



academy for
humanitarian
action



Course Curriculum

2020

As of August 2026
Contact: support@aha-trainings.de

Course Program 2020

Citizen- and Community-led crisis Response

Certificate: Certificate of Advanced Studies - 1 ECTS

Location: Online

Course Instructor / Simone di Vicenz; Nathalie Töpperwien **Duration:** 24 Hours
Trainer: Blom

Content: **Course description**

Introduction to citizen- and community-led crisis response as well as to opportunities of supporting spontaneous and local measures without undermining them.

You will learn how to...

- Use the survivor and community-led crisis response approach
- Develop context-specific methods to holistically and successfully support local efforts
- Strengthen people's resilience both in the immediate term and for the future

Training Overview

Training Overview 2021

Introduction to Humanitarian Action
Security- and Crisis management
Introduction to Mechanisms of Proactive Humanitarian Action
Legal Framework for Protection in Humanitarian Action
Partner assessment
Introduction to Malnutrition in Humanitarian Action
Introduction to the Humanitarian System
Fundamentals of MEAL in Humanitarian Action
Medical Logistics in Pandemics
Fundamentals of Public Procurement Law
Design Thinking with Refugees/People seeking refuge
Fundamentals of Selection, Planning, and Implementation of Early Actions within the Framework of Proactive Humanitarian Action
Partner dialog
A Window of Opportunity? How Pandemics have changed our Daily Work Life
Measures/Efforts to Reduce the Ecological Footprint in Humanitarian Action
Decolonization of Humanitarian Action
Transforming Partnerships- Change in Partnership Models
Counterterrorism measures, Sanctions and Humanitarian Action
The International Donor Community in Humanitarian Action
WASH in Emergency Situations
Basic Safety Training for Humanitarian Missions Abroad
Proactive Humanitarian Action in Contexts of Conflict
Anti-Bias and Anti-Discrimination in Humanitarian Action
Security- and Crisis management
Dealing with Counterterrorism Measures – Internal Risk Management
Remote Participatory Video: Capturing “Unfiltered” Voices
Introductory Course: Assessments and Analyses in Humanitarian Action
Participatory Methods of Humanitarian Action – Dealing with Local Responsibility, Opportunities, and Dilemmas
Psychosocial Support for Staff in Humanitarian Action

Course Program 2021

Introduction to Humanitarian Action

Certificate:

-

Location:

Online

Course Instructor / Trainer / Peter Zihlmann

Duration: 22 Hours

Content:

Course description

A practice-oriented introductory course on key concepts, quality standards, and the foundations of humanitarian Action under international law, supplemented by case studies and reflection on typical challenges and dilemmas.

You will learn how to...

- Utilize key terms and quality standards in humanitarian Action
- Contextualize challenges and dilemmas in the field of work
- Critically reflect on humanitarian issues

Security- and Crisis Management

Certificate:

-

Location:

Online

Course Instructor / Trainer / Jacob van 't Slot

Duration: 19 Hours

Content:

Course description

Course on organizational security and crisis management, including risk analysis, preparedness, incident response, and accountability for employees.

You will learn how to...

- Assess security threats, vulnerabilities, and risks
- Develop practical preventive and response measures
- Clarify roles, communication, and decision-making in the event of a crisis

Introduction to Mechanisms of Proactive Humanitarian Action

Certificate:	-
Location:	Online
Course Trainer	Instructor / German Red Cross (organizational course instruction) Duration: 22 Hours
Content:	Course description A comprehensive introduction to the concepts, milestones, and operational mechanisms of proactive humanitarian Action. You will learn how to... • Explain the key applications and limitations of proactive Action • Develop risk analyses, triggers, and early actions • Plan stakeholder roles, funding, and implementation

Legal Framework for Protection in Humanitarian Action

Certificate:	-
Location:	Online
Course Trainer	Instructor / Ed Schenkenberg van Mierop; Marzia Montemurro Duration: Not specified
Content:	Course description An introduction to the legal framework that shapes protection in humanitarian Action. You will learn how to... • Distinguish between relevant protection regimes and concepts • Identify legal obligations and operational implications • Analyze protection issues using a legal framework

Partner assessment

Certificate: -

Location: Online

Course Instructor / Smruti Patel; Koenraad Van Brabant

Duration: 15 Hours

Trainer

Content: **Course description**

A seminar on the fundamentals and methods of mutual partner assessments, including shared expectations, donor-specific requirements, and how organizational “soft skills” and working styles align.

