

2025 | 2026

From Climate Crisis to Health

Transformation: A Planetary Approach



Credits

2 ECTS



Dates

28 September – 9 October 2026



Format

Online (combination of self-study time and live sessions). Live sessions are mandatory and take place twice a week, usually in early afternoon CET.

This online course requires 20-25 hours of weekly work. To fully engage in learning activities, we recommend that participants take some time off and adjust their professional activities accordingly, with flexibility in working hours.



Language

English



Fees

- **Full price:** CHF 1'700
- **Partner rate (MSF, ICRC):** CHF 1'360 (20% discount)
- **Special Rate for Government and NGO/CBO Staff:** CHF 850. Available exclusively to staff from local and national NGOs, CBOs, and government employees in low/middle-income countries. Proof of local employment and salary required.



Course Faculty

Prof. Karl Blanchet (karl.blanchet@unige.ch); Dr Zoe Sangalli



Short description

Climate change and environmental degradation represent significant determinants of health for populations worldwide. They add further stress to populations affected by armed conflict and displacement, particularly in low-resource settings where resilience and preparedness are harder to build and sustain. These forces act as drivers and amplifiers of conflict and displacement and increase exposure to infectious diseases and pollution created by toxic remnants of war. A substantial proportion of these changes is caused directly or indirectly by countries that are less exposed to their consequences and are better equipped to face them. Health systems need to be responsive to these compound crises, provide care without undermining the ecological systems that sustain health and make sure that new programs do not exacerbate climate injustice.

This intensive executive course provides practical tools to design and lead a planetary health intervention—from advocacy to implementation—under conditions of uncertainty, limited data, and competing priorities. Working from real-world cases, participants combine structured project design with applied communication, prioritisation under planetary constraints, and a justice-oriented implementation lens.



Learning outcomes of the course

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

- Analyse existing evidence on the effects of climate change on health, health systems and population displacement
- Apply a planetary health lens to analyse links between climate and other environmental hazards, health risks, and vulnerability in a selected healthcare or humanitarian context
- Define a clear organisational problem statement and map key pathways, stakeholders, and leverage points
- Formulate an evidence-informed intervention logic and a communication plan tailored to a target audience
- Implement key economic principles and approaches linking planetary boundaries and human well-being, including alternatives to continued GDP-focused growth
- Make trade-offs explicit using a sufficiency/planetary boundaries lens (what scales up, what shifts, what stops)



Workload

Around 50 hours of work over 2 weeks, including:

1. Asynchronous self-study activities (readings, short videos, case material)
2. Group work on a shared project (iterative design rounds and short submissions)
3. Synchronous live sessions (case discussions, collective reflection, and group project review)



Structure of the course

- Week 1: Planetary health foundations and problem mapping
- Week 2: Evidence-based interventions and plans for advocacy



Audience

- Professionals in the humanitarian, development, or social sector who want to strengthen their skills in health-related work and planetary health action
- Professionals from other sectors (e.g., policy, donor agencies, government, or the health sector) who want to improve their understanding of how health and humanitarian systems can respond to climate and other environmental risks
- Graduate students with relevant volunteer or internship experience who wish to undertake a postgraduate short course as preparation for work in the humanitarian sector



Admission requirements

1. A university qualification (Bachelor's degree or equivalent)
2. At least three years of relevant professional experience
3. Excellent command of English

Application deadline and registration:

