

## Public Health Exercise

May 2021

### Purpose and Description

The Global Health Residency allows the resident to integrate the competencies gained during the clinical components in the Netherlands with public health-oriented competencies attained during the Netherlands Diploma Course in Global Health and Tropical Medicine. The public Health Exercise (PHE) is a tool hereto.

### Objective

Before departure the resident writes a reflective essay based on his or her learning so far in becoming a Physician Global Health and Tropical Medicine (GH&TM) . This reflection will form the foundation of his/her Individual Development Plan. The resident identifies learning goals, the means in which to achieve these and the methods of monitoring and evaluation of these goals. The overarching aim is to complete the EPA's as described in the curriculum. The Public Health Exercise is a tool to invest in EPA's 15-and 18 particularly.

### Procedure

Based on the obtained knowledge of the local setting with its social determinants of health, the health system, epidemiology and burden of disease, the resident defines together with the supervisor (and if possible the medical team) a topic and an approach, based on the local needs. The approach can be for example an applied quantitative or qualitative research, a situational analysis, a project description, an educational activity, or a quality improvement cycle. After its realization, the exercise is evaluated with the local supervisor and medical team and recommendations for follow-up are formulated, with the purpose that a future resident can continue the theme based on the recommendations.

- The resident is required to complete two public health exercises,
- A minimum time investment of 20 hours per exercise is expected,
- The topics of the two exercises can be different or related,
- The proposal and final report are described according to the structure of the Public Health Exercise Format (Appendix 1),
- The topic and research approach need to be agreed with the supervisor as well as the training institute (International Liaison Officer) beforehand, by making use of the established format,
- The resident submits the finalized exercise to the local supervisor and training institute,
- The local supervisor will conduct the first assessment, making use of the CAT PHE form,
- In case the exercise is not approved by the local supervisor, the resident will make improvements based on the comments and feedback and submit the exercise again,
- In case the exercise is approved by the local supervisor, the exercise is uploaded for final approval by the International Liaison Officer,

- The International Liaison Officer will provide written feedback and grade the exercise using the Public Health Exercise form in the digital portfolio,
- In case the exercise is not approved by the training institute, amendments or a redo will have to be made based on the comments of the International Liaison Officer,
- The two approved assignments are mandatory in completing the training of the GH&TM programme.

## Assessment

The CAT PHE form is used by the local supervisor for assessment. Exercises are graded as either Poor, Moderate, Good or Excellent.

The Public Health Exercise is assessed by the training institute in the digital portfolio. Important assessment criteria include:

- Demonstration of the process of collaboration with the local supervisor concerning the topic definition related to a local need and the approach,
- Demonstration of correct application of local epidemiology and burden of disease, including the cultural as well as gender-based aspects of healthcare,
- Demonstration of knowledge of the organization of health care in low-income settings, including health systems, outbreak management, monitoring and evaluation of healthcare programmes, health impact assessment and public relation,
- Addressing the topic with a thoughtful, well-balanced response,
- Clearly presented and well-structured content with correct use of language and terminology,
- Logical flow of argument,
- Critical analysis of the problem and its determinants,
- Relevance and completeness of the literature used as 'evidence',
- Adequate description of the search strategy if applicable and correct referencing.

Exceptional exercises are shortlisted by the International Liaison Officer for possible publication in the *Medicus Tropicus Bulletin (MTb)*. The International Liaison Officer will contact the resident about this process.

## Examples of topics

- 'Health and safety', 'quality control' or aspects of prevention (infection control, protocol sharp instrument accidents, mortality and morbidity meeting, vaccination programme);
- Management of the hospital (financial management, human resource management, procurement, governance, public-private partnerships, waste management);
- Judicial aspects of health care delivery (e.g. litigation, human rights violations, child abuse, gender based violence, reproductive rights);
- Intercultural aspects of health service delivery (traditional beliefs on health and disease, local customs, traditional healers, etc.);
- Access to healthcare;
- Covid-19 approach in the region of the hospital and the hospital.

## Appendix 1: Public Health Exercise Format

Date:  Hospital:  Name aios IGT:  Name supervisor:  Email supervisor:	
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Title:

Background and area of interest:

General and specific objectives:

Methodology:

Results/outcome:

Conclusion:

Recommendations:

Literature: