

# **Post-traumatic stress disorder among children and adolescents in conflict affected areas of Amhara region**

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## **ABSTRACT**

**Background:** To date, conflict and its associated displacement are causing extreme social crisis in the world. The Horn of Africa is the most frequent conflict affected region of the world. Children and adolescents living in such conflict areas face a mass of problems. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is the most widely reported psychological disorders in the aftermath of conflict, war, and displacement. However, less attention was given to children living in conflict and war affected regions of the world.

**Objective:** This study was intended to assess post-traumatic stress disorder among children and adolescents in conflict affected zones of Amhara region.

**Method:** A descriptive community-based cross-sectional study was conducted among children and adolescents in conflict affected zones of Amhara region from January 2022 to February 2022. A multistage sampling technique were employed to recruit the study participants. A structured interviewer administered questionnaire were used to collect the desired data. Then, data was verified, coded and entered into EpiData version 3.1 and analyzed using SPSS version 24 statistical software. The result was described using descriptive statistics like mean, median, proportions and frequency using tables and texts.

**Result:** A total of 798 children were screened for trauma in conflict ridden zones of Amhara region. Consequently, 557 (69.80%) children had experienced different forms of traumatic events. Of these children who experience trauma, 203(36.45%) had developed posttraumatic stress disorder following the traumatic events.

**Key words:** Conflict, displacement, post-traumatic stress disorder, Ethiopia, Amhara region.