



HARVARD
Global Health Institute

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Advancing Excellence and Equity in Global Health



Advancing
Excellence
and Equity in
Global
Health

MESSAGE FROM THE FACULTY DIRECTOR

In a year marked by humanitarian crises and reduced overseas development assistance that threaten progress toward “health for all,” we at the Harvard Global Health Institute (HGHI) have remained steadfast in our commitment to advancing excellence and equity in global health. Our Institute does not work alone. Every day, Harvard faculty and students, in collaboration with partners across the global community, meet the moment through innovative laboratory research, frontline health care delivery in rural communities, and countless other efforts. I am deeply proud of how our faculty, fellows, students, and partners have responded with resilience, innovation, and purpose.

Today’s global health architecture is under significant strain. Fragmented systems, climate-related shocks, emerging pandemics, and growing fiscal constraints continue to test our collective capacity to improve health outcomes, especially in the most impoverished and traditionally marginalized communities. Yet, as we explored at our 2026 Global Health Symposium, achieving global health equity in an age of scarcity remains within reach. It will require a fundamental shift away from siloed, traditional aid models toward shared responsibility, cross-sector collaboration, and genuine power-sharing.

Over the past academic year, HGHI has worked to catalyze this shift. More than 6,000 individuals from 100+ countries registered for our virtual and in-person events, fostering timely, evidence-based dialogue on topics ranging from the intersection of artificial intelligence and health policy to the future of global solidarity. Through our Scholarly Working Groups, we are seeing the results of interdisciplinary collaboration, including an interactive webpage on heat and worker safety, a white paper outlining strategies to expand access to oncology medicines in resource-constrained settings, and other important contributions to the field.

At the heart of these efforts is our continued investment in people. Through our fellowship programs, we support exceptional postdoctoral scholars, junior faculty, and global health leaders who are advancing cutting-edge research and leading critical initiatives worldwide. We are also expanding experiential learning opportunities for Harvard students, equipping the next generation of scholars and practitioners with the skills and experiences needed to bridge academic learning and community impact.

The road ahead will require sustained creativity, courage, and collaboration. While the challenges facing global health are vast, the ingenuity, expertise, and determination of our community are greater still. By investing in people, generating and sharing knowledge, and fostering inclusive partnerships, HGHI remains steadfast in its mission to advance excellence and equity in global health. We hope you will join us in the critical work ahead.



Louise C. Ivers, MD, MPH, DTM&H
Faculty Director, Harvard Global Health Institute

HGHI by the numbers

2025-2026

20 Public Events
hosted

Our annual Global Health Symposium and monthly webinar series centered around discussions guided by former health ministers, senior leaders from national and multilateral agencies, and distinguished faculty from Harvard and other leading universities.

6K Event
registrants

Last year, audiences from more than 100 countries signed up for our public events to gain insight into today's most urgent global health challenges.

61 Faculty who actively
contributed to HGHI
programs

Faculty from across the university supported HGHI programming by serving as mentors to students and fellows, contributing to the ever evolving dialogue across disciplines and producing scholarly work through our Scholarly Working Groups, as well as facilitating conversations with global health leaders from around the world.

222 Students
supported

HGHI offers distinctive learning experiences for undergraduate and graduate students—ranging from coursework and research opportunities to internships and workshops—to build a strong global community and prepare the next generation of global health practitioners and leaders.

5 Fellows & Scholars
awarded

Our fellowship programs offer valuable opportunities for post-docs, global health leaders, and Harvard junior faculty to advance their careers, receive expert mentorship, and connect with Harvard's diverse community of health professionals.

12 Countries
represented

Through our Scholarly Working Groups, Fellowships, and Student Internships, HGHI supported research projects and educational initiatives around the world.

85K Followers across
social media

From Instagram and LinkedIn to Facebook and other platforms, HGHI has a strong follower base from over 100 countries.

311K Website
visitors

Last year, people from around the world came to our website to get information about our programs, as well as global health issues they cared about.



THE SALATA INSTITUTE
FOR CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY
at Harvard University

CrisisReady

HARVARD
URBAN HEALT
INITIATIVE

BOSTON
CLIMATE
WEEK

Letters to a New Heat Officer: Accelerating Useful Learning for Urban Heat Action

Wednesday, May 6 - May 7, 2026

David Rubenstein Treehouse at Harvard University

Presented by the Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability, the Harvard Urban Health Initiative, the Heat and Workers Protection Scholarly Work Group, the Harvard Global Health Institute, and CrisisReady.

