

COURSE OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE COURSE

The Fundamentals of Humanitarian Action course introduces learners to the legal, ethical, and operational foundations guiding humanitarian work in situations of armed conflict and crisis. The course provides essential knowledge on International Humanitarian Law (IHL), humanitarian principles, protection frameworks, and accountability mechanisms that shape humanitarian response worldwide.

LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

- ✓ **Explain** the foundations and purpose of humanitarian action within international law frameworks.
- ✓ **Distinguish** between International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law, and International Criminal Law.
- ✓ **Identify** persons and objects protected during armed conflict under IHL.
- ✓ **Analyze** humanitarian responsibilities toward civilians, vulnerable groups, and affected populations.
- ✓ **Examine** accountability mechanisms addressing violations of humanitarian law.
- ✓ **Assess** emerging humanitarian challenges including technology, gender dynamics, and non-state armed actors.

KEY COMPETENCIES GAINED



Apply humanitarian principles in conflict and crisis settings



Interpret legal protection frameworks guiding humanitarian operations



Recognize protection risks affecting civilians and vulnerable populations



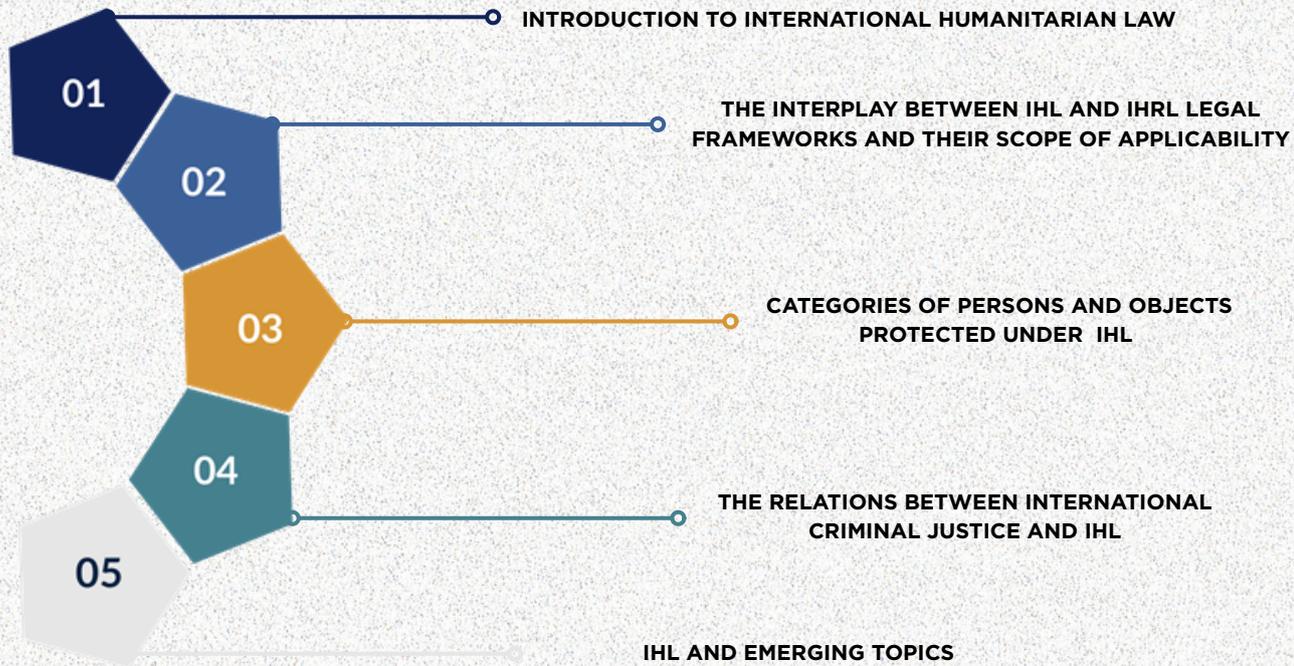
Navigate ethical dilemmas in humanitarian decision-making



Adapt humanitarian responses to evolving conflict realities

COURSE OVERVIEW

COURSE PATH



COURSE HIGHLIGHTS



Applies humanitarian law and principles through real-world conflict and crisis case studies.



Connects legal frameworks to practical humanitarian decision-making and field operations.



Developed by practitioners with experience in humanitarian response and protection contexts.



Structured as interactive, scenario-based learning focused on applied understanding.

DESIGNED FOR



Who It's For

- NGO and UN staff working in crisis response
- Program officers and protection specialists
- Students and early-career professionals seeking foundational humanitarian knowledge



What It Builds

- Foundational Knowledge
- Understanding humanitarian law, protection principles, and conflict classifications.
- Operational Awareness
- Ability to interpret humanitarian obligations in real response environments.
- Professional Readiness
- Capacity to engage responsibly in humanitarian programming, coordination, and protection-focused work.