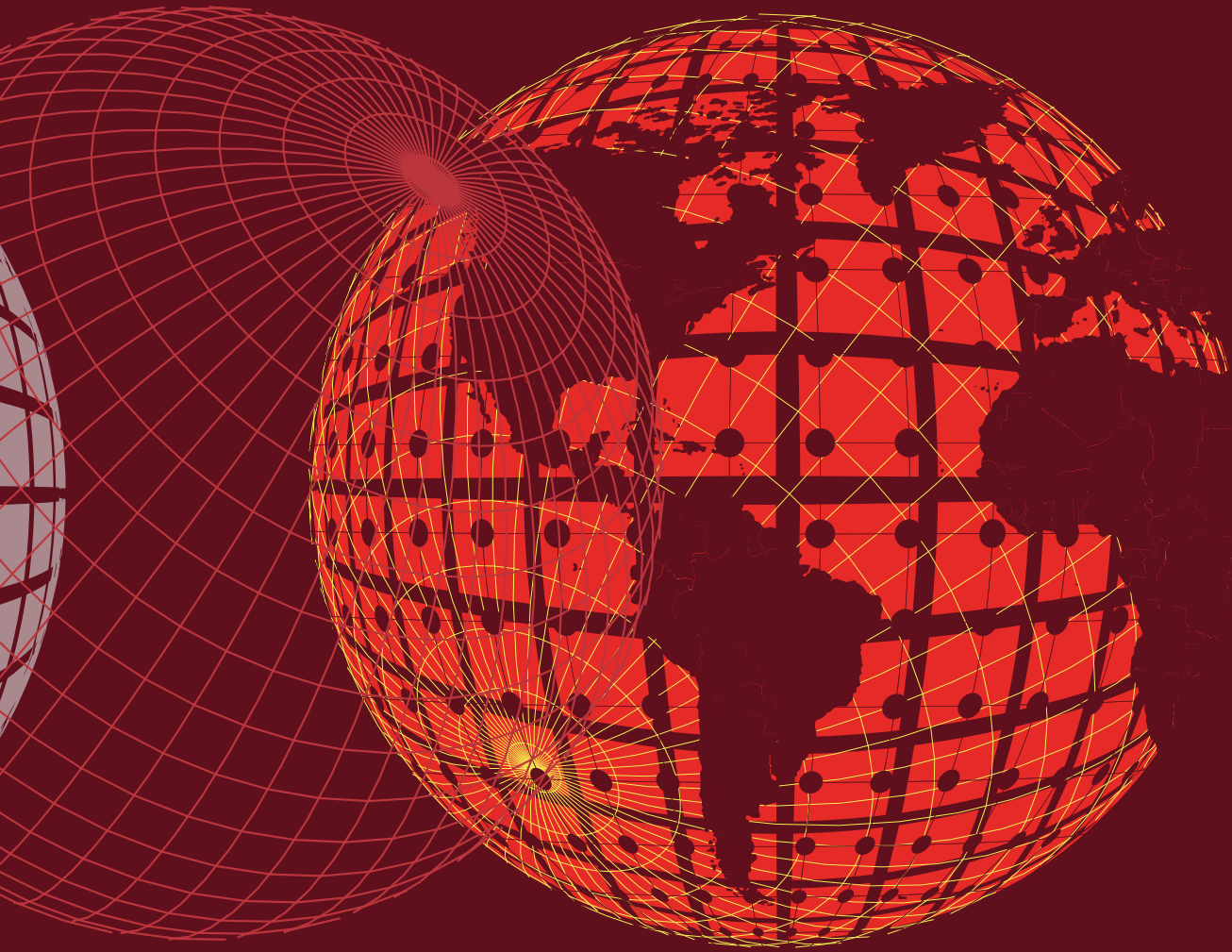




BOSTON COLLEGE

School of Social Work



Tackling Complex Global Challenges:
Our Collective Response

Global Practice by the Numbers

2006

Global Practice founded

278

Global Practice alumni

54

Total number of countries where BCSSW students have completed their Global Practice placements

98

Total number of field agency organizations where Global Practice students have completed their placements



Humanitarian crises are increasingly an outcome of complex emergencies. Millions of families, women, and children are affected and displaced by war, civil strife, climate and environmental risk, famine, and epidemics around the globe, including those arriving on the doorstep of the U.S. border.

The world needs a community of practitioners to rise and meet these challenges. For the past 18 years, faculty and staff of the Boston College School of Social Work (BCSSW) have been preparing social work practitioners for careers in global social work with a particular focus on systems strengthening, capacity building, and accompaniment.

