Evidence Aid newsletter: February 2016

We have recently worked with members of Cochrane and Wiley alongside Kevin Pottie and Leo Ho on a new collection of evidence titled ‘The health of refugees and asylum seekers in Europe’ which we believe is an important topic at this time.

We also have just published an exciting new blog by Tom Kirsch (Professor and Director, Center for Refugee and Disaster Response Johns Hopkins University) and Paul Perrin. The blog is titled ‘A Proposed Framework for Improving the Quality of Humanitarian Response’.

We also are delighted to share an update of a paper soon to be published as a result of the UNISDR Science and Technology conference, and news about our resources page on the website. 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.

New resource - The health of refugees and asylum seekers in Europe
In 2015 over one million people arrived in Europe by sea, mostly originating from Syria. In the same year 3,771 people went missing or died attempting to reach safety in Europe. In 2016 people continue to make the hazardous journey across the sea and at the beginning of February 67,072 people made it across, while 357 were reported dead or missing.

Evidence Aid has worked with others to provide accessible information on the particular health issues that impact this population most; we have identified country guidelines and brought them together on a single page and will continue our work with the collaborative to identify relevant systematic reviews for the following conditions: Common Mental Health Disorders (including PTSD and depression), Vaccine Preventable Diseases, Skin conditions (including Impetigo, Scabies and Cellulitis), Tuberculosis, and Sexual and Physical Violence.

To read more about it, click here [http://www.evidenceaid.org/the-health-of-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-in-europe/].

New blog – A proposed framework for improving the quality of humanitarian response
With the swelling number of displaced people and limited global funding, it is increasingly important to support the most efficient and highest quality humanitarian response programs. Measuring the quality and efficiency of a response has become essential. Currently responders are often more accountable to the donors than the affected population.

Traditionally, accountability measures in humanitarian have tended to focus on meeting output benchmarks (e.g. number of tents provided, or meals served), rather than demonstrating outcomes or impact. Evaluation should also focus on quality, impact (needs met), and learning. In a supply-driven industry such as disaster relief, quality must be actively pursued through standard quality assurance methodologies.

To read more of the blog, click here [http://www.evidenceaid.org/proposed-framework-for-improving-quality/]

Evidence Aid resources
Do you know of systematic reviews related to the humanitarian sector that are relevant to health? If so, please let us know about them. We have worked with publishers to achieve open access to some pay per view reviews if you use the link on the Evidence Aid Resources page. Our most recent addition to our resource of systematic reviews is a Thesis which used the systematic review methodology and is titled ‘Are energy access interventions within humanitarian relief an effective tool for improving the health, safety and livelihoods of beneficiaries, while also having wider environmental benefits?’. To read this review, or search all of our resources click here [link to http://www.evidenceaid.org/resources].

Evidence Aid and the UNISDR Science and Technology conference, Geneva 27-29 January 2016
Jeroen Jansen and Claire Allen are contributing authors of a ‘super paper’ which brings together a summary of the scientific content of the UNISDR Science and Technology conference for a scientific audience through a peer-reviewed journal. The paper will be published in the International Journal of Disaster Risk Science and should be published in March 2016. Read about the conference here [http://www.unisdr.org/partners/academia-research/conference/2016/].

Upcoming conferences
As part of our promotion of Evidence Aid, Jeroen Jansen will be presenting Evidence Aid to ‘Global Health: the next frontiers’ conference at University College, London, and Claire Allen will be exhibiting at the Oxford International Forum, taking place at St Hugh’s College, Oxford. Both Claire and Jeroen will be attending Evidence Live in June which is organised by the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (University of Oxford).

Communications
You can follow us on Twitter (@EvidenceAid), on our Facebook page (Evidence Aid), via the website [http://www.evidenceaid.org], and on LinkedIn (Evidence Aid). If you would like to contact us by e-mail, please write to 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, Jeroen Jansen and Dominic Mellon)