

Research involving children in conflict settings: exploring the ethical issues



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Outline

- Importance of research with children in conflict settings
- Distinctiveness of research with children in conflict settings
- Empirical findings and case studies
- Approaches to making informed ethical decisions



Importance of research with children in conflict settings



Image: pixabay.com

- Children make-up a significant proportion of the global population
- To generate evidence to inform how to alleviate suffering
- Demonstrate respect for children's participation in decision making
- To meet the principle of justice requires attention to marginalised groups



“...armed conflicts affect the entire social ecology of children” (Jordans et al, 2018)

Context

Structural violence

Inherently political

System shortages

Risk to personnel & facilities

1 in 5 children living in conflict

Childhood disrupted

*Breakdown of system /
structures to support children*

Diversity of “childhood”

Research ethics ecosystem



- Respect:
 - Accessing populations: role of local mediators
 - Research feedback & dissemination
 - Child safety procedures
- Vulnerability
- Consent & assent
- Compensation
- Research team: Preparedness; Safety; Psychological impact / moral distress
- Methodological appropriateness
- Justice
- Capacity for ethical review



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“At times, individuals in these settings must forgo compliance with core ethical commitments, choose to comply with one ethical obligation at the expense of another, or to take an action where no obviously right action exists”

WHO Report “Reality makes our decisions: Ethical challenges in humanitarian situations of extreme violence”

Case study: Syrian refugee children in Lebanon

- Procedural ethics:
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Safety procedures
 - Providing health services
- Consent infographic
- Participation
- Respect for RA role

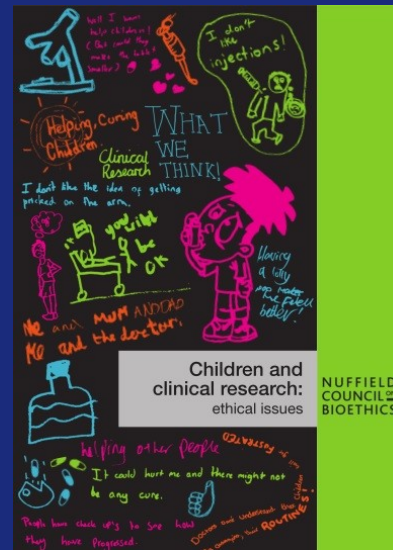


Making informed ethical decisions



<https://childethics.com/>

[http://
nuffieldbioethics.org/
project/children-research](http://nuffieldbioethics.org/project/children-research)



[https://
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Thank you!

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