Planetary Health

Credits	2 credits ECTS
Dates	30 September – 11 October 2024
Format	Online (combination of self-study time and live sessions). Live sessions are mandatory and take place 2-3 times a week, usually in early afternoon CET ***Online course requires 20-25 hours of dedicated work per week. We recommend that participants allow at least 50% of their time for the course and adapt their professional activity accordingly.***
Language	English
Fees	• **Full price**: CHF 1'700 • **Partner rate (MSF, ICRC)**: CHF 1'360 (20% discount) • **Special Rate for Government and NGO/CBO Staff**: CHF 850. Available exclusively to staff from local and national NGOs, CBOs, and government employees in low/middle-income countries. Proof of local employment and salary required.
Coordinator	Dr. Anne Golaz – anne.golaz@unige.ch

Course overview

Short description

Planetary health focuses on the changes humans are making to their environment and its multidimensional impacts on ecosystems and human health. Planetary health recognises that human health and the health of our planet are interconnected. This course aims to understand how essential it is to integrate a planetary health lens and strategy into humanitarian action. Its programme reviews how human-caused changes disrupt natural ecosystems, causing climate change, air and water pollution, biodiversity loss, disruption to our food production system, and changing patterns of diseases. It emphasises the importance of humanitarian organisations reaching out to help people at risk and working to reduce the environmental impact of their aid efforts. The planetary crisis is a public health crisis. Human and animal health depend on the wellbeing of the planet and its ecosystems.

Objectives of the course

At the end of the course, you will be able to:

- understand the importance of framing humanitarian crises through a planetary lens
- recognise the environmental crisis as a catalyst or exacerbator of humanitarian crises and that most vulnerable countries and people are most affected
- understand how climate change, pollution of air and water, biodiversity loss, disruption to our food production system, and changing patterns of diseases are affecting human health and healthcare systems
- analyse how acute climate-related shocks (e.g. floods, sea level rising) or chronic (e.g. drought and desertification) increase human mobility
- learn more about policies addressing the environmental crisis
- examine how organisations address environmental degradation through operational adaptation and mitigation practices to limit their ecological footprint
- utilise tools available to conduct environmental and health assessments

Workload

Around 20-25 hours of work each week, including:

1. Asynchronous self-study activities (such as case studies, videos, recorded slideshows, readings, etc.)
2. Synchronous live sessions

Structure of the course

- Definition and scope of planetary health
- Conflict and the environment
- Conflict-related issues and social/gender inclusion
- Food and water scarcity
- Infectious diseases
- Anticipating extreme weather events to reduce their impact
- Climate change, migration and health nexus
- Air pollution and health systems
- The loss of biodiversity

Prerequisites

Audience

- Professionals in the humanitarian, development or social sector looking to explore options for mitigation and adaptation to systemic disruptions of planetary health
- Professionals in the health sector who seek to develop their understanding of the interconnection between health, climate, environment and humanitarian responses
- Professionals from other sectors (policy making, donor agencies, government officials) who wish to develop their competencies in the health and humanitarian sectors

Distance Learning

- Broadband/high speed connection - 2.5 Mbps minimum.
- Please note that most weekly content and activities is accessible via phone, but a PC/laptop/tablet is preferred
- microphone and webcam

Admission requirements

1. a university qualification (Bachelor's degree or equivalent)

2. at least three years of relevant professional experience
3. excellent command of English
4. motivation working in the humanitarian sector