience. Analysis of this community can inform public policy and community-level decision making in especially difficult humanitarian environments with sociopolitical volatility, large populations of internally displaced persons, and high crime and violence rates.



The High Cost of Diarrhoeal Illness for Urban Slum Households - A Cost-Recovery Approach: A Cohort Study

By Patel RB, Stoklosa H, Sawant K, Shitole T, Namarkar M, Subaraman R, Ridpath A, Patil-Deshmuk A

Rapid urbanisation has often meant that public infrastructure with poor access to water and sanitation and high rates of diarrhoea with greater household costs due to illness. This study sought to determine the monetary cost of diarrhoea to urban slum households in Kaula Bandar slum in Mumbai, India. The study also tested the hypotheses that the cost of water and sanitation infrastructure may be surpassed by the cumulative costs of diarrhoea for households in an urban slum community.







## **ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS**

Frederick M. Burkle, Alexa E. Walls, Joan P. Heck, Brian S. Sorensen, Hilarie H. Cranmer, Kirsten Johnson, Adam C. Levine, Stephanie Kayden, Brendan Cahill, and Michael J. VanRooyen. Academic Affiliated Training Centers in Humanitarian Health, Part I: Program Characteristics and Professionalization Preferences of Centers in North America. *Prehospital and disaster medicine* 28, no. 2 (2013).

Emmanuel Letouze, Patrick Meier, Patrick Vinck Big Data for Conflict Prevention: New Oil and Old Fires In: Mancini F, editor. *New Technology and the Prevention of Violence and Conflict*. New York: International Peace Institute p. 4-27 (2013).

Phuong N. Pham, Patrick Vinck. Cambodia In: Stan L, Nedelsky N, editors. *Encyclopedia of Transitional Justice Volume 2*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 86-93 (2013).

Phuong N. Pham. Innovation, Evaluation, and Diffusion of Humanitarian Technology, in Vinck, editor, *World Disasters Report 2013: Technology and the Future of Humanitarian Action*, International Federation of the Red Cross (2013).

Les F. Roberts, Michael J. VanRooyen. Ensuring Public Health Neutrality. *New England Journal of Medicine* 368.12: 1073-1075 (2013).

Patrick Vinck, Phuong N. Pham, Democratic Republic of the Congo In: Stan L Nedelsky N, editors. *Encyclopedia of Transitional Justice Volume 2*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; p. 113-119 (2013).

Patrick Vinck, Phuong N. Pham, Niamh Gibbons. Lord's Resistance Army, In Spear T, editor. *Oxford Bibliographies in African Studies*. New York: Oxford University Press (2013).

Patrick Vinck. Forced Displacement of and Potential Solutions for IDPs and refugees in the Sahel, World Bank and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2013).



## **HHI IN THE MEDIA**

“Stop Catastrophizing Relief Efforts in the Philippines,” Time Ideas, November 14, 2013.

“Analysis: Latin America’s Wired Activists Take on Crime,” IRIN News, November 5, 2013.

“Illegal migrants aid hurricane clear-up in US,” Al-Jazeera, October 28, 2013.

“Spoils of War,” Harvard Gazette, October 22, 2013.

“A New Era in Disaster Relief,” Harvard Gazette, October 18, 2013.

“Aid in the 21st Century - Red Cross calls for technological revolution,” EuroNews, October 17, 2013.

“Bush promised Iraqi civilians a better future. What are their lives like now?” MSNBC, October 17, 2013.

“Access to technology aids survival in natural disaster,” BBC, October 16, 2013.

“Hingham High speaker, program broadens students’ global views,” Boston.com, October 9, 2013.

“Tostan adopts new monitoring and evaluation technology in the field,” Tostan, September 5, 2013.

“Health Under Threat in the Central African Republic,” Safeguarding Health in Conflict, September 3, 2013.

“How did 7,000 Sudanese disappear in 2011?” Globalpost, August 23, 2013.

“Questioning the Crowd - data verification challenges for humanitarians,” IRIN News, August 20, 2013.

“Simulating Disaster,” TuftsNow, August 20, 2013.

“Is There a Human Right to Information During Disasters?” Global Observatory, August 14, 2013.

“Analysis: Aid worker job specs in the network age,” IRIN News, August 1, 2013.

“Winfrey: Failure is just movement,” Harvard Gazette, May 30, 2013.

“Analysis: Which technology to use for disaster management?” IRIN News, May 30, 2013.

“Light along a jagged border,” Harvard Gazette, May 22, 2013.

“Urgent prep work,” Harvard Gazette, May 17, 2013.

“Preparation, and a bit of luck,” Boston Herald, May 2, 2013.

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