



Annual Report



HARVARD
Global Health Institute

2024-2025



Advancing Excellence and Equity in Global Health

HARVARD
GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE



MESSAGE FROM THE FACULTY DIRECTOR

The past academic year was marked by both momentum and challenge. We celebrated the launch of new initiatives—such as the HGHI Visiting Scholars Program—and saw our existing programs, including the HGHI Scholarly Working Groups, grow in scope. These developments reflect our continued commitment to convening, knowledge generation, and advancing equity in global health.

At the same time, we are navigating a moment of profound uncertainty. The global health and higher education communities are facing significant disruptions stemming from shifting U.S. government priorities. Severe cuts to research funding and foreign aid not only jeopardize scientific progress but endanger lives. Restrictions facing universities threaten the foundation of open inquiry and international collaboration. These challenges are real, but so is the strength and resourcefulness of our community.

In the face of these headwinds, HGHI has remained agile and responsive. At our third annual Global Health symposium this year, we convened Harvard faculty, researchers, and global leaders to examine the far-reaching implications of these policy shifts. The discussions were sobering, but they also underscored the power of shared purpose and community, and offered pathways forward.

Beginning this spring, we focused our monthly Coffee Sessions virtual series on sharing information and perspectives on the rapidly evolving global health landscape shaped by shifting geopolitical dynamics. By providing evidence-based insights, we aim to equip our audience to engage in informed dialogue on urgent issues such as governance, financing, misinformation, and other critical challenges facing global health today. These sessions have been a resounding success – gathering audience members from across the US and globe.



LOUISE C. IVERS
FACULTY DIRECTOR

Our Fellowship programs continue to support postdoctoral scholars, global health leaders, and junior faculty, providing a platform for their research and career advancement. This year, we also introduced two undergraduate and graduate student-focused initiatives: the Student Global Health Research Showcase and new HGHI support for Conference Travel. Both have received enthusiastic engagement from students and faculty alike.

The year ahead will demand resilience, creativity, and resolve. We aim to continue to adapt to the evolving circumstances, engage with our broad public audience to inform and discuss the role of global public health, and to support our community. Together, we will continue to foster collaboration and ensure that rigorous, inclusive scholarship has a strong voice in shaping the future of health for all.

A global community

Building knowledge. Driving positive change.

This year, our public event series reached audiences across the globe, featuring scholars and practitioners from Harvard and beyond. Through multiple channels, we engaged more than 2,000 people in discussions that reflect the breadth and urgency of today's global health challenges.



**Over 2,000
virtual attendees
from 100+ countries**

Public Events

Research and Innovation Series

In this monthly virtual series, we showcased cutting-edge research and scientific advancements in global health by Harvard faculty across the university. These events offered broad access to academic insights and fostered dialogue to inspire innovation in the pursuit of health equity and improved health outcomes worldwide.

Global Health Coffee Sessions

This is another monthly virtual series featuring timely conversations on wide-ranging topics at the intersection of health, policy, governance, and global collaboration. Harvard faculty, global health experts, policymakers, and practitioners from institutions across the globe engaged in moderated forward-looking discussions on emerging and persistent challenges in global health.

Addressing Critical Challenges and Finding Actionable Solutions in Global Health

2025 Global Health Symposium

On April 10, 2025, the Harvard Global Health Institute convened its third annual Global Health Symposium at Harvard University's Smith Campus Center. Under the theme "Delivering on the Promise of Health Equity", the event brought together leading experts in global health, humanitarian response, public policy, and health systems to examine some of the most urgent challenges shaping the global health landscape today.

Keynotes and panel discussions explored the evolution of the humanitarian sector, strategies for health system reform in crisis settings, the United States' role in global health cooperation, and methods to restore public trust in science.



2800
individuals
from
127
countries
joined in-person
and online

Speakers emphasized the importance of locally led health systems, stronger accountability mechanisms, and cross-sector partnerships to combat entrenched inequities and emerging threats. The discussions underscored a growing consensus: achieving "health for all" requires not only technical innovation but also inclusive governance, sustainable investment and political will to address health inequity.

Catalyzing Collaboration for Global Health Impact

Scholarly Working Groups



The HGHI Scholarly Working Group (SWG) Program fosters interdisciplinary collaboration by supporting faculty-led groups working across Harvard schools to address urgent global health challenges. Since its launch, eight groups have been awarded, with participation from 27 faculty members across nine schools and 16 departments and centers.