Eighteen years ago, when we began our Global Practice program, we were confident in the value of social work at the ground level in resource-poor settings. But we could not have anticipated the centrality of social work for millions of people and their communities facing environmental and climate risk.

Today, many of our social work graduates are mobilizing communities to adapt and cope with climatic and environmental changes. Others are providing social services and mental health support to millions displaced from their communities and forced to migrate.

Our curriculum—courses and field placements—prepare students to work with communities and populations across the globe, including migrants and refugees arriving at our borders as well as in our schools, hospitals, and community mental health systems. Our Global Practice graduates are prepared to serve in humanitarian settings like Cox’s Bazar in Bangladesh with a million Rohingya refugees, and in countries like El Salvador where the fragile livelihoods of communities are in the crosshairs of climate and environmental risk.

No matter the condition, we leverage the person-in-the-environment approach at the heart of social work to train our students to strengthen, mobilize, and support such communities, families, and individuals.

A force multiplier in this training is the research and translation by our social work faculty, who are focused on youth mental health and trauma, family strengthening, access to substance use prevention services, early childhood development, community-based education, renewable and clean energy interventions for the poor, and climate-resistant livelihoods and adaptation around the globe and here in our communities.

After these many years, we are continually finding new settings to deploy our Global Practice students and graduates. We have designed innovative curricula such as an Interdisciplinary Certificate in Humanitarian Assistance program and a certificate in Design Thinking for Social Change to provide our graduates with the best preparation to respond to emerging complexities in resource-poor communities around the globe. In the following pages, you will get a window into our global practice in social work.



Gautam N. Yadama
Dean and professor
Boston College School of Social Work

PEACE

PAIX

For those of us who want to be agents of peace and change, the challenge is not only to serve the person in front of us, but also to address the systemic factors that affect that person's well-being in the context of their families, communities, and larger social contexts.

