



**Karolinska
Institutet**

Course syllabus for

Public Health Response in Disasters, 20 credits

Hälsoinsatser vid katastrofer, 20 hp

This course syllabus is valid from spring 2018.

Please note that the course syllabus is available in the following versions:

[Autumn2013](#) , [Autumn2015](#) , [Autumn2017](#) , [Spring2018](#) , [Spring2020](#) , [Spring2021](#) , [Spring2022](#) , [Autumn2022](#)

Course code	2QA236
Course name	Public Health Response in Disasters
Credits	20 credits
Form of Education	Higher Education, study regulation 2007
Main field of study	Public Health in Disasters
Level	Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Grading scale	Excellent, Very good, Good, Satisfactory, Sufficient, Fail, Fail
Department	Department of Global Public Health
Decided by	Board of Higher Education
Decision date	2014-06-23
Revised by	Education committee PHS
Last revision	2017-10-17
Course syllabus valid from	Spring 2018

Specific entry requirements

A professional degree of at least 120 credits in health care or medicine. In addition to this, work experience within one of the above mentioned fields is required (has to be certified by the employer). Alternatively a degree of at least 180 credits and work experience within a relevant field (such as aid and international organisations, certified by the employer/organisation). And proficiency in English equivalent to English B/English 6.

Objectives

The aims of the course are to provide competencies, to adequately prioritize, plan, implement and monitor public health interventions in disaster relief, based on needs and risks.

Module 1

On completion of the course, the student should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- explain how different health determinants influence vulnerability and a society's ability to cope

with disasters.

- define various types of disasters and describe how they can be prevented, as well as how their negative influence on the public health can be mitigated.

Skills and abilities

- in a multistage process explain and plan how data and information about health risks and health needs can be sought, analysed and assessed in disasters.

Judgement and approach

- evaluate how various types of disasters influence public health.

Module 2

On completion of the course, the student should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- explain principles of and handling of mass-casualty situations
- explain the principles of evaluation of health actions at disaster actions.

Skills and abilities

- plan for epidemiological surveillance in disasters situations.

Judgement and approach

- relate to disaster response systems, their potentials and weaknesses.
- argue for different strategies intended to meet the public health needs of the disaster.
- argue for the most important components for control of infectious diseases.

Content

The course is divided in two modules:

Module 1

Global health and the global burden of disease

Health determinants and their variation at global, regional, national and local level

The indirect and direct effects of disasters on health and health systems

Assessment of public health needs in disasters

Module 2

Planning and implementation of curative and preventive public health interventions in different types of disasters and contexts

Principles for and handling of mass-casualty situations

Epidemiological surveillance in disasters

Control of infectious diseases

International systems for disaster response

Evaluation of public health response in disasters

Pre-disaster and Disaster Situations - Global Perspective, 8 hp The course module focuses on the global burden of disease and factors that determine variations in the public health with a focus on low-income countries. The course highlights and analyses general and directed health strategies intended to improve global health. The course module also focuses on health-related needs in various types of disasters and methods for analysis and assessment of public health and health-related needs in disasters.

Public Health Response in Disasters, 12 hp The part of the course follows after assessments of health-related needs in a disaster. Important fields are: Priorities and organisation of health actions, epidemiological supervision and control of infectious diseases. Specific strategies for mass-casualty

situations and industrial disasters are highlighted. The module is completed with methods and principles of evaluation of health actions.

Teaching methods

Interactive lectures. Web-based assignments in groups and individual, simulation exercises and discussion seminars.

Examination

The two modules will be examined individually and as a group exercise. In each module, compulsory parts are also included, where active participation is required.

Module 1.

The examination consists of an individual written text. In addition a written group assignment is included. The group assignment will be presented in the student group at a compulsory seminar.

Module 2.

The examination consists of an individual written test. In addition a written group assignment is included. The group assignment will be presented in the student group at a compulsory seminar. This examination includes a "peer learning-part" where the students review and give feedback on each other's work.

A student who has not passed the regular examination has a right to participate at further five examinations.

The student will receive a final grade for the whole course (A-F). The final grade is an appraisal of the results in the two individual examinations. The group assignments will be graded with Pass/Failed. In order to pass the course, the student must obtain at least grade E in the individual examinations and Passed on the group assignments. In order to get a higher grade, at least one examination require the higher grade and the second examination must not be graded less than one grade below.

Transitional provisions

Examination will be provided during a time of two years after a possible cancellation of the course. Examination can take place according to an earlier literature list during a time of one year after the date when a major renewal of the literature list has been made.

Other directives

The course will be given in English.

Course evaluation will be carried out according to the guidelines that are established by the Board of education. The course may not be included in a higher education qualification at the same time with the overview and passed course, whose contents completely or partly corresponds to the course content.

Literature and other teaching aids

Part 1

Required reading

Global Health : an introductory textbook

Lindstrand, Ann

Lund : Studentlitteratur, 2006 - 327 s.

ISBN:91-44-02198-4 LIBRIS-ID:9987549

[Library search](#)

Public health guide in emergencies

John Hopkins School of Public Health, International federation of Red Cross red Crescent Societies, 2008

Humanitarian needs assessment : the good enough guide

Rugby : Practical Action Publishing, [2014] - xi, 108 pages

ISBN:9781853398636 LIBRIS-ID:18060371

[Library search](#)

Howard, Natasha; Sondorp, Egbert; Veen, Annemarie ter

Conflict and health

Maidenhead, Berkshire, England : McGraw Hill/Open University Press, 2012. - xvii, 197 pages

ISBN:9780335243792 (pbk.) LIBRIS-ID:18062121

[Library search](#)

Chan, Emily Ying Yang

Public health humanitarian responses to natural disasters

Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon : Routledge, 2017 - 259 pages

ISBN:9781138953680 LIBRIS-ID:20113522

[Library search](#)

Recommended reading

Handbook IMCI Integrated management of childhood illness

Geneva : World Health Organization, 2005 - 163 s.

LIBRIS-ID:11929400

URL: [Länk](#)

Rapid health assessment in refugee or displaced populations

Médecins Sans Frontières, 2006

Refugee health : an approach to emergency situations

London : MacMillan, 1997 - 380 s.

ISBN:0-333-72210-8 LIBRIS-ID:8283641

[Library search](#)

Schreeb, Johan von

Needs assessment for international humanitarian health assistance in disasters

Stockholm : 2007 - 95 s.

ISBN:978-91-7357-375-7 LIBRIS-ID:10599321

URL: [Online](#)

[Library search](#)

WHO child growth standards and the identification of severe acute malnutrition in infants and children

WHO/Unicef, Geneva, 2009

Part 2

Required reading*Beck, Tony***Evaluating humanitarian action using the OECD-DAC criteria An ALNAP guide for humanitarian agencies**

ALNAP, Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance, 2006

*Checchi, Gayer, Freeman Grais and Mills***Public health in crisis- affected populations A practical guide for decision-makers**

Humanitarian Practice Network at ODI , HPN, 2007

*Connolly, M. A.***Communicable disease control in emergencies : a field manual**

Geneva : World Health Organization, c2005. - vii, 295 p.

ISBN:92-4-154616-6 LIBRIS-ID:10160940

[Library search](#)**Handbook for emergencies, 3d edition**

UNHCR© United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva, 2007

Humanitarian needs assessment : the good enough guide

Rugby : Practical Action Publishing, [2014] - xi, 108 pages

ISBN:9781853398636 LIBRIS-ID:18060371

[Library search](#)*Norton, I; et al.***Classification and minimum standards for foreign medical teams in sudden onset disasters.**

Geneva: World Health Organization, 2013

URL: http://www.who.int/hac/global_health_cluster/fmt_guidelines_september2013.pdf**Public health guide in emergencies**

John Hopkins School of Public Health, International federation of Red Cross red Crescent Societies, 2008

The Sphere handbook, Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response

The Sphere project, 2011

*Chan, Emily Ying Yang***Public health humanitarian responses to natural disasters**

Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon : Routledge, 2017 - 259 pages

ISBN:9781138953680 LIBRIS-ID:20113522

[Library search](#)***Recommended reading*****Clinical guidelines: Diagnosis and treatment manual for curative programmes in hospitals and dispenseries:**

Médecins sans Frontières, 2010

Essential drugs: Practical guidelines

Médecins sans Frontières, 2011

Manual for the health care of children in humanitarian emergencies:

WHO, Geneva, 2008

Medical response to major incidents and disasters : a practical guide for all medical staff

Lennquist, Sten

Heidelberg : Springer, c2012. - xxiv, 412 p.

ISBN:978-3-642-21894-1 (alk. paper) LIBRIS-ID:13597503

[Library search](#)

Pocket book of Hospital care for children: Guidelines for the management of common illnesses with limited resources

WHO, Geneva, 2005

Pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum and newborn care: A guide for essential practice

WHO, 2003

Rapid health assessment in refugee or displaced populations

Médecins Sans Frontières, 2006

Refugee health : an approach to emergency situations

London : MacMillan, 1997 - 380 s.

ISBN:0-333-72210-8 LIBRIS-ID:8283641

[Library search](#)

WHO child growth standards and the identification of severe acute malnutrition in infants and children

WHO/Unicef, Geneva, 2009

Young, Helen; Jaspars, Susanne

The meaning and measurement of acute malnutrition in emergencies: a primer for decision-makers

Humanitarian Practice Network at ODI , HPN, 2006

Articles and lecture presentations, which will be provided during the course.