

Maternal and reproductive health and armed conflicts in Sub-Saharan Africa: A disaggregated study

CHI Primus CHE

Doctoral Researcher, CSCW/PRIO

Outline

- Background
- Research Gaps Identified in Existing Literature
- Objectives
- Relevance
- Methodology
 - ❖ Parameters for Consideration
 - ❖ Tentative Case Study Countries
 - ❖ Available DHS Datasets
- Expected Outcome

Background

- Globally, armed conflicts disproportionately affects women and children, esp. in SSA
- Although males are more likely to be killed in direct conflict events, empirical data suggest that in the long-term following the cessation of combat, the overall excess mortality resulting from conflict is greater for women
- Maternal and reproductive health (esp. in conflicts) is a long neglected human rights issue

Research Gaps

- Inadequate original studies specifically assessing the impact of armed conflicts on MRH in SSA
- Minimal regional disaggregated data within conflict affected countries available
- No systematic review on the impact of armed conflicts on individual MRH indicators in SSA or even globally has not been undertaken
- Fewer corresponding qualitative studies

Objectives

To assess the impact of armed conflicts on maternal and reproductive health (**MRH indicators**) in SSA, using a disaggregated approach

Relevance

- Provide a **new** and **unique** dataset that could be utilized to develop a model for predicting the impact of such conflicts on MRH indicators.
- Provide **useful evidence-based policy-related tools** to appropriate stakeholders to mitigate the effects of armed conflicts on vital MRH services in the future

Methodology

- **Multidisciplinary**: quantitative and qualitative data and research
- **Quantitative**: DHS(www.measuredhs.com) and ACLED(www.acled-data.com) datasets

DHS: collects nationally representative data on population, health, and nutrition

ACLED: a dataset that 'breaks internal conflicts down to individual events at the local level

- **Qualitative**: IDIs and FGDs who lived prior, during and after armed conflict

Methodology- Proposed Designs

- National level aggregates
- Regional level data that contributes towards national data
- Group level (FGDs)
- Individual level (IDIs)

Parameters for Consideration

Maternal and Reproductive Health Indicator:

- General fertility and total fertility rates
- Fertility trends
- Delivery complications
- Infant mortality rate
- Maternal mortality ratio
- Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
- Contraceptive prevalence rate
- Adolescent birth rate
- Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits)
- Unmet need for family planning
- Neonatal mortality rate

Other related Indicators:

- Ratio of female literacy rate to male rate
- Public expenditure on education
- GNI per capita
- Government expenditure on health
- Per-capita government expenditure on health

Tentative Case Study Countries

Sub-region	Armed conflict countries (conflict dates)	Non armed conflict countries
West Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sierra Leone (1991-2002) - Liberia (1999-2003) - Cote d'Ivoire (2002-2004; 2011) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ghana - Togo - Burkina Faso
East Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rwanda (1990-1993) - DRC (1998-2003(2nd War)) - Sudan (1983-2005(2nd war); 2003-2010(Darfur)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tanzania - Kenya
Southern Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mozambique (1997-1992) - Angola (1975-2002) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Botswana - Namibia
Central Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Congo (Brazzaville) (1997-1999) - Chad (1989-2002; 2005-present) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cameroon - Gabon

Available DHS Datasets

Countries	Available most recent DHS data
Sierra Leone	2008
Liberia	2007
Cote d'Ivoire	1998-99
Ghana	2008
Burkina Faso	2010
Rwanda	2010
DRC	2007
Sudan	1989-90
Tanzania	2010
Kenya	2008

Countries	Available most recent DHS data
Mozambique	2003
Angola	2006-07
Botswana	1988
Namibia	2006-07
Congo	2009
Chad	2004
Cameroon	2004
Gabon	2000

Expected Outcome

- A cross national article on the impact of armed conflicts on MRH using quantitative disaggregated units of analysis among conflict affected countries.
- A cross national article based on IDIs and/or FGDs on the impact of armed conflicts on MRH among conflict affected countries.
- A comprehensive country case study of the impact of armed conflict on MRH in an armed conflict study: quantitative national data, quantitative regional data and comparisons; and qualitative regional data and comparisons
- Systematic review(s) aimed at assessing the impact of armed conflicts on MRH in SSA, and the effectiveness of current interventions to improve the MRH in armed conflict settings.