

Course Language, Teaching Methods and Materials

The course is currently offered in English only, with plans to arrange it as a regular event in the future. Participants must be fluent in reading, writing and speaking English. Plans to offer the course in Russian are, however, being developed.

A range of methodologies with emphasis on participatory methods will be used. These include: case studies, group work and discussions, brief presentations and discussions on selected topics and simulation exercises.

Participants will be provided with background and reference materials, tools and useful links for future reference in electronic form (where available). A CD-ROM of the course materials will be produced and made available to the course participants.

Contact

For more information, please visit
www.euro.who.int/emergencies



PUBLIC HEALTH & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

A TRAINING COURSE ON PUBLIC HEALTH ASPECTS OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT

14-26 JUNE 2009
TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

The “Public Health & Emergency Management” (PHEM Euro-1) training programme is a two-weeks residential course focusing on the management of critical public health issues in disasters and emergencies. The objective is to foster health security in the region by enhancing health systems capacities to prepare for and respond to a crisis - a focus that has been given increasing priority by the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in recent years

This first regional course will be hosted and supported by the Israel government through MASHAV - the Center for International Cooperation of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Israeli Ministry of Health and the Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University. The course curriculum is largely consistent with a WHO training concept successfully developed and implemented in other WHO regions, in particular in South-East Asia, the Western Pacific and the Eastern Mediterranean region.

The WHO Regional Office for Europe intends to organize this course in the future as a regular event.

Purpose and expected outputs

The course will address all types of emergencies: natural, human-made and technological, focusing on managerial practices before, during and after an event. It will fill a gap in the range of currently available training courses in the European Region.

During the course the concept of risk management as a framework for policy making and planning within the national development process will be introduced. Health managers will become familiar with policy making, planning and organizational aspects of health risk management and current international standards for emergency and humanitarian action. The course aims at building capacity in the health system with regard to preparation for, response to and recovery from disasters. The inter-sectoral dimensions will be especially highlighted.

Learning Objectives

The objectives of the course are to help participants get an understanding of:

- the contextual issues of hazards and emergencies and their public health consequences, in relation to other health system priorities and national development priorities;
- the principles of effective management of public health risks in an emergency situation, including vulnerability analysis and reduction, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation;
- the principles of health assessments and needs analysis in natural/technological disasters as well as in complex emergencies;
- the role of epidemiology as a tool for decision making in emergencies, a tool for programming and planning and for assessing effectiveness of programmes, analysing trends over time;
- the role and the organization of health services for the management of mass casualties, including hospital crisis preparedness.

Main modules and topics of the course curriculum

- Regional disaster trends and health systems crisis preparedness
- Public safety, risk management and emergency preparedness
- Pre-hospital emergency preparedness and EMS systems
- Hospital emergency preparedness
- Health sector damage assessment and needs analysis
- Policy making, guidelines and standards in emergency preparedness
- Search and rescue
- Chemical, biological and radio-nuclear hazards (CBRN) and evolving new threats
- Health information management and risk communication
- Public health in emergencies
- Mental health and psychosocial support
- Logistics
- Recovery and rehabilitation
- Action planning (by country teams)

Selection Criteria of Participants

The course is specifically designed for senior managers from the health and health-related sectors who have responsibilities in the area of emergency management. They do not necessarily have to be working with the Ministry of Health, but could also be working in other ministries (Ministries of Emergency Situation) or Civil Defence. The course also addresses the needs of field practitioners, aiming to link field activities with various emergency management strategies.

Criteria for Selection:

- Senior level public health officers who are holding decision making positions and who are working in emergency management units both at national and provincial levels.
- Senior government officials working in emergency management related to health.
- Ideally, the participant should be involved in current and future policy formulation and national strategies for emergency management.
- The participant must be proficient in English.

Resource Persons

The facilitators are leading national and international experts with a wide variety of field experience in the management of public health risks in emergencies. They represent a range of expertise from international agencies, academic and research centers.

Travel Arrangements and Accommodation

- Travel arrangements for participants will be supported by the WHO Regional Office for Europe.
- Participants are required to obtain visas prior to travel to Israel. However, entry visa can be arranged for some participants coming from countries where there is no Israeli Embassy.
- Accommodation will be arranged by the course organizers and participants will be informed of the details in due course.