

NEW BBR E-LEARNING UNIT ON COMPLEX HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

The scale and scope of recent humanitarian emergencies, many of them complex combinations of natural disasters and human conflict, have resulted in an unprecedented number of people affected by crisis worldwide. The United Nations has reported that humanitarian actors provided services for more people in 2016 than they had since the UN was founded. To respond to the increasing amount of conflict present in more emergencies, a consortium of International Medical Corps, Concern Worldwide, and Harvard Humanitarian Initiative has launched an e-learning on complex humanitarian emergencies. Protracted crises now last longer and require multidimensional responses, which in turn necessitates that humanitarian staff have sufficient knowledge of the characteristics and challenges complex emergencies entail. This new e-learning aims to address these training needs for responders to complex disasters.

The e-learning on complex humanitarian emergencies is an addition to the Building a Better Response on-line course. The new course describes complex humanitarian emergencies, elements of coordination among humanitarian actors during such crises, and the challenges in responding to a complex humanitarian emergency. The on-line courses offered by Building a Better Response are free and flexibly designed to be taken in any order, can be accessed through hand-held devices, and the entire course is optimized to stream for low bandwidth usage.

First released in 2014, the Building a Better Response e-learning is available in Arabic, English, and French. To date, over 30,000 users have registered for the e-learning from over 190 countries.

The training, offered by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative at Harvard University in partnership with International Medical Corps and Concern Worldwide and funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, employs simulation-based learning to guide users through an interactive experience that builds their knowledge about humanitarian coordination.

In addition to the newly launched training on complex humanitarian emergencies, the online course offers learning on topics such as international humanitarian coordination, humanitarian funding and planning, and international law and humanitarian standards. Learners who successfully complete the online course will be granted a certificate from the Humanitarian Academy at Harvard. The online tool can be accessed at BuildingABetterResponse.org.