

**ROLE OF THE KENYA DEFENCE FORCES IN RESOLVING INTER-
COMMUNAL CONFLICTS IN WEST POKOT AND TURKANA COUNTIES,
KENYA**

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**A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Award of
the Degree of Master of Science in Governance, Peace and Security, in the
Department of Governance, Peace and Security Studies, School of Humanities
and Social Sciences at Africa Nazarene University**

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DECLARATION

I confirm that this research project is entirely my own work and has not been previously presented to any other institution or university.

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This thesis has been submitted for examination with our approval as the University supervisors.

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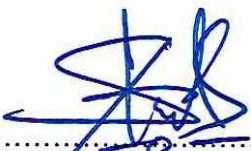
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DEDICATION

I dedicate this project to my late husband Major Mwenda and my children, Andy, Fortune, and Junior for their love and unwavering support and inspiration to accomplish my studies.

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DEFINITION OF TERMS

Challenges: Represents the obstacles, barriers, and complexities faced by the Kenya Defence Forces in effectively addressing inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana counties, including resource constraints, historical grievances, and socio-political dynamics.

Conflict Resolution: Measures to mitigate tensions, build trust among communities, promote sustainable peace, enhance security, support development, and engage with local stakeholders to foster peaceful coexistence and stability in the region.

Effectiveness: Refers to the degree to which the conflict resolution efforts of the military in West Pokot and Turkana counties have achieved their intended goals of mitigating inter-communal tensions and promoting sustainable peace.

Inter-communal Conflict: Refers to disputes, tensions, and hostilities between different ethnic or community groups in West Pokot and Turkana counties, often stemming from historical grievances, competition over resources, and socio-political factors

Strategies: Encompasses the approaches, tactics, and interventions employed by the Kenya Defence Forces to navigate and overcome the challenges encountered in resolving inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana counties, such as community engagement, peacebuilding initiatives, and conflict mediation efforts.

ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

AMIS:	African Union Mission in Sudan
AMISOM:	African Mission in Somalia
ANU:	Africa Nazarene University
AU:	African Union
APSA:	Peace And Security Architecture
CIA:	Central Intelligence Agency
CPA:	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
IGAD:	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
KDF:	Kenya Defence Forces
MOD:	Ministry of Defence
NACOSTI:	National Commission for Science, Innovation, and Technology
NGO:	Non- Governmental Organization
UN:	United Nations

ABSTRACT

This study examined the role of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) in resolving inter-communal conflicts along the border of West Pokot and Turkana Counties. The objectives of the study were to identify the specific conflict resolution strategies employed by the Kenya Defence Forces in addressing inter-communal conflicts, assessing the impact and effectiveness of the Kenya Defence Forces' interventions in mitigating inter-communal conflict, and to investigate the operational challenges faced by the Kenya Defence Forces in their inter-communal conflict resolution efforts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties. The study considered Azar's Theory of Conflict, the Realism Theory of Conflict Management, and the Securitization Theory. A descriptive research design was used in this investigation. The Local residents, KDF officers, Police commanders, chiefs, and county administrators were the subjects of this research. A mixed-method research design, quantitative and qualitative methods were applied in the study. Stratified Sampling and purposive sampling procedures were applied to select the subjects of the study based on the geographical area along the Turkana and West Pokot counties. The sample size was 105 respondents. A questionnaire designed to address the study's goals was used to gather data. Descriptive analysis was used to examine the data. Results are shown in the form of tables, charts, and figures when the data was coded and analyzed using descriptive analysis tools. Results contributed to a deeper understanding of how security issues were framed, perceived, and managed in conflict-affected areas. The study found that inter-communal conflicts between communities in West Pokot and Turkana Counties are recurrent and persistent, with sporadic outbreaks of violence occurring over several decades. The study also found that the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) have utilized several conflict resolution strategies to address inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties. The study also found that KDF interventions have contributed to a reduction in inter-communal conflict incidents in the region and the conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties are deeply rooted in complex inter-communal dynamics, including historical grievances, competition over resources, and ethnic tensions. KDF should prioritize meaningful engagement with local communities, including community leaders, elders, and grassroots organizations, to better understand their perspectives, needs, and grievances; KDF personnel should undergo cultural sensitivity training to better understand the socio-cultural dynamics of the communities they serve; KDF should conduct a comprehensive analysis of the root causes, dynamics, and actors involved in inter-communal conflicts in the region and KDF needs to enhance intelligence gathering capabilities through investments in technology, training, and collaboration with local informants and intelligence agencies.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the background of the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions and scope of the study, significance of the study, limitations, delimitations, theoretical review, and conceptual framework.

1.2 Background of the Study

The role of national armed forces has traditionally focused on safeguarding sovereignty and territorial integrity against external threats (Morgenthau, 1973; Schiff, 2008). However, the post-Cold War era necessitated the adaptation of military forces to address complex internal security challenges (Moskos et al., 2000; Burk, 2017). This shift was particularly evident in the context of inter-communal conflicts, which emerged as significant threats to stability in many regions globally.

The evolution of military roles was understood through the lens of realism theory, which emphasized power dynamics and state interests in international relations (Mearsheimer, 2001). However, the securitization theory proposed by the Copenhagen School (Buzan et al., 1998) offered a complementary perspective, examining how non-traditional issues were framed as security threats to justify extraordinary measures, including military intervention.

Global events such as the fragmentation of Yugoslavia in the 1990s exposed the limitations of traditional military approaches in addressing intrastate conflicts. The involvement of various non-state actors in these conflicts highlighted the need for militaries to develop multidimensional capabilities (Kaldor, 2013). In Africa, the 1994 Rwandan genocide served as a stark reminder of the consequences of military inaction

or complicity in internal conflicts. This tragic event, which claimed an estimated 800,000 lives in just 100 days, underscored the potential for armed forces to either contribute positively to conflict resolution or exacerbate tensions in contexts with deeply entrenched communal identities (Stanton, 2004; Melvern, 2019).

In the recent past, studies have highlighted the increasing prevalence of inter-communal conflicts across Africa. Elfversson (2019) reported that between 1989 and 2011, there were 857 inter-communal conflicts in Africa, resulting in over 65,000 fatalities. These conflicts often stemmed from competition over scarce resources, political marginalization, and historical grievances (Okumu et al., 2020).

In East Africa, the ongoing conflict in Somalia and the threat posed by Al-Shabaab had necessitated military interventions by regional actors, including the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF). A study by Cannon and Pkalya (2019) found that between 2011 and 2019, the KDF conducted over 150 counterterrorism operations within Somalia and along Kenyan border regions, demonstrating the evolving role of armed forces in addressing transnational security challenges.

Within Kenya, inter-communal conflicts among pastoralist communities in regions such as West Pokot and Turkana Counties had escalated significantly. Data from the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (2021) indicated that between 2018 and 2020, these two counties experienced 78 incidents of inter-communal violence, resulting in 213 fatalities and the displacement of over 10,000 people. These conflicts, traditionally rooted in competition for scarce water and pastureland, were exacerbated by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW). A survey by the Small Arms Survey (2019) estimated that there were approximately 750,000 illicit firearms in circulation in Kenya, with a significant concentration in the northern pastoralist regions.

The situation in West Pokot and Turkana Counties was further complicated by the involvement of various actors, including local militias and transnational criminal networks. A study by Lind (2018) identified at least 12 distinct armed groups operating in these counties, engaging in activities ranging from cattle rustling to arms trafficking. The Kenya Defence Forces, whose origins could be traced back to the King's African Rifles established in 1902, had seen its role expand beyond traditional external defense. The 2010 Kenyan Constitution and the subsequent Kenya Defence Forces Act of 2012 provided a legal framework for the military's involvement in internal security operations, including addressing inter-communal conflicts (Government of Kenya, 2012).

Over the years, the KDF has been increasingly involved in efforts to resolve inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties. These interventions included deploying troops to establish buffer zones, facilitating disarmament efforts, and supporting dialogue and reconciliation processes between conflicting communities (Odhiambo & Musyoka, 2021). A report by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (2020) documented 23 KDF-led peacekeeping operations in these counties between 2015 and 2019, with mixed results in terms of conflict resolution and community perceptions.

However, the military's role in resolving inter-communal conflicts had also faced criticism. A study by Mkutu (2018) found that military interventions in pastoralist conflicts sometimes led to increased militarization of communities and human rights abuses. Out of 150 community members surveyed, 62% expressed concerns about the long-term impact of military presence on local power dynamics and conflict resolution mechanisms.

The complexity of these conflicts and the challenges faced by military interventions were understood through Azar's Theory of Protracted Social Conflict (Azar, 1990). This theory emphasized the role of identity groups, deprivation of human needs, and governance issues in perpetuating conflicts, providing a framework for analyzing the multifaceted nature of inter-communal tensions in West Pokot and Turkana.

Against this backdrop, the role of the KDF in addressing inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties had become increasingly crucial yet controversial. The military's involvement raised critical questions about the effectiveness of their strategies, the challenges they faced, and the potential implications for long-term peacebuilding efforts.

This research study investigated the specific role of the KDF in conflict resolution efforts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties. By exploring the effectiveness of their strategies, identifying key challenges encountered, and proposing recommendations, the study sought to contribute to enhancing the KDF's contribution to peacebuilding and addressing the complex dynamics of inter-communal conflicts in these areas.

The study's findings have significant implications for policy and practice in conflict resolution and military engagement in internal security challenges. By providing empirical evidence on the impact of military interventions in inter-communal conflicts, this study aimed to inform more effective and sustainable approaches to peacebuilding in Kenya's pastoralist regions and beyond.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Inter-communal conflicts present a significant threat to human security and socio-economic development in many African countries, including Kenya. These conflicts, often rooted in disputes over access to resources, political representation, and historical grievances, have the potential to escalate into widespread violence and destabilize

entire regions. The Rwandan genocide served as a tragic example of the devastating consequences of failing to address inter-communal tensions effectively. Despite the lessons of history, many African countries, including Kenya, continued to grapple with recurring cycles of communal violence at the time of this study.

In Kenya, pastoralist communities in arid and semi-arid regions such as West Pokot and Turkana Counties have experienced long-standing conflicts over scarce resources. These conflicts are exacerbated by the influx of automatic weapons and the presence of armed groups and criminal organizations (Marigat, 2023; Ugwueze & Onuha, 2020). The escalation of violence had intensified the human cost, undermined regional stability, and demonstrated the limitations of traditional security approaches in addressing complex intrastate conflicts.

The involvement of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) in resolving inter-communal conflicts had been observed in various regions, such as in Laikipia County during the early 2000s (Klopp & Sang, 2011). However, the effectiveness of their strategies and the challenges they faced remain areas of concern. The military's role in addressing these conflicts had faced criticism for potentially exacerbating tensions, perpetuating human rights abuses, or contributing to the militarization of societies (Nyadera, 2018).

Despite the KDF's increasing involvement in conflict resolution efforts, there was a lack of comprehensive research examining their specific role, strategies, and impact in addressing inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties. This knowledge gap hindered the development of evidence-based policies and practices for effective military engagement in internal security challenges.

Furthermore, the complex nature of these conflicts, involving multiple stakeholders and deep-rooted socio-economic issues, necessitated a thorough investigation of the KDF's

approach to conflict resolution. Understanding the military's strategies, their effectiveness, and the challenges encountered is crucial for enhancing peacebuilding efforts and preventing the escalation of violence among pastoralist communities.

This study addressed this research gap by investigating the specific role of the KDF in conflict resolution efforts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties. By examining the strategies employed, the challenges encountered, and the outcomes achieved, this study aimed to provide critical insights into the effectiveness of military involvement in addressing inter-communal conflicts in these regions.

Ultimately, the findings of this research contributed to enhancing the KDF's role in peacebuilding efforts, fostering sustainable reconciliation, and informing policy decisions aimed at preventing the escalation of violence among pastoralist communities in West Pokot and Turkana Counties. This study's outcomes have significant implications for improving military engagement in internal security challenges and promoting long-term stability in conflict-prone regions of Kenya and beyond.

1.4 Purpose of the Study

The primary aim of this study was to investigate the involvement of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) in addressing inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana counties. The study sought to evaluate the effectiveness of KDF interventions, understand the underlying causes of conflicts, analyze the strategies employed by the military, and identify challenges and opportunities in conflict resolution efforts. By examining the impact of KDF actions, exploring conflict dynamics, assessing military approaches, and highlighting key obstacles and prospects, the study aimed to provide valuable insights for policy development and practical implementation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding initiatives in the region. Ultimately, the research

endeavoured to contribute to enhancing peace, stability, and reconciliation in West Pokot and Turkana counties through informed and evidence-based recommendations derived from empirical findings.

1.5 Objectives of the Study

1.5.1 General Objective

The study generally investigated the role of the Kenya Defence Forces in resolving inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana counties.

1.5.2 Specific Objectives

This study employed the following specific objectives:

1. To identify the prevalence and types of inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties.
2. To identify the specific conflict resolution strategies employed by the Kenya Defence Forces in addressing inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties.
3. To assess the impact and effectiveness of the Kenya Defence Forces' interventions in mitigating inter-communal conflict, promoting peace, and enhancing security in West Pokot and Turkana Counties.

4. To investigate the operational challenges faced by the Kenya Defence Forces in their inter-communal conflict resolution efforts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties.

1.6 Research Questions

The study sought to answer the following questions;

1. What is the prevalence and what are the different types of inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties?
2. What specific strategies have the Kenya Defence Forces employed in resolving inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties?
3. How effective have the Kenya Defence Forces' interventions been in mitigating inter-communal conflicts, promoting peace, and enhancing security in West Pokot and Turkana Counties?
4. What are the major operational challenges encountered by the Kenya Defence Forces in their efforts to resolve inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties?

1.7 Significance of the Study

This study holds significant importance in addressing the complex challenge of inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties, which have far-reaching implications for regional security, socio-economic development, and human welfare. The investigation of the role of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) in resolving these conflicts will positively contribute to the broader efforts of promoting sustainable peace and stability in these regions.

The findings of this research will provide valuable insights into the strategies employed by the KDF in addressing inter-communal conflicts, their effectiveness, and the challenges military face during these operations. This knowledge can inform policy

decisions and guide the development of more effective approaches to conflict resolution, ensuring that military interventions are conducted in a manner that respects human rights and promotes reconciliation.

Furthermore, the study's recommendations will contribute to enhancing the KDF's capacity to address inter-communal conflicts more effectively. By identifying areas for improvement and proposing practical solutions, the research can support the development of specialized training programs, resource allocation, and operational strategies tailored to the unique dynamics of these conflicts.

Also, the study aimed at contributing to the broader academic discourse on the role of armed forces in addressing internal security challenges, particularly in the context of inter-communal conflicts. The study will provide empirical data and analytical insights that can inform future research and theoretical frameworks in the security field.

Additionally, through enhancing the effectiveness of the KDF's interventions in resolving inter-communal conflicts, the study has the potential of contributing to the broader goals of promoting regional stability, protecting human lives, and fostering sustainable development in West Pokot and Turkana Counties.

1.8 Scope of the Study

The study encompassed an in-depth examination of inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties in Kenya. It involved key stakeholders such as community members, local leaders, government officials, military personnel, and peacebuilding organizations engaged in conflict resolution efforts in along the border of the two counties. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, the study analyzed the root causes, triggers, and dynamics of inter-ethnic tensions, as well as the strategies, interventions, and impact of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) in addressing these conflicts. By

assessing the effectiveness of conflict resolution strategies, exploring community perspectives, and considering ethical considerations, the research aimed to provide valuable insights into the role of the KDF in promoting sustainable peace and stability in the study area.

1.9 Delimitation of the Study

The delimitation of this study involved specifying the boundaries and constraints within which the research were conducted. The study focused exclusively on inter-communal conflicts along the border of West Pokot and Turkana Counties in Kenya, excluding other regions or counties facing similar challenges. The research primarily relied on data collected from key stakeholders in the selected counties, potentially excluding perspectives from individuals outside these communities. Additionally, the study encountered limitations related to access to certain data, security concerns in conflict-affected areas, and potential biases in participant responses, which were acknowledged and addressed to ensure the validity and reliability of the research findings.

1.10 Limitations of the Study

The study faced limitations related to the availability and reliability of data on inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties. Access to certain sensitive information or historical records may be restricted, impacting the depth of analysis. Security concerns in conflict-affected areas also posed challenges to data collection and participant engagement, potentially influencing the comprehensiveness of the research findings. Additionally, the study's scope was constrained by time and resource limitations, affecting the breadth of the investigation and the ability to explore all relevant aspects of the topic. Potential biases in participant responses or researcher interpretations introduced subjectivity into the analysis, requiring careful consideration

and mitigation strategies to ensure the credibility and objectivity of the study's conclusions.

1.11 Assumptions of the Study

According to Patten (2017), assumptions are things considered to be accepted as true. The study operated under certain assumptions that guided the research process and interpretation of findings. It assumed that the data collected from key stakeholders in West Pokot and Turkana Counties was representative of the broader community perspectives on inter-communal conflicts. The research also assumed that participants provided accurate and honest responses during interviews and discussions, contributing valid insights into the root causes, dynamics, and resolution strategies of these conflicts. Furthermore, the study assumed that ethical guidelines were followed in data collection and analysis to uphold the rights and confidentiality of participants, thus fostering a trustworthy research environment. These assumptions underpinned the validity and reliability of the study's outcomes and recommendations regarding the role of KDF in conflict resolution efforts along Turkana and West Pokot border counties.

1.12 Theoretical Framework

1.12.1 Azar's Theory of Protracted Social Conflict

The works of Edward Azar are one of the most effective approaches that revolutionized the understanding and analysis of conflicts. His ability to identify conflict as a phenomenon that extends beyond traditional interstate wars enhances our comprehension of "deep-rooted conflicts" (K. Z. Azar, Kamali, Homayoun, & Sasan, 2019) and "intractable conflicts" (Harel, Maoz, & Halperin, 2020) and protracted social conflict. Azar's conceptual framework initiates a compelling intellectual discussion that advocates for reevaluating the traditional Clausewitzian concept of war (Scheipers,

2017), which portrays war as an extension and ultimate manifestation of diplomacy between states. Azar's analysis of violent conflict dynamics exposes conceptual deficiencies, particularly in the common assumption that the cessation of violent actions signifies the achievement of peace.

The core problem of most conflicts in post-colonial societies is explicable in many ways, but Azar believes they all hinge on the “disarticulation between the state and society as a whole”, an imbalance relationship characterized by the incompatibility of goals not just amongst groups with dissimilar identities, but also between state and society (Azar, 1990). According to Azar, the ‘disarticulation’ owes much to the bequeathed colonial legacy that enables discrimination, wherein state machinery is “dominated by a single communal group or a coalition of a few communal groups that are unresponsive to the needs of other groups in the society’ which ‘strains the social fabric and eventually breeds fragmentation and protracted social conflict” (Harel et al., 2020).

Azar argues that the failure to address both ‘perceived and actual’ deprivation generates both conflict habit and behavior, terming it as “grievances resulting from need deprivation are usually expressed collectively”. Failure to redress these grievances by the authority cultivates a niche for a protracted social conflict”(E. E. Azar, 1990). Azar relates these grievances to the deprivation of immutable rights and needs (security needs, development needs, political needs, and identity needs) which are paramount and non-negotiable. For Azar, an individual or group's sensitivity towards these needs means secured development, and therefore “protracted conflict leads one to conclude that peace is development in the broadest sense of the term (Lederach, 2022).

This theory will help in identifying and analyzing the underlying causes and drivers of conflict in the area of study; with consideration of factors such as resource scarcity, relation dynamics, and cultural influences. The theory will also help in comprehending how domestic social and political institutions are shaped and how they affect the state's role, which is significantly influenced by the connections within the national system. It is also important in defining the aspects that lead to inter-communal conflicts between warring communities in Northern Kenya. It will highlight the core causes of conflicts and potential strategies to deal with these challenges.

Azar's theory of protracted social conflict focuses on the underlying structural causes of conflicts, such as identity, resources, and governance issues. This theory could be valuable in examining the root causes of conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties and how the Kenya Defence Forces engage with these complex social and political dynamics to contribute to conflict resolution efforts.

1.12.2 Realism Theory of Conflict Management

Realism emerged as a prominent theory in the field of international relations following the Second World War, as a response to the prevailing theories of the interwar period (Väyrynen, 2023). The rise of realism was partly a response to theories that had become popular after the First World War. In its aftermath, leaders of that war 's victorious nations were driven by the passionate desire to prevent war. These leaders saw war as a disease of the international body politic.

Realism in international relations has evolved through the contributions of various scholars who have positioned themselves within a unique yet varied approach or school of thought (Shearn, Allmark, Piercy, & Hirst, 2017). Realism highlights the limitations on political actions due to human nature and the lack of a global governing body. Collectively, these factors render international relations predominantly a domain

characterized by power dynamics and self-interest, as human nature remains constant from ancient times to the present day. Realists argue that human nature is fundamentally self-centered, leading to a persistent tendency toward unethical behavior (Lewis, Heathershaw, & Megoran, 2018). Machiavelli asserts that in politics, it is essential to assume that all individuals are inherently corrupt and will act on their malicious intentions when circumstances allow.

Realism theory, which emphasizes power dynamics, state interests, and the role of military capabilities in international relations, served as the guiding framework, offering insights into the role of KDF in resolving inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties. In this study's context, realism offered a lens to understand the Kenyan government's motivations in deploying the KDF to address these conflicts. The deployment could be viewed as pursuing state interests and preserving national security, perceiving inter-communal conflicts as threats to stability and territorial integrity, prompting military power exercise. The study examined the KDF's conflict resolution strategies and tactics, which may have included projecting military power and using force to contain violence, restore order, and impose resolutions, aligning with realism's emphasis on military force's role in an anarchic system.

However, realism acknowledged military force's limitations in resolving complex conflicts. The challenges faced by the KDF in achieving successful resolution and sustainable peace were analyzed through realism's recognition of stakeholders' inherent self-interests and power dynamics. This framework aided in understanding the KDF's interventions' motivations, strategies, and constraints while acknowledging complexities arising from actors' self-interested nature.

