



OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES IN HUMANITARIAN HEALTH RESEARCH

STUDY COMPONENTS

EXAMPLES OF CHALLENGES:

- Budgeting difficulties
- Contracting complexities
- Complex or delayed ethical approvals
- Study community acceptance of intervention
- Complex development or implementation of intervention being studied
- Limited number of sites or recruitment channels
- Challenging logistics

IMPACT OF CHALLENGES ON A STUDY

- Delayed start or postponed activities
- Difficulty implementing study activities/logistics with existing staff and/or money
- Original study design unfeasible (e.g. study design, sample size, inadequate time between intervention and follow-up)
- Low recruitment/tracing and retention
- Difficulty ensuring quality control of protocol/intervention
- Difficulty communicating and engaging all partners effectively
- Original study design unfeasible
- Lack of quality programmatic services and/or associated programme data
- Inaccessible research site

MITIGATING ACTIONS

- Simplified study methodology
- Postponed data collection
- In-kind contributions
- Improved study procedures to improve recruitment/retention of participants
- Improved and regularised communication with partners
- Sought ethics approval from different committee
- Conservative spending
- Identified new or alternative recruitment sites or partner(s)