

2025 Annual Report

Shaping the future
of humanitarian
professionals



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Introduction

Letter from the Director

The year 2025 has once again highlighted the profound complexity of today's humanitarian landscape. Protracted conflicts, climate-related crises, forced displacement, and persistent health inequities continue to challenge global solidarity and test the resilience of health systems worldwide. Against this backdrop, the Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies has remained committed to advancing rigorous research, innovative education, and meaningful partnerships that strengthen humanitarian action and public health practice.

Over the past year, our Centre has consolidated its role as a leading research hub for humanitarian health and policy analysis. Our educational programmes have expanded both in scope and reach, equipping professionals from diverse regions with the analytical skills, leadership capacities, and operational understanding required to navigate increasingly uncertain contexts. We continue to emphasise interdisciplinary approaches, integrating public health, social sciences, systems thinking, and governance perspectives to better reflect the realities faced by humanitarian actors.

Research activities in 2025 have focused particularly on health system resilience, decision-making in crises, and the intersection of climate change, migration, and health. These themes reflect not only emerging global priorities but also the Centre's longstanding commitment to evidence-informed humanitarian action. Our collaborations with international organisations, academic institutions, and local partners have enabled us to translate research into practical tools, policy dialogue, and capacity-building initiatives that support more effective and equitable responses.

A key priority this year has been strengthening partnerships with institutions in regions directly affected by humanitarian crises (e.g. Jordan, Türkiye and Afghanistan). Such collaborations are essential for fostering locally grounded knowledge, ensuring contextual relevance, and supporting the localisation of humanitarian expertise. We remain convinced that sustainable solutions emerge through reciprocal partnerships that recognise and value the expertise of local actors.

The Centre has also deepened its engagement with the broader International Geneva ecosystem. By connecting academic research with humanitarian diplomacy, operational agencies, and policy stakeholders, we aim to bridge



Professor Karl Blanchet,

Director
Geneva Centre of
Humanitarian Studies
Faculty of Medicine
University of Geneva

the persistent gap between evidence generation and decision-making. This interface remains critical as the humanitarian sector undergoes reflection and reform in response to evolving global challenges.

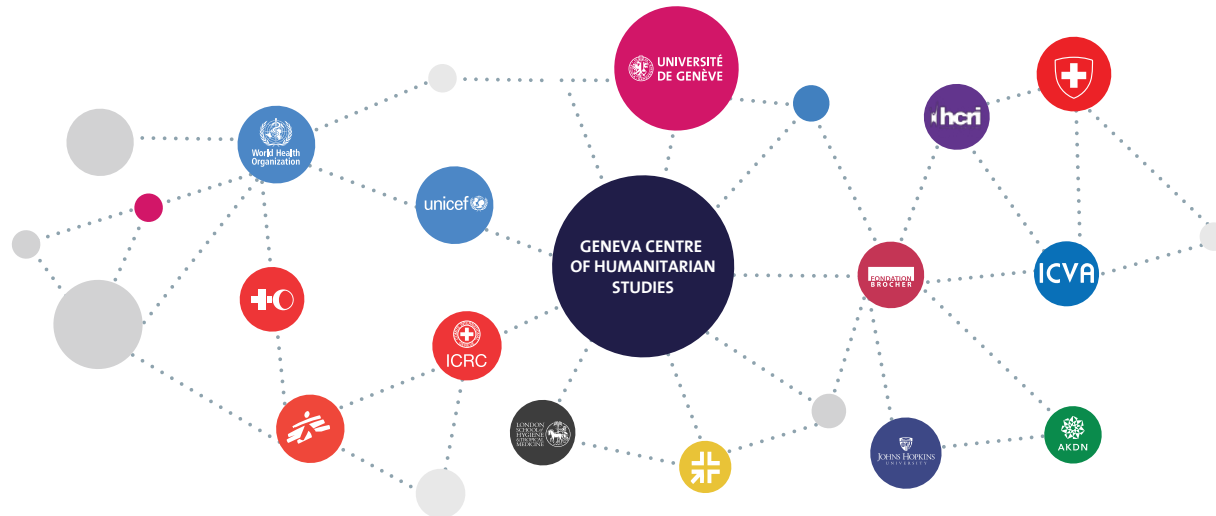
None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication of our faculty, researchers, students, alumni, institutional partners and our donors. Looking ahead, the need for innovative thinking, collaborative leadership, and evidence-based action has never been greater. The Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies will continue to invest in research excellence, transformative education, and strategic partnerships that contribute to more effective humanitarian responses.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have supported the Centre's work throughout 2025. Together, we remain committed to advancing knowledge, strengthening practice, and contributing to a more equitable and resilient global health landscape.

Who we are

The Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies, part of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Geneva, has been a leading platform for humanitarian continuing education and research for 28 years. Established through collaboration between academic institutions and humanitarian organisations, the Centre is one of the oldest academic institutions in the world dedicated to bridging practice, training and research to strengthen humanitarian work.

Located in Geneva's humanitarian hub, and working in close partnership with organisations such as Médecins Sans Frontières and the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Centre combines academic rigour with professional practice to support the development of humanitarian professionals and to contribute to evidence-informed humanitarian action.



What we do

Through continuing education programmes and research initiatives, the Centre strengthens the capacity and professional practice of humanitarian actors. It equips participants with analytical tools, strategic insights, and evidence-based knowledge to address complex crises in an ethical and effective manner.