1.12.3 Securitization Theory

Complementing the realism theory, this study drew upon the securitization theory proposed by the Copenhagen School of Security Studies (Weaver and Buzan (1993) and later with Buzan, Wæver, and De Wilde 1998). The theory interrogates tenets of security, particularly on how leaders constructed security and security issues. It also examined how non-security issues moved into the realm of security. This theory holds that security is a discursive process in which anything that is considered a threat is socially constructed based on collective. Supporters of this theory emphasize the significance of leaders and how they, through their speech, declare a matter as an existential threat against a specific entity, thereby necessitating exceptional actions (Balzacq, 2019). Leaders establish the intersubjective ontology through declarations, as verbalizing something can shape a reality given societal approval" (Baele & Thomson, 2017). The extraordinary measures may include deployment of the military, armament, arming of civilians, and preparation for war. This measure implies going beyond constraints that limit such measures and actions outside securitization (Buzan et al., 1998).

Securitization theory examined how non-traditional issues were discursively constructed and framed as existential security threats, thereby justifying extraordinary measures to address them. It posited that security is a socially constructed process, where influential actors designated issues as threats through rhetoric. Securitization occurred when an issue was presented as an existential threat to a referent object, necessitating exceptional measures beyond normal processes, contingent on audience acceptance.

In this study, securitization theory offered insights into how the inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties were potentially framed as security

threats, justifying the Kenya Defence Forces' (KDF) deployment as an exceptional measure. The theory helped analyze how leaders portrayed the conflicts as threats to security or territorial integrity, enabling military intervention. Furthermore, the study shed light on the discursive processes and power dynamics involved in constructing conflicts as existential threats, potentially influencing the KDF's strategies and actions.

1.13 Conceptual Framework

Conceptual frameworks stem from a wide array of ideas and theories that guide the researcher in identifying the gap that leads to a problem, defining guiding questions, and finding the relevant literature. In this study, the independent variables are prevalence and types of inter-communal conflict, strategies applied by KDF in conflict zones, effectiveness, and challenges KDF faces in resolving inter-communal conflict while the dependent variable is the Outcome of Inter-Communal Conflict Resolution.

Dependent Variables

Depended Variable

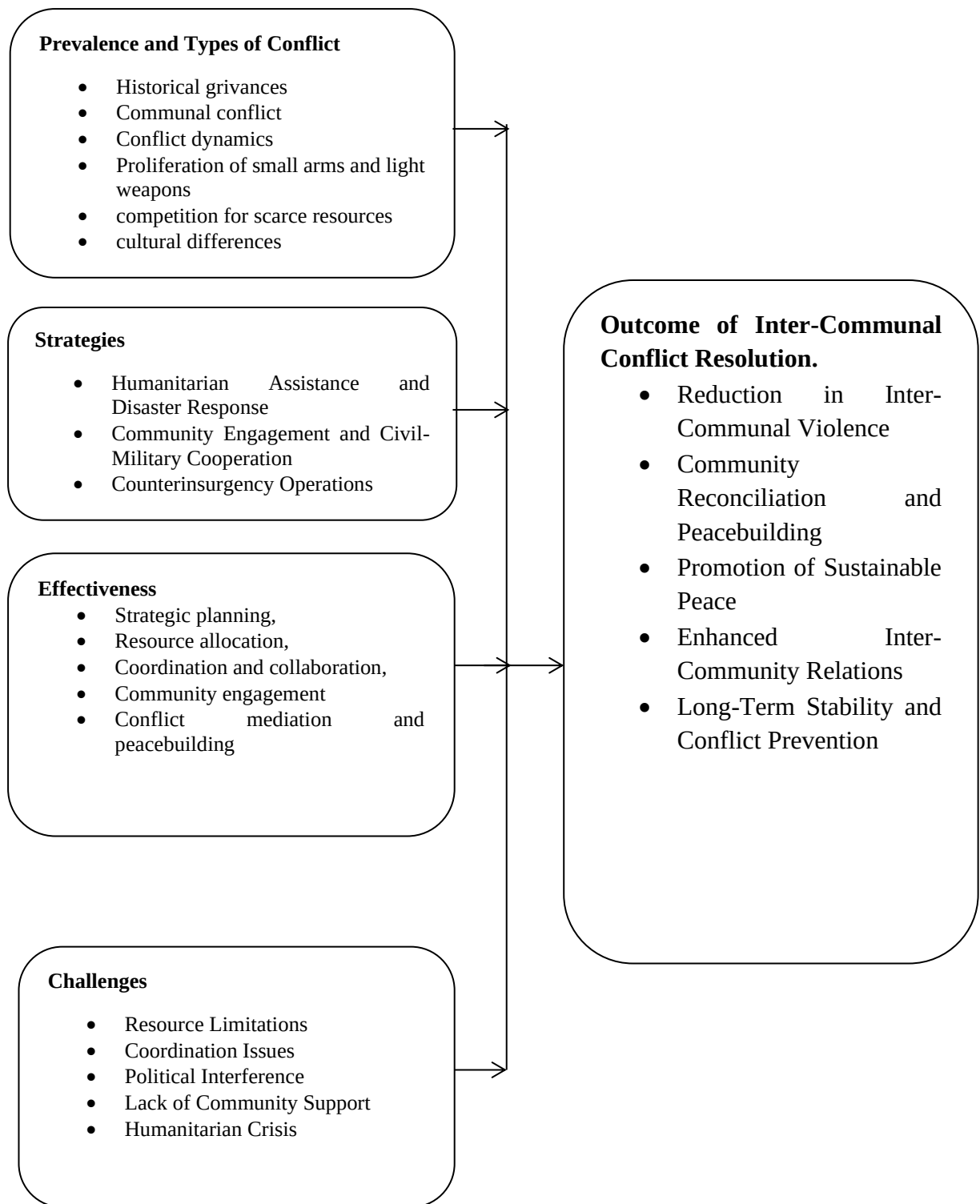


Figure 1.1 Conceptual Framework

Source: Researcher 2023

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

In this chapter, an examination of theoretical and empirical literature pertaining to the military's involvement in addressing internal conflicts will be conducted. The conceptual framework will be explored Prevalence and Types of Inter-communal Conflicts, Conflict Resolution Strategies Employed by Armed Forces in Addressing Conflicts the effectiveness and Impact of Armed Forces' Interventions in Mitigating Conflicts, and Operational Challenges Faced by Armed Forces in Conflict Resolution Efforts. Additionally, the chapter will address research deficiencies and provide a critique of current literature on the subject.

2.2 Empirical Review

2.2.1 Prevalence and Types of Inter-communal Conflicts

Globally, inter-communal conflicts involving pastoralist communities have been a persistent challenge, particularly in regions characterized by resource scarcity and environmental pressures. A study by Schilling, Opiyo, and Scheffran (2012) examined the dynamics of resource-based conflicts across various countries, highlighting the impact of climatic factors and competition over natural resources as drivers of violence between pastoralist groups. Similarly, Eaton's (2008) research delved into the cultural and economic significance of cattle rustling practices, a phenomenon prevalent among pastoralist societies worldwide.

In Africa, inter-communal conflicts have been a recurring issue, often exacerbated by the legacy of colonialism, ethnic tensions, and challenges of nation-building. Kimenyi and Mbaku (2011) explored the role of political dynamics and electoral processes in

fueling inter-communal violence on the continent. Their study highlighted instances where politicians have exploited ethnic divisions for political gain, contributing to outbreaks of conflict.

Within the East African region, countries like Kenya, Uganda, and Somalia have grappled with the complexities of inter-communal conflicts in their arid and semi-arid regions. Mkutu's (2008) research focused on disarmament efforts in Northern Kenya, emphasizing the pervasiveness of conflicts and the challenges associated with addressing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Within Kenya, inter-communal conflicts among pastoralist communities in the North Rift and other arid and semi-arid regions have been a longstanding issue. These conflicts have traditionally revolved around low-intensity cattle raiding, fueled by natural competition for scarce water points and pastureland (C. M. Wafula, 2020). Inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties have been a persistent challenge, with recurring cycles of violence and insecurity. A study by Greiner (2013) highlighted the high prevalence of conflicts in these regions, with incidents occurring on a regular basis. The study reported that between 2005 and 2009, there were at least 15 major incidents of inter-communal violence in West Pokot County alone, resulting in numerous casualties and the displacement of communities.

Similarly, a report by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA, 2012) documented the widespread nature of inter-communal conflicts in Turkana County. The report stated that in 2011 alone, over 100 people were killed, and thousands were displaced due to clashes between various pastoralist groups.

Mkutu (2008) further emphasized the pervasiveness of these conflicts, noting that they have become a regular occurrence, with periods of relative calm often followed by

outbursts of violence. This cyclical pattern has had a significant impact on the lives and livelihoods of communities in these regions.

The inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties can be categorized into several types, which have their own unique characteristics and underlying causes. First of category of this conflict is Resource-Based Conflicts. Competition over scarce resources, such as grazing land, water sources, and pasture, has been a major driver of inter-communal conflicts in these regions (Schilling, Opiyo, & Scheffran, 2012; Osinde, Ntiba, & Auka, 2021). The arid and semi-arid nature of the landscape has exacerbated tensions as pastoralist communities compete for survival.

Secondly, Cattle Rustling is also a big-time issue affecting the security and peaceful coexistence in the north rift region. Cattle rustling, a traditional practice among pastoralist communities, has evolved into a significant source of conflict (Eaton, 2008; Greiner, 2013). The theft of livestock not only affects the economic well-being of communities but also carries cultural and symbolic significance, often leading to retaliatory attacks and cycles of violence.

Third category of conflict in the north rift is Boundary Disputes, Conflicts over administrative boundaries and territorial claims have been a recurring issue in these regions (Schilling et al., 2012; Osinde et al., 2021). Disagreements over land ownership and access to resources have fueled tensions between neighboring communities, sometimes escalating into violent clashes.

In addition, Cultural and Ethnic Tensions and political and electoral violence sum up courses of conflict in the study area. Cultural differences and ethnic rivalries have also contributed to inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties (Greiner, 2013; Mkutu, 2008). Long-standing animosities, fueled by historical grievances and

stereotypes, have sometimes manifested in violent confrontations between different ethnic groups. Political dynamics and electoral processes have occasionally played a role in exacerbating inter-communal tensions (Kimenyi & Mbaku, 2011; Osinde et al., 2021). During election periods, politicians have been accused of exploiting ethnic divisions and mobilizing communities for political gain, leading to outbursts of violence.

Moreover, the influx of small arms and light weapons in these regions has significantly escalated the intensity and lethality of inter-communal conflicts (Greiner, 2013; Mkutu, 2008; Kamais & Mosol, 2022). The availability of firearms has transformed traditional conflicts into more deadly encounters, increasing the human cost and destabilizing the region. These types of inter-communal conflicts have had far-reaching consequences, including loss of life, displacement of communities, disruption of livelihoods, and the perpetuation of cycles of violence and insecurity in West Pokot and Turkana Counties.

2.2.2 Conflict Resolution Strategies Employed by Armed Forces in Addressing Conflicts

Armed forces around the world have employed a range of strategies to address internal conflicts and promote peace and stability within their respective nations. These strategies are multifaceted, encompassing both kinetic and non-kinetic approaches, and are often tailored to the specific context and dynamics of the conflict at hand.

At the global level, the United Nations (UN) has been at the forefront of employing conflict resolution strategies through its peacekeeping operations and initiatives (Koops et al., 2015). One of the primary strategies employed by UN peacekeeping missions is the facilitation of political processes. This involves creating an enabling environment for peaceful dialogue and negotiations among conflicting parties, mediating disputes,

and supporting the implementation of peace agreements. By fostering political solutions, UN peacekeepers aim to address the underlying causes of conflicts and promote sustainable peace.

Another crucial aspect of UN peacekeeping operations is the protection of civilians caught in the crossfire of armed conflicts (Bellamy & Hunt, 2023). This strategy involves monitoring and reporting on human rights violations, establishing safe zones, and providing physical protection to vulnerable populations, such as women, children, and displaced persons. By prioritizing the safety and well-being of civilians, UN peacekeepers aim to mitigate the humanitarian consequences of conflicts and create a conducive environment for peace-building efforts.

The process of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of former combatants is a strategy utilized by UN peacekeeping forces (Andersen, 2011). This involves disarming and demobilizing armed groups, collecting, and disposing of weapons, and facilitating the reintegration of former combatants into civilian life through vocational training, educational programs, and community-based initiatives. By addressing the issue of armed groups and promoting their reintegration into society, UN peacekeepers seek to reduce the risk of renewed violence and create a foundation for lasting peace.

Additionally, UN peacekeeping missions support security sector reform, which involves reforming national security institutions, such as the police, military, and judiciary, to ensure they adhere to democratic principles, respect human rights, and operate under civilian oversight (Hänggi & Scherrer, 2008). This strategy recognizes the importance of establishing accountable and professional security forces in post-conflict societies, as a prerequisite for sustainable peace and stability.

At the continental level, the African Union (AU) has played an important role in addressing internal conflicts through its Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). The APSA framework encompasses various conflict resolution strategies, including preventive diplomacy, mediation, peacekeeping operations, and post-conflict reconstruction and sustainable development.

One notable example of the AU's interventions is the deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). AMISOM's mandate included supporting the Somali government in its efforts to establish peace and security, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid, and promoting reconciliation and dialogue among stakeholders (Mohamed, 2023). AMISOM's strategies involved conducting military operations against armed groups, such as Al-Shabaab, to create a secure environment, as well as supporting political processes and capacity-building initiatives.

Regional organizations, such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), have also played crucial roles in addressing conflicts within their respective regions. IGAD's strategies have included mediation, deployment of peacekeeping forces, and facilitation of peace agreements and political dialogues among conflicting parties. For instance, IGAD played a pivotal role in mediating the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Sudan, which paved the way for the eventual independence of South Sudan in 2011 (Kipyegon, 2018).

Similarly, ECOWAS has employed strategies such as peacekeeping operations, sanctions, and mediation efforts in addressing conflicts in the region. In Liberia and Sierra Leone, ECOWAS deployed peacekeeping forces (ECOMOG) to enforce ceasefires, protect civilians, and support the implementation of peace agreements

(Adeleke, 1995). Additionally, ECOWAS imposed sanctions on military juntas and facilitated negotiations between conflicting parties.

At the national level, the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) have been involved in addressing internal conflicts, particularly in the northern regions of the country, including West Pokot and Turkana Counties. The KDF's strategies have included disarmament campaigns aimed at reducing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons among pastoralist communities, security operations involving the deployment of military personnel to conflict hotspots, and the establishment of buffer zones and deployment of troops along community borders to separate warring groups.

Furthermore, the KDF has engaged in mediation efforts to facilitate dialogue, address grievances, and propose solutions to resolve disputes between conflicting communities. Community engagement initiatives, civil-military cooperation with civilian agencies and NGOs, and the provision of humanitarian assistance have also been employed by the KDF as part of its conflict resolution approach in these regions.

It is important to note that while armed forces have employed a range of strategies, their interventions are often multidimensional, combining various approaches to address the complexities of internal conflicts. The effectiveness of these strategies and the operational challenges faced by armed forces in their conflict resolution efforts will be discussed in subsequent sections.

2.2.3 Effectiveness and Impact of Armed Forces' Interventions in Mitigating Conflicts

On a global scale, the impact and effectiveness of armed forces' interventions in mitigating conflicts have been extensively studied and evaluated. The United Nations (UN) has played a pivotal role in assessing the outcomes of its peacekeeping operations

and conflict resolution initiatives. According to the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (2008), the success of peacekeeping missions is measured by their ability to create a secure and stable environment, facilitate political processes, protect civilians, and support the rule of law and human rights.

In their study, Fortna and Howard (2008) analyzed the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping operations in preventing the recurrence of armed conflicts. They found that the deployment of well-resourced and multidimensional peacekeeping missions significantly reduced the risk of conflict relapse, particularly in the first few years after the cessation of hostilities.

Continentially, Africa for example, the African Union (AU) has made concerted efforts to evaluate the impact of its conflict resolution initiatives through the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). The AU's interventions have aimed to promote sustainable peace, enhance regional security, and address the root causes of conflicts.

Murithi (2009) analyzed the African Union's involvement in addressing the Darfur conflict in Sudan by deploying the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS). Despite encountering notable operational obstacles, the research underscored AMIS's impact on safeguarding civilians, supporting humanitarian assistance, and the subsequent shift to a joint UN-AU peacekeeping operation (UNAMID). Dersso (2016) evaluated the impact of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in mitigating the conflict in the country. The study found that AMISOM's interventions, combined with political efforts and capacity-building initiatives, contributed to the gradual stabilization of Somalia and the establishment of a functional government.

Regional bodies such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have been instrumental

in addressing and resolving conflicts within their specific regions. Healy (2011) analyzed the effectiveness of IGAD's interventions in the conflicts in Somalia, Sudan, and South Sudan. The research emphasized IGAD's role in mediating peace accords, including the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Sudan, which led to the eventual secession of South Sudan in 2011. Obi (2009) examined the impact of ECOWAS's interventions in the Liberian and Sierra Leonean civil wars. The study found that ECOWAS's peacekeeping operations, coupled with diplomatic efforts and sanctions, played a vital role in ending conflicts and restoring stability among its member states.

Within the Kenyan context, the effectiveness and impact of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) interventions in mitigating internal conflicts have been the subject of several studies. Mkutu (2008) evaluated the KDF's disarmament campaigns in northern Kenya and their impact on lowering cases of inter-communal violence and cattle rustling. The study found that while the campaigns initially led to a decrease in violence, the lack of complementary developmental initiatives and community engagement limited their long-term effectiveness.

Omolo (2010) assessed the KDF's role in the Suguta Valley conflict between the Turkana and Samburu communities. The study highlighted the positive impact of the KDF's interventions in creating a buffer zone and facilitating peace negotiations, which led to the reduction of the conflict and the eventual signing of a peace agreement.

At the local level, several studies have examined the impact and effectiveness of the KDF's interventions in mitigating inter-communal conflicts in Turkana County and its environs.

Rialem (2018) evaluated the impact of the KDF's disarmament campaigns and security operations in addressing cattle rustling and resource-based conflicts between the Pokot and Turkana communities. The study found that while these interventions initially reduced violence, the lack of sustainable peace-building efforts and socio-economic development initiatives limited their long-term effectiveness.

Roba (2021) investigated the impact of the KDF's community engagement, civil-military cooperation, and provision of humanitarian assistance in mitigating the Pokot-Turkana conflict. The study highlighted the positive contributions of these approaches in building trust, addressing underlying grievances, and promoting reconciliation between the communities.

However, the study also noted that the impact of the KDF's interventions was hindered by factors such as resource constraints, coordination challenges, and the complex nature of the conflict, which required a more comprehensive and long-term approach.

2.2.4 Operational Challenges Faced by Armed Forces in Conflict Resolution Efforts

Armed forces engaged in conflict resolution efforts often face a range of operational challenges that can hinder the effectiveness of their interventions. At the global level, the United Nations (UN) has acknowledged and addressed these challenges through its peacekeeping operations and conflict resolution initiatives.

As per the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (2008), peacekeeping missions encounter significant operational hurdles such as limited resources, intricate mandates, inadequate coordination among diverse actors, and challenges in establishing trust and collaboration with local populations (Gowan, 2008). Bellamy and Williams (2015) studied the challenges faced by UN peacekeeping

operations in protecting civilians in armed conflicts. They identified factors such as inadequate resources, unclear mandates, and the unwillingness of parties to the conflict to cooperate as significant obstacles to the effective implementation of the protection mandate.

At the continental level, the African Union (AU) and its conflict resolution efforts through the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) have encountered various operational challenges. Murithi (2009) highlighted the logistical and resource constraints faced by the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) in Darfur, which hindered its ability to effectively protect civilians and implement its mandate. The study also emphasized the need for better coordination and cooperation between the AU and other stakeholders, such as the UN and regional organizations.

Dersso (2016) examined the operational challenges faced by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), including inadequate funding, lack of equipment, and difficulties in coordinating with various international partners and the Somali government. Regional entities such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have faced operational difficulties in their endeavors to resolve conflicts (Adetula et al., 2021). Thurania (2019) analyzed the challenges faced by IGAD in addressing conflicts in the Horn of Africa region. The study highlighted issues such as limited resources, lack of coordination among member states, and the complex nature of the conflicts, which involved multiple stakeholders with divergent interests.

Obi (2009) discussed the operational challenges faced by ECOWAS in its interventions in the Liberian and Sierra Leonean civil wars. These challenges included inadequate funding, logistical constraints, and difficulties in maintaining neutrality and gaining the

trust of all parties involved in the conflicts. Within the Kenyan context, the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) have faced various operational challenges in their efforts to resolve internal conflicts, particularly in the northern regions of the country.

Mkutu (2008) identified challenges such as limited resources, lack of coordination with other security agencies, and resistance from local communities as factors that hindered the effectiveness of the KDF's disarmament campaigns in northern Kenya. Omolo (2010) noted that the KDF's interventions in the Suguta Valley conflict were hampered by coordination issues with other government agencies, as well as difficulties in gaining the trust and cooperation of the conflicting communities due to historical grievances and mistrust.

At the local level, the KDF has encountered several operational challenges in its efforts to resolve inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties. Akali (2019) highlighted resource constraints, lack of coordination with other security agencies, and resistance from local communities as significant challenges faced by the KDF during its disarmament campaigns and security operations in these regions. Roba (2021) identified operational challenges such as logistical issues, limited capacity for community engagement, and difficulties in addressing the complex socio-economic drivers of the conflict as factors that hindered the overall effectiveness of the KDF's interventions in mitigating the Pokot-Turkana conflict.

Furthermore, the study emphasized the need for better collaboration and coordination among the KDF, civilian agencies, and local communities to overcome these challenges and achieve sustainable conflict resolution. Throughout this empirical review, various studies have been cited and referenced to provide a comprehensive understanding of the conflict resolution strategies employed by armed forces, the effectiveness and

impact of their interventions, and the operational challenges they face in addressing internal conflicts across different contexts, from global to local levels.

