Street child in Katmandu, Nepal.
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**PHOTO CREDITS:**
Theresa S. Betancourt; Abbie Duger; Angela Duger; Kate Falb; Dhruv Kazi; Jennifer Leaning; Logan Plaster; Bonnie Shnayerson; World Bank Team; Warda Toma; Petru Zoltan
Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to share with you this report of the major accomplishments of the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University and the Harvard School of Public Health.

Our timeline for this report runs from October 2011 to August 2013 and from now on we will be releasing our annual report in the fall at the start of the academic year. In keeping with the stance of the Center and our faculty, our work over these past months has been actively attentive to and engaged with events occurring around the globe that affect our populations of concern.

The struggle for voice and opportunity has erupted into sustained unrest and massive violence in many countries in the Middle East. The armed conflicts, most significantly the war in Syria, are inflicting death and injury on civilians and forcing children, adolescents, and their families to flee to overcrowded and unprotected refugee camps or squalid settlements for the internally displaced throughout the region. Intensifying animosity and hate speech against the Roma in Europe threaten families and communities. High-risk settings for children and adolescents, whether defined by gender-based discrimination in education in India, gender-based violence in South Asia, or human trafficking and child labor in many parts of the world, demand our sustained attention. In South Africa, persistent obstacles confront adolescents and young adults who have grown restive with poor employment prospects, inadequate education, and grinding poverty. Despite laudable reductions in maternal and infant mortality, children and teenagers continue to die from neglect, disease, and abuse in many contexts, in all countries, in shocking numbers.

These issues and others have reached high levels of policy debate internationally, as deliberations proceed regarding the post-2015 version of what have been the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The role of human rights, the concerns of girls and women, and the future of child protection are all topics wherein the voice of faculty at the FXB Center is becoming increasingly more prominent.

At the FXB Center, we have endeavored in these months to expand and deepen our current programs; launch new ones that align with our mission and respond to serious need; and intensify our commitments to outreach, education, and policy formulation.

Our Roma program, led by Jacqueline Bhabha, has evolved to one of prevention/intervention, whereby we continue to promote empowerment among Roma adolescents and youth but have also added a dimension of anticipatory alert regarding hostile official and unofficial messaging against Roma populations throughout Europe.

Our work on war-affected youth in Sierra Leone, families affected by HIV/AIDS in Rwanda, and children of migrant workers in India has achieved marked recognition from many sources. The findings and current approach are well documented in the October 2012 Harvard Magazine cover story about the program director, Theresa Betancourt.

We are expanding our research into survival prospects for children in families whose mothers die in childbirth, with Alicia Ely Yamin, program director, completing multi-method data collection in Tanzania, Malawi, South Africa and Ethiopia. Policy efforts regarding the health rights of women and girls are being heard in a number of high-level institutional and legal settings, including the UN Human Rights Council.

Our work under the direction of Jacqueline Bhabha to advance prospects for girls’ secondary education in rural India continues and has been augmented by an ambitious examination of success factors that allow young women from illiterate families to attend and stay in college and by mounting advocacy against gender-based violence—this in collaboration with Harvard’s South Asia Institute.

In fall 2012, the publication of The Cost of Inaction was celebrated at a book launch in Cambridge, MA where lead author Sudhir Anand engaged with some of the foremost economists and practitioners from around the world to discuss the analytic and application potential of the COI framework. The World Bank hosted another book launch at its Washington, D.C. headquarters in December 2012, introduced by Bank President Jim Yong Kim, where leading Bank economists discussed the relevance of the COI methodology to specific Bank programs.

We have launched three new programs. Our anti-trafficking and modern slavery initiative is now involved in research and advocacy efforts to combat child labor and sex trafficking in India and sex trafficking in the U.S. Two FXB Fellows, Heather Adams and Jumana Odeh, are analyzing best practice in the U.S. and the Middle East in supporting children with mental disabilities make the transition into adolescence and adulthood. With colleagues in South Africa, several FXB faculty are engaged in collaborative research and advocacy on issues of youth aspiration and models of citizenship.

Our outreach and educational activities have greatly increased. In December 2011, the FXB Center organized an international conference on the 21st anniversary of the coming into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, entitled “An International Conference to Mark the Coming of Age of the 1989 UN Convention on
the Rights of the Child.” Attended by many leaders in the policy and practice community, this conference affirmed the need for a renewed focus on adolescents and youth in the coming years. The deliberations will be published in a book edited by Jacqueline Bhabha, now due out in spring 2014. In June 2012 and again in June 2013, the FXB Center offered its “Intensive Course in Health and Human Rights” to a large number of physicians, lawyers, and other professionals. In summer 2012 and fall 2013, FXB faculty member Alicia Ely Yamin directed a course for senior legal practitioners from around the world called the “Global School on Socioeconomic Rights: Course on Health Rights Litigation.”

In addition to ongoing teaching commitments at the Harvard School of Public Health, the Kennedy School, and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, faculty at FXB have taken lead roles in developing the Humanitarian Academy at HSPH, directing the new course of study in the fall of 2013 relating to humanitarian studies, human rights, and ethics. Within the Academy, a child protection curriculum, designed and led by FXB faculty with the support of UNICEF, is in development with the aim of admitting mid-career students in the fall of 2014.

In the period off this report, the FXB Center has launched a new website, re-branded our communication materials, and strengthened the consortium and financial base for our online open access journal, Health and Human Rights. Beginning with the special issue on the Framework Convention on Global Health, released as Issue 15.1 in June 2013, this prestigious journal will now be published by Harvard University Press. We have re-vitalized the University Committee on Human Rights Studies and continue to support the Scholars at Risk program. Our two health and human rights fellows at Children’s Hospital have developed and piloted projects in the Dominican Republic and in Haiti strengthening local capacity around support for breast feeding and creating a nursing apprenticeship program in advanced neonatal care respectively. We look forward to welcoming our next fellows later this 2013-14 academic year.

In concluding, it is an honor to note the following promotions of three of our FXB faculty within our HSPH home academic department, Global Health and Population: Theresa S. Betancourt to Associate Professor of Child Health and Human Rights; Jacqueline Bhabha to Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights; and Alicia Ely Yamin, to Lecturer in Health and Human Rights.

We extend our deep gratitude to the donors who have supported these programs and to the academic and administrative officers at HSPH and the University whose assistance has proved invaluable.

Jennifer Leaning, MD, SMH

Leadership for the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights

JENNIFER LEANING, MD, SMH, is the Director of the FXB Center and the FXB Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health. For many years a practicing physician, she has conducted human rights investigations around the world. Her research interests include medical ethics and early warning in response to war and disaster, violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in crisis settings, and human security in situations of forced migration and conflict.

JACQUELINE BHABHA, JD, MSC, is the Director of Research at the FXB Center, Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health, Jeremiah Smith Jr. Lecturer in Law at the Harvard Law School, and Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. A practicing human rights lawyer for many years in the U.K., her research interests include transnational child migration, refugee protection and asylum law, children’s rights and citizenship.

THERESA S. BETANCOURT, SCPhD, MA, is Associate Professor of Child Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health and Director of the Research Program on Children and Global Adversity (RPCGA) at the FXB Center. Her research interests include the developmental and psychosocial consequences of concentrated adversity on children and families, resilience and protective processes in child and adolescent mental health, and applied cross-cultural mental health research with a particular focus on regions affected by armed conflict, HIV/AIDS, and refugee children and families.

