



CAS Designing Strategies and Projects in Humanitarian Action

Credits	10 credits ECTS
Dates	12 October 2020 – 27 June 2021
Format	Blended (online, with two-week residential course in Uganda from January 31 to February 10, 2021)
Language	English
Fees	CHF 6,500 (tuition fees CHF 5,500 + CHF 1,000 including accommodation and food in Uganda during the residential weeks)
Coordinators	Jean-Marc Biquet - Jean-Marc.Biquet@unige.ch Helena Merelo – helena.merelo@unige.ch

CAS overview

Short description

This eight-month course aims to reinforce the knowledge and skills that humanitarian professionals need when working in complex environments. The course puts emphasis on adaptive and flexible strategies and projects. It focuses on your working situations and enables you to reflect on your current practice as you learn. The course programme takes into account the major contexts for humanitarian action (armed conflict, “natural” disasters, social exclusion, complex emergencies). In addition, the course investigates the relationship between humanitarian and development aid.

The course is delivered in partnership with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and Groupe urgence réhabilitation développement (URD). More information about the course and its coordinators is available [here](#).



Objectives and competencies

At the end of the CAS, you will be able to design and adapt humanitarian strategies and projects in line with the specificities of each context. You provide coherent, flexible and creative humanitarian responses considering ethical issues, context prerogatives and the organisation's mandate.

More specifically, you will be able to:

Learning outcomes in terms of knowledge:

- Understanding of humanitarian sector, humanitarian trends and professionalization issues and their link with an institutional strategic framework
- Understanding of the link between an institutional strategy, an operational strategy and its concrete implementation
- Understanding of the global humanitarian context as well as the sociology of humanitarian actors and actors involved in humanitarian action
- Understanding of fundamental elements of a context, a specific crisis and their influence on an adapted response
- Understanding of the type of humanitarian interventions, humanitarian dilemmas and humanitarian options

Learning outcomes in terms of skills:

- Capacity to analyze a context
- Capacity to frame an adequate strategy of intervention regarding both a specific crisis and the global strategy of the organization
- Capacity to develop creative and flexible procedures to implement a strategy of intervention
- Capacity to monitor and evaluate strategies and projects
- Capacity to design and facilitate participative processes

Learning outcomes in terms of analytical competencies:

- Ability to choose and adapt best options in challenging and moving complex contexts
- Ability to compare and challenge different approaches from different organizations
- Ability to assess and consider ethical issues
- Ability to critically review strategies of intervention
- Ability to take decision in challenging and moving complex contexts



Structure of the CAS	
Structure	<p>Around 250 hours of work including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• E-learning courses (modules, videos, documents, educational games, forum discussions, individual and collective work, research, exercises, reflective analysis)• Face-to-face sessions (lectures, case studies, individual and collective work)• Personal work with coaching (reflexive analysis, writing, and implementation of an individual plan of action, individual and bilateral work)
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Phase 1</u>: Initialisation process 1 week (4 hours/week) by distance• <u>Phase 2</u>: Foundation: Myself within this training + basic concepts 1 week (4 hours/week) by distance• <u>Phase 3</u>: Institutional strategic framework 3 weeks (6 hours/week) by distance• <u>Phase 4</u>: Operational strategic framework: Project Cycle Management and related operational stakes 7 weeks (7 hours/week) by distance• <u>Phase 5</u>: Decentralized residential session preparing/sharing/strengthening 4 weeks (96 hours in total) at distance and residential in Uganda• <u>Phase 6a</u>: Deepening my learning and preparing for my PoA design 10 weeks (5 hours/week) at distance with coaching• <u>Phase 6b</u>: Deepening my PoA in my current working context 7 weeks (4 hours/week) at distance with coaching• <u>Phase 7</u>: Closing: recap / evaluation / final feedback 2 weeks (5 hours/week) by distance
Residential	<p>More details about the Uganda two-week residential session are available here.</p>



Audience

- Professionals in the humanitarian, development or social sector looking to develop their competencies as well as reflect and capitalize on their experiences.
- Professionals from other sectors who wish to increase their understanding of the humanitarian sector for a potential career change.
- Graduate students with relevant volunteer or intern experience, looking to undertake a postgraduate course with a view to entering the humanitarian sector.