Topics range from climate change, conflict, and health systems resilience to access to therapeutics and global health governance. The program exemplifies HGHI's commitment to actionable, interfaculty, transdisciplinary scholarship.

HGHI Scholarly Working Groups

Environmental Pressures on Malaria

Led by Flaminia Catteruccia | Working group members from HSPH, HKS, HBS, FAS

This group examines the unintended environmental consequences of current malaria control strategies and proposes sustainable, environmentally sensitive, and context-specific alternatives. A forthcoming position paper will help malaria professionals and global policymakers reimagine the future of malaria eradication by incorporating environmental science, behavior change, economics, and policymaking.

AI and Digital Innovations for Global Health

Led by Bethany Hedt-Gauthier and Adeline Boatin | Working group members from HMS, HSPH, SEAS

This working group convenes faculty and practitioners across Harvard to explore the application of AI and digital innovations (DI) in advancing global health equity. Their goal is to identify knowledge gaps, map ongoing efforts, and promote collaboration across schools to strengthen data-driven, tech-enabled approaches in global health.

Climate Change, War, and Health: Effects Across Generations

Led by Ann-Christine Duhaime | Working group members from HMS, HSPH

Focusing on the intergenerational impacts of war and environmental disruption, this group investigates how exposure to violence, displacement, and ecological degradation affects long-term health across generations. Their work includes developing a series of scoping reviews and public engagement tools aimed at informing adaptive, resilient strategies for future health planning.

Increasing the Resilience of Threatened Health Systems

Led by Margaret Bourdeaux | Working group members from HMS, HSPH, HKS

This group explores how health systems can anticipate, withstand, and respond to disruptions stemming from armed conflict, hybrid warfare, and climate-related crises. By integrating scenario planning with systems thinking, they are developing a standardized tool to assess health system vulnerabilities. Their work also includes producing white papers on conflict-impact scenarios—such as escalating tensions between NATO and Russia—and analyzing climate-driven threats to the continuity and resilience of health system operations.

HGHI Scholarly Working Groups

Advancing Global Health Justice

Led by Alicia Yamin | Working group members from HLS, HSPH, HMS

This group critically analyzes global health governance and the underlying power structures, with a particular emphasis on moving beyond traditional philanthropic hierarchies. Key initiatives include a white paper evaluating the current global health governance curriculum across Harvard, and a series of workshops that explore the future landscape of global health financing and governance.

Access to Cancer Therapeutics in Low- and Middle-Income Countries through Voluntary Licensing

Led by Aparna Parikh | Working group members from HMS, HLS

This working group is collaborating with pharmaceutical leaders and policymakers to advance broader voluntary licensing strategies aimed at improving equitable access to cancer treatments. Planned outputs include a white paper and a curated panel at BIO2025—one of the premier global biotechnology conferences—designed to shape policy discussions and industry debates on access to oncology drugs.

Climate Change and Health Collaborative

Led by Megan Murray | Working group members from HMS, HSPH, FAS

The Climate Change and Health Collaborative Scholarly Working Group is building a cross-disciplinary network to address the health impacts of climate change in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). By leveraging existing partnerships among Harvard faculty, global health organizations, and NGO representatives, the group aims to identify and implement practical interventions that mitigate the health consequences of extreme weather events and climate-related crises.

Cholera: State of the Science

Led by Louise Ivers and Jason Harris

In 2024, the Cholera: State of the Science Working Group convened a high-level symposium at Harvard, bringing together over 50 leading experts from 20 organizations across the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Zambia, Bangladesh, Canada, and the United States. The gathering served as a platform for sharing cutting-edge research, fostering collaboration, and advancing the global understanding of cholera prevention, response, and control. As a result of this work, the group was awarded a grant from the Gates Foundation.

Facilitating Global Collaboration In-Residence

Visiting Scholars Program

We launched the HGHI Visiting Scholars Program to strengthen and expand scholarly partnerships between Harvard faculty and researchers from low- and middle-income countries. This new initiative invites faculty to nominate distinguished international colleagues in global health research for a six-week, on-campus residency.



