

UNITED NATIONS CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION COURSE (UN-CMCoord Course)



UN-CMCoord
UNITED NATIONS HUMANITARIAN
CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION



The **UN-CMCoord Programme** is a six-day residential course delivered by the **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)** and **coordinated in Spain by Helsinki España**, with the aim of strengthening coordination and joint response capacities among civilian, military, and humanitarian actors in emergency situations.

The course promotes appropriate and effective humanitarian civil-military interaction, in accordance with UN-CMCoord standards and principles, and provides participants with the knowledge, tools, and skills required to contribute to a coordinated, timely, and effective response to humanitarian crises, natural disasters, and emergencies arising from climate change.

The training brings together personnel from humanitarian organizations, civil society and volunteer organizations, civil protection services, military personnel, public authorities, and other actors involved in emergency preparedness, coordination, and response.

Within this framework, Helsinki España coordinates the organization and delivery of the course in Spain, facilitating coordination between OCHA, participating institutions and organizations, and the various national stakeholders involved in emergency preparedness and response.



COURSE CONTENT

Throughout the training, participants will acquire knowledge and practical tools to:

- Participate effectively in coordination and response mechanisms for humanitarian and climate-related emergencies, contributing to preparedness and response within the UN-CMCoord framework.
- Strengthen collaboration and dialogue among humanitarian, civilian, military, and community actors.
- Take an active part in timely and coordinated decision-making and action in support of an effective response.
- Promote a humanitarian response based on the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and inclusion, facilitating the provision of the right assistance to the right people, at the right time, and in the most appropriate way.
- Identify the specific needs of vulnerable groups in emergency situations, including older people, children, persons with disabilities, and people at risk of social exclusion.
- Understand the role of civil-military coordination and logistics mechanisms, including Military and Civil Defence Assets (MCDA), in supporting the humanitarian community and facilitating the provision of assistance.
- Strengthen community preparedness and territorial resilience in the face of extreme weather events, floods, and other complex emergencies, incorporating lessons learned from recent experiences to improve response and adaptive capacity in future emergencies.



LEARNING AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

By the end of the UN-CMCoord Training Course, participants will be able to:

- Define the concept of humanitarian civil-military coordination (UN-CMCoord) and explain its key principles.
- Describe, in their own words, the purpose and key messages of the four global civil-military coordination guidelines.
- Describe the role and responsibilities of OCHA in the context of UN-CMCoord preparedness and response.
- Assess the UN-CMCoord environment in their operational context by mapping relevant actors, identifying key coordination and liaison structures, and determining the scope of humanitarian civil-military relations in natural disasters and complex emergencies.
- Identify and analyse key civil-military coordination issues and explain possible approaches to address them, including military support to humanitarian response, the protection of civilians, the use of Foreign Military Assets (FMA) and/or Military and Civil Defence Assets (MCDA), as well as security-related issues and the use of armed escorts.
- Identify coordination mechanisms among social, institutional, and operational actors in emergency contexts.
- Analyse emergency situations and map relevant actors to facilitate coordinated responses focused on the needs of affected people.
- Identify risks and specific needs among vulnerable groups.
- Understand tools and procedures for the safe and effective distribution of humanitarian assistance and basic services.
- Apply coordination and communication strategies in climate-related emergencies, floods, and rapidly evolving disasters.
- Apply principles of inclusion, protection, and non-discrimination in the planning and implementation of humanitarian and community-based responses.



APPLICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Following the training, participants will be able to:

- Play an active role in support of humanitarian civil-military coordination, contributing to a coordinated response to humanitarian and climate-related emergencies.
- Advise their respective organizations on civil-military coordination structures and principles and on liaison mechanisms with other actors.
- Facilitate coordination among social organizations, public authorities, and other response actors present in the operational context.
- Promote responses based on dignity, protection, and priority attention to the most vulnerable people.
- Uphold humanitarian civil-military coordination principles and advocate for people in need of humanitarian assistance.
- Build trust and confidence among civil-military coordination actors through professionalism, dedication, and organizational integrity.
- Perform their coordination role with greater confidence, professionalism, and effectiveness in complex and rapidly changing emergency contexts.
- Contribute to strengthening community resilience and territorial preparedness for future emergencies and extreme weather events.
- Transfer acquired knowledge to other volunteers, organizations, and community networks, promoting the multiplier effect of the training.
- Support spaces for civic participation and community collaboration aimed at improving preparedness and response capacity in crisis situations.



PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT AND COMMITMENT

Following their participation in the UN-CMCoord Training Course, participants will:

- Value the training positively and strengthen their commitment to humanitarian principles, solidarity, and coordinated action in emergency situations.
- Become part of a network of people trained in humanitarian coordination and response, fostering knowledge exchange, territorial collaboration, and continuous learning.
- Increase their confidence and ability to collaborate with the different actors involved in emergency management, including social organizations, public authorities, civil protection services, healthcare personnel, humanitarian organizations, and logistical support teams.
- Recognize the training as useful and relevant to improving preparedness and response to humanitarian and climate-related emergencies in their respective environments and communities.

FACILITATORS

The course will be delivered by a specialized team comprising:

- Course Coordinator / Lead Facilitator (OCHA).
- Three Co-facilitators / Technical Subject-Matter Experts on civil-military coordination, including inter-agency representatives.
- One administrative support and course documentation specialist (OCHA).

The facilitation team brings national and international experience in civil-military coordination, humanitarian action, and emergency response, ensuring that the training is aligned with international technical standards and responsive to the operational contexts in which it is applied.



METHODOLOGY

The training combines the official UN-CMCoord approach with **a dynamic, and action-oriented learning model** designed to prepare participants for real-life humanitarian emergencies, climate-related crises, and situations of high social vulnerability.

The programme combines intensive face-to-face sessions with digital preparatory activities. Prior to the residential component, participants will access introductory materials and online contextualization sessions to establish a common knowledge base and foster group cohesion.

The methodology includes:

- Distance learning and web-based preparatory sessions, including webinars.
- Facilitated discussions and participatory approaches.
- Teamwork and practical exercises to enable participants to apply the concepts and information presented.
- Simulations based on real-life emergency and community response scenarios.
- Case studies aimed at strengthening coordination among volunteers, social organizations, public authorities, armed forces, civil protection services, and other response actors.
- Analysis of recent emergencies involving extreme weather events, floods, and humanitarian crises.
- Experience-sharing and peer learning among participants from diverse backgrounds, fostering support networks and territorial cooperation.
- Shared learning activities involving communities, military personnel, and civil protection teams, promoting inclusive, coordinated, and context-sensitive approaches to the needs of affected populations.
- Plenary presentations and opportunities for group discussion.
- Written assignments, both during the preparatory phase and as part of the evaluation process.

The approach prioritizes **active participation, peer learning, and immediate practical application**, strengthening participants' ability to act in a coordinated, inclusive, and effective manner in support of affected communities.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The programme is intended for people working with humanitarian organizations, social organizations, civil protection services, military forces, public authorities, and other actors involved in emergency preparedness, coordination, and response.

Applicants should have:

- Expertise or experience in humanitarian affairs and assistance, coordination, operational support, emergency relief, and response.
- Recent experience in responding to an international humanitarian emergency.
- Excellent oral and written English, which is essential for active participation in the course.
- Experience in social action, volunteering, community engagement, or emergency management is considered an asset.
- Motivation to strengthen coordination and response capacities in humanitarian and climate-related emergency contexts.
- The ability to work effectively in teams and participate in multicultural and collaborative environments.

Completion of the UN-CMCoord eCourse is not a mandatory requirement for participation.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

The application process begins with the publication of the course announcement and the opening of the application period, usually through **ReliefWeb**.

Applicants will be required to complete the application form and provide information about their professional experience, particularly experience related to humanitarian action, emergency management, coordination, or international operations.

Once the application period has closed, OCHA and the course team will conduct a selection process among the applications received.

The aim is to create a diverse and balanced group, including participants from United Nations entities, humanitarian organizations, NGOs, national authorities, and military forces, in order to promote the exchange of experience and knowledge.

Selected applicants will subsequently receive confirmation of their participation and information regarding the course, travel, accommodation, and other logistical arrangements.

COURSE DETAILS

LOCATION Alfaz del Pi (Alicante)

DATES The programme is held once a year, in October.

LANGUAGE English

DURATION

The programme is a six-day residential course, comprising 44 training hours, delivered from Sunday to Friday through morning and afternoon sessions.

COST, ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Participation in the programme is free of charge for selected participants.

- Organizers and partner institutions will cover accommodation, meals, and training materials for the duration of the programme.
- Sending organizations will be responsible for travel costs and, where applicable, relevant allowances or per diem.

CERTIFICATE

Participants who successfully complete the training programme will receive a certificate of participation issued by OCHA.

They will also become part of a network for knowledge exchange and collaboration aimed at strengthening community capacities and specialized volunteering in emergency and humanitarian crisis contexts.

¡ÚNETE A NUESTRA RED!



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