



# HACK FOR HUMANITY

**2023 SUMMARY REPORT**



CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & HUMANITARIAN STUDIES



# ABOUT

2 DAYS  
4+ SUBTOPICS  
40 PARTICIPANTS  
10 TEAMS  
8 MENTORS  
3 CAREER PANELISTS  
\$3,000 SEED GRANT

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## **COMMUNITY CENTERED DESIGN: IMPROVING THE HUMANITARIAN USER EXPERIENCE**



This year's hackathon focused on how to better prepare for and respond to humanitarian emergencies through community centered design. Students worked together over the course of two days to develop creative ideas for innovative programs, systems, or technologies that could improve the humanitarian user experience when responding to disasters or conflict.

Students considered various subtopics such as:

- Identifying Stakeholders and their Needs
- Empowering Local Organizations
- Anticipatory Response
- AI in Humanitarian Response

Additionally, Humanitarian responders need to consistently listen to and advocate for those most negatively impacted by humanitarian crises, including but not limited to racial and ethnic minorities, indigenous communities, elderly, women, children, and marginalized groups. Students were encouraged to address these cross-cutting issues in their pitch presentations.

# KEYNOTE LECTURE



Amy Smith is the Founding Director of MIT D-Lab, an innovative university-based program in international development and a senior lecturer in Mechanical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She is also the founder of the International Development Design Summit, co-founder of the MIT IDEAS Global Challenge, co-founder of Rethink Relief conference, and originator of the Creative Capacity Building Methodology.



In 2002, she founded MIT D-Lab. D-Lab works with people around the world to develop and advance collaborative approaches and practical solutions to global poverty challenges.

Amy was selected as a 2004 MacArthur Fellow and was named one of Time Magazine's 100 most influential people in 2010 for her work promoting local innovation and technology creation.

# MENTORS

SCHOLARS AND PRACTITIONER ADVISORS



**BILL  
MARINO**



**DAVE  
POLATTY**



**ELIZABETH DEAN  
HERMANN**



**MALABIKA  
SARKER**



**VICTOR  
OKORIE**



**MOHAMED  
JELLE**



**RABIUL  
ISLAM**



**ALEXIS  
ARIEFF**

We had eight mentors who were invaluable resources helping the teams workshop and transform their ideas into their final projects, with actionable and ambitious yet accomplishable goals. Each team met with at least one mentor, and many met with two or more. Each mentor is an expert in humanitarian studies and various aspects of user-centered design. Mentors helped the teams understand more deeply the issues and challenges students were dealing with. We are deeply grateful to our wonderful mentors for sharing their time with us and making Hack for Humanity 2023 a success!



# DAY ONE

After Amy Smith's keynote speech, our students broke out into their ten teams to brainstorm. Teams spent the morning engaging their creativity to imagine novel solutions to one of humanitarian aid's perpetual challenges.



In the afternoon, the teams narrowed down their ideas and met with their mentors for insight and advice. Once they had narrowed down their projects, the teams spent the remainder of the day doing further research and problem-solving to determine the details of their proposal. They ultimately finalized their research through the development of pitch presentations.



# DAY TWO

PITCH PRESENTATIONS, CAREER PANEL, AND AWARDS





# PITCH PRESENTATIONS

FEATURING 10 STUDENT TEAMS

Ten student teams composed of 40 students in total spent a weekend designing solutions to improve the humanitarian user experience.

Each student team capped their weekend by giving a pitch presentation of their proposal. Our panel of judges evaluated each project for its design, potential to improve the humanitarian user experience, and ability to be implemented with the \$3,000 seed grant.

**1ST PLACE:** Earthquake Experts: Deprem Uzmanları: Preparing Turkish Children to Face Earthquake Challenges with our Interactive Game App

