Improving the Measurement of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality in Humanitarian Settings Lab

Status Update
May 2020

Lead Partners:
SickKids Centre for Global Child Health
Canadian Red Cross
Progress to Date:

- **Finished** a review of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) indicators from Global Frameworks and Common Surveys (see resources below) typically used in non-conflict settings humanitarian crises.

- **Completed** two scoping reviews in combination with peer-review and grey literature from websites of organizations working in humanitarian-contexts:
  - SRHR coverage and related morbidity and mortality.
  - Gender equality and women’s empowerment.
  - Developed interactive Tableau visualizations of the scoping review results to be featured on the CanWaCH website.

Next Steps:

- **Preparing** scoping reviews for publication
- **Finalizing** Tableau visualizations and making them accessible on the CanWaCH website
- **Creating** a gap map (needs assessment) using scoping review results to inform the upcoming tool development phase.
- **Convening** partners to present evidence and determine the usability of the findings.
- **Comparing** indicators, data sources and methodologies used in humanitarian settings, to those found in global frameworks and household surveys.

Insights Shared:

- **Adapting to project timelines and shifting activities**: After underestimating the time required to conduct scoping reviews, project timelines were adapted to maximize the most of parallel research activities to reduce time-lag between two project phases.
• **Reduction in time for abstract screening**: Machine learning and natural language processing has led to a substantial reduction in the time it takes to complete the abstract screening phase of scoping reviews. At first the team worked with Rayyan, an online abstract screening tool that uses machine learning to rank abstracts. Eventually the team created a better-performing abstract screening tool in Python. The team is further developing the Python abstract screening tool to increase its efficiency. The goal is to allow researchers to conduct new literature reviews or update past ones as efficiently as possible.

**Reflection:**

“The use of machine learning, and artificial intelligence component, specifically for the screening phase of a scoping review has been a novel approach that has supported the Gender Equality Women Empowerment scoping review. This Collaborative pushed us to try out something new which has multiple learnings and potential to make impact if tested further and as a result, we have received funding from a catalyst grant to extend this investigation around machine learning.”

- Partner from SickKids Centre for Global Child Health

**Resources:**


• [Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy Indicators](#).

• [Sustainable Development Goal Indicators](#).

• Standard DHS 7 Components with Gender-Specific or Sex-Disaggregated Indicators. Source: [Guide to DHS Statistics DHS-7](#), 2018.

• Mapping of Household Surveys to Relevant SDGs. Original Source: [Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys](#), n.d.