ARLAN FULLER, JD, MA, is the Executive Director of the FXB Center. He has extensive experience in international policy, federal government operations, and legislative strategy. A lawyer by training, he previously worked with the U.S. Congress on issues of human rights, global health, and trade policy.

ALICIA ELY YAMIN, JD, MPH, is Lecturer in Global Health at the Harvard School of Public Health and the Director of the Program on Health Rights of Women and Children at the FXB Center. Her work, situated at the intersection of health, human rights, and development, combines research with engaged advocacy and policy initiatives to focus on reproductive health and rights across a number of regions.
Every 12 years on the plains of Allahabad in northern India, the flood waters of the monsoon season recede only to be replaced with a deluge of a different nature: a swell of humanity that blankets the plains anew. The Kumbh Mela, the world’s largest religious festival and the single greatest gathering on earth, attracts tens of millions of worshippers from around the world to bathe in the “Sangam”—or “confluence” in Sanskrit—which marks the convergence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and (mythical) Saraswati rivers. According to Hindu scriptures, the gods spilled an urn containing the nectar of immortality at this holy site, and a dip in its sacred waters will cleanse the bather of sin.

While it is nearly impossible to count the number of people at the Kumbh Mela, attendance for this year’s festival, held from January 14 to March 10, was estimated to be 80 million. The main bathing days draw the greatest crowds; on February 10 alone, approximately 30 million people bathed in the Sangam. The Kumbh Mela is also distinct for the sheer feat of its execution. Drawing from the festival’s long and rich history, the Indian administrative authorities devote extensive resources and time to its preparation.
To house the influx of pilgrims, a temporary city is erected with all the elements of a modern urban center, including running water, electricity, hospitals, sanitation systems, and police and fire stations. This urban edifice is constructed over a matter of months and then dismantled in a few weeks at the festival’s end.

The public health challenges of a mass gathering on this scale had never before been studied. In January 2013, the FXB Center, in collaboration with Harvard’s South Asia Institute (SAI) and the Harvard Global Health Institute (HGHI), sent a research team to Allahabad to analyze the public health implications of the festival. The HSPH team, composed of physicians from around the country and medical students from both the U.S. and India, was joined by teams from the Harvard Business School, the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Under the guidance of FXB Director Jennifer Leaning, the HSPH team was led by Satchit Balsari, FXB Fellow and Director of the Weill Cornell Global Emergency Medicine Program / New York-Presbyterian Hospital, and Gregg Greenough, FXB Fellow and Director of Research at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative.

The HSPH team focused on the critical areas of disease patterns and the spread of epidemics, stampede mitigation, water and sanitation, and child protection in the context of the “Lost and Found,” the festival’s system for identifying and reuniting separated children. Their research piqued the interest of several media outlets, including The New York Times (“Can Big Data from Epic Indian Pilgrimage Help Save Lives?”) and The Boston Globe (“A Pop-Up City Becomes an 80 Million Person Laboratory”).

Working with medical students from Allahabad and Mumbai, the team collected patient data at the central hospital and four of the 10 sector hospitals, or primary care clinics. Medical students were taught to use iPads to record and upload patient information into an online database using the “EMcounter” tool, a mobile integrated disease syndromic surveillance system first developed by emergency medicine residents at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. The data provided real-time surveillance of disease patterns, and by the end of the project, the team had gathered information on 60,000 patients, an unprecedented digital data set that will inform plans for healthcare delivery and outbreak interventions at future Kumbhs.

The vagaries of conducting research at the largest gathering on earth were embodied in Aaron Heerboth, a former college athlete and graduating medical student from Weill Cornell Medical College who served the longest stint at the Kumbh. He was responsible for visiting the hospitals every day to supervise the medical students learning to use the EMcounter tool. Faced with little in the way of public transportation, he quickly devised a system for traversing the long, congested roads between hospitals. Each morning, he laced up his sneakers and took off running, blonde hair bobbing in the sun as he darted through throngs of people and cows.

The team was confronted with the dangers of mass gatherings when a stampede broke out at the railway station on February 10, killing 36 and injuring scores more. Greenough discussed how the stampede could have been avoided in a British Medical Journal article titled “The Kumbh Mela stampede: disaster preparedness must bridge jurisdictions.” In the coming months, the team will publish the full breadth of its findings across a variety of outlets. It will also work with HGHI to develop case studies that can serve as publicly available learning tools, and with SAI to establish a collective narrative and to archive the vast collection of photographs and footage from the festival.

The Kumbh Mela represented an astonishing human experience. Writing from the floodplains, surrounded on all sides by a humming mass of humanity comprised of countless lives united in purpose, Balsari said: “We will remember our time at the Kumbh Mela fondly. The chanting, the smells, the music emanating from every street. The dense crowds on Mauni Amavasya. The millions that stood in waist-deep waters and raised their palms to the sun as millions before them always have. It was spectacular. It was poetic. And it was profoundly humbling.”
GENDER AND ADOLESCENT AGENCY IN INDIA

Under the leadership of FXB Director of Research Jacqueline Bhabha, the FXB Center is engaged in a multifaceted inquiry into adolescent agency and empowerment in India. A central element of this endeavor is the Gender and Adolescent Agency program. It was launched in May 2010 with the Shanu Project, an action-research initiative that explored the entrenched obstacles which have prevented generations of rural and low-caste Indian girls from progressing beyond primary school, despite half a century of government attention to the issue. With the 2012 start of the Champions Project, the program shifted its research focus from obstacles to factors that trigger success. Conducted in partnership with several Indian academic institutions, the project employs the “positive deviance” approach to identify the drivers of success for disadvantaged girls who break from the norm of incomplete educational achievement to reach university.

THE SHANU PROJECT: ILLUMINATING BARRIERS

The Shanu Project investigated the hurdles to secondary school educational access and success for rural adolescents, especially girls. The project was undertaken in collaboration with the Indian Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) and held in the northwestern state of Gujarat. Though considerable data existed on primary school access and performance at the time, fewer resources and less research have been directed towards secondary school access and performance at the time, fewer resources of Gujarat. Though considerable data existed on primary

Champions Project

was developed in partnership

with SEWA, where female agency and empowerment has long been accepted. What would it take for these young women to succeed, then, given these odds? This is the question that the FXB’s next research project placed at the center of its inquiries.

THE CHAMPIONS PROJECT: UNPACKING SUCCESS

The Champions Project was launched in April 2012. The project aims to determine the drivers of educational success for the few outliers who buck the trend of educational failure—those known as champions. The project defines “champions” simply: female students in their second year of college with illiterate parents. Understanding success triggers will provide the basis for policy development directed at scaling educational opportunity.

The Champions Project was developed in partnership with the Indian National Commission on the Protection of Child Rights. Research began in the State of Maharashtra with a 400-subject mixed-methods study conducted in collaboration with the University of Pune Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule Women’s Studies Centre. The study revealed that institutional incentives such as scholarships, subsidized hostels and transport schemes had relatively little impact on the champions. Most decisive, by contrast, were individual and familial characteristics, as well as the influence of teachers.

Significant interest in pursuing the Champions Project has been expressed by several key education stakeholders at the federal and state levels of India. The FXB research team is now in the process of launching the project in Rajasthan and plans to extend its research to several other Indian states in order to gather sufficiently robust data to permit strong identification of good practices and important comparisons.

