

Evidence Aid as a resource for evidence on the effectiveness of disaster medicine and humanitarian interventions in the Asia-Pacific region

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Introduction: Growing from the internationally renowned Cochrane Collaboration www.cochrane.org after the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004, Evidence Aid www.evidenceaid.org, with its partners, assesses published systematic reviews, identifying those relevant to disasters, humanitarian crises and major healthcare emergencies, then provides them on a freely available website. The reviews mostly relate to health, but the remit of the organisation spans all humanitarian sectors. Each review has a summary that is translated into Spanish and French, before linking to the full article. Objective: The mission of Evidence Aid is to alleviate suffering and save lives by providing the best available evidence on the effectiveness of humanitarian action and enabling its use. Mindful of disaster medicine in the Asian-Pacific region, this paper reviews the Evidence Aid resources by examining its free and publically available website Findings: Evidence Aid reviews are categorised based on the four UN categories: Health issues; Emergency type; Humanitarian cluster; and, Person Groups. A further seven disaster-specific collections are available: Burns; Earthquakes; Windstorms; Ebola; Zika; Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; Flooding and Poor Water Sanitation; the Health of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Europe; and, the Prevention and Treatment of Acute Malnutrition in Humanitarian Crises. There are currently more than 350 reviews freely available. The reviews use a rigorous systematic review methodology, are sensibly categorised and easy to search. Evidence Aid explains why evidence matters to the sector, provides a short video useful for advocacy purposes, and offers related training, primarily UK and Ireland based. Introduced in 2017, Humanitarian Evidence Week, includes sessions available globally via electronic media, which brings Evidence Aid closer to international users. Conclusion: Evidence Aid provides easily accessible, high-quality and up-to-date evidence on the effectiveness of interventions in this sector and is a useful and valuable resource for those engaged in disaster medicine in the Asian-Pacific region.