

## The Influence of Insufficient Banking Infrastructure on the Prevalence of Cattle Raiding in South Sudan, a case study of Jonglei State

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### **Abstract**

*The study was conducted to examine the relationship between insufficient banking infrastructure and the frequency of cattle raiding incidents in Jonglei State, the findings of the study indicated that presence of bank infrastructure would help contribute to 50% control of cattle raiding in Jonglei State, 61% cattle raiding incidents were influenced by civil war in the country, 46% cases of poverty, 35% cases related high bride prices, 27% cases of political influence by politician to enable them achieved their political goal. 42% alternative banking services include usage of Mgurush mobile services this mobile services connected with Zain network. The cattle were source of social and cultural pride which compel everyone to own its own it by any means and in other hand, the causes of cattle raiding were caused by shortage of pastures, ownership of pasture land and youth unemployment, age sets, poor conflict resolutions and poor management of the state's leadership. In recommendations, the government should carry out a massive disarmament, sponsor youth behavioural change and install a business mind, ministry of finance should intensify creating banking system with lower interest the national government and state government should develop a policy that reduce the number of the cattle owned by the farmer to meet the carrying capacity of the land of Jonglei state and lastly the state authorities in Jonglei state should reduce bride price into a level that each youth in Jonglei State would be able to manage in order to get a wife of his desire.*

**Keywords:** *Banking Services, Cattle aiding, Infrastructures.*

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### **Introduction**

South Sudan is a landlocked country located in East-Central Africa. It gained independence from Sudan on July 9, 2011, after decades of civil war. However, South Sudan has been plagued by conflicts since then, with cattle raiding as one of the constant sources of inter-community violence and conflict [1]. Cattle raiding is a deeply entrenched traditional practice in the culture of many South Sudanese tribes, and it has been associated with various socio-economic factors, including poverty, an inadequate banking infrastructure, and political instability [2].

More than 85% of all households in South Sudan are livestock keepers. Livestock snapshot estimated that, 950,000 livestock

keepers are engaging in pastoralism and agro pastoralism [3]. Despite this huge number of livestock in the country, livestock rearing and farming communities are faced by persistent cattle rustling. Cattle raiding practices by the pastoral tribes in South Sudan, like many other tribes in Africa have historically competed over resources and engaged in cattle rustling activities that often-triggered cycles of inter-tribal violence [4].

The prevalence of cattle raiding in South Sudan has been attributed to various factors, among them the lack of access to banking services. According to a study by Kuol and colleagues (2013), the majority of the South Sudanese population does not have access to formal banking services. This is partly due to the country's underdeveloped banking sector,

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which has been hampered by decades of conflict and political instability [5]. Consequently, most transactions in South Sudan are done in cash, including the sale and purchase of livestock.

Inadequate banking infrastructure has also been linked to the proliferation of informal money transfer systems in South Sudan, such as hawala and feexdacaad. These informal systems are largely unregulated and pose significant risks to the country's financial system and stability [6]. Moreover, they provide a convenient channel for financing illegal activities such as cattle raiding.

The historical background of the Influence of Insufficient Banking Infrastructure on the Prevalence of Cattle Raiding in sample States, Payams, Bomas, Villages/Places in South Sudan dates back to the period of colonialism. During this era, the British colonial administration introduced a taxation system based on the ownership of cattle in Southern Sudan [1].

This led to a surge in cattle rustling activities, as people sought to evade taxes by concealing the number of their livestock. The practice of cattle raiding continued even after independence, fueled by factors such as population growth, tribal conflicts, and a weak governance system [7].

In recent years, the South Sudanese government has taken several steps to strengthen the country's banking infrastructure, including the establishment of new banks and the introduction of mobile money services [8]. However, the prevalence of cattle raiding remains high, with many communities relying on traditional informal means of cattle trade and exchange. As a result, it is essential to assess the impact of insufficient banking infrastructure on the prevalence of cattle raiding in South Sudan.

It is upon the above background that this study aims to assess the Influence of Insufficient Banking Infrastructure on the Prevalence of Cattle Raiding in Jonglei State. By examining the linkages between informal

money transfer systems, banking services, and cattle raiding, the study seeks to provide insights into ways of addressing this persistent challenge in South Sudan [9]. The findings of this study could inform policy makers and stakeholders in designing effective strategies for promoting financial inclusion, strengthening the banking sector, and reducing the prevalence of cattle raiding in Jonglei State.

