Course overview

The University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney), through its School of Public Health and Community Medicine, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) is pleased to announce a course on Communicable Disease Control in Humanitarian Emergencies and Disasters.

Course aims and target audience

This course is designed for those working in public health or related disciplines in developing countries, who have an interest and experience in management and control of communicable diseases in humanitarian emergencies (conflict, disasters, food insecurity) and who would like to improve their skills or bring their knowledge up to date to support implementation of infectious disease projects / programmes in emergency settings.

The course particularly targets health coordinators, planners, and medical advisers working in humanitarian emergencies for Ministries of Health, NGOs, UN agencies, international organizations, universities, technical institutions and donor agencies.

On completion of the course, participants will be introduced to the concepts of:

• conducting communicable disease risk assessments and prioritising interventions in emergencies;
• designing and implementing surveillance/early warning and response network (EWARN) in collaboration with partners;
• understanding outbreak investigations and managing outbreak responses;
• implementing prevention and control methods for priority communicable diseases in emergencies; and
• understanding the importance of a coherent, co-ordinated response when working amongst diverse stakeholders in humanitarian settings.

Program outline and setting

This intensive four day course runs as a residential workshop for internal students and will be held at the Sydney Campus of UNSW Sydney. The course date is Monday 4th December – Thursday 7th December 2017. This course is also offered online by distance mode. The course content will include:

• Introduction to challenges in humanitarian emergencies
• Introduction to concepts of communicable disease transmission
• Communicable disease epidemiology
• Conducting disease risk assessments
• Designing and implementing EWARN surveillance systems in emergencies

sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au
• Outbreak investigation and rapid response during humanitarian emergencies and disasters
• Infection control in humanitarian emergency settings
• The epidemiology, prevention and control of specific diseases such as acute respiratory infections, malaria, diarrhoeal diseases, tuberculosis, HIV, Ebola, measles and meningitis, pandemic influenza among other vaccine preventable diseases
• Evidence-based practical strategies for the prevention and control of communicable diseases in humanitarian emergencies
• Management of water and sanitation

• Control of vectors during humanitarian emergencies and disasters
• Integrated, ethical approaches to working in areas of conflict

About UNSW Sydney
The University of New South Wales is one of Australia’s leading research and teaching universities and a member of the Go8 group of universities. Within the University are a range of academics, individuals, Schools and Centres with experience and expertise in humanitarian emergencies response, infectious diseases and in global health. This course is also offered in the Plus Alliance which has been formed between UNSW Australia, Kings College London and Arizona State University.

Contact information
For further information, enquiries or expression of interest, contact the course convenors:

Dr Abrar Chughtai
Course Convenor
Tel: +61 (2) 9385 1009
Email: abrar.chughtai@unsw.edu.au

Dr Padmanesan Narasimhan
Co-convenor
Tel: +61 (2) 9385 3944
Email: padmanesan@unsw.edu.au

School of Public Health and Community Medicine
University of New South Wales
UNSW Sydney NSW 2052, Australia
Tel: +61 (2) 9385 1699
Email: postgrad-sphcm@unsw.edu.au
Web: sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au

Teaching and course materials
Teaching will be conducted through a mixture of lectures, case studies, discussions, group exercises and experiential learning (including case studies from field outbreak investigations and programme implementation).

Course facilitators
Lecturers and facilitators include experts in their field and originate from technical and academic institutions as well as international humanitarian agencies with expertise in humanitarian emergencies response, infectious diseases and in global health.

Photos courtesy of Flickr: DFAT, DFID, AusAid, US Navy; and UNSW

sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/course/PHCM9783