Do Childhood Development Programs Help Children Living in Conflict and Crisis Settings?

Release Date:
Thursday, May 24, 2018 5:17 am EDT

Terms:
Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences  All Journals and Research  Social Sciences

Dateline City:
Hoboken, NJ

Contacts:
Contact: Penny Smith +44 (0) 1243 770448 scienecnwsroom@wiley.com

Millions of young children living in conditions of war, disaster, and displacement are at increased risk for developmental difficulties that can follow them throughout their lives.

Millions of young children living in conditions of war, disaster, and displacement are at increased risk for developmental difficulties that can follow them throughout their lives. A new *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* article reviews what's known about the effectiveness of early childhood development programs in humanitarian settings and present a framework and recommendations for future research.

The authors note that while there is robust evidence from stable contexts demonstrating effectiveness, research in humanitarian settings is lacking, and more evidence is needed to demonstrate not only which programs are effective, but importantly why, how, and in which contexts, settings, and populations these programs effectively operate. Such research would produce insights that will enable humanitarian actors to adapt, transfer, and scale successful program models to mitigate the negative effects of war, disaster, and displacement.

“We know from decades of research that early childhood programming has the powerful potential to improve the lives of children and families living in adversity. Yet in conflict and crisis settings, where experiences of severe and prolonged stress threaten healthy development, these programs are largely absent,” said lead author Katie Maeve Murphy, of the International Rescue Committee. “There is a clear need for further research—with a focus on implementation processes associated with effective outcomes in order to change the trajectory and significantly enhance the lives of children and families living in crisis and conflict.”

The paper is part of a special issue on implementation research and practice for early childhood development, intended to advance evidence for effective scaling up of nurturing care interventions that promote early childhood development.

Additional Information
Image: credit to Jodi Hilton/ International Rescue Committee
@theirc
@NYUGlobalTIES


About Journal
Published on behalf of the New York Academy of Sciences, *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* provides multidisciplinary perspectives on research of current scientific interest with far-reaching implications for the wider scientific community and society at large. Each special issue assembles the best thinking of key contributors to a field of investigation at a time when emerging developments offer the promise of new insight. Individualy themed, *Annals* special issues stimulate new ways to think about science by providing a neutral forum for discourse—within and across many institutions and fields.

Language:
English