Beyond professional training, the Centre promotes critical reflection and open exchange among practitioners. By encouraging dialogue and the questioning of assumptions, it supports thoughtful engagement with the ethical, operational, and strategic challenges of humanitarian action, contributing to a more accountable and reflexive humanitarian system.



02 About us

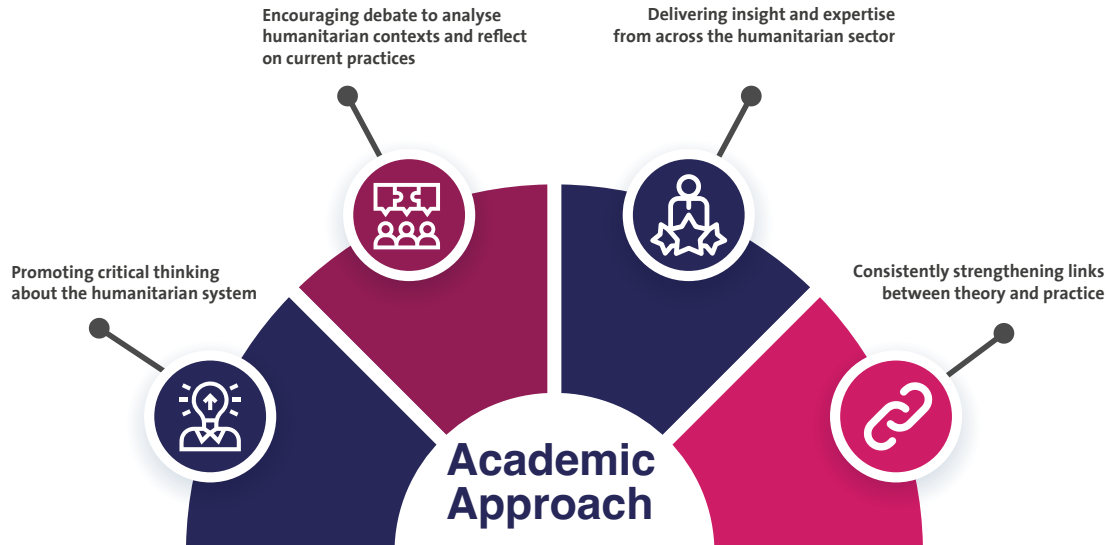
Academic Approach

Our lecturers are experts in a wide range of disciplines, including public health, ethics, international relations, climate change, migration, international humanitarian law, political science, history, anthropology, negotiation, communication and management, reflecting the variety of competencies required in contemporary humanitarian work.

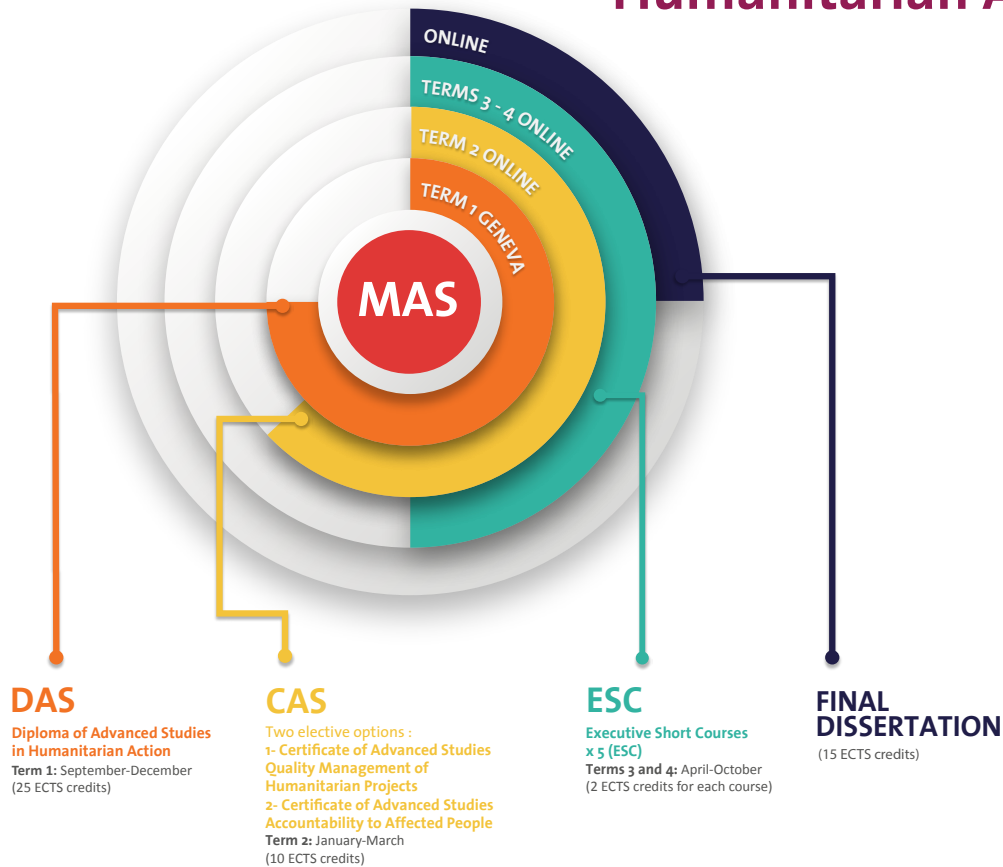
As the global humanitarian landscape evolves, we adapt our courses to provide the support and skills needed for humanitarian professionals. We value reflexivity, encouraging humanitarian professionals to question assumptions, confront ethical dilemmas, and engage with diverse perspectives.

