

1st Evidence Aid Conference, September 26 2011

Schedule (as of September 21 2011)

10.00	Welcome	Carl Heneghan, Centre for Evidence Based Medicine
10.05	Introduction to Evidence Aid	Mike Clarke, Evidence Aid
10.15	Plenary 1: The need for evidence in disasters	Jonathan Abrahams, World Health Organisation
10.35	Plenary 2: Measurement of Indicators in humanitarian emergencies	Oleg Bilukha, Centre for Disease Control, USA
10.55	Plenary 3: Findings from the Evidence Aid needs assessment survey	Bonnix Kayabu, Evidence Aid
11.15	Plenary 4: Issues of data quality during humanitarian emergencies: does anyone believe we can do anything with it?	Les Roberts, Columbia University, USA
11.35	Break	
11.55	Session 1: Focus group discussions on specific topics	
13.00	Lunch	
13.45	Session 2: Feedback from focus groups and general discussion	
14.45	Break	
15.00	Session 3: Small groups to discuss next steps for Evidence Aid	
16.00	Session 4: Feedback from small groups and general discussion	
17.00	Close of meeting	Mike Clarke, Evidence Aid

This conference is an opportunity to discuss the need for Evidence Aid, and to plan its future. It will begin with plenary talks but will comprise mostly of small group, facilitated discussions with participants put into these groups in advance. The intention is that people remain in the same groups in sessions 1 and 3. In session 1, each group will be assigned one of the following topics:

- a. Availability and quality of data in disasters
- b. Indicators and benchmarks in humanitarian emergencies
- c. Barriers to the use of evidence in humanitarian emergencies
- d. Role of systematic reviews as a source of the evidence
- e. Why is evidence on the agenda (e.g. the needs of donors)?

Each group will be asked to discuss the challenges, how these might be overcome, and the potential role of Evidence Aid. If a group feels that it has exhausted the discussion of its topic, they might wish to move on to other topics on this list, or to discuss an additional topic: how to provide decision makers with evidence. A rapporteur from each group will provide feedback during session 2, for discussion by all participants.

In session 3, the small groups will discuss the future role of Evidence Aid, in the context of the discussions from sessions 1 and 2, considering a range of issues which might include the following, which will not be assigned to individual groups:

- priority setting for systematic reviews for Evidence Aid
- role of topic specific focus groups within Evidence Aid
- improving access to Evidence Aid
- use of contextual information to supplement systematic reviews
- evaluation of Evidence Aid

A rapporteur from each group will provide feedback during session 4, for discussion by all participants.