As of 4 April 2020, there have been 1,056,159 cases and 57,206 deaths confirmed worldwide due to COVID-19. Global spread has been rapid, with 207 countries and territories now having reported at least one case\(^1\).

The last time the world responded to a global emerging disease epidemic of the scale of the current COVID-19 pandemic with no access to vaccines was the 1918-19 H1N1 influenza pandemic\(^2\).

As the COVID-19 pandemic progresses, countries are increasingly implementing a broad range of measures intended to reduce transmission by reducing contact rates in the general population and to reduce the health impact of the epidemic.

2 Imperial College COVID-19 Response Team. (16 March 2020). Impact of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) to reduce COVID-19 mortality and healthcare demand. Imperial College London.
Disasters such as pandemics pose a major challenge to human health and development. COVID-19 illustrates the profound impact disasters have on health systems.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recommend scaling up implementation of holistic disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies and plans as means to improve resilience to disasters globally.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and its Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) jointly the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) are offering this e-learning course to present the Public Health System Resilience Scorecard as a tool to assess public health systems capacity to address aspects of disaster planning, mitigation and response. The scorecard is a 10-point check list to evaluate to what extent disaster risk management strategies integrate public health considerations.

The Scorecard addresses issues related to pandemics, epidemiology, health supplies chain management, underlying health risk factors and vulnerable group management, health data, tracking and alerts for communities, quarantine, and surge capacity. All issues which are very relevant to deal with the COVID-19 crisis.
GENERAL OBJECTIVES

In line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and SDG 3.D, this e-Learning Course aims to contribute to strengthening the capacity of government officials for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health threats.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

a. Describe the key elements of the Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management Framework

b. Identify public health related issues and disasters

c. Explain the term public health system

d. Evaluate to what extent health is integrated into disaster risk reduction strategies at national and local levels
Target Audience

- Government officials
- Health professionals
- Disaster management professionals
- Academic and training institutions working on DRR

Format

The e-Learning Course is comprised of 2 modules that can be covered over the period of 1 week:

Module 1: · Concepts
  · Introduction to the Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management Framework of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Module 2: Public Health System Resilience Scorecard
To participate in the course:

Register here

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