Through interactive and participatory, cross-disciplinary and multi-cultural approaches, students strengthen their capacity to develop effective humanitarian strategies that support populations affected by crises.

We enhance learning by:



Master of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action



Our Courses in 2025

Master of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action (MAS)

The MAS in Humanitarian Action blends online and residential learning, combining theoretical, practical and managerial skills. Developed in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), this unique programme offers cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural education, fostering critical analysis for effective humanitarian response. It explores the humanitarian system, its normative frameworks, power dynamics among actors, and various contexts like armed conflicts, disasters, and migration. The Master of Advanced Studies is a flexible course, with two-thirds online, and options for a 14-month or a 2–3-year duration.

More info



Diploma of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action (DAS)

The DAS is a residential programme that aims to offer professionals a critical understanding of the humanitarian system and an ability to contextualise humanitarian action in today's world. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, it explores the historical, political, social, cultural and economic roots of humanitarianism and the power dynamics at play in relationships between States, non-State actors, international organisations, international and local non-governmental organisations and affected populations. Finally, the programme addresses the colonial legacies of past and present humanitarian interventions to identify new avenues for contemporary and future crises.

More info



Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) Quality Management of Humanitarian Projects

This CAS programme addresses the dynamics and components that guarantee the quality management of adapted projects and cohesive teams. It integrates fundamental principles such as inclusion and diversity, do no harm, accountability and participation into processes, methods and tools of project and people management.

The course follows the Result-Based management approach and takes into account ethical issues, specificities of contexts and organisational mandates. Participants will be able to apply a qualitative framework in order to manage projects and teams in line with local and international prerogatives.

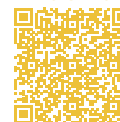
More info



Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) Accountability to Affected Populations

This CAS programme focuses on improving Accountability to Affected People (AAP) within the humanitarian sector. It covers the components, underpinnings, and practices of AAP in various contexts, enabling participants to uphold the principle of accountability in their work. The course explores existing modalities and practices, critically assessing their promises and limitations. By enhancing understanding of accountability as a mindset and utilising tools, it empowers vulnerable communities and enhances responsiveness. The online course, with a residential week in Nairobi, Kenya, is organised in partnership with UNICEF.

More info



Executive Short Courses (ESC)

We run a range of Executive Short Courses (ESC) led by senior academics and experienced humanitarian professionals looking at various aspects of humanitarian action – Humanitarian Leadership and People Management – Humanitarian Project Cycle Management – Addressing Sexual Violence in Conflict and Emergency Settings – Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts – Planetary Health – Digital Innovations in Humanitarian Action – Patient Safety in Humanitarian Crises – Health Systems Assessment in Humanitarian Crises – Negotiating on the Frontlines – Health Emergencies in Large Populations – Cash and Voucher Assistance in Humanitarian Crises – Humanitarian Advocacy: From Bearing Witness to Activism.

More info



Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) Operational Research for Humanitarians

This MOOC introduces humanitarian professionals to the principles and practice of operational research in humanitarian settings. Developed with Aga Khan University (Pakistan) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), it focuses on research methods, ethics, and the use of evidence to inform humanitarian decision-making and programming.

More info



Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) Migration, Health and Equity in Europe

This MOOC explores migration and health inequities in Europe, examining access to healthcare, systemic barriers, and ethical challenges. Developed with the University of Milan, the Lancet Migration European Hub, and the 4EU+ Alliance, the course strengthens participants' ability to generate, interpret, and translate evidence into policy and practice.

More info



03 Highlights

Students Testimonials



Strengthening negotiation practice in complex humanitarian settings

I applied for the Negotiating on the Frontlines course to strengthen my practical negotiation skills in complex humanitarian settings. In my work, I regularly engage with local authorities, community leaders, partners, and other stakeholders, where access, trust, and competing interests are key challenges. I was particularly interested in gaining structured tools, real-life case insights, and ethical frameworks to support principled yet pragmatic negotiation, and to improve my ability to navigate sensitive power dynamics while safeguarding humanitarian principles.

One key insight from the course was realising that successful negotiation in humanitarian contexts is less about “winning” and more about building trust over time. The course helped me understand how listening carefully, understanding the other side’s pressures, and being clear about my own non-negotiables can make difficult conversations more constructive. This shift in mindset has changed how I approach negotiations in my day-to-day work, especially in tense or sensitive situations. The course strengthened my skills in stakeholder analysis, interest-based negotiation, and preparation for difficult conversations, which I have already applied in discussions with local authorities, partners, and community representatives by negotiating more strategically, listening more actively, and focusing on trust and long-term relationships while upholding humanitarian principles.

Value of support

Overall, the course has strengthened my confidence and effectiveness in sensitive negotiations and added clear value to my professional growth in humanitarian roles. Without the scholarship support, I would not have been able to join the course due to financial barriers.



