Reviewer's report

**Title:** The influence of demographic characteristics, living conditions, and trauma exposure on the overall health of a conflict-affected population in Southern Sudan.

**Version:** 1 Date: 18 September 2009

**Reviewer:** Unni Krishnan Karunakara

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors have to be commended for carrying out this survey in southern Sudan. The associations outlined in the study support what has been found in other studies carried out in Uganda and in Ethiopia. The results and recommendations of this study however, should inform aid agencies and public health officials to provide appropriate services for the population of southern Sudan.

Major Compulsory Revisions

None

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Increasing age has been shown to have a negative association with both physical and mental health. It is therefore important to describe the age structure of the respondents a bit more. Include, for example, the median age and/or range in Table 1. Place this in context with census data that was available at the time of the study.

2. The authors mention that the study instrument was an adaptation of the Harvard Trauma Questionnaire. In a short paragraph in the Questionnaire section, outline socio-economic variables included in the study questionnaire. For example, educational attainment, income, household size etc.

3. The conclusions presented in the abstract and the paper are not the same. The conclusions should include a short summary of the analyses of data. In a separate short chapter perhaps, the authors should include recommendations for policy makers.

Discretionary Revisions

None.

Note

As an additional resource, the authors will be well served by reading these two dissertations available on the forced migration online website.

http://repository.forcedmigration.org/


**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.