HIV/AIDS Research in Humanitarian Settings

Kaveh Khoshnood PhD, MPH
Associate Professor
Yale School of Public Health

HIV/AIDS in Humanitarian Crises Program at CIRA

**World AIDS Day Event**
“Addressing HIV/AIDS in Humanitarian Crises: Perspectives from Lebanon”
December 7, 2020
8:30-10:30 am EST
101 registered, 62 attended

**CIRA@Yale Symposium:**
“Addressing HIV/AIDS, Mental Health, and Substance Use in Humanitarian Settings”
Monday, April 4, 2022
9:00 am-12:00 pm ET
152 registered, 89 attended

**CIRA@Yale Panel:**
“Ethics of HIV/AIDS Research and Practice among Vulnerable Populations Impacted by Humanitarian Crises”
Monday, April 18, 2022
9:00 am-10:30 am ET
47 registered, 28 attended

**CIRA@Yale Workshop:**
“Ethical Considerations for HIV/AIDS Research in Humanitarian Settings”
Thursday, May 19, 2022
9:00 am-12:00 pm ET
12 applicants, 10 attended

**Ongoing (~2023)**
- Webpage with resources
- Newsletter
- Listserv: >270 subscribers

**Ongoing (~2023)**
- A scoping review on factors associated with HIV acquisition in the context of humanitarian crises
- A cross-sectional study on evidence related to ethics in conducting HIV research in humanitarian settings

Supported by CIRA and Kempf Fund of the Yale MacMillan Center
Principal Investigators: Kaveh Khoshnood and Luke Davis
Project Period: 7/1/2020-8/27/2022
CIRA 2023-2028 Program Themes and Goals

- Expand focus from humanitarian crises to populations experiencing **mobility and displacement**.

  “human movement, as individuals or groups, in space and time and includes, among others, livelihood mobility, displacement, household fluidity, rural to urban migrations, and involuntary mobility, such as trafficking for sexual exploitation or forced labor.”*

*Definition from NIMH’s human mobility and HIV:
Factors associated with HIV acquisition in the context of humanitarian crises: a scoping review protocol

Dini Harsono\textsuperscript{1}, Hanna Peterson\textsuperscript{2}, Kate Nyhan\textsuperscript{3,4}, Kaveh Khoshnood\textsuperscript{2,1}

\textsuperscript{1}Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS, Yale School of Public Health, Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA
\textsuperscript{2}Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases, Yale School of Public Health, Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA
\textsuperscript{3}Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library, Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA
\textsuperscript{4}Environmental Health Sciences, Yale School of Public Health, Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA
A scoping review of factors associated with HIV acquisition in the context of humanitarian crises
Methods

• Study eligibility criteria:
  1. Involving participants identified as people affected by humanitarian crises (UNHCR definition)
  2. Including empirical data on factors influencing the risk of acquiring HIV as a main/substantial focus
  3. Conducted in the context of humanitarian crises (i.e., natural and human-caused disasters, UN definition)
  4. Published in English between January 1990 through March 2022.

• Sources:
  1. Databases: MEDLINE, Embase, Global Health, Scopus
  2. Grey literature: websites of organizations involved in humanitarian assistance and development work (e.g., UN agencies), relevant non-government organizations (e.g., Elrha), research networks (e.g., Refugee Research Network), and the International AIDS Society’s conference abstract databases and abstract books (2006-2021)
Results (Preliminary)

- The search yielded 18,595 potentially relevant citations (18,477 from databases, 118 from grey literature).
- A total of 49 articles were included in the final analysis.
Results (Preliminary)

• Summary of findings:

  1) Modifiable factors for HIV acquisition
     - Policy and structural
     - Sociocultural
     - Health and mental health
     - Sexual practices
     - Exposure to humanitarian crises-related traumatic events

  2) Non-modifiable factors for HIV acquisition
     (i.e., age, gender, race/ethnicity, place of origin)

  3) Implications for future research and practice reported in the studies.
Next Steps

• Finalizing and submitting the scoping review for publication (Dec 2023).

• Conducting a sub-study on ethics-related aspects of conducting research on HIV acquisition in humanitarian settings (spring 2024).
A systematic literature review of the ethics of conducting research in the humanitarian setting

William Bruno and Rohini J. Haar
Key Ethical Topics in Humanitarian research

1. Ethics review process
2. Community Engagement
3. Dual Imperative
4. Clinical Trials in the Humanitarian Setting
5. Informed Consent
6. Cultural Considerations
7. Risks to Researchers
8. Child participation
9. Mental Health research
10. Data ownership
Article

Stress, Marginalization, and Disruption: A Qualitative Rapid Situational Assessment of Substance Users and HIV Risk in Lebanon

Kaveh Khoshnood 1,*, Amy B. Smoyer 2, Francesca Maviglia 1, Janine Kara 1, Danielle Khouri 3, Fouad M. Fouad 4 and Robert Heimer 1
Case study:
Substance Use and risk of HIV/AIDS among Displaced Populations in Lebanon