

What is the Humanitarian Action Qualifications Framework (HA QF)?

It is a common reference system based on learning outcomes and it acts as a translating and classifying device of qualifications levels and systems throughout the humanitarian sector. It focuses on lifelong learning, thereby including general education, vocational education and training and higher education, as well as informal and non-formal learning. It acts as a neutral reference point for all different sorts of qualifications in the humanitarian sector and follows the approach of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF-LLL), see for more information: [EC.EUROPA.EU/EQF](http://ec.europa.eu/eqf)

What is the purpose of the HA QF?

The main purposes are (1) to provide important points of reference for setting and assessing learning standards to humanitarian education providers, (2) to inform international comparability of education standards in the European context and possibly beyond that, (3) to assist in the identification of potential progression routes in the context of lifelong learning, (4) to promote a shared and common understanding of the expectations associated with typical qualifications by facilitating a consistent use of qualification titles across the educational sector, and (5) to support workers and learners mobility.

For whom is it intended?

The primary users are educators and agencies in the humanitarian sector contending with own qualification systems and competency frameworks. Having these linked to the Humanitarian Action Qualifications Framework (HA QF) subsequently helps education providers to communicate to employers, prospective students, accreditation bodies (PSRBs), and other stakeholders in comparing individual qualifications from different countries, and different humanitarian education and training systems.

Out of which elements does the HA QF consist?

The framework is expressed in progressive levels of qualification learning outcomes and provides for each level a table describing in terms of knowledge, skills and responsibility & autonomy what a humanitarian qualification represents.

Which levels of learning does the HA QF cover?

The European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF-LLL) distinguishes eight levels that cover the entire span of qualifications and encompass general and adult education, vocational education and training, work contexts as well as higher education.

How are the EQF-levels used in the HA QF linked to levels of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and the Bologna process?

The descriptor for the higher education short cycle (within or linked to the first cycle), developed by the Joint Quality Initiative as part of the Bologna process, corresponds to the learning outcomes for EQF level 5. The descriptors for the first, second and third cycle in the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area agreed by the ministers responsible for higher education at their meeting in Bergen in May 2005 in the framework of the Bologna process correspond to the learning outcomes for EQF level 6, 7 and 8 respectively.

Is the HA QF an accreditation or certification system?

No, a framework cannot award qualifications, it only describes the levels of qualifications in terms of learning outcomes. On the other hand, it is therefore an invaluable tool for accreditation and certification bodies.

Is the HA QF just European or can it also be used outside Europe?

The origins and methodology used are decidedly European, but its content in terms of learning outcomes is based on the humanitarian sector globally. As such, it can be used outside Europe to the extent that it is contextualised and adapted to the specific non-European needs.

The HA QF is expressed in the form of qualification levels, but how should these be assessed?

To start with, the framework is expressed in qualification learning outcomes and not in individual learning outcomes that can be assessed directly. For that it is necessary to translate these into training programme learning

outcomes first. Having said that, the framework categorises qualification learning outcomes into *Knowledge*, *Skills* and *Responsibility & Autonomy*, each of which may require different ways of assessment. Where traditional written exams may often suffice for testing theoretical and factual knowledge and understanding, assessing skills will frequently require more applied ways of testing, particularly where it concerns practical skills, and testing responsibility and autonomy might be more adequate by means of for instance simulations.

We use other frameworks as reference for our education, such as the CBHA framework, so why would the HA QF be useful for us?

Most present frameworks that have been developed in the humanitarian sector are professional competency frameworks and not qualifications frameworks. They usually distinguish between zero or very few levels of learning, and where there are more levels, these are normally not linked to progressive levels of learning or educational qualifications. The HA QF remedies this.

Can I just copy-paste from the framework to my training programme?

No, you need to translate and contextualise it to the specific characteristics and focus of your programme first.

What is the background of this framework? Who wrote it?

With financial support from the European Commission Lifelong Learning Programme, the EUPRHA Consortium developed the framework as part of its activities. EUPRHA stands for "European Universities on Professionalization on Humanitarian Action" and brings together thirty European universities representing each a different country, ICVA (International Council of Voluntary Agencies), the Sphere Project and the NOHA Alumni Association.

Who holds copyright of the HA QF?

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Where can I get a copy of the HA QF?

All documents, additional information and resources, and contacts can be found on: [EUPRHA.ORG](https://euprha.org)

HAQF HUMANITARIAN ACTION QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

- Humanitarian Action Qualifications Framework (HA QF)
- HA Profile
- Introduction
- Definitions (Descriptors, Levels, Dimensions)
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Additional resources are available in the HA Library at [EUPRHA.ORG](https://euprha.org)

EUPRHA.org

European Universities on Professionalization on Humanitarian Action



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