Course Overview

The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM), in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and academic partnership of University of Hawaii’s Office of Public Health Studies, is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the 2019 Health Emergencies in Large Populations (HELP) course to be held in Honolulu, Hawaii 9-20 September 2019.

The HELP course is a two-week training course, providing participants with an understanding of the major public health issues and decision making skills necessary to effectively plan for and respond to the needs of populations affected by humanitarian crises. The course emphasizes a multi-disciplinary public health approach, weaving innovative trends, Asia-Pacific regional challenges, and lessons learned from recent humanitarian crises throughout the curriculum and discussions. CFE-DM has collaboratively conducted the HELP course for 21 years, graduating over 600 humanitarian, civilian, and military participants. CFE-DM hosts one of nine HELP courses coordinated globally on behalf of the ICRC and recognized humanitarian and academic training centers.

Applications are welcome from all international and national non-governmental humanitarian organizations, governmental organizations (e.g. Ministries of Defense, Ministries of Health, National Disaster Management Organizations), and academic institutions. The course has been designed for humanitarian, civilian, and defense professionals that have (now or in the future) a role in decision-making that impacts the health of those affected by humanitarian crises. There are no scholarships available for the 2019 HELP course and all applicants are expected to self-fund their attendance to the course.

Major topics to be covered include:

- Global perspective on humanitarian action
- International Humanitarian Law
- Humanitarian civil-military coordination
- Urban humanitarian emergencies
- Humanitarian assessments and needs based analyses
- Humanitarian and medical ethics
- Crisis and risk communications
- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) challenges in humanitarian crises
- Field-based epidemiological surveillance and assessment
- Communicable disease control and prevention strategies in emergencies
- Non-communicable disease control and prevention strategies in emergencies
- Sexual and reproductive health in emergencies
- Gender based violence in emergencies
- Emergency nutrition and food security
Language and Teaching Methods
CFE-DM’s HELP course is offered in English. Reading and participatory learning methods are employed throughout the course. Participants will receive prereading materials prior to their arrival at the course and will interact with the course content through lectures, case studies, focused group discussions, presentations, and scenario-based learning and simulations.

Venue
The 2019 HELP course will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. Participants must arrange travel and accommodations at their own expense. CFE-DM can suggest lodging options in close proximity to the venue.

Academic Credit
Participants have the option to receive three (3) graduate-level credits, accredited through the University of Hawaii’s Office of Public Health Studies, after successful completion of the course. There is a cost associated with taking the course for credits (~$190.00 USD), in addition to supplementary paperwork, which are the sole responsibility of the participant.

Continuing Medical Education (CME) Credits
CFE-DM is pleased to announce that CME credits for interested practitioners, accredited by the ACCME, are available upon request. If you are interested in CME credits for your participation in the HELP course, please note this on your application and the HELP course administration team will facilitate the required paperwork after a determination has been made on your application by the HELP course selection committee.

Registration Fees
There are no registration fees for CFE-DM’s 2019 HELP course, however, the cost of travel, accommodation, and transportation is the sole responsibility of each participant. No scholarships are available for the 2019 HELP course.

Application Procedure
Please apply online through the Center’s HELP course webpage:
https://www.cfe-dmha.org/Training/Health-Emergencies-in-Large-Populations-HELP-Course

Applications should be submitted as soon as possible as the deadline for the course application will be July 1, 2019. The HELP course selection committee will review applications on a monthly basis and will do their best to inform applicants of the committee’s determination as soon as possible.

Photo credit: ICRC / Mahmud Hossain Opu

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