

## Chapter 3.7 Research resources to support policy and new research

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### Further reading

1. Blanchet K, Allen C, Breckon J, Davies P, Duclos D, Jansen J, et al. Using Research Evidence in the Humanitarian Sector: A practice guide. London, UK: Evidence Aid, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Nesta (Alliance for Useful Evidence). 2018.

**Summary of this document:** This booklet describes how evidence coming from research and evaluation can help one understand what works, where, why and for whom which can help guide the design of the most effective ways to deliver specific interventions. Evidence can also help inform what does not work to avoid repeating the failures of others by learning from evaluations of unsuccessful humanitarian programmes.

In this guide, the authors provide humanitarian researchers and aid workers with guidance on how to integrate research evidence into humanitarian efforts. The guide contains four sections, which introduce the importance of evidence, its applicability in humanitarian settings, types of evidence, and where evidence can be sourced. Each section contains case studies from existing humanitarian research studies, including those conducted in low- and middle-income countries. The authors conclude that many situations invite the use of high-quality evidence, and effectively integrating it with professional experience can bring about more effective humanitarian interventions.

2. Blanchet K, Sistenich V, Ramesh A, Frison S, Warren E, Smith J, et al. An Evidence Review of Research on Health Interventions in Humanitarian Crises. The Harvard School of Public Health and the Overseas Development Institute. 2015.

**Summary of this document:** This review provided a rigorous assessment of the quality and depth of the evidence-base that informs humanitarian public health programming globally, assessing the quantity and quality of intervention studies, rather than measuring the actual effectiveness of the intervention itself. The review addresses evidence on interventions in humanitarian crises (including early recovery and forced displacement) for health topics of communicable disease control; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); nutrition; sexual and reproductive health (SRH), including gender-based violence (GBV); mental health and psychosocial support; non-communicable disease (NCD); injury and physical rehabilitation; health services, and health systems. In addition, contextual factors influencing the delivery of health-related interventions are included in the review, consisting of access to health services, health assessment methods, coordination, accountability, health worker security, and urbanisation.

In this review, the authors provide evidence-based guidance on several health topics which arise in disasters and emergencies. It describes a systematic review of interventional studies and series of interviews with experts conducted to identify the current evidence base on humanitarian health responses. The authors conclude that depending on the intervention area, there exist research gaps in intervention and delivery method effectiveness. Additionally, the authors conclude that contextual factors related to the timing and location of a disaster can greatly impact the effectiveness of delivered health interventions.

3. Clarke M, Allen C, Archer F, Wong D, Eriksson A, Puri J. What evidence is available and what is required, in humanitarian assistance? 3ie Scoping Paper 1. New Delhi: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie). 2014. [https://www.3ieimpact.org/sites/default/files/2019-01/3ie\\_scoping\\_paper\\_1-humanitarian-top.pdf](https://www.3ieimpact.org/sites/default/files/2019-01/3ie_scoping_paper_1-humanitarian-top.pdf) (accessed 22 February 2022).

**Summary of this document:** This reading is an independent analysis of the evidence base of evaluations in humanitarian assistance which identifies key gaps and priorities in need of rigorous evidence. It is part of background scoping research and consultation undertaken to assess the scope and methods for impact evaluation in the humanitarian sector.

In this scoping paper, the authors identify information that should help researchers and others who wish to identify topics in the humanitarian sector that are likely to benefit from new research (in particular, impact evaluations). It is based on a study that used an online survey and semi-structured interviews with experts from the humanitarian sector to identify their evidence needs and mapped these needs to available evidence. The reported data were collected between November 2013 and February 2014. The authors conclude that further operational research and impact evaluation efforts can identify additional humanitarian research evidence gaps.