In Spring 2025, the program welcomed its inaugural scholars—one from Peru and one from Botswana—who collaborated with faculty at the Harvard Law School's Petrie Flom Center and the Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



2024 - 2025 Visiting Scholars



Professor Camila Gianella (Peru) is an Assistant Professor and Director of the Master's in Political Science and International Relations at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. Her research centers on the right to health, reproductive rights, health systems analysis, and socio-legal mobilization. During her time at Harvard, in partnership with Professor Alicia Yamin at Harvard Law School's Petrie-Flom Center, she explored the intersection of institutional corruption and mental health service delivery systems, advancing a multidisciplinary inquiry into one of the most overlooked barriers to equitable care.



Dr. Wonderful Choga (Botswana) is a medical researcher and bioinformatician at the Botswana Harvard Health Partnership, a collaboration between the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (HSPH) and the Government of Botswana. With deep expertise in computational biology and immuno-informatics, Dr. Choga worked alongside Professor Yonatan Grad from the Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at HSPH on the application of metagenomic data and bioinformatics tools to enhance comprehensive pathogen detection.

Supporting Emerging Leaders in Global Health

At the heart of HGHI's mission is the belief that global health challenges can only be solved through bold, visionary leadership grounded in equity, science, and collaboration. In 2025, HGHI continued to strengthen its competitive fellowship programs, which recognize and support exceptional individuals committed to driving systemic change in global health. Since 2009, HGHI has hosted 79 fellows working on projects in over 30 countries.

Burke Global Health Fellowships

Since 2009, the Burke Global Health Fellowship has played a pivotal role in advancing innovative, faculty-led research addressing urgent global health challenges. Designed to support Harvard junior faculty and postdoctoral researchers at a critical stage in their academic careers, the fellowship provides funding and mentorship to launch high-impact projects that intersect with HGHI's core focus areas.



Professional Developments for Burke Fellows



The 2024–2025 Burke Cohort participated in two intensive, workshop sessions led by Harvard faculty and international experts. These 3-hour workshops focused on research project management and advancing global health research partnerships, and were tailored to align with the unique interests and goals of the Burke Fellows. As a cornerstone of the Burke Fellowship, these sessions are designed to equip the next generation of global health leaders with the practical skills and strategic insight needed to drive global health equity.

Empowering Women Leaders in Global Health

LEAD Fellowship for Women in Global Health

Now in its sixth year, the LEAD Fellowship continues to transform the global health leadership landscape by investing in the potential of women driving progress in their local and global contexts. Offered in partnership with the Department of Global Health and Population at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the program champions mid-career professionals from low- and middle-income countries who are ready to lead change and mentor the next generation. During their six-week, in-person residency at Harvard, LEAD Fellows engage in a dynamic leadership development experience that includes personalized executive coaching, one-on-one mentorship from Harvard faculty, and participation in executive education courses and masterclass workshops led by renowned leadership experts.

To date, the program has supported over 28 fellows from 23 countries, many of whom now hold leadership positions in national ministries of health, academic institutions, and global and local civil society organizations.

2024-2025 LEAD Fellows



Wanza Mbole (Kenya): Senior Economic Inclusion Advisor at FSD Kenya, pioneering health finance strategies to reduce out-of-pocket costs and expand access for women and low-income households. She also leads a maternal and neonatal value-based care pilot program and mentors rising female leaders.



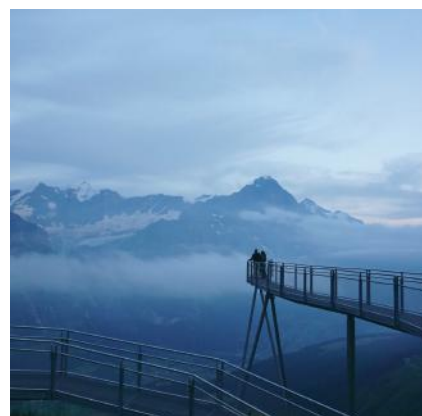
Dr. Jalikatu Mustapha (Sierra Leone): Deputy Minister of Health II and a practicing ophthalmologist, recognized internationally for her gender-inclusive eye health outreach campaigns. She now leads national-level strategies focused on maternal and child health, climate health integration, and public-private partnerships in healthcare.



