

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

SELECTION EXAMINATION FOR POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH
SECTOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT – DECEMBER 2025

Date: - 22nd December 2025

Time:- 1.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

STRUCTURED ESSAY QUESTION PAPER

Answer all five (05) questions.

1. You are serving as the Medical Superintendent of a Base Hospital in Monaragala District.
 - 1.1 List the important components of an effective hospital disaster preparedness plan. (10 marks)
 - 1.2 Outline how you would obtain assistance from nearby health institutions. (20 marks)
 - 1.3 Outline the importance of inter-agency coordination with ambulance services, police, military, etc. (30 marks)
 - 1.4 Discuss advantages and disadvantages of stockpiling essential medicines and equipment to be used in the event of a disaster or emergency. (40 marks)
2. Following recent severe floods in the North-Western Province, over 200 villagers were displaced and are currently sheltered in a crowded community hall. As the Medical Officer of Health, you are directed by the Provincial Director of Health Services to visit the site seven days after the floods to assess and coordinate the health response.
 - 2.1 List ten (10) priority health and social issues you would expect to find among the displaced population at the time of your visit. (40 marks)
 - 2.2 List five (05) non-health organizations that could assist in managing the issues described in 2.1 and specify the role of each organization. (20 marks)
 - 2.3 Describe the steps you would take to ensure the psychological well-being of the flood-affected population. (40 marks)

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3.
 - 3.1 List the phases of the disaster management cycle. (15 marks)
 - 3.2 Describe how natural disasters impact health services. (40 marks)
 - 3.3 List five (05) vulnerable groups needing special attention during disasters. (15 marks)
 - 3.4 Describe special requirements needed by two of the groups mentioned in 3.3. (30 marks)

4. A safe location (camp) for 100 families is to be established after a massive landslide in the area you are serving as the Medical Officer of Health.
 - 4.1 Describe the concept of minimum standards in health emergency response. (15 marks)
 - 4.2 List three (03) crowding and five (05) communicable disease risks in camps. (25 marks)
 - 4.3 Discuss the challenges you are likely to face when providing health services to such a community. (30 marks)
 - 4.4 Outline how you would ensure safety, dignity, and protection of occupants. (30 marks)

5. You are serving as a Medical Officer of Health in an area with frequent floods and landslides.
 - 5.1 Describe how you would reduce the flood and landslide risk in the area. (40 marks)
 - 5.2 List the early warning systems available for the above scenario. (20 marks)
 - 5.3 Explain the importance of early warning systems and risk communication. (40 marks)