

The Challenge of Sample Design During Civil War

Luka Biong DENG (PhD)

New Sudan Centre for Statistics and Evaluation, Southern Sudan

Civil wars are becoming increasingly endemic in the contemporary world since the end of the Cold War. This upsurge of civil wars has a negative impact not only on the level of vulnerability of rural communities but also on the methods and capacity of gathering good quality data for effective humanitarian intervention. Using the experience of Southern Sudan, this paper attempts to provide a sampling framework for conducting socio-economic, health, demographic and agricultural surveys in the context of civil war. The suggested sampling framework is based on traditional social hierarchy rather than on formal administrative structure. It is argued that although this sample design is based on traditional social hierarchy that makes it somewhat unorthodox and scientifically inferior; it offers the best possible results in the context of civil war.