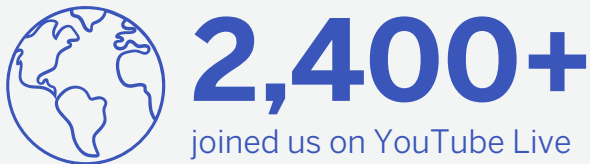
Since 2023, our symposia have brought together 7,000 people from a global community of researchers, policymakers, practitioners, academics, students, and the general public from across 120+ countries.



Global Health Forward:

Moving from research and conversations to actionable outcomes

At the 2026 Global Health Symposium, policymakers, practitioners, academics, and students gathered around a central idea: achieving global health equity in an age of scarcity requires moving from fragmented systems to shared responsibility.



Across sessions on multilateral architecture, emergency response, workforce training, and reforms in Africa and Latin America, speakers argued that today's global health architecture is expensive, duplicative, and politically fragile—ill-suited to a world of pandemics, climate shocks, and fiscal austerity. Progress will depend not only on new tools, but on institutional courage, political imagination, and genuine power-sharing.

Key Takeaways:

- Fragmentation at the country level is the most neglected piece of the reform agenda.
- Solidarity is being redefined away from traditional aid toward shared risk management and system efficiency.
- Preparedness must be understood as a shared, cross-sectoral responsibility across human, animal, and environmental health systems.
- Training must be locally grounded and context-responsive.
- Future progress depends on strengthening governance capacity, coordination, and evidence-based decision-making under conditions of constraint.

**GLOBAL
HEALTH
SYMPOSIUM**
2027

5 Years. One Goal. Health for All.
April 15, 2027 | In-person and Livestream

Making Research Accessible

Last year, 3,833 participants from around the world registered for our monthly virtual programs. Through the Research and Innovation Series, audiences learned about the latest scholarly and scientific development from Harvard faculty.

Research and Innovations Series: Featured Speakers



Randomized Trial of Single-Dose HPV Vaccination in Young Women: 54-Month Efficacy and Durability

Ruanne Barnabas MBChB, PhD



Aging in Place: The Care Challenge

Ann Forsyth, PhD, MA



The Ethics of Priority Setting in Global Health

Ole Norheim, MD



Building Cancer Research Capacity in Africa

Timothy R. Rebbeck, PhD



Rethinking American Indian Mental Health Services: Explorations in Alter-Native Psy-ence

Joseph P. Gone, PhD



Addressing the Global Challenges of Drug-Resistant Gonorrhea

Yonatan Grad, MD, PhD



Neuropsychiatric Genetics in African Populations: Lessons from the Past Decade and Future Directions

Karestan Koenen, PhD



Combining Evidence to Better Predict Cardiovascular Disease

Goodarz Danaei, MD

Timely Discussions Around Global Health

The Coffee Sessions Series are centered around timely conversations on wide-ranging topics at the intersection of health, policy, and global cooperation. The series brings together global health scholars, policymakers, and practitioners from Harvard and beyond. Last Spring, we held four sessions focused on various aspects of AI and global health.

Coffee Session Series



Financing Global Health's Future: Beyond the Budget Cuts



Global Health as a Moral Imperative: The U.S. Role in Advancing Equity and Partnership



Models of Global Collaboration: Practical Approaches to Vaccine Access



Strategies for Improving Maternal Healthcare Delivery: Insights from Pakistan and Sub-Saharan Africa

Special Series on AI and Global Health

In partnership with the Center of Bioethics at Harvard Medical School



Frameworks for Advancing and Governing Ethical AI in Global Health



Deploying AI in Global Health: Partnerships, Power, and Public Value



Measuring Impact: How Do We Know AI Is Improving Health Outcomes and Addressing Local Priorities in Global Health?



Can AI Transform Global Health? Promise, Progress, and Reality

Catalyzing Collaboration for Global Health Impact

Across Harvard schools and beyond, from faculty in our Scholarly Working Groups and Visiting Scholars Program to emerging leaders in our Fellowship programs, HGHI has supported research initiatives that address urgent global health challenges.

“Working together face-to-face allowed Dr. Azza Idris and me to develop more effective communication and created opportunities for informal discussions, both in and outside the office, that fostered a deeper sense of trust and strengthened our collaboration as scientists from different parts of the world.”

