Evidence Aid newsletter, June 2016

We are delighted to share exciting news with you about a number of activities that Evidence Aid has recently undertaken with particular foci on the Evidence Lounge, an activity related to the World Humanitarian Summit, and two new blogs in our series, ‘How can humanitarian and foreign aid policy become evidence-based?’ authored by Paul Cairney and ‘The World Humanitarian Summit, Effectiveness and Evidence’ authored by Evidence Aid’s own Director, Jeroen Jansen.

Paul Cairney is Professor of Politics and Public Policy at the University of Stirling in Scotland, UK. His research interests include: comparing theories on evidence and policy (The Politics of Evidence-Based Policymaking 2016, and Understanding Public Policy 2012); and the use of evidence to promote tobacco control.

We also share with you details of a new one-day course that we are running on 30 October in Oxford – ‘An introduction to systematic reviews in the humanitarian sector’.

As mentioned, we also are delighted to share an update of our activities around the Evidence Lounge, that took place at the World Humanitarian Summit (22-24 May) let you know what we are planning for the upcoming conference, ‘Evidence Live’ (22-24 June), and we will also provide you with news of additions to 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 blogs

How can humanitarian and foreign aid policy become evidence-based
If the world were devoid of politics, it would not be difficult for humanitarian and foreign aid policy to be evidence-based: simply gather and use the best information available. Paul discusses whether it really is that simple. To read more, click here.

The World Humanitarian Summit, effectiveness and evidence
Many different opinions have already been expressed on the recent World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), but its ultimate success will be determined by the evidence produced in the coming years. Jeroen discusses the WHS from the viewpoint of an organisation championing the evidence-base. To read more, click here.

New one day course – An introduction to systematic reviews in the humanitarian sector
Building on his successful and popular courses on systematic reviews in a wide variety of settings, Professor Mike Clarke will run this 1-day Evidence Aid course on 30 November 2016, in Oxford, UK. The course will place systematic reviews in the context of disasters and the provision of humanitarian aid. The course will provide learning and practical experience in a small group setting for many aspects of systematic reviewing. These include question formulation and eligibility criteria, searching for eligible material, data extraction, analysis, and reporting. Examples relevant to the humanitarian sector will be used to illustrate key points and participants should leave the course feeling more comfortable about embarking on their own systematic review and when using reviews for decision making. To read more about the course and apply for a place, click here.
The World Humanitarian Summit, Evidence Aid and the Evidence Lounge

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) took place in Istanbul from 23-24 May and Evidence Aid was there leading the Evidence Lounge initiative. In previous newsletters we informed you on the Evidence Lounge initiative in support of an evidence-based approach to humanitarian action. At the start of the WHS, 23 organisations officially supported the initiative. Afterwards, we concluded that the Evidence Lounge successfully highlighted the evidence based approach to humanitarian action, raised the profile of Evidence Aid and brought together a huge amount of diverse organisations and institutions.

The Evidence Lounge was represented with a stand at the Exhibition Fair that was manned by various people throughout the event including, among others, Claire Allen, Karl Blanchet (LSHTM), Jess Camburn (ELRHA), Miguel Dorotan (Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine), Rachel Ingersoll (IRC), Jeroen Jansen, Ivan Ledesma (Oxford Brookes University), Jo Puri (3ie), and Gaia van der Esch (Impact). Aside from the stand, we were co-organisers of the successful DFID/IRC side event ‘Making Evidence Count: Better Use of Evidence to Increase Humanitarian Impact’. Jeroen Jansen was invited to attend some of the high level roundtables, special sessions and the WHS Academic forum.

During the first day of the WHS, the Evidence Lounge gained more than a hundred followers on Twitter (@evidencelounge) and by the end of the WHS several references at main events were made to the initiative. The scholars who attended the WHS and the specific academic side meetings, choose the Evidence Lounge online Slack community to become their platform to continue the discussion. Some of them signed a statement of commitment for scholars presented at the WHS - you can read more about this here. All of the Evidence Lounge partners recognised the success of the initiative and indicated during a meeting on 8 June that they want to continue with the Evidence Lounge as a ‘community of practice’ with the potential of organising an event next year – more information will follow in subsequent newsletters.

You can join the Evidence Lounge Slack community by sending us your full name and affiliation to: evidencelounge@evidenceaid.org.

Evidence Live, 22-24 June 2016

Evidence Aid, alongside its partner, the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine and hosts of Evidence Live, will be hosting a ‘discussion drop in point’ over the duration of Evidence Live, 22-24 June 2016. The drop in point will be jointly hosted by Claire Allen, Deborah Dixon, Jane Higgins, and Jeroen Jansen. This will be the fifth Evidence Live conference (Evidence Aid has participated in the last four) and is hosted jointly by the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (CEBM) at the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford and The BMJ (British Medical Journal). The 5 main themes of the conference are: Improving the Quality of Research Evidence; Disentangling the Problems of Too Much and Too Little Medicine; Transforming the Communication of Evidence for Better Health; Training the Next Generation of Leaders in Applied Evidence; and Translating Evidence into Better-Quality Health Services. The conference will host more than 160 presentations, posters and workshops from 28 countries around the world and includes an international line-up of world leading speakers whose remit is to stimulate, provoke, entertain and inspire. Evidence Live encourages debate on the current status and future directions of Evidence-Based Medicine. We look forward to taking part in these lively discussions, and also to meet you at the event.
**Upcoming conferences**

Claire has accepted an invitation to present jointly with Deborah Pentesco-Gilbert (Wiley) at a meeting organised by INASP, titled ‘Publishers for Development’ in September. In October, Jeroen will be attending the Humanitarian Congress in Berlin. Evidence Aid is also working with Georgetown University the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and the Pan American Health Organization, to organise a training day (16 November) followed by a two-day conference (17-18 November) which will further explore the issues that have been raised through a Policy Delphi Study – more information to come about this later, but for now *Save the date*!

**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. To search all of our resources click [here](http://ww.evidenceaid.org).

**Communications**

You can follow us on Twitter (@EvidenceAid), on our Facebook page (Evidence Aid), via the website [http://ww.evidenceaid.org](http://ww.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, Jane Higgins, Jeroen Jansen and Dominic Mellon)*