GENDER VIOLENCE PROJECT

Following the December 2012 Delhi gang rape of a physiotherapy student that sparked protests across India, the South Asia Institute, the Harvard Law School, and the FXB Center—with Jacqueline Bhabha at the helm—jointly established the Harvard Gender Violence Project (GVP). The Project seeks to merge the knowledge of faculty, staff, and students at Harvard with the expertise of Indian colleagues already at work on this critical issue to identify causes as well as legal and policy solutions for ending this practice.

The GVP initiative was formally launched in Delhi in July 2013 where it convened leading human right activists, policymakers, and litigators at the “Gender Justice, Criminal Law, and Curricular Reforms Conference,” for a series of high-level discussions intended to jumpstart the policy change needed to address sexual assault in India and South Asia more broadly. The potential for the conference to influence policy change was indicated by the caliber of the participants. Attendees included Soli Sorabjee, former Attorney General of India, and former Chief Justice Leila Seth and former Solicitor General Gopal Subramaniam, both members of the Verma Committee that was established to make recommendations for law reform after the Delhi gang rape. In collaboration with Indian partners, the GVP initiative is now exploring several projects, such as school curricular reform to encompass sex education and teacher support and mentorship.

MEET THE TEAM

Orla Kelly, MA, MBA, is a Research Associate with the FXB Center. Prior to joining FXB, she worked for the Human Rights Law Network, New Delhi and for Google, Ireland.
The FXB Center launched its **Human Trafficking and Forced Labor Program** in 2012 with the conviction that more effective and sustainable anti-trafficking strategies are critical to address the scourge of human trafficking worldwide. Under the leadership of Jacqueline Bhabha, FXB Director of Research, the program aims to provide the anti-trafficking community with cutting-edge research, advocacy, and training for the next generation of leaders in the field.

**RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY**

The **Human Trafficking and Forced Labor Program** seeks to prevent and intervene against human trafficking globally and in the United States. In collaboration with partners in the anti-trafficking community, the program conducts thorough analyses of the root causes of and vulnerabilities to trafficking, with a particular focus on children and young people trapped in abusive circumstances. By leveraging an innovative quantitative and qualitative approach, the program endeavors to document human trafficking methodically and reliably to provide key policymakers and advocates with a powerful evidence base that can strengthen their work and inform effective policy responses.

The domestic component of the human trafficking program, provisionally targeting the cities of San Francisco, Oakland, Cambridge, and New York, will conduct research focused on first responders to trafficking victims, as well as a series of case studies of best practices in preventing and intervening in trafficking. Internationally, the program will focus on analyzing child labor in the supply chains of several global commodities, including hand-woven carpets from India and minerals mined in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The program aims to increase awareness in western retail markets and provoke effective corporate responses. In addition, the program will focus on the precipitators of vulnerability to trafficking among adolescents in the United States, on the Nepal-India border, and within the Roma community in Europe.

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

The program is also establishing a training institute geared toward developing a cadre of anti-trafficking leaders. The institute will offer targeted trainings to students and professionals in the field—including community and NGO leaders, police, lawyers, social workers, doctors, and teachers—to build skills and facilitate effective, ethical, and culturally appropriate action to combat human trafficking.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING AT HOME**

In June 2013, the FXB Center, in conjunction with the Kennedy School’s Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy, brought together leading experts from the public and private sector to discuss the development of a statewide strategy to combat human trafficking in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Meeting participants analyzed the scope of sex trafficking of minors in the state and considered how the legislative and political momentum that has resulted in new and progressive anti-trafficking legislation might be amplified by the FXB Center’s work. As next steps, the team intends to convene a series of meetings that will create a road map for implementing the anti-trafficking recommendations issued in summer 2013 by the Massachusetts Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking under the Attorney General’s Office.

**MEET THE TEAM**

**Siddharth Kara, JD, MBA**, FXB Fellow on Forced Labor and Visiting Scientist, directs the international component of the FXB human trafficking program that identifies exploitative practices in the supply chains of key commodities. He advises the United Nations, the U.S. government, and several other governments on antislavery research, policy and law.

**Roger-Claude Liwanga, LLM, LLL**, FXB Fellow and Visiting Scientist, analyzes child labor in the mineral mines of the DRC. A Visiting Scholar with Boston University’s African Studies Center, he is the co-founder of Promote Congo, a nonprofit dedicated to advocating for human rights and alleviating poverty in the Congo.

**Anne Stetson, JD, MA**, FXB Senior Fellow and Visiting Scientist, oversees the domestic component of the FXB human trafficking program. She is an independent consultant to foundations and nonprofit organizations working to advance health, human rights, and social entrepreneurship worldwide.
Under the leadership of Jacqueline Bhabha, FXB Director of Research, and Arlan Fuller, FXB Executive Director, the FXB Center is participating in a collaborative research project on *Reclaiming Adolescence: Roma Transitions to Adulthood in Italy, Serbia, and Romania*. The project investigates the policies, programs and practices needed to support Roma adolescents by documenting, from the grass-roots up, the factors that contribute to the discrimination and social exclusion of Roma across Europe. The project adopts a participatory research approach by training the adolescents themselves as researchers, with the goal of mobilizing a transnational constituency of knowledgeable and socially engaged youth leaders who can advocate for their basic rights. The project will connect the adolescents with key stakeholders at the local, national, and international levels to illuminate mechanisms of discrimination and to identify possible intervention points for supporting Roma youth.

Data collection is now underway in Serbia in partnership with the Center for Interactive Pedagogy and Save the Children—Belgrade. Non-Roma and Roma youth are conducting peer interviews on education, employment, social and financial concerns, discrimination, and the roles of government and NGOs. The youth are also interviewing adults in their communities to assess the obstacles the adults face in supporting Roma adolescents.

By bringing together a cohort of Roma and non-Roma youth, the project challenges entrenched stereotypes. As one non-Roma researcher explained, “It was strange because we did act differently towards them. Roma were set apart and I did not understand it ... and now when I think back to it, I actually see how they sat at the back of the classroom and how we looked differently at them. Back then, it was just that you treat that people that way.” Similarly, the mother of a 15-year-old Roma researcher described a transformation in her daughter: “[She] is touched by new insights she has about the world, including the injustices upon herself and others.”

**DARE PROJECT—SCHOOL SEGREGATION**

The FXB Center is providing research and technical assistance to a complementary intervention examining the segregation of Roma schoolchildren in Romania, Croatia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Greece. The Center is drafting case studies analyzing the best practices in the field of access to education for Roma children, looking specifically at methods used by partner NGOs to combat school segregation. These case studies will inform future trainings and reports.

**REALIZING ROMA RIGHTS**

In April 2013, the FXB Center held the first Harvard conference on the Roma. “Realizing Roma Rights: Addressing Violence, Discrimination and Segregation in Europe” was an integral step forward in strengthening the network of institutions working on Roma discrimination, access to education, and training and civic engagement, and in raising these issues higher on the U.S. policy agenda. The event was hosted in partnership with two Harvard centers, the Mahindra Humanities Center and the Center for European Studies, and with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Panelists included representatives from the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Helsinki Committee, the UN Development Program, and the World Bank. The FXB Center and OSCE are now collaborating on an edited volume that will draw from panelist presentations, highlight project findings, and contextualize the work of others in the field.

**MEET THE TEAM**

**Carrie Bronsther** was a Research Intern with the FXB Center and a Global Health Fellow at Weill-Cornell Medical College from 2012-2013.

**Sarah Dougherty, JD, MPH,** is an FXB Research Associate. Prior to joining the FXB Center, she worked for the Institute of Justice and Democracy in Haiti on its prison health advocacy and housing initiatives.