2.5 Summary and Research Gap

Armed forces worldwide employ diverse strategies, including UN peacekeeping missions' facilitation of political processes and civilian protection, DDR initiatives, and regional interventions like AMISOM in Somalia. Studies evaluate their effectiveness but note operational challenges such as resource constraints and coordination issues. However, there's a research gap in understanding the long-term impacts of armed forces' interventions, particularly regarding sustainable peace-building efforts and community engagement strategies across different conflict contexts, also understanding the long-term impact of disarmament campaigns and general security operations. Challenges such as resource constraints, coordination issues, and the complex nature of conflicts hinder the effectiveness of armed forces in resolving inter-communal conflicts. Inter-communal conflicts in Kenya's North Rift and arid/semi-arid regions, notably in West Pokot and Turkana Counties, are driven by resource competition, cattle rustling, boundary disputes, cultural/ethnic tensions, and political manipulation. The influx of firearms exacerbates these conflicts, resulting in casualties, displacement, and socio-economic disruption. However, there's a research gap in exploring holistic, sustainable solutions to address underlying grievances and prevent conflict recurrence. Future research should focus on evaluating the sustainability of peace-building initiatives, the role of civilian agencies, and the need for a more integrated approach to address the root causes of conflicts, ultimately leading to more effective strategies for promoting peace and security in conflict-affected regions.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This section presents the methodological approach adopted in the study, detailing the research design, target population, sampling strategies and sample size determination, data collection procedures, and data analysis techniques employed to conduct the research investigation.

3.2 Research Design

As per Welman et al. (2009), a research design entails the strategy for selecting the target participants of a study and determining the methods for data collection, generation, and analysis. This study employed qualitative research approach to examine the role of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) in resolving inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana counties. Qualitative methods are well-suited to explore complex social phenomena and obtain rich, contextualized insights from different stakeholder perspectives.

The study employed primary data collection method using semi-structured interviews with a purposive sample of key informants from various relevant groups. This groups included the KDF personnel directly involved in operations in the region, local community leaders and elders from pastoralist communities in conflict, government officials and administrators, and representatives from civil society organizations and NGOs working on peace-building initiatives.

Interviews focused on obtaining an in-depth understanding of the background and root causes of the conflicts, the specific strategies and tactics employed by the KDF, the responses and perspectives of the local communities, challenges faced, and assessments

of the effectiveness and impacts of the military intervention. Interview data was complemented by review and analysis of relevant reports, policies, and media coverage related to the conflicts and KDF operations.

The study utilized thematic analysis to systematically identify, analyze and report patterns and themes within the qualitative data. Findings were triangulated across the diverse data sources and participant perspectives to enhance validity and reliability. Ethical considerations including informed consent, protecting anonymity of participants, and responsible data management were stringently followed.

The qualitative insights shed light on the complex socio-political dynamics around pastoralist conflicts and the multifaceted role of military forces in such contexts. This could inform policies, strategies and programs for more effective conflict resolution and sustainable peace in the study area.

3.3 Research Site

The research was conducted in two distinct yet interconnected areas that have experienced significant inter-communal conflicts and military interventions - the Pokot East Sub-county of West Pokot County and the Lukori region in the Turkana South Sub-county of Turkana County, Kenya. These sites were strategically selected due to their long-standing history of insecurity, recurring violent clashes between pastoralist communities, and the deployment of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) to restore peace and order.

Pokot East Sub-county, situated in the expansive West Pokot County, has been a hotspot for ethnic and resource-based conflicts among the local communities. The sub-county has witnessed numerous incidents of cattle raids, retaliatory attacks, and disputes over grazing lands and water sources, causing widespread disruptions and

human suffering. The involvement of the KDF in quelling these conflicts made it a critical location to study the military's strategies, operations, and impacts.

Similarly, the Lukori area within Turkana South Sub-county in Turkana County has experienced intense inter-communal violence, often stemming from competition over scarce resources and long-standing ethnic tensions. The region has seen cycles of retaliatory attacks, displacements, and breakdowns in law and order, necessitating interventions by the KDF to restore peace and security. Examining the KDF's role in this volatile region offered invaluable insights into the complexities of pastoralist conflicts and the multifaceted nature of military operations in such contexts.

The researcher -focused on these two areas and thus comprehensively explored the root causes of the conflicts, the strategies employed by the KDF, the responses and perceptions of local communities, and the broader socio-political dynamics underlying the military's involvement in conflict resolution efforts in the study area.

3.4 Target Population

As per (Kombo & Tromp, 2011) a population refers to a collection of individuals, objects, or entities from which samples are selected for assessment. It refers to an entire group of persons or elements that have at least one thing in common. The target population for this research comprised various stakeholder groups directly involved in or affected by the inter-communal conflicts and the subsequent military interventions in the Pokot East Sub-county of West Pokot County and the Lukori region of Turkana South Sub-county.

The primary target groups the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) Personnel; this included officers and soldiers who were directly involved in military operations and peacekeeping efforts in the conflict zones of West Pokot and Turkana counties. Their

firsthand experiences, strategies, and assessments were crucial for understanding the role of the KDF. The researcher will also target the Local Community Leaders and Elders; these were Key informants from the pastoralist communities embroiled in conflicts, such as village elders, and influential figures, provided valuable insights into the root causes, dynamics, and impacts of the conflicts on their communities. The researcher also sorted the perspectives on the KDF's interventions in the study area.

Government Officials and Administrators: National and county-level government representatives, security personnel, and administrative officials offered an understanding of the policies, mandates, and coordination efforts around conflict resolution and the involvement of military forces. Lastly the researcher targeted Civil Society and NGO Representatives; Organizations that work on peacebuilding initiatives, human rights advocacy, and humanitarian assistance in the region were included to provide an external, non-partisan assessment of the conflicts and the role of the KDF.

The researcher defined the target population for the study by concentrating on the conflicts in the Kapedo area, employing a systematic and detailed method to guarantee an inclusive representation of every group. The target population consisted of 500 Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) Personnel, officers and soldiers directly involved in operations in West Pokot and Turkana over the past 5 years. 100 Local Community Leaders and Elders influential kraal leaders, and village elders across the conflict areas in Pokot East and Lukori regions, 30 Government Officials and Administrators; relevant national, county and local level officials and administrators and 20 Civil Society and NGO Representatives from major NGOs/CSOs working on peacebuilding and humanitarian assistance in the area of study.

3.5 Study Sample

3.5.1 Study Sample Size

Mugenda and Mugenda (1999) explain that a descriptive survey design allows for the study of a large population through a small sample that encompasses all respondent categories and accurately represents the distinctive characteristics of the target population. The study sample size was carefully determined to ensure a comprehensive and representative analysis. Given the extensive scope of the target population spanning multiple stakeholder groups across two counties, it was essential to determine an appropriate sample size that would ensure adequate representation while being feasible within the research constraints. The study employed a multi-stage stratified sampling approach.

First, the target population was stratified into the four key stakeholder groups: KDF personnel, local community leaders/elders, government officials/administrators, and civil society/NGO representatives. Within each stratum, the researcher utilized a combination of purposive and simple random sampling techniques. The KDF Personnel, a purposive sample of 60 officers and soldiers directly involved in operations in West Pokot and Turkana over the past one years were selected to ensure inclusion of those with relevant firsthand experience. 75 influential leaders and elders were randomly selected from a sampling frame of the identified 100 key figures across the conflict hotspots in Pokot East and Lukori regions. 25 Government Officials/Administrators were purposively sampled; they included relevant officials at national, county, and local levels based on their formal roles and mandates related to conflict resolution efforts. Such as the district officers (assistant county commissioners and deputy assistant county commissioners), heads of police force at sub-county level and county administrators. 15 representatives from Civil Society/NGO Representatives

were randomly selected from the 20 major NGOs/CSOs actively involved in peacebuilding and humanitarian assistance in the two counties.

This multi-stage stratified sampling approach yielded a total sample size of 175 participants across the four strata, ensuring adequate coverage of diverse perspectives and experiences pertaining to the inter-communal conflicts and the KDF's role in resolving them. The sample size was determined based on considerations of saturation of information, logistical feasibility, and the need to capture a range of viewpoints from various stakeholder groups while maintaining reasonable scope and depth. This sampling strategy aimed to enhance the validity and reliability of the findings by including key informants with direct relevance to the research objectives.

Table 3.1: Table of Sample

Population	Total	Sample
Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) Personnel	500	60
Local Community Leaders and Elders	100	75
Government Officials and Administrators	30	25
Civil Society and NGO Representatives	20	15
TOTAL	650	175

Source: (Researcher, 2023)

3.5.2 Sampling Techniques and Procedures

Sampling is the method of selecting a portion of the target population and utilizing it as a case study to uncover the true representation of the entire population, as described by Chambers (2003). The sampling plan outlines the procedure of choosing a sample from a population to enable the conduct of a study, as outlined by Bartlett and James (2001). The target population for this study comprised of Kenya Defence Forces (KDF)

Personnel, Local Community Leaders and Elders, Government Officials and Administrators, and Civil Society and NGO Representatives

3.5.2.1 Purposive Sampling

Purposive sampling, a non-probability sampling technique, was employed for selecting information-rich cases from two key stakeholder groups - the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) personnel and government officials/administrators. This approach aligned with the qualitative nature of the study, which aimed to gather in-depth insights and perspectives from participants with direct relevance and experience related to the research objectives.

KDF Personnel, Purposive sampling enabled the identification and recruitment of KDF officers and soldiers who were directly involved in military operations and peacekeeping interventions within the inter-communal conflict zones of West Pokot and Turkana counties. Participants were strategically selected based on their firsthand knowledge, roles, and decision-making capacities during the KDF's deployment to these volatile regions over the past one year. This purposive approach ensured that the sample comprised information-rich cases that could provide detailed accounts, strategies, challenges faced, and assessments of the effectiveness and impacts of the military interventions from the perspectives of those at the forefront of these operations.

Similarly, purposive sampling was utilized to select relevant government representatives, security personnel, and administrative officials at the national, county, and local levels. Participants were chosen based on their formal roles, mandates, jurisdictions, and direct involvement in policies, decision-making processes, and coordination efforts surrounding the inter-communal conflicts and the KDF's involvement in conflict resolution.

The purposive sampling these key informants, enabled the researcher access in-depth knowledge and insights into the broader socio-political dynamics, institutional frameworks, and governance mechanisms shaping the government's response to pastoralist conflicts and the utilization of military forces for peacekeeping purposes. The purposive sampling approach allowed for the strategic inclusion of participants who could offer unique, information-rich perspectives based on their experiences, positions, and involvement with the phenomena under investigation. This enhanced the depth, relevance, and credibility of the data collected, ultimately contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of the complex issues surrounding the KDF's role in resolving inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana counties

3.5.2.2 Simple Random Sampling

To ensure representativeness and minimize potential biases, simple random sampling techniques were employed for selecting participants from two stakeholder groups - local community leaders and elders, as well as civil society and NGO representatives.

Local Community Leaders and Elders, first, a comprehensive sampling frame was constructed, listing all the influential village elders, kraal leaders, and respected figures from the pastoralist communities directly affected by the inter-communal conflicts within the Pokot East Sub-county of West Pokot and the Lukori region of Turkana South Sub-county. This sampling frame was developed with the assistance of local administrators, chiefs, and community liaison officers who had in-depth knowledge of the region and its power structures.

From this frame, a simple random sample of 75 community leaders and elders was drawn using a random number generator or a similar probabilistic technique. This

approach ensured that each eligible member of the target population had an equal and known probability of being selected, minimizing potential selection biases.

The researcher identified representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on peacebuilding initiatives, human rights advocacy, and humanitarian assistance within the study areas, a list of major organizations actively involved in these efforts was compiled. From this list, the researcher picked a simple random sample of 15 representatives, selecting them using a randomization process, such as drawing names from a hat or employing a random number generator. This randomization technique eliminated any potential subjective influences in the selection process, ensuring that each eligible CSO and NGO had an equal chance of being represented in the sample.

The use of simple random sampling techniques for these two stakeholder groups aimed to enhance the representativeness and generalizability of the findings within the study context. By giving all eligible participants an equal probability of selection, the resulting samples were more likely to reflect the diversity of perspectives, experiences, and characteristics present within these populations. This random sampling approach, combined with the purposive sampling techniques used for other stakeholder groups, contributed to the overall rigor and credibility of the study's sampling strategy, ultimately strengthening the validity and trustworthiness of the research findings.

3.6 Data Collection

3.6.1 Data Collection Instrument

In the study, the data collection instrument was carefully designed to gather comprehensive and insightful information from various stakeholders. The instrument

consisted of multiple components to ensure a thorough exploration of the research topic through qualitative data collection methods.

The primary data collection instrument employed in this study was semi-structured interviews. Semi-structured interviews allowed for a balance between having a consistent line of inquiry across participants while also providing flexibility to explore emergent themes and probe for in-depth responses.

The researcher developed an interview guide to ensure consistency and comprehensiveness in data collection. The guide consisted of several sections, each with a set of open-ended questions and prompts aligned with the research objectives. The sections covered key areas such as; Background and context of the inter-communal conflicts, Root causes and dynamics fueling the conflicts, Strategies and tactics employed by the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) in interventions, Responses, perceptions, and experiences of local communities, Challenges faced by the KDF and other stakeholders, Assessments of the effectiveness and impacts of military interventions, and Recommendations for sustainable conflict resolution.

The researcher developed these guides in consultation with subject matter experts, including academics, security analysts, and peacebuilding practitioners with in-depth knowledge of pastoralist conflicts and military peacekeeping operations in the region. This collaborative process ensured the instrument's content validity and relevance to the study's objectives.

Prior to data collection, the interview guide underwent pilot testing with a small subset of participants representative of the various stakeholder groups. This process allowed for refinement of the questions, sequencing, and prompts, as well as an evaluation of

the instrument's clarity, comprehensibility, and appropriateness for eliciting rich, relevant data.

Necessary revisions were made based on the pilot test feedback, further enhancing the reliability and trustworthiness of the data collection instrument. The semi-structured nature of the interviews, guided by the carefully developed and pilot-tested instrument, facilitated the collection of comprehensive, in-depth qualitative data from diverse stakeholder perspectives. This approach ensured a systematic, consistent, and rigorous data collection process, contributing to the overall quality and credibility of the study's findings.

3.6.2 Pilot Testing of Research Instruments

The researcher created the questionnaire according to the research inquiries. Subsequently, this tool underwent pilot testing to refine the questions before being distributed to the chosen sample. The pilot test was crucial in detecting shortcomings in the design and instrumentation and providing proxy data for the selection of a probability sample. The accuracy of data being collected is highly reliant on the data collection instruments in terms of validity and reliability (Mugenda and Mugenda 2003).

Prior to commencing the main data collection phase, a pilot test of the research instruments was carried out to evaluate their effectiveness, clarity, and suitability for the study. The pilot test served as a crucial step in enhancing the reliability and validity of the data collection process. The researcher considered the following objectives of the Pilot Test, primarily, the pilot testing helped to; assess the comprehensibility and clarity of the interview guide questions and prompts across the diverse stakeholder groups, identifying potential ambiguities, redundancies, or gaps in the instrument that could

hinder effective data collection, evaluating the logical flow and sequencing of the questions, ensuring a natural progression that facilitates rapport-building and in-depth responses, gauging the approximate duration required for each interview, aiding in logistical planning and time management during the main data collection phase and finally the pilot testing helped the researcher with provision of opportunity for the research team to refine their interviewing techniques, ensuring consistency and adherence to established protocols.

For the pilot test, a small subset of participants representing the four key stakeholder groups was purposively selected. This included: 3 Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) personnel; 4 local community leaders and elders, 2 government officials/administrators and 2 civil society/NGO representatives. The pilot test participants were chosen based on their familiarity with the research context and their ability to provide constructive feedback on the instruments.

During the pilot test, the researcher and research assistants conducted mock interviews using the draft interview guide. Participants were encouraged to provide feedback on the clarity of questions, the appropriateness of language and terminology used, and any potential cultural or contextual considerations that could impact the data collection process. The research team also observed and evaluated their own interviewing techniques, noting areas for improvement in terms of probing, active listening, and rapport-building.

The researcher used the feedback and observations from the pilot test, to amend, refine and make necessary revisions to the interview guide. This included rephrasing ambiguous questions, removing redundant prompts, and restructuring the order of certain sections for improved flow and logical progression. The pilot testing process

was invaluable in ensuring the research instruments were well-designed, culturally appropriate, and capable of eliciting rich, relevant data from the diverse stakeholder groups. This rigorous approach contributed to the overall credibility and trustworthiness of the study's findings.

3.6.3 Instrument Reliability

According to Ghauri, Gronhaug, and Strange (2020), improving a measure's reliability can be achieved by administering it to a varied population through a consistent testing procedure and including multiple pertinent items in the measure. Ensuring the reliability of the data collection instruments was a crucial consideration in this qualitative study. Reliability refers to the consistency and dependability of the research instruments in eliciting similar responses across different participants and contexts. Several strategies were employed to enhance the reliability of the semi-structured interview guide used as the primary data collection instrument.

To assess the consistency and clarity of the interview questions, the researcher conducted an inter-rater reliability exercise. A panel of three subject matter experts, including an experienced qualitative researcher, a security analyst, and a peacebuilding practitioner, independently reviewed and evaluated the interview guide.

Each expert rated the clarity, relevance, and appropriateness of the questions on a standardized scale. The ratings were then compared, and any discrepancies or divergent interpretations were discussed and resolved through consensus. This step facilitated a uniform understanding of the questions among multiple evaluators, reducing ambiguity and increasing the dependability of the data collection tool.

The pilot test of the interview guide was conducted with a small subset of participants representing the various stakeholder groups. This pilot testing phase allowed for the

identification and refinement of any unclear, confusing, or leading questions that could potentially introduce response biases or inconsistencies.

Based on observations and feedback from the pilot test, necessary revisions were made to the instrument, further improving its reliability in eliciting consistent and dependable responses during the main data collection phase.

Further, the researcher ensured consistent administration of the interview guide, by taking the research team through rigorous training. This involved familiarization with the interview protocols, practicing effective probing techniques, and developing active listening skills. During the actual data collection process, the research team adhered strictly to the established protocols and followed a standardized approach to administering the interviews. This included consistent phrasing of questions, maintaining neutral body language and tone, and refraining from leading or biased prompts.

The combination of inter-rater reliability assessments, pilot testing, and rigorous interviewer training and protocol adherence contributed significantly to enhancing the overall reliability of the data collection instrument. These measures increased the confidence in the consistency and dependability of the responses obtained, ultimately strengthening the credibility and trustworthiness of these study's findings.

3.6.3 Instrument Validity

Saunders, Lewis, and Thornhill (2007), suggests that validity can be said to be the rate at which the sample test elements are representative in terms of content that the test was designed to measure or the ability to accurately measure the intended concepts and variables, which will be established through various strategies. In addition to ensuring the reliability of the data collection instrument, the researcher considered establishing

its validity in order to ensure the study accurately measured and captured the intended phenomena. The study employed several strategies to enhance the validity of the semi-structured interview guide used as the primary data collection tool.

Firstly, the researcher ensured Content Validity, Content validity refers to the extent to which the instrument adequately covers and represents all the relevant aspects and dimensions of the construct being studied. To ensure content validity, the study developed interview guide which involved a rigorous process such as; Comprehensive literature review, where extensive research was conducted to identify key themes, concepts, and dimensions related to inter-communal conflicts, military interventions, and conflict resolution strategies in pastoralist contexts. The researcher conducted expert wise council and consultation on, including academics, security analysts, and peacebuilding practitioners, were consulted to provide input on the relevance, comprehensiveness, and appropriateness of the proposed interview questions. In addition, the researcher's alignment of research objectives by carefully mapped and aligned with the specific research objectives and aims of the study in the interview guide, ensuring that all relevant aspects were adequately covered.

Face validity refers to the extent to which the instrument appears to be measuring what it is intended to measure, from the perspective of the participants and other relevant stakeholders. To establish face validity, the researcher presented the draft interview guide to a diverse panel of stakeholders, including representatives from the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), local community leaders, government officials, and civil society organizations. These stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on the clarity, relevance, and appropriateness of the questions, as well as the overall structure and flow of the interview guide. Their input was carefully considered, and necessary

modifications were made to enhance the instrument's face validity and ensure it accurately reflected the intended constructs and perspectives relevant to the study.

As previously discussed, a pilot test of the interview guide was conducted with a small subset of participants representing the various stakeholder groups. This pilot testing phase not only assessed the reliability of the instrument but also provided valuable insights into its validity. Participants' feedback on the comprehensibility and relevance of the questions, as well as their ability to elicit meaningful and in-depth responses, was carefully evaluated. Necessary revisions were made to the instrument based on the pilot test findings, further enhancing its validity in capturing the intended phenomena.

The combination of strategies employed, including content validity assessment, face validity evaluation, and pilot testing, contributed significantly to establishing the overall validity of the data collection instrument. These measures increased confidence that the interview guide accurately measured and represented the relevant constructs and perspectives related to the role of the Kenya Defence Forces in resolving inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana counties.

3.6.4 Data Collection Procedure

The data collection process for this study followed a systematic and rigorous procedure to ensure the reliability and validity of the findings. The primary data source was semi-structured interviews conducted with key stakeholders from various groups, including Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) personnel, local community leaders and elders, government officials and administrators, and civil society/NGO representatives.

Prior to commencing data collection, the research team established contact with relevant authorities, community gatekeepers, and organizational representatives to obtain necessary approvals, arrange access, and schedule interview appointments. This

involved coordination with county and local administrators, military personnel, and civil society organizations operating in the study areas of West Pokot and Turkana counties. During this phase, the research team also made logistical arrangements for transportation, accommodation, and any necessary security protocols to ensure safe and efficient data collection in the remote and potentially volatile regions.

