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

For further details of Operational Challenges faced in R2HC-funded humanitarian research studies, please see the full report: [Mitigating Operational Challenges in Humanitarian Health Research: the R2HC Experience (2020)]