Preparring the next generation of humanitarians

Who we are
The Humanitarian Leadership Academy (the Academy) is a global learning initiative with a mission to enable people to prepare for and respond to crises in their own countries. To achieve this, the Academy acts as a catalyst for the improved quality, accessibility and sustainability of humanitarian learning.

We support the development and recognition of skills through our platforms, products and services, so that humanitarian work is more effective, immediate, and local – saving lives and safeguarding livelihoods.

What are the challenges facing the humanitarian sector?
It is widely recognised that humanitarian crises are becoming more frequent, widespread and complex, and the humanitarian sector is not equipped to address these increasing demands. We simply don’t have enough experienced people and resources to respond in the critical first hours of a crisis when most lives are lost. If we don’t adapt and dramatically increase our capacity to respond, the consequences will be catastrophic.

How are we making a difference?
Collaboration is central to achieving maximum reach and impact. The Academy is working with a diverse range of partners including humanitarian professionals and non-traditional responders at a local and global level to curate, create and share learning and knowledge. By supporting people at the grassroots level, we are enabling them to be better prepared for a disaster, respond quicker and have increased resilience after a crisis.

"While the scale and duration of humanitarian crises around the world has stretched the humanitarian sector to its limit, global challenges such as political impasses in the face of crises, climate change, fragility and growing economic inequality, or pandemics, point to increasing humanitarian need in the future. This is a crucial time to invest in enhancing local capacities, reducing risk and building effective and inclusive institutions, especially in fragile contexts." UN Secretary-General, 2017
We are making relevant, contextualised learning accessible to everyone, everywhere.

Our digital learning platform, Kaya: making learning accessible to everyone
Launched in May 2016, Kaya is an award-winning online platform hosting free humanitarian learning. Kaya offers over 400 courses covering a wide range of topics such as project management, coaching and mentoring, wellness and resilience, and the humanitarian standards.

Over 100,000 humanitarians are currently learning on Kaya. The highest number of users come from countries which are currently experiencing some of the worst disasters on earth.

HPass: recognising humanitarian learning, skills and experience
We are working with a consortium of partners to ensure a more consistent approach to professional development and skills recognition for humanitarians.

Our network: developing and contextualising learning
We are partnering with organisations in countries or regions affected by crisis to ensure that our offer is meeting the needs of local actors.

These network members will produce and collate learning, knowledge and innovations informed by the latest insight, technology and best practice in their region.

Our products and services: supporting organisations with the professional development of their staff and volunteers
We offer a range of products and services designed to enable organisations to support the professional development of their staff and volunteers operating in humanitarian crises.

Whether you want to give your staff better access to quality learning opportunities or simply make your own e-learning content more widely available, we have something to suit your organisation’s specific needs.

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We support individuals, organisations and learning providers. How can we work with you?

Individuals
We can help you access online and offline learning and receive accreditation for your skills and experience.

Whether you are a volunteer or a senior humanitarian professional, we have courses for you on Kaya.

Organisations
We can offer your organisation a range of products and services designed to enable you to support the professional development of your staff and volunteers operating in humanitarian contexts.

Learning providers
We can help you deliver learning that conforms to international quality standards and certify this through digital badges.

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HPass is an online platform that aims to build a community of humanitarians, organisations, and learning and assessment providers, united by their commitment to recognise that people are our greatest asset in an emergency response and therefore need to receive high quality training and be able to evidence their skills.

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Innovation underpins everything we do
We aim to uncover new ways of creating and delivering learning to users in different cultures and contexts. This includes scanning, testing, and scaling the latest learning technology solutions from within and outside of the humanitarian sector.

Gamification in learning
We are using gamification to train humanitarian staff more effectively. Gamification introduces role playing, storytelling, scenarios, peer-to-peer feedback and simulation exercises to create and deploy games for highly engaging learning in the humanitarian sector.

360 films and interactive virtual reality
We are using low-cost, low-tech virtual reality to help immerse humanitarian volunteers and staff in virtual crisis situations and build empathy.
These make the learning experience even more engaging and immersive.

Artificial intelligence in education
We are exploring how artificial intelligence can help to provide personalised content relevant to individual learners in their particular contexts – ideally before a disaster even happens.

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