

Course manual  
Joint Master's Programme in  
International Humanitarian Action

Ruhr-Universität  
Bochum

Version August 2016

# **MODULE 205**

## **Medicine and Public Health in Humanitarian Action**

Semester 1

RUHR  
UNIVERSITÄT  
BOCHUM

**RUB**



Aix-Marseille  
université



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**Credits awarded:** 5 ECTS, equivalent to 125 work hours (1 ECTS = 25 hours)

**Period:** First semester

**Venue & hours:** **Bochumer Fenster 4.46-47, IFHV seminar room**

**Thursday, 13 October 2016, 10:00-17:30**  
Health in Emergencies  
Dr. Daniel Peter

**Thursday, 20 October 2016, 10:00 – 17:00**  
Mental Health  
Dr. Henrike Zellmann

**Friday, 04 November 2016, 11:45-17:30**  
Epidemiology  
Prof. Dr. Oliver Razum

**Thursday, 10 November 2016, 10:00-17:30**  
Communicable Diseases  
Dr. Klemens Ochel

**Thursday, 24 November 2016, 14:15-17:30**  
Management of operative emergencies, WASH &  
Vaccinations, LRRD, DRR and DP  
Peter Schmitz

**Friday, 25 November 2016, 11:45-17:30**  
Public Health

Dr. Michael Marx

**Thursday, 15 December 2016, 11:45-17:30**

Health in Emergencies I  
Nazik Raouf

**Friday, 16 December 2016, 11:45-17:30**

Health in Emergencies II  
Nazik Raouf

**Monday, 16 January 2017, 10:00-11:30**

Public Health Tutorial

**Wednesday, 18 January 2017**

Final Examination

## 1. Introduction

In the first semester of the NOHA programme, “Medicine and Public Health in Humanitarian Action” is one of five mono-disciplinary “Building Blocks” (# 205). In the Bochum programme the above listed lecturers will teach this course. The lecturers have agreed upon the following approach, contents and structure.

## 2. Learning outcomes

The Module “Medicine and Public Health in Humanitarian Action” is generally designed as a mutual learning exercise with an interdisciplinary and strongly methodological character. Its factual and didactic outlay is a reaction to the following general observations:

- We live in an increasingly fragmented world, in everyday life as well as in academia. And our world is so complex that it can only be grasped or understood by multi- or interdisciplinary approaches. However, more often than not the challenges of interdisciplinary research are well understood but poorly implemented in everyday practice. A Master Course like the European NOHA course offers good chances to face these challenges. Systematic attempts are required to perforate the boundaries between academic, professional and everyday languages (jargons): discussions across disciplinary borders must be initiated, specific terminologies explored, and communicated to other “tribes” of the academic community. Though mono-disciplinary in itself, the Course attempts to keep these claims in mind and translate it into adequate learning steps.
- The Course addresses the relation between (a) (social) science, (b) policies (programmes) and (c) the grass-root reality of projects. Information, knowledge, communication, and science: Today, these aspects are related in characteristic ways. *Science* pretends (and hopes) to be a driving force in the dominant (western) type of modernity. The Course will expose and analyse the under-complexity of most of our academic approaches, and discuss ways to cope with these shortcomings. To what degree do scientific world-views (“theories”) influence *strategies, programmes, and projects*? Answers to this question depend largely on the power-relations between the main “players” of humanitarian actions. They dispose of more or less *power of definition*, i.e. the power to choose from the rich offer of academic views. Whether and

to what degree these science-driven programmes can be effectively and efficiently implemented on *project* level in the field, is another issue addressed by the Course.

- To stand up to the above-mentioned requirements, communication skills are crucial. The Course will therefore emphasize the training of these key competencies. Self-organization and students' participation are leading principles of the course work. The main role of the lecturer is that of a mediator, not of a "seller". The students are co-producers, and not consumers.
- All in all, the students are invited to reflect on the manifold connections between pre-scientific worldviews, scientific paradigms, applied science and practical politics

#### The module set in the overall context of NOHA's learning objectives

In the perspective of the overall objectives of the NOHA Master Programme, the contribution of the Course "Responses to health needs in emergencies and disasters" can be described as follows:

- To develop a comprehensive overview on health-needs in and following disasters and ongoing conflicts.
- Understanding the top ten priorities in the emergency phase.
- To develop the ability to link acute, selective operations with long term, comprehensive multi-sector rehabilitation and development oriented interventions,
- To understand the connection between health-related vulnerabilities, basic health needs, context health-threats and necessary efforts to achieve the highest attainable standard in health.
- To develop a clear understanding of medical assessments, surveillance and monitoring systems,
- To understand the course and characteristics of relevant infectious disease phenomena,
- To clearly understand the coordination-tools in health service management,
- To develop an understanding of coordination of different actors involved in emergency and disaster interventions, and the need for cooperation of key stakeholders,
- To understand the different systems of health-care in countries vulnerable to emergencies and disasters.

