

Health System Assessment in Humanitarian Crises



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Background

Health systems are devised to provide an appropriate response to the health needs of a population, ensuring equitable access and also protecting the population from the consequences of ill health. The challenge is that delivery of health services needs to be implemented whilst ensuring a balance with appropriate utilisation of available resources. When health resources are disproportionately distributed, as is often the case, the result is the weakening or even breakdown of service delivery.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has defined six building blocks of health systems: leadership and governance; service delivery; human resources for health; medical products, vaccines and technology; health information systems; health financing.

Through the progressive introduction of health systems concepts to humanitarian health, there is an increasing need for a better understanding of how health systems are affected by and respond to humanitarian crises and function according to each of the key building blocks.

The course

This course will familiarise participants with a health systems approach to health care for communities in low- and middle-income countries affected by humanitarian crises, through using practical interactive examples and case studies, and taught by experts who come from or have lived and worked in low- and middle-income countries during or after humanitarian crises.

It is intended for policy makers, UN staff, NGO coordinators and health service managers working in low- and middle-income countries affected by humanitarian crises or intending to work in this field in the near future.

Course objectives

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Define concepts related to health systems and the six building blocks of the WHO framework
- Assess the main characteristics of humanitarian health interventions and relate them to health system challenges in various areas: financing, human resources, health information system, governance, service delivery and technology
- Apply the health system assessment guideline tool in order to translate a local situation analysis into concrete humanitarian interventions

Teaching methods

Teaching will be through a mixture of interactive lectures, case studies, discussions, and group and individual exercises. At the end of the week, participants will deliver a group presentation based on a real case study.

Key information



Course organiser:

Dr Karl Blanchet

Dr Francisco Pozo-Martin



Fees for 2018:

£1,100



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