



**Background:** NCD related health needs are increasingly being recognized within humanitarian settings. Several programs have been rolled out to respond to these needs, however, there is a need to generate knowledge and evidence to better inform what works and ultimately improve the health of people living with NCDs in humanitarian settings.

**Action:** The International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut (AUB) are collaborating on a research priority setting (RPS) exercise funded by Elrha's R2HC programme. This year long exercise aims to generate a consensus-based agenda that will steer NCDs research and interventions in humanitarian settings with a focus on Cardio-Metabolic Syndrome (CMS) for the next 10 years.

## Research in Health in Humanitarian Crises (R2HC): Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Research Priority Setting Exercise

### The key steps in the exercise are:

#### 1. Convene a Steering Committee:

The committee provides expert guidance on the scope of the NCD research prioritization exercise, advises on methods and on engagement with stakeholders, and facilitates access to different stakeholder groups. A technical sub-committee provides expert guidance on the methodology.

#### 2. Development of evidence maps:

This involves the identification of the most recent high-quality systematic review for cardiometabolic disorders on burden, related health needs, service provision and access, and effectiveness of interventions in humanitarian contexts. Data generated informed the evidence maps developed.

#### 3. Using an adapted Child Health and Nutrition Research Initiative (CHNRI) approach (Rudan, 2016):

Summarized in the following steps:

- **Research Priority Setting criteria selection** which may include the five "standard" criteria proposed by the CHNRI method

- answerability, effectiveness, deliverability, maximum potential for disease burden reduction, and the effect on equity, as well as other criteria such as fundability, feasibility of research, magnitude of the NCD burden and severity of the NCD condition.

- **Listing and consolidating the proposed priority research questions.**

The survey being deployed targets various types of stakeholders including academics, frontline workers, bodies representing health professionals, focal persons from local ministries of health, and NCD patients' representatives, to source priority research questions guided by the Evidence Map.

- **Scoring and calculating the weight scores** once a final list of research questions is generated,

a second survey will be sent to respondents with the request to score the research questions against the pre-defined criteria. Based on the scores, the research questions will be ranked from the highest research priority score to the lowest priority research score.

- **Further stakeholder input** through supplementary engagement meetings organized in different languages and targeting different stakeholders and conducting remote consultation meetings across regions/stakeholder types.

To participate in this exercise please click this link.

<https://tinyurl.com/y47zbccc>

**Ethics:** The exercise has IRB approval from the American University of Beirut.

**Dissemination:** This will be done through a detailed report on the NCDs research prioritization process disseminated to all relevant stakeholders and development of a high-level summary in different languages. Additionally, there'll be an academic paper to be published in a peer reviewed journal.

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