

## **The importance of preparatory courses for nursing personnel**

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Recent social changes have influenced education and work in health related jobs. Advances in the areas of medicine and patient care have led to an increase of know-how, which in turn needs to be integrated in the daily work of health professionals.

No matter how good the basic education is, it can not provide all the necessary knowledge for such jobs. Certain areas of patient care and medicine require qualifications that can only be gained through additional specialised training and education. The same goes for people who want to work in the fields of medical emergency relief and humanitarian aid.

Multidisciplinary knowledge and skills are necessary for the work of a health professional in developing countries. Patient care plays an important role in these countries. Unusual and unexpected working conditions in the field often pose problems to health professionals from industrialised countries and can lead to frustration.

In many developing countries there is a lack of trained medical personnel and nurses often have to fill in as “allrounder“. He or she is at the same time nurse, midwife, conflict manager, coordinator etc. and they are responsible for the training and supervision of local colleagues.

The goal of humanitarian aid programs and development politics is to create a framework of conditions for further improvement of countries in need. Medical professionals who come to work in such countries need a wide range of skills, a sense of teamwork and knowledge about the concept of primary health care; further knowledge in management, planning, implementation and evaluation of projects is beneficial.

Medical professionals working in the field of humanitarian relief are constantly faced with many challenges. They will only be able to deal with these challenges if they have been trained properly for this special kind of operations. Being prepared will not only help to avoid disappointment but is also necessary to achieve set goals.

