

PROGRAM ON HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP



The Need for Humanitarian Leaders

The scope and scale of humanitarian crises has never been greater. The 2015 OCHA humanitarian appeal currently stands at \$19.7 billion to assist 82.5 million people, the largest figure recorded and one that is likely to grow to meet increasing humanitarian needs. At the same time, an increasing number and diversity of actors are playing a role in the delivery of humanitarian aid, a fact that necessitates a greater commitment to and understanding of coordination and programming. The ability to meet effectively the challenges of humanitarian emergencies requires both technical expertise and a professionalized humanitarian workforce.

Program on Humanitarian Leadership

To this end, Concern Worldwide, International Medical Corps, and the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, with technical support from Johns Hopkins University, are creating the Program on Humanitarian Leadership (PHL).

The PHL will combine an academic course focused on developing a core set of humanitarian leadership skills with focused and practical field placements.



Program Overview

In its first year, the course will be offered in person at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to a group of potential humanitarian leaders identified through a selective application process. These applicants will come from diverse backgrounds, including national NGOs, international NGOs, and graduate-level university programs. Utilizing the lessons learned from this initial in-person training, an online course will be developed for subsequent participants in the Program on Humanitarian Leadership.

Participants in the leadership course will be given the opportunity to take part in a large-scale humanitarian simulation, where they will take on leadership roles – such as cluster coordinators and NGO leads. This simulation will give program participants the opportunity to practice skills learned in the classroom immediately following instruction.

Finally, participants will take part in the field-based learning component of the program, with placements within Concern or International Medical Corps' field offices, or with the participants' own organizations, where they will be able to employ the skills they gained during the course in an actual humanitarian setting. While in their placements, participants will experience an ongoing learning component that will include

assignments that have to be completed by the end of the placement, as well as ongoing learning via an online platform.

Learning will continue beyond the course and field placement through participants' inclusion in a community of practice designed to provide participants with the opportunity to engage peers and mentors in conversations around important issues related to humanitarian leadership.

PHL Outcomes

By the end of this intensive process, which is estimated to take six months, participants will have the skills, knowledge, relationships, and confidence to take on leadership responsibilities within a humanitarian organization, ultimately improving the delivery of services to the increasing numbers of those in need of humanitarian assistance.

For additional information, including to sign up for e-mail updates on the selection process and application deadlines, please visit concernusa.org/project-profile/program-on-humanitarian-leadership or email concernus.phl@concern.net.