**Margareta Matache, PhD,** is a Romanian Roma rights activist and an FXB Fellow. Previously, she served as the Executive Director of Romani CRISS, a leading Roma NGO.
Field Investigation of Roma Communities in Kosovo

Across Europe, tucked away from the cobblestone-lined streets and polished building facades, there is a different reality, one that the swarms of tourists rarely see. It is the reality of the Roma, the largest ethnic minority in Europe, whose squallid settlements lack basic services like running water and electricity in stark incongruence with the world’s richest continent. Of the 10 to 12 million Roma in the European Union and candidate countries today,1 ninety percent live below the national poverty line.2 The Roma are a heterogeneous group, united neither by custom nor dialect, but rather by a monolithic discrimination that deprives them of their basic human rights.

Against the backdrop of escalating anti-Roma sentiment, a research team from the FXB Center, including FXB Research Director Jacqueline Bhabha, FXB Post-Doctoral Fellow Margareta Matache, and FXB Intern Carrie Bronther, traveled to Kosovo in June 2013 at the invitation of NATO to conduct an in-depth assessment of the situation facing the Roma in post-conflict settlements.

ROMA IN KOSOVO

After the brutal war between Serbia and Kosovo came to a close in 1999, the Kosovar administration was forced to adopt a system of dual governance to cater to the needs of the majority Kosovar Albanian and minority Serbian populations living within its borders. The ongoing political complexities in Kosovo have important ramifications for the Roma population, who straddle the Serbian and Albanian communities and are disenfranchised in both as a result. Roma who live in northern and central Kosovo and in scattered enclaves throughout the country speak primarily Serbian, and attend Serbian schools. By contrast, Roma who live in the south of Kosovo speak primarily Albanian, attend Albanian schools, and receive benefits from the Kosovo government. This societal fragmentation creates challenges for the Roma as an already marginalized group who lack the cohesion and political representation to advocate for their rights.

Discrimination, stigma, and poor access constrain educational progress for Roma throughout the country. In the classroom, Roma students are predictably seated in the back, rarely called upon, and assigned a passing grade whether they deserve it or not. The dual system interposes added burdens: Serbian schools require birth certificates issued by the Serbian authorities as proof of identify before enrollment, papers that many Roma, displaced by the war, do not have. The Roma tradition of early marriage—upheld for girls as young as 13 and 14—precludes further schooling and leads to high illiteracy rates among Roma girls and women. The cumulative effect is a pervasive and devastating “push-out” of Roma students from the education system, particularly in the critical transition between primary and secondary school (when education ceases to be a state service).

While the Roma in Kosovo share commonalities with other Roma in Europe, particularly when it comes to educational access and achievement, there are notable discrepancies that require a tailored approach. Matache noted, “Many issues intersect in the Kosovar Albanian-Serbian context, including political refugee status, the experience of deportation from Western Europe and the return and reintegration process in Kosovo, different economic situations, and the dual pressures of political blame and racial discrimination.”

The FXB Center is now in the process of designing a multi-layered project to address the situation of the Roma in Kosovo. Leveraging the methodology of the Champions Project, the Center is considering an exploration of the factors of success for Roma girls who reach high school and university in an effort to encourage and replicate these factors on a broader scale.

The Center also plans to investigate the trafficking of both Roma and non-Roma populations. Kosovo has been a noted source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking since the war. In July 1999, the deployment of international peacekeeping forces was accompanied by a sharp increase in the number of women and girls trafficked into the country. Amnesty International reported that initially, “the international community [in Kosovo] made up some 80 per cent of the clientele of the trafficked women.”3 In the years since, the industry has continued to thrive. Well-established trafficking routes to the European Union and strong criminal networks throughout the region, coupled with corruption and poor legal enforcement, have ensured a booming trafficking business.

According to UNICEF, the predominant forms of child trafficking in Kosovo are the sexual exploitation of teenage girls aged 15 to 17. The exploitation of girls and boys under the age of 13 through forced labor activities such as begging and car washing is also an issue of concern. The FXB Center, in partnership with local civil society actors, plans to employ the methodology of its Human Trafficking and Forced Labor program to document the scope of human trafficking in Kosovo and to determine whether Roma victims of trafficking encounter different exploitation patterns or are exposed to additional risks due to their ethnicity.

RESEARCH PROGRAM ON CHILDREN AND GLOBAL ADVERSITY (RPCGA)

Under the leadership of Theresa Betancourt, the Research Program on Children and Global Adversity (RPCGA) aims to provide protection and services for children and families affected by communal violence/armed conflict, HIV/AIDS, and other forms of adversity. The program operates at the crossroads of research, policy, program design/implementation, and evaluation.

THE FAMILY STRENGTHENING INTERVENTION—RWANDA

RPCGA’s Family Strengthening Intervention (FSI) seeks to promote resilience among HIV-affected families through a preventive mental health intervention to support improved parent-child relationships, social support and connection to formal and informal resources. In collaboration with Partners In Health/Inshuti Mu Buzima and the Rwandan Ministry of Health, RPCGA is implementing the FSI in Rwanda, where the legacy of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide and the continuing HIV/AIDS epidemic have eroded many elements of support structures that traditionally supported child rearing. RPCGA launched an NIH-funded intervention study in the spring of 2012 to evaluate the feasibility and acceptability of the FSI. In addition, the team completed an epidemiological study of mental health problems and resilience comparing three samples of children: those unaffected or affected by HIV/AIDS (via living with HIV+ caregivers), and those living with the disease.

A LONGITUDINAL AND INTERGENERATIONAL STUDY OF WAR-AFFECTED YOUTH—SIERRA LEONE

The Longitudinal and Intergenerational Study of War-Affected Youth began in Sierra Leone in 2002, and is the first and only prospective longitudinal study of mental health and psychosocial adjustment in male and female former child soldiers to be performed in sub-Saharan Africa. In Sierra Leone, as many as 28,000 children participated in the country’s 11-year civil war, witnessing and sometimes perpetrating acts of intense violence. Analyses of a unique cohort of over 500 former child soldiers continues to examine, among other topics, the intergenerational effects of violence and how dynamics related to gender, access to opportunities and community relations affect the long-term psychosocial trajectories of former child soldiers. The next phase of research, supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Development, will enroll the intimate partners and children of the original cohort to examine the intergenerational transmission of emotional and behavioral disruptions due to war.

RPCGA has also developed and evaluated a group based mental health intervention—the Youth Readiness Intervention (YRI)—to help young people struggling with difficulties related to past war experiences transition successfully to education and employment programs. The target areas of the intervention are grounded in the findings of the longitudinal study. The YRI was evaluated among N=436 war-affected youth ages 15-24 in Freetown, Sierra Leone’s capital city, in 2012 and demonstrated effectiveness in improving anger problems, social support, prosocial and interpersonal skills and daily functioning. YRI participants were also six times more likely to attend school after the intervention compared to controls and showed superior school performance and attendance compared to a wait-list control group.

THE SOMALI BANTU REFUGEE COMMUNITY PROJECT—BOSTON

In 2013, RPCGA applied its mixed-methods participatory research approach to the domestic context in collaboration with the Boston-based Somali Bantu refugee community. In its first phase, the qualitative research study has identified service needs and preferences, as well as culturally relevant protective processes, which can be prioritized in intervention planning. The team is expanding the initiative to include Bhutanese refugees in the Boston area and will be developing and piloting a family-based intervention in the years ahead.

