



Disaster Response, Crisis Comm, & Public Health Recovery

6 – 10 December 2026
Geneva

Disaster Response, Crisis Comm, & Public Health Recovery

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Course Overview

Effective disaster response in public health environments requires rapid coordination, clear communication, and structured recovery strategies. Disaster Response & Crisis Communication: Public Health Recovery Training equips professionals with the skills needed to manage public health threats, strengthen crisis communication systems, and support long-term health system recovery. The course combines practical applications of public health crisis communication, disaster response training, emergency communication strategies, and public health emergency response into one integrated program.

Participants will gain the ability to evaluate crisis situations, respond with accurate and responsible messaging, and mitigate the spread of misinformation during high-pressure events. The training addresses essential areas such as risk communication in public health, health communication in disasters, public health disaster preparedness, and disaster recovery in healthcare. It also focuses on strengthening emergency health response systems and designing recovery strategies in healthcare that build resilience in disrupted environments.

By the end of the program, participants will understand how to manage communication across diverse stakeholders, support vulnerable communities, maintain continuity of care, and reinforce public trust during emergencies. This course is designed to enhance confidence, strengthen coordination, and improve overall public health crisis response.

Target Audience

- Public health professionals
- Emergency and disaster response teams
- Crisis communication staff
- Healthcare administrators
- Humanitarian operations personnel
- Epidemiologists and surveillance officers
- Disaster risk reduction units
- Health policy and regulatory staff

Targeted Organizational Departments

- Public Health & Preventive Medicine
- Emergency and Disaster Management Departments
- Crisis Communication & Media Units
- Healthcare Operations and Safety
- Disease Surveillance and Epidemiology Units
- Government Health Authorities
- Humanitarian Relief and Response Units

These departments directly support goals related to public health crisis communication, public health disaster preparedness, and public health crisis response.

Targeted Industries

- Government health agencies
- Hospitals and healthcare networks
- Humanitarian and relief organizations
- Emergency medical services
- Public safety and civil defense
- NGOs and development organizations
- Disaster risk reduction agencies
- Public policy and regulatory sectors

Course Offerings

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Apply structured disaster response training in real public health emergencies.
- Design effective public health crisis communication strategies.
- Implement emergency communication strategies to manage misinformation.
- Strengthen public health emergency response procedures.
- Develop disaster recovery in healthcare plans.
- Use risk communication in public health to guide community behavior.
- Lead public health disaster management initiatives.
- Enhance emergency health response systems and resilience planning.

Training Methodology

This course adopts an interactive, practice-driven methodology designed to mirror real disaster response conditions. Learning is structured around scenario-based exercises, group problem-solving, and crisis simulations that allow participants to apply concepts such as public health crisis communication, emergency communication strategies, and public health crisis response.

Case studies from diverse public health emergencies help participants analyze communication decisions, identify gaps, and propose effective countermeasures. Group workshops encourage collaborative crisis planning, message development, and stakeholder coordination aligned with public health disaster preparedness standards. Participants practice how to communicate with the public, healthcare teams, and leadership under time pressure.

Interactive role-plays simulate press briefings, emergency announcements, and coordination with multi-sector stakeholders. Reflection sessions allow participants to evaluate their decisions, build confidence, and refine communication approaches in line with crisis communication best practices.

By incorporating hands-on activities focused on disaster recovery in healthcare, health communication in disasters, and emergency health response systems, the methodology ensures participants leave with practical, applicable skills they can immediately implement within their organizations.

Course Toolbox

Insights and examples — tools are not provided.

