

Geneva Centre for education and research in humanitarian action

Centre d'enseignement et de recherche en Action Humanitaire de Genève

Annual Report 2019

There's no better entry door to the humanitarian world than Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action"

Master student, 2018/19

A Joint Centre of



GRADUATE INSTITUTE GENEVA

NSTITUT DE HAUTES ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES "Thanks to my studies at the Centre and the work I produced for my dissertation, I started to be more critical and analytical, and I believe there's an information gap which should be covered by research and evidence, to then inform better humanitarian programmes."

Amera Markous,

Master student 2018/19 and winner of the 2019 Swiss Humanitarian Award

Table of contents



Mannar. An ICHC employee explains the activities carried out by the institution to restore family links. Photo © ICRC

2019 Highlights

February

Humanitarian Encyclopedia project: Presented at the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW2019).

April

The importance of evidence: An event hosted at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) with Evidence Aid, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and the InternationI Comitte of the Red Cross ICRC.

May

The power of courage and altruism: Reflections from Rwanda to the present day. An event co-hosted with ICRC.

June

Think about what you saw: Workshop held together with the Institute for Ethics, History and the Humanities of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva exploring the importance of images to better understand the role of emotions in mobilizing public opinion.

July

End of year ceremony for Master students with guest speakers, ICVA Executive Director, Mr. Ignacio Packer and Dr. Raphael Zaffran, Head of Learning Programme Development and Partnerships at the University of Geneva.

Retirement of Prof. Doris Schopper.

September

Justice Denied? Access to justice for victims of sexual violence: An event co-hosted with ICRC.

October

Professor Karl Blanchet: Appointed as the new director of the Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action.

November

Courses open to graduates: A range of our courses opened to graduate students.

December

Red Cross Red Crescent International Conference address: We called for greater access to training for frontline humanitarian workers.

Uganda Residential Course: Our Humanitarian Distance Learning students met face to face in Uganda for a successful two week residential course, complimenting their online work.

Foreword

2019 was a time of consolidation and change for the Centre of Education & Research in Humanitarian Action. In the first half of the year their established academic courses continued to fair well including the centre's Master and Diploma in Humanitarian Action, as well as the Certificates covering health, communications and project management. In addition, the various Executive Short Courses gave humanitarian professionals the opportunity to hone their skills in various areas of specialism including Sexual Violence in Conflict Settings and Emergencies, which saw full classes throughout the year.

The Centre also held a number of successful events with various partners including the University of Geneva and IHEID, the ICRC, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, to name a few.

In the second half of the year, change was afoot. We bid farewell to Professor Doris Schopper, who retired after leading the centre for 10 years, and we welcomed the centre's new Director, Professor Karl Blanchet, who started in October. We look forward to seeing the centre develop and evolve under the leadership of Professor Blanchet. A strategic review is now underway which will materialize in its new strategic plan unveiled in 2020.

Both the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies remain committed to the centre, and look forward to supporting it, and watching it develop over the coming years. We believe the principles of the centre, that of independence, diversity, effectiveness, quality and ethical action will continue to stand it in good stead as we navigate new waters in an ever-changing environment. The centre's agility, flexibility, and commitment to shaping courses relevant to the humanitarian world, is now, more than ever, a much needed area of expertise.

Professor Yves Flückiger,

Rector, University of Geneva

Professor Burrin,

Director of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies



Prof. Karl BLANCHET *Professor of Humanitarian Public Health Director, Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action*

Letter from our Director Prof. Karl Blanchet

Dear all,

I have to say that my first six months as the Director of the Geneva Centre of Education and Research in Humanitarian Action have probably been the most challenging ones of my career. Let's take stock of where we are and look at where we may be going.

As you know, at the very early stage of the pandemic, we created a Scientific Resource page to inform researchers and relief agencies on a daily basis about the latest studies on COVID-19. We have also launched the COVID-19 Humanitarian Platform to inform humanitarian organisations and governments on the latest evidence and field experience in response to the pandemic. This initiative was launched with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. It is a one-stop shop where you will find daily updated information and everything on COVID-19 guidelines and solutions implemented by frontline workers. Our course organisers and lecturers transformed two residential six-week courses into online courses to the great satisfaction of all the students who did not want to see their studies interrupted. This crisis has been a great opportunity for our centre and our team to demonstrate the capacities we have to be agile and rapidly adapt and respond to the needs of our partners and students.

