

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES IN HUMANITARIAN HEALTH RESEARCH

STUDY SETTING

EXAMPLES OF CHALLENGES:

- Insecurity due to violence or political instability
- Lack of access to study site
- Failed communication or physical infrastructure
- Variable quality of programme intervention
- Variable quality of record keeping
- Variable quality of translation
- Delays in translation of tools
- Conditions for research in acute emergencies not met

IMPACT OF CHALLENGES ON A STUDY

- Inaccessible research site
- Data collectors/researchers do not consent to visit insecure areas
- Lack of quality programmatic services
- Lack of programme data
- Unable to use the pre-selected study site
- Low recruitment/tracing and retention of participants
- Difficulty of ensuring quality control of protocol/intervention
- Difficulty effectively communicating and engaging all partners

MITIGATING ACTIONS

- Move data collection or training to secure settings
- Identified alternative site
- Identified alternative partner(s)
- Additional security measures in existing site
- Additional security training for research staff
- Review/revise insurance coverage
- Simplified study methodology
- Postponed data collection
- Remote supervision
- Remote data collection (through telephone, internet)
- Remote data quality control
- Improved and regularised communication with partners
- Develop on-the-ground networks to inform about local security situation
- Increased or improved training for study team/partners