

Risk Management through a CHS lens for Humanitarian & Development Professionals

HQAI invites you to take part in this tailored training course on Risk Management. This practical training course is designed to support humanitarian and development professionals in understanding how to identify, monitor, prevent, and mitigate risks – from financial and reputational threats to operational and programmatic risks and how meeting the CHS requirements will enhance an organisation's management of risks.

What is Risk Management and why should you attend this training course?

Risk management is a structured approach to identifying, assessing, and responding to risks that could affect an organisation's ability to achieve its objectives and deliver its mission. In the humanitarian and development contexts, these risks include operational, financial, reputational, programmatic, security, and compliance-related threats.

Risk management helps to prevent and mitigate systemic failures, ensures continuous improvement in bottom-line performance, and supports organisational resilience by identifying and mitigating risks before they arise and escalate. Risk management also strengthens governance and accountability, ensuring that risks related to compliance, operational effectiveness, and ethical considerations are systematically addressed. When integrated with the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), risk management becomes a powerful tool to uphold humanitarian, quality & accountability principles, and strengthen trust with crisis-affected communities, donors, and partners.

In today's humanitarian landscape, organisations face mounting financial pressure and growing donor scrutiny. In this context, effective risk management is not only essential for ensuring principled, accountable, and safe aid delivery, it is also a key indicator of an organisation's maturity and reliability. Robust risk management shows stakeholders that the organisation has strong internal controls, foresight, and governance mechanisms to navigate uncertainty and deliver on commitments. To donors and partners, risk management provides greater assurance partner organisations are equipped to handle risks effectively, reducing financial and reputational exposure.

Training overview

The training will provide a comprehensive introduction to risk management, with a strong focus on its practical application in humanitarian and development work.

Participants will explore:

- Key definitions, principles, processes, standards and frameworks of Risk Management
- Risk identification, classification, ownership, and mitigation techniques
- How to build and use a risk register
- Stress-testing models and analysing results
- Identification of major risks in humanitarian operations (operational, reputational, financial, environmental, ...)
- How risk management is embedded across the CHS and how to integrate CHS requirements within a risk management framework
- Risk-sharing when working with partners, CHS requirements and the IASC Risk Sharing Framework

Training format

1. **Self-paced e-learning module** to cover key concepts and terminology. Access to the e-learning will be shared two weeks before the live sessions.
2. **2-day live online training**, focused on practical exercises and tools, case studies and real-life scenarios, and interactive discussions. **Participants are encouraged to bring a real case or example from their own organisation. During the live sessions, they will have the opportunity to apply what they learn directly to their context, work on it throughout the activities, and receive feedback from facilitators and peers.**

Learning objectives

By the end of the training, participants will be able to:

- ✓ Understand the risk management cycle, framework, and its core concepts
- ✓ Identify, assess, document, prioritise, classify, and monitor different types of risks using practical tools
- ✓ Develop risk registers and mitigation strategies to reduce or control risks, leading to minimized organisational disruptions and ensuring resilience and smoother operation, including during times of crises
- ✓ Understand how to align and embed risk management with CHS requirements
- ✓ Understand how to share risks when working with partners and along the aid delivery chain

Who Should Attend?

The course is open to anyone seeking to improve their knowledge of Risk Management in the humanitarian and/or development sectors, in particular: professionals working with the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) or involved in managerial or governance roles, Quality Officers/Managers, Programme Officers/Managers, Risk & Compliance Officers/Managers, Internal Auditors, MEAL professionals, ...

Delivered by Experts

This training is hosted by HQAI (Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative) and delivered by Peak Governance Business Advisors Ltd which specialises in all aspects of corporate governance, including risk management, internal controls, ESG, CSR, and EDI.

HQAI is a professional, not-for-profit and non-governmental organisation and an independent auditor for the humanitarian and development sector. Its objective is to improve the Quality and Accountability of organisations working with vulnerable and at-risk populations through the provision and promotion of meaningful and adapted independent quality assurance. Its services are intended to build capacity in the sector and provide consistent measurable data in the delivery of quality action, thus improving principled, accountable, efficient provision of aid to vulnerable and at-risk populations.

Practical information

- **Duration:** Self-paced e-learning module + 2 full days online training.
- **When:** 18-19 March 2026, from 9h am to 5 pm CET. Access to the e-learning will be provided on 2 March 2026.
- **Where:** E-learning on Talent LMS ; Live online session via Microsoft Teams
- **Cost:** 699 CHF excluding VAT
- **Registration & payment deadline:** 30 January 2026

Register Now

Spots are limited - reserve yours today at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VYRPWXF>

Disclaimer

To maintain HQAI's impartiality, this training will not provide participants with tailored guidance on how to achieve conformity with the CHS, CHS Certification or Independent Verification. Instead, it will focus on explaining risk management principles and their link with the CHS, ensuring that participants are empowered to apply these concepts and independently develop their own risk management solutions. By keeping the training structured and non-prescriptive, HQAI ensures that participants retain ownership over their risk management strategies, allowing them to develop solutions best suited to their unique operational realities, governance structures, and cultural context.

Questions?

Contact us at: smorais@hqai.org

