Humanitarian policies and practices have undergone significant transformation in the latter part of the 20th century. The economic, social and political context within which emergencies unfold are more complex, producing multi-dimensional emergency environments, with blurred lines between military and humanitarian and development interventions. New perspective and theories have emerged that seek to link initial response to longer term development and incorporate, amongst others, critical aspects of security, gender, sustainability and protection. Minimum standards and codes of conduct have emerged alongside the development of international treaties and laws that set out the rights of those impacted by emergencies. Whilst these instruments seek to protect those who find themselves in emergency humanitarian situations, they also cast a spotlight on accountability for those who deliver humanitarian aid. The number and diversity of actors involved in a major emergency response has grown significantly and encompasses organs of state, UN agencies, international and local NGOs and the private sector. While there is tacit acknowledgment that collaboration and coordination is key to effective humanitarian programmes, the growing complexity of actors within the humanitarian arena has made this an increasingly challenging task. The modern humanitarian professional, be she a frontline aid worker or senior level manager has to grapple with and synthesise complexities across different governance and intervention spheres.

“My view on issues like African development and our constant painful problems of the continent was changed by this course. I think 20 years down the road when I decide to run for elections in my country, the principles you have taught me during these last six weeks will still be at the front of my mind.”
Bob Kalanzi (Uganda) UNDP – NEPAD Capacity Development Partnership – Platform Officer

The University of the Witwatersrand’s Graduate School of Public and Development Management’s offers two stand-alone competence certificates, which when combined, are designed to equip the 21st century emergency, humanitarian and development worker with the skills and analytical capacity to engage effectively within this challenging sector. Participants who complete both courses have an option of sitting for an examination with the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine for the award of a professional Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance.
The programmes are designed for practitioners and policy-makers such as NGO workers, government staff, staff of multilateral agencies such as the UN, the media, civil society, donors and persons wishing to enter the humanitarian field. A University degree or equivalent professional qualification/experience is required. There is space for approximately 10-15 people from any one organization, particularly targeting senior staff from across the African region. There will be a maximum of about 50 students on the programme.

The programmes will:

• Provide participants with the awareness, understanding and skills essential for effective action as individuals and as members of a team.
• Identify and promote standards of good practice in humanitarian and emergency responses.
• Encourage cooperation and dialogue between governmental, non-governmental, national and international agencies involved in response action.
• Examine strategies for early warning and prevention of humanitarian crises.
• Create a more effective synergy between emergency humanitarian interventions and programmes promoting sustainable development.
• Address humanitarian priorities across Africa and build a professional practice.

Please call Thandiwe Mlangeni on +27(0)11 7173505 or email thandiwe.mlangeni@wits.ac.za
For further information and application forms go to:
http://www.wits.ac.za/academic/clm/certificate%20programmes/15840/humanitarian_assistance.html

“"The programme places perspective on all emergencies. It defines roles of the major actors and leaves the student the ability to critique current policies and practices to the benefit of those in need. Humanitarian science being so young leaves enormous scope for its development and implementation to the benefit of all mankind."

Pieter Pretorius,
Ekurhuleni Metro Police – Superintendent
Certificate in Humanitarian Policy

The **Humanitarian Policy Certificate** maps and interrogates the contextual, conceptual and institutional frameworks surrounding humanitarianism in the 21st century and analyses the challenges inherent in responding to a rapidly changing and highly political global arena, with a strong focus on the African continent.

**Module 1: Humanitarian Practice and Development**
This module analyses historic and current humanitarian theories and perspectives, as a basis for building a critical policy perspective on the political economy of humanitarian assistance. It interrogates the relevance of specific humanitarian principles in the context of the politicization of aid, shrinking humanitarian space and an emergency-development divide. Building on an exploration of theories, perspectives and emerging developments within the humanitarian space, participants will develop an understanding of the factors that will shape humanitarian action in the future and will be able to conceptualize and shape appropriate policy responses.

**Module 2: Emergency Response and Sustainability in Africa**
This module critically examines humanitarian responses in Africa, the unique challenges faced and the complexities embodied in historic and unfolding interventions. It incorporates an examination of instruments and mechanisms for protection and interrogates the current security-development nexus, particularly in relation to conflict resolution, reconstruction, and the blurring military-humanitarian lines. Drawing from the challenges and interventions, participants will be able to shape, negotiate and design broad strategic emergency response interventions.

**Module 3: Humanitarian Policy and the Institutional Environment**
This module explores the relevance, impact and influence of multilateral instruments and institutions on national and local level humanitarian, disaster or emergency action. It incorporates an examination of the relevance and challenges embodied in humanitarian, displacement and refugee laws and related instruments. It explores the institutional, coordinative, accountability and communication challenges that emerge within a crisis situation. Participants will be able to ensure that laws and codes are upheld at the local level and hence ensure accountability and responsible action within the response space.
Certificate in Humanitarian Practice

The Humanitarian Practice Certificate equips professionals with the skills and appropriate behaviour - incorporating analytical awareness and an appreciation of humanitarian complexities from the previous module - in order to manage and carry out effective, smart and accountable humanitarian operations.

Module 1: Priorities in Emergency Response
This module focuses on practical planning and management of the operational process in emergencies, recognising the importance of establishing priorities based on the actual needs of those affected. Emphasis is placed on leadership and management for humanitarian action, including project management, communications, financial and human resources management and monitoring and evaluation. Finally, the module covers an essential overview of public health in the context of mass displacement and inadequate health services.

Module 2: Specialist Elective:
Participants choose one of the following modules running in parallel:

A. Health management in emergencies
This module introduces participants to evidence-based practice approaches to managing healthcare, applying a development and disaster lens. It deals with the fundamentals of disease control, environmental health and hygiene promotion, HIV/AIDS and TB in emergencies, immunisation campaigns, including cold chain and vaccination team management, managing nutrition programmes, tackling sexual violence and trauma and mental health in emergencies.

B. Water, sanitation and logistics management in emergencies
In view of the continuum from disaster to development, technical responses need to not just respond to immediate needs, but also be cognisant of the post-disaster context which requires sustainable responses. In order to do this the module develops students’ knowledge of a range of technical interventions for emergency, post-disaster and developmental contexts. It takes a practical look at water purification, storage and distribution, hygiene, sanitation and environmental management, logistics and supply chain, aid distribution management and the various levels of sustainability of technical strategies.

Module 3: Applied Humanitarian Operations Management
In this module, participants take part in an intensive simulation allowing them to practically apply the knowledge and skills gained through previous modules and to appraise their behaviour in a high-stress environment. A full debriefing will ensure capitalisation of experiences collective and individual.