The interviews were conducted in-person by a team of trained researchers fluent in the local languages and dialects prevalent in the study areas. This facilitated effective communication and rapport-building with participants from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds. At the beginning of each interview, the researchers provided a detailed explanation of the study's objectives, procedures, and ethical considerations, including measures to protect participant confidentiality and anonymity. Voluntary informed consent was obtained from all participants before proceeding with the interviews. The semi-structured interview guide was used to ensure consistency in the line of inquiry while allowing flexibility to explore emergent themes and probe for in-depth responses. The researchers employed active listening techniques, such as paraphrasing and follow-up questioning, to clarify ambiguities and gather comprehensive accounts from the participants.

With the consent of participants, the interviews were audio-recorded to ensure accurate capture and documentation of the responses. Additionally, the researchers took detailed field notes, documenting non-verbal cues, contextual observations, and any supplementary information relevant to the study. To maintain data integrity and confidentiality, strict protocols were followed for secure storage and management of the audio recordings, transcripts, and field notes. All electronic data were encrypted, and physical documents were stored in a secure location accessible only to the research team.

This rigorous data collection procedure, involving meticulous planning, coordination with stakeholders, adherence to ethical protocols, and systematic recording and management of data, contributed to the overall credibility and trustworthiness of the study's findings. The researchers' attention to detail and commitment to following established protocols ensured that the data collection process was conducted in a consistent, transparent, and responsible manner.

3.7 Data Analysis

The study encompassed a methodical and thorough examination of the collected data to extract valuable insights and draw meaningful conclusions. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2007), when analyzing gathered data, it is essential to consider factors such as the complexity of the research design, the study's aims and objectives, and the feasibility of drawing conclusions from the study. The data analysis process for this qualitative study involved a systematic and rigorous approach to derive meaningful insights from the rich data collected through semi-structured interviews with various stakeholder groups. The analysis followed an iterative and reflexive process, allowing for the identification of emergent themes and patterns while ensuring the findings remained grounded in the participants' perspectives and experiences.

The first step in the data analysis process was the verbatim transcription of all audio-recorded interviews. The transcripts were then carefully reviewed and cross-checked against the field notes and observational data to ensure accuracy and completeness. Any identifying information was removed or anonymized to protect participant confidentiality. The cleaned and de-identified transcripts were then organized and compiled into a comprehensive dataset, along with the accompanying field notes and contextual information. This dataset formed the basis for the subsequent analytical procedures.

The study employed a thematic analysis approach, which involved systematically identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns and themes within the qualitative data. The analysis process was guided by the principles of the constant comparative method, which involved iterative coding and comparison of data to identify similarities, differences, and conceptual relationships. The coding process began with an initial round of open coding, where the researchers carefully read through the transcripts and assigned codes or labels to segments of text that captured meaningful ideas, experiences, or perspectives relevant to the research objectives. These initial codes were then reviewed, compared, and consolidated into broader categories or themes through an axial coding process. Relationships and interconnections between the emerging themes were explored, and a hierarchical coding structure was developed, encompassing overarching themes, sub-themes, and supporting codes.

Throughout the coding and analysis process, the researchers engaged in ongoing discussions, peer debriefing, and reflexive journaling to enhance the credibility and trustworthiness of the findings. Divergent interpretations were resolved through consensus, and negative or contradictory cases were actively sought and incorporated to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the phenomena under investigation.

In enhancing the validity and depth of the analysis, the researchers employed data triangulation techniques. This involved cross-referencing and synthesizing the findings from the interviews with relevant documents, reports, and secondary data sources related to inter-communal conflicts, military interventions, and conflict resolution efforts in the study areas. The triangulation process allowed for the corroboration and contextualization of the findings, providing a more holistic understanding of the complex dynamics and perspectives surrounding the role of the Kenya Defence Forces in resolving inter-communal conflicts.

The data analysis process culminated in the development of a comprehensive analytical narrative, supported by rich excerpts and quotes from the participants and contextualized within the broader socio-political and historical landscape of the region. This analytical narrative formed the foundation for the presentation and discussion of the study's findings, contributing to a deeper understanding of the multifaceted nature of pastoralist conflicts and the role of military forces in conflict resolution efforts.

3.8 Ethical Consideration

Ethical considerations were carefully observed to safeguard the rights and well-being of the participants in the study. Initially, the researcher requested a research authorization letter from the Department of Governance, Peace, and Security Studies at the university to facilitate obtaining permission from the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) for data collection. Written consent, outlining the study's objectives, voluntary participation, benefits, and potential risks, were obtained from both the ethics board overseeing the research and the respondents involved. This process ensured that participants were fully informed and willingly consented to take part in the study.

To safeguard the confidentiality and security of the data collected, all information was stored in a locked cabinet with restricted access. The researcher strictly used the data for academic purposes only and did not disclose it to unauthorized individuals. Anonymity was maintained by not requiring participants to provide any identifying information in the questionnaire or during data collection, thus protecting their privacy.

Transparency and clarity were maintained throughout the research process. The researcher provided detailed explanations of the research objectives, data collection techniques, and methods to the respondents to ensure their understanding of the study's

purpose and procedures. Additionally, measures were taken to prevent plagiarism by encrypting the research thesis and storing the data securely.

By incorporating these additional ethical considerations into the research study, the researcher aimed to conduct the investigation responsibly and ethically, respecting the rights and confidentiality of all participants involved. Upholding these ethical guidelines was crucial in ensuring the integrity and credibility of the study's results indicating conflict-affected regions such as West Pokot and Turkana counties.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This section summarizes the analyzed data and presents the findings in accordance with the objectives of the research, which aimed to examine the role played by the Kenya Defence Forces in resolving inter-communal conflicts within the regions of West Pokot and Turkana Counties. To put the results into perspective, research findings were organized under the following categories: conflict resolution strategies, the impact and effectiveness of the Kenya Defence Forces' interventions, and operational challenges faced by the Kenya Defence Forces.

4.2 Response Rate

The researcher targeted a sample of 60 KDF Officers, 75 Local Community Leaders and Elders, 25 Government Officials and Administrators, and 15 Civil Society and NGO Representatives. Totaling to 175 respondents. After the data collection exercise, 157 filled questionnaires were received from the respondents equating to 89.7 percent. According to Punch (2003), a response rate exceeding 50% is considered satisfactory for data analysis purposes.

The reason why 18(10.3%) did not respond to the questionnaire was that some of the respondents had busy schedules or competing priorities that prevented them from finding the time to complete the questionnaire.

Table 4.1 Response Rate

Response Rate	Frequency	Percentage
Responded	157	89.7
Not Responded	18	10.3
Total	175	100.0

Source: Researcher (2024)

4.3 Respondents Demographic Information

The respondents' personal information was sorted to determine their personality concerning the study to determine the quality and trustworthiness of the data provided. In this regard, the researcher was curious about the respondents' gender, age, highest level of education, and the period they had been residents in West Pokot and Turkana Counties.

4.3.1 Gender of Respondents

Information about the distribution of respondents by gender was collected and the results are shown in the Table below:

Table 4.2 Gender of Respondents

	Frequency	Percent
Male	86	54.7
Female	71	45.3
Total	157	100.0

Source: Researcher (2024)

Table 4.2 indicates that the majority of the respondents 54% were male whereas 45% were female. This scenario is attributed to the fact that targeted social institutions within the conflicting communities have less females compared to the males. Additionally the

researcher collected reliable information from all the respondents. The findings imply that the views expressed in these findings are gender sensitive and can be taken as representative of the opinions of both genders.

4.3.2 Age of Respondents

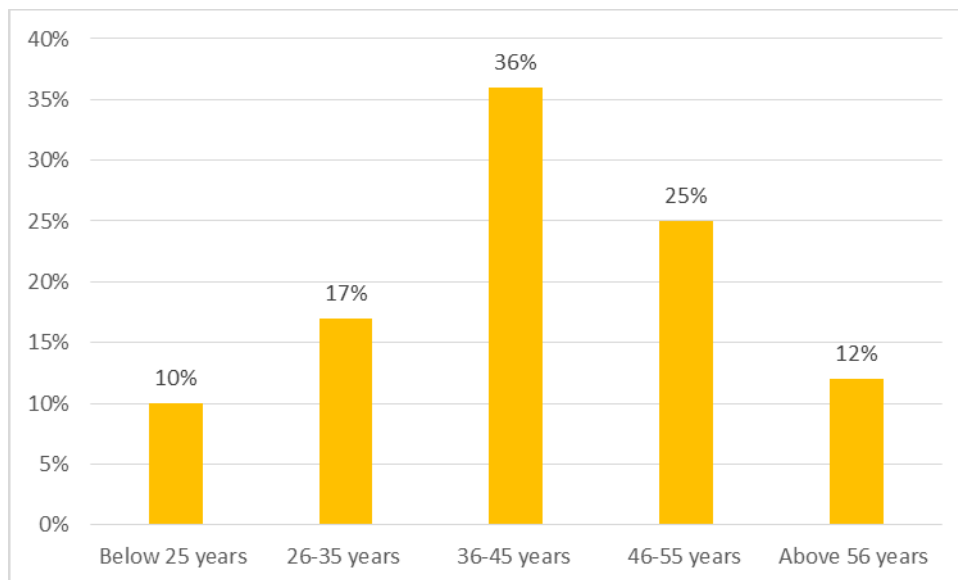


Figure 4.2 Age of Respondent

Source: Field Data, (2024)

Figure 4.2 shows that most of the respondents 36% were aged between 36 and 45 years followed by 25% who were aged between 46 and 55 years, 17% were between 26 and 35 years. 12% of the respondents were above 56 years and 10% were below 25 years. Thus, the majority of the population was considered old enough to understand not only the current events in West Pokot and Turkana region but also historical occurrences that might be fueling the conflict.

4.3.3 Highest Level of Education

As per Table 4.3, 40% of the respondents had a certificate, 31% had a diploma, 17% had a degree and 11% had a Masters. This shows that the majority of the respondents were educated enough to understand the topic under study. The responses also show that individuals with higher levels of education possess a deeper understanding of

historical, political, and socio-economic factors contributing to inter-communal conflicts. Their education equips them with analytical skills to assess the effectiveness of KDF interventions, evaluate underlying causes of conflicts, and propose informed solutions.

Table 4.3 Respondents Level of Education

	Frequency	Percent
Certificate	52	33.1
Diploma	45	28.6
Degree	33	21.0
Masters	27	17.1
Total	157	100.0

Source: Field Data, (2024)

4.3.4 Period Respondents Have Been Residents in West Pokot and Turkana Regions

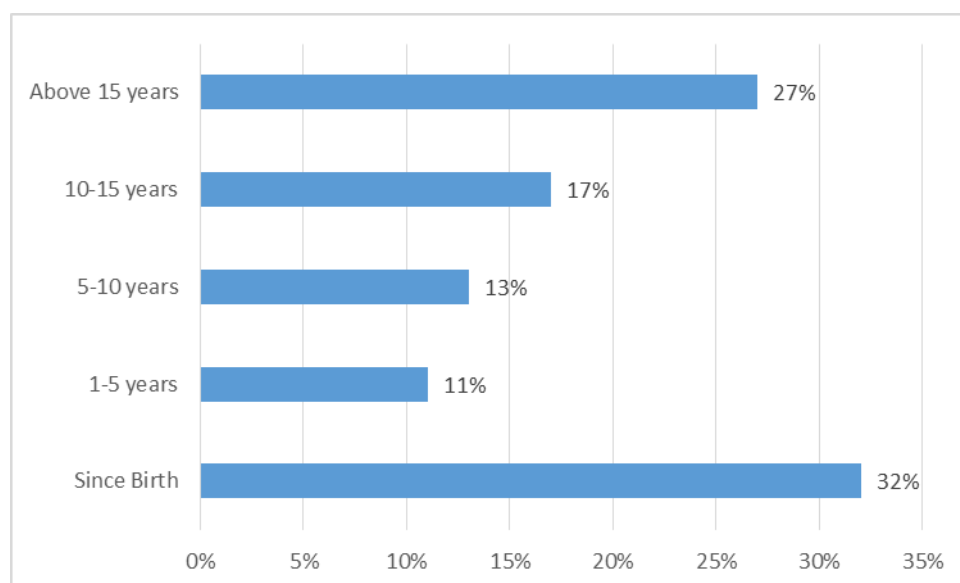


Figure 4.3 Period Respondents Have Been Residents in West Pokot and Turkana Regions

Source: Field Data, (2024)

The study sought information on how long respondents had been residents residing in West Pokot and Turkana Regions. 32% of the respondents had been residents of West Pokot and Turkana Regions since birth. 27% had been residents in West Pokot and Turkana Regions for over 15 years; 17% had been residents in West Pokot and Turkana Regions for a period between 10 and 15 years, 13% had been residents in West Pokot and Turkana Regions for a period between 5 and 10 years whereas 11% of the respondents had been residents in West Pokot and Turkana Regions for a period between 1 to 5 years. This shows that the respondents understood the local dynamics, including the history, culture, and social relations. Those who had lived in the area for an extended period were likely to have deeper insights into the root causes and complexities of inter-communal conflicts. Residents had been in the area for a significant period and had witnessed previous conflicts, their escalation, resolution attempts, and their aftermath. Their experiences shed light on the effectiveness or shortcomings of KDF interventions in the past and inform future strategies.

4.4 Prevalence and types of inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties

4.4.1 Inter-communal Conflicts

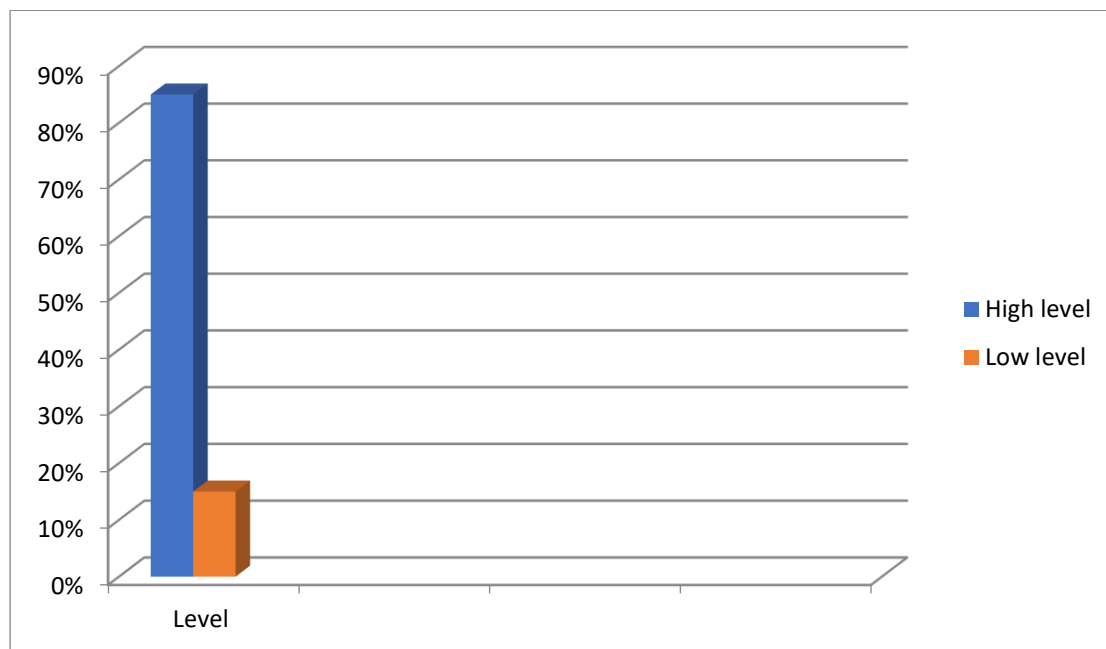


Figure 4.4 Showing level of inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties

Source: Researcher, 2024

The respondents indicated that inter-communal conflicts between West Pokot and Turkana counties in Kenya is high as indicated by 134 (85%) of the respondents while 23 (15%) at low level as depicted on figure 4.3 and that it has a long history, stretching back many decades, even centuries. These conflicts have been primarily driven by competition for resources, such as grazing land and water, as well as cattle rustling, which is a traditional practice among pastoralist communities in the region. The Pokot and Turkana communities have experienced intermittent clashes over these resources, exacerbated by factors like drought, climate change, and the proliferation of small arms. Historical records and oral traditions suggest that such conflicts have been occurring for over a century, becoming more pronounced during periods of environmental stress or political instability. Efforts to resolve these conflicts include government

interventions, peacebuilding initiatives by NGOs, and local community-led peace processes. Despite these efforts, underlying issues related to resource scarcity, marginalization, and cultural practices continue to fuel tensions between these communities.

1.4.2 Types or Manifestations of the inter communal Conflicts

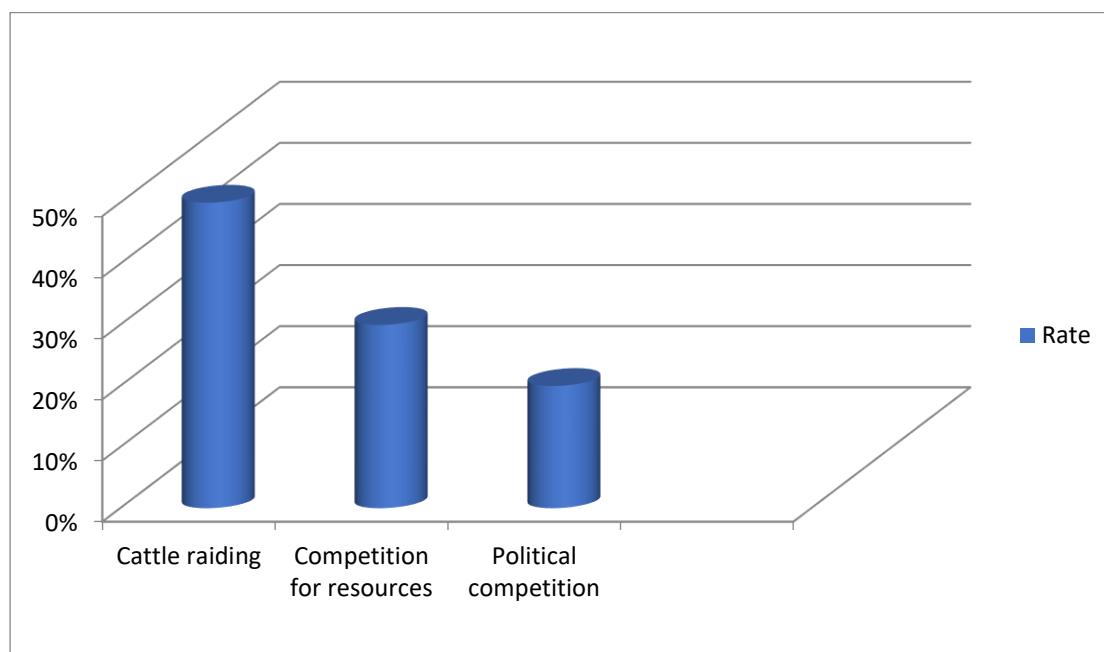


Figure 4.5 Types or Manifestations of the inter communal Conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties

Source: Researcher, 2024

The respondents indicated that the inter-communal conflicts between West Pokot and Turkana counties manifest in several distinct but interconnected forms. 79 (50%) of the respondents indicated that cattle raiding is a traditional practice among pastoralist communities. Those raids are often carried out by young warriors to acquire livestock, which is a crucial economic asset and a symbol of wealth and status. These raids lead to loss of life, displacement of communities, and cycles of revenge attacks. Disputes over grazing land and water sources are common. Pastoralists migrate in search of these resources, leading to territorial conflicts, especially during dry seasons.

Additionally, these disputes escalate into violent clashes, destruction of property, and further entrenchment of ethnic boundaries. Historical grievances and competition for resources often inflame ethnic tensions between the Pokot and Turkana communities as indicated by 47 (30%) of the respondents. These tensions are exacerbated by political manipulation and historical narratives of enmity. Ethnic tensions perpetuate mistrust, making it difficult to achieve lasting peace and cooperation. Acts of violence are often followed by retaliatory attacks. Revenge is driven by the need to avenge lost lives and property, creating a vicious cycle of violence. This cycle of violence results in continuous insecurity, fear, and destabilization of the region.

Moreover, 31 (20%) respondents acknowledged that political competition at local and national levels exacerbates existing tensions. Leaders exploit ethnic divisions to gain political support. Political interference intensifies conflicts, making resolution efforts more complex. The availability of small arms has escalated the intensity and lethality of conflicts. Armed groups more easily carry out raids and defend territory. Increased militarization led to higher casualties and more severe destruction during conflicts. Environmental changes, such as droughts, exacerbate resource scarcity. Competition for dwindling resources, such as water and pasture, becomes more intense. Resource scarcity heightens tensions and triggers conflicts over access to these vital resources.

Some cultural practices, such as rites of passage that involve cattle raiding, reinforce the cycle of conflict. Social norms valorize warriors and raiding activities. Cultural reinforcement of violent practices makes it difficult to shift towards peaceful coexistence. Perceived or actual marginalization by the government and unequal development fuel grievances. Communities feel neglected and turn to violence as a

form of protest or self-help. Marginalization perpetuates poverty and underdevelopment, which in turn fuels further conflict.

1.4.3 Most Severe or Impactful Conflicts over the Past Few Years

The respondents 45 (29%) stated that; the Kapendo Massacre of January 2015 which was a deadly ambush in the Kapendo area resulted in the deaths of over 20 police officers. The attack was attributed to bandits from the region, sparking a major security operation. The massacre highlighted the extent of insecurity and the challenges faced by law enforcement in the area. The response from security forces also led to allegations of human rights abuses, further straining relations between the communities and the government.

Another one that the respondents 40 (25%) pointed out was the Turkwel Dam Conflict of 2018. The conflict over the Turkwel Dam, a critical water resource, intensified as both Turkana and Pokot communities claimed ownership and access rights. The dam's location straddles the border between the two counties, making it a flashpoint for clashes. Disputes over water resources have heightened tensions, leading to violent confrontations and displacement. The conflict around the dam underscores the broader issue of resource scarcity in the region.

