Shaping the future of humanitarian aid together

This course offers insight into important trends and practical advice on how to implement good practices. It provides an interactive open learning process based on concrete case studies. Aimed at both experienced and junior professionals, it supports peer learning and future network building. Together with the participants, we want to shape the future of humanitarian aid.

Many NGOs and independent professionals participated in the development of this course. It covers topics that are central to the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS). These include:

- the need for a stronger localization of humanitarian aid and how this will affect the work of international NGOs
- a better integration and participation of the populations affected by crisis and ways to increase their influence on aid decisions
- a better understanding of safeguarding commitments
- new technologies and innovative approaches enabling humanitarian organizations to become more efficient, transparent, and accountable
- a more effective and open-minded cooperation between the humanitarian and development sectors

“Humanitarian aid is at a crossroads. International NGOs have to find new ways of working. Localization of aid, as well as participation, accountability of and towards affected populations, and innovation are key factors to take into account. This course tackles these challenges and enables participants to find new pathways to a more efficient and fair humanitarian system based on the Core Humanitarian Standard and the humanitarian principles.”

Tony Burgener, Managing Director, Swiss Solidarity
**Reasons to attend this course**

- The course is practice-oriented and provides a safe learning environment for participants to benefit from recent field experiences presented by high-level experts, NGOs, and fellow participants.
- Participants will become part of a dynamic network lasting beyond the course duration, allowing them to continue jointly reflecting on their engagement and the future of humanitarian aid.
- The course establishes a bridge between generations. Junior staff with sufficient field experience can challenge more experienced humanitarian specialists and vice versa.

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<th>Block course 1</th>
<th>(March/April 2020)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Module 1:</strong></td>
<td>Cooperation with Local Partners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilitated by Smriti Patel, founder of Global Mentor Initiative, co-developer and author of the “Seven dimensions of localization framework”, and founding member and coordinator of Alliance for Empowering Partnerships (AEP).</td>
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<th>Block course 2</th>
<th>(June 2020)</th>
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<td><strong>Module 3:</strong></td>
<td>Accountability to Affected Communities</td>
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<td>Facilitated by Michel Maletta, Director of Research at IRIS, the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs, and initiator and facilitator of IARAN, an Inter-Agency Research and Analysis Network. He is also Course Director at IRIS Sup'.</td>
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<th>Block course 3</th>
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<td><strong>Module 4:</strong></td>
<td>Impact Evaluations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilitated by Ester Dross and Peter Zihlmann (Director of ebaix), both experienced humanitarian practitioners and lecturers with a strong background in humanitarian quality and accountability mechanisms.</td>
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| Module 5: | Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) |
| Facilitated by Prof. Dr. Isabel Günther and Dr. Adina Rom, both active at the NADEL (Center for Development and Cooperation at ETH Zürich). They are both experienced researchers and lecturers, including in the domain of impact evaluations. |

| Module 6: | Safety and Security Risk Management |
| Facilitated by Franziska Holzmann, freelance consultant since January 2007. She has worked in many challenging contexts and is an experienced lecturer and advisor to major humanitarian organizations in SSRM. |
Audience

The course is designed primarily for programme managers with several years of experience in humanitarian aid or in development cooperation. The practical relevance of the course will be guaranteed through mutual exchange based on case studies and experiences.

The course also targets junior professionals with less experience. In order to simultaneously serve both target groups and ensure a mutually stimulating course flow, junior professionals must have concrete project experience on-site prior to the start of the course.

Admission

Experienced professionals:
- Master’s degree (university or technical university)
- At least 3 years of relevant professional experience in humanitarian aid or in development cooperation
- Fluency in written and spoken English

Junior professionals:
- Master’s degree (university or technical university)
- 10 months’ project experience on-site in either humanitarian aid or in development cooperation at the beginning of the course
- Fluency in written and spoken English

In individual cases, experienced persons with other qualifications can be considered.

Calendar

The six course modules are split into three week-long blocks. Each block requires six full days of attendance.
- Block week 1 (module 1+2): 30 March to 4 April 2020
- Block week 2 (module 3+4): 15 to 20 June 2020
- Block week 3 (module 5+6): 6 to 10 October 2020

“...It is very encouraging to see this new course specifically focusing on people-centred aid. Having a course devoted to this, provides an excellent opportunity to consider the techniques and tools but also, importantly, the mindset shift needed, to ensure our interventions are based on listening to, responding to and respecting people’s needs, rights, and dignity.”

Tanya Wood, Executive Director, CHS Alliance (The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability)

Accreditation

15 ECTS are awarded upon successful completion of this CAS. Each block week, including transfer tasks and any assessments, are worth 4 ECTS.

The certificate thesis is worth 3 ECTS and can be composed in either English, French, or German. In-person attendance to all course elements must be at least 90%.

In case of attending individual modules or block weeks, the participants will receive a certificate of attendance.

Application and course fees

An application form is available at www.cde.unibe.ch/continuing_education.

Course places are limited to 24 participants. Registrations for individual modules or block weeks are possible, if the entire CAS is confirmed through sufficient applications. The closing date for application is 3 February 2020.

Tuition fees are 8,500 Swiss francs / 7,700 Euros for six modules offered in three block weeks. Course fees for an individual module are 1,600 Swiss francs / 1,450 Euros, and 3,000 Swiss francs / 2,700 Euros for an entire block week or two modules in different weeks.

The fees include preparatory and follow-up learning material, and lunches and snacks during course hours.

Course participants must cover their own transportation, other meals, and accommodation costs. A list of cost-effective accommodation options in Bern can be provided upon request.

Information and advice

More information can be found at www.cde.unibe.ch/continuing_education.

If you have any questions, please contact Peter Zihlmann, Course Coordinator, by email (continuing-education@cde.unibe.ch).