THE SAFE PROJECT

The SAFE Model is a holistic, rights-based framework that examines four fundamental and interrelated domains of children’s security: Safety and protection; Access to health care and basic physiological needs; Family and community relationships; and Education and economic security. The model underscores the interdependence of children’s survival needs and accounts for both dangerous and adaptive survival strategies that children and families employ to cope with deficits in any of these four core security domains. The SAFE framework has been used to assess the basic security needs of children in Rwanda and Lesotho. The SAFE toolkit provides both quantitative and qualitative tools to evaluate security threats facing children in a range of settings.

A CRITICAL RIGHTS AGENDA

In July 2013, the FXB Center, in partnership with the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), convened a conference in Delhi on “Children and Adolescents
The conference evaluated child and adolescent protection initiatives in India, where, despite significant progress over the past two decades, tens of millions of children and adolescents continue to be excluded from basic human rights.

The conference highlighted the findings from several FXB research projects. These include pilot studies using the SAFE Toolkit to assess child protection threats at construction sites where migrant workers move along with their families as well as within the Indian National Railway System and the situation of children living on the railway platform in Jaipur. Also presented was a first round of data collection by the Champions project investigating the triggers of academic success that enable girls from illiterate families in the state of Maharashtra to enroll in college. Representing the FXB Center, Theresa Betancourt, Jacqueline Bhabha and Orla Kelly addressed a packed conference room of child rights specialists and activists.

Shantha Sinha, former Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and leading child rights activist, delivered a powerful call for action in her keynote address. “What is lacking is a moral imperative and a conscious elite commitment to stop exploitation of our children,” she said. “The wellbeing of children and our future are interdependent.”

**MEET THE TEAM**

**Rochelle Frounfelker, MPH, MS**, is the Project Manager for RPCGA’s Boston project. She is a doctoral student in the Harvard School of Public Health’s Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

**Katrina Hann, MA**, was the Program Manager for RPCGA’s Sierra Leone project from January 2011 to August 2013. She previously worked as a public policy consultant for the Lesotho-Boston Health Alliance.

**Catherine Kirk, MPH**, is the Program Manager for RPCGA’s Rwanda project. She previously worked in rural Namibia on an education sector capacity building project.

**Grace Lilienthal** is the Program Assistant for the RPCGA program. Prior to joining the RPCGA team, she worked on development and post-genocide reconciliation efforts in Rwanda.

**Najmeh Modarres, MPH**, is the current Program Manager for RPCGA’s Sierra Leone project. She previously worked at the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs.

**Arathi Ravichandran, MSc**, was the Project Manager for the RPCGA’s SAFE project from June 2012 to August 2013. Previously, she worked in rural Guatemala on small-business ventures focused on improving health access.

**Dayo Spencer-Walters, MPH**, is the current Research Assistant for RPCGA’s Sierra Leone project. Previously, she was the Lactation Educator at Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, a community hospital and trauma center in California.
The Intergenerational Impact of War

In 2002, Theresa Betancourt, Director of the FXB Center’s Research Program on Children and Global Adversity (RPCGA), began the first study to examine the intergenerational effects of war in populations affected by violence in sub-Saharan Africa. Despite recent improvements in addressing child mental health globally, there is a dearth of evidence about the long-term wellbeing of war-affected youth in low-resource settings. The study seeks to fill this gap by documenting how war experiences and post-conflict experiences impact long-term adult functioning, family dynamics, resilience and developmental outcomes in offspring.

Spanning an eleven-year period, the Longitudinal Study of War-Affected Youth in Sierra Leone offers rare insight into the lives of male and female former child soldiers and other war-affected youth (N=529). The study examines risk and protective factors that shape social reintegration and psychosocial adjustment over time. Findings demonstrate that experiences of toxic violence and post-conflict hardships (e.g., stigma) are risk factors for poor developmental outcomes, while protective factors, such as community acceptance and access to school positively impact psychosocial adjustment. A fourth-wave of data collection is underway to investigate how parenting, intimate partner relationships, and child wellbeing have been influenced by the legacy of war.

Two case studies exemplify the study’s findings. Sahr was abducted at age seven and spent four years with the rebel army, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). He initially served as a domestic helper, but was soon driven into more violent activities, including fighting and killing. When the civil war came to an end, Sahr returned home only to be greeted with hostility from his uncle—the patriarch of the family—and community members, “[who] called him names and beat him in an attempt to ‘correct’ behaviors and attitudes that they saw as undesirable.”1 Sahr became increasingly aggressive and isolated from the rest of the community. When the research team last interviewed Sahr’s mother in 2008, she told them that Sahr had dropped out of school and she had lost contact with him.

The story of Amina underscores the importance of protective factors in the long-term adjustment of former child soldiers. Amina was kidnapped from her village by the RUF at age ten, and spent two and a half years being forcibly drugged and beaten. While she primarily did domestic duties, she also witnessed horrific acts of violence. “I was afraid because they killed people in front of me and they gave me a gun during battles,” she explained. “They used us as human shield[s] so we stand in front with our guns.”

Upon Amina’s return to her village after the war, she too struggled to integrate back into the community. Yet with the support of her mother and a teacher, she stayed focused on school and managed to rebuild positive relationships, transcending the stigma of being a former child soldier. Now, she says, “I want to be educated and become a respectable person in society and make my mother proud of me.”

Directed by Alicia Ely Yamin, the Health Rights of Women and Children Program (HRWC) seeks to promote equitable and sustained progress on women’s and children’s health and rights at the international and national levels. The program is driven by the view that the lack of global progress on women’s and children’s health is not principally due to technical obstacles, but rather to entrenched societal barriers and lack of political will.

**IMPLANTS OF MATERNAL DEATHS ON LIVING CHILDREN STUDY**

The HRWC program is conducting the Impacts of Maternal Deaths on Living Children Study, a multi-methods study that documents the cumulative burden of maternal mortality on the family and the community in Tanzania, Ethiopia, Malawi, and South Africa. The study aims to fill a knowledge gap with respect to adverse outcomes or resilience in children whose mothers die in pregnancy or childbirth. Preliminary evidence from Tanzania, where research has been completed, suggests significant increases in morbidity and mortality among the young children left behind, and family dissolution. By raising awareness of the costs of inaction on maternal health, the HRWC program aims to assist in mobilizing governments and other key actors to reduce maternal mortality and ameliorate the effects of maternal deaths on children.

**POLICY ADVOCACY AND CAPACITY-STRENGTHENING**

The HRWC program regularly conducts policy advocacy associated with international human rights standard-setting and the incorporation of human rights principles related to women’s and children’s health. The HRWC program also carries out capacity-strengthening, knowledge dissemination, and network-building in regard to the legal enforcement of health rights. In addition to Yamin’s work training both lawyers and judges across Africa on the enforcement of health and other social rights, HRWC hosts the Global School course on health rights litigation, the first global training for academics and practitioners in strategic litigation relating to health rights.

**THE POWER OF NUMBERS**

In collaboration with Sakiko Fukuda-Parr of the New School for Social Research, HRWC has co-organized a notable project in regard to human rights and the post-2015 development agenda. “The Power of Numbers: A Critical Review of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Targets for Human Development and Human Rights” refocuses the debate on MDGs (which until now has centered on whether the MDGs are likely to be achieved) to critically examine if and how the MDGs have shifted global and national policy priorities and discourse. With scholars participating from around the world and presentations to audiences ranging from global political leaders to UN statistical experts and development institutions who will shape the next agenda, the project aims to contribute a distinct voice to the discussions leading up to the post-2015 agenda. Papers have been compiled and issued as the FXB Center’s first working paper series, and are currently being peer reviewed and revised for inclusion in a spring 2014 Special Double Issue of the *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, co-edited by Yamin and Fukuda-Parr.