You will learn how to...

- Develop fair and appropriate criteria for partner assessments
- Collect and evaluate information on potential partners in an appropriate manner
- Use the results to make joint decisions regarding risk and capacity

Introduction to Malnutrition in Humanitarian Action

Certificate: -

Location: Online

Course Instructor / Prof. Dr med. Joachim Gardemann

Duration: 5 Hours

Trainer

Content: **Course description**

An introduction to the causes, forms, and clinical foundations of malnutrition, as well as to key assessment methods and the basic logic of intervention in humanitarian crises.

You will learn how to...

- Distinguish between crucial forms and causes of malnutrition
- Interpret basic nutritional indicators and risks
- Relate assessment results to intervention options

Introduction to the Humanitarian System

Certificate:

Location: Online

Course Instructor / Trainer / Peter Zihlmann

Duration: 22 Hours

Content:

Course description

A basic introduction to the humanitarian system, its actors, coordination mechanisms, principles, and recurring operational dilemmas.

You will learn how to...

- Explain the humanitarian system and its key actors
- Link humanitarian principles to coordination and operational decisions
- Utilize key structures, mandates, and information sources

Fundamentals of MEAL in Humanitarian Action

Certificate: Certificate of Advanced Studies - 1 ECTS

Location: Online

Course Instructor / Trainer / Susanne von Jan

Duration: 24 Hours

Content:

Course description

Introductory course on Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) throughout the humanitarian program cycle.

You will learn how to...

- Develop a basic system of outcomes and indicators
- Select appropriate monitoring and evaluation methods
- Use accountability and learning to improve programs

Medical Logistics in Pandemics

Certificate: -

Location: Online

Course Instructor / Trainer / Jonas Stumpf

Duration: 11 Hours

Content: **Course description**

An introduction to medical supply chains in a humanitarian context and the unique challenges they face during pandemics, with a focus on the current COVID-19 response.

You will learn how to...

- Identify pandemic-related risks to medical supply chains
- Plan for procurement, storage, and distribution requirements
- Balance speed, quality, safety, and continuity

Fundamentals of Public Procurement Law

Certificate: -

Location: Online

Course Instructor / Trainer / Katja Gnittke

Duration: 8 Hours

Content: **Course description**

An introduction to the legal and procedural fundamentals of procurement law for humanitarian and nonprofit organizations.

You will learn how to...

- Recognize when procurement rules apply
- Structure transparent and proportionate procedures
- Identify typical legal and compliance risks

Design Thinking with Refugees

Certificate: Certificate of Advanced Studies - 1 ECTS

Location: Online

Course Instructor / Trainer / Celia Schmidt

Duration: 30 Hours

Content:

Course description

Practical training in Design Thinking as a creative, participatory method for generating ideas and solving problems with refugees.

You will learn how to...

- Understand the basic principles and philosophy of design thinking
- Apply creative methods for generating ideas
- Address challenges when working with refugees

Fundamentals of Selection, Planning, and Implementation of Early Actions within the Framework of Proactive Humanitarian Action

Certificate: -

Location: Online

Course Instructor / Trainer / German Red Cross; Start Network

Duration: 23 Hours

Content:

Course description

Practical fundamentals for the selection, planning, and implementation of Early Actions in proactive humanitarian action systems.

You will learn how to...

- Link forecasts and triggers to appropriate measures
- Assess feasibility, timing, and unintended consequences
- Develop feasible early-action plans

Partner dialog

Certificate: -

Location: Online

Course Instructor / Trainer / Koenraad Van Brabant; Smruti Patel **Duration:** 12 Hours

Content: **Course description**

A facilitated course designed to improve dialogue, trust, and collaborative decision-making among humanitarian partners.

You will learn how to...

- Prepare open and structured partnership discussions
- Identify expectations, tensions, and power imbalances
- Agree on practical follow-up actions and mutual accountability

A Window of Opportunity? How Pandemics have changed our Daily Work Life

Certificate: -

Location: Online

Course Instructor / Trainer / Monika Boutros-Fischer **Duration:** 4 Hours (acc. to the schedule)

Content: **Course description**

A short reflective workshop on how the pandemic has changed organizational processes, collaboration, and day-to-day work.

