



Overview

CFE-DM conducted its second Health and Humanitarian Action in Emergencies (HHAЕ) course 3 – 14 June 2019 in Cairns, Australia. The HHAЕ course, offered in partnership with James Cook University’s College of Public Health, Medical and Veterinary Sciences, was jointly developed as a two-week intensive training course to build capacity among Pacific-based, mid-career professionals engaged in public health and disaster preparedness and response. World class faculty provided participants with the public health tools, coordination mechanisms, management, assessment, and evaluation capabilities required in preparing for and responding to the health needs of populations affected by humanitarian crises.

This year’s course trained professionals from Ministries of Health, Ministries of Defense, National Disaster Management Organizations, and public health agencies. In addition, graduate students from James Cook University’s Disaster Health Management course joined HHAЕ participants the first week, serving to provide additional networking opportunities and further enrich the learning environment. A highly experienced team of regional humanitarian practitioners were convened to explore cross-cutting themes and topics that will improve management of future public health emergencies and disaster responses in the Pacific.

HHAЕ Course Thematic Areas

CFE-DM and JCU utilized a multi-disciplinary public health approach, one similar to that developed and employed by CFE-DM and the International Committee of the Red Cross’ “Health Emergencies in Large Populations (HELP) Course,” but tailored to the humanitarian and public health challenges in the Pacific.

Participating Countries

- Australia
- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Marshall Islands
- Nauru
- Papua New Guinea
- Tonga
- United States

Partnerships

- James Cook University
- RedR Australia
- UN-OCHA Pacific Regional Office
- International Federation of the Red Cross Fiji
- Save the Children Australia
- Cairns Regional Council
- Pacific Community
- U.S. Indo-Pacific Command J07
- Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies
- Fiji National University
- Australian Red Cross

OBJECTIVES FOR THE HHAЕ COURSE INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

- Describe the essential public health, medical, management, legal and ethical issues and evidence-based approaches underlying humanitarian action in emergencies.
- Analyze public health needs using a multi-disciplinary approach, informed by social determinants of health, people’s needs, vulnerabilities, and capabilities.
- Plan, manage and evaluate actions in response to major humanitarian crises.
- Address complex humanitarian situations with an integrated approach, considering both individual and group needs; basing decisions on principles of public health, protection, and international humanitarian law; all within an ethical framework.

MAJOR THEMATIC AREAS EXPLORED DURING THE HHAЕ COURSE:

- Humanitarian Crisis and Public Health Emergency Challenges in the Pacific
- Local to Global Coordination in Humanitarian Crises
- Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination in the Pacific
- Sphere Standards
- Rapid Assessments in Humanitarian Crises
- Emergency Programming in Humanitarian Crises
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Emergencies
- Health and Nutrition in the Pacific
- Information Sharing Among Diverse Actors in the Humanitarian Space
- International Humanitarian Law and Humanitarian Ethics
- Protection of Children
- Health and Humanitarian Logistics Challenges in Emergencies
- Field Visit: Cairns Disaster Coordination Centre
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Emergencies
- The Challenge of Climate Change in the Pacific
- Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs in Humanitarian Crises
- Health Care Services in Humanitarian Crises
- Non-Communicable & Communicable Disease Control and Prevention in Humanitarian Crises

HHAЕ Course Collaborative Partnerships

CFE-DM developed partnerships with a number of organizations in support of the 2019 HHAЕ course. These included James Cook University, RedR Australia, UN-OCHA Pacific, International Federation of the Red Cross Fiji, Save the Children Australia, Australian Red Cross, Pacific Community, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Strategic Studies, Cairns Regional Council, and Oceania-based U.S. Embassies. HHAЕ is a noteworthy example of an engagement that furthers non-traditional partnerships, contributes to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command’s outreach to an historically underserved region, and directly benefits regional Theater Security Cooperation efforts. CFE-DM intends to conduct HHAЕ in Fiji next year, expanding our partnerships, sharing benefits with a broader range of stakeholders, and firmly anchoring the course in the Pacific.