We intend to use 2020 to learn and build on our experience of distance learning and assess what further transformations are needed and feasible to widen the availability of our courses to frontline workers and local actors – local relief agencies and service providers. While we will continue to run residential courses in Geneva, we will also combine more distance learning with short and well targeted field workshops delivered in training hubs closer to where professionals work. This combination will deliver a valuable contribution from our Centre to professional education in the humanitarian sector.

A second strategic building block is research, which will become a crucial activity within our Centre in the near future. Research will become a fully integrated component of our work which will inform our teaching as well as policy activities. Evidence needs to lead our discourse and we need to be the advocates of evidence to combat misinformation and poor decision making. Already this year, our Centre will receive a grant from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) to work with Manchester University and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health to investigate the impact of attacks on healthcare on population health.

Finally, the richness of the Geneva International should be used to the full, to organise debates and talks on important contemporary topics affecting the humanitarian sector. The creation of a Policy Hub where conversations on humanitarian issues are organised will help the research and practice communities meet and exchange perspectives and opinions. 2020 will also be a year for new partnerships in the humanitarian field and academia.

I am aware that this vision is ambitious for our Centre, however considering our unique position in Geneva, the incredible support received by our parent institutions, the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies, and the ongoing support received by the Swiss Development Cooperation and our two strategic partners who guide us, Médecins sans Frontières and the International Committee of the Red Cross, I believe this is achievable.

I heartedly thank our staff for their commitment and our Board for their trust.

Please stay safe and healthy.

Jours



Broken Chair at the Place des Nations in Geneva.

Overview

Internationally recognized Academic Centre for Humanitarian Action

The **Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action** is a dynamic academic and research centre based in Geneva. More than 20 years ago The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) and the University of Geneva (UNIGE) formed a joint centre of excellence which connects academia with humanitarian organisations, offering a wide range of postgraduate courses in humanitarian action and undertakes research in humanitarian action.

The Centre aims to contribute to an improved global response to humanitarian issues, undertaking all activities in line with our guiding principles of independence, diversity, ethical action, effectiveness and quality.

At the Heart of the Global Humanitarian Sector

Home to the United Nations, major international institutions and hundreds of NGOs, Geneva is a vibrant and historical hub of humanitarian action. Leveraging our proximity to such important humanitarian institutions, the Centre nurtures strategic partnerships to support learning and develop critical skills.

These partnerships with the International Committee of the Red Cross, Médecins Sans Frontieres and several UN agencies facilitate unique opportunities for students to access principal humanitarian actors inside and outside the classroom. Over 150 external speakers with humanitarian and academic backgrounds collectively contribute to the quality and diversity of our learning programmes.

Our Academic Approach

Our lecturers are experts in a wide range of disciplinary fields including public health, economy, history, anthropology and management to reflect the variety of competencies required of humanitarian workers in the field. As the global landscape changes, we adapt our courses to deliver the support and skills needed for humanitarian professionals on the frontline.

Through interactive, dynamic and participative interdisciplinary approaches, students increase their capacity to develop effective humanitarian strategies, supporting the plight of populations affected by armed conflict, disasters or social exclusion. We enhance their learning by:

- Promoting critical thinking about the humanitarian system
- Encouraging public debate to analyse humanitarian contexts and reflect on current practices
- Delivering insight and expertise from a broad range of sector professionals
- Consistently strengthening links between theory and practice

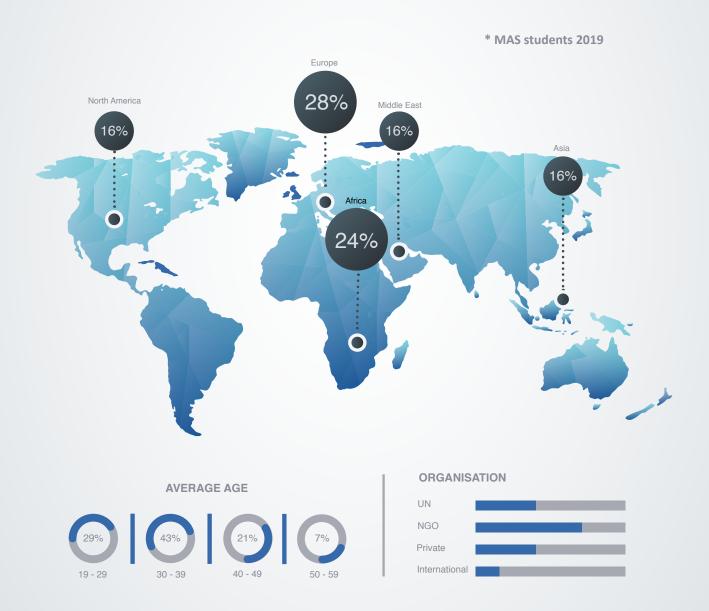


Master students, visiting the Red Cross museum $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Photo}}\xspace$ Joy Muller