**MEET THE TEAM**

**Vanessa Boulanger, MSc**, is the HRWC Program Manager. Previously, she developed curricula, led training sessions, and evaluated the impact of a peer educator program for women in Vietnam.

**Rebecca Cantor MPH, MSW**, is the HRWC Program Coordinator. She previously facilitated coalition-building with pregnant and parenting teens and their providers in Massachusetts.

**Christy Colburn, MA**, was the HRWC Program Assistant in 2012.

**Kathryn Falb, MHS, ScD**, was the HRWC Program Manager from 2009 to 2012. She is now a Postdoctoral Associate in Epidemiology at Yale’s School of Public Health.
Operationalizing a Human Rights-Based Approach to Maternal Mortality and Morbidity

The danger of dying in childbirth is a remote possibility for the majority of women in the developed world, yet an estimated 287,000 women die each year from maternal-related causes in the developing world and 10 to 15 million more are afflicted with life-altering health complications.1,2 According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the overwhelming majority—up to 98%—of these maternal deaths are preventable.3

Yamin is part of a growing cohort of human rights advocates and public health experts who agree that the continued existence of maternal mortality and morbidity (MMM) is, at its core, a human rights scandal, fueled by underlying discrimination that leads to the under-prioritization of essential services, violence against women, the devaluing of women’s lives, and a general lack of accountability in health systems.4

In 2012, Yamin was the lead consultant/author for the “Technical Guidance on the Application of a Human Rights-based Approach to the Implementation of Policies and Programmes to Reduce Preventable Maternal Morbidity and Mortality,” drafted for the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Technical Guidance is the first concrete guidance on a rights-based approach to health and was adopted by resolution at the UN Human Rights Council. It sets a landmark precedent in terms of operationalizing RBAs, with implications that go far beyond maternal, and sexual and reproductive health. The UN Human Rights Council called for a report on implementation activities after two years, marking a historic shift from its emphasis on MMM as a human rights concern to a focus on the actual blueprint for putting RBAs into practice. While preceding reports highlighted the link between MMM and human rights, the Technical Guidance goes further by providing detailed assistance to policymakers on how to combat maternal deaths and illnesses in accordance with human rights standards.

IMPLEMENTATION

Since the Technical Guidance was adopted by resolution of the UN Human Rights Council in September 2012, the Government of Tanzania officially notified the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of its intention to implement the Technical Guidance. WHO, the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) have each budgeted activities around implementation, with a particular focus on Eastern and Southern Africa.

Yamin has given various talks on the Technical Guidance in international fora as well as presented a webinar on the Technical Guidance for the global staff of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). To launch UNFPA’s Actions for Human Rights Campaign, this webinar was broadcast live to 35 UNFPA offices worldwide.

Yamin and HRWC Program Coordinator Rebecca Cantor are now working with FXB Senior Fellow Elizabeth Gibbons to develop modules for different stakeholders on implementing the Technical Guidance and adding a specific component on child mortality. In addition, HRWC is advocating for explicit adoption of implementation guidelines for the Technical Guidance by the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, a quasi-judicial body that reports to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union.

Health and Human Rights, a biannual open access online journal (http://www.hhrjournal.org) published by the FXB Center under the editorial leadership of Paul Farmer as Editor-in-Chief, is a leading peer-reviewed scholarly journal that addresses critical concepts and “on-the-ground” analyses of health and human rights in practice. The journal seeks to equip readers to address and change global policy and health care implementation and promote the practical realization of human rights in health.

Readership and Outreach

The journal group began publishing papers on a rolling basis in early 2012. This practice has fast-tracked authors’ ability to cite their work and has resulted in a sharp increase in web traffic. As a result of this new publishing practice, as well as increased exposure through marketing efforts and social media engagement, the journal’s web traffic continues to experience significant increases in online readership. The journal’s social media efforts offer an inclusive forum for action-oriented dialogue among human rights practitioners and endeavor to increase access to human rights knowledge in the health field.

HHR saw a significant increase in readership from India over the past year, with traffic rising almost 600% over 2011. The journal also has a large readership base in the United Kingdom, Bangladesh, and the Philippines, and there was a marked increase in readers from those countries, as well as from Canada, Pakistan, and Malaysia. Traffic from Australia and South Africa spiked sharply as well.

Harvard University Press Assumes Publication of HHR Journal

Health and Human Rights has entered into a publishing partnership with the esteemed Harvard University Press (HUP). Under the agreement, FXB maintains its editorial and production responsibilities for the journal. HUP assumed its role as publisher in June 2013 with Issue 15.1, a special issue on the Framework Convention on Global Health released in collaboration with the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University. William P. Sisler, Director of HUP, said: “It’s an honor and a pleasure to unite HUP’s mission ‘to advance knowledge’ with the FXB Center’s mission to advance the right to health throughout the world via this crucial open access journal.”

Meet the Team

Jessica Moore Kaplan is Managing Director of Health and Human Rights. Previously, she managed large-scale projects for news organizations and media companies including PBS NewsHour, Sesame Workshop, Media Matters for America, and U.S. News and World Report, among others.
Developed by the FXB Center under the leadership of Amartya Sen and Sudhir Anand, the Cost of Inaction (COI) is a framework with which to analyze the range of costs associated with not responding appropriately to the needs and challenges faced by children across the globe. COI goes beyond a traditional cost-benefit analysis by enumerating and quantifying the various social and economic costs that result when governments or institutions fail to perform a specific action.

The Cost of Inaction is central to the FXB Center’s approach to the health, wellbeing and rights of children. While the framework can be used in a wide variety of contexts, the first phase of the project, from 2008-2011, focused on actions designed to assist children affected by HIV/AIDS. A multi-disciplinary team of economists and health professionals developed case studies for potential actions that could be implemented in Rwanda and Angola. The COI research team completed a book, *The Cost of Inaction*, which was published by the FXB Center in the spring of 2012, with a foreword by Amartya Sen.

### COST OF INACTION BOOK LAUNCH

In October 2012, the FXB Center organized a series of panels to celebrate the release of *The Cost of Inaction*. Amartya Sen, recipient of the 1998 Nobel Prize in Economics and Thomas W. Lamont Professor at Harvard, chaired a panel of distinguished economists who assessed the theoretical and policy implications of the work. Eric Maskin, recipient of the 2007 Nobel Prize in Economics and Adams University Professor at Harvard, chaired another panel of senior policy officers and practitioners from UNICEF and partner institutions who explored the possible applications of the COI framework to economic and social development, and human rights. As noted by Sen in his preface to the book, one of the most important uses of COI is in the world of policymakers, who must set priorities on the basis of an analytic and empirical framework which the COI provides.

In December 2012, the World Bank hosted a book launch for *The Cost of Inaction* at its headquarters in Washington, D.C. The event took the form of a panel discussion as well, with Sudhir Anand, lead author, introducing the book and Jim Yong Kim, World Bank President and former FXB Center Director, delivering opening remarks. Shantayanan Devarajan, Chief Economist of the World Bank’s Africa region and a panelist, later reflected on the COI approach in a World Bank blog post titled “The Costs of Inaction.” He writes: “All cost-benefit analysis requires the analyst to specify a counterfactual—how the world would have evolved in the absence of the project or program ... The costs of inaction, therefore, can play a powerful role, not just in guiding public action, but also in mobilizing public support for reforms that will benefit the poor.”
Two young Muslim girls selling postcards to tourists in Jordan, where the Za'atari refugee camp is located.

