

A systematic analysis of the impact of conflict on human African *trypanosomiasis* in sub-Saharan Africa

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BA Honours Thesis

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Montréal (Québec)

2009

Abstract

Human African *trypanosomiasis* (HAT), commonly referred to as sleeping sickness, is a vector-borne disease unique to the African continent. Conflict is recognized as important, although neglected, driver of HAT outbreaks; however, the specific processes through which conflict results in HAT emergence and reemergence throughout sub-Saharan Africa remain poorly understood. The aim of this project is to evaluate and characterize the impact of conflict on incidence of human African *trypanosomiasis*. This is achieved through a systematic literature review of previous work in the area of conflict and health and through quantifying the relationship between conflict and HAT in sub-Saharan Africa, using national-level data from 1960-2004. The results of this study demonstrate that conflict does indeed have a significant impact on HAT cases throughout the region. In 2007, the World Health Organization set in motion an integrated plan to eliminate HAT; however, these findings indicate that without addressing the root causes of conflict, the presence of on-going war in HAT endemic areas will seriously thwart any such efforts.

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