The conflict resulting from the struggle for power among the government officials and communal conflict resulting from cattle raiding and child abduction has greatly impacted on Jonglei State inhabitants causing large displacement of people and their cattle. From late 2013, Dinka Bor pastoralists who, in 1991, had experienced extensive displacement to Greater Equatoria with about one million livestock, were forced to flee again with their livestock to the same areas as well as to Lakes and Warrap states by crossing the Nile. It is reported, for example that one section of Dinka Bor fled with approximately 250 000 head of livestock to the Greater Equatoria region in 2013 and 2014 [10].

The direction of flight was shaped by the newly created hostilities with Nuer pastoralists in the north and Murlei pastoralists in the east as well as previous displacement experiences in the 1990s. By contrast, Nuer pastoralists in Jonglei state had limited options for southward or westward migration, given hostilities with Dinka and Murlei pastoralists [11]. They were forced to flee northward to relative secure and predominately Nuer territory but such areas were characterized by poor natural resources (water, pasture, etc.) [12]. Some Nuer pastoralists undertook highly risky migrations westwards to Warrap state and Abyei area and some areas in Lakes State.

The prevalence of livestock disease is perceived as the major factor affecting livestock production. However, the significance of this constraint increased in 2015 as compared to 2013, principally because the war has disrupted almost all animal health services (except

vaccination campaigns). A cattle raiding is perceived as the second major constraint in 2015; in 2013, water shortage was the second most critical constraint. This change reflects the extent of cattle raiding in the current conflict. Feed and water shortages are ranked as the third and fourth constraints affecting livestock production [13].

The lack of livestock shelter, which was the fifth major constraint in 2006, was not mentioned at all during this field assessment; perhaps this is considered a luxury in light of the other pressing problems [14]. Supposed there are sufficient banking services, a farmer would translate the animal wealth to monetary value that is not affected by diseases, drought and flooding. Although the contribution of livestock to the South Sudanese economy is significant, the national economy does not depend on it much compared to other sectors like oil mining and as results little attention has been paid to banking infrastructural development to enable local inhabitants translate their animal wealth to monetary value [15].

## Methodology

This chapter presents the research methodology to be employed in data collection, the methods as well as the justification of the choices of research design, tools and their uses. In addition, this chapter encompasses the study population and setting, sample and sampling procedures, data collection, pilot survey and data analysis method and management, all are systematically explored to reveal how the research study will be conducted.

## Area of Study

Jonglei State is a state of South Sudan with Bor as its centre of government and the biggest city. Jonglei state comprises nine counties: Bor, Akobo, Ayod, Uror, Duk, Nyirol, Pigi, Twic East, and Fangak. Jonglei State is the largest state by area before reorganisation, with an area of approximately 122,581KM<sup>2</sup>, as well as the most populous according to the 2008 census conducted in present-day South Sudan's second period of autonomy. Jonglei State has a long history of the tribal infighting which happens a result competition in basic resources of food, land, and water, and personal grudges related to the abduction of women and children and theft of cattle [16].



Figure 1. Map of Jonglei State Labeled with Counties

## Study Population

A population refers to the combination of elements that have similar characteristics or behavior [17]. According to 2021 population

estimated by National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Jonglei State has 1,031,207. The NBS conducted the survey with the palpable objectives in mind support decision making or

public policy and to inform national and subnational development. Both processes, if they are to be done right, require population-based evidence. Because it is literally a ‘survey,’ the NBS sampled about 1,500 sites. It used satellite imagery to determine how densely or sparsely a space is populated [18].

### Study Duration

This research has been conducted in duration of three months as of August, 2023 to December, 2023. As this study was investigative in nature, it will need enough time (specifically three months) or more to formulate the findings on the influence of insufficient banking infrastructures on the prevalence of cattle Raiding in South Sudan as a Case Study of Jonglei State from 2013 - 2022 in an attempt to collect the most recent data available about the effect the influence of insufficient banking infrastructures on the prevalence of cattle Raiding in South Sudan as a Case Study of Jonglei State. The analysis and conclusions will be based on this time period.

### Sampling Method

Sampling design and sample size are highly relevant to establish the representativeness of the sample for generalizability. It is not always possible to use every member or object of the population”. For this reason, samples have to be selected from population for study [19]. Kothari argues sampling method is the selection of some parts of the totality based on which judgment about the aggregate is done [20].