Our Students

As a post-graduate structure, our students often come to us with cumulated frontline working experience in the humanitarian and development fields, and are able to benefit from the range of professional backgrounds and experience of fellow students.

The great diversity of student profiles is possible thanks to funding for a significant number of scholarships granted through the Centre.



A Diverse Academic Programme

The Centre's courses focus on strengthening competencies for humanitarian professionals. Prospective students can select from a wide variety of courses in terms of length, specificity, and discipline with flexible and modular opportunities for professionals to deepen their knowledge.

Thematic priorities for our courses are developed in close consultation with the Centre's academic and humanitarian partners. Modules covering disciplines such as political science, international relations, economics, law, public health, geopolitics, sociology, anthropology, management, communication, and ethics are all linked through an interdisciplinary approach.

> With what I learned, I feel more confident, more helpful to my organisation's beneficiaries and to my team"

> > Executive Short Course Student, 2019

MAS



Southern Galguduud, Somali Red Crescent Society mobile clinic. A nurse of the Somali Red Crescent Society mobile health team, shares a light moment with the women as he registers children for vaccination. Photo © ICRC

Master

Our Master of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action (MAS) is a cutting-edge interdisciplinary postgraduate course on humanitarian action providing current and future humanitarian professionals with the conceptual and practical tools necessary to optimise responses to contemporary crises. It has been specifically designed to elevate and retain middle managers in their humanitarian careers by deepening their knowledge, enhancing their skills and developing analytical competency.

The Master programme is composed of a three-month core course (Diploma of Advanced Studies, DAS), two elective specialised courses (Certificate of Advanced Studies, CAS), a course on research methodology and an academic dissertation.

DAS



Caracas, Petare popular neighbourhood. Teachers, administrative personnel and non-governmental organizations' workers receive safety behaviour training. Photo © ICRC

Diploma

Our Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) aims to offer professionals a strong understanding of contemporary humanitarian challenges through a comprehensive overview of conceptual and operational aspects of humanitarian crises and programmes, past and present.

The course helps participants acquire the tools needed to analyse, understand and engage in critical reflection on contemporary humanitarian response. The programme includes a four-month classroom learning and a research paper.

Welcome to Master 2019 students



CAS



Baghdad. The ICRC, in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and Emergency Medical Service, conducts for more than 100 participants with a broad range of professional backgrounds. Photo © ICRC

ESC



North Kivu, Rutshuru Territory. An ICRC employee is training colleagues on how to raise sexual violence awareness. Photo © ICRC

Certificates

The Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) courses focus on competency building and strategic thinking and are designed for managers and specialists in the humanitarian and development sectors, as well as professionals from other sectors targeting transition.

During 2019 we ran three Certificate courses:

- Communication, Advocacy & Negotiation in Humanitarian Action
- Health in Humanitarian Settings
- Designing strategies & projects for Humanitarian Action

Executive Short Courses

In 2019 we ran a range of short courses looking at various aspects of humanitarian action including:

- Sexual violence in conflict settings and emergencies
- Negotiation in humanitarian action
- Media & humanitarian action

Led by senior academics and experienced humanitarian professionals, our Executive Short Courses deliver a week-long, intensive focus on specific issues relevant to humanitarian practitioners. These highly interactive courses allow participants to analyse a range of issues that are of strategic importance to contemporary humanitarianism.

Humanitarian Distance Learning

Our eight-month distance-learning certificate (including two residential weeks in Uganda) aims to reinforce the knowledge and skills necessary to confront current challenges faced by humanitarian actors working in complex environments.

This course is delivered in collaboration with a network of leading international humanitarian organisations. It provides participants with the opportunity to apply reflective analysis to their professional circumstances and to actively practice project lifecycle management, alongside other critical soft skills through their contributions to a local organisation in Uganda.

