Ethical Humanitarian and Development Practice in Urban Refugee Response

A Two-Day Simulation-Based Professional Development Course

"I asked UNHCR for help... They told me, 'if you don't like it, you can go to Zaatari [Camp].' I said: How can we live [in this city]? We can't work, you don't give us money. 'You can go to Zaatari,' they said."

-Syrian Interview Respondent, Irbid, Jordan, quoted in Stevens, 2016

Ethical Humanitarian and Development Practice in Urban Refugee Response is a two-day professional development course structured around an intensive in-class educational simulation. The course re-centres the human subjects of international interventions in the minds of experienced humanitarian and development workers, with a focus on the humanizing the "humanitarian-development nexus".

Course details

Course Length: 2 days
Language: English
Cost:

- $450 early-bird registration fee until Sept 1, 2019
- $550* course registration fee from Sept 1-31, 2019

Location: Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Course Dates: November 25-26, 2019

How to register

Visit www.llst.ca/upcoming-courses/ or contact us directly at info@llst.ca

What will I learn?

Participants learn to map the goals and motivations of stakeholders in the context of long-term displacement, and study how long-term displacement scenarios require a blend of development and humanitarian approaches. You will explore the complex social, political, and economic dynamics which arise from the interplay between key stakeholders in long-term crises. The course acts as a bridge between cutting-edge academic theory, critical "red teaming" approaches to complex challenges, and humanitarian and development practice.

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*Note that this is a reduced introductory tuition rate, and may not reflect the fees associated with future deliveries of this course.

Learning outcomes

In completing this course, participants will be able to:

- Describe linkages between **development and humanitarian practice** in long-term crises.

- Demonstrate an understanding of the **social and political dynamics** of urban refugee response scenarios, **the systems** which underlie those dynamics, and how **these systems relate to development goals**.

- **Map motivations and goals of multiple stakeholders** in urban refugee response, including those of refugees.

- Communicate possible **motivations and goals of people experiencing displacement,** and contrast them with common humanitarian assumptions and narratives.

- Describe and predict possible **breakdowns in international interventions** by discussing past examples.

- **Critically but constructively engage with humanitarian and development work** in general and their own work in particular, in order to improve the quality of humanitarian intervention.

Who should take this course?

This course is geared towards current development and humanitarian workers, government workers, and other donor staff who are interested in improving their practical understanding of urban refugee response scenarios in particular and improving their communication skills with target communities in general. Other interested parties are welcome to apply, but course material assumes a familiarity with humanitarian or development sectors.

Note that if you have taken previous Lessons Learned courses, the simulation portion of this course is functionally the same; however, the framing lectures and debrief highlight more advanced learning moments.

How does this course bring together humanitarian and development practice?

There is an increasing acceptance among humanitarian workers that displacement scenarios can no longer be viewed as emergencies, and instead require long-term development approaches to address the needs of "beneficiaries". While the chief case study of this course is refugee response, the themes of this course—stakeholder analysis, improved outreach to target communities, and an increased effort to understand goals and motivations of a wide range of actors—apply equally to development and humanitarian contexts.

I represent a donor organization. How is this course relevant to me?

Understanding how target communities and international interveners interact is a major theme of this course, with particular focus on goals and motivations of affected people. When donors better understand the needs and motivations of "beneficiaries" and how to look for signs of communication breakdown, donors will be better able to assess whether proposed projects will succeed in meeting the social and political requirements for long-term success.

Who are the instructors?

Course designer and instructor Matthew Stevens has worked with refugees and migrants globally since 2008, from downtown Cairo to the Peruvian Amazon. Most recently, he served as Country Director for an INGO in Amman, Jordan, delivering online higher education to displaced youth. Course Manager Johanna Reynolds is a global leader in the delivery of professional development courses for refugee response workers.

Lessons Learned courses are built around rigorously designed educational simulations, adapted from the "IN-Simulation" methodology developed by Prof. Natasha Gill (TRACK4) and the innovative simulation-based teaching methodologies of Prof. Rex Brynen at McGill University.

Cancellation policy

If, after paying for the course, you find you are unable to participate, Lessons Learned will be happy to reimburse the cost of tuition less a 10% administrative fee. Note that reimbursements can be processed until November 10th, 2019. Any cancellations made after November 10th, 2019 will not be reimbursed.

A note for international applicants

Please note that we currently do not have the capacity to support visa applications for participants applying from outside of Canada. Instead, we are more than happy to discuss arranging a delivery of our course in your country or region.

Stevens, M.R. (2016). The collapse of social networks among Syrian refugees in urban Jordan. Contemporary Levant, 1(1).