

The first Certificate of Open Studies in Community Health for refugees in humanitarian settings

More than 70 students across InZone campuses - located in refugee camps in Kenya, Niger and Jordan - are enrolled in a new, credit-bearing certificate programme in Community Health.

This innovative academic format will take learners from a variety of nationalities (including Somalian, Burundian, Congolese, Syrian, and Nigerians) through a learning journey of nine months. It will equip them with the knowledge and skills to support their local health system and contribute to improving the well-being of their communities.

InZone, the Faculty of Medicine, and local health organizations (e.g., International Rescue Committee in Kakuma, Save the Children and Emphnet in Azraq) designed and developed the programme. It boasts contributions from 40 experts and practitioners from the Medical Faculty, University Hospitals of Geneva, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UNHCR, MSF, Visual Exchange, and others.



The programme covers the fundamentals of community health (e.g. maternal and child health, infectious diseases) and addresses emerging challenges in humanitarian settings (diabetes, hypertension, mental health, climate change). It introduces innovative methods and approaches such as One Health and artificial intelligence. Leveraging the blended learning format, the course combines online learning, field projects and workshops.

The aim is to allow students to learn and practice in hospitals and labs, staying in close contact with the local communities.

Following the pilot year, in 2024/2025 the programme will be made available in French and Arabic to non-English speaking refugee communities.

Certificate of Open Studies in Education in Emergency: Bridging Global Perspectives for Crisis Education

The Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences at the University of Geneva, in collaboration with the Abdou Moumouni University of Niger and InZone, launched a joint academic programme.

Over the next seven months, 35 refugees and educational practitioners will delve into the theoretical and practical aspects of education in emergencies. Challenges such as migration, poverty, terrorism, climate change, and ethnic conflicts will be analysed from an interdisciplinary standpoint.

The course aims at enhancing students' comprehension of national and international tools essential for guiding educational initiatives for refugee and internally displaced children and youth.

Participants will have the opportunity to craft innovative pedagogical activities geared toward promoting protection, development, and learning during emergencies.

The programme embodies a cooperative approach, involving academic and educational practitioners from both the global north and south. Such a collaboration model ensured the curriculum's relevance to the West African context.



The course's 6 modules were collaboratively developed by the University of Geneva and Niamey, in close partnership with humanitarian organizations active in the field of Education in Emergency in Niger – UNHCR, Concern Worldwide, Save the Children, World Vision, Yara, AEDL.

The course is associated with 12 ECTS credits and is available in French. Plans to expand its global accessibility include the development of English and Arabic versions.

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The Fab Lab opens in Azraq camp

A fabrication laboratory is a maker space. Equipped with a range of computer-based digital fabrication tools, the Fab Lab is an open environment where innovation and creativity are fostered. In a refugee setting, it is a tool to overcome barriers and connect the refugee community with solutions to the challenges they encounter in their daily life.

No previous knowledge or expertise is needed. The Fablab is open to all camp residents. The expertise that counts is brought by the community itself, which understands the humanitarian context and specific problems better than anyone else.

Through the Fab Lab network and its peer-to-peer learning system, lab users in Azraq will be able to interact with fellow digital makers around the world.

"The Fablab", says Ba'haa, InZone's expert in digital fabrication, "is a way to remove third-party mediation and let local creativity and resourcefulness grow, leading to new, grassroots solutions".



Architectural scale models, small manufactured devices, textiles, as well as software design solutions – these are but examples of a potentially endless list of application areas.

"Almost anything can be made in the Lab," says Ba'haa, "we look forward to being surprised by what users will be able to do".

The FabLab is an accelerator: thanks to the support of the InZone team and the latest generation technology – 3D printers and laser cutting tools – prototypes and models can see the light immediately, fostering knowledge acquisition regardless of educational credentials.

The new Fablab is located at InZone's centre in Village 3.

Podcasting Unleashed: Voices from Azraq Camp

In October 2023, an innovative podcasting workshop was offered to camp residents in Azraq, Jordan. Eleven participants - Syrian women and men spanning various age groups and backgrounds - set out to discover the art of podcast creation, guided by InZone's partners at Chahut Média, a Geneva-based independent agency.

Over four days of intensive training, they learned how to explore original ideas, script, record, edit, and share their voices through podcasting.

Individually and in groups, they delved into three main podcast formats: "solo," "news report," and "interview" styles, trying their hand at each. The result is an impressive array of topics that the podcasters brought to light, including ways to imagine the future through the lens of higher education, resilience, the beauty of learning a language, and the passion for elite football.



The student podcast projects will make their official debut at the University Refugee Forum, which will take place in Geneva on December 12th. InZone and Chahut Média will share the making of this groundbreaking project through a documentary podcast that will premiere during the event.

GET INVOLVED

Become a language tutor to support refugee students

InZone's tutoring scheme allows volunteers from around the world to build skills and bridges with fragile communities by joining an international team supporting refugee learners studying languages.

Find out more and join our team now!

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ABOUT US

InZone is a programme of the University of Geneva which pioneers innovative approaches to higher education in communities affected by conflict and humanitarian crisis. The ultimate goal is to empower people on the move stranded in transit countries.



FIND US

Université de Genève
Boulevard Du Pont D'Arve, 28
1205 Genève
inzone@unige.ch

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