### Sample Size

A randomized sampling has been done in the manner in which all individuals have equal chance of being selected in Jonglei State to 1,031,207 target population of the study whereas 400 respondents will be used as sample size. The Taro Yamane method for sample size calculation was formulated by the Yamane in 1967 to determine the sample size from the given population. Below is the illustration for the Taro Yamane method.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

**n** signifies the sample size

**N** signifies the population under study  
(Target Population = 1,031,207)

**e** signifies the margin error (5%)

**1** = Constant

The study will randomly use a target population of 1,031,207 people

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2} \\ &= \frac{1,031,207}{1 + 1,031,207(0.05)^2} \\ &= \frac{1,031,207}{1 + 1,031,207(0.0025)} \\ &= \frac{1,031,207}{1 + 2,578.0175} \\ &= \frac{1,031,207}{2579.0175} \\ &= 399.820 \\ \therefore n &= 400 \end{aligned}$$

**n = 400 people Therefore,** the researcher will use 400 respondents as sample size for this study.

### Study Tools Various Schedules, Checklist Used

Structured questionnaires will be administered to approximately 400 respondents randomly across the selected payams. These respondents will consist of cattle herders, members of the affected communities, and local officials. The surveys will capture information on demographics, financial services within the area, cattle raiding occurrences, and the influence of the banking infrastructure on cattle raiding.

The finding of the study in table 1 below showed that the majority of the respondents 50% (n=201) respondents strongly disagreed with the statement that presence of bank infrastructure would help control the cattle raiding in Jonglei State, 19% (n=77) respondents disagreed that presence of bank infrastructure would help control the cattle

raiding in Jonglei State while 15% (n= 60) respondents agreed that the presence of bank infrastructure would help control the cattle raiding in Jonglei State, 12% (n=47) respondents were not sure whether the presence

of bank infrastructure would help control the cattle raiding in Jonglei State and lastly 4% (n=15) respondents had strongly agreed that the presence of bank infrastructure would help control the cattle raiding in Jonglei State.

**Table 1.** The Presence of Bank Infrastructure Would Help Control the Cattle Raiding in Jonglei State

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agreed	15	4	4	4
	Agreed	60	15	15	19
	Not Sure	47	12	12	31
	Disagreed	77	19	19	50
	Strongly disagreed	201	50	50	100
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

The finding of the study in table 2 below showed has shown that majority of the respondents 61% (n=245) strongly agreed that cattle raiding came as a result of civil war in the country, 16% (n=63) respondents strongly disagreed that cattle raiding came as a result of

civil war in the country while 15% (n=61) respondents agreed that cattle raiding came as a result of civil war in the country and only 8% (n=31) respondents disagreed that cattle raiding came as a result of civil war in the country.

**Table 2.** The Cattle Raiding Came as A Result of Civil War in the Country

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agreed	245	61	61	61
	Agreed	61	15	15	76
	Disagreed	31	8	8	84
	Strongly disagreed	63	16	16	100
	Total	400	100	100	

The finding of the study in table 3 below showed that majority of the respondents 46% (n=184) respondents agreed that poverty was the most factor Contributing to prevalence of cattle raiding in Jonglei State, 31% (n=125) strongly agreed that poverty was the most factor Contributing to prevalence of cattle raiding in Jonglei State, 8% (n=31) respondents were not sure whether the poverty was the most factor

Contributing to prevalence of cattle raiding in Jonglei State, 7.5% (n=30) respondents disagreed that poverty was the most factor Contributing to prevalence of cattle raiding in Jonglei State and lastly 7.5% (n=30) respondents strongly disagreed that poverty was the most factor Contributing to prevalence of cattle raiding in Jonglei State.

**Table 3.** Poverty is the Most Factor Contributing to Prevalence of Cattle Raiding in Jonglei State

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agreed	125	31	31	31
	Agreed	184	46	46	77
	Not Sure	31	8	8	85
	Disagreed	30	7.5	7.5	92.5
	Strongly disagreed	30	7.5	7.5	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

The findings of the study in table 4 below showed that majority of the respondent 35% (n=141) strongly agreed that the high bride price is believed to be a greater factor contributing to prevalence of cattle raiding in Jonglei State while 23% (n=92) respondents were not sure whether the high bride price is believed to be a greater factor contributing to prevalence of cattle raiding in Jonglei State,

19% (n=77) respondents disagreed to the statement that the high bride price is believed to be a greater factor contributing to prevalence of cattle raiding in Jonglei State and 4% (n=15) respondents strongly disagreed that the high bride price is believed to be a greater factor contributing to prevalence of cattle raiding in Jonglei State.