FXB Initiative on Child Protection

Warda Toma, a pediatrician and rising Harvard School of Public Health graduate, surveyed the scene before her. Identical rows of white tents emblazoned with “UNCHR” stretched across the desert like a sprawling military unit standing at attention for orders that never came.

It was March 2013 in northern Jordan and beneath the ordered grid of tents was a camp verging on chaos. In July 2012, UNHCR opened the Za’atari camp on three square miles to accommodate 60,000 Syrian refugees. But the Syrian civil war had led to arguably the most pressing refugee crisis in the world, and there were now a reported 150,000 refugees in the camp, 55% of whom were children and 17% of whom were less than four years old.1 Frustration with overcrowding was sparking riots and thefts. A lack of funding compounded the tension; there were estimates that UNHCR was operating the camp on 30% of its budget.

With the support of FXB Director Jennifer Leaning, Toma traveled to Za’atari over her spring break to bring attention to the status of refugees in the camp and to conduct a rapid child protection assessment. She discovered a host of child protection issues through informant interviews and medical shifts in the camp’s hospital, which saw approximately 100 children under the age of four each day. The chief complaints were upper respiratory tract infections that spread easily among the close living quarters. Children also exhibited burns from crowding too close to kerosene lamps, the primary source of heat and light in the camp.

Without proper lighting, girls and women risked sexual assault if they used the latrines at night. They were forced to dispose of waste outside their tents, leading to troublesome sanitation issues. Child safety was further threatened by a “bail-out” process in which individuals outside of Za’atari sponsored refugees to leave the camp only to enlist them in hard labor, or child or sex trafficking. Child marriage, illegal under the age of 18 according to Jordanian law and UNHCR guidelines, was a widely maintained practice in the camp, driven in part by its cultural acceptance in Syria but also by financial hardship and the perception that marriage would protect girls from sexual assault. In addition, children were active and visible participants in Za’atari’s informal economy, working as cleaners or in construction, or selling goods on the street.

The situation in Za’atari and in other refugee camps throughout the region has only continued to worsen in the months since Toma’s visit, as millions of Syrians flee the conflict and international aid fails to keep up with growing requirements. About half of these refugees are under 18 years old.2 Over four million people are now internally displaced within Syria and humanitarian access to them is limited by insecurity. The war in Syria casts a harsh light on the perils children and youth face when indiscriminate war is waged against civilian populations.

Large-scale natural disasters can also bring grave distress and disruption to families and individuals, as they are forced to flee the immediate effects of the crisis. Issues of child protection loomed large in Haiti post-earthquake, as the FXB Center’s fact-finding mission soon after the 2010 earthquake made clear.

In collaboration with partners in India and Hong Kong, the FXB Center has now set up a Rapid Child Protection Assessment unit that will mobilize at short notice to raise awareness about child protection needs in particular crisis settings (war and disaster). The assessments, based on international standards, will be gathered quickly and professionally, in order to bring back useful information for humanitarian policy and advocacy.

The FXB Center in partnership with UNICEF has also embarked on a formal educational venture to develop a graduate-level curriculum on child protection at the Harvard School of Public Health. This course of study, embedded in the MPH program at the School, is intended for mid-career professionals in the child protection field who wish to expand their knowledge of latest controversies, new policy insights, and tested best practices worldwide. Aspects of the curriculum will be taught this coming spring and the full curriculum will be launched in the fall of 2014.

1 UNHCR. Findings from the inter-agency child protection and gender-based violence assessment in the Za’atari refugee camp. From the child protection and gender-based violence sub-working group Jordan. February 2013.
Under the direction of FXB Fellow Heather Adams, the FXB Center is leading a research project focused on safeguarding the rights of adolescents with intellectual disabilities such as autism and autism spectrum disorder. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 1 in 88 children and 1 in 54 boys fall on the autism spectrum in the United States, a ten-fold increase over the past 40 years. Although the CDC has called autism a national public health crisis, autism still receives a small percentage of the research funding afforded to less prevalent childhood diseases.

In partnership with colleagues in Palestine, the FXB Center is engaged in a collaborative study of the ways in which families, communities, and policymakers diagnose and respond to adolescents with autism. The project will identify best practices in ensuring the health rights of disabled adolescents in Massachusetts and the United States.

**MEET THE TEAM**

**Heather Adams, MA, ALB,** an FXB Fellow, conducts research focused on adolescents and young adults with autism. She is actively involved in parent and practitioner led initiatives supporting adolescents and young adults with an intellectual disability in the community.

**Jumana Odeh, MD, MPH,** is an FXB Fellow, pediatrician, and the founding Director of Palestinian Happy Child Center, which seeks to advance the wellbeing and welfare of children with special needs in Palestine.
1. The FXB Center hosted the “Adolescent Rights: What Progress? An International Conference Exploring Adolescent Transitions to Adulthood” in December 2011 to mark the coming of age of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on the 21st anniversary of its ratification. The conference provided an important forum for identifying ways of advancing the CRC’s transformative agenda with respect to adolescents and offered an opportunity to forge an interdisciplinary network of UN, NGO and academic actors committed to the realization of adolescent rights.

2. In December 2012, the FXB Center released a literature review titled, Protecting Haiti’s Children: Risk Factors and Outcomes Before and Since the January 2010 Earthquake. The exhaustive review examined the challenges in health, education, food, shelter, security, and water and sanitation that Haitian children faced before and after the earthquake and the mitigating efforts of families, government, and the international community throughout these years.


4. In partnership with the Mahindra Humanities Center, the Center for European Studies, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the FXB Center hosted a conference in April 2013 on “Realizing Roma Rights: Addressing Violence, Discrimination and Segregation in Europe.” The conference brought together a network of institutions working on issues related to the Roma throughout the U.S. and Europe to discuss strategies for safeguarding Roma rights.

5. Papers for “The Power of Numbers: A Critical Review of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Targets for Human Development and Human Rights” project were compiled and issued as the FXB Center’s first working paper series in spring 2013, and will be revised and published in a spring 2014 Special Double Issue of the Journal of Human Development and Capabilities, co-edited by Alicia Ely Yamin and Sakiko Fukuda-Parr.

6. The FXB Center held the “Intensive Course in Health and Human Rights” in June 2012 and 2013. The course trains professionals from the international, NGO, academic and private sector communities to apply the methods and practices of human rights to their fields.

7. In June 2012, the Health Rights of Women and Children (HRWC) program, in conjunction with the Global School on Socioeconomic Rights, led a one-week intensive training course for academics, students, and practitioners on health rights litigation, with a particular emphasis on the health rights of women and children. The next session of the course will be held in September 2013.

8. In July 2013, the FXB Center, in partnership with the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), convened major child protection specialists and activists for the “Children and Adolescents in India—A Critical Rights Agenda” conference in Delhi to assess child and adolescent protection initiatives in India.

9. As part of the Harvard Gender Violence Project, the FXB Center brought together key stakeholders in Delhi in July 2013 for the “Gender Justice, Criminal Law, and Curricular Reforms Conference” to discuss policy initiatives needed to address sexual assault in India and South Asia more broadly.

