Georgia Tech Center for Health & Humanitarian Systems (CHHS) Offers Professional Education Certificate in **Health & Humanitarian Supply Chain Management** Virtually to International Cohort

The Health & Humanitarian Supply Chain Management (HHSCM) Certificate Program was offered in a new interactive virtual format this year. Practitioners from 9 countries including Philippines, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Chad, Nigeria, and Zambia participated in the program, representing private sector, government, and non-governmental organizations such as UNICEF, US Department of the Air Force, World Health Organization, Sanivation LTD, USAID Deliver Project, The Carter Center, and Plan International USA.

The participants’ passion and motivation to improve their skills and knowledge for making a positive impact brought them together in the virtual HHSCM program, which covered Responsive Supply Chain Design and Operations, Inventory Management and Resource Allocation, and Systems Operations and Strategic Interactions in Supply Chains. The three week long virtual program took place July 13-30, with shorter daily meetings compared to the intense 6-day schedule of the former in-person program.

Program content included topics of distribution network design, strategies for managing inventory and uncertainty, resource allocation, and systems dynamics. The 2020 cohort had a unique opportunity to gain relevant insights on a broad range of activities from preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters and health emergencies to strengthening and managing health systems.
Participants had high praise for the HHSCM program, highlighting the importance and relevance of the practical applications explored in the course and how they plan to incorporate their new skills and knowledge in their current and future work. Abimbola Ibraheem, Supply Chain Coordinator for Plan International Nigeria, commented that the lessons learned in the HHSCM program will enable his organization to make more effective supply chain operations decisions and optimize the allocation of donor resources. In doing so, Abimbola feels the organization will have a greater, more lasting positive impact on the communities and beneficiaries it serves.

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Sushan Tedla, Pharmacist at German Medical Aid Organization, stated, “I intend to incorporate some of the forecasting tools and supply chain optimization tools and calculations for my current work, specially while prepositioning for future disasters.”

The virtual course setup and organization enabled students and instructors to engage in a unique way. Hands on exercises, games, and discussions of case studies in breakout rooms supported small group interactions, networking, and sharing of ideas and experiences. Bonaventure Haandondo from United Nations World Food Programme commented, “The group Breakouts sessions were very good, and gave us time to interact with other students.”

The courses were led by CHHS Director Pinar Keskinocak and former CHHS co-directors Özlem Ergun and Julie Swann, who are currently professors at Northeastern University and NC State University, respectively. Guest instructors included Sheereen Brown from the Task Force for Global Health, Dima Nazzal (Director of Professional Practice from the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Georgia Tech), and Paulo Gonçalves from the University of Lugano.

Thanks to the generous support from The UPS Foundation, several scholarships were awarded to a subset of the HHSCM program participants. The UPS Foundation has been a strong supporter of the HHSCM program for the past nine years, contributing to workforce development across health and humanitarian systems worldwide and positively impacting many organizations and the constituents they serve.

Thanks to this cohort and past alumni, we have been able to continue our educational outreach beyond borders and make a difference across the world.

2020 Program Reach: Participants have lived or worked in over 24 countries, representing 9 nationalities

For further information on the Certificate in Health & Humanitarian Supply Chain Management, please visit: https://chhs.gatech.edu/professional-education.