



Microinsurance and Stigmatization among Former Child Soldiers in Eastern Sierra Leone: A Mixed-Methods Study

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Abstract

The Eastern Sierra Leone region has a history of conflict and subsequent stigmatization among former child soldiers. A mixed methods study combining qualitative interviews and quantitative insurance enrollment data to explore factors influencing participation and impact on stigmatization reduction. Microinsurance enrollment was higher among former child soldiers who perceived support from their communities compared to those in more isolated areas, with a significant difference ($p < 0.05$). Microinsurance can serve as an effective tool for stigma reduction but requires community engagement and tailored interventions. Policy makers should integrate microinsurance into post-conflict rehabilitation programmes and encourage community support structures. microinsurance, former child soldiers, stigma, Sierra Leone, mixed methods

Keywords: *Child soldiers, Sierra Leone, Conflict studies, Stigmatization theory, Microfinance, Mixed methods, Quantitative analysis*

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