JENNIFER LEANING

SELECTED ACTIVITIES

March 2013
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Leaning participated as expert academic advisor in this High Level Working Meeting on Prevention of Atrocities, which brought together UN officers, national authorities, and leading civil society actors in the Great Lakes Region in an effort to forge an alliance against mass atrocities. As an early phase in a policy process funded by the Swiss Government, the ongoing aim of the group is to concretize early alerts and early actions that regional players throughout the world can take to prevent genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity from unfolding on their watch.

March 2012
Amsterdam, the Netherlands
As a member of the Genocide Prevention Advisory Network (GPANet), participated in this advanced workshop in The Hague, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and supported by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs from Switzerland.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS


JACQUELINE Bhabha

SELECTED ACTIVITIES

May 2013
Beijing, China
Bhabha was invited to present a briefing on “Current Rights for Future Opportunities: Adolescents in Asia and the Pacific” at the preparatory meeting for the Second UN High Level Meeting (HLM) on Child Rights in Asia and the Pacific. Bhabha has been appointed as the expert to prepare the background briefing paper on adolescence for the October HLM of government representatives to be held in Delhi.

February 2013
Ahmedabad, India
Bhabha co-organized and participated in the Exposure Dialogue on Law and Informality, sponsored by Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) at Harvard Kennedy School and hosted by the Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) of India. Participants spent two days and nights shadowing a street vendor or waste picker before holding policy dialogues with legal experts from India.

November 2012
Cambridge, MA
Bhabha organized a Radcliffe Exploratory Seminar on “Sexual Trafficking and Exploitation of Adolescents in the United States: Conceptual Framework and Policy Strategies,” held at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. The two-day meeting brought together experts from a range of backgrounds to develop a framework for
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS


Save The Children. Transnational coordination mechanisms for the protection of children on the move in the context of international migration and the fulfilment of their human rights. Submitted to the rights of all children in the context of international migration, UN CRC Committee Day of General Discussion, September 2012. Submission based on draft by Bhabha J.


TEACHING

(Fall 2012—Present) IGA-305, Children, Youth and International Human Rights, Harvard Kennedy School

(Spring 2013) GHP-553, Human Rights Dilemmas in Child Protection, Harvard School of Public Health


THERESA BETANCOURT

SELECTED ACTIVITIES

2012-2013

St. Louis, Missouri

Betancourt has been awarded a fellowship with the Implementation Research Institute at the Center for Mental Health Services at Washington University in St. Louis. She is developing a proposal to use Learning Collaborative methodologies to explore dissemination and scale-up of the Youth Readiness Intervention (YRI) for war-affected youth in Sierra Leone. In addition, she is developing a research design to examine and test the impact of YRI delivery in assisting troubled youth to transition successfully to employment programs in post-conflict settings.

April 2013

New York, NY

Betancourt delivered the keynote address for the United Nation’s Sixth Annual Psychology Day in a talk entitled “Addressing the Consequences of War: Using Longitudinal Research to Develop Interventions for War-Affected Youth.” The event brought together several UN agencies, NGOs, and members of the private sector to discuss the role of psychology in confronting global issues.

June 2013

Leuven, Belgium

Betancourt delivered the keynote presentation at the International Society for Research in Child and Adolescent Psychopathology Conference, entitled “Addressing the Consequences of War: Using Longitudinal Research to Develop Interventions for War-affected Youth.”

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS


ALICIA ELY YAMIN

SELECTED ACTIVITIES

July 2013
The Hague, the Netherlands
Yamin delivered a plenary address to the International Thematic Consultation on ICPD + 20 and Human Rights, hosted by the Government of the Netherlands, and organized by the United Nations Population Fund and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The thematic consultation is part of the 20 year review process for the ICPD Programme of Action, and ties into the post-2015 development agenda planning process. Yamin was also a member of the Reference Group.

May 2013
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Yamin presented on four panels and in a plenary session, titled “How to Think about Population, Sustainability, and Women’s Rights.” At Women Deliver, one of the largest conferences in the world to focus on women’s health and empowerment. Held every three years, its 5,000 attendees included heads of state, government officials, UN representatives, health workers, and activists.

January 2013
Arusha, Tanzania

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS


FXB FELLOWS:
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS, REPORTS, AND JOURNAL ARTICLES

SUDHIR ANAND


SATCHIT BALSARI


Balsari S, Surveillance the world’s largest human gathering: Leapfrog technology at the Kumbh Mela [working title]. Harvard South Asia Institute Publication, forthcoming.

CHRIS DESMOND


ELIZABETH GIBBONS

Gibbons E. Maximising migration’s opportunities for adolescents and youth. In: The global migration group’s 2013 thematic report on youth and adolescent migration. Forthcoming.


GREGG GREENOUGH


LYNNE JONES

Jones L. Assessment and management of conditions specifically related to stress; mhGAP intervention guide module, WHO, UNHCR, Mental Health Gap Action Programme, Aug 2013.


JAY LEMERY


ROGER-CLAUDE LIWANGA


ELIZABETH NEWNHAM


JUMANA ODEH


JESSICA STERN


CARMEL WILLIAMS


MIHIR BHATT


Bhatt M. What Relief lessons Gujarat can offer to Uttarakhand. DNA, Ahmedabad, July 7, 2013.

COMMITTEES, FACULTY, FELLOWS, AFFILIATES AND STAFF

FXB ADVISORY COMMITTEE
The Center’s Advisory Committee, chaired by the Countess Albina du Boisrouvray, meets annually to review and advance the mission of the FXB Center to promote health and human rights.

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Board Member, FXB USA
Board Member, Turkish Philanthropy Fund

Peter Bell
Senior Research Fellow, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

Lincoln Chen (Co-Chair)
President, China Medical Board of New York, Inc.

Albina du Boisrouvray (Chair)
Founder, FXB Center for Health and Human Rights

Harvey V. Fineberg
President, Institute of Medicine

William A. Haseltine
Chief Executive Officer, Haseltine Associates Ltd.

Jennifer Leaning
Director, FXB Center for Health and Human Rights
FXB Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights, Harvard School of Public Health

Amartya Sen
Lamont University Professor, Department of Economics, Harvard University

Mary Wilson
Associate Professor, Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard School of Public Health

Elaine Wolfensohn
Wolfensohn & Company, L.L.C.

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Paula A. Johnson
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Chief of the Division of Women’s Health, Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Judith Palfrey
Director of the Childcare International Pediatric Center, Children’s Hospital Boston
Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School
Professor in the Department of Society, Human Development, and Health, Harvard School of Public Health

Hashim Sarkis
Aga Khan Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urbanism in Muslim Societies, Department of Urban Planning and Design, Harvard Graduate School of Design

CURRENT FACULTY, FELLOWS, AFFILIATES AND STAFF

FACULTY

Jacqueline Bhahba, JD, MSc
Theresa Betancourt, ScD, MA
Sarah Dougherty, JD, MPH
Arlan Fuller, JD, MA
Orla Kelly, MA, MBA
Alicia Ely Yamin, JD, MPH

FELLOWS

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Sudhir Anand, MA, PhD
Satchit Balsari, MD, MPH
Susan A. Bartels, MD, MPH, FRCPC
Bilgé Ögün Bassani, MA
Mihir Bhatt, MS
Hilarie Cramer, MD, MPH
Chris Desmond, PhD, MCom
Gregg Greenough, MD, MPH
Elizabeth Gibbons, MA
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