The respondents 38 (24%) pointed out the Lomelo Massacre of May 2020. In May 2020, an ambush near Lomelo in Turkana East led to the deaths of over 10 people, including security personnel. The attack was part of ongoing retaliatory raids and conflicts over cattle and grazing land. This incident exacerbated the cycle of revenge attacks and highlighted the challenges of ensuring security in remote areas. It also drew national attention to the persistent insecurity in the region.

The Nasolot Clashes of December 2021 was another one pointed out by the respondents at the response rate of 22 (14%). The clashes in the Nasolot Game Reserve area involved armed groups from both communities. The fighting resulted in several deaths and displacement of families from their homes. The violence in this area disrupted local livelihoods and created a humanitarian crisis as families fled their homes. The game reserve, typically a neutral area, became a battleground, indicating the widespread nature of the conflict.

Another significant attack in the Kapedo area was the Kapedo Attack of February 2022 which led to the deaths of multiple people, including a high-ranking police officer. The incident was part of a broader pattern of violence in the region. The killing of a senior police officer brought increased security operations to the area. However, it also led to accusations of excessive force and collective punishment by security forces, which inflamed local grievances.

An ambush near Lodwar in August 2023, the capital of Turkana County, resulted in over 15 deaths, including women and children. This attack was reportedly part of a series of revenge killings between the communities. The incident highlighted the ongoing vulnerability of civilians in the conflict zone and the failure of peace efforts to protect the most vulnerable populations as indicated by 12 (8%) of the respondents.

Table 4.4 Indicating the most Severe or Impactful Conflicts over the Past Few Years

Type of conflict	Frequency	Percent
Kapedo Massacre	45	29%

Turkwel Dam conflict of 2018	40	25%
Lomelo massacre of May, 2020	38	24%
Nasorot clashes of Dec, 2021	22	14%
Lodwar ambush in August, 2023	12	8%
Total	157	100.0

Source: Researcher (2024)

4.4.4 Major Consequences of these Inter-Communal Conflicts

The respondents stated that the inter-communal conflicts between West Pokot and Turkana counties have had profound and far-reaching consequences on the lives and livelihoods of the local populations. Numerous fatalities have resulted from clashes, raids, and ambushes. The high death toll includes combatants, civilians, and security personnel. Many individuals have sustained serious injuries, often resulting in permanent disabilities. Limited access to medical facilities exacerbates the impact of these injuries. Thousands of people have been displaced from their homes due to violence. Displacement leads to overcrowded and under-resourced camps or temporary settlements.

In addition, displacement disproportionately affects women and children, who are more vulnerable to exploitation, malnutrition, and lack of access to education and healthcare. Cattle raids and violence lead to significant losses of livestock, which are central to the pastoralist economy and culture. The loss of livestock and restricted mobility result in economic hardship, increasing poverty, and food insecurity among pastoralist families. Insecurity hampers access to markets, affecting trade and the sale of livestock and other goods. This limits income and economic opportunities. Violent conflicts damage

infrastructure, such as roads and schools, further isolating communities and hindering development.

Moreover, Continuous exposure to violence and displacement leads to widespread trauma and mental health issues, including PTSD, especially among children and women. Insecurity often leads to the closure of schools, denying children access to education. This has long-term implications for human capital development. Conflict restricts access to healthcare facilities, exacerbating health problems. The displacement also increases vulnerability to diseases due to poor living conditions. Food insecurity and disruption of livelihoods contribute to malnutrition, especially among children and the elderly.

The respondents added that the prevalence of small arms and the involvement of organized bandit groups contribute to lawlessness and impunity, making it difficult for authorities to enforce the rule of law. Persistent conflict and perceived neglect or biased interventions by the government reduce trust in governmental institutions and initiatives. Allegations of excessive force and human rights abuses by security forces during conflict interventions further alienate communities and fuel grievances. Conflicts often lead to increased instances of gender-based violence, including sexual assault and exploitation, particularly in displaced populations.

4.4.5 Root Causes and Key Drivers Fueling Conflicts

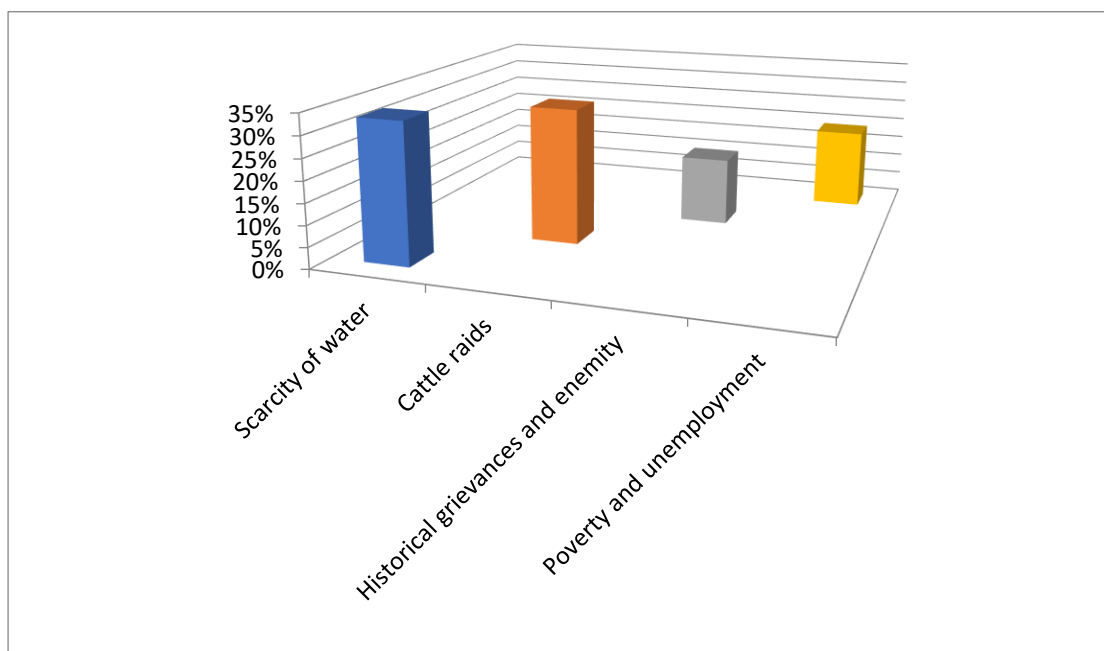


Figure 4.6 Root Causes and Key Drivers Fueling Conflicts

Source: Researcher, 2024

The Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) Personnel, Local Community Leaders and Elders; Government Officials and Administrators, and Civil Society and NGO Representatives indicated that scarcity of water and grazing land, especially during droughts, intensifies competition between pastoralist communities under their response rate of 52 (33%). Climate change exacerbates these resource shortages, increasing the frequency and intensity of conflicts.

50 (32%) of the respondents alluded that cattle raiding are a long-standing cultural practice among pastoralist communities, often seen as a rite of passage for young men. Raiding is not only a means of acquiring wealth but also a way to gain social status. Economic hardship and poverty drive communities to engage in cattle raiding as a means of livelihood. The loss of livestock to raids by other communities also prompts retaliatory raids.

Additionally, long-standing historical grievances and narratives of enmity between the Pokot and Turkana communities fuel mistrust and animosity indicated to exist under the response rate of 25 (16%). Conflicts are often framed along ethnic lines, with each community perceiving the other as a threat to their survival and way of life. Perceived or actual marginalization by the government and unequal distribution of resources contribute to feelings of neglect and injustice. These feelings lead to resentment and conflict. The easy availability of small arms and light weapons escalates the intensity and lethality of conflicts. Armed groups carry out raids and defend territory more effectively.

Moreover, high levels of poverty and unemployment, especially among young men, make them more likely to engage in cattle raiding and other violent activities as seen on figure 4.5 at a response rate of 30 (19%). Increasing population pressure on limited resources exacerbates competition and conflict. The cultural valorization of warrior roles and raiding activities perpetuates cycles of violence. Young men are often expected to prove their bravery and earn respect through participation in raids. Poor infrastructure, such as inadequate roads, schools, and healthcare facilities, limits development and exacerbates grievances, and uneven development and disparities in access to services and infrastructure fuel perceptions of inequality and injustice.

4.4.6 Tensions and Conflicts in the Region

The respondents stated that there are several deep-seated historical grievances, ethnic and cultural divides, and border disputes that underlie the tensions and conflicts between the West Pokot and Turkana communities. These issues are deeply rooted and have been perpetuated over generations, contributing to the ongoing cycle of violence and mistrust. The colonial period left behind a legacy of marginalization and unequal

development. Colonial administrators often favored certain groups over others, leading to long-standing grievances that persist today. Historical cattle raids and conflicts have created a cycle of revenge and retaliation. Each community has a history of being both perpetrators and victims of violence, which fosters deep-seated animosities.

Additionally, both the Pokot and Turkana communities have strong ethnic identities and loyalty to their respective groups. This strong sense of identity often leads to an "us versus them" mentality, exacerbating tensions. Cultural practices such as cattle raiding are ingrained in the social fabric of these communities. Raiding is not only an economic activity but also a cultural one, often associated with rites of passage for young men. The administrative boundaries between West Pokot and Turkana counties are not clearly defined and are often contested. Disputes over these boundaries lead to conflicts over land and resources.

The Turkwel Dam, located on the border between the two counties, is a significant flashpoint. Both communities claim ownership and access rights to the dam and its resources, leading to frequent clashes. The semi-arid nature of the region means that access to grazing land and water sources is critical. Disputes over these essential resources are common and often turn violent, especially during dry seasons when resources are scarce. Both communities feel marginalized and neglected by the central government, leading to feelings of injustice and resentment. This perception of neglect fuels grievances and contributes to the willingness to engage in conflict.

The scarcity of resources such as water and grazing land, exacerbated by climate change, drives competition between the communities. This competition often leads to violent confrontations. Politicians sometimes exploit ethnic divisions and historical grievances to gain political support, further inflaming tensions. Political competition

exacerbate existing conflicts and lead to new ones. The lack of effective governance and law enforcement in the region means that conflicts often go unresolved and perpetrators are not held accountable, perpetuating a cycle of violence and impunity.

4.4.7 Poverty, Lack of development, Marginalization of communities

The respondents indicated that poverty, lack of development, and marginalization contribute significantly to the conflicts between the West Pokot and Turkana communities by fostering economic hardship, exacerbating resource competition, and perpetuating feelings of neglect and injustice. Both the Pokot and Turkana communities rely heavily on pastoralism as their primary livelihood. Economic hardships make cattle raiding an attractive option for gaining wealth and ensuring survival. Poverty limits access to education, healthcare, and other essential services, trapping communities in a cycle of deprivation that fuels desperation and violence.

The lack of schools, healthcare facilities, roads, and markets exacerbates the sense of isolation and neglect among the West Pokot and Turkana communities. Poor infrastructure hampers economic development and limits opportunities for growth. Underdeveloped regions tend to have higher incidences of conflict due to the absence of state presence and services. Development projects that could mitigate resource scarcity and provide alternative livelihoods are often lacking.

Historical neglect and marginalization by the central government have fostered a sense of injustice and resentment. Communities that feel ignored by the government are more likely to take matters into their own hands, often through violent means. The perception that other regions or communities are receiving more attention and resources fuels ethnic tensions and competition. This perceived inequality exacerbates existing grievances and leads to conflict.

4.5 Conflict Resolution Strategies employed by the Kenya Defence Forces in Addressing Inter-communal Conflicts

This section shows findings on conflict resolution strategies employed by the Kenya Defence Forces in addressing inter-communal conflicts.

4.5.1 Specific Conflict Resolution Strategies

The KDF Officers, Local Residents, Police Commanders, Chiefs, County Administrators stated that KDF personnel often engaged with local communities to build trust, foster dialogue, and address grievances. This involved conducting community meetings, hosting mediation sessions, and facilitating inter-communal dialogues to promote understanding and reconciliation between conflicting groups. In addition to security measures, the KDF implemented humanitarian assistance and development projects in conflict-affected areas. This includes providing food aid, healthcare services, education, infrastructure development, and livelihood support to address underlying socio-economic factors contributing to conflicts and promoting long-term stability. The KDF collaborated with other security agencies, civil society organizations, and international partners to develop and implement conflict prevention strategies and early warning systems. By monitoring potential triggers of conflicts, such as resource disputes or ethnic tensions, the KDF took proactive measures to prevent escalation and mitigate risks.

The KDF invested in training and capacity-building programs to enhance the skills of its personnel in conflict resolution, negotiation, mediation, and peacebuilding. This enabled them to effectively engage with communities, mediate disputes, and promote reconciliation processes while upholding human rights and international humanitarian law standards. The KDF often worked in collaboration with civilian institutions,

including government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), religious leaders, traditional authorities, and community-based organizations, to address inter-communal conflicts comprehensively.

Coordinated efforts ensured a holistic approach that addressed security, governance, development, and social cohesion issues. The KDF also supported political processes aimed at resolving inter-communal conflicts through diplomatic means, negotiations, and peace agreements. This involved providing security for peace talks, facilitating ceasefire agreements, and monitoring compliance with peace agreements to prevent the resurgence of violence. The key informants stated that

“The primary mandate of the KDF is to safeguard Kenya's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and national interests. This includes protecting communities from external threats, such as armed incursions or cross-border conflicts that exacerbate inter-communal tensions. The KDF is tasked with preventing and resolving conflicts that arise within West Pokot and Turkana counties, including inter-communal disputes. This involves deploying troops to in the areas, conducting patrols, and implementing measures to prevent violence and maintain law and order. In response to inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana counties, the KDF often provides humanitarian assistance to affected communities.” (Respondent 1)

The same sentiments were echoed by respondent 2 who stated that.

“This may include distributing food aid, medical supplies, and other essential relief items to alleviate suffering and address the immediate needs of displaced populations. The KDF is involved in disarmament initiatives aimed at confiscating illegal weapons and reducing the potential for violence in conflict-affected areas. Additionally, they support demobilization and reintegration programs to reintegrate former combatants into civilian life and promote stability. The KDF collaborates with civilian authorities, including the national police, to maintain public order, enforce the rule of law, and protect civilians during times of conflict” (Respondent 2).

Respondent 3 observed that;

“...this involves joint operations, intelligence-sharing, and coordination of security efforts to address inter-communal tensions effectively. The

KDF invests in training and capacity-building programs to enhance the skills of its personnel in conflict resolution, negotiation, mediation, and peacebuilding. This enables them to engage with communities, mediate disputes, and promote reconciliation processes while upholding human rights and international humanitarian law standards. The KDF works in coordination with civilian institutions, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), religious leaders, traditional authorities, and community-based organizations, to address inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana counties comprehensively. Coordinated efforts ensure a holistic approach that addresses security, governance, development, and social cohesion issues” (Respondent 3)

4.5.2 Effectiveness of the Conflict Resolution Strategies

The respondents stated that one of the primary goals of conflict resolution strategies was to reduce violence and mitigate the impact of inter-communal conflicts on civilian populations. Effectiveness was measured by assessing trends in conflict-related casualties, displacement, property damage, and other indicators of violence over time. A significant reduction in these metrics suggested the effectiveness of KDF interventions. The perceptions of the affected communities were crucial in determining the success of conflict resolution strategies. Conducting community surveys, focus group discussions, and interviews provided insights into how communities perceived the role of the KDF, whether they trusted their interventions, and whether they believed the strategies had contributed to resolving conflicts and promoting peace. Sustainable peace required addressing the root causes of conflicts and building resilient communities capable of resolving disputes peacefully.

Effectiveness was assessed by examining whether conflict resolution strategies addressed underlying grievances, promoted reconciliation, fostered social cohesion, and strengthened institutions for conflict management and governance in the long term. Conflict resolution strategies upheld human rights principles and international

humanitarian law standards. Effectiveness was also evaluated by assessing whether KDF interventions respected human rights, protected civilians from harm, avoiding exacerbating tensions, and promoting accountability for violations committed by all parties to the conflict. Effective conflict resolution often required coordinated efforts among multiple actors, including the military, government agencies, civil society organizations, and international partners. Evaluating the degree of coordination, collaboration, and coherence among these stakeholders provides insights into the effectiveness of KDF strategies in addressing the multifaceted nature of inter-communal conflicts. Conflict dynamics evolved over time, requiring adaptive and learning-oriented approaches to conflict resolution.

Effectiveness was measured by assessing whether the KDF demonstrated flexibility, learned from past experiences and feedback, adjusted its strategies based on changing circumstances, and adopted innovative approaches to address emerging challenges. The effectiveness of conflict resolution strategies was influenced by broader political, socio-economic, and cultural factors. Evaluating the impact of these contextual factors on the outcomes of KDF interventions helped understand the constraints and opportunities for achieving lasting peace and stability in conflict-affected areas.

The key informant 1 stated that,

“The KDF engages with local communities through dialogue, mediation, and conflict resolution workshops. By fostering communication and understanding between conflicting parties, the military aims to identify underlying grievances, build trust, and promote reconciliation. Effectiveness depends on the willingness of communities to participate and the extent to which grievances are addressed. In conflict-affected areas, the KDF provides humanitarian assistance such as food aid, medical care, and shelter to displaced populations. This not only addresses immediate needs but also helps build goodwill and trust with communities. The effectiveness of this approach can be measured by the extent to which it alleviates suffering and contributes to stability. The KDF participates in peacekeeping missions both

domestically and internationally. Domestically, they deploy troops to conflict zones to maintain peace, provide security, and facilitate dialogue between conflicting groups. Internationally, Kenyan troops contribute to United Nations peacekeeping missions, gaining experience in conflict resolution techniques” (Key informant 1).

This was collaborated with key informant 2 who stated that

“Effectiveness is often assessed based on the mission's impact on reducing violence and promoting stability. The KDF may engage in disarmament initiatives to confiscate illegal weapons and reduce the potential for violence. Additionally, they may support demobilization and reintegration programs to reintegrate former combatants into civilian life. The effectiveness of these interventions depends on the cooperation of communities and the sustainability of disarmament efforts. The KDF invests in training and capacity-building programs to enhance the skills of its personnel in conflict resolution, negotiation, mediation, and peacebuilding. By equipping military personnel with these skills, the KDF aims to facilitate constructive engagement with communities and promote peaceful conflict resolution. Effectiveness can be assessed based on the application of these skills in practice and their impact on conflict dynamics. The KDF works in coordination with civilian institutions, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community leaders, to address conflicts comprehensively. By leveraging the expertise and resources of various stakeholders, the military can implement more holistic approaches to conflict resolution. Effectiveness depends on the level of cooperation and collaboration among these stakeholders.” (key informant 2)

4.5.3 Community Engagement

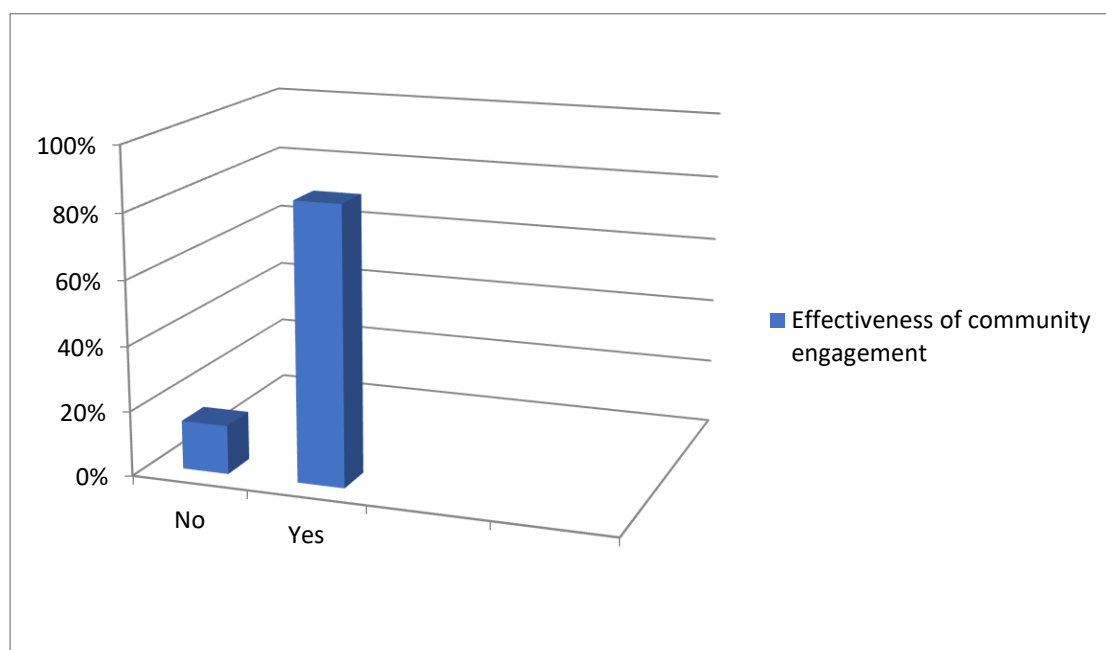


Figure 4.7 Effectiveness of Community Engagement

Source: Researcher, 2024

The respondents 54 (85%) indicated that through engaging with local communities it built trust and confidence between the military and civilians contrary to 44 (15%). That these is achieved through establishing rapport and dialogue, the KDF fostered positive relationships, enhanced communication channels, and gained insights into community needs, concerns, and grievances. West Pokot, and Turkana communities possessed valuable knowledge about local dynamics, including the root causes of conflicts, social structures, cultural norms, and traditional dispute resolution mechanisms. Engaging with the residents allowed the KDF to gain a deeper understanding of these factors, which informed the development of contextually appropriate conflict resolution strategies. Community engagement facilitated the identification of early warning signs and potential triggers of conflicts.

