



OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES IN HUMANITARIAN HEALTH RESEARCH

COMMUNITY / STUDY POPULATION

EXAMPLES OF CHALLENGES:

- Study population has negative perceptions of research or gives it a low priority
- Smaller pool of participants than required
- Mobility of participants in/out of study site
- Challenge with community trust and perceptions about research study
- Difficult to keep participant groups separate to avoid contamination/bias

IMPACT OF CHALLENGES ON A STUDY

- Low recruitment/tracing and retention
- Original study design unfeasible
- Inaccessible research site

MITIGATING ACTIONS

- Simplified study methodology
- Consider profile of data collection team (eg gender balance)
- Improve tracing activities
- Identified new/alternative recruitment sites of partners
- Improved study procedures to improve recruitment and/or retention
- Recruit community mobilisers/others to increase recruitment and/or retention
- Increase original sample size (over-recruit)
- Improved and regularised partner communication
- Implement appropriate incentives for research participants
- Reduce size of participant groups (eg per trainer) to limit impact of contamination
- Build in elements of formative research to inform main study design
- Screen study participants for engagement/interest levels