Rastgo Hama Saeed

Programme Coordinator,
Islamic Relief Worldwide – Iraq
MAS in Humanitarian Action
alumnus (scholarship recipient)
Selected course: Negotiating on
the Frontlines



A Critical and Comprehensive Perspective on Digital Innovation

Participating in the Digital Innovations in Humanitarian Action course was a valuable experience. The programme offered a clear and structured journey through digital transformation in humanitarian work. From the foundations of innovation in the aid sector to discussions on private actors, participation, digital rights, surveillance, and digital ethics, the course provided a comprehensive and balanced perspective. Importantly, innovation was not presented as a simple solution, but as a complex process requiring responsibility, critical thinking, and ethical awareness. The sessions on “do no digital harm” and data protection highlighted the real consequences digital tools can have for affected communities.

The learning environment also contributed greatly to the experience. The combination of self-study and live sessions created space for reflection while encouraging active discussion. Dr. Valerie fostered a professional and respectful online environment where open dialogue was encouraged and diverse perspectives were heard, making the course both intellectually stimulating and motivating.

Applying Learning to Professional Practice

The final assignment invited me to reflect on my work with Caritas Austria in Syria through a case study. Analysing one of our projects using the course frameworks, including partnership models and ethical guidance tools, helped me assess more critically how digital tools are integrated into our programmes. It enabled me to examine participation, accountability, data protection, and sustainability in a structured way, recognise both strengths and areas for improvement, and deepen my understanding of responsible digital innovation in humanitarian contexts.



Zina Dayoub

Projects and Reporting
Coordinator, Caritas Austria
(Middle East/Asia team)
MAS in Humanitarian Action
alumna (scholarship
recipient)
Selected course: Digital
Innovations

New courses launched with the support of the Ville de Genève

3 new residential Executive Short Courses in humanitarian negotiations and diplomacy were offered for the first time in 2025, thanks to the financial support of the Ville de Genève.



Participants in the ESC Humanitarian Health Diplomacy at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha, Qatar, May 2025.

Humanitarian Health Diplomacy: Reconstructing Health Systems after War in the Arab World

From 4 to 8 May 2025, this experiential course on humanitarian diplomacy was designed to equip participants with essential diplomacy skills and tools needed to navigate complex and adversarial environments. Organised at the Bin Khalifa University in Doha, Qatar, the course was implemented under the leadership of our Director, Prof. Karl Blanchet, and with the regional expertise of Prof. Sultan Barakat. Participants had the opportunity to gain a robust understanding of health systems, crisis management approaches, and analytical tools for the reconstruction of health systems after a war. The course focused on concrete cases such as the destruction of the health system during the war in Gaza and built from simulation exercises and discussions with experienced practitioners to help participants to reflect on their own knowledge and practice. This was a successful first edition with 18 international profiles, mainly from the MENA region.

Advanced Course on AI-Enhanced Negotiation in Health Emergencies

The Centre was also able to propose two residential sessions of our new advanced course on AI-enhanced Negotiation in July 2025. Organised in Amman and in Istanbul with the support of the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) and the Turkish Red Crescent Society, the course was designed for local practitioners managing health and humanitarian crises. Participants had the opportunity to gain key tools to structure and navigate negotiations in complex settings, including conflicts, pandemics, climate disasters, and migration. Particularly new in this approach, the pedagogy of the course helped participants design and optimize an AI assistant to support negotiation planning, including the analysis of environments, the assessment of party positions, the creation of scenarios, and the management of risks. By leveraging AI-driven tools to well-established negotiation strategies, practitioners could improve their decision-making skills, as well as their competencies in building trust and managing adversarial relationships. In the future, AI integration will be vital for shaping emergency responses. Both sessions helped train 22 participants from the region.



Students of the Health Emergencies in Large Populations (H.E.L.P.) course working together during a group exercise, May 2025.

Our Students in Numbers in 2024–2025

The number of applications received from candidates interested in our courses increased by 28% compared to 2023–2024 (almost 900 applications, of which 155 requests for the MAS with scholarship).



234

people studied
at the Centre

While applications increased by 28% compared to 2023–2024, scholarship availability remained more limited compared to the previous year, affecting overall enrolment capacity by -11%.



