HARVARD
Global Nursing Leadership Program

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Harvard Global Public Health for Nurse Leaders Certificate Program

Final Report for the Burdett Trust for Nursing: Class of 2024-2025

The Harvard Global Nursing Leadership Program (HGNLP) gives nurses and midwives from around the world the strategies and tools needed to strengthen health systems, manage population health, and reform regulations. This innovative and highly regarded program is a collaborative effort of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard Kennedy School and the Harvard Graduate School of Education, in partnership with the Burdett Trust for Nursing.

Ten Fellows from six countries made up Cohort 3, the class of 2024-2025. All hold executive-level positions in their nations' ministries or departments of health. Countries in this cohort include: The Philippines, Tanzania, Belize, Liberia, Vietnam, and the United States. You can read more about these exceptional Fellows, here.

We are grateful to the Burdett Trust for Nursing, which covered tuition and fees for the Harvard Chan Burdett Trust for Nursing Fellows from Belize, Liberia, the Philippines, Tanzania and Vietnam.

Program Highlights

Three pillar courses anchor the program: **Health Systems Strengthening** (Dr. Rifat Atun), **Population Health Management and Reforming Policies & Regulations** (Dr Stephanie Ferguson). In addition, students use the skills and concepts gained to produce an applied project that targets an actual public health or primary care issue in their home countries.

Members of the class of 2024-2025 focused on maternal health and mortality, neonatal mortality, mental health, stroke, cardiovascular health, digital health and AI. A synopsis of their applied projects appears below, with more details available here.

Romnick B. Aguilar is the chief nursing officer of San Pedro Jose Amante Emergency Hospital, and health system development officer for the city government of San Pedro, Province of Laguna, in the Philippines.
Applied Project Title: *Maternal Digital Referral Program (MeD-Refer)*

This project focused on replacing traditional paper-based referrals with digital technologies to enhance the efficiency and efficacy of maternal referral and address high levels of maternal mortality in The Philippines. Digital referral programs simplify interactions between health care providers, and help speed communication, reducing treatment delays.

Allan K. Anderson is the nurse officer in charge of the Mtimbira Health Center in the Malinyi district, located in the Morogoro region of Tanzania.
Applied Project Title: *Reducing Neonatal Morality through Effective Monitoring of Labour During Deliveries in Tanzania*

This project focused on strategies to reduce neonatal deaths and improve birth outcomes in Tanzania, including approaches to ensure more effective monitoring of labor during delivery. Recommendations include conducting increased training, capacity building, introducing labour monitoring tools and improving community awareness.

Lizett Bell is the Chief Nursing Officer of the Ministry of Health in Belize.
Applied Project Title: *Improving Access to Mental Health Services for Adolescent and Vulnerable Populations in Southern and Western Belize*

Bell's project explored the use of telehealth technology to enhance access to mental health services in Belize. Proposals include establishing a national, 24-hour crisis management hotline and a web-based consultation and counseling service for patients in rural areas, connecting them with mental health professionals in urban settings.

Hong Thuy Phuong Huynh is senior lecturer specializing in nursing education, research, and practice on the Faculty of Nursing and Medical Technology at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.
Linh Thuy Khanh Tran is the first dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Medical Technology and leads the Nursing School at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.
Combined Applied Project Title: *Empowering Communities for Faster Stroke Response: A First Aid Education Campaign*

This project created a First Aid Campaign for Stroke Prevention led by nursing faculty, students and health care workers. Focused on rural and underserved populations, the campaign seeks to improve early stroke detection, reduce treatment delays, and build sustainable local health care capacity, paving the way for better long-term health outcomes across Vietnam.

Cecelia C. Kpangbala-Flomo is a nurse with more than 15 years of experience leading the nursing regulatory body in Liberia.
Applied Project Title: *Reducing Maternal Mortality in Liberia through a Nurse-Midwife, Community-Led Approach*

This project focused on engaging skilled health care professionals, particularly nurses and midwives, to deliver community-led maternal health services with sustainable, long-term solutions to address underlying causes of maternal mortality, such as inadequate access to prenatal care and appropriate reproductive information, poor infrastructure and cultural barriers.

Nguyen Thi Thuong is an enterostomal therapy nurse specializing in wound care for orthopedics patients at the University Medical Center in Vietnam.
Applied Project Title: *Community Burn First-Aid Education Program*

This project focused on the implementation of structured burn care education programs at University Medical Center Ho Chi Minh City, targeting both patients and caregivers. The goal is to leverage hospitals as trusted sources of health education and empower individuals with life-saving knowledge at critical moments.

Lydel Wright is the CEO of Safe Watch LLC
Ashley Kovacs is a clinical nurse in women's health at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, where she advocates for women and their unborn children.

Lindsey Harris is a legislative fellow in the office of Representative Lauren Underwood (D-IL 14), a family nurse practitioner at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Medicine, and an Assistant Professor at the UAB School of Nursing.

Combined Applied Project Title: *Empowering Nurses to Transform Maternal Health Policy through I.M.P.A.C.T. (Influencing Momentum for Policy Advocacy and Civic Transformation)*

This project bridges the often-overlooked gap between policymakers and health care professionals by ensuring that those most affected by health policy are not only included, but centered, in decision-making. The team crafted a model that leverages professional expertise, community voices, and data-driven solutions to influence equitable, effective, and inclusive maternal health legislation.

Writing for Publication

One of the biggest highlights of the 2024-25 session is a concerted effort by Fellows to pursue publication opportunities. We welcomed Roy Brown, Associate Professor, Research & Education Librarian at Virginia Commonwealth University, who led a scholarly writing workshop focused on the importance of nurses sharing research and clinical experiences to improve practice and build a stronger knowledge base. Brown shared his comprehensive guide to the scholarly writing process – *Things to Consider When It Comes to Publishing* – and Fellows are now in the process of writing articles for *Nursing Economic$* and the *International Nurse Review* based on their applied projects. Topics include:

- Maternal Health (USA, Liberia, Tanzania and Philippines)
- Mental Health (Belize)
- Cardiovascular Health (Vietnam)
- Digital Health, AI and Electronic Health Records (Philippines, USA, Vietnam)

Student Feedback

The 2024-2025 Harvard Chan Burdett Trust for Nursing Fellows gave the HGNLP certificate program their highest ratings. Among the overwhelmingly positive feedback: Great courses, dynamic and engaging professors. Enjoyed learning how to strengthen health systems, manage population health and develop applied projects. All students highly rated the publication workshop.

Looking Ahead

The 2025-2026 cohort 4 Harvard Chan Burdett Trust for Nursing Fellows are profiled [here](#).

As we move forward with this innovative and transformative global nursing leadership program, we thank the Burdett Trust for Nursing for your generous support and look forward to continuing our work to elevate nurses' impact on global health.

Final Report submitted by Dr. Stephanie L. Ferguson, Director, Harvard Global Nursing Leadership Program on August 20, 2025.