
Humanitarian Negotiations

An advanced course for humanitarian practitioners jointly organized by Conflict Dynamics International and swisspeace
Effective delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection often requires negotiation with a broad range of actors in difficult operational settings. Humanitarian practitioners need the skills and the knowledge to manage such negotiation processes in order to succeed.

Conflict Dynamics and swisspeace are holding a three-day advanced negotiation course which is tailored to the specific circumstances and challenges facing humanitarian workers.

Issues addressed in the course include negotiating humanitarian access in situations of armed conflict, and interacting with non-state armed groups. The dynamic training provides a structured, yet hands-on approach on the state-of-the-art in humanitarian negotiations, and reflects content developed through training and practice of negotiations in places such as Afghanistan, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Somalia and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Objectives
The primary objective of the course is to enhance humanitarian practitioners’ ability to prepare for and conduct humanitarian negotiations to achieve better humanitarian outcomes.

In pursuit of these overarching objectives, the course seeks to:
- Help humanitarian practitioners improve personal and team skills in negotiation and communication;
- Assist practitioners in working through dilemmas in humanitarian negotiation;
- Increase humanitarian practitioners’ awareness of the negotiation process and their own negotiating behavior;
- Share an operational framework and analytic tools to prepare for and conduct more effective and structured humanitarian negotiations.

Methodology
The training course is highly interactive and combines presentations and discussion sessions with role play exercises and group work. The methodology reflects a blend of two policy- and skill-based methodologies:
- Interest-based negotiation (IBN) theory and methodologies;

The training is unique as it is based on the UN policy guidance on humanitarian negotiations, as well as on field experiences of UN and non-governmental humanitarian workers.

Participants
The training is designed for a maximum of 30 humanitarian practitioners at mid and senior level who are closely engaged in humanitarian negotiations. Due to a limit on the number of participants, applications will be confirmed taking into account the date of registration, gender balance, and geographical and professional diversity. Participants must be fluent in written and spoken English and are required to be present throughout the course.

Program
The training course will last for three full days and will include, but not be limited to, the following topics:
- Frameworks and methods for humanitarian negotiations;
- Communication and relationship strategies;
- Specific humanitarian issues (e.g. humanitarian access and non-state armed groups);
- Multi-party negotiations;
- Dilemmas in humanitarian negotiations.

Organizers
Conflict Dynamics International has delivered seminars and advanced training workshops on humanitarian negotiations for partners in locations spanning Europe, Africa, and Asia. Organizations that have received such training or seminars since 2006 include: the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF); World Food Programme (WFP); World Health Organization (WHO) and Humanitarian Coordinators Induction Learning System.

The swisspeace Mediation Program offers tailor-made trainings that are highly interactive and aim at fostering learning in terms of knowledge and skills. It has conducted such trainings on a broad range of issues related to negotiation and mediation in diverse settings.

Facilitators
The facilitation team is made up of highly experienced professionals bringing expertise in the areas of negotiation theory, humanitarian policy, international law, as well as their own field experiences of negotiations.

Dates & Venue
The training will take place at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy GCSP (www.gcsp.ch) from September 19 (afternoon) to 22 (lunch time) 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Course Fees
The fees for the course are CHF 1000 for NGOs and CHF 1500 for governments and intergovernmental organizations. The costs for meals, transport and accommodation are not included.

Registration
Applications should be sent to HumanitarianNegotiations@swisspeace.ch. The deadline for application is 15.7.2011. Please also enclose a CV.

Contact
Further information can be obtained from:

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