~ Dr. Bartholomew Ondigo, Senior Lecturer and PI Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Egerton University, Kenya

Advancing Research on Maternal Immunity Against Malaria Through Global Collaboration

During his HGHI Visiting Scholarship, Dr. Bartholomew Ondigo collaborated with Dr. Azza Idris to investigate immune responses that protect pregnant women from malaria infection, with a particular focus on placental malaria.

Building on Dr. Ondigo's longitudinal cohort of pregnant women in western Kenya and expertise in placental malaria and field immunology, alongside Dr. Idris's team's expertise in monoclonal antibody technologies at the Ragon Institute, the collaboration examined antibody responses to VAR2CSA, the primary placental malaria antigen.

The research aims to identify antibody responses associated with protection against placental sequestration of infected red blood cells, define immune correlates that may inform future maternal malaria vaccines and interventions, and strengthen capacity for implementing advanced immunological approaches at Egerton University.



Research Spotlight



Interactive Resource on Common Heat and Worker Safety Myths

Developed by the Scholarly Working Group on Heat and Worker Protections co-led by Dr. Satchit Balsari at Harvard Medical School and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Professor Sharon Block at the Center for Labor and a Just Economy at Harvard Law School, this interactive tool was designed for employees and employers to understand the facts about heat and worker safety.

Symposium on Malaria Gathered Experts from Harvard and Beyond

The “Environmental Pressures on Malaria” Scholarly Working Group, led by Dr. Flaminia Catteruccia, Professor in the Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, hosted a symposium titled “Malaria in a Changing World: Past Lessons, Present Challenges, and Future Solutions” in May 2026. The event drew more than 100 students, researchers, and faculty for a series of talks featuring experts focused on turning malaria into a disease of the past.



White Paper on Access to Oncology Medicines in Resource-Challenged Countries (RCCs)

Led by Dr. Aparna Parikh, Director of the Global Cancer Care Program at Massachusetts General Hospital and Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, the Scholarly Working Group “Access to Cancer Therapeutics” recently published a white paper, proposing that RCCs should collaborate with various stakeholders to make the latest oncology medicines more accessible.



Supporting Emerging Global Health Leaders

Through our fellowship programs, we support post-docs, mid-career leaders in global health, and Harvard junior faculty at a critical juncture of their careers. Upon completion of the program, many of our fellows hit major milestones in their professional lives.

This year's HGHI fellows are leading interdisciplinary projects focused on mental health and digital health innovation in Sierra Leone, antimicrobial resistance diagnostics in Peru, climate and community health systems in Madagascar and Kenya, and climate-health litigation and policy in the Global South.

Past Fellows Update



Dr. Marie Roseline Darnycka Belizaire (LEAD '23), Africa's Emergencies Director at the World Health Organization, leads Ebola response efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, strengthening outbreak control through community engagement.



Co-led by Dr. Pardis Sabeti (Burke'15), Sentinel receives \$100 million from MacArthur 100&Change Award to prevent pandemics.



Dr. Kathy Reyes (LEAD'24) receives 2025 TOWNS Award for service, research, and leadership in public health delivery in the Philippines.



Dr. Choolwe Nkwemu-Jacobs (LEAD'22) promoted to Associate Professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Zambia.

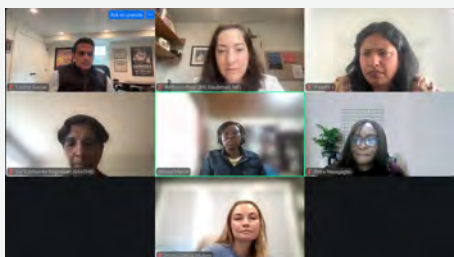
Supporting Emerging Leaders



A Global Community of Practice

Inaugural Burke Fellowship Alumni Writing Retreat

Last November, 10 Burke Fellowship alumni spanning 2009 – 2021 cohort years came together for the inaugural Burke Fellowship Alumni Writing Retreat. Over three days, Alumni gained new insights for effective academic writing with a writing coach and had dedicated time away from busy schedules to advance their individual writing projects, while deepening their connections across cohorts.



LEAD Fellowship Alumni Workshop

Led by Dr. Satchit Balsari, the goal of this session is to create a meaningful space for LEAD alumni to reconnect, reflect, and engage around shared leadership experiences and the ongoing challenges and opportunities in global health. The interactive workshop provided an opportunity for alumni to learn from one another and engage with the themes you bring forward.

Burke Fellows Research Showcase

Our current Burke Fellows shared their fellowship projects with the greater Harvard community during this annual Showcase. Over the course of six lightning talks and a thoughtful group discussion, fellows shared innovative research spanning climate litigation and health equity, heat adaptation in informal settlements, community health workers and climate resilience, clean air policy, PTSD support platforms for survivors of sexual assault, and rapid detection of resistant bloodstream infections.



2025 - 2026 Burke Global Health Fellows

Burke Global Health Fellows



Rose Olson
MD, MPH



David Roach
MD, MBA, MSc



Fabian Reitzug
PhD, MSc



Thalia Viveros Uehara
PhD, MSc, LLB



Timothy Downing
PhD, MSc

HGHI-Salata Burke Climate & Health Fellows



A Community Built by Students

The Student Advisory Committee (SAC) brings together Harvard undergraduates with diverse interests, disciplines, and experiences to explore global health beyond traditional boundaries. As student ambassadors, SAC members create opportunities for mentorship, conversation, and connection, helping peers find their place in a field shaped by many perspectives.



“SAC is an amazing opportunity to not only give back to your community and provide mentorship for underclassmen who are navigating the same process that you may be, but also to have your voice be heard. It’s an amazing opportunity to make students visible, curate and carve out a space for them, and for these stories to be heard.”

~ Tsering Yangchen '26
Student Advisory Committee Co-President

Research As a Pathway to Impact



Recently named the undergraduate poster winner at the Harvard Global Health Institute’s (HGHI) 2026 Student Global Health Research Showcase and a soon-to-be Fulbright Scholar heading to Germany this fall, Anika Christensen '26 is poised to tackle some of the world’s most pressing health crises.

Through HGHI, Anika had the space and funding to conduct independent research for the first time, focusing on Madagascar, one of the few places where plague remains a persistent threat. Examining the country’s unique vulnerabilities—including rising tropical temperatures that prevent flea die-offs, a heavily agricultural society, and fluctuating political systems that affect hospital funding—she began to map the complex web of global disease.

For Anika, global health is fundamentally about equity and erasing imaginary boundaries. “A disease doesn’t need a visa to get across the border,” she says. “I care about and value people and their health regardless of their nationality.” She sees global health not simply as a scientific endeavor, but as an exercise in international relations, ethics, and historical responsibility.

Encouraging Young Scholars

From Harvard to the World

HGHI's summer research and internship programs connect Harvard undergraduates with organizations working on some of the most urgent challenges in global health, giving students the opportunity to contribute, learn from practitioners, and discover where they can make a difference.

42 undergraduate students

29 partner organizations

11 countries represented



“ Strong donor and grantee relationships are essential to this work, and I was fortunate to help the team build them, tightening how they communicate across groups and improving the messaging strategy, digital tools, brand, workflows, and storytelling that support those relationships. ”

~ Sierra Pape '29

**HGHI Summer Intern with the
Stop TB Partnership at UNOPS in Geneva**

“ My biggest takeaway was learning what research looks like before there is ever a final result: protecting every sample, asking better questions, and relying on the people around me. Knowing that behind every sample was a real participant and family made even the smallest parts of our work feel connected to a much bigger goal. ”

~ Marcos Garcia '28

**HGHI Summer Intern at the Instituto Nacional de
Cardiología Ignacio Chávez in Mexico City.**



Global Health Courses for Undergraduate Students

The Harvard Global Health Institute supports a number of undergraduate courses with a strong focus on global health.

GenEd1093 Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Cares? Reimagining Global Health

GenEd1063 World Health: Challenges and Opportunities

GHHP20 Maternal & Reproductive Health and Health Policy

GHHP50 The Quality of Health Care in America

GHHP70 Global Response to Disasters and Refugee Crises



Looking Ahead

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) recently reported that international aid declined significantly in 2025. Further cuts in global aid funding are projected to reduce support for 29 low- and middle-income countries by an additional \$4.3 billion between 2026 and 2029. As health inequities widen while global health funding shrinks, HGHI remains committed to advancing global health equity and research through investments in people, knowledge, and collaboration.

Your partnership can help sustain progress toward a healthier, more equitable world.
We hope you will join us.

HARVARD

GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE



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