

Report from nine-week course on “Health in Emergencies and Refugee Health

I would like to thank Norwegian Research School of Global Health (NRS GH) for providing me a grant to attend a course in Copenhagen on “Health in Emergencies and Refugee Health”. I found information about this course from NRS GH website and found interesting and relevant to what I have been doing in my project. This course was relevant to my PhD project “Quality Improvement in Emergency Health Care in a Local Hospital in Nepal”. Nepal had gone through the devastating earthquake in April 2015 affecting thousands of people. I had an opportunity to be part of the team in managing earthquake casualties in a local hospital in Nepal. The situation was chaotic in first days and there is a need to develop a local health system/infrastructure to respond and manage casualties during disasters like earthquake.

This course was five ECTS course that combines seven weeks of on-line learning (27 March to 12 May 2017) and two weeks of on-campus learning (15 to 26 May 2017). I thoroughly enjoyed the online part of the course although it was lot of readings every week. However, it was interactive full of knowledge with audio-visual presentations by the expertise and good discussion within the groups. It was nice to have self-testing exams every end of the week, which helped to practice for final exams. The most beautiful part was to meet experts and emergency response leaders during two weeks in Copenhagen. Two weeks on-campus was with lectures from different expertise in health response during disasters/emergency followed by group works. We had an opportunity to listen and discuss on the current issues on response during humanitarian crisis and management from representative of WHO, UNICEF, MSF, Red Cross and Red Crescent. The course content provided knowledge on different possible health problems during different disasters, health preparedness and response, the importance of communication and coordination, research in disaster/conflict settings and humanitarian law and protection. Within the course, we had an opportunity to visit UNICEF warehouse that provided an impression of logistics storage and supply operations. Besides the course, social gathering helped us to know each other and share our work experiences in the diverse field. This was a great opportunity for me to explore and make a connection with people from all over the world in diverse field. We have been communicating with each other through social media in order to share our challenges and work and receiving valuable feedbacks. It boosts my academic knowledge and network with different experts when required.

This course was well organized. I would highly recommend this course for those who are interested working in the field of disaster/emergency health care management and refugee health. Also highly recommended for those who are planning to work generally in the

humanitarian organization (WHO and UN organization). This course also provides an overview of different activities through UN organizations and other INGOs.



During a visit to UNICEF ware house in Copenhagen