THOMAS M. CREA

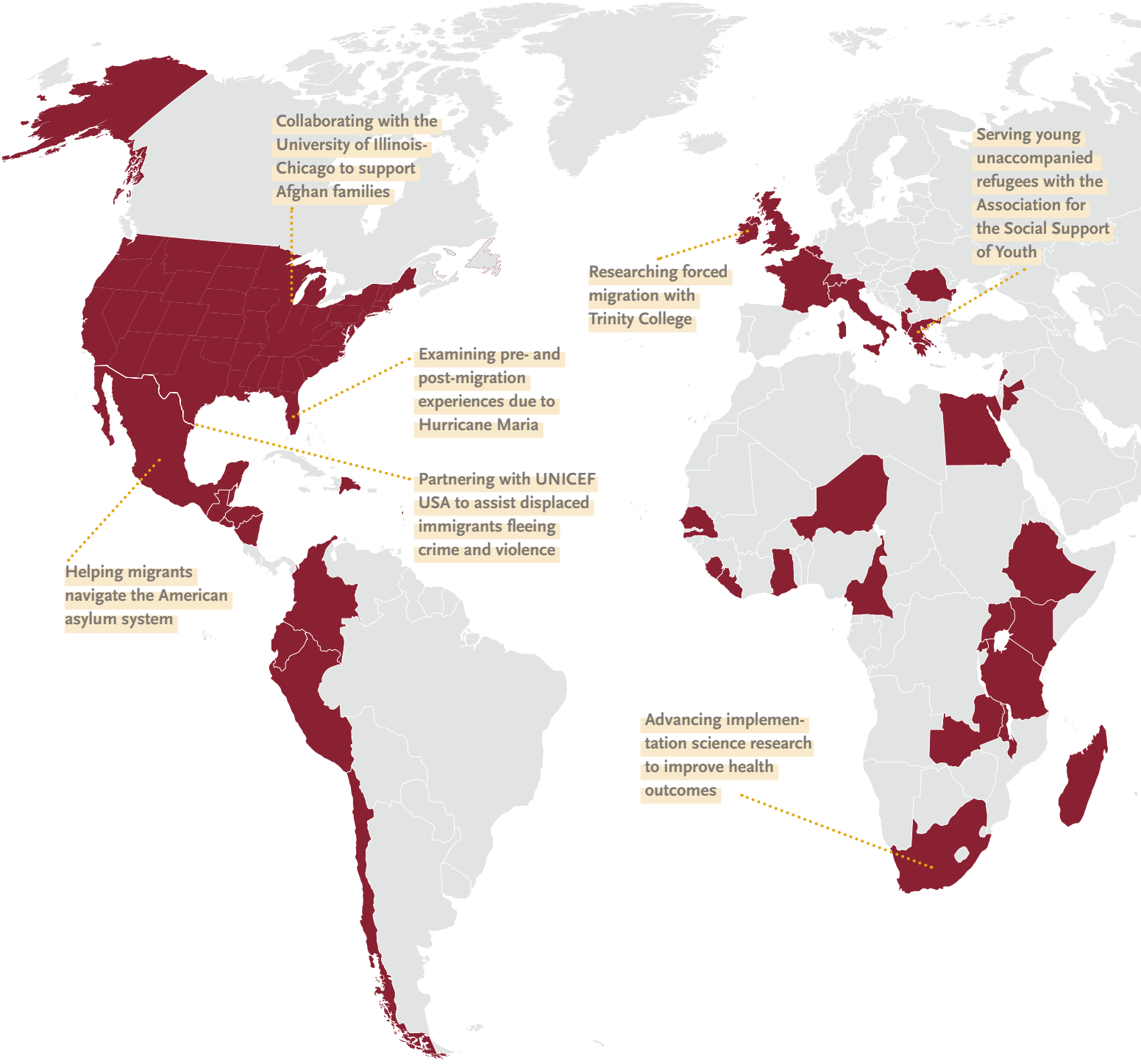
PROFESSOR, CHAIR OF GLOBAL PRACTICE, AND ASSISTANT DEAN OF GLOBAL PROGRAM

和平

ММР

PAZ

One school. A world of difference.



Collaborating with the University of Illinois-Chicago to support Afghan families

Researching forced migration with Trinity College

Serving young unaccompanied refugees with the Association for the Social Support of Youth

Examining pre- and post-migration experiences due to Hurricane Maria

Partnering with UNICEF USA to assist displaced immigrants fleeing crime and violence

Helping migrants navigate the American asylum system

Advancing implementation science research to improve health outcomes

Global Practice students have made an impact and gained valuable experience through placements in 54 countries worldwide.



North America

- Mexico.....4
- United States54

Central America

- Belize..... 1
- El Salvador 5
- Guatemala8
- Honduras.....2
- Nicaragua4

Caribbean

- Dominica 1
- Dominican Republic.. 1

South America

- Chile7
- Colombia..... 1
- Ecuador.....4
- Peru4

Europe

- Albania 1
- Belgium.....7
- England..... 1
- Greece.....3
- Ireland..... 1
- Italy..... 9
- Kosovo 1
- Malta2
- Romania..... 1
- Spain4
- Switzerland3

Africa

- Cameroon 2
- Egypt3
- Ethiopia.....3
- Ghana.....3
- Kenya.....8
- Liberia 1
- Madagascar 1
- Malawi..... 1
- Niger 1
- Rwanda 6
- Senegal.....3
- Sierra Leone7
- South Africa22
- Tanzania 1
- Uganda.....6
- Zambia6

Middle East

- Jordan..... 5
- Lebanon 1

Asia

- Bangladesh2
- Cambodia.....23
- India10
- Indonesia2
- Kyrgyzstan..... 1
- Mongolia..... 1
- Philippines4
- Singapore..... 1
- South Korea 1
- Thailand8
- Vietnam.....8

Australia

- Australia2

Preparing Future Social Work Practitioners

The Global Practice program—one of six academic pathways at BCSSW that include specialized coursework and field placements—trains future practitioners to make a lasting impact in global social work, humanitarian aid, and international development, giving them the skills to design programs for refugees, counsel survivors of gender-based violence, conduct research on migration policies, and more.



HANNAH BERARD, M.S.W. '24

My global placement has encouraged me to think critically about how seemingly small shifts at a policy level can have profound impacts on the daily lives, rights, and dignity of people on the move by affecting their access to basic needs. I have developed a greater awareness of the asylum process in Europe and see the importance of grassroots organizations working together to address gaps in the system.

CURRENT POSITION:

Clinician, Clinical & Support Options, Inc. / Northampton, MA

PLACEMENT:

Sports4Development Intern, Lighthouse Relief / Athens, Greece

A Worldwide Classroom

We work closely with community-based organizations to build, implement, and evaluate programs that identify and meet local needs. Instead of prescriptive solutions, we focus on systems strengthening, capacity building, and accompaniment.