**Table 4.** The High Bride Price is Believed to be a Greater Factor Contributing to Prevalence of Cattle Raiding in Jonglei State

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agreed	141	35	35	35
	Agreed	75	19	19	54
	Not Sure	92	23	23	77
	Disagreed	77	19	19	96
	Strongly disagreed	15	4	4	100
	Total	400	100	100	

The findings of the study in table 5 below showed that the majority of the respondents 27% (n=107) respondents strongly disagreed to the statement the cattle raiding happens in Jonglei State as a result of political influence among the politician to enable them achieved their political goal while 23% (n=93) respondents had strongly agreed that the cattle raiding happens in Jonglei State as a result of political influence among the politician to

enable them achieved their political goal, 19% (n=77) respondents were not sure whether the cattle raiding happens in Jonglei State as a result of political influence among the politician to enable them achieved their political goal and the other 19% (n=77) respondents disagreed that the cattle raiding happens in Jonglei State as a result of political influence among the politician to enable them achieved their political goal and lastly, 12% (n=46)

respondents had agreed that the cattle raiding happens in Jonglei State as a result of political

influence among the politician to enable them achieved their political goal.

**Table 5.** The Cattle Raiding Happens in Jonglei State as A Result of Political Influence Among the Politician to Enable Them Achieved Their Political Goal

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agreed	93	23	23	23
	Agreed	46	12	12	35
	Not Sure	77	19	19	54
	Disagreed	77	19	19	73
	Strongly Disagreed	107	27	27	100
	Total	400	100	100	

The finding of the study in table 6 below based on the banking services available in Jonglei State showed that there were banking services which includes Ivory Bank, Cooperative Bank, other Bank named to be

Kush Bank and Mobile money services called Mgurush which were represented by 42% (n=168), 27% (n=107), 20% (n=79) and 11% (n = 46) respondents respectively.

**Table 6.** Banks available in Jonglei State

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Ivory Bank	168	42	42	42
	Cooperative Bank	107	27	27	69
	Mobile Money Services (Mgurush)	46	11	11	81
	Others	79	20	20	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

## Conclusion

The findings of the study have revealed that 58% farmers in Jonglei have their sources of financial transaction from cattle sales, 35% farmers had their sources of financial transaction from sales of the crops produces and of these earnings, 42% of the farmers did their financial transactions in Kush Bank more than other banks. However, the study further found out that, 46% of the factors contributing cattle raiding in Jonglei State was poverty, 35% has

been found to be a high bride price is believed to be a greater factor contributing to prevalence of cattle raiding in Jonglei State and 27% these factors was found to be a political influence among the politician to enable them achieved their political goal.

The cattle have been found to be the source of social and cultural pride which compel everyone to own its own it by any means and in other hand, the causes of cattle raiding have been found to be influenced by shortage of

pastures, ownership of pasture land and youth unemployment. Also, Age set has said to be one of the factors influencing cattle raiding in Jonglei State, poor conflict resolution and poor management of the state's leadership.

## Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following measures should be taken by the government of Jonglei State in collaboration with the National government of the Republic of South Sudan and stakeholders or actors on peace and security should do the following;

**Disarmament** – the National government should carry out a massive disarmament in order to restore peace in the state and the country as a whole as this would minimize the rampant and recurrent cattle raiding in the state level.

**Youth Economic Empowerment** – the government and actors in development should venture a youth behavioural change and install

a business mind in order to carry out cattle business and through that trainings and workshop facilitated by the government. Also, the ministry of finance should intensify creating banking system with lower interest in order to motivate the farmer to investment their crops and crop produces and positive return on their investment.

**Government to Regulate the Cattle Ownership** – The national government together with state government should develop a policy that reduce the number of the cattle owned by the farmer to meet the carrying capacity of the land of Jonglei state and through this the issue of the cattle raiding shall be minimized.

**Reduction of the Bride Price** – The state authorities in Jonglei state should reduce bride price into a level that each youth in Jonglei State would be able to manage in order to get a wife of his desire.

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