55%

of them being
female course
participants

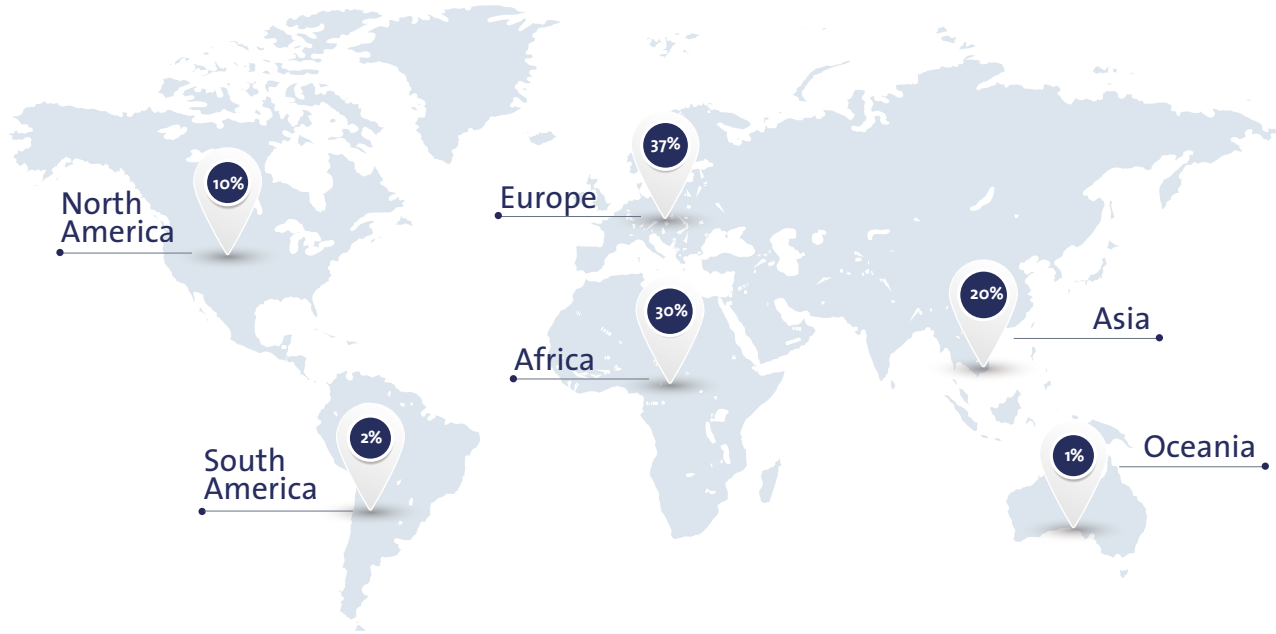
59% in 2024

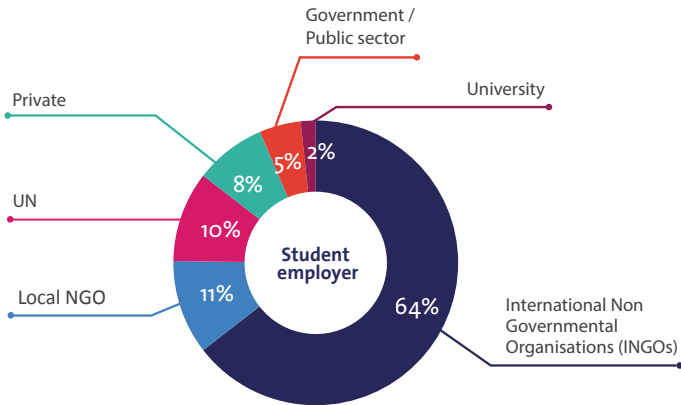
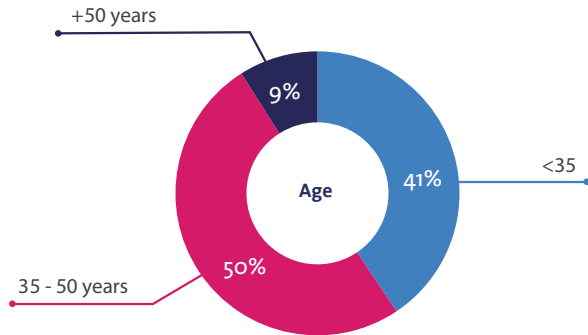
In terms of continent of origin

50%

 of the course
participants
came from

Who are our students?





Gender



Why did our students study with us?

01	Improving my knowledge
02	Acquiring a specific skill
03	Updating my skills in a particular area
04	Professional transition
05	Training offered/paid by my employer

Research

Strengthening Leadership and Academic Influence in Humanitarian Research

In January and March 2025, Professor Karl Blanchet, Director of the Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies, took on two international leadership roles that reinforce the Centre's engagement in global humanitarian health discussions.

In January, he was appointed Co-Chair of the Global Health Board of the World Humanitarian Forum, alongside Petra Khoury of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. In March, he was also appointed Co-Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Conflict and Health*, a leading publication on public health in contexts of armed conflict, humanitarian crises, and forced displacement.

These roles contribute to shaping global debates that inform humanitarian policy, research, and practice. They also strengthen the learning environment of the Centre, ensuring that teaching and dialogue remain closely connected to evolving global priorities and contribute to shaping the future of humanitarian professionals.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Humanitarian Settings: An Implementation Research Agenda

SRHR needs rise sharply during conflict, displacement and climate-related disasters, yet only a fraction of operational questions have been rigorously answered. Earlier global exercises provided an invaluable start, but did not cover newer challenges such as digital self-care, climate resilience or service integration at scale. This study involved a fully updated prioritisation exercise spanning nine SRHR Domains and six World Bank regions to steer investments for the next three to five years.

Timeline: 2025

Funding: ELRHA

Partners: AVICENA

More info





Data collection during a community mobilisation campaign organised in Northern Nigeria

Research

Pulse

In recent years, there has been increasing recognition of the crucial role of community engagement in the successful delivery of public health interventions in humanitarian settings, including for vaccine delivery. However, that evidence is fragmentary and has rarely been used as the systematic basis for planning public health interventions. The goal of Pulse is to establish an evidence base and practice network to support community-led vaccine deployment strategies in humanitarian contexts. A practical guide to support community engagement efforts across the PULSE research project and beyond. It includes key principles, recommended practices, and learning from case studies.