### **3. Course content/ Teaching and learning methodology**

In the module "Medicine and Public Health in Humanitarian Action", the following concepts are deeply discussed:

- The course and the phases of disasters and their impact on the health-situation of survivors
- The "vital needs-concept", describing, qualifying and quantifying the minimum requirements for survival after disasters
- Principles of hygiene and environmental calamities,
- Principles of descriptive epidemiology, risk-calculations and studies,
- The concepts of different health-systems,
- The principles of Primary Health Care like health promotion, primary secondary prevention, treatment and care and health maintenance and stakeholder participation in relief-activities,
- The principles of infectious disease and epidemics,

- The rising challenge in the management of chronic disease in middle income countries torn by conflicts.
- A clear understanding of “spread of diseases with high morbidity and mortality and their primary and secondary prevention and case-management: for instance malaria, measles, cholera, airway diseases, HIV, TB or sexually transmitted infections,
- Managerial and logistical aspects of responses to health needs including logistics, standardisation of equipment.
- Principles of “triage” and management of mass casualties with special attention to hostile environment.
- The “development approach” in medical relief-operations
- Acquire necessary knowledge about maintenance of delegates health like travel medicine, malaria prevention and care, prevention of blood borne infections and care, infection protection and hygiene, management of psychosocial stress and burn-out,
- Relevant environmental health issues like poison, disposal of waste, etc.
- Concept of Food Security, Malnutrition, Famine and humanitarian response. Acquire knowledge about the classification of food security, different coping strategies and the role of the international and medical community in prevention and response.
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#### 4. Programme and training activities

The module “Medicine and Epidemics in Emergencies” can be seen as the core-topic of the course which has to be “closest” to the vulnerable - population of emergencies and disasters. Academic approaches and field experiences have to be combined equivalently.

The module begins with introductory lectures focusing on basic principles of medical relief-operations and will continue with a practical approach to relevant relief operations. It continues with these two parallel traces through the first semester, deepening the necessary academic knowledge on one side and the comparison with the observed relief-operation.

In the whole module, medical relief-operations are seen as a completion and not a replacement of former development efforts and special attention is given to approaches that lead to sustainable improvements in disaster-prevention and disaster-preparedness as one component of future relief activities.

#### Programme winter term, 2014- 2015

	Date	Lecturer	Topic	Content/ Learning objective
1.	Thursday 13 October 2016 10:00-17:30	Daniel Peter	<b>Health in Emergencies III</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Priorities in acute emergencies</li> <li>- Ebola in West Africa</li> <li>- Outbreak management</li> <li>- Logistics, organizational structure, HRM and equipment, essential medicines, guidelines</li> <li>- Emergency PHC</li> <li>- Reproductive health</li> <li>- Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI), MCH</li> </ul>
2.	Thursday, 20 October 2016	Dr. Henrike Zellman	<b>Mental Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mental Health &amp; Staff Support</li> </ul>