AGENCIES WHERE STUDENTS HAVE COMPLETED PLACEMENTS SINCE 2007:

ARSIS
 ALBOAN
 Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network
 Bay Cove Boston Emergency Services Team
 Bethany Christian Services
 Bohol Local Development Foundation Inc
 Boston Center for Refugee Health & Human Rights at Boston Medical Center
 Boston College Research Program on Children & Adversity (RPCA)
 Boston Public Health Commission—Ryan White Division
 Boston Public Schools—Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers
 Buckner International
 BWAFWANO
 Cambridge Health Alliance Outpatient Psychiatry
 CARE International
 Caritas Freetown
 Caritas Rome
 CASA—University of Santa Clara in El Salvador
 Catalyst Foundation
 Cathedral Church of Saint Paul
 Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Boston Refugee and Immigration Services (RIS)
 Catholic Relief Services
 Center for Environmental Concerns
 Center for Victims of Torture
 Center to Support Immigrant Organizing
 Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies
 ChildFund
 Children’s Charter
 City of Ealing Social Services
 Creamos
 Dimock Center—Adult Medicine Clinic (LLI)
 Diya Seva Sansthan

English for New Bostonians
 Entreculturass
 EVE
 Fe y Alegria
 Foster Care India
 Freetown City Council
 FXB India Suraksha
 FXB Rwanda
 Geisel School of Medicine—Dartmouth College
 Global Women’s Empowerment Fund
 Gongneung
 Habitat for Humanity
 Hagar International
 Hand in Hand-Belize
 HAVEN at MGH
 Healey International Relief Fund
 HelpAge Cambodia
 Ibero University
 ICMC
 International Institute of New England
 International Justice Mission
 International Medical Corps
 International Rescue Committee
 Jesuit Refugee Service
 Jesuit Social Center
 Jesuit Family Services—Australia
 Jewish Social Services of Metrowest
 John Snow International—Liberia
 Kino Border Initiative
 Lighthouse Relief
 Magis Americas
 Martha Eliot Health Community Health Center—Boston Children’s Hospital
 Massachusetts Mentor, IHT
 Mayor’s Office of New Urban Mechanics—City of Boston
 Mil Milagros

METAdrasi
 Newton Wellesley Hospital—Domestic Violence Program
 Oxfam
 Plan International
 PTI
 PUC Chile
 Reality Gives
 Refilwe Community Project
 Right to Care
 Right to Play
 Rights Project
 Saint Elizabeth’s Medical Center—Outpatient Psychiatry
 Save the Children
 Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes, Chile
 Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat
 Solid Minds
 Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center—Health Promotion Center
 Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office—Victim Witness Assistance Program
 TEAR Australia—Cambodian Hope Organization (CHO), Cambodia
 The Florence Immigrant and Refugee The Women’s Bakery
 Three Stones International
 Tree of Life—Manenberg
 UN Women Kyrgyzstan Country Office
 Universidad Alberto Hurtado
 UNICEF
 University of Santiago, Chile
 West Africa Aids Foundation (WAAF)
 Witkoppen Health & Welfare Center
 World Education Inc.
 World Health Organization (WHO)
 World Vision EU

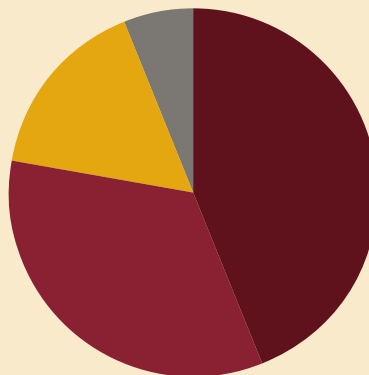
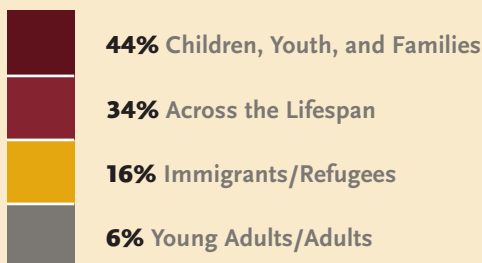
Improving Lives—at Home and Abroad

Our Global Practice graduates work in the U.S. and overseas in a range of positions that involve direct practice, program development, management, evaluation, research, training, capacity building, and policy. From policy development in Washington, D.C., to program development in Cambodia, our graduates contribute to policy, practice, and research that improve the lives and well-being of individuals, families, and communities worldwide.

Building Sustainable Solutions to Transnational Issues

Whether our Global Practice students complete their field internships overseas, domestically, or locally, they learn to address transnational issues like education access, environmental justice, migration, forced displacement, and public health while promoting community-based solutions to social problems.