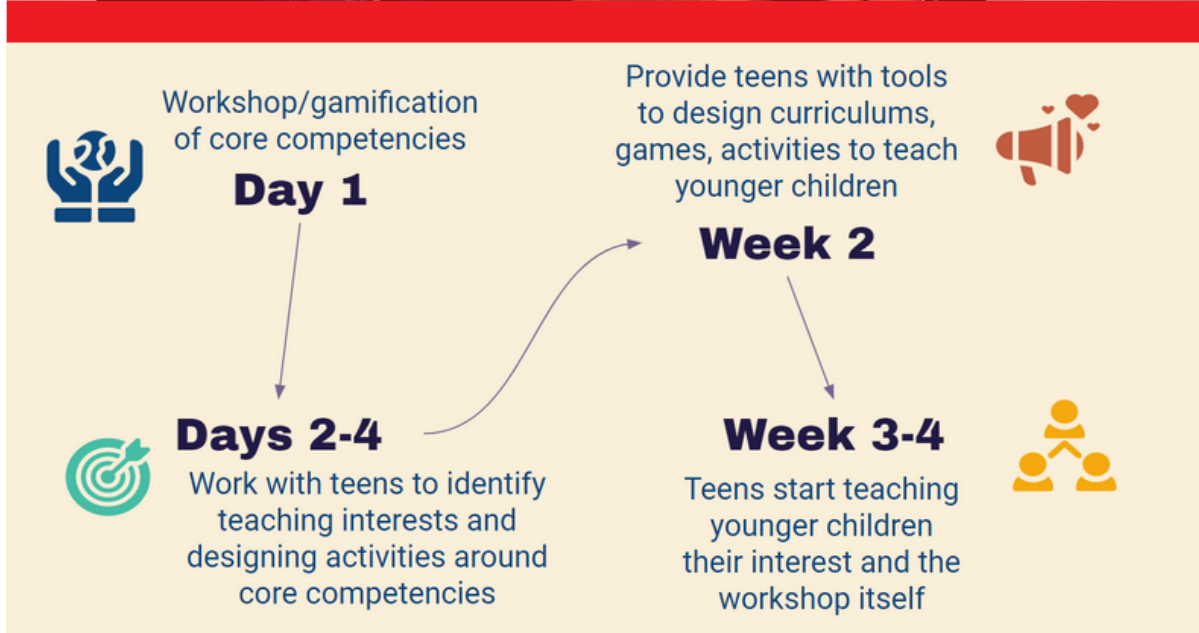


# PITCH PRESENTATIONS

FEATURING 10 STUDENT TEAMS

## 2ND PLACE

The Learning Link: An educational model to strengthen sustainable systems of learning beyond the classroom





# PITCH PRESENTATIONS

THIRD PLACE AND HONORABLE MENTIONS

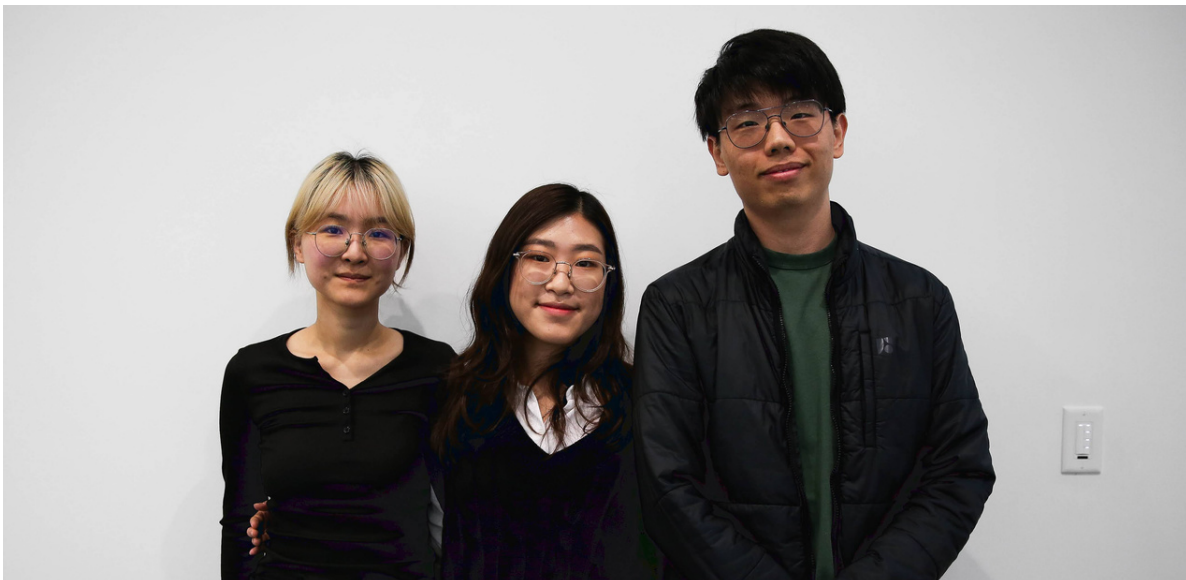
## 3RD PLACE

Across the Table: Building Community Through Food



## HONORABLE MENTION

Potable: Locally-sourced web platform to prevent and mitigate Cholera outbreaks



# PITCH PRESENTATIONS

CONTINUED

## RUNNERS UP

- **AI Solutions for Coastal Natural Disaster Prevention**
- **Rural Ethiopia: Reducing death due to waterborne disease through implementation of a simple water sanitation technique**
- **Addressing Poor Health Outcomes in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Communities**
- **QOA: Building on the Strength of Local Networks**
- **Potable: Locally- sourced web platform to prevent and mitigate Cholera outbreaks**
- **Seeds of Knowledge: A community based approach to developing drought resilience and strengthening food security**





# CAREER PANEL

THREE BROWN ALUMNI LEADERSHIP FELLOWS DISCUSS CAREERS IN HUMAN RIGHTS & HUMANITARIAN FIELDS



The Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Studies was happy to welcome three Brown University alumni to join us at the Hack for Humanity to participate in a career panel while the judges deliberated on the pitch presentations.

The three alumni are the Center's inaugural cohort of Human Rights & Humanitarian Leadership Fellows. The fellowship program pairs each of the alumni with a current Brown University student, to provide one on one career mentorship and guidance. The aim of the program is to equip Brown students with the knowledge and mentorship they need to advance their early career in human rights and humanitarian fields.



# THANK YOU!

We are deeply grateful for our generous support from the Hearst Foundation and the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs. We would also like to thank all of our wonderful mentors, judges, and career panelists for sharing their wealth of knowledge and experience. Finally, a hearty congratulations to all of our participants, good work! See you next year!

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