Dr. Cindy Chan Tha (Myanmar): Public health leader, former health system director, and co-founder of a humanitarian organization addressing urgent health access needs. Her work spans grassroots clinical practice, health administration, and national health policy development.

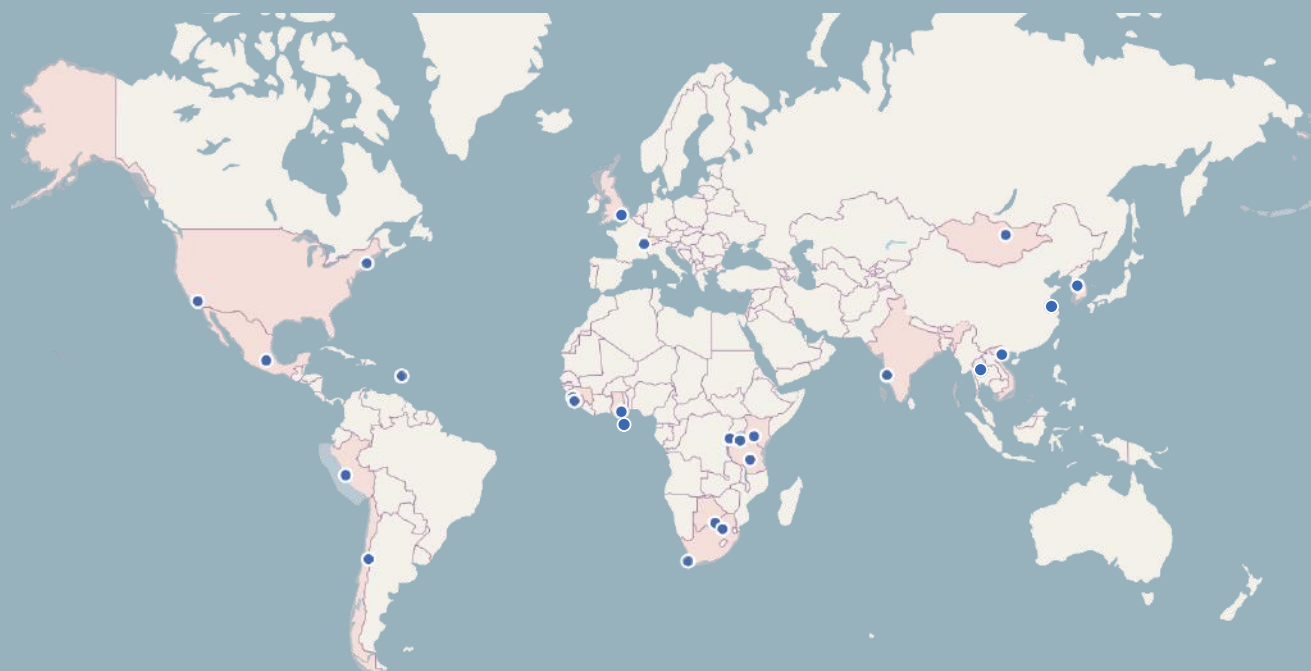
Experiential Learning Opportunities for Undergraduates

Summer Internship Program



We continue to deepen our investment in student leadership and experiential learning through a dynamic portfolio of internship opportunities. Designed to immerse undergraduates in the frontlines of global and public health research and practice, our programs connect students with expert mentors, institutions, and communities around the world.

This year, 53 exceptional students were selected from a competitive pool of nearly 600 applicants to participate in 10-week internships across 20 countries. From research institutions to on-the-ground community health initiatives, students engaged with leading organizations—who had provided a list of their pressing needs and participated in the selection process—tackling urgent global health challenges.





This year, we launched a four-module pre-departure training series designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed for meaningful and responsible global health engagements. The program included a welcome and orientation session, an interactive workshop on the history and foundational concepts of global health, a seminar on practicing cultural humility in diverse settings, and a safety and risk management session.

Laying the Foundation for Ethical Global Practice

New onboarding program to prepare students to meaningfully contribute in global settings

As a response to feedback from our community, we created the HGHI Conference Support Fund to advance student scholarship and global engagement by providing financial assistance to offset registration, travel, and accommodation costs for Harvard undergraduate and graduate students presenting original research at recognized academic conferences. In 2025, the fund supported 4 students attending prominent conferences, including the Global WASH Cluster Annual Meeting and Emergency Environmental Health Forum, the Lancet Global Health Commission on People-Centered Care for Universal Health Coverage, and the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Convention.