POPULATIONS SERVED:





PETER LÓPEZ, M.S.W. '22

My placement played a major factor in my career trajectory, and I firmly believe it was the correct decision for me. I gained a deeper appreciation for the role of social workers and the power of presence and accompaniment rather than outcomes and 'progress.' It was my first clinical exposure to group work and facilitation, which I immediately fell in love with and discovered a passion for. I saw the power of community building through group work and knew that was the direction I wanted to pursue in my career.

CURRENT POSITION:

Co-Responding Mobile Clinician, North Suffolk Community Services / East Boston, MA

PLACEMENT:

Latinx Outreach Intern, MANNA Community / Boston, MA

KIGALI, RWANDA



Caitlin O'Donnell, M.S.W. '16, Intern,
Catholic Relief Services



ASHLEN NIMMO, M.S.W. '16

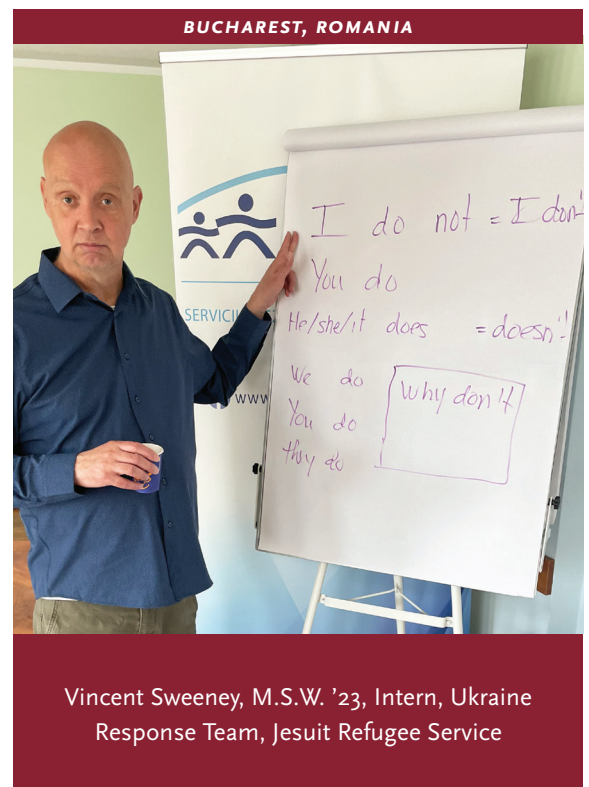
My experience with the professors at the School of Social Work generally and specifically within the Global Practice placement was very positive and helped to set me on the career path I had dreamed of. I became better equipped to navigate and handle the challenges of humanitarian work. Since leaving the program and starting work with CRS, I have been fortunate to be in a role that aligns with my passions, values, and interests. I am grateful for the Global Practice program and the support of my professors for facilitating that path to a meaningful career.

CURRENT POSITION:

Regional Technical Advisor for Gender and Protection Mainstreaming, Catholic Relief Services / Nairobi, Kenya

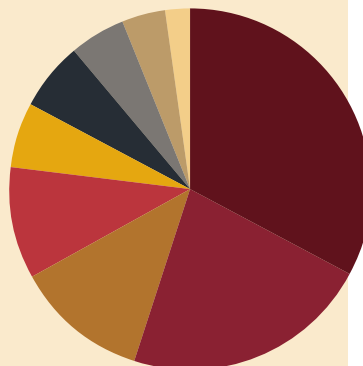
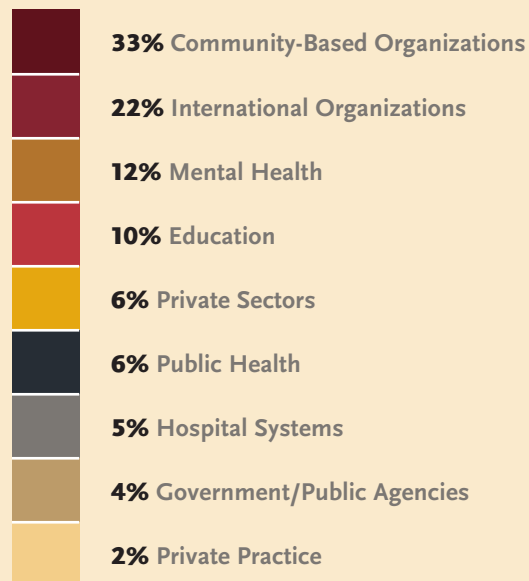
PLACEMENT:

Social Researcher, Mil Milagros / Panajachel, Guatemala



Vincent Sweeney, M.S.W. '23, Intern, Ukraine Response Team, Jesuit Refugee Service

