Undies for Everyone Disaster Relief Plan, Fall 2018

This HART, comprised of undergraduate students from sociology, psychology, ecology and evolutionary biology, and chemical and biomolecular engineering, collaborated with Undies for Everyone (UFE), a Houston-based non-profit organization committed to providing clean underwear to elementary students. After participating in disaster response by providing underwear to displaced persons during Hurricane Harvey, UFE wished to expand their mission by incorporating disaster relief. In order to develop recommendations on how UFE could best become involved in disaster relief, the team reviewed common practitioner recommendations, and conducted interviews with other nonprofit organizations involved in disaster relief, disaster response networks, and municipal representatives. The team identified four key best practices for disaster response: the need to develop specific entry and exit strategies, detailed logistic plans before a disaster, formal partnerships, and disaster response-specific finance streams. The team then applied each of these best practices to UFE, made recommendations on how UFE could best implement these practices into their current disaster response efforts, and evaluated how potential disaster response partners fit UFE’s mission and goals.