We also offer a free five-week Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) in Communications in Humanitarian Action.

HDL



Barsalogho, medical center. A doctor whose team consults more than 150 children a day for cases of malaria and malnutrition. Photo @ ICBC



The Humanitarian Encyclopedia

The Humanitarian Encyclopedia which aims to bring greater clarity and meaning to the multiple concepts and phrases used in the humanitarian sector. The Humanitarian Encyclopedia (HE) is the product of humanitarian professionals and academics who identified a necessity to provide a common, clear language for use throughout all humanitarian responses.

The result of the analysis will include a comprehensive listing of existing concept definitions, the frequency of use, the distribution and the use of the term in context, associated concepts and possible nuances of meaning. It also offers insight into the observable differences in use by organisations.

In 2019, HE entered a new phase and began to implement the vision laid down in 2018. The main aspects of that vision were:

- Defining humanitarian actors as the primary users
- Selection of English as the first language
- A decision on the 129 concepts and associated concepts that will constitute the Humanitarian Encyclopedia

From October 2019 onwards the new director Prof. Karl Blanchet, led and reviewed the HE concept following his initial meeting with the Advisory Board. The approved revisions stressed the collaborative approach of the HE, stating the platform will provide:

- Concept entries
- A discussion forum for concepts
- A humanitarian organisation database

The Humanitarian Encyclopedia's website was revised in June 2019. The website now facilitates online dialogue and information exchange, hosts the Humanitarian Organisations Database (HOD) and is a centralised platform containing further information resources for use by humanitarian actors.



The HOD provides information on more than 2,500 humanitarian organisations, enabling enhanced comprehension of the humanitarian 'ecosystems' at multiple levels and the diversity of actors. In 2019, work commenced to contact all organisations in the database to ensure the accuracy of all records, collect feedback and encourage their interaction with the database.

The Advisory Board of HE comprises of 21 humanitarian organisations from all regions and have been joined recently by ACAPS, InterAction and the World Food Programme (WFP). The Board members contribute expertise to the overall development of the HE and ensure it remains grounded when faced with institutional and operational challenges.

The project receives funding from a variety of sources, including government funding from Germany, Switzerland and Luxembourg.

Acknowledgement

Prof. Doris Schopper, who launched the Humanitarian Encyclopedia in mid-2017, retired from her role as Director in September 2019. We thank Prof. Schopper for her relentless effort and acknowledge with appreciation her contribution to the development of this project.

"

This work as a reference tool will generate a range of information, knowledge on a range of topics for Humanitarian field workers. It will also help others stakeholders to have a reference and better contextualisation and understanding of technical words used in the Humanitarian sector".

Mamadou Ndiaye Chair of the Coalition of African NGO (COAN)

HNPW - Briefing Session



Bangui, communitarian hospital. A doctor does administration work after an operation. Photo © ICRC



Researching the Impact of Attacks on Healthcare



A consortium of researchers led by the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute at The University of Manchester in collaboration with the Geneva Centre of Education and Research in Humanitarian Action and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, have developed a new research programme: Researching the Impact of Attacks on Healthcare (RIAH).

Funded by the UK Department of International Development, the programme aims to improve the understanding of the nature, frequency, scale and impact of attacks on healthcare in conflict.

There is global consensus that attacks on healthcare violate international humanitarian law and disrespects an individuals right to receive the help they need. Evidence collated from attacks to date have been crucial in raising awareness of the issue, however this evidence is largely restricted to the reporting of incidents and their immediate impact.

Further information is required to provide data on the long-term, wider impacts of attacks on healthcare access and utilisation as well as broader public health outcomes.

The new research programme will undertake rigorous and sustained data collection over the lifetime of the project to generate convincing evidence of the scale and nature of the problem, documenting the impacts of attacks to support global policy and advocacy efforts. "Over the next few years, the RIAH project -Researching the Impact of Attacks on Healthcare - will generate new evidence about how these attacks affect civilian populations. This research is particularly important as the world faces a global health pandemic. The Centre will play a key role in the project, leading research focused on Afghanistan and the Central African Republic and organising events with key humanitarian actors in Geneva". Larissa Fast, Senior Lecturer, Humanitarian Studies I Director of Research, Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI), University of Manchester

Investigator: Prof Karl Blanchet



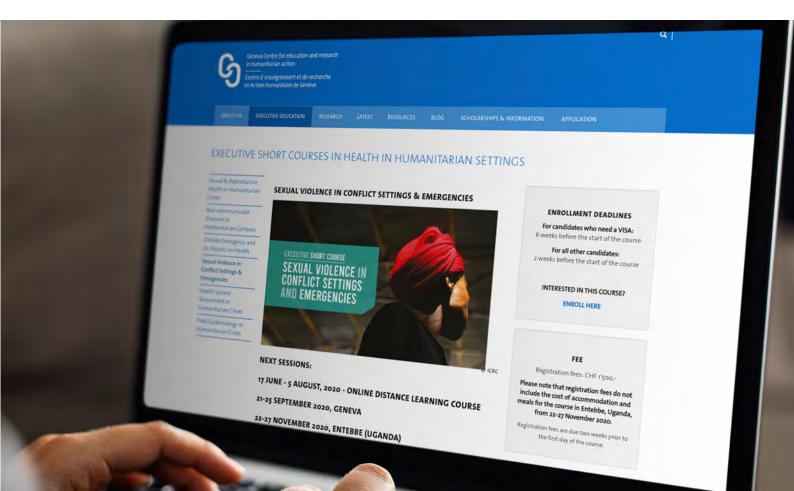
South Sudan. An ICRC nurse works in the Juba military hospital. Photo ICRC

Communications Department

The communications department supports all activities at the Centre, working to raise the profile of our academic offer and research projects as well as strengthening our ties with the IHEID and the University of Geneva.

The current communications team were recruited in mid-2019 and have been focusing on a light rebranding of the Centre, including a refreshed visual identity and a series of improvements to our website (which attracts over 32,000 visitors), in order to offer more engaging and easily accessible content.

Our online community continues to grow, gaining followers each month. In addition to the Centre's Facebook and LinkedIn accounts, a new Twitter account was created in 2020. We also have a pro-active direct mail campaign in progress, delivering our quarterly newsletter to approximately 5,500 recipients.



Finances and funding

The overall expenses in 2019 were CHF 2.16 million. The fees including scholarships cover 25% of the Centre expenditures. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) provides CHF 300,000 in core funding. In addition, SDC provides CHF 150'000 for the project 'Humanitarian Encyclopedia'. The support of SDC is very precious in this important research project. The SDC also offers a yearly award of CHF 2,000 for the best dissertation.

Each year, the Republic and Canton of Geneva and the Foundation Hans Wilsdorf provide scholarships. The Centre is very grateful for their loyal support.

In 2019, for the second time, the Centre also received support from the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for the Humanitarian Encyclopedia project.

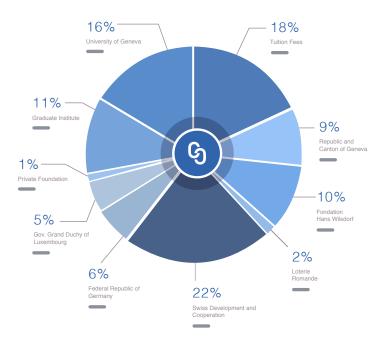
In 2019, the Federal Republic of Germany provided CHF 114,515 for the Humanitarian Encyclopedia project.

The Centre also received support from a private foundation to support the Humanitarian Encyclopedia project.

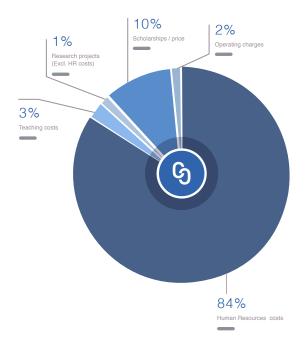
University of Geneva and Graduate Institute

In addition to their valuable direct financial contribution, the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) provide lecturers, office space, classrooms, and administrative support.