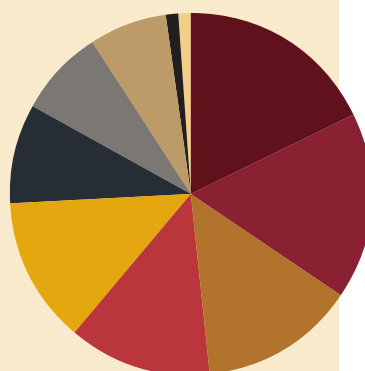
TYPE OF AGENCY/SPECIALIZATION:



SELECT AGENCIES:

- Americares
- Creamos Guatemala/
Emotional Support Team
- Global Refuge
- International Institute of New England
- International Rescue Committee
- Jesuit Refugee Service
- Maestral
- United Nations Headquarters
- United States Peace Corps

JOB TITLES/DESIGNATIONS:



SELECT JOB TITLES:

- Caseworkers (Asylum-Seeking Families)
- Child Protection and MHPSS Lead
- Gender-Based Violence Response Specialist
- Project Coordinator, Practice Improvement & Consulting
- Researcher/Writer
- Senior Associate
- Senior Consultant
- Senior MHPSS & Protection Program Manager, Ukraine Response

Addressing the World’s Most Pressing Social Problems

Faculty are conducting research, implementing novel interventions, and partnering with global leaders to improve the health and well-being of some of the most vulnerable people around the world.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Examining the Impact of Prolonged Droughts and Erratic Rainfall Events on the Health and Well-Being of Youths in Uganda

Areas: Health, mental health, and the environment

Assistant Professor **William Byansi** is studying how prolonged droughts and erratic rainfall affect the health and well-being of 15- to 24-year-old youths in Uganda. Supported by funding from the Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society at BC, Byansi plans to interview 30 youths and local leaders in Uganda’s Wakiso and Hoima Districts while collecting survey data from more than 500 young people in partnership with the African Medical and Behavioral Sciences Organization.

As part of the project, Byansi will hold a daylong dialogue with youths, community leaders, and mental health providers to develop collective action plans to promote youth’s resilience in the face of climate change and mental health challenges.



Ebola Virus Disease Pediatric Mental Health Project

Areas: Health and mental health

From 2018 to 2024, Professor **Thomas M. Crea** examined the long-term impact of Ebola on the health and mental health of children and adolescents in Sierra Leone. His study, funded by a \$2.6 million grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, revealed that young people who contracted Ebola were stigmatized and feared disclosing their infections, and that caregiver mental health significantly predicted children’s mental health. Children who had recovered from the disease continued to experience headaches, joint pain, and eye problems.

Crea and his research partners, including the Sierra Leone Association of Ebola Survivors, disseminated their findings to survivors and community leaders and sponsored a national conference in Freetown to share the results of the study with government and non-governmental organization officials.

SELECTED PARTNERSHIPS WITH JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICES:

Areas: Health, Mental Health, Livelihoods, Education

Forced Migration and Catholic Theology Summer School at Oxford

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Advisory Board

Staff Well-Being Advisory Board

M&E Consultation

Global Mission & Identity

Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities Who Are Refugees

Digital Practices of Migrants and Their Psychosocial Needs

Understanding Just Transition in Bangladesh: Does Shift to Improved Brick Kilns Lead to Well-Being of Brick Workers?

Areas: Environment and livelihoods

Associate Professor **Praveen Kumar** is examining how a recent transition to more environmentally friendly brick kiln technologies in Bangladesh will affect the social and economic well-being of brick kiln workers in Greater Dhaka. The findings of his study will shed light on the status of climate justice in low-income and middle-income countries that lack strong infrastructures for climate resilience.



We need to develop a system to disseminate what we find in the climate change space to the general public in a tone that's easy to understand...the more aware communities get, the better the public policy decisions could be.

PRAVEEN KUMAR

Associate Professor, Faculty Affiliate, Global Public Health and the Common Good; Environmental Studies Program
Climate and Health Scholar, National Institutes of Health



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Establishment of AFRI-IRI Hub in South Africa and Zambia

Areas: Health and mental health

Assistant Professor **Whitney Irie** is working to establish the Africa Implementation Research Institute Hub, a collaborative endeavor aimed at advancing implementation science research in Africa. Irie recently visited the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa, the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia, and the University of Zambia's School of Public Health, where she discussed how implementation science can be used to improve health outcomes through evidence-based practices.



Above: Whitney Irie at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Right: Graduation celebration for participants of a family intervention program supporting Venezuelan migrants in Colombia.

