

**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO**

**POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH SECTOR DISASTER**  
**MANAGEMENT – MARCH 2024**

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Time:** 9.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon

**STRUCTURED ESSAY QUESTION PAPER (SEQ)**

**Answer all five (05) questions.**

**Each question to be answered in a separate book.**

1. A massive landslide has been reported in an area in Badulla district. Seventy five (75) families (approximately 300 persons) have been evacuated to a nearby school. You are the district disaster management focal point of Colombo district and have been instructed to form and lead a team from Colombo. You are scheduled to reach the school on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day after the incident and supposed to stay on site/nearby for two nights.
  - 1.1. Name five (05) common ailments that you are likely to encounter and could be managed successfully on site. (10 marks)
  - 1.2. Outline the composition of your team with a justification for selecting each member to the relief team. (30 marks)
  - 1.3. Describe briefly how you would coordinate and organize the relevant drugs, equipment, and other medical supplies to carry with you. (30 marks)
  - 1.4. Discuss briefly the logistic challenges you expect to encounter in this mission. (30 marks)

Contd...../2-

2.

2.1. Give one (01) example each for following disasters that happened in the world.

2.1.1. Major chemical accident (10 marks)

2.1.2. Major nuclear accident (10 marks)

2.2. Discuss five (05) principles that would have been breached and contributed to these kinds of accidents. (40 marks)

2.3. Discuss five (05) steps to minimize the post-disaster effects of similar accidents. (40 marks)

3.

3.1. List five (05) basic humanitarian principles on which management of the dead in disasters is based on (20 marks)

3.2. Give five (05) reasons why it is important to properly identify the dead in disasters. (20 marks)

3.3. List five (05) basic steps in the management of the dead in disasters. (20 marks)

3.4. Discuss the types of legal issues including medico legal issues that may arise in temporary camps established during a disaster. (40 marks)

Contd...../3-

4.

4.1. State six (06) factors contributing to the vulnerability to have adverse psychological effects from a disaster? (30 marks)

4.2. Briefly explain the following;

4.2.1 Primary victims of a disaster (10 marks)

4.2.2. Secondary victims of disaster (10 marks)

4.2.3. Secondary traumatization in a disaster (20 marks)

4.3. Briefly describe the principles of providing psychological support during a disaster situation. (30 marks)

5.

5.1. Describe briefly the information required to decide on non-food relief item (NFRI) requirements in the first 48 hours following a mass displacement of persons. (30 marks)

5.2. List five (05) non-food relief items that are required for displaced persons in the first 48 hours after a landslide following heavy rains in the Nuwara Eliya District. (15 marks)

5.3. Briefly discuss the anticipated problems of improperly managing the in-flow of relief items. (35 marks)

5.4. List five (05) measures that you would take to mitigate the problems discussed under 5.3. (20 marks)