The growing role and impact of Evidence Aid: our 10-year vision

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Background:
Evidence Aid, an independent international organisation, promotes the use of systematic reviews in disasters, humanitarian crises and other healthcare emergencies. Since its establishment in The Cochrane Collaboration after the Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 2004, it has grown and provided summaries of reviews to humanitarian aid workers during disasters such as the earthquakes in China, Japan, Haiti and Iran, and during floods in Pakistan, Thailand, and the USA over the last few years.

Objectives for this poster:
To share the recent developments of Evidence Aid and to look at a 10-year vision.

Materials:
Through a formal needs assessment, two international conferences (photographs below) on the use of evidence in disasters, and increasing collaboration with aid agencies, Evidence Aid is bringing systematic reviews to the attention of the humanitarian aid and disaster management community.

Furthermore, 30 representatives of aid agencies, NGOs, funders, and academia gathered for a priority setting workshop in London in June 2013 (photographs below). 10 priority themes had been identified in an online survey of 233 people, and the workshop participants used a consensus process to select 30 priority research questions for systematic reviews.

Vision for the future:
Over the next 10 years, Evidence Aid will strive to become the first ‘port of call’ for people searching for evidence on the effects of interventions and actions in disasters, humanitarian crises and major healthcare emergencies. It will provide ready access to knowledge for disaster risk reduction and resilience, planning, response and recovery.

Working with John Wiley and Sons, Evidence Aid launched its new website (www.evidenceaid.org) in August 2013. It allows people to search the resources from every page of the site, and user testing will take place later in the year.

Evidence Aid is working closely with several agencies. For example the International Rescue Committee is helping identify Cochrane Reviews of relevance to the disaster management field and a memorandum of understanding has been signed (photograph of signing left) with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and one is being developed with Georgetown University in the USA.

Three of these reviews are being progressed by Evidence Aid volunteers, working with the Public Health Group, the Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group, and the Pregnancy and Childbirth Group. The reviews will be added to Evidence Aid, and the relevant Special Collections.

Four Evidence Aid Special Collections (earthquakes, flooding and poor water sanitation, Post Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) and burns) are already available in The Cochrane Library. The full version of >100 included reviews are available free to users and they can be searched on the new Evidence Aid website (www.evidenceaid.org). Additional reviews arising from the priority setting meeting and the extensive searching for relevant Cochrane and non-Cochrane systematic reviews will be added to Evidence Aid, bringing in reviews from outside of health care, and allow Evidence Aid to deliver relevant information and to integrate this with other information systems in the field.

Participants at the priority setting meeting