Revenues



Expenses





Gaza. Students interact with Mohammad, 30, as he gives a lecture on how to deal with persons with disabilities. The lecture is hosted by the organisation Al-Nayzak as part of a training program. Photo © ICRC

List of strategic partners

- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

We are also grateful for the rich network of collaborating institutions that contributes to our success in other areas includingfunding and education. We extend our thanks to their ongoing support and commitment:

- Service de la Solidarité Internationale (SSI)
- The Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- ACAPS
- Groupe U.R.D.
- Handicap International Humanity & Inclusion
- Hospice général
- Network for Education in International Health (TropED)
- The Sphere Project
- Transparency International
- UN Development Programme (UNDP)
- UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
- World Health Organization (WHO)

Board of Directors

Prof Alessandro Monsutti

President of the Board Anthropology and Sociology, IHEID

Prof. Doris Schopper Director (until September 2019)

Antoine Flahlaut Director (from October to November 2019)

Prof Karl Blanchet (as of December 2019)

Director, Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action Faculty of Medicine, UNIGE

Mr Philippe Besson

Head of Multilateral Division, Swiss Humanitarian Aid, SDC

Prof Davide Rodogno International History, IHEID

Prof. Costanza Bonadonna Faculty of Sciences, UNIGE

Prof François Chappuis Humanitarian Medicine, UNIGE

Ms Aude Thorel, HR Director, MSF

Prof Francois Dermange Faculty of Theology, UNIGE

Prof Simon Hug Political Science & Intern. Relations, UNIGE

Prof Aurélie Picton Faculty of Translation & Interpreting, UNIGE

Prof Marco Sassòli Faculty of Law, UNIGE

Ms Mary Werntz Deputy Director of Operations, ICRC

Ms Bérengère Gautier Private sector

Full details: humanitarianstudies.ch/geneva-centre-humanitarian-studies-governance/

Baghdad, Medical Technical Institute. The ICRC supports and supervises a knee prosthesis training for technicians from multiple Physical Rehabilitation Centers across Irac Photo © ICR

Es

C

0

A DE

Our team 2019

Prof. Doris Schopper

Director (until September 2019)

Prof. Karl Blanchet

Director (Started December 2019)

Claire Barthélémy

Head of Learning and Co-Coordinator: Certificate of Advanced Studies in Designing Strategies & Projects in Humanitarian Action; Coordinator: Executive Short Course in Negotiation

Dr Clara Egger

Research methods/dissertation process

Dr Jean-Marc Biquet

Coordinator: Certificate of Advanced Studies in Communications, Advocacy and Negotiation, and Co-coordinator, Certificate in Advanced Studies (Humanitarian Distance Learning) and Executive Short Course: Advocacy in health

Marianne Boddèle Education Administrative Officer

Sian Bowen Communications Manager

Francesca Da Ros Communications Manager

Dr Meg Davis

Coordinator: Executive Short Course: Sexual Violence in Conflict Settings and Emergencies

Sandrine Delattre

Co-coordinator: Certificate of Advanced Studies in Designing Strategies & Projects in Humanitarian Action

Joëlle Gentile Finance and Administrative Officer

Dr Christophe Gironde

Senior Lecturer on Human and Social Development at the Graduate Institute

Dr Anne Golaz

Coordinator: Certificate of Advanced Studies in Health in Humanitarian Settings Responsible for Health module in Diploma of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action

Dr Valérie Gorin

Coordinator of modules in Diploma of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action (History, Communication) and in Certificate in Advanced Studies in Communication, Advocacy and Negotiation (Images, representation and ethical concerns)

Dr Nathalie Herlemont-Zoritchak

Head of Programmes, ACAPS Coordinator: Dynamics of Actors

Florence Lachenaud

Project Manager, Humanitarian Encyclopedia

Helena Merelo

Coordinator: Certificate of Advanced Studies in Designing Strategies & Projects in Humanitarian Action (Humanitarian Distance Learning)

Prof Alessandro Monsutti

President of the Board of Directors Responsible for Anthropology module in Diploma in Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action Professor, Anthropology and Sociology, IHEID

Joy Muller

Knowledge Manager

Thuy Melich

Education Administrative Officer

André Picot

Coordinator: Managing Staff in Humanitarian Crises; Negotiation

Romain Sauvain

Distance learning Specialist

Dr Claudia Seymour

Coordinator: Vulnerability module in Diploma in Humanitarian Action

Dr Hugo Slim

Head of Policy and Humanitarian Diplomacy, ICRC Coordinator: Values, Ethics and Moral problems

Prof Sharon Weill

Professor in international law, University of Paris/ Sciences Po Responsible for Legal module in Diploma in Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action

Our Partners





Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra

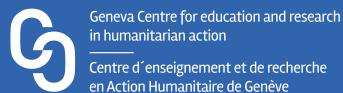


LE GOUVERNEMENT DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG









A Joint Centre of

UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE



-INSTITUT DE HAUTES ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

.