You will learn how to...

- Identify lasting changes in humanitarian work
- Assess benefits, burdens, and unequal impacts
- Select practices that should be maintained or redesigned

Measures/Efforts to Reduce the Ecological Footprint in Humanitarian Action

Certificate:	-
Location:	Online
Course Instructor / Trainer	Katharina Bredigkeit; Arnina Beciri; Matthew Sarsycki
Duration:	2 Hours
Content:	Course description A short workshop on practical measures to reduce the ecological footprint of humanitarian organizations and operations. You will learn how to... • Identify major sources of environmental impacts • Compare feasible mitigation measures • Translate ideas into organizational action

Decolonization of Humanitarian Action

Certificate:	-
Location:	Online
Course Instructor / Trainer	Carolyn Gomulka; Friederike Bubenzer
Duration:	8 Hours
Content:	Course description A Critical Introduction to Colonial Continuities, Power, and Knowledge in Humanitarian Action. You will learn how to... • Recognize colonial continuities in humanitarian practice • Analyze power, representation, and institutional routines • Identify concrete opportunities for organizational change

Transforming Partnerships – Change in Partnership Models

Certificate:

-

Location:

Online

Course Instructor / Trainer / Smruti Patel; Koenraad Van Brabant

Duration: 9 Hours

Content:

Course description

A peer-learning series on current humanitarian partnership models, institutional readiness for new forms of collaboration, and the roles of local, national, and international NGOs in the context of the Grand Bargain 2.0.

You will learn how to...

- Understand the current state and the evolution of humanitarian partnership models
- Assess your organization's position within the localization discourse
- Reflect on the prospects for humanitarian NGOs

Counterterrorism Measures, Sanctions and Humanitarian Action

Certificate:

-

Location:

Online

Course Instructor / Trainer / Emanuela-Chiara Gillard

Duration: 12 Hours

Content:

Course description

Course on the Impact of Counterterrorism Measures and Sanctions on Humanitarian Access, Legal Risks, and Principle-Based Action.

You will learn how to...

- Explain relevant sanctions and anti-terrorism requirements
- Identify operational, legal, and ethical risks
- Develop proportionate mitigation and decision-making processes

The International Donor Community in Humanitarian Action

Certificate: Certificate of Advanced Studies - 1 ECTS

Location: Online

Course Instructor / Trainer Bioforce; Irene Sesmaisons

Duration: 24 Hours

Content:

Course description

An introduction to the structure, trends, and challenges of the international donor landscape, including traditional and non-traditional donors as well as key financing mechanisms.

You will learn how to...

- Understand the structure and changes in the international donor landscape
- Classify financing mechanisms and their characteristics
- Apply donor mapping, profiling, and tracking

WASH in Emergency Situations

Certificate: Certificate of Advanced Studies - 1 ECTS

Location: In person

Course Instructor / Trainer WASH-Netzwerk (organizational course instruction)

Duration: 45 Hours

Content:

Course description

A comprehensive introduction to WASH in humanitarian and transitional Action, including principles, standards, assessments, technical options, and coordination.

You will learn how to...

- Explain humanitarian WASH principles and minimum standards
- Compare measures related to water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Use WASH assessments and project planning approaches

Basic Safety Training for Humanitarian Missions Abroad

Certificate:	-
Location:	In person
Course Instructor Trainer	/ Rainer "Ben" Wischerath; Detlef Starck
Duration:	21 Hours
Content:	Course description

The course prepares participants for potentially dangerous situations during overseas assignments and, through interactive case studies, helps them develop an understanding of dangerous situations, preventive measures, de-escalation, and how to cope with stress and traumatic events.

You will learn how to...

- Conduct risk assessments
- Use methods for processing traumatic experiences
- Manage and counter stress

Proactive Humanitarian Action in Contexts of Conflict

Certificate:	Certificate of Advanced Studies - 1 ECTS
Location:	Online
Course Instructor Trainer	/ German Red Cross (organizational course instruction)
Duration:	24 Hours
Content:	Course description

A practical introduction to proactive humanitarian Action in conflict contexts where risk information, access, and protection concerns are particularly complex.

You will learn how to...

- Explain opportunities and limitations in conflict contexts
- Assess conflict-sensitive risks and early-action options
- Apply proactive approaches to operational practice

Anti-Bias and Anti-Discrimination in Humanitarian Action

Certificate: -

Location: Online

Course Instructor / Friederike Bubenzer; Carolin Gomulia **Duration:** 12 Hours
Trainer

Content: **Course description**

A reflective course on bias, discrimination, and practical anti-discrimination work in humanitarian organizations.

You will learn how to...

- Recognizing implicit and structural forms of bias
- Analyzing discriminatory effects in organizational practices
- Using specific tools to promote more equitable behavior and systems

Security- and Crisis Management

Certificate: -

Location: Online

Course Instructor / Jacob van 't Slot; Steven Poot; Henrieke **Duration:** 19 Hours
Trainer Hommes

Content: **Course description**

Course on organizational security and crisis management, including risk analysis, preparedness, incident response, and accountability for employees.

You will learn how to...

- Analyze your own concepts for security and crisis management.
- Involve (local) partner organizations in security and crisis management.
- Apply the skills you have acquired to improve security and crisis management in practice.

Dealing with Counterterrorism Measures – Internal Risk Management

Certificate:

-

Location:

Online

Course Instructor / Trainer / Michael John Parkinson

Duration: 13 Hours

Content:

Course description

Practical course on internal risk management for organizations operating under counterterrorism requirements.

You will learn how to...

- Analyze and assess the risk of negative impacts of counterterrorism measures on humanitarian work.
- Help minimize the negative impacts of counterterrorism measures.
- Utilize policy frameworks to minimize the risk of negative impacts of counterterrorism measures

Remote Participatory Video: Capturing “Unfiltered” Voices

Certificate:

-

Location:

Online

Course Instructor / Trainer / Simon Koolwijk; Ralf Otto

Duration: 15 Hours

Content:

Course description

An online course on participatory video that enables those directly affected to express their perspectives directly and with less mediation.

You will learn how to...

- Plan a safe process for participatory video over a distance
- Facilitate inclusive filming and collaborative storytelling
- Take consent, ownership, safeguards, and usage into account

Introductory Course: Assessments and Analyses in Humanitarian Action

Certificate:	-
Location:	Online
Course Instructor / Trainer	Rolf M. Bakken
Duration:	10 Hours
Content:	Course description Introduction to Humanitarian Needs Assessments and Analyses: From Identifying Information Needs to Evaluating Evidence for Operational Decisions.

You will learn how to...

- Describe the main activities related to the various steps of the analysis workflow.
- Identify the various steps of the analysis spectrum and the different areas of focus it encompasses.
- Apply the various steps of the analysis spectrum in humanitarian needs assessment.

Participatory Methods of Humanitarian Action – Dealing with Local Responsibility, Opportunities, and Dilemmas

Certificate:	Certificate of Advanced Studies - 1 ECTS
Location:	Online
Course Instructor / Trainer	Thomas Lahnthaler; Anisa Goshi
Duration:	24 Hours
Content:	Course description A reflective, practice-oriented course on participatory methods, ownership, and the dilemmas of collaborating with affected communities.

You will learn how to...

- Select appropriate participatory approaches
- Address dilemmas regarding ownership, ethics, and power
- Facilitate participation that influences actual decisions

Psychosocial Support for Staff in Humanitarian Action

Certificate:

-

Location:

Online

Course Instructor / Amail Bendedda
Trainer

Duration: 21 Hours

Content:

Course description

Course on psychosocial staff support in humanitarian organizations before, during, and after stressful deployments.

You will learn how to...

- Handle mental health challenges that affect work and its environment
- Fulfill the duty of care toward employees while taking psychosocial aspects into account
- Share this knowledge with colleagues and partner organizations



academy for
humanitarian
action

academy for humanitarian action

Prepare for Humanitarian Action

Akademie der Ruhr-Universität gGmbH

Suttner-Nobel-Allee 4 (Opelring 1)
44803 Bochum-Laer
Germany

Phone: +49 234 32-24103

Fax.: +49 234 32-14255

Website: <https://aha-trainings.akademie.rub.de/>

E-Mail: support@aha-trainings.de