



Our Vision

As we all know, 2020 has been a very challenging year for everyone so far due to the COVID19 pandemic. Very early on, we adapted all our courses to be online until the end of 2020 to guarantee for our students the continuation of our higher education courses. Our course organisers and lecturers transformed our residential courses into online courses to the great satisfaction of all the students. 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 do expect that our Centre will have to continue to be agile in the months and years to come.

We also used our health research skills by partnering with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to develop the [COVID-19 Humanitarian Platform](#), which informs humanitarian organisations and governments on the latest evidence and field experience in response to the pandemic. Creating strong alliances with competent institutions has been the only way we can respond to the intensity and scale of modern humanitarian crises and we will continue to do so with strong partners in crises-affected countries.

As we develop our new vision for the Centre, we intend to use 2020 as a foundation to learn and build on our experience of distance learning and research collaborations, to assess what further transformations are needed and feasible to increase access and availability of our courses and research to frontline humanitarian workers and organisations.

While we will continue to run residential courses in Geneva, we will also develop a more **decentralised teaching approach** for our teaching, by **combining distance learning with short and well-targeted field courses** delivered closer to where humanitarian professionals work and with the support from local academics. Responding to new changing needs in populations and amongst professionals is also our mandate, which can only be achieved by listening to professionals and **adapt every year our course content and course catalogue**. Contributing to improving practice and policies in the humanitarian sector can be achieved through high quality teaching and training.

The second strategic building block is **integrated research**, which will become a crucial activity within our Centre. Research will become a dominant component of our work, which will inform both our teaching as well as our policy activities. Evidence such as the one generated by the

[Humanitarian Encyclopaedia](#) needs to lead our teaching and policy 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 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](#).

Our third building block will be to maximise our location within ‘Geneva International’ – using this to the full, by organising a range of **policy events** on contemporary topics affecting the humanitarian sector. The creation of a policy hub where conversations on humanitarian issues will be debated to help research and policy practice communities meet and exchange perspectives and opinions.

This broad vision is ambitious. However, considering our unique position in Geneva, the strong support we receive from our parent institutions, the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies, and the ongoing support of the Swiss Development Cooperation and our two strategic partners, Médecins Sans Frontières and the International Committee of the Red Cross, this should be achievable.

30 June, 2020