Improving Family Well-Being and Preventing Violence in Bogotá, Colombia

Area: Community engagement

Associate Professor **María Fernanda Piñeros-Leaño** has designed an intervention to improve the well-being of Venezuelan migrants who have been forced to flee to Colombia.

The intervention, delivered through in-home visits from trained community workers, aims to support early childhood development and prevent household violence among families suffering from trauma related to forced migration and family separation.

The program covers topics in problem-solving, conflict resolution, and stress management. Results show that families acquire improved parenting skills and experience a reduction in household violence, fostering a safer and more nurturing environment in which children can thrive.



Venezuelans in New Environments

Area: Mental health

Professor **Christopher Salas-Wright** recently received a five-year, \$2.1 million grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to conduct a longitudinal study aimed at addressing the needs of Venezuelan migrants who have been forced to flee to Colombia.

As part of the project, he and his research partners will survey 1,000 youths and adults every six months for three years to develop a deep understanding of their lives pre- and post-migration.

In collaboration with Corporación Nuevos Rumbos in Bogotá, Colombia, Salas-Wright plans to disseminate his findings to inform efforts to support Venezuelan migrants and families. This will involve publishing bilingual reports showcasing key findings, best practices, and intervention strategies for working with crisis migrants.

The Research Program on Children and Adversity (RPCA)

Areas: Refugee support

RPCA, led by Salem Professor in Global Practice **Theresa S. Betancourt**, conducts studies at home and abroad to better understand risk and resilience in children facing multiple forms of adversity. She uses their findings to develop and test evidence-based interventions that improve life outcomes.

The program is currently working in Sierra Leone and Rwanda to support early childhood development, improve family functioning, and reduce violence in vulnerable communities.

More than 10,000 families have already benefited from Sugira Muryango, a home-visiting program in Rwanda that encourages responsive parent-child interactions and discourages the harsh punishment of children.

A longitudinal study by BC's RPCA on youth affected by the civil war in Sierra Leone—including many girls and boys associated with armed forces—recently received a five-year, \$3.3 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health. The study's intent is to understand not only how trauma resulting from violence can influence an individual's psychosocial development, but also how the emotional and behavioral effects of trauma may travel across generations.

Several of the program's interventions are being culturally adapted, tested, and implemented in Kenya, Uganda, and Colombia.



I knew that I wanted my work to be internationally focused, and the Global Practice program provided the frameworks and field practice I needed to immerse myself in theory and practice.

HUMBERTO CAMARENA, M.S.W. '13

Current position:

Senior Consultant, La Piana Consulting / Washington, D.C.

Placement:

Program Development Intern, ChildFund International / Roseau, Dominica

Preparing Students to Meet Complex Challenges

Our curriculum and field practicum leverage and bring a person-centered approach to social work, focusing on the well-being of people in the context of their environment. This approach is well suited for conditions of crisis, where the urgent need is to care for the person in front of us while addressing the systemic factors affecting their well-being. Importantly, we integrate clinical and macro skills in our curriculum to prepare our global practice students to meet the complex challenges that await them in their work in refugee settlements, post-war contexts, migration routes, borderlands, and many other settings.

Training for Humanitarian Settings

Through our sponsored projects, online training for humanitarian settings, and field internship program, we train and upskill local humanitarian relief workers, providing foundational knowledge on pressing humanitarian issues. Most importantly, the strength of our relationships with organizational and community partners is generated through accompaniment: a commitment built on shared values, leading from behind, raising the voices of the marginalized, and offering our expertise in the service of others.

Required courses for the Global Practice program

- Frameworks and Tools for Global Practice
- Global Policy Issues and Implications

Travel courses

- Migration, Politics, and Social Work in Washington, D.C.
- Interdisciplinary Approaches to Borderlands and Human Mobility at the San Diego/Tijuana Border



Certificates

Certificates, which are embedded within the M.S.W. degree, enhance the Global Practice curriculum by placing special emphasis on person-centered approaches to human mobility, awareness of protection issues, engaging with diverse communities in crisis, and cross-sectoral collaboration.

