



## **INTRODUCTION TO HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS COURSE**

**Dates:** 10-11 December 2011 (9am – 5pm)

**Location:** Richmond, Melbourne

**Cost:** \$400

### **General Course Description:**

The AAI Introduction to Humanitarian Operations course is specifically designed for those individuals intending to work in humanitarian operations overseas, and provides an introduction into the many facets of humanitarian operations.

It is imperative that anyone wishing to volunteer or work in the humanitarian sphere conduct this course. This is an important course for you to complete in order to understand the humanitarian imperative and operating considerations. It is essential that anyone wishing to volunteer with AAI complete this course in order for us to ensure that all of our volunteers and staff are appropriately trained for the challenging and exciting humanitarian environment.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of this course participants will:

- Understand the humanitarian system, its organisations and the institutions that support it.
- Comprehend International Humanitarian Law.
- Understand disaster and emergency cycles and how responses are planned and coordinated.
- Possess an appreciation of the humanitarian imperative, minimum standards in relief work and what they mean to a humanitarian worker.
- Understand the benefits and difficulties of working within a team in ambiguous environments.
- Recognise and appreciate gender and cross-cultural issues in humanitarian operations;
- Possess an understanding of current security issues and considerations when working within a hostile environment.
- Identify the main personal health and hygiene issues for an international deployment and develop strategies to mitigate health risks.
- Gain information on career development, as it applies to the humanitarian sector and how to transition from volunteering to a professional career.

## **Course Units:**

### ***The International Humanitarian System (Context and Participants)***

This unit provides the framework for individuals and organisations working in the international humanitarian arena and how humanitarian sphere is organised. The unit also provides an insight into working in a co-operative manner with NGOs, governments, international institutions and commercial organisations who may be important in the humanitarian environment.

### ***International Disasters and Emergencies***

In this unit we examine the classification of emergencies and factors exacerbating crises and define important disaster concepts.

### ***International Humanitarian Law***

This unit provides an overview of the legal constraints and obligations that govern humanitarians working in the international community. An analysis is conducted of how states attempt to balance state security with the preservation and dignity of human life within a set of sometimes-ambiguous international treaties, agreements and obligations. Several case studies are reviewed during this module.

### ***Humanitarian Principles, Minimum Standards, Codes and Guidelines***

This unit introduces participants to the *Humanitarian Imperative* and the moral foundation of humanitarian endeavours. The unit also gives an introduction to SPHERE guidelines, what they mean to a humanitarian worker and a review of other important humanitarian codes and guidelines.

### ***Understanding Gender and Cross-Cultural Issues on Humanitarian Operations***

In this unit we examine gender and cross-cultural awareness and the implications on humanitarian relief operations, including personal and team behaviour.

### ***Preparing for a International Mission***

This very important unit gives students preparatory guidance in reference to equipment, organisation, physical and mental states and contingency planning.

### ***Priorities in Disasters***

This interactive lecture reviews the key priorities involved in disaster response programs. Students will be challenged to think about various priorities and how programs should be delivered so that the priorities are addressed effectively and efficiently.

### ***Working within a Team in a Relief Operation***

An entertaining lesson that focuses on team building and being a team member, both theoretically and practically.

### ***Personal Security Issues and Working in a Hostile Environment***

An outline of the global context of humanitarian relief today and the main risks confronting humanitarian workers. This unit also gives the student an understanding of risk assessment, and risk mitigation strategies.

### ***Choosing Humanitarian Relief work as a Vocation***

In this subject we examine professional and personal development planning for relief work and the ways for individuals to identify their strengths and weaknesses and means to develop their skills as relief workers. We identify what to do next, how to go about it and how to make contacts within key agencies.

### ***Opportunities to volunteer with AAI***

Participants that successfully complete this course will have the opportunity to register with AAI for international volunteer positions. AAI will endeavour to look for an appropriate match and consider your application for international volunteer positions. All volunteers will still be required to go through a selection process if a suitable position is identified.

## **Enquiries/Contacts:**

**Contact:** Emma Sturrock

**Phone:** 03 8319 0907

**E-mail:** [esturrock@aai.org.au](mailto:esturrock@aai.org.au)

**Apply online:** [www.aai.org.au/training](http://www.aai.org.au/training)