Supporting the Next Generation of Global Health Scholars

New Conference Support Fund

Showcasing Student Innovation in Global Health

HGHI's Research Poster Session

We hosted Harvard's first university-wide Global Health Research Poster Session to showcase student-led research. The event provides a platform for students to present original work while engaging with thought leaders, peers, and a committee of distinguished judges who are experts in global health and faculty from across Harvard.

From a pool of 59 applicants from Harvard's undergraduate and graduate programs, 32 finalists were selected. During the session, 30 students—including 9 undergraduate and 21 graduate students, representing disciplines from epidemiology and psychology to engineering and bioethics—presented their work.

The projects addressed a wide array of topics, including maternal and infant health, mental health, HIV prevention, and equitable healthcare delivery, all underscoring a shared commitment to health equity and global collaboration.



Undergraduate Winner:
Sara Silarszka

Project: HIV prevention-focused community engagement pilot in Botswana developed during her HGHI internship.



Graduate Winner:
Suci Ardini Widyaningsih

Project: Evaluating clinical signs predicting neonatal mortality in rural Bangladesh



Building an Engaging Student Community

Student Advisory Committee (SAC)

Now in its ninth year, the SAC continues to serve as a dynamic leadership incubator, empowering undergraduates to actively engage with global health challenges. The community encourages students to design innovative initiatives that extend beyond the classroom, fostering meaningful engagement across the diverse and interdisciplinary landscape of global health.

HGHI Program Calendar 2024-2025

Jul 2024

- Summer internship in session
- Burke presentation dinner
- Notification to 2024-2025 fellows
- Coffee Session
- SWG application deadline

Aug 2024

- SURGH students Poster Session
- GSD Student Fair
- Burke & LEAD New cohort announced
- SWG award announcement

Oct 2024

- LEAD Alumni/Current Cohort meeting
- Visiting Scholar Orientation
- LEAD Brown Bag Seminar
- Research & Innovation Speaker Series
- Faculty Dinner
- Coffee Session

Dec 2024

- Internship Info Session
- Internship application launch
- New SAC announced
- Coffee Session
- Research & Innovation Speaker Series
- Murray SWG virtual convening
- HGHI Holiday Reception

Sept 2024

- Student Fair
- Photo contest winner announcement
- Open house / internship showcase
- Visiting Scholar application deadline
- Burke Fellows Welcome Lunch
- Welcome new LEAD cohort
- Research & Innovation Speaker Series
- Coffee Session

Nov 2024

- MCS Panel on Global Health Careers
- Burke Fellowship application launch
- Research & Innovation Speaker Series

Jan 2025

- Wintersession Hackathon
- Summer Internship Open Office Hours
- New SAC members welcome and onboarding
- Burke application deadline
- Visiting Scholar orientation
- Research & Innovation Speaker Series
- Coffee Session
- Duhaime SWG meeting

Feb 2025

- Summer internship application deadline
- Global Health Student Organization Leaders' Lunch
- Research & Innovation Speaker Series
- Coffee Session
- Catteruccia SWG Symposium

Mar 2025

- Final decisions for summer internship
- Visiting Scholars arrive on campus
- Research & Innovation Speaker Series
- Coffee Session
- Bourdeaux SWG meeting

Apr 2025

- Global Health Symposium
- Summer Internship workshops
- Symposium speaker breakfast
- Student Research Showcase
- Summer internship virtual orientation
- VISITAS
- LEAD/Takemi lunch
- LEAD workshops and Women in Power Course
- All-fellows reception and LEAD dinner
- Research & Innovation Speaker Series
- Coffee Session

May 2025

- Summer Internship pre-departure orientation
- Summer Internship in-person orientation
- Research & Innovation Speaker Series
- Coffee Session

Jun 2025

- Summer internships start
- Research & Innovation Speaker Series
- Coffee Session
- Parikh SWG event at the Boston BIO Convention
- Yamin SWG event

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Harvard Global Health Institute
42 Church St.
Cambridge, MA 02138

[GLOBALHEALTH.HARVARD.EDU](https://globalhealth.harvard.edu)

