

Dear all,

Welcome to the December edition of the Evidence Aid Newsletter, our last for 2014; and the one marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami and the establishment of Evidence Aid. Please share this Newsletter with your friends and colleagues and ask them to let us know if they would like to receive it directly in the future, so that we can add them to the distribution list.

### **1. Tell us your views and help Evidence Aid have a bigger impact**

As we approach the second decade for Evidence Aid, we are entering a new phase in our development as a more effective, relevant and impactful organisation. To help us deliver this vision, we would like to understand more about you and what you need from us. By answering the short survey on our [website](#), you will help Evidence Aid make a bigger difference in the future. It won't take more than 5 minutes of your time.

### **2. Evidence Aid strategy and business plan for the next 3-5 years**

Part of this journey is our relationship with the [C&A Foundation](#), who are committed to improving the effectiveness of humanitarian response and have funded Evidence Aid to develop a 3-5 year business case for development of our work. With dedicated funding from the Foundation, we have engaged an impact agency, [Ethicore](#), to undertake research and develop a robust plan setting out the need, potential and business models for the future of Evidence Aid. They are conducting the [survey](#) and, as a stakeholder of Evidence Aid, we hope you can help to shape the future by completing it.

### **3. Evidence Aid Ebola resource**

Evidence Aid has created an [Ebola resource](#) to bring together systematic reviews, articles and links to other information portals. It is a work in progress and we would be pleased to receive your comments on how it could be improved. We are updating it regularly, so please also send us suggestions for things to add, to [callen@evidenceaid.org](mailto:callen@evidenceaid.org).

### **4. What evidence is available and what is required, in humanitarian assistance: New publication, co-authored by Evidence Aid**

Most areas in the humanitarian sector suffer from a paucity of evidence. This [scoping paper](#) provides an independent analysis of the evidence base of evaluations in humanitarian assistance. It identifies areas where there are key gaps and where there is a need to prioritise rigorous evidence so that research can be conducted on issues that are most important and valuable.

The study which had authors from Evidence Aid, Monash University, the Karolinska Institutet, and 3ie incorporated a wide array of methods to assess available evidence, including an online survey of participants, interviews with humanitarian sector experts, and extensive literature reviews of humanitarian studies and strategy documents of major humanitarian organisations. It also includes an evidence gap map that presents the results of a thorough search for completed, ongoing and planned impact evaluations of humanitarian interventions.

The scoping study presents conclusions about a general lack of reliable and robust evidence from studies assessing the causal relationship between a policy or intervention and outcomes or impact.

### **5. Presentations and photographs now available for Evidence Aid symposium, Hyderabad, 20 September 2015**

Photographs, presentations and journal articles from the symposium are available [here](#). A further series of articles will be published in the Journal of Evidence Based Medicine in February 2015.

### **6. Can you help us with our media campaign marking the 10th anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami**

Evidence Aid is working with The Cochrane Collaboration's Communications and External Affairs Department to mark the 10th anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami and the early days of Evidence Aid. We are keen to know how people have used information from Evidence Aid and would appreciate any stories you can tell us by answering the following quick questions.

- What did you do with the information?
- How did you use it?
- What impact did the information have? (What did you see/hear/ become aware of that was different as a result of receiving it?)
- Are there any specific 'stories' / incidents or examples that stand out for you?

If you have any stories, please do get in touch as soon as possible so that we can explore opportunities.

### **7. Conference participation**

We are currently discussing the possibility of co-hosting next year's 4<sup>th</sup> Evidence Aid conference in Washington, USA. We will update you as these plans progress, and announce the venue and date as soon as this is known.

### **8. Communications**

You can follow us on Twitter (@EvidenceAid), on our Facebook page (Evidence Aid), via the [website](#), and on LinkedIn (Evidence Aid and Claire Allen). If you would like to contact us by email, please write to [info@evidenceaid.org](mailto:info@evidenceaid.org).

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)*