	10:00-13.15			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Addressing Mental Health Needs in Humanitarian Crisis I (45 min.)</li> <li>- People on the Move – Flight, Forced Migration and Mental Health</li> </ul>
3.	Friday 04 November 2016, 11:45-17:30	<i>Prof. Dr. Oliver Razum</i>	<b>Epidemiology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Descriptive epidemiology; Terminology &amp; definitions</li> <li>- Analytic epidemiology</li> <li>- Outbreak example</li> </ul>
4.	Thursday 10 November 2016, 10:00-17:30	<i>Dr. Klemens Ochel</i>	<b>Communicable Diseases and Control of Sexual Transmitted Diseases</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environmental and social determinants of health, definitions and the right to health</li> <li>- Root causes: weakness of structures and services, violence and stress, resource deficiencies, health status and status of immunity,</li> <li>- Routes of transmission</li> <li>- Natural history of infections,</li> <li>- Factors determining epidemics,</li> <li>- Elements to control epidemics</li> <li>- Outlook; Strengthening health systems and the PCM</li> <li>- Sexual transmitted diseases, transmission, dynamics</li> <li>- Incidence and prevalence of STI's</li> <li>- Prevention</li> <li>- Treatment and outlook</li> <li>- Care and support</li> <li>- HIV / AIDS, transmission, the HIV pandemic, management and challenges of sustaining long term treatment in emergencies</li> <li>- Tuberculosis, prevalence and increasing problems of multiple drug resistance</li> <li>- Health services and management</li> <li>- Hazards to health workers</li> <li>- HIV/ AIDS and Humanitarian aid</li> </ul>
5.	Thursday, 24 November 2016, 14:00 –17:30	<i>Dr. Peter Schmitz</i>	<b>WASH Vaccination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to safe drinking water &amp; sanitation</li> <li>- Services, Definitions &amp; sphere standards</li> <li>- Water, hygiene and disease</li> <li>- WASH in emergencies and post emergency Vaccination</li> <li>- What constitutes an emergency</li> <li>- Appropriate technology / equipment, standards and the need to improvise</li> <li>- Emergency medicine and limited resources</li> <li>- Emergencies vs elective interventions</li> <li>- Logistics in emergency medicine, field hospitals</li> <li>- LRRD, DRR and DP in public health</li> </ul>
6.	Thursday, 3 November 2016, 11:45 – 17:30	<i>Dr. Michael Marx</i>	<b>Public Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- -Health Systems</li> <li>- -Public health in Low Income Countries</li> <li>- -Health indicators</li> <li>- -Differences between IC &amp; LIC</li> <li>- -Historical overview and how do we stand today?</li> <li>- -Health systems - concept and interventions</li> <li>- -Primary health care (PHC)</li> </ul>

				- International health policy & Strategies
7.	Thursday, 15 December 2016, 11:45-17:30	Nazik Raouf	<b>Health in Emergencies I</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mass Casualties, definition</li> <li>- Classification of patients/ Triage</li> <li>- Mass casualty plan, needs, approach, pitfalls</li> <li>- Measles vaccination campaign, logistics</li> <li>- Cholera, epidemiology</li> <li>- Outbreak management</li> <li>- Logistics, organizational structure of Cholera treatment Centers, HRM, equipment, essential medicines, guidelines</li> <li>- Case study; CTC setup</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
8.	Friday, 16 December 2016, 11:45-17:30	Nazik Raouf	<b>Health in Emergencies II</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food Security, classification, coping strategies</li> <li>- Rapid assesement</li> <li>- Famine prevention &amp; nutrition: ITFC/ATFC</li> <li>- Case Study South Sudan</li> </ul>
9.	Monday, 16 January 2017 10:00-12:00	tbc	<b>Public Health Tutorial</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Examination preparation</li> </ul>
	<b>Wednesday, 25 January 2017</b>	<b>All lecturers</b>	<b>Examination</b>	<b>Medicine &amp; Public Health</b>

## 5. Workload

Attendance of classes (contact hours)	45h
Reading	60h
Preparing and summarizing presentation (hand-out, presentation, etc.)	20h
<b>Total</b>	<b>125 hours</b>

## 6. Assessment methods

Oral examination in small groups

## 7. Assessment criteria

- Knowledge of module contents
- Transfer of knowledge to different examples and emergency situations
- Priority assessment in emergency situations

## 8. Appendices

The Sphere Project (2011): Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response. Hobbs the Printers: Hamshire, UK.

MSF (1997), Refugee Health; An approach to emergency situations,  
 Chapter: Measles Immunization P 55- 65  
 Chapter: Food and Nutrition P 81- 113

Connolly, Máire A (2004), Communicable diseases in complex emergencies: impact and challenges, Lancet, available at;  
[http://www.who.int/diseasecontrol\\_emergencies/guidelines/Lancet\\_CDs\\_complex\\_emergencies.pdf](http://www.who.int/diseasecontrol_emergencies/guidelines/Lancet_CDs_complex_emergencies.pdf)

Integrated Food Security Classification, Technical Manual 1.1, available at;  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/i0275e/i0275e.pdf>