

## Evidence Aid newsletter – May 2017

We are delighted to announce that our improved website is now live. We have a new and improved search functionality, and have tagged all our resources according to a new taxonomy. We look forward to receiving your feedback – see below for more information.

In addition, we have a number of events happening in 2017, which are outlined below.

### Evidence Aid website

Come and explore our restructured [website](#). We made accessing our resources more user-friendly by implementing a new taxonomy and improving the search functionality. The new website offers a new and significantly improved search facility which searches across our website and allows the user to filter the results according to our new taxonomy. The systematic reviews in our [Resources](#) are now grouped by clusters that are represented with clear tiles on the resource page. Finally, we started working on a new section titled '[Evidence Matters](#)' which explains why the use of evidence is important, and will soon contain different multimedia resources (more information to come in our next newsletter). In the coming weeks there will be more improvements and we apologise for any inconvenience caused. We hope you enjoy the new functionality of the website and look forward to your feedback.

### Evidence Aid Sphere Handbook Consultation - 6 June 2017

Part of the revision process of the Sphere Handbook, are global consultations on specific topics, themes or issues to ensure global inputs and broad ownership of the revised standards. Our consultation will bring together an international group of experts to assess the current use of data, information and evidence to substantiate the standards and indicators in the Sphere Handbook. The objective is not to judge the relevance or robustness of the evidence used, but to assess if the Sphere Handbook provides sufficient information on the origin of and the methodology used to identify the data, information and evidence used to substantiate the standards and indicators. This will be an invitation only event, but if you are interested in joining us in London or online, please contact [jjanssen@evidenceaid.org](mailto:jjanssen@evidenceaid.org) to discuss the possibilities.

### Evidence Aid workshop – 22 June 2017

Evidence-based decision making is now commonplace in most sectors of policy and practice. It helps policy makers and practitioners make better decisions, and achieve better outcomes, by putting existing evidence at the heart of the decision making process. This workshop will provide participants with a better understanding of what evidence-based decision making is all about, and of how it can be used to make a difference in the humanitarian sector. It will guide participants through different types of evidence, how to access such evidence, and how to overcome the barriers to getting evidence into policy and practice. More information about the workshop, including how to register, can be found [here](#). Numbers are limited, so book your place soon!

**Bonus activity included!** As part of the Evidence Aid and Centre for Evidence Based Medicine (University of Oxford) partnership, we will be offering attendees free access to the last session of the prestigious conference, [Evidence Live](#) which includes a keynote speech by Mukesh Kapila. This is a one off, not to be missed opportunity!

### Evidence Aid training – 23 June 2017

Building on Evidence Aid's successful and popular courses on systematic reviews in a wide variety of settings, Dr Philip Davies will run this one-day Evidence Aid course on research synthesis and (especially) systematic reviews of existing evidence in the context of disasters and the provision of

humanitarian aid. More information about the course, including the cost and how to register, can be found [here](#). Numbers are limited, so book your place soon!

#### **Geneva Evidence Lounge – 5 September 2017**

Evidence Aid, partnering with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), have been successful in obtaining some funds to bring Swiss and UK organisations together to discuss the importance of evidence based decision-making in the humanitarian sector. The aim is to forge collaborations that contribute towards drafting a practical guide for the use of evidence in the humanitarian sector. The process will be lead and coordinated by Evidence Aid and the LSHTM. This will be an invitation only event, but the practical guide and other related publications will be available to everyone.

#### **Humanitarian Evidence Week – 6-12 November 2017**

This is a flag to let you know Evidence Aid alongside its partner organisation, the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (CEBM) will be hosting seven days of activities around using evidence in the humanitarian sector. The week will include a day's training, blogs, webcasts, country specific activities by our partners, and other such events. We will keep you update on progress through our newsletters and in a dedicated web page (details to come).

Please share this newsletter with your friends and colleagues and ask them to let Jane Higgins ([jhiggins@evidenceaid.org](mailto:jhiggins@evidenceaid.org)) know if they would like to receive it directly in the future, so that we can add them to the distribution list.

We hope you've found this bulletin to be informative and helpful. If you would prefer not receive further bulletins, please let us know.

With best wishes

The Evidence Aid team

*(Claire Allen, Jane Higgins, and Jeroen Jansen)*