

# IFRC-TISS Certificate Course in Disaster Management



Tata Institute  
of Social Sciences

In partnership with:



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
[www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org) Saving lives, changing minds.

## About the course:

Since its inception in 1936, the **Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)** has worked closely with government bodies, academic institutions, NGOs, activist groups, bilateral and multilateral agencies, the media and communities. The TISS community has been involved in disaster-related interventions since 1947, such as the post-Partition Kurukshetra Relief Camps.

The **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian organization, providing assistance without discrimination to around 30 million people annually. Bringing emergency relief to refugees and victims of poverty and disasters has been a key activity of the International Federation and its member National Societies for more than 80 years.

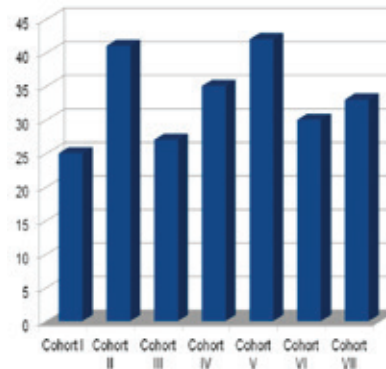
In 2012, the **International Federation of Red Cross and Crescent Societies (IFRC)** and the **Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)** pooled their wealth of experience and expertise to establish a global **Online Certificate Course in Disaster Management**, anchored at TISS in Mumbai.

Six cohorts have participated in the course so far, with the seventh now in process and admission for the eighth cohort, beginning.

### How is this course unique?

- » Offers both *academic and practical approaches*.
- » Includes a *compulsory field practicum component*.
- » Exposes participants to *new and emerging focus areas and technologies* while building a *solid contextual background*.
- » Aims at maximum inclusivity through *flexible admission criteria* and *bursaries* for highly motivated and deserving applicants.
- » An *integrated programme* grounded in the values of *justice, equity and social inclusion*.

The **Online Certificate Course in Disaster Management** draws on the wealth of practical experience of international humanitarian agencies, and pairs it with the academic rigour of one of India's premier centres of higher education and research. It effectively conjoins the Strategic Aim 1 of IFRC's



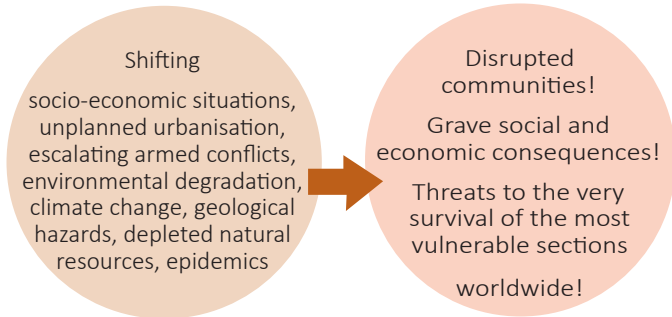
(Participation in IFRC-TISS Online Certificate Course in Disaster Management, Cohort I-VII (2003 – 16))

Strategy 2020 to “save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises” with the commitment of TISS to the provision of excellence in higher education.



## ...But Why Study Disaster Management?

2011: Fewer natural disasters registered than the average annual disaster frequency from 2001 to 2010 – but massive consequences! A total of 30,773 people killed and 244.7 million victims worldwide. Economic damages estimated at US\$ 366.1 billion -- the highest ever registered.



This shows that there is a clear and urgent need for professionally trained, well-informed and socially-committed Disaster Management personnel globally.

This course could **equip you to be part of the solution**, to be a part of the force working in a **professional, holistic, humane and integrated** manner to mitigate the impact of disasters and to build more resilient communities worldwide.

*“The course allowed me to increase my understanding of the basics ... and gain knowledge on the key theoretical concepts as well as existing approaches to disaster management. I am now well equipped to continue deepening my DM knowledge through field work and practice.”*

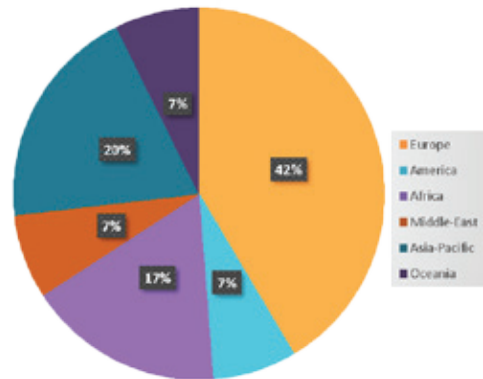
Kenneth Baato Rogers, Cohort II  
UNOCHCR, Humanitarian Affairs Officer  
Head of Sub-office Malakal, Upper Nile State

## Is this course for me?

YES, if you:

- » can *understand, read and write English* at a Post-Graduate level of study
- » are *motivated enough to study independently* and meet your deadlines and course commitments
- » are *willing to participate* in online discussions that may make you question your existing assumptions and ideas in the area of study
- » are interested in equipping yourself with a *deep and contextualised knowledge* of disaster management and humanitarian response.

The online course on Disaster Management attracts participants from a wide range of professional, academic, cultural and national backgrounds. *Candidates from developing countries and those working in the humanitarian field receive priority for admission.* Course applicants hail from diverse nations and regions, as the graphic of Cohort II participants shows:



The professional/academic backgrounds of participants are equally diverse – senior humanitarian professionals working with esteemed organizations such as **IFRC, United**



**Nations, Action Aid, MSF** and **Oxfam** participate in the course along with those who simply have a strong desire to learn (more) about disaster management, as well as graduate and post-graduate students, academics and researchers.

This rich diversity of experience, existing knowledge and cultural contexts adds to the course content, helping participants arrive at a *finely-nuanced understanding of disaster management*.

### What will I learn and how?

*22 credits...8 modules... 1 term paper... 1 month-long field practicum...online discussions...tasks to do... assignments...*

The online Certificate Course in Disaster Management is a *one-year post-graduate level certificate course of 22 credits*. The course is delivered entirely online; participants can fulfill the course requirements from the country where they are based.

As a participant, you will *be introduced to the methodology of the online classroom* and the tools for communication and interactions. You will also be *guided through practical exercises* and will have the opportunity to ask questions about the process.

This course addresses all stages of disaster management in a comprehensive and holistic manner, including:

#### I. Pre-disaster preparedness and mitigation

#### II. Rescue and relief in the context of disaster and

#### III. Post-disaster rehabilitation, reconstruction and recovery.

##### Engaging participants...

*"In order to keep the participants engaged in the learning process we either post a question on the discussion forum or give them a task to do/quiz, every week. The participants of both the cohorts have shown a good number of responses in the discussion forums... Responses from experts are also uploaded ... This kind of engagement improves the understanding and also provides the opportunity to share experiences ..."*

- Faculty member

Each session in a course will have some **compulsory reading, illustrative case studies** and **audio-visual material** from diverse contexts. The key components

of the course are:

#### **Six credit modules:**

- » Introduction to Development
- » Humanitarian Principles, Laws and Standards in Disaster Management
- » Introduction to Hazards, Vulnerabilities and Disasters
- » Disaster Risk Reduction and Development Planning
- » Geo-informatics and Information Communication Technologies in Disasters.
- » Disaster Response and Recovery

#### **Two compulsory non-credit components:**

- » Learning to Learn and
- » The World of Red Cross/Red Crescent

#### **Two additional compulsory components:**

- » A supervised and graded Term Paper
- » A month-long Field Practicum /Internship – perhaps the most vital component of the course which brings together all the key theoretical learnings

#### **Assessment:**

- » Assignments, quizzes and monitored participation in discussion forums.
- » The assessment method for each course is communicated at the start of the course by the tutor and students have to maintain the minimum grade for passing.

*"Online learning is significantly more time consuming than I had anticipated, but it's worth it. The depth of the material we've seen...has been extremely valuable for me in placing the Humanitarian Action into context... I'm confident it will help me approach the challenges in the field in a more meaningful and strategic manner."*

Andres Cabrera

Cohort I

WATSAN Specialist, Colombian Red Cross

## The Structure of the Course

### Modules

#### » Learning to Learn (Non-credit):

An introduction to the methodology of online classrooms and the tools for communication and interactions. Guided practical exercises. Gaining an understanding of course structure, method of delivery and assessment.

#### » World of Red Cross and Red Crescent (Non-credit)

Introduction to the world of the Red Cross, its work in the field of disaster management and discussion of IFRC's Strategy 2020.

#### » Module 1: Introduction to Development (2 Credits)

The key objective of this module is to equip students to examine basic concepts related to development, including human development and sustainability, in order to understand disasters and evolve meaningful sustainable responses to them.

#### » Module 2: Humanitarian Principles, Laws and Standards in Disaster Management (2 Credits)

This module provides a clear understanding of humanitarianism and humanitarian principles underlying the response to natural disasters and conflicts. It highlights the need for accountability and transparency during disaster responses through various practical examples and illustrations. It also looks at various facets of applying humanitarian standards in disaster contexts.

#### » Module 3: Introduction to Hazards, Vulnerabilities and Disasters (4 Credits)

This module aims to develop a conceptual understanding of hazard, exposure, risk, vulnerability and disaster. It explains how vulnerability (internal susceptibility or defenselessness) and hazard (an external event) interact to create disasters and discusses various perspectives and approaches to Disaster Risk and Vulnerability Assessment.

#### » Module 4: Disaster Risk Reduction and Development Planning (2 Credits)

The objective of the module is to develop knowledge and a critical outlook on the different frameworks, approaches and methods for disaster prevention, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

#### » Module 5: Geo-informatics and Information Communication Technologies in Disasters (2 Credits)

This module introduces students to Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Geo-Informatics Technology (GIT) and their use in planning, mitigation, and response in disaster situations.

#### » Module 6: Disaster Response and Recovery (4 Credits)

A basic introduction to concepts relating to Organized Response; Nature and Type of Immediate Response Disaster Management Plans; Key Response Functions, including Public Health, Logistics and Governance; Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction; Economics and Financial Aspects of Recovery and Reconstruction.

#### » Module 7: Term Paper (2 Credits)

The term paper is a self-study paper in which the participant is encouraged to explore the intricacies of a specific topic far beyond what is possible to cover within the units in each module. The process of writing the term paper will enable participants to find and analyse relevant information and convey conclusions and recommendations to others – whether peers or the disaster management community.

#### » Module 8: Internship / Field Practicum (4 Credits)

The Internship or Field Practicum in the Certificate Programme aims to enable the participants to develop a broader national and international perspective on disaster management. The overall thrust will be to focus on issue-based work and complex emergencies for a period of 4 weeks. This could be linked to the term paper. It may be based with organizations engaged with high quality research or practical work in the field of disaster risk reduction. It may also be based with any of the UN systems or government structures. The participants would need to engage in on-going DRR/Response programmes in their respective locations.

### Methodology and Assessment – at a glance:

- » Conducted entirely by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) through **MOODLE** (Modular Object-Oriented Learning Environment), an online e-learning platform.
- » Consists of **22** credits with **8** modules.
- » Participants study, complete the internship and term

paper in their country of interest.

- » Duration of the course is **12** months.
- » The programme has been designed to recreate a classroom learning environment in an online platform. Participants will engage fully with the programme content and with their peers via lectures, discussion boards, group work, online chat, question and answer sessions.
- » Includes online course work together with supervised and graded field internship.
- » Assessment will cover long- and short-term assignments, participation in the discussion forums and weekly tasks.
- » For successful completion of the course, it is mandatory to participate in all the course activities which would be assessed by the concerned course faculty.

*The course requires strong commitment from the participants and they are expected to devote approximately 8 to 10 hours online per week for their study.*



