

Dear all,

Welcome to the June 2014 edition of the Evidence Aid news bulletin. Please share it with your friends and colleagues and ask them to let us know if they would like to receive it directly and we will add them to the distribution list.

1. New projects

Evidence Aid has been working with 3ie/GDN on a scoping study for research in humanitarian assistance. The aims of the project are to:

- Help an international consortium of donors, including DFID and USAID, to identify priority areas and evaluation questions for impact evaluations in the humanitarian sector.
- Help inform the design of a thematic call for proposals to conduct impact evaluations of humanitarian assistance responses to crises arising from sudden-onset disasters and protracted emergencies.

The final project report will be complete soon, and we will make it available through our website as soon as we can, alerting you to when we do.

2. Evidence Aid in *PLoS Medicine*

Guided by Martin Gerdin from the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden, members of the Evidence Aid team and others published a concept paper in *PLoS Medicine* in April. The article is available free (<http://msf.me/1fotiTE>) and discusses how disaster health interventions and decision making can benefit from an evidence-based approach. It outlines how systematic reviews and methodologically sound research can build a much-needed evidence base.

3. Communications and PR

Following the award of the 2013 Unorthodox Prize to Evidence Aid, we received a donation which was ring-fenced to improve our external communications, including the website, our Annual Report, a promotional leaflet and an information pack that could be used, in particular, with funders. With the help of Consilium Communications (<http://consiliumcommunications.co.uk/>), we have produced the information pack and a set of introduction leaflets. These can be downloaded from our website (<http://www.evidenceaid.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/EA-Leaflet-PORTRAIT.pdf>). We are grateful to Consilium Communication and members of the Evidence Aid Advisory Board, Katherine Clements (Unorthodox Prize), Shona Lang (Evidence Aid volunteer) and Regine Webster (Centre for Disaster Philanthropy) for their help and advice in preparing these materials, which will help to promote and draw attention to Evidence Aid.

4. Conference participation

We gave presentations on Evidence Aid at two conferences in the USA in May – the Urban Disasters conference and Humanitarian Technology conference. This trip to the USA also gave us the opportunity to meet with various organisations including Relief Web and the Rockefeller Philanthropy Foundation in New York, PAHO, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Interaction and Georgetown University in Washington, and the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, All India Mitigation Institute and CDA Collaborative in Cambridge. We are exploring an aide memoire with PAHO, which will be developed over the coming months. We have had expressions of interest for co-hosting the Evidence Aid conference in 2015 in Washington and will also explore these possibilities.

Evidence Aid was also represented at the Campbell Colloquium in Belfast 16-19 June where it won second prize (US\$75) for the best poster presentation.

Evidence Aid will be represented at the Cochrane Colloquium in September, where we will also hold

the Evidence Aid Symposium, our third international conference (next item). If you know of other conferences at which Evidence Aid should be represented, please let us know

5. Evidence Aid symposium

We will shortly send you an invitation to the 2014 Evidence Aid Symposium (20 September) in India, one of the countries that saw the birth of Evidence Aid, following the Tsunami in December 2004. We hope that you will consider joining us and we are happy for you to share the invitation with colleagues and friends who might be interested – particularly those based in India and the South East Asian region. The event is taking place shortly before the Cochrane Colloquium, and details can be found here: <http://colloquium.cochrane.org/pre-and-post-colloquium-events>.

6. Evidence Aid Technical Group on Health Systems

We are pleased to announce that development of the first Evidence Aid Technical Group is underway, looking at health systems. The terms of reference for the group have been developed by Jason Nickerson and Xavier Bosch-Capblanch, and build on the need to develop and refine evidence to support decision-making within disrupted health systems in complex humanitarian settings. Evidence Aid would welcome partners in this area and the group will provide strategic direction for work and research related to health systems in fragile states and humanitarian emergencies.

7. Annual Report

The first draft for the Evidence Aid Annual Report for 2013 is complete and we hope to go to publication on 14 July, ensuring the Report will be available for the Evidence Aid Symposium. It will also be accessible from the Evidence Aid website.

8. Communications

You can follow us on Twitter (@EvidenceAid), on our Facebook page (Evidence Aid), via the new website (www.evidenceaid.org), and on LinkedIn (Evidence Aid).

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, Mike Clarke, Bonnix Kayabu and Dominic Mellon)