

## Evidence Aid newsletter: February 2018

In this first newsletter of the new year, we would like to wish you all the very best for 2018! We have some leadership news to share with you in the first instance, an update on our collections, how to contribute to our year end appeal, and an exciting event for which we suggest you SAVE THE DATE – if you would like the opportunity to attend a day’s training to learn all about why systematic reviews are important for the humanitarian sector (see below for how to sign up).

### Change in leadership – Message from Professor Mike Clarke, Chair of the Board of Directors

After dedicating himself to Evidence Aid for more than two years, Jeroen Jansen, has left us to support his family and return to the Netherlands. It was a difficult decision for all involved and both parties are sad to part. Jeroen joined Evidence Aid as our first Director in September 2015, when the organisation became an independent charity. With the support of Claire Allen as Operations Manager, and later joined by Jane Higgins and Sultan Torshkoev, Jeroen guided Evidence Aid into a new era. Our reach and network has grown extensively, including new partners and volunteers who are crucial to so much of what Evidence Aid does. Under his leadership, Evidence Aid implemented many innovative and successful initiatives to raise the profile of the organisation and promote a more evidence-based approach to humanitarian action. We are grateful for the contributions Jeroen has made to Evidence Aid and our mission to inspire and enable the humanitarian sector to apply an evidenced-based approach to improve outcomes for those in greatest need. If you were working on an Evidence Aid project with Jeroen, please contact Claire Allen ([callen@evidenceaid.org](mailto:callen@evidenceaid.org)) who will be working closely with the Board of Trustees about taking these projects forward.

### Evidence Aid training – 10 April 2018 – Oxford, UK

Building on Evidence Aid’s successful and popular courses on systematic reviews in a wide variety of settings, Professor Mike Clarke will run this one-day Evidence Aid course on systematic reviews in the context of disasters and the provision of humanitarian aid.

The course will provide learning and practical experience in a small group setting for many aspects of systematic review methods. These include question formulation and eligibility criteria, searching for eligible material, data extraction, analysis, and reporting. Examples relevant to the humanitarian sector will be used to illustrate key points and participants should leave the course feeling more comfortable about using evidence from systematic reviews and other types of research synthesis to help them with decision making.

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

### Collections of Evidence

**Nutrition in emergencies: new collection** - We are working on a new special collection in collaboration with several people and institutions to bring together synthesised evidence on the management and prevention of moderate and severe acute malnutrition in humanitarian emergencies. The collection will hopefully be published in the beginning of 2018 on the Evidence Aid website and with a special collection in the Cochrane library. In the creation of this collection we applied several ‘lessons learned’ from our previous collection, resulting in a far more rigorous approach. The initial search strategy resulted in hundreds of results and after the initial pre-screening we are now finishing the ‘double-blind’ full-text screening of the remaining documents. The team of volunteers includes information specialists, key humanitarian organisations, UN bodies, universities, umbrella organisations and others.

**The Health of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Europe** – Abi Kirubarajan, who was a Queen Elizabeth Scholar working with Evidence Aid in 2017, continues to update and expand the collection.

We now have a reorganised page, making systematic reviews and guidelines easier to find, and Abi is working with experts in oral health to expand the collection later this year. Once we have completed the oral health expansion, we will then look at maternal health.

If you think you can help with either of these collections, please do get in touch with Claire Allen.

### **2017/18 Fundraising**

Thank you to those of you who responded to our pre-holiday season appeal for funds to help us to raise essential funds to see us through 2018. You can still make donations, through our fundraising page on our website [here](#).

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 Sultan Torshkoev)*