Timeline: 2024–2025

Funding: United Kingdom Humanitarian Innovation Hub (UKHIH)

Partners: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK; Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia; Childcare and Wellness Clinics, Nigeria

More info



ESTIMATE

Estimating Vaccination Coverage in Inaccessible Settings

The ESTIMATE project develops and tests practical methods to estimate vaccination coverage in areas that are difficult to access due to insecurity or logistical constraints. Focusing on Somalia and Ethiopia, the project addresses critical data gaps where standard household surveys are not feasible.

ESTIMATE evaluates innovative survey approaches for accuracy, feasibility, acceptability, and cost-effectiveness, and analyses how coverage evolves as vaccination delivery shifts from mobile campaigns to routine fixed-site services. The findings aim to support more equitable and sustainable immunisation strategies in humanitarian settings.

Timeline: 2024–2026

Funding: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Partners: SORDI (Somalia Research and Development Institute); Addis Ababa University – School of Public Health; Ministries of Health in Somalia and Ethiopia

More info



Health System Resilience in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States

This initiative examines how health systems in fragile and conflict-affected settings sustain service delivery amid crisis, drawing on existing evidence, lived experience, and locally driven innovation. While FCAS face persistent challenges linked to conflict, displacement, and weak governance, they also generate adaptive solutions that can inform more resilient health systems.

Led by the Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies, the initiative promotes interdisciplinary research, South–South exchange, and collaboration across policy, academic, and operational actors. By strengthening knowledge-sharing and supporting context-specific solutions, it aims to inform evidence-based policies and scalable approaches to health system resilience in crisis-affected contexts. An edited book on the very same topic was published with MIT Press.

Timeline: 2023-ongoing

Funding: N/A

Partners: N/A

More info



The CHH–Lancet Commission on Health, Conflict, and Forced Displacement

The Lancet Commission on Health, Conflict, and Forced Displacement is a high-visibility research initiative led in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health and many other partners from affected countries. The Commission examines the intersections of health, armed conflict, and forced displacement, with the aim of producing policy-relevant analysis, accountability mechanisms, and recommendations designed to have sustained impact. The report will be launched in May 2026.

Timeline: 2024-2026

Funding: funded by the Gates Foundation and the Commission des Affaires Humanitaires et Coopération Internationale (CAHCI), HUG, Faculty of Medicine, Geneva.

Partners: Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health, Baltimore, USA

More info



Research

Lancet Migration European Hub and Commission on Climate Change, Migration, Displacement and Health

In 2025, the Lancet Migration European Hub announced the launch of a new Commission on climate change, migration, displacement and health, published in The Lancet Regional Health – Europe. The Commission addresses the growing health impacts of climate-related migration and displacement in the WHO European Region, highlighting major evidence gaps and policy challenges.

Co-chaired by Professors Karl Blanchet and Bernadette Kumar, the Commission adopts an interdisciplinary and systems-based approach, combining quantitative and qualitative methods, risk modelling, and participatory research. It aims to inform climate- and migration-sensitive health policies and support more resilient and equitable health systems.

Timeline: 2024-2027

Funding: None

Partners: Norwegian National Institute of Public Health

More info



Technical Assistance for the Development of Yemen's National Health Strategy 2026-2030

The Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies was commissioned by WHO Yemen to support the Ministry of Public Health and Population to develop the new strategy 2026-2030. The work includes analysis and synthesis of national data and identification of key national health priorities through a series of consultations and workshops.

Timeline: September 2025 - June 2026

Funding: WHO Yemen

Partners: Yemen's Ministry of Public Health and Population, WHO Country Office Yemen



Launch of the Lancet Commission on
Climate Change, Migration, Displacement
and Health in Lisbon





MAS in Humanitarian Action 2025 student engaging with immersive learning through the VR installation during a visit at the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Events

The Centre offers a neutral academic space for discussion and debate on sensitive humanitarian issues.

Engaging in public events is a deliberate part of our strategy to connect research, education, and practice. By participating in sector-wide gatherings and university initiatives, the Centre contributes to evidence-informed discussions, enhances its visibility within the humanitarian ecosystem, and creates opportunities for dialogue with practitioners, policymakers, and academic partners.

In 2025, we continued this commitment by taking part in a range of in-person, online, and hybrid initiatives that enabled us to engage with colleagues, partners, alumni, and prospective students, fostering meaningful exchanges and reinforcing collaborative networks.

Our Centre continued its longstanding collaboration with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum for their annual theme, together with our Head of Learning, Dr Valérie Gorin. For 2024-2025, the Museum focused on co-creation through a series of conferences, workshops and visits. Through this new theme, the aim was to explore how art and humanitarianism can intersect to transform their respective practices and encourage collective action. Participants from diverse backgrounds – including artists, curators, humanitarian practitioners, anthropologists, refugees and members of the public – were invited to debate and discuss how we can create a safe space for everyone, including experts and those with lived experience alike, to share their perspectives and learn together. In humanitarian work, co-construction involves the engagement with and the listening to affected communities, to acknowledge their agency in shaping the decisions that will affect their lives. This implies a people-centred approach, the one that we teach in our CAS Accountability to Affected Populations, and the power dynamics we discuss in our DAS in Humanitarian Action. Similarly, museums also need to think about when and how to engage with partners and the wider public, to listen to their views with a humble ear, and to involve them in the design of exhibitions, rather than as an afterthought.



MAS students during a visit of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum in Geneva, September 2025.

