**Background:** Health emergencies and disasters are increasingly common, and health systems need to be resilient to these shocks. Health emergency and disaster risk management stakeholders, including policymakers and practitioners, need to be able to access and use research evidence for informed decision-making. Evidence Aid has developed evidence summaries based on systematic reviews to support decision-making for resilient health systems.

**Methods:** Since June 2021, the Pan American Health Organization and Evidence Aid have collaborated on developing and curating Evidence Aid’s Resilient Health Systems collection. Based on systematic reviews, this assortment of evidence summaries supports disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, ensuring the continuity of public health advancements.

**Results**

- The collection contains more than 220 evidence summaries relevant to resilient health systems that will help decision-makers to build and maintain such systems.
- These sit alongside other Evidence Aid collections, including:
  - 600+ summaries relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - 150+ summaries relevant to refugees and asylum seekers.
  - 100+ summaries on the physical and mental effects of disasters.
  - 110+ summaries on preventing and treating acute malnutrition.
  - 20+ summaries on the humanitarian impact of climate change.

**Conclusion:** Evidence Aid’s collaboration with PAHO/WHO has resulted in an incremental collection that by August 2023 had reached 220 new and updated evidence summaries from systematic reviews geared towards informing emergency preparedness and response coordinators about research findings.

Evidence Aid has produced over 1000 summaries to help bridge the gap between evidence producers and those involved in health systems decision-making and emergency and disaster risk management for the humanitarian sector. This is a unique gateway into the evidence base for policymakers, practitioners, and the public.

**More information:** You can access the collections using the QR code ([www.EvidenceAid.org](http://www.EvidenceAid.org)). If you would like more information about Evidence Aid, please email [info@evidenceaid.org](mailto:info@evidenceaid.org).
Using existing systematic reviews to identify evidence gaps for resilient health systems: development of a novel methodology

**Background:** Recognizing research gaps is vital for informed research investments, enabling the direction of future studies, avoiding redundancy, and enhancing research coordination. Evidence Aid devised a fresh approach to identify these gaps through existing systematic reviews. Here, we provide an account of the initial two years of the project, funded by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO).

**Methods**

1. Systematic reviews relevant to resilient health systems were identified for prioritized topics.
2. The implications for research and search dates were extracted from each systematic review along with...
3. ... information on geographical restrictions, strength of existing evidence, areas of uncertainty, scale of the problem and type of research needed.
4. Each gap was classified as to whether it needs to be filled by a higher-quality study or new SR
5. An updated search was used to assess if the gap remained.

**Results**

- 24 systematic reviews related to resilient health systems were prioritized and included in the gap map and covered four topics (1) chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear hazards; (2) migrants; (3) hospital preparedness and (4) non-communicable diseases.
- Most had done their searches between 2015 and 2020 and included between 10 and 29 studies.
- Evidence Aid identified 34 evidence gaps from these systematic reviews.
- Evidence Aid identified 11 subsequent studies that likely contributed to filling these gaps.
- Subsequent research was not found for 23 evidence topics, suggesting that these gaps are yet to be addressed.

**Conclusion:** Two years after the Evidence Aid summaries were published, an updated search found that 11 (32%) of the evidence gaps had been addressed.

Identifying evidence gaps is a critical step in research production to better orient the actions of researchers, funders, and evidence users. We show how applying our novel methodology allows the identification of critical gaps in the evidence for resilient health systems.

**More information:** You can access the collections using the QR code (www.EvidenceAid.org). If you would like more information about Evidence Aid, please email info@evidenceaid.org