## Course Faculty

**Professor T.Jayaraman:** School of Habitat Studies, TISS, Mumbai.

**Dr. Vineet Kohli:** Asst. Prof., School of Development Studies, TISS, Mumbai.

**Dr. K.M. Parivelan:** Assoc. Prof., School of Law Rights and Constitutional Governance, TISS, Mumbai.

**Dr. Shibu Mani:** Asst. Prof. Jamsetji Tata School of Disaster Studies, TISS, Mumbai.

**Ms. Parama Bhattacharya:** Sen. Prog. Manager, Jamsetji Tata School of Disaster Studies, TISS, Mumbai.

**Dr. Sohini Sengupta:** Assoc. Prof., School of Social Work, TISS, Mumbai.

**Dr. P. K. Shajahan:** Prof., School of Social Work, TISS, Mumbai.

**Dr. Guru Balamurugan:** Asst. Prof., Jamsetji Tata School of Disaster Studies, TISS, Mumbai.

**Dr. Abhijeet Jadhav:** Asst. Prof., Jamsetji Tata School of Disaster Studies, TISS, Mumbai.

**Dr. Mhd. Irshad:** Asst. Prof., Jamsetji Tata School of Disaster Studies, TISS, Mumbai.

**Ms. Janaki Andharia:** Prof., Jamsetji Tata School of Disaster Studies, TISS, Mumbai.

**Dr. Jacquleen Joseph:** Dean, Jamsetji Tata School of Disaster Studies, TISS, Mumbai.

**Mr. Mahesh Kamble:** Asst. Prof., Jamsetji Tata School of Disaster Studies, TISS, Mumbai.

## Guest Faculty by Invitation:

**Mr. Aloysius Rego:** Ex-Deputy Executive Director and Director of Disaster Management System Team, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center.

## Practical Information

### Who can apply?

The programme targets a wide variety of DM learners-practitioners globally, IFRC and National Society volunteers and staff at all levels, and others interested in disaster management and humanitarian response.

### Entry requirements

- » Second Class Bachelor's Degree (minimum) or the overseas equivalent. Applications are judged on merit and exceptions to this entry requirement may be made. Applicants who do not have a Bachelor's Degree or the overseas equivalent may apply if they demonstrate (via a personal statement) that they can communicate clearly, are highly motivated, and have experience of prior learning.
- » Candidates from developing countries and those working in the humanitarian field will receive priority. Up to 50 qualified participants will be selected to participate in each course.
- » Basic computer skills and Internet access are required.

### Language of Instruction

The medium of instruction is English. Applicants must have adequate knowledge of the language to work with post-graduate level academic texts, discuss complex concepts with other course participants and write essays at the appropriate level.

### Annual Timetable and Application Timeline

The course starts in April and September each year. It concludes 12 months from the start of the programme.

### Cohort VIII Timeline

Application process begins for Cohort VIII	June 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2016 (including bursary applications)
Bursary applications process ends	August 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2016 (23: 59 hrs IST) (GMT+5.30hrs)
Non-bursary application process ends:	August 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2016 (23: 59 hrs IST) (GMT + 5.30hrs)
Beginning of Cohort VIII	September 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2016

### Selection process for Cohort VIII

TISS and IFRC will select up to 50 qualified participants from those who apply, inclusive of bursaries, to attend this course in Cohort VIII. The selected candidates will be informed through email.

## Fees

Participant Type Fees* IFRC and National Societies' Participants	USD 990
TISS Alumni	USD 990
Standard Program Fee	USD 1,980

*\*Fees once paid are non-refundable although admissions can be transferred to the next cohort in exceptional cases.*

### Bursary/ Scholarship

A limited number of bursaries are on offer to those who demonstrate most need and merit. Applicants for the bursary should complete the bursary section in the application process and ensure that they demonstrate the need for this support in their application. The selection process will be completely on merit and means basis. **The last date for bursary application for Cohort VIII is August 1 2016 (23: 59 hrs IST) (GMT +5.30 hrs).**

### Qualification Received

Successful candidates will receive a **Certificate in Disaster Management** issued by the Tata Institute for Social Sciences, India.

### How to apply

Applications must be submitted online through <http://ifrc.tiss.edu/>

Additional inquiries can be addressed by email to [onlinedm@tiss.edu](mailto:onlinedm@tiss.edu)

*"I believe that the course is absolutely perfect for the students who want to venture into the Disaster Management field. It provides a lot of outlook and information for those already working in the field but lacking some information. The topics are extremely interesting and the people working on the content and administration are very committed which makes a participant feel less alone and more appreciated knowing there is a 'human being' at the other end of the email correspondence."*

Irma Salihovic, Cohort II participant  
SOS-Kinderdorf International, Bosnia and Herzegovina

# Global Distribution of IFRC Participants

Cohorts I - VI