March

Humanitarian Partnerships and Networking Weeks

In March 2025, the Centre participated for the second time in the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW) in Geneva. The Centre presented its academic and research activities to a wide audience of humanitarian practitioners, policymakers and partners. Particular attention was given to the launch of new residential courses in Negotiation and Diplomacy to be held in Doha, Amman and Ankara.

As part of the official programme, Prof. Karl Blanchet contributed to a session entitled “*Community Engagement is vital for more effective, efficient and accountable aid – What evidence do we need?*”, highlighting the Centre’s ongoing research on community engagement and accountability.

Throughout the week, the Centre engaged with students, partners and colleagues, and showcased two photo exhibitions: *Humanly Possible: Community Engagement on the Frontline of Vaccine Delivery* and *Artificial Images in Global Health: Fakery in and before the Era of AI*.

April

In April, the Centre took part in the University of Geneva’s Continuing Education Open Days (Portes Ouvertes), engaging with prospective students and professionals interested in advancing their expertise in humanitarian action. The event provided an opportunity to present the Centre’s academic offer, discuss career pathways in the humanitarian sector, and reinforce its integration within UNIGE’s continuing education landscape.

June

Artificial images in global health: Fakery before and in the era of AI

From 4 to 6 June 2025, our Head of Learning, Dr Valerie Gorin, participated in the expert workshop “Artificial images in global health: Fakery before and in the era of AI”. Organised at the Brocher Foundation by an international network, the workshop brought together scholars, photographers and image makers, digital specialists, librarians, and researchers from the academic, visual and humanitarian fields. Over three days, participants critically examined and experimented with the use of AI-generated images.

These practices raise intense debates around fakery – debates that have a longstanding history in humanitarian visual culture. AI-generated images also bring numerous social, moral and practical concerns that affect the perception and legitimacy of aid organisations, perpetuate visual stereotypes, threaten professional image makers, and contribute to the decline of public trust in media content. The outcomes of the conference will inform future courses on the uses and ethics of AI in humanitarian settings, as well as on the impact of disinformation in humanitarian communication.

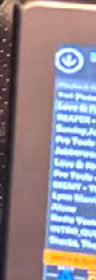
Attacks on Healthcare: From the Syrian Civil War to Gaza and Khartoum

On 11 June 2025, the Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies co-organised a public conference at the University of Geneva Faculty of Medicine on the escalating phenomenon of attacks on healthcare in contemporary armed conflicts. The event brought together international experts, including Prof. Ghassan Abu-Sittah (University of Glasgow), Prof. Larissa Fast (University of Manchester), Avril Patterson (Head of Health Unit, ICRC), and Maarten van der Heijden (Geneva Graduate Institute), with Prof. Karl Blanchet (Director of the Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies) and Prof. Vinh-Kim Nguyen (Global Health Centre) moderating.

Speakers discussed the ways in which health facilities, workers, and services have increasingly been targeted in conflicts from Syria to Gaza and Sudan, examining humanitarian and public health impacts, the erosion of medical protection norms, and the challenges of responding to and preventing such violence.



Recording session of the Positive Impact Podcast.



Shifting the Stigma: Advancing Evidence-Informed Dialogue on Sexual Violence

On 19 June 2025, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies, co-organised a public event dedicated to addressing stigma related to sexual violence in humanitarian and conflict settings. The discussion brought together researchers, humanitarian practitioners, and policy actors to reflect on how stigma affects victims' and survivors' access to protection, care, and justice.

Through the exchange of research insights and operational perspectives, discussions highlighted stigma as a structural barrier that can weaken humanitarian responses and underscored the importance of survivor-centred, context-sensitive approaches grounded in evidence.

For the Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies, this dialogue reflected our ongoing commitment to evidence-based humanitarian action, bridging academic research with operational practice to tackle some of the most complex and sensitive challenges in humanitarian settings.

Launch of Positive Impact Podcast Series

Throughout 2025, the Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies collaborated with Terre des hommes on the development of *Positive Impact*, a podcast and article series examining contemporary humanitarian challenges. The initiative was launched in December 2025 with the release of its first episode.

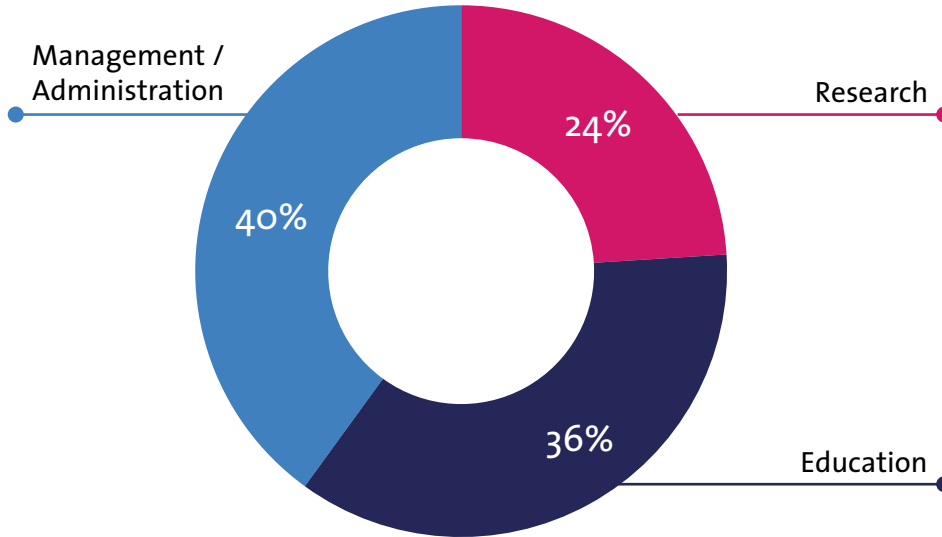
The series explores emerging approaches shaping the future of humanitarian action, with a focus on health, migration, localisation, and innovation in crisis-affected and fragile settings.

