



# Humanitarian Ethics Course

25-26 November 2019

Coordinator: Dr. Caroline Clarinval (WHO, Health Emergencies Program)

Attendance: This course is open to IBME PhD students and external participants

## Summary

### Ethical challenges when responding to humanitarian needs

Conflicts and natural disasters affect entire populations and further exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities. Humanitarian action aims to meet the needs of people affected by disasters and seeks to decrease their suffering. While people and communities are not always capacitated to develop solutions to the multiple problems they face, they are usually the most experienced regarding the issues they face and are aware of the nuances regarding the challenges that affect their lives, health and livelihoods and possible solutions to address them.

However, the sheer magnitude of the needs, the limited financial and human resources, the geographical and cultural diversities humanitarian actors are confronted with are a source of distress. Today, a limited number of tools are available to guide humanitarian organizations when having to decide how to allocate the limited humanitarian resources fairly or on how to triage patients following mass casualty events in under resource-constrained contexts.

The objectives of this two-day course are threefold. First, the ethical challenges humanitarian actors face will be explored through selected case studies, including health care interventions and with the support of experienced humanitarian professionals from the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and academia. Second, the application of ethical frameworks assisting humanitarian aid workers in their decision-making process will be presented through a study carried out by a team of researchers from Johns Hopkins in the context of the Syrian crisis. Third, the *INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ETHICS PLATFORM* will be presented and questions will be answered by experts from academia and international organizations.

Registration can be done online using the UZH module booking tool:  
<https://www.students.uzh.ch/en/booking.html>

For further information, contact Dr Roberto Andorno, [roberto.andorno@uzh.ch](mailto:roberto.andorno@uzh.ch) or Dr. Caroline Clarinval, [clarinvalc@who.int](mailto:clarinvalc@who.int)

## Agenda

### Monday 25 November 2019

Time	Subject	Facilitator
9.00-9.15	Introductory words	Dr. Caroline Clarinval (WHO)
9.15-10.30	Introduction to humanitarian action and ethics	Dr. Caroline Clarinval (WHO)
10.30-11.00	<b>Break</b>	
11.00-12.30	Medical Ethics in Humanitarian Actions: Principles, Values, and Resilience	Dr. Jürg Kesselring (ICRC)
12.30-14.00	<b>Lunch break</b>	
14.00-15.30	Dilemmas faced by humanitarian health actors aiming at promoting access to health during conflict	Dr. Caroline Clarinval and Dr. Ali Okhowat (WHO)
15.30-16.00	<b>Coffee break</b>	
16.00-17.00	Applied humanitarian ethics: Case discussion # 1	All

### Tuesday 26 November 2019

Time	Subject	Facilitator
9.00-9.15	Recapitulation day # 1	Students
9.15-10.30	Applied humanitarian ethics: Case discussion # 2	All
10.30-11.00	Coffee break	
11.00-12.30	Applied humanitarian ethics: Case discussion # 3	All
12.30-14.00	Lunch break	
14.00-17.00	Humanitarian ethics. Expert group discussion	IBME participants, Prof. Nikola Biller-Andorno (IBME), Dr. Leonard Rubenstein and Dr. Courtland Robinson (Johns Hopkins School of Public Health), Dr. Matthew Hunt (McGill University), Dr. Jürg Kesselring and Dr. Paul Bouvier (ICRC), Dr. Ali Okhowat, Dr. Caroline Clarinval (WHO)

## Suggested reading material

- Clarinval C (2018), *Stop missing the point: managing humanitarian action well*, in Humanitarian Action and Ethics (edited by Ahmad A and Smith J), ZED books
- Clarinval C, Biller-Andorno N, (2014), *Challenging operations: an ethical framework to assist humanitarian aid workers in their decision-making processes* (Public library of science currents disasters, 2014. Available at <http://currents.plos.org/disasters/article/challenging-operations-an-ethical-framework-to-assist-humanitarian-aid-workers-in-their-decision-making-processes/>)
- WHO training manual (2015) contributing author to WHO's training *manual Ethics in epidemics, emergencies and disasters: Research, surveillance and patient care*, available at [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/196326/1/9789241549349\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/196326/1/9789241549349_eng.pdf)
- Clarinval C, (2014) *Humanitarian values: a neglected debate*, Proceedings International Committee on Military Medicine, Workshop on Military Medical Ethics
- Clarinval C, Hunt M, (2014), *Disaster, displacement and justice: Powers and Faden's theory of social justice and the obligations of non-governmental organizations' towards Internally Displaced Persons*, *Bioethica Forum* (vol. 7, issue 2, p. 60-69). Available at: [http://bioethica-forum.ch/docs/14\\_2/07\\_Originalartikel\\_Clarinval\\_Hunt.pdf](http://bioethica-forum.ch/docs/14_2/07_Originalartikel_Clarinval_Hunt.pdf)
- Clarinval C, Ahmad A, (2015) *Conceptualizing phases of disasters: the drop loop model*, Disaster Prevention and Management, Asian Bioethics Review, vol 7(1), p. 81-97.
- Hugo Slim, Humanitarian Ethics, [file:///Users/carolineclarinval/Downloads/irc\\_97\\_1-2-22%20\(1\).pdf](file:///Users/carolineclarinval/Downloads/irc_97_1-2-22%20(1).pdf)
- Fiona Terry, *Condemned to Repeat? The Paradox of Humanitarian Action* (Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY, and London, 2002)