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The François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights was founded at the Harvard School of Public Health in January 1993. The Center considers that the promotion and protection of health and the promotion and protection of human rights are inextricably linked. The Center is dedicated to exploring the conceptual dimensions and practical applications of this critical relationship. Through its concentrated focus on the intersection of health and human rights, the Center also seeks to help revitalize the field of public health and broaden human rights thinking and practice.

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The Association François-Xavier Bagnoud currently supports worldwide programs in humanitarian assistance, aerospace research for the benefit of people, and community life in the Swiss canton of Valais. Humanitarian assistance focuses on children’s rights—especially the right to health care—of children who are orphaned, abandoned or sick, many of whom have AIDS or are HIV-infected. Projects are located in Thailand, India, Switzerland, Kenya, Uganda, Uruguay, Columbia, and the United States. The Association François-Xavier Bagnoud bears the name of a young Swiss helicopter rescue pilot who died in a helicopter accident while flying over the desert in the African country of Mali in 1986.
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