Bringing together practitioners and researchers (including our students and lecturers), *Positive Impact* highlights how evidence, field experience, and local perspectives can inform more effective and context-sensitive humanitarian responses, particularly for children and communities affected by crisis. The podcast includes voices recorded from the field and a round table where debate and a critical view on the various topics are key.

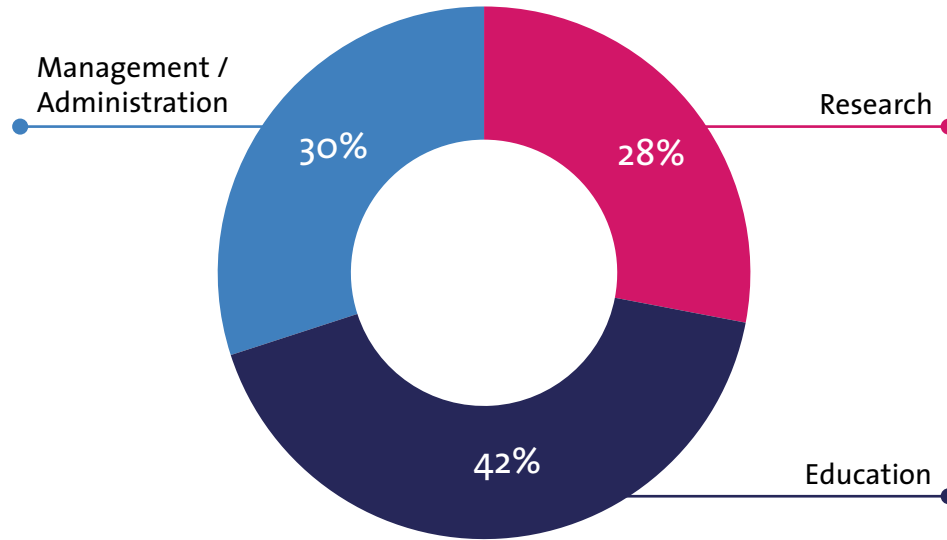
04 Acknowledgments

Finances

EXPENSES



INCOME



Our Donors

Public institutions:

- Ville de Genève : Délégation Genève ville solidaire (DGVS)
- Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG)
- République et Canton de Genève: Service de la solidarité internationale (SSI)
- Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

Private institutions:

- Aga Khan Foundation
- Gates Foundation
- Kühne Foundation
- Private Geneva Foundation

Other organisations and academic institutions:

- United Kingdom Humanitarian Innovation Hub UKHIH / ELRHA
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- University of Geneva (UNIGE)
- University of Manchester / Foreign, wealth & Development Office (FCDO)
- World Health Organization (WHO)

Our Partners

Our partnerships are at the core of what we are. Over the years, we have built a rich network of collaborating institutions that contribute to our achievements. We are very grateful for their ongoing support and look forward to continuing our work with them.

Strategic partnerships:

- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Technical partnerships:

- Addis Ababa University
- Aga Khan University (AKU)
- Centre for Humanitarian Health, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
- Childcare and Wellness Clinics, Abuja
- EMPHNET
- Health in Humanitarian Crises Centre, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute, Manchester University
- International Federation of the Red Cross
- International Museum of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
- UNICEF

University of Geneva partnerships:

- Centre for Humanitarian Medicine and Disaster Management (WHO Collaborative Centre)
- Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG)
- Institute of Global Health, UNIGE
- InZone, UNIGE

Our Team 2025

Claire Barthélémy

Lecturer for the CAS “Quality Management of Humanitarian Projects”; the ESC “Humanitarian Leadership and People Management” and the ESC “Humanitarian Advocacy: from Bearing Witness to Activism”

Prof. Karl Blanchet

Director

Professor for the DAS module “Transforming the Humanitarian System Through Localisation” and the ESC “Health Systems Assessment”

Marianne Boddèle

Education Administrative Officer

Dr Joanna Bourke-Martignoni

Senior Lecturer for the DAS module “Legal and Policy Frameworks Relevant to Humanitarian Action”

Claude Bruderlein

Lecturer for the ESC “Negotiation on the Frontlines” and “AI-Enhanced Negotiation for Health Emergencies”

Dr Erna Burai

Senior Lecturer for the CAS “Accountability to Affected People”

Ludovic Clément

Distance Learning Specialist

Sandrine Delattre

Lecturer for the CAS “Quality Management of Humanitarian Projects”; and the ESC “Humanitarian Project Cycle Management”

Marc DuBois

Lecturer for the DAS module “Sectoral Responses to Crisis”

Nora Daïkha Morard

Rui Loureiro dos Santos Cardoso

Communication Interns

Jôëlle Gentile

Administration Manager

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Team meeting discussion on evolving needs in the humanitarian sector in a changing global environment and financial context.

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