Communicable Diseases in Humanitarian Emergencies Training Course

26 - 30 November 2012

Course overview

The University of New South Wales, through its School of Public Health and Community Medicine, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) are pleased to announce a short course on Communicable Diseases in Humanitarian Emergencies.

Selection criteria

UNSW MPH/MIPH students:
Current MPH/MIPH students should state the reasons for their interest in the course and their short-term prospects of working on communicable diseases control in humanitarian emergencies.

Non UNSW students:
Postgraduate public health education is desirable. Some field experience in communicable disease control in emergencies is essential. Priority will be given to applicants who are currently field-based.

Contact information

For further information, enquiries or expressions of interest, contact the course coordinator:

University of New South Wales
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Successful candidates will be notified within two weeks from the closing date.
About UNSW
The University of New South Wales (UNSW) is one of Australia’s leading research and teaching universities and a member of the G8 group of universities. Within the University are a range of academics, individuals, Schools and Centres with experience and expertise in infectious disease and in global health.

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 / programs 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 able to:

• conduct communicable disease risk assessments and prioritise interventions in emergencies;
• design and implement surveillance / early warning and response systems (EWARN) in collaboration with partners;
• conduct outbreak investigations and manage outbreak responses;
• implement prevention and control methods for priority communicable diseases in emergencies; and
• understand the importance of a coherent, co-ordinated response when working amongst diverse stakeholders in humanitarian settings.

Programme outline and setting
This intensive five day course will run from 26 - 30 November 2012 and will be held at the Kensington Campus of the University of New South Wales, Sydney Australia. The course content will include:

• Introduction to concepts of communicable disease transmission
• Communicable disease epidemiology
• Conducting disease risk assessments
• Designing and implementing EWARN surveillance systems in emergencies
• Outbreak investigation and response
• Infection control
• Logistics, media and communication
• The epidemiology, prevention and control of specific diseases such as acute respiratory infections, malaria, diarrhoeal diseases, tuberculosis, 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
• Integrated, ethical approaches to working in areas of conflict

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 program implementation).

Course facilitators
Lecturers and facilitators include experts in their field and originate from WHO, other technical and academic institutions as well as international humanitarian agencies.

Accreditation and assessment
Certificates of attendance will be provided at the end of the course to all participants. Master of Public Health (MPH) and Master of International Public Health (MIPH) students who are enrolled in the course as an elective will receive a final result at the end of Summer Term on completion of assessment.