



Methodological Approaches to Post-Conflict Medical Reconstruction: A Case Study of Senegal, 2018

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Abstract

Post-conflict medical reconstruction in African states involves complex challenges, including damaged infrastructure, disrupted supply chains, and a traumatised health workforce. Robust methodological frameworks to guide health system rebuilding are needed, but practical, documented case studies remain scarce. This methodology article details and appraises the methodological approaches used in a post-conflict medical reconstruction programme in Senegal. Its objective is to offer a transferable framework for planning and evaluating similar interventions in other post-conflict African contexts. The study used a qualitative, embedded single-case study design. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews with programme implementers and local health officials, focus group discussions with community health workers, and analysis of programme documentation. Thematic analysis identified core methodological components and procedural challenges. This paper presents procedural findings. A core methodological theme was the integration of mental health and psychosocial support into all primary care retraining. A significant challenge was the initial reluctance of a substantial proportion of returning clinical staff to engage with new digital health record systems. The approach highlighted the importance of adaptive, context-sensitive planning that prioritises health workforce rehabilitation alongside infrastructure. Success relied on iterative feedback mechanisms with local stakeholders. Future methodologies should incorporate explicit strategies for staff reorientation and psychological first aid. Planning must allocate sufficient time and resources for training on new health technologies. Methodologies must remain flexible to accommodate local logistical constraints. Health systems strengthening, post-conflict reconstruction, methodology, qualitative research, Senegal, medical rehabilitation This article provides a detailed methodological framework for health system reconstruction, contributing practical guidance for policymakers and non-governmental organisations operating in post-conflict African environments.

Keywords: *Post-conflict reconstruction, Health systems strengthening, Sub-Saharan Africa, Mixed-methods research, Case study methodology, Medical humanitarianism, Health workforce resilience*

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