- Crisis communication mapping templates
- Risk communication scenario exercises
- Disaster response checklists
- Emergency coordination flowcharts
- Stakeholder communication matrices
- Recovery strategy framework samples
- Public information briefing models
- Communication evaluation templates

Course Agenda

Day 1: Foundations of Disaster Response in Public Health

- **Topic 1:** Public Health Emergency Response Systems: Structure, Functions, and Activation
- **Topic 2:** Core Principles of Crisis Communication in Disaster Settings
- **Topic 3:** Identifying and Assessing Communication Risks, Misinformation, and Public Perception
- **Topic 4:** Coordination Mechanisms Among Health Agencies, Emergency Units, and Stakeholders
- **Topic 5:** Public Health Disaster Preparedness Frameworks and Readiness Planning
- **Reflection & Review:** Key insights from Day 1 and alignment with global public health response models

Day 2: Emergency Communication & Crisis Leadership

- **Topic 1:** Strategic Emergency Communication Techniques for High-Risk Situations
- **Topic 2:** Digital Media, Social Channels, and Information Flow During Public Health Crises
- **Topic 3:** Risk Communication Approaches to Guide Public Behavior and Compliance
- **Topic 4:** Crisis Leadership, Decision-Making Models, and Situational Prioritization
- **Topic 5:** Managing Rumors, Stigma, Panic, and Public Anxiety in Disaster Environments
- **Reflection & Review:** Evaluating communication effectiveness and leadership performance

Day 3: Disaster Operations & Health System Continuity

- **Topic 1:** Rapid Health and Needs Assessments in Disaster Zones
- **Topic 2:** Maintaining Emergency Health Services and Continuity of Care During Crises
- **Topic 3:** Surveillance Strengthening for Outbreak Detection and Real-Time Reporting
- **Topic 4:** Multi-Sector Response Coordination Across Health, Security, and Relief Organizations
- **Topic 5:** Ensuring Equity, Access, and Protection of Vulnerable Populations in Emergencies
- **Reflection & Review:** Operational challenges and solutions for resilient health systems



Day 4: Crisis Communication Planning & Implementation

- **Topic 1:** Designing Integrated Crisis Communication Plans for Public Health Emergencies
- **Topic 2:** Message Mapping, Public Briefings, and High-Clarity Information Delivery
- **Topic 3:** Ethical, Cultural, and Legal Considerations in Crisis Messaging
- **Topic 4:** Communicating with Diverse, High-Risk, and Difficult-to-Reach Communities
- **Topic 5:** Communication Monitoring, Feedback Loops, and Real-Time Strategy Adjustment
- **Reflection & Review:** Simulation and evaluation of a full communication cycle

Day 5: Disaster Recovery & Long-Term Public Health Resilience

- **Topic 1:** Health System Recovery Models and Post-Disaster Rehabilitation
- **Topic 2:** Restoring Essential Health Services and Rebuilding Care Pathways
- **Topic 3:** Community-Centered Recovery Strategies and Engagement Approaches
- **Topic 4:** Monitoring, Evaluation, and Measurement of Public Health Recovery Outcomes
- **Topic 5:** Building Resilient Health Systems and Strengthening Future Preparedness
- **Reflection & Review:** Comprehensive final simulation and full-cycle response assessment

FAQ

What specific qualifications or prerequisites are needed for participants before enrolling in the course?

Participants should have a basic understanding of public health, healthcare administration, or emergency management. Prior experience in crisis response is beneficial but not required.

How long is each day's session, and is there a total number of hours required for the entire course?

Each day's session runs approximately 4–5 hours. The full program includes 20–25 total training hours.

What is the most common communication challenge during public health crises?

The most common challenge is rapid misinformation spread, which can undermine public trust, complicate response operations, and delay essential health interventions.

How This Course is Different

This course stands out because it integrates both disaster response operations and crisis communication into one cohesive learning experience. Most programs focus on operational response alone, but this course emphasizes how communication directly influences the success or failure of public health interventions. Participants gain not only the technical skills needed for public health emergency response but also the communication expertise required to maintain public trust and alignment in high-risk situations.

The course uniquely combines public health crisis communication, disaster recovery in healthcare, risk communication in public health, and public health disaster management into a single, end-to-end framework. It examines how communication decisions affect outbreak control, resource coordination, community behavior, and long-term recovery.

The training uses high-impact simulations that mirror real-world scenarios, preparing participants to respond confidently under pressure. It also provides practical models and planning structures that can be applied directly in government, healthcare, or humanitarian settings.

Ultimately, the program equips participants with comprehensive, actionable skills that strengthen organizational readiness, improve emergency coordination, and support resilient public health systems during and after disasters.