Certificate in Refugees and Immigrants

This certificate provides in-depth knowledge on migration and refugee issues as well as the foundational skills to conduct interventions and accompany immigrant and refugee populations in diverse settings domestically and abroad. Students must complete the following courses during the M.S.W. program:

- Re-thinking Diversity: Systems of Oppression & Privilege
- Immigration & Refugee issues
- Migration, Politics, and Social Work: The Challenge of Justice and Care or Services to Migrants

Certificate in Global Humanitarian Practice

This certificate enables students to build knowledge around various humanitarian issues, systems, and practices both domestically and internationally. Students must complete the following courses during the M.S.W. program:

- Human Behavior and the Social Environment
- Global Humanitarian Practice
- Global Migration and Forced Displacement: Debates and Responses

INTERDISCIPLINARY CERTIFICATE IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

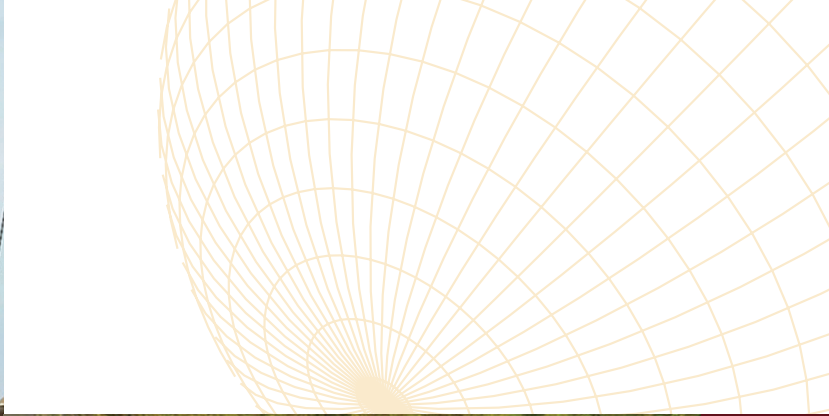
The Boston College School of Social Work recently launched an Interdisciplinary Certificate in Humanitarian Assistance (ICHA) program, the first online offering within the school's history, to ensure that its graduates and humanitarian partners have access to up-to-date knowledge on how best to respond to rapidly changing needs around the globe. The ICHA curriculum, developed in partnership with international non-governmental organizations, consists of eight modules that give students a grounding in the core, interdisciplinary competencies of global humanitarian assistance.

Learn more by visiting bc.edu/icha



Global Practice students and faculty at home and abroad.





Thomas Crea, Ph.D, M.S.W.

Professor, Chair of Global Practice, and Assistant Dean of Global Programs

Tom Crea is a former clinical social worker with previous experience as a mental health therapist for severely emotionally disturbed children. He has also served as a foster care adoption worker and supervisor.

Dr. Crea leads local, national, and international research projects related to social interventions for vulnerable children and families. This research focuses on the intersections of child welfare, refugee social protection and education, and strengthening humanitarian aid and international development programs.

Dr. Crea's projects have been funded by multiple sources, such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Porticus Foundation, and the National Institute of Child Health and Development. These projects span multiple countries in addition to the U.S. Dr. Crea employs mixed-methods and participatory research methodologies for working with marginalized populations.



Aniruddha Kulkarni, M.S.W.

Assistant Director, Global Field Education

As assistant director of global field education, Aniruddha oversees the School of Social Work's international field placements. In this role, he works toward enhancing the University's efforts in international program matters, including planning, curriculum development, recruitment, field placement, and advising.

Aniruddha designs and evaluates international field education opportunities, funding opportunities related to student scholarships, curriculum development and support, and research and evaluation. He also works to further our collaboration with and representation in international organizations relevant to global social work education and practice. Aniruddha has an M.S.W. from the University of Mumbai, India, and before joining Boston College, he worked with UNICEF for over 17 years.



Global Practice Faculty

Theresa S. Betancourt, Sc.D.

William Byansi, Ph.D.

Rocío Calvo, Ph.D.

Thomas Crea, Ph.D., Chair

Praveen Kumar, Ph.D.

Maryanne Loughry, Ph.D.

Alejandro Olayo-Méndez, S.J., Ph.D.


Shanta Pandey, Ph.D.

María Fernanda Piñeros-Leaño, Ph.D.

Chris Salas-Wright, Ph.D.

Indrani Saran, Sc.D.

Gautam N. Yadama, Ph.D.



In my placement, I have learned a lot more about cultural competence and working with culturally diverse populations. This skill is impossible to learn unless you interface with different cultures, which reinforces how important a global social work placement is.

BECCA REEVES, M.S.W. '21

CURRENT POSITION: GRANT WRITER, THE MISSION CONTINUES /
BOSTON, MA

PLACEMENT: INTERN, ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOCIAL SUPPORT OF
YOUTH (ARSIS) / THESSALONIKI, GREECE



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BOSTON COLLEGE
School of Social Work

McGuinn Hall
140 Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
617-552-0866 | bcsswdean@bc.edu

bc.edu/ssw