



Short Course on Communicable Diseases in Humanitarian Emergencies Geneva, Switzerland: 21-25 September, 2009

DEADLINE for applications: Friday 21 August, 2009.
Please apply by e-mail to cdemergencies@who.int.

The WHO unit on Disease Control in Humanitarian Emergencies (DCE) is pleased to offer a 5-day intensive course on Communicable Diseases In Emergencies, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland from Monday 21 to Friday 25 September, 2009.

Aim and target audience of the course

The *Communicable Diseases in Emergencies* course provides health coordinators/medical advisers working for NGOs, UN agencies, and international organizations working in humanitarian emergencies with the necessary technical skills to develop and implement communicable disease surveillance and control activities.

Course objectives

On completion of the course, participants should be able to:

- Conduct communicable disease risk assessments and prioritize interventions in emergencies;
- Design and implement surveillance systems in collaboration with partners;
- Conduct outbreak investigations and manage outbreak responses;
- Implement prevention and control methods for priority communicable diseases in emergencies.

Course outline

- Principles of infectious disease transmission;
- Communicable diseases risk assessment;
- Key epidemiological indicators;
- Methods of data collection in emergencies (rapid assessment, surveillance, surveys);
- Setting up surveillance/early warning systems in emergencies;
- Conducting outbreak investigations and managing outbreak responses;
- Laboratory issues and sample collection;
- Infection control in health care settings;
- Social mobilisation for behavioural interventions;
- Principles of water and sanitation;

- The interaction of malnutrition and communicable diseases;
- Prevention and control of specific communicable diseases in emergency settings, including measles, acute respiratory infections/pneumonia, pandemic influenza, diarrhoeal diseases, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and malaria;
- Communicable diseases in natural disasters;
- Health system strengthening and recovery;
- Field security.

Teaching Methods

Teaching is administered through a mixture of lectures, case studies, group exercises, videos, and discussions. Recommended readings are distributed ahead of each lecture. Lecturers and facilitators are all experts in their field and are based at WHO or other academic and technical institutions. The target class size is between 15 and 30.

Course administration

The course is free. WHO will pay for accommodation and living expenses for participants travelling from outside Geneva. Participants and their sponsoring agencies are responsible for arranging and paying for travel to and from Geneva, and must book their own accommodation. WHO will provide invitation letters to participants who require a visa for Switzerland.

How to apply

Please send a short cover letter , as well as an updated CV, to cdemergencies@who.int. In the cover letter, please state your interest in the course, your short-term prospects of working on communicable disease control in humanitarian emergencies, and indicate whether you are being sponsored by an agency.

The application deadline is Friday 21 August, 2009. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by e-mail one week after the deadline.

Participants are selected competitively on the basis of their CV. Post-graduate public health education is desirable although not required. Some field experience in communicable disease control in emergencies is essential. Priority is given to applicants that are sponsored by their organizations.

Further information

Further information about the course, WHO/DCE or its activities can also be found on this website (www.who.int/diseasecontrol/emergencies) or by writing to cdemergencies@who.int.

Acknowledgements

DCE is grateful to the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance of the United States Agency for International Development for supporting this course.