

HEALTH IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES

STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENCE BASE

The number of major humanitarian crises is unprecedented



36

ARMED CONFLICTS
during 2005–16



393

NATURAL DISASTERS
during 2006–15



65

MILLION PEOPLE ARE
CURRENTLY DISPLACED,
the largest number since World War 2

The current system for medical humanitarianism cannot cope and requires major changes

Evidence is needed to drive improvement, but research is scarce and mostly of poor quality, with little or no research on interventions for:

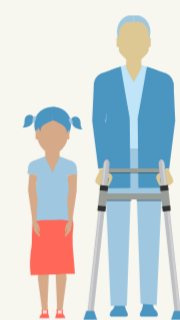
Communicable diseases, particularly respiratory infections



Water, sanitation, and hygiene in crisis settings



Nutrition, especially studies that focus on vulnerable groups other than children



Gender-based violence



Safe abortion, sexual and reproductive health interventions



Alcohol and substance use disorders



Non-communicable and chronic diseases



Health interventions during natural disasters



Health of displaced people



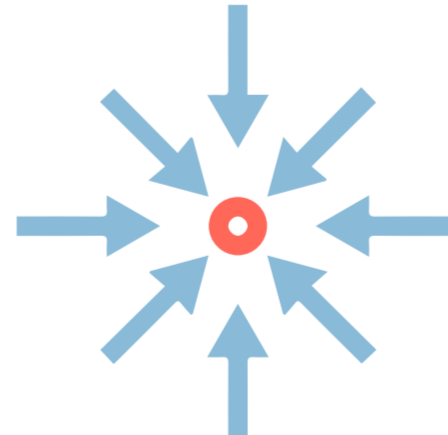
Four recommendations to help reduce research gaps and prepare for future responses are:



PROTECT
civilians and health-care workers to allow the delivery of health interventions



INTEGRATE
emergency health-care services of aid agencies with local services



SIMPLIFY, COORDINATE, AND CUSTOMISE
current humanitarian response systems



INVEST
in analysis of health interventions to improve efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and sustainability

Read *The Lancet* Health in Humanitarian Crises Series:
www.thelancet.com/HHC