Through maintaining close relationships with community members, the KDF monitored tensions, grievances, and emerging disputes, enabling early intervention to

prevent escalation and mitigate risks. Engaging in dialogue with conflicting parties promoted understanding, reconciliation, and peaceful coexistence. The KDF facilitated mediation sessions, peacebuilding workshops, and community forums to bring together individuals from different ethnic, religious, or political backgrounds to discuss grievances, address misunderstandings, and seek common ground. Communities often had their own resilience mechanisms and conflict resolution processes rooted in local traditions and customs. The KDF supported and complemented these initiatives by providing logistical support, security assurances, technical expertise, and resources to strengthen community-led efforts for peace and reconciliation.

In conflict-affected areas, communities faced humanitarian crises, including food shortages, displacement, and access to basic services. The KDF engaged with communities to assess their needs and deliver humanitarian assistance, such as food aid, medical services, clean water, and shelter, to alleviate suffering and build goodwill. Community engagement fostered accountability, transparency, and civilian oversight of the security sector. Through soliciting feedback from communities, addressing grievances related to military conduct, and promoting respect for human rights, the KDF enhanced its legitimacy and credibility as a peacebuilding actor. Sustainable peace required the active participation and ownership of communities. Engaging with communities in conflict resolution efforts empowered them to take ownership of the peace process, build resilience to future conflicts, and promote social cohesion, inclusive governance, and sustainable development.

The key informants 3 indicated that,

“Community engagement fosters trust and confidence between the military and civilian populations affected in West Pokot and Turkana Counties. By actively involving communities in decision-making processes, listening to their concerns, and addressing their needs, the KDF establishes a positive

relationship and gains legitimacy for its interventions. Communities possess invaluable knowledge about local dynamics, including the root causes of conflicts, social structures, cultural norms, and traditional conflict resolution mechanisms. Engaging with communities allows the KDF to gain insights into these factors, which are essential for developing contextually relevant conflict resolution strategies. Community engagement facilitates the identification of underlying grievances and root causes of conflicts” (Key informant 3)

The key informant also went ahead to add that;

“... by listening to community members and understanding their perspectives, the KDF identifies factors such as land disputes, resource scarcity, political marginalization, or historical grievances that fuel inter-communal tensions. Engaging in dialogue with conflicting parties promotes understanding, reconciliation, and peaceful coexistence. By facilitating mediation sessions, peacebuilding workshops, and community forums, the KDF brings together individuals from different ethnic, religious, or political backgrounds to discuss grievances, address misunderstandings, and seek common ground. West Pokot and Turkana communities often have their own resilience mechanisms and conflict resolution processes rooted in local traditions and customs. The KDF supports and complements these initiatives by providing logistical support, security assurances, technical expertise, and resources to strengthen community-led efforts for peace and reconciliation. Effective conflict resolution requires the active participation and ownership of communities.”

These observations also matched those of respondent 4 who pointed out that

“By engaging with the communities, empowering local leaders, and promoting inclusive decision-making processes, the KDF helps communities take ownership of the peace process, building resilience to future conflicts, and promoting long-term stability and sustainability. Community engagement enhances the KDF's understanding of the local context and enables them to tailor their conflict resolution strategies to the specific needs and priorities of affected communities. By being responsive to community feedback and adapting their approaches accordingly, the KDF minimizes unintended negative consequences and maximizes the impact of their interventions” (respondent 4)

4.5.4 Challenges Faced by the KDF in Implementing Conflict Resolution Strategies

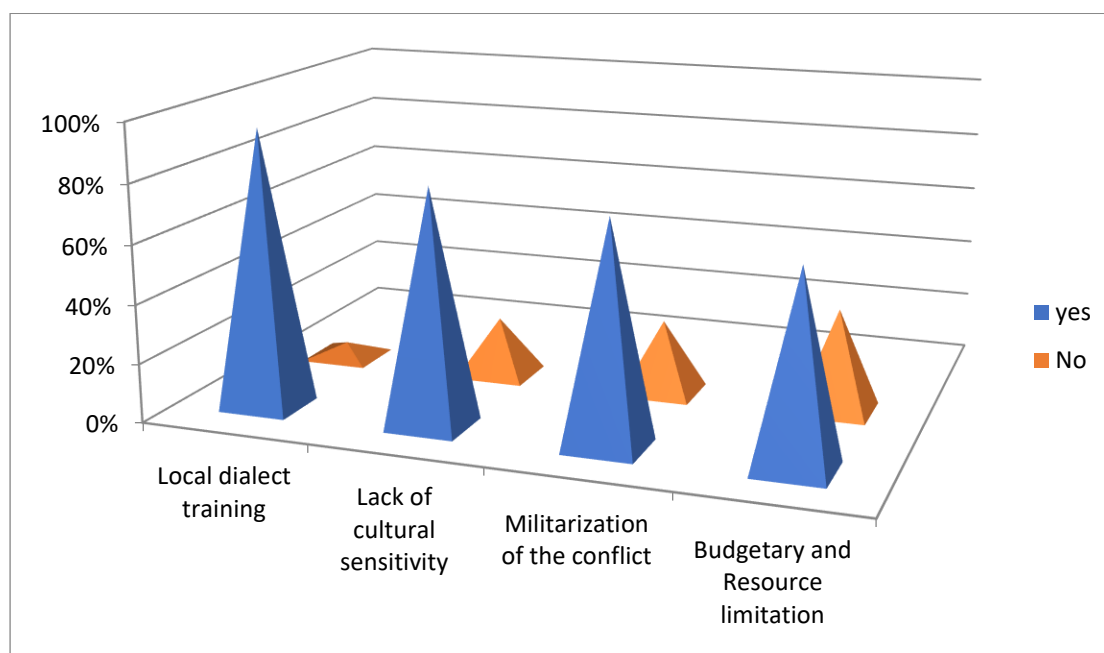


Figure 4.8 Challenges Faced by the KDF in Implementing Conflict Resolution Strategies

Source: **Researcher, 2024**

The KDF Officers, Local Residents, Police Commanders, Chiefs, and County Administrators stated that inter-communal conflicts were deeply rooted in historical, ethnic, and cultural complexities. The military personnel did not always have the requisite training or deep understanding of these local dynamics, which was crucial for effective mediation and peace building. This was observed by 149 (95%) of the respondents under Yes opinion while 8(5%) had varied views No response. 126 (80%) indicated that lack of cultural sensitivity led to misunderstandings and exacerbated tensions as opposed to 31 (20%) of the respondents under No response. The involvement of military forces in internal conflicts was perceived as an escalation or militarization of the conflict, which reduced trust among the local communities. Acknowledged by 118 (75%) of the respondents under Yes category while 39 (25%) under No category. That presence of armed forces might was seen as intimidating or

oppressive, rather than as a neutral or peacekeeping force, especially if the KDF had to enforce peace among communities where there was perceived biases. Implementing effective conflict resolution strategies often required substantial resources, including personnel trained in conflict resolution, continuous engagement, and logistical support.

Budgetary and resource limitations hindered the ability of the KDF to sustain such operations, especially in remote or multiple conflict-prone areas simultaneously as indicated by 110 (70%) of the respondents, contrary to some of the respondents who had different views 47 (30%). Military intervention in conflict resolution brought about a temporary cessation of hostilities but did not necessarily address the underlying causes of conflict. Without a parallel investment in peacebuilding initiatives, such as economic development, social cohesion programs, and governance reforms, the sustainability of peace remained precarious. Effective conflict resolution required integrated efforts involving various stakeholders including local leaders, national police, judicial bodies, and non-governmental organizations. However, coordination and cooperation among these entities was challenging. The KDF faced bureaucratic hurdles or inter-agency rivalry, which impeded comprehensive conflict resolution strategies. There was an inherent risk of human rights violations in military-led operations, which led to legal issues and undermined the legitimacy of the intervention. Ensuring that the KDF operated within the bounds of national and international law was critical but challenging in volatile and rapidly changing conflict scenarios.

While KDF personnel were highly trained in combat and military operations, they were not always equally prepared for peacekeeping and conflict resolution roles that required negotiation, mediation, and community engagement skills. Enhancing these capabilities was essential but required time and resources.

4.5.5 Cultural Dynamics

The respondents responded that the West Pokot and Turkana communities had their own set of norms, practices, and ways of resolving disputes. These included traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, such as local elders mediating disputes or community assemblies. The KDF's strategies needed to respect and integrate these local practices. Failure to do so resulted in interventions that were perceived as irrelevant or disrespectful, potentially exacerbating tensions. Most of the inter-communal conflicts were rooted in historical grievances that were related to past injustices, such as displacement, marginalization, or violence. These historical contexts shaped the West Pokot, and Turkana community's perception of fairness and justice.

The KDF was aware of these sensitivities to avoid actions that were viewed as partial or exacerbating historical inequalities. Effective communication was key in any conflict resolution process. Differences in language or dialects led to misunderstandings or misinterpretations of intentions. The KDF personnel engaged in these operations needed to either communicate effectively in the local languages or work closely with interpreters and community liaisons who bridged these gaps. Understanding the leadership structures within the West Pokot, and Turkana communities, whether formal or informal, was crucial. These included tribal chiefs, religious leaders, and local government officials. The KDF's ability to engage constructively with these leaders influenced the acceptance and effectiveness of their conflict resolution efforts.

Ignoring these structures led to resistance from communities saw the military's efforts as undermining their authority. Inter-communal conflicts often had dimensions of religious or ethnic identity. Actions by the KDF were carefully calibrated to avoid being perceived as favoring one group over another. This required a nuanced understanding

of the local ethnic and religious landscape and ensuring that interventions were impartial and inclusive. In the West Pokot, and Turkana communities, gender roles dictate who was involved in decision-making and who was heard in public versus private spheres.

Overlooking the role that women and youth play in the community resulted in incomplete conflict resolution processes. Integrating gender-sensitive approaches improved the inclusiveness and effectiveness of interventions. The West Pokot, and Turkana communities had their own traditional methods for resolving conflicts, which included compensation, public apologies, or ritual reconciliations. The KDF needed to potentially facilitate these processes by providing security and logistics, but did not supplant them with external methods unless absolutely necessary.

By respecting and integrating into the cultural framework of the local communities in West Pokot, and Turkana, the KDF enhanced its effectiveness in conflict resolution. This required ongoing cultural competence training, engagement with local community leaders, and a commitment to understanding the deeper social and cultural currents that underpinned local conflicts. Ultimately, the goal was to support and empower the West Pokot, and Turkana communities to lead their peace processes, with the KDF and other security forces providing a supportive and stabilizing role.

4.5.6 Effectiveness of the KDF's Conflict Resolution Strategies

The respondents indicated that through developing comprehensive training programs that included cultural sensitivity, local languages, and understanding of the historical and socio-economic background of the communities where the KDF operates. The training focused on conflict resolution, negotiation, and mediation skills tailored to the local context. Through establishing dedicated teams or officers whose primary role was

to engage with community leaders, civil society, and local populations. These officers acted as liaisons and built trust between the KDF and the communities, facilitating a better understanding of the local dynamics and needs. Through incorporating civilian peacebuilding experts into military units to provide guidance on non-military aspects of conflict resolution.

These experts included anthropologists, sociologists, legal experts, and conflict resolution specialists who provided insights that were not traditionally within the military's expertise. Through strengthening cooperation with other governmental and non-governmental organizations that were also involved in conflict resolution and community development. This included local police, judiciary, social services, and international organizations. A coordinated approach ensured that military actions were supported by social and economic initiatives that addressed the root causes of conflicts. Through implementing mechanisms to gather feedback from the communities on the effectiveness and impact of the KDF's interventions. This was done through regular community meetings, surveys, and inviting community representatives to participate in planning and review processes. Through using media and public relations campaigns to inform communities about the goals and roles of the KDF's interventions.

Clear and transparent communication helped to dispel rumors, manage expectations, and clarify the non-combatant, peacekeeping role of the military in these areas. Through ensuring all personnel were thoroughly trained in national and international laws relevant to internal security operations, including human rights laws. Regular updates and refresher courses on legal obligations and ethical conduct were mandatory. Developing robust mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of conflict resolution strategies. This included metrics to assess both immediate outcomes and long-term impacts on peace and stability.

The findings were used to continuously refine and improve strategies. Through working towards solutions that ensured the sustainability of peace efforts. This involved supporting infrastructure development, accessing education, and economic opportunities, thereby addressing some of the socio-economic drivers of conflict. And through engaging in regional cooperation initiatives to manage cross-border dynamics that impacted inter-communal tensions, such as arms smuggling, cattle rustling, and movement of militant groups. Implementing these changes required commitment from the highest levels of the military and government to a holistic approach to conflict resolution that went beyond traditional military roles. Through focusing on building capacity, cooperation, and community engagement, the KDF enhanced its role as a key player in stabilizing and building peace in West Pokot, and Turkana Counties.

4.5.7 Conflict Resolution Strategies and International Practices and Standards

According to the respondents, the KDF's operations were ideally governed by international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions and various human rights treaties. Best practices required that military forces engage in conflict resolution in a manner that minimizes harm to civilians, respects the rights of non-combatants, and avoids exacerbating tensions. Compliance with these legal frameworks was essential for maintaining legitimacy both domestically and internationally. International best practices emphasized the importance of community involvement in peacebuilding processes. This included using community-driven approaches that respected local customs and governance structures, integrating traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, and engaging local leaders in dialogue.

The effectiveness of the KDF in this regard varied; greater success was generally observed when they supported and facilitated rather than lead the resolution processes,

allowing community-based solutions to take precedence. According to the United Nations, modern peacekeeping was multidimensional, involving not just the maintenance of security but also facilitating political processes, protecting and promoting human rights, and assisting in the restoration of the rule of law. The KDF's role, especially in external operations like AMISOM, aligned with these aspects to some extent but was further enhanced through increased collaboration with civilian peacekeeping elements and international organizations. Protecting civilians was a cornerstone of international peacebuilding standards. The KDF's involvement in direct military actions, especially in areas with complex social and ethnic dynamics, needed to prioritize civilian protection to uphold peacebuilding principles.

This was crucial in maintaining public trust and cooperation from the local population. International standards stressed the importance of sustainable peace initiatives that addressed underlying causes of conflict such as poverty, inequality, and lack of access to resources. Military interventions were often critiqued for focusing too heavily on immediate security concerns rather than those deeper issues. The KDF's efforts benefited from being part of broader, integrated strategies that included development and reconciliation components, ensuring that peace was lasting.

Transparency in operations and accountability for actions were vital to uphold the integrity of peacekeeping forces. This included clear rules of engagement, mechanisms for local populations to report grievances, and investigations into any allegations of misconduct. Strengthening these areas helped align KDF operations more closely with international best practices. Effective peacebuilding requires the involvement of multiple stakeholders, including military, civilian, and non-governmental organizations. The KDF's strategies ensured effective coordination with these bodies to create a cohesive and unified approach to resolving conflicts.

Continual training in peacekeeping operations, human rights, conflict sensitivity, and local cultural dynamics was essential for the forces involved. Aligning with best practices involved regular updates and enhancements to training programs to ensure that personnel were well-equipped to handle complex inter-communal conflicts. While the KDF had made strides in certain areas, aligning fully with international best practices in peacebuilding required ongoing assessment and adaptation of strategies to ensure they were comprehensive, culturally sensitive, and sustainable. This alignment not only enhanced the effectiveness of conflict resolution efforts but also contributed to the broader goals of national and regional stability.

4.5.8 KDF on the Security and Safety of Civilians

As per the responses, the KDF provided a robust security presence that deterred violent activities and suppressed insurgent operations. Their deployment stabilized volatile areas where local law enforcement was overwhelmed, reducing the frequency and severity of violent incidents. In West Pokot, and Turkana areas where civilians were at risk from non-state actors or violent communal clashes, the KDF played a protective role, creating safer conditions for civilians and potentially saving lives.

This included setting up secure zones, conducting patrols, and sometimes engaging directly with hostile forces. Alongside their primary security duties, KDF units often engaged in humanitarian efforts, providing aid to displaced persons, facilitating the distribution of food and medical supplies, and assisting in emergency medical care. The KDF's presence helped restore civil order and governmental control, facilitating the rebuilding process in post-conflict scenarios and ensuring that civil authorities were able to operate effectively. Negatively, military operations, particularly in West Pokot, and Turkana which were mixed civilian-combatant environments, carrying inherent

risks of collateral damage. Misidentification, miscommunication, or operational errors led to civilian casualties or provoked displacement as people tried to escape the fighting.

The military presence, especially if heavy-handed or culturally insensitive, intimidated local populations. If the KDF was perceived as partial or as oppressors rather than protectors, it eroded trust and exacerbated tensions within the community. Prolonged military presence in West Pokot, and Turkana areas led to a dependency where local authorities and communities relied too heavily on the KDF for security, potentially stifling the development of local governance and community-based conflict resolution mechanisms.

The deployment of military forces in West Pokot, and Turkana areas often required substantial resources which was otherwise used for development or civil policing. Additionally, if not managed carefully, the presence of troops sometimes strained local resources like food and water. Therefore, the presence of the KDF in West Pokot, and Turkana areas significantly influenced the security and safety of civilians, with outcomes largely dependent on how sensitively and effectively the military engaged with the civilian population and managed its operations.

4.5.9 KDF's Past Experiences in Resolving Inter-communal Conflicts

The KDF Officers, Local Residents, Police Commanders, Chiefs, County Administrators stated that KDF operations had shown the importance of understanding and respecting local customs and traditions. In West Pokot, and Turkana areas with deep-rooted ethnic or communal divisions, being culturally sensitive improved relations between the military forces and local communities, fostering cooperation and trust. Training troops in local languages, customs, and sensitivities greatly enhanced

the effectiveness of conflict resolution strategies. Successful conflict resolution often hinged on the involvement of local communities in the peace process.

The KDF's experiences highlighted the benefits of engaging local leaders and community-based organizations early and continuously. These entities acted as mediators, provided valuable insights into the roots of conflicts, and helped in implementing sustainable peace solutions. Inter-communal conflicts were complex and require multi-faceted approaches. The KDF's past operations underlined the necessity for coordination with various stakeholders, including local and national government bodies, non-governmental organizations, and international partners. Such collaborations provided a more holistic approach to conflict resolution, combining military presence with humanitarian aid, development projects, and dialogue facilitation.

Conflicts evolved, and strategies that worked at one stage became ineffective later. The KDF's engagements taught the importance of adaptability and flexibility in operational strategies. Continuous assessment of the conflict environment and adjustment of tactics accordingly helped in effectively managing and resolving disputes. Regular and comprehensive training in peacekeeping operations, negotiation, and conflict resolution significantly enhanced the capability of military personnel in managing inter-communal conflicts. The KDF's experience showed that well-prepared troops were more likely to succeed in fostering peace and security. One of the fundamental lessons from KDF operations was the critical importance of prioritizing the safety and security of civilians.

Ensuring that military actions did not exacerbate the plight of the affected populations but instead protected and assisted them was crucial for the legitimacy and success of

any peacekeeping effort. Operations that were conducted transparently, with clear accountability mechanisms in place, tended to garner more support and trust from the local population and the international community. The KDF's experiences had shown that addressing any allegations of misconduct swiftly and transparently was essential in maintaining the moral high ground and support for the mission. Finally, KDF operations in West Pokot, and Turkana had illustrated that military intervention alone did not create lasting peace. There needed to be a long-term commitment to addressing the underlying causes of conflict, including social, economic, and political disparities. Integrating peacebuilding and development initiatives into the conflict resolution process was vital for sustainable peace.

4.6 The impact and effectiveness of the Kenya Defence Forces' interventions in mitigating inter-communal conflict, promoting peace, and enhancing security

This section shows findings on the impact and effectiveness of the Kenya Defence Forces' interventions in mitigating inter-communal conflict, promoting peace, and enhancing security.

4.6.1 Impact of the Kenya Defence Forces' Interventions

The presence of KDF troops in West Pokot, and Turkana regions deterred violence, suppressed armed groups, and created a more stable environment through maintaining law and order, the KDF prevented the escalation of conflicts and provided space for dialogue and reconciliation. KDF interventions involved protecting civilians from attacks by armed groups, preventing displacement, and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid to affected communities. Their presence provided a sense of security for civilians caught in conflict. In some cases, the KDF engaged in mediation efforts to resolve disputes between warring communities.

Their neutrality and authority as a state institution led credibility to peace talks and helped to bridge divides between conflicting groups. KDF operations in West Pokot, and Turkana included initiatives aimed at promoting reconciliation and rebuilding trust between communities. This involved community dialogues, joint development projects, and efforts to address underlying grievances. In West Pokot and Turkana areas where conflict had weakened or undermined government institutions, the presence of KDF helped restore and maintain government authority. This was essential for providing essential services, enforcing the rule of law, and fostering stability.

4.6.2 Interventions of the Kenya Defence Forces

The respondents indicated that the presence of KDF troops contributes to immediate security and stability by deterring violence, suppressing armed groups, and creating a sense of safety among civilians in West Pokot and Turkana. This helped de-escalate tensions and prevent further outbreaks of violence in conflict-affected areas. KDF interventions included efforts to protect civilians from attacks, displacement, and other forms of harm resulting from inter-communal conflicts.

Providing a secure environment enabled civilians to return to their homes, access essential services, and resume their daily lives. KDF personnel engaged in mediation and conflict resolution efforts to facilitate dialogue between conflicting communities, address grievances, and negotiate ceasefires or peace agreements. Their neutrality and authority as state actors led to credibility to these peace initiatives. Alongside security operations, the KDF provided humanitarian aid, including food, medical care, and shelter, to civilians affected by inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana areas. This assistance alleviated suffering, built trust with local populations, and created goodwill towards the military presence. The KDF's presence helped restore law and

order, enforced the rule of law, and supported the functioning of local authorities. This created an enabling environment for peacebuilding efforts and the delivery of public services. Successful peacebuilding required active engagement with local communities and stakeholders in the region. The KDF worked with community leaders, religious institutions, and civil society organizations to promote reconciliation, address root causes of conflict, and foster social cohesion.

4.6.3 Instances Where the Presence of the Kenya Defence Forces had Enhanced Security

The people surveyed indicated that the military intervention initially brought a sense of tranquility and absence of conflict between the Turkana and Pokot communities. Based on prior encounters in the region and other conflict zones within Kenya, the survey respondents expressed that the two communities were cognizant of the potential severity and challenges associated with a military operation. Hence, through intensive raids on the hideouts of raiders and employing tactics such as confiscating livestock to pressure villagers into revealing the locations of bandits sheltering within their communities, the military effectively conveyed the gravity and determination behind the security operation.

Driving the bandits out of the villages and subsequently targeting their hideouts in the forests and caves allowed the military operation to re-establish peace and security within the community. In addition, the fear instilled in the civilians resonated well in making the disarmament exercise easier and more effective. The respondents stated that the local authorities, assisted by officers and non-governmental organizations, found it comparatively less challenging to persuade the residents to hand over their firearms. Unfortunately, the peace brought by the military was short-lived; for a few months. After the two communities surrendered the majority of their firearms, the raids ceased.

Local authorities, police officers, and non-governmental organizations utilized this opportunity to organize inter-community meetings aimed at fostering long-term peaceful coexistence. Despite the Pokot and Turkana communities surrendering a significant number of firearms, the military operation lacked a viable long-term strategy to sustain peace in the region during and after the intervention. For example, residents stated that the military failed to establish shared social facilities, such as hospitals, schools, and marketplaces, which could have brought the two conflicting communities together.

Consequently, there remained a high level of mistrust between the Pokot and Turkana communities. The Pokot were hesitant to surrender all of their firearms due to suspicions that the Turkanas would not fully disarm themselves either. Due to the persisting mutual distrust, both communities intentionally retained a significant number of firearms for defensive purposes, fearing potential attacks from the rival group. This ultimately led to the resumption of cattle rustling activities a few months after the military withdrew from the area. In the years following the military's withdrawal, there was a continued increase and spread of small arms and ammunition within the region. At present, inter-community cattle rustling, as well as the killing of civilians and security personnel, remains a widespread occurrence. For instance, as per the rapid assessment reports from the Kenya Red Cross Society, the conflict between the Pokot and Turkana communities had escalated by 15th January 2021 to a degree that jeopardized the safety and security of residents in Baringo County, which borders Turkana County.

The conflict resulted in 26 houses being burned down, claiming the lives of 10 individuals, including 3 KDF officers, and approximately 1,500 families were displaced as they fled from the conflict-ridden villages. This prompted the Government to declare

a full-scale security operation in order to restore peace and order. The security operation resulted in escalated combat between the military and bandits, leading to a rise in casualties with gunshot wounds. Furthermore, more people fled away from the conflict area, and there were fears of potential police brutality. Certain community water points were vandalized, and schools and health facilities were forced to shut down due to the prevailing insecurity. Kenya Red Cross additionally reported that approximately 1,500 people were displaced from their homes, either due to their shelters being burned down or fleeing from insecure areas. These displaced individuals took refuge with neighbors far away from the conflict zone but found themselves cut off from access to basic commodities and supplies. The pervasive fear of insecurity led to the disruption of many markets and businesses in the area, prompting the Government to impose a curfew from 6 pm to 6 am. Additionally, the military set up numerous roadblocks along major roads in the region to restrict the movement of people.

4.6.4 Effectiveness of Kenya Defence Forces' Strategies

According to the findings, the primary role of the KDF in addressing inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana communities was to provide security and stability. Effectiveness was measured by the ability of KDF operations to reduce violence, protect civilians, and prevent further escalation of conflicts. KDF strategies involve mediation, negotiation, and dialogue facilitation between conflicting communities. Effectiveness was evaluated based on the ability to bring parties to the table, reach agreements, and sustain peace over time.

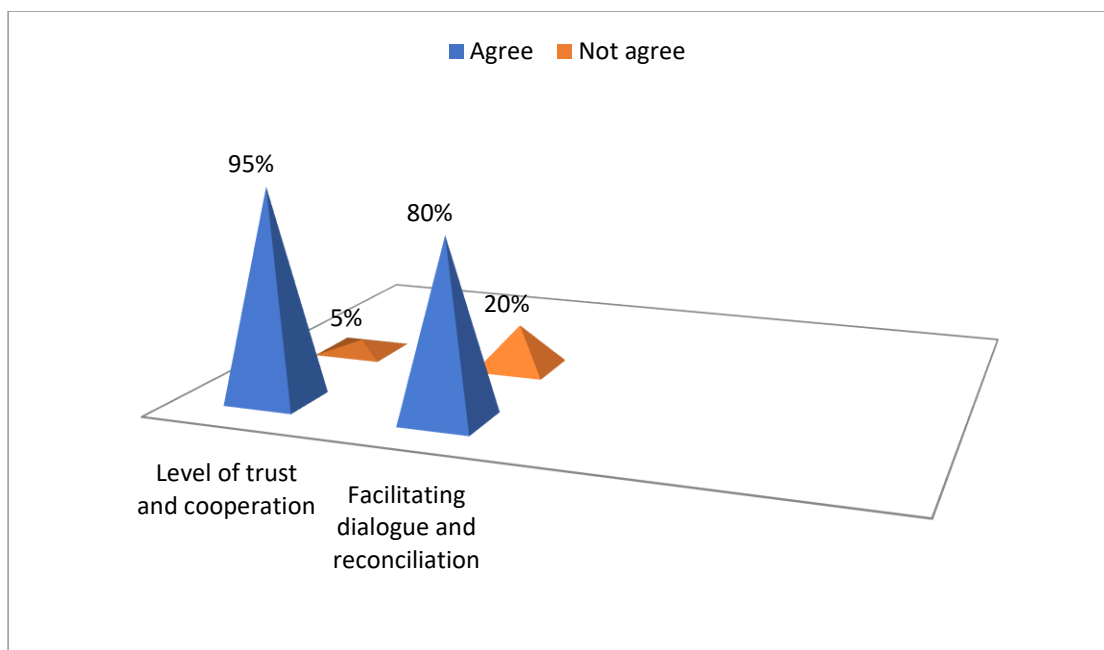


Figure 4.9 Effectiveness of the Kenya Defence Forces' Strategies

Source: Researcher, 2024

Successful conflict resolution requires active engagement with local communities and stakeholders. Effectiveness was assessed by the degree of trust and cooperation established between the KDF and the West Pokot and Turkana communities, as well as the extent to which local perspectives and needs were taken into account. In addition to security measures, the KDF provided humanitarian aid to civilians affected by inter-communal conflicts. Effectiveness was measured by the timely delivery of aid, the extent of need addressed, and the impact on the well-being of affected populations. The KDF's presence helped restore law and order in West Pokot and Turkana communities, supporting the functioning of local authorities and governance structures. Effectiveness was evaluated based on improvements in public safety, access to justice, and the re-establishment of essential services.

Assessing the effectiveness of the Kenya Defence Forces' strategies in addressing inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana communities required a nuanced understanding of the complex dynamics at play. While military intervention plays a role

in providing security and stability, long-term peace requires comprehensive approaches that address social, economic, and political factors. Success depended on collaboration with civilian actors, local communities, and other stakeholders, as well as a commitment to sustainable peacebuilding efforts in West Pokot and Turkana communities.

4.6.5 Level of Trust and Cooperation

According to the respondents, if the KDF effectively mediated between West Pokot and Turkana communities, facilitated dialogue, and helped negotiate peace agreements, this would lead to improved trust and cooperation as indicated by 149 (95%) of the respondents. The KDF was perceived as providing security and protection to all communities impartially, it enhanced trust and cooperation among conflicting groups. The KDF actively engaged with local communities in West Pokot and Turkana listened to their grievances, and involved them in decision-making processes, it fostered trust and cooperation. If the KDF was perceived as biased towards one community either West Pokot or Turkana or as favoring certain groups over others, it undermined trust and cooperation.

If there was a lack of communication or transparency about the KDF's intentions, actions, and objectives, it led to suspicion and mistrust among conflicting communities. If KDF interventions result in civilian casualties, displacement, or other negative consequences for West Pokot and Turkana communities, it erodes trust and cooperation.

4.6.6 Facilitating Dialogue and Reconciliation

Majority 126 (80%) of the respondents indicated that the KDF acted as a neutral mediator between the two communities West Pokot and Turkana, facilitating dialogue,

and negotiations to find common ground and reach mutually acceptable agreements contrary to 31 (20%) of the respondents who had different views. Their authority as a state institution led to credibility in the mediation process. The presence of KDF in West Pokot and Turkana created secure environments for dialogue and reconciliation initiatives. By providing security and ensuring the safety of participants, the KDF enabled both West Pokot and Turkana areas to engage in discussions without fear of violence or intimidation.

The KDF facilitated formal peace talks or informal dialogue sessions between the two communities, providing logistical support, venue security, and technical assistance as needed. Their involvement helped bridge divides and moved negotiations forward. Through their actions and interactions with the two communities, the KDF helped build trust and confidence in the peace process. By demonstrating impartiality, transparency, and commitment to peacebuilding, they encouraged greater cooperation and participation from all sides. The KDF engaged with local communities from West Pokot and Turkana communities, listening to their grievances, concerns, and aspirations.

By understanding the needs and perspectives of different stakeholders, the KDF tailored its interventions to better address underlying tensions and promote reconciliation. The KDF advocated for the inclusion of marginalized or underrepresented groups in peacebuilding efforts, ensuring that all voices were heard and considered in the reconciliation process. By promoting inclusivity, the KDF helped foster greater ownership and sustainability of peace agreements. In post-conflict settings, the KDF supported transitional justice mechanisms, such as truth commissions or reparations programs, aimed at addressing past grievances, promoting accountability, and fostering reconciliation among conflicting parties.

The KDF provided training and capacity-building support to local mediators, community leaders, and civil society organizations involved in peacebuilding initiatives. By enhancing local capacities for conflict resolution, the KDF contributed to the sustainability of peace efforts in the West Pokot and Turkana areas.

4.6.7 Challenges Faced by the Kenya Defence Forces to Mitigate Inter-Communal Conflicts

The respondents stated that inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana often stemmed from deep-rooted ethnic tensions, historical grievances, and competition over resources. Understanding and navigating these complex dynamics was challenging, especially for military personnel who lacked local cultural knowledge and expertise. The KDF's perceived impartiality was questioned by West Pokot and Turkana communities and local communities, especially if certain groups felt unfairly targeted or favored. Allegations of bias undermined trust in the military's role as peacekeepers and hindered their effectiveness in conflict resolution.

Military forces were primarily trained for combat and security operations, rather than civilian-focused activities such as mediation, dialogue facilitation, and community engagement. This limited capacity hindered the effectiveness of KDF interventions in addressing the underlying causes of conflicts and promoting reconciliation in the areas. Effective peacebuilding requires collaboration between military, civilian, and humanitarian actors. However, coordination and cooperation between these different stakeholders were challenging, leading to fragmented approaches and missed opportunities for synergy. The KDF faced resource constraints, including limited funding, equipment, and personnel, which impacted the scale and effectiveness of their operations in the West Pokot and Turkana areas.

Adequate resources were essential for providing security, delivering humanitarian assistance, and supporting peacebuilding efforts in conflict-affected areas. Allegations of human rights abuses and misconduct by KDF personnel, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detention, and torture, damaged the military's reputation and credibility. Such allegations strained relations with local communities and undermined trust in the KDF's role as peacekeepers.

From the discussions with key informants, I was able to establish that Inter-communal conflicts in Kenya are often complex and deeply rooted in historical, political, socio-economic, and cultural factors. Understanding the intricate dynamics of these conflicts requires extensive knowledge, expertise, and resources, posing challenges for military interventions. While the KDF plays a crucial role in maintaining security and stability, its mandate is primarily focused on defense and national security rather than civilian policing or conflict resolution.

Limited capacity, resources, and training in conflict resolution techniques constrain the effectiveness of KDF interventions in addressing underlying causes of inter-communal conflicts. Building trust and credibility with local communities is essential for effective conflict resolution. However, the perception of the military as an external, coercive force hinder community engagement efforts and exacerbates tensions. Overcoming mistrust and establishing positive relationships with communities requires time, patience, and consistent efforts. Effective conflict resolution often requires coordinated efforts among different stakeholders, like civilian institutions, government agencies, civil society organizations, and community leaders. Nonetheless, coordination challenges, bureaucratic obstacles, and competing priorities among different actors hinder collaborative approaches to conflict resolution.

The ethnic diversity of the KDF itself poses challenges in addressing inter-communal conflicts impartially. Allegiances to particular ethnic groups or perceptions of bias undermine trust and credibility with communities, leading to accusations of favoritism or exacerbating divisions along ethnic lines. Inter-communal conflicts are often politicized, with political elites exploiting ethnic divisions for their interests. Political interference in military operations, manipulation of security forces for partisan purposes, and the emphasis on pursuing immediate political advantages instead of focusing on enduring solutions for establishing peace peacebuilding objectives hence undermined the effectiveness of KDF interventions.

An important addition was made by Respondent 5 who pointed out that;

“The KDF prioritizes community engagement and dialogue to build trust, foster understanding, and promote reconciliation with conflicting communities. By listening to community concerns, addressing grievances, and involving local leaders in conflict resolution efforts, the military aims to gain legitimacy and support for its interventions. The KDF invests in training and capacity-building programs to enhance the skills of its personnel in conflict resolution, mediation, and peacebuilding. By equipping military personnel with these skills, the KDF aims to improve their effectiveness in engaging with communities, facilitating dialogue, and promoting peaceful conflict resolution. The KDF works closely with civilian institutions, government agencies, and civil society organizations to coordinate efforts and adopt a comprehensive, multi-dimensional approach to conflict resolution. By leveraging the expertise, resources, and networks of various stakeholders, the military aims to address the underlying causes of conflicts more effectively. The KDF emphasizes adherence to human rights principles and international humanitarian law standards in its operations. Upholding human rights, protecting civilians from harm, and promoting accountability for violations contribute to building trust with communities and reducing tensions. The KDF strives to maintain political neutrality and impartiality in its interventions, avoiding involvement in partisan politics or ethnic favoritism. By demonstrating professionalism, integrity, and neutrality, the military seeks to earn the trust and confidence of all communities affected by conflicts.”

4.6.8 Presence and Actions of the Kenya Defence Forces

The respondents that the West Pokot and Turkana communities viewed the presence of the KDF as a source of security and protection, especially in areas affected by violence and insecurity. They appreciated the KDF's efforts to maintain law and order and protect civilians from armed groups and criminal elements. However, the communities perceived the KDF's presence as intimidating or oppressive, particularly if they felt targeted or unfairly treated by military operations. This perception was exacerbated if there were allegations of human rights abuses or misconduct by KDF personnel. The residents of West Pokot and Turkana communities welcomed the KDF's involvement in peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts, especially if they perceived the military as impartial mediators or facilitators of dialogue between conflicting parties.

They appreciated the KDF's efforts to promote reconciliation and build trust among conflicting groups. Conversely, the communities distrusted the KDF's role in peacebuilding if they perceived the military as biased or aligned with certain factions in the conflict. Lack of transparency, communication, or meaningful engagement with local communities also contributed to negative perceptions. The provision of humanitarian assistance by the KDF, such as food aid, medical care, and infrastructure support, was viewed positively by local communities. They saw the military as providing essential services and support during times of crisis. However, if humanitarian assistance was insufficient, discriminatory, or politically motivated, it led to distrust and resentment towards the KDF. Local communities felt neglected or marginalized by the military's efforts.

Meaningful engagement and consultation with local communities fostered trust and cooperation between the KDF and the civilian population from West Pokot and Turkana

communities. The communities appreciated efforts by the military to listen to their concerns, involved them in decision-making processes, and addressed their needs. Lack of communication, consultation, or responsiveness to community needed breeds suspicion and alienation. Local communities felt ignored or marginalized by the KDF's actions, leading to resentment and distrust.

4.6.9 Recommendations to Improve the Effectiveness of the Kenya Defence Forces' Interventions

The respondents recommended that by conducting thorough analyses of the root causes, dynamics, and actors involved in inter-communal conflicts to inform more targeted and effective interventions. Enhancing cultural and contextual understanding among KDF personnel through specialized training programs and engagement with local communities. Acting as neutral mediators and facilitators of dialogue between conflicting parties, emphasizing inclusivity, transparency, and impartiality. Involving local leaders, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders in peacebuilding initiatives to ensure broad-based participation and ownership of the process. Ensuring the protection of civilians in conflict-affected areas, prioritizing their safety and well-being in all military operations. Providing timely and adequate humanitarian assistance to address the needs of displaced persons, vulnerable populations, and communities affected by inter-communal conflicts.

Establishing regular channels of communication and consultation with local communities to understand their concerns, needs, and priorities. Conducting outreach programs, community meetings, and joint initiatives to build trust, foster dialogue, and strengthen relationships between the KDF and local populations. Strengthening coordination and collaboration with civilian government agencies, non-governmental

organizations, and international partners involved in peacebuilding, development, and humanitarian efforts. Establishing mechanisms for information sharing, joint planning, and mutual support to ensure coherent and integrated approaches to conflict resolution and security enhancement.

Embedding conflict sensitivity principles into all KDF operations, emphasizing the importance of minimizing harm, avoiding exacerbation of tensions, and promoting conflict transformation. Upholding human rights standards and principles in all military activities, ensuring accountability for any violations and fostering respect for the rule of law. Providing training and capacity building support to local actors, including community leaders, peace committees, and civil society organizations, to strengthen their ability to resolve conflicts peacefully and sustainably. Empowering local institutions and governance structures to address underlying grievances, promote social cohesion, and prevent the recurrence of inter-communal conflicts. Regularly assessing the impact and effectiveness of KDF interventions in addressing inter-communal conflicts and enhancing security, employing monitoring and evaluation systems to guide decisions grounded in factual evidence and remaining flexible and adaptable in responding to evolving conflict dynamics, adjusting strategies and approaches as needed to achieve sustainable peace outcomes were recommendations resondenys offered to improve the effectiveness of the Kenya Defence Forces' interventions in addressing inter-communal conflicts and enhancing security in the region.

Equally important, I was able to understand from the engagement with other respondents that, by thoroughly analyzing conflicts comprehend the underlying reasons, evolving factors, and parties engaged in clashes between communities. This analysis should inform the development of context-specific strategies and interventions that address the underlying grievances and contribute to sustainable peace. Prioritizing

community engagement and participation in conflict resolution initiatives, ensuring that communities are actively involved in decision-making processes, problem-solving, and implementation of interventions. Empower local leaders, civil society organizations, and grassroots initiatives to take ownership of peacebuilding efforts.

Strengthening coordination mechanisms between the military, government agencies, civil society organizations, and community leaders to ensure coherence, collaboration, and synergy in conflict resolution efforts. Establish clear lines of communication, joint planning structures, and information-sharing platforms to facilitate effective coordination. Integrating conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm principles into all aspects of military operations and interventions. Ensure that military personnel are trained in conflict analysis, cultural sensitivity, human rights, and international humanitarian law to minimize unintended negative consequences and maximize positive impacts. Advocating for inclusive governance structures, political reforms, and policies that address underlying grievances, promote equitable distribution of resources, and enhance political representation for marginalized groups. Engage with political leaders and institutions to foster dialogue, reconciliation, and national cohesion. Strengthening efforts to prevent conflicts from escalating by investing in early warning systems, conflict prevention mechanisms, and resilience-building initiatives. Prioritize community-based approaches that address root causes, build social cohesion, and empower communities to resolve disputes peacefully.

In addition, respondent 6 added that;

“...by developing specialized training programs for KDF personnel focusing on conflict resolution, peacekeeping tactics, cultural sensitivity, and community engagement. These programs should emphasize understanding local dynamics, conflict analysis, and non-violent dispute resolution techniques. Strengthening collaboration between the KDF and civilian actors, including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities. Establish joint

task forces or coordination mechanisms to ensure coherent and integrated approaches to conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts. Prioritizing human rights training and ensure strict adherence to international humanitarian law and human rights standards in all military operations. This includes measures to prevent civilian casualties, protect vulnerable populations, and hold accountable those responsible for violations” (respondent 6).

Respondent 7 also concurs with the argument by stating that;

Fostering closer ties between KDF personnel and local communities through outreach programs, community meetings, and collaborative projects. Fostering trust and positive connections with populations impacted by conflicts is crucial for successfully promoting peace and resolving disputes. It is also vital to allocate resources towards early warning mechanisms and initiatives aimed at preventing conflicts, by identifying and tackling the fundamental drivers of tensions before they intensify. This may involve supporting local mediation efforts, promoting dialogue between conflicting parties, and addressing grievances through peaceful means. Integrating gender perspectives into all aspects of KDF operations, including conflict resolution and peacebuilding activities. Ensure the meaningful participation of the female gender in decision-making processes giving priority to the safety and empowerment of females in conflict-affected areas. Strengthening the capacity of KDF personnel and institutions responsible for peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations. This includes investing in logistics, communication, intelligence, and other critical capabilities needed for effective mission performance. Enhancing cooperation with regional partners, such as the African Union (AU), United Nations (UN), and neighboring countries, to address cross-border security threats and promote regional stability” (respondent 7).

Key informant 8 added that, “This may involve joint training exercises, information sharing, and coordinated peacekeeping efforts. Establishing robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact of KDF interventions on conflict resolution and peacebuilding outcomes. Regular feedback loops and lessons-learned exercises can help identify areas for improvement and refine strategies over time and support sustainable development initiatives in conflict-affected areas to address underlying socio-economic grievances and promote long-term stability. This could involve investment in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities to improve the resilience of local communities to conflict.”

4.7 The Challenges that KDF faces in achieving successful conflict resolution and peace building

The respondents stated that the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), along with other security agencies, face several significant challenges and obstacles in their efforts to resolve inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana regions. The region's harsh terrain and poor infrastructure make it difficult for the KDF to reach conflict zones quickly and maintain a consistent presence. Extreme weather conditions, such as intense heat and drought, complicate logistics and operational planning.

The KDF did not have enough personnel and equipment to cover the vast and remote areas effectively. Limited resources for sustained operations, including transport, communication, and supply lines, affect the ability to maintain prolonged security efforts. The easy access to small arms among the local population increases the lethality of conflicts and makes it difficult to disarm combatants. The presence of well-armed bandit groups complicates the KDF's efforts to ensure security and order.

Historical grievances and deep-seated ethnic tensions make it challenging to foster trust and reconciliation between communities. Traditional practices, such as cattle raiding, are culturally ingrained, making them difficult to eradicate through military means alone. Local and national politicians sometimes exploit ethnic divisions for political gain, undermining peace efforts. Distrust of the government and its security forces lead to resistance and non-cooperation from local communities.

Poor coordination among various security agencies (KDF, police and local administration) lead to fragmented and ineffective responses. Limited actionable intelligence on the movements and plans of armed groups hampers proactive measures to prevent violence. Allegations of human rights abuses and excessive use of force by

the KDF alienate local communities and escalate tensions. Military operations sometimes result in collateral damage, including civilian casualties and destruction of property, which fuels resentment and further violence.

High levels of poverty and lack of economic opportunities perpetuate the conditions that lead to conflict. Military interventions alone cannot address these underlying socio-economic issues. Operations to quell violence lead to displacement, creating humanitarian crises and further destabilizing the region. There is often a lack of comprehensive programs for the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of former combatants, which is crucial for sustainable peace. Military efforts need to be complemented by initiatives that promote reconciliation and healing within and between communities. Security operations focus on immediate stability without addressing long-term peacebuilding and development needs. Over-reliance on military solutions without parallel socio-economic and political interventions limit the effectiveness of peace efforts.

Table 4.5 Indicating the challenges that KDF faces in achieving successful conflict resolution and peace building

	Agree	Not Agree
Remoteness, Harsh Terrain, and Lack of Infrastructure	82	18
Resource Constraints	95	5
KDF Preparedness	73	27
Cultural, Ethnic or Historical Factors	67	33
Proliferation of Small arms, Involvement of Armed Militias	90	10
Coordination Challenges and Lack of Cohesion	83	17
KDF's Role in Undermining their Ability to Resolve Conflicts	64	36

Source: Researcher, 2024

4.7.1 Remoteness, Harsh Terrain, and Inadequate facilities

The respondents 129 (82%) stated that remoteness, harsh terrain, and lack of infrastructure significantly hinder and complicate the Kenya Defence Forces' (KDF) operations in addressing inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana regions. The rugged terrain and lack of proper roads make it challenging for the KDF to move troops, equipment, and supplies as opposed to 28 (18%) of the respondents who had divergent views. Vehicles may be unable to navigate certain areas, and the use of helicopters, while helpful, is limited by availability and cost. The time taken to deploy forces to conflict zones is significantly increased due to the difficult terrain and poor infrastructure. This delay reduces the effectiveness of the response and allows conflicts to escalate.

Remote areas often lack reliable communication networks, making it difficult for the KDF to maintain coordination within their units and with other security agencies. This leads to delays in receiving and acting on intelligence. Sustaining a prolonged military presence in remote and harsh environments is resource-intensive and logistically challenging. Ensuring the well-being of deployed troops in terms of health, nutrition, and morale is harder in these conditions. The vast and rugged terrain makes it difficult to conduct effective surveillance and reconnaissance. Gathering reliable intelligence on the movements and plans of armed groups is more challenging.

Armed groups and local communities have a better understanding of the terrain, giving them a tactical advantage. The KDF struggle to obtain detailed local knowledge necessary for effective operations. Military operations lead to the displacement of local populations. Providing humanitarian aid to displaced persons is complicated by the lack of infrastructure and accessibility. The harsh environment and difficult living

conditions strain relationships between the KDF and local communities, especially if the military presence disrupts local livelihoods and movements. Military operations, especially in conflict zones, result in the destruction of whatever limited infrastructure exists. This further isolate communities and hinder post-conflict recovery efforts.

Rebuilding infrastructure in such areas post-conflict is challenging and resource-intensive, requiring significant investment and coordination among various stakeholders. The costs associated with conducting operations in remote and harsh terrains are significantly higher. This includes the need for specialized vehicles, aerial support, and additional logistical arrangements to sustain troops in the field. Limited financial resources constrain the ability of the KDF to maintain a prolonged and effective presence in these areas, impacting the overall success of their operations.

4.7.2 Resource Constraints

Majority of the respondents 149 (95%) indicated that resource constraints, including limited personnel, equipment, and logistical support, have significantly impacted the Kenya Defence Forces' (KDF) ability to effectively intervene in and sustain peacebuilding efforts in West Pokot and Turkana regions as opposed to 8 (5%). These constraints affect multiple dimensions of military and peace operations, often resulting in less effective and unsustainable interventions.

Limited personnel means the KDF cannot adequately cover the vast and remote areas where conflicts occur. This often leads to insufficient patrols and a lack of permanent presence in critical areas. Inadequate supply of advanced surveillance, communication, and transportation equipment limits the KDF's operational capabilities. This hampers intelligence gathering, rapid deployment, and coordination efforts. Logistical support is critical for sustaining operations, but resource constraints lead to supply chain

disruptions. This affects the availability of essentials like food, water, ammunition, and medical supplies.

Due to limited resources, the KDF may be forced to conduct short-term deployments instead of maintaining a continuous presence. This intermittent presence reduces the ability to build trust with local communities and effectively monitor and respond to emerging conflicts. Effective peacebuilding requires coordination with other government agencies, NGOs, and local authorities. Resource constraints limit the KDF's ability to engage in comprehensive, multisectoral approaches that address the root causes of conflict.

Effective peacebuilding often includes development initiatives to address socio-economic issues. Resource constraints limit the KDF's ability to support or collaborate on such projects, which are crucial for addressing underlying causes of conflict. With limited resources, the KDF may be forced to adopt a reactive rather than proactive approach, responding to conflicts after they have escalated rather than preventing them through early intervention and continuous monitoring.

4.7.3 KDF Preparedness

A number of the respondents 115 (73%) stated that the KDF receives rigorous training in combat tactics, weapon proficiency, and military operations a disparate to 42 (27%). This training equips them with the necessary skills to engage in conflict situations effectively. KDF personnel often participate in international peacekeeping missions, where they receive training in conflict resolution, negotiation, and peacekeeping operations. This provides valuable experience in dealing with complex conflicts and engaging with diverse communities. Training in crisis management and emergency response prepares KDF forces to handle volatile situations and mitigate the impact of

conflicts on civilian populations. Efforts are made to incorporate community engagement training into KDF operations, enabling personnel to interact respectfully with local populations and build trust.

The KDF has some logistical capabilities to support operations in remote and challenging environments, including transport and supply chain management. However, resource constraints limit the extent of logistical support available. The KDF has intelligence units tasked with gathering and analyzing information relevant to security threats and conflicts. Improved intelligence capabilities are crucial for proactive conflict resolution and community engagement. The KDF have specialized units, such as civil affairs or psychological operations, equipped to engage with communities and address non-military aspects of conflicts. Advancements in technology, such as surveillance drones and communication systems, enhance the KDF's capabilities for monitoring and responding to conflicts.

Resource constraints, including budgetary limitations and equipment shortages, hinder the KDF's ability to fully implement training programs and sustain operations over the long term. Despite ongoing recruitment efforts, the KDF faces challenges in maintaining adequate troop levels to address security needs effectively across the country.

4.7.4 Cultural, Ethnic or Historical Factors

The respondents under the response rate of 105 (67%) indicated that pastoralist communities often have traditional leadership structures based on age, lineage, or clan. Engaging with these leaders and gaining their trust is essential for building acceptance and facilitating dialogue. Respect for elders is deeply ingrained in pastoralist cultures. Decision-making processes often involve consultation with community elders, which

require the KDF to understand and respect these cultural norms. Pastoralist communities often lead a nomadic lifestyle, moving with their livestock in search of water and pasture. This mobility make it challenging for the KDF to establish consistent and sustained engagement with these communities as opposed to some of the respondents 52 (33%).

Cattle raiding is a traditional practice among pastoralist communities, often tied to concepts of honor, bravery, and wealth. Understanding the cultural significance of cattle and the motivations behind raiding is crucial for building trust and facilitating dialogue. Pastoralist communities have a strong sense of ethnic identity and loyalty to their own group. This create barriers to trust and acceptance of external actors, including the KDF, perceived as representing the interests of other ethnic groups or the government. Pastoralist communities harbor historical grievances related to land, resource allocation, or past conflicts with government forces. Addressing these grievances is essential for building trust and acceptance.

Communication hindered by language barriers, as pastoralist communities often speak local dialects rather than official languages like Swahili or English. Effective communication requires interpreters or personnel familiar with local languages and customs. Understanding non-verbal cues and communication styles, such as body language and gestures, is important for establishing rapport and trust in cross-cultural interactions. Pastoralist communities have experienced marginalization, neglect, or abuse at the hands of government institutions in the past. This history of mistrust makes it challenging for the KDF, as a government entity, to gain acceptance and build meaningful relationships. Some pastoralist communities perceive government interventions, including military operations, as oppressive or heavy-handed, further eroding trust and acceptance.

Pastoralist communities often have strong ties to traditional or animistic religious beliefs. Understanding and respecting these beliefs is essential for building trust and acceptance, as religious and spiritual practices influence community decisions and attitudes towards external actors. Gender dynamics play a significant role in pastoralist communities, with distinct roles and responsibilities for men and women. Engaging with both genders and ensuring inclusivity in dialogue processes is crucial for building trust and acceptance. Pastoralist communities have experienced generations of conflict, displacement, and trauma. This historical context contributes to suspicion and reluctance to engage with external actors, including the KDF, perceived as representing a continuation of past injustices.

4.7.5 Proliferation of Small Arms, Involvement of Armed Militias

The respondents 141 (90%) stated that easy access to SALW increases the lethality of conflicts, leading to higher casualty rates among civilians and security forces alike. Armed groups possess sophisticated weaponry, including assault rifles, machine guns, and rocket-propelled grenades, making them more formidable opponents for the KDF. Armed militias and criminal gangs engage in banditry, cattle raiding, and other illicit activities, destabilizing the region and undermining efforts to establish law and order. Criminal elements and armed groups often operate across borders and collaborate, making it challenging for the KDF to contain their activities within national boundaries views that deferred with 16 (10%) of the respondents.

Armed militias and criminal groups frequently target civilians, including women and children, through acts of violence, intimidation, and extortion, leading to widespread fear and displacement. The presence of armed groups exacerbates humanitarian crises, leading to displacement, food insecurity, and disruptions to livelihoods, further undermining stability and peacebuilding efforts. Armed militias and criminal elements

challenge the authority of the state, undermine governance structures, and erode public trust in government institutions, including the security forces. Perpetrators of violence often operate with impunity, exploiting weaknesses in law enforcement and judicial systems to evade accountability for their actions.

Armed groups are reluctant to engage in dialogue or peace negotiations, preferring to pursue their objectives through violence and coercion. Criminal elements and armed militias manipulate conflict dynamics for their interests, complicating efforts to address underlying grievances and achieve sustainable peace. Armed groups pose direct threats to the safety and security of peacekeeping forces, including the KDF, through ambushes, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and confrontations. The presence of armed groups restricts the freedom of movement for peacekeepers, making it harder to implement patrols, conduct reconnaissance, and engage with local communities.

Armed groups exploit porous borders to evade security forces, seek refuge in neighboring countries, or acquire weapons and supplies from external sources. Escalating violence and insecurity in one region have spillover effects, destabilizing neighboring areas and exacerbating regional tensions.

4.7.6 Coordination Challenges and Lack of Cohesion

Different agencies pursue conflicting or disjointed strategies for conflict resolution, leading to confusion and inconsistency in approaches. Lack of coordination results in overlapping mandates and duplication of efforts, wasting resources and diluting impact. Inadequate communication and information-sharing mechanisms hinder effective coordination among agencies, leading to missed opportunities for collaboration and synergy. Unclear delineation of roles and responsibilities lead to misunderstandings and conflicts between agencies, further complicating coordination efforts as seen by 130

(83%) of the respondents under positive response outweighing 27 (17%) of respondents under negative response.

Different agencies have competing priorities and mandates, with some focusing on short-term security objectives while others prioritize long-term peacebuilding and development goals. Political considerations influence the agendas of various agencies, leading to conflicting interests and divergent approaches to conflict resolution. Scarce resources, including funding, personnel, and equipment, lead to competition among agencies for resources, further exacerbating coordination challenges. Disparities in resource allocation among agencies create power imbalances and hinder effective collaboration.

Variations in the capacity and expertise of different agencies impact their ability to contribute effectively to conflict resolution efforts. Agencies with limited capacity struggle to fulfill their roles and responsibilities. Inadequate training and development opportunities for personnel across different agencies contribute to disparities in skills and capabilities, further hindering coordination. Rivalries and competition between different government departments and agencies impede cooperation and collaboration on conflict resolution initiatives. Agencies prioritize protecting their own interests and preserving their authority, leading to turf wars and resistance to coordination efforts.

Civilian agencies and military forces have different cultures, perspectives, and approaches to conflict resolution, leading to distrust and misunderstanding between them. Civil society organizations and local communities perceive military involvement in conflict resolution as heavy-handed or militaristic; further exacerbating tensions and hindering collaboration. Fragmented institutional structures and overlapping jurisdictions within the government hinder coordination and decision-making

processes. Absence of a centralized coordination mechanism or authority results in ad-hoc and disjointed responses to conflicts.

4.7.7 KDF's Role in Undermining their Ability to Resolve Conflicts

Communities perceive the KDF's approach to conflict resolution as heavy-handed, with instances of excessive use of force leading to civilian casualties and human rights abuses. Military operations, including airstrikes and artillery shelling, result in collateral damage to civilian infrastructure and livelihoods, further alienating local populations. Allegations of impunity and the absence of mechanisms to hold perpetrators responsible for transgressions against fundamental human rights by KDF personnel undermine trust and confidence in their ability to uphold the rule of law and protect civilian populations. Community's feels that incidents of misconduct by KDF personnel are not adequately investigated or addressed, leading to a perception of impunity.

Actions or behaviors by KDF personnel that disrespect or disregard local customs, traditions, and values alienate communities and hinder efforts to build trust and cooperation. Lack of proficiency in local languages and failure to understand cultural nuances lead to misunderstandings and tensions between the KDF and local populations. Communities perceive the KDF as favoring certain ethnic groups or communities over others in their interventions, exacerbating existing ethnic tensions and grievances. Allegations of political interference in KDF operations, including manipulation of security forces for partisan purposes, erode trust and legitimacy in the eyes of the community.

Military operations and security measures disrupt local economies, particularly pastoralist livelihoods dependent on free movement and access to grazing lands,

exacerbating poverty and food insecurity. Communities affected by conflict experience loss of property, livestock, and assets due to military actions, leading to resentment and grievances against the KDF. Communities living in conflict-affected areas experience trauma, fear, and psychological distress due to the presence of armed forces and ongoing violence, hindering efforts to build trust and cooperation with the KDF as practically indicated by 100 (64%) of the response rate, opposing 57 (36%) of the respondents under contrary opinions.

Communities stigmatize individuals perceived to be associated with the military, leading to social ostracization and marginalization. Communities feel excluded from decision-making processes regarding security and conflict resolution, leading to a sense of marginalization and disempowerment. Military interventions are perceived as imposed from above without meaningful consultation or involvement of local stakeholders, diminishing community ownership and support.

Restrictions on humanitarian access and delivery of essential services to conflict-affected communities exacerbate suffering and humanitarian needs, leading to grievances against the KDF. Concerns about the KDF's ability to guard civilians, especially vulnerable populations not limited to women, children, and internally displaced persons, undermine confidence in their role as peacekeepers.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This section provides a summary of the main research findings, the conclusions drawn, the recommendations proposed, and the recommendations for further research as examined through the lens the research objectives.

5.2 Summary of Research Findings

This part provides a summary of the key findings pertaining to the research objectives which encompassed; identifying the prevalence and types of inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties; identifying the specific conflict resolution strategies employed by the Kenya Defence Forces in addressing inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties; to assess the impact and effectiveness of the Kenya Defence Forces' interventions in mitigating inter-communal conflict, promoting peace, and enhancing security in West Pokot and Turkana Counties and to investigate the operational challenges faced by the Kenya Defence Forces in their inter-communal conflict resolution efforts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties.

5.2.1 Prevalence and Types of inter-communal Conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties

The study found that inter-communal conflicts between communities in West Pokot and Turkana Counties are recurrent and persistent, with sporadic outbreaks of violence occurring over several decades. Cattle raiding is a prevalent form of conflict, driven by the cultural significance of livestock and historical grievances over thefts and reprisals. Competition over natural resources, including grazing land and water sources, frequently escalates into violent confrontations between pastoralist communities. Deep-

seated ethnic divisions and historical animosities between different ethnic groups, such as the Pokot and Turkana, contribute to inter-communal tensions and conflicts. Disputes over land ownership and administrative boundaries, particularly along the border between West Pokot and Turkana Counties, fuel conflicts and exacerbate ethnic rivalries.

Political factors, including marginalization, governance failures, and manipulation by political elites, contribute to conflict dynamics and exacerbate tensions between communities. Conflicts often revolve around competition for scarce resources such as water, pastureland, and livestock, exacerbated by environmental degradation, climate change, and population pressure. While conflicts vary in intensity and scope, common themes such as cattle rustling, resource competition, ethnic tensions, and historical grievances recur across studies. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for designing effective interventions and peacebuilding strategies that address the root causes of conflicts and promote sustainable peace and development in the region.

5.2.2 Conflict Resolution Strategies Employed by Armed Forces in Addressing Conflicts

The study found that the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) have utilized several conflict resolution strategies to address inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties. KDF has engaged in dialogue with community leaders, elders, and other stakeholders to understand the root causes of conflicts and to negotiate peaceful resolutions. This approach emphasizes communication and building trust between conflicting parties. KDF has been involved in implementing peacebuilding initiatives aimed at fostering reconciliation and building sustainable peace within communities. These initiatives often include community meetings, peace rallies, and mediation

sessions. In addition to diplomatic efforts, KDF has also conducted security operations to maintain peace and stability in the region. This involves deploying troops to deter violence, disarmament campaigns, and providing security to vulnerable communities. KDF has collaborated with government agencies and non-governmental organizations to implement development projects in conflict-affected areas.

These projects focus on addressing underlying socio-economic grievances and promoting community resilience. KDF has invested in capacity-building programs for local security forces and community leaders to enhance their conflict resolution skills and improve their ability to prevent and manage conflicts effectively. Overall, the findings suggest that KDF employs a multifaceted approach to conflict resolution in West Pokot and Turkana Counties, combining diplomatic efforts, security operations, community engagement, and development interventions to mitigate tensions and promote peace and stability in the region.

5.2.3 Effectiveness and Impact of Armed Forces' Interventions in Mitigating Conflicts

The study also found that KDF interventions have contributed to a reduction in inter-communal conflict incidents in the region. Through security operations, disarmament campaigns, and peacebuilding initiatives, KDF has helped to mitigate tensions and prevent outbreaks of violence. KDF's presence has improved security in West Pokot and Turkana Counties, leading to a greater sense of safety and stability among local communities. This has allowed for increased economic activity, humanitarian access, and social cohesion within the region. KDF's engagement in dialogue and reconciliation efforts has facilitated peaceful resolutions to conflicts and promoted inter-community cooperation. By fostering communication and understanding between conflicting

parties, KDF has helped to address underlying grievances and build trust among communities.

KDF's capacity-building programs have strengthened the capabilities of local security forces and community leaders in conflict prevention and management. This has empowered communities to take ownership of their own security and resilience-building efforts. Overall, the findings suggest that KDF interventions have had a positive impact on mitigating inter-communal conflict, promoting peace, and enhancing security in West Pokot and Turkana Counties. However, challenges such as the persistence of underlying socio-economic issues and the need for sustained engagement remain, highlighting the importance of continued efforts towards long-term peacebuilding and development in the region.

KDF's disarmament campaigns in northern Kenya and their impact on lowering cases of inter-communal violence and cattle rustling. The study found that while the campaigns initially led to a decrease in violence, the lack of complementary developmental initiatives and community engagement limited their long-term effectiveness. KDF's role in the Suguta Valley conflict between the Turkana and Samburu communities. The study highlighted the positive impact of the KDF's interventions in creating a buffer zone and facilitating peace negotiations, which led to the reduction of the conflict and the eventual signing of a peace agreement.

At the local level, several studies have examined the impact and effectiveness of the KDF's interventions in mitigating inter-communal conflicts in Turkana County and its environs. The impact of the KDF's disarmament campaigns and security operations in addressing cattle rustling and resource-based conflicts between the Pokot and Turkana communities. The study found that while these interventions initially reduced violence,

the lack of sustainable peace-building efforts and socio-economic development initiatives limited their long-term effectiveness (Rialem, 2018).

5.2.4 Operational Challenges Faced by Armed Forces in Conflict Resolution Efforts

The conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties are deeply rooted in complex inter-communal dynamics, including historical grievances, competition over resources, and ethnic tensions. Understanding and navigating these dynamics poses a significant challenge for KDF in their conflict resolution efforts. KDF faces constraints in terms of resources and capacity, including manpower, logistics, and funding. This limits their ability to effectively patrol and secure vast and remote areas prone to conflict, leading to gaps in coverage and response times.

The rugged and remote terrain of West Pokot and Turkana Counties presents logistical challenges for KDF operations. Inaccessibility due to rough terrain, lack of infrastructure, and seasonal weather conditions hinder the mobility and effectiveness of KDF patrols and deployment of resources. The porous borders with neighboring countries, such as Uganda and South Sudan, facilitate cross-border infiltration of armed groups and illicit arms trafficking, complicating efforts to maintain security and prevent conflicts from escalating beyond national borders. There have been allegations of ethnic bias in KDF's operations, with accusations of favoritism towards certain communities or tribes.

Such perceptions can undermine trust and cooperation with affected communities, hampering KDF's ability to effectively resolve conflicts and maintain neutrality. Insufficient community engagement and consultation in conflict resolution efforts can result in a lack of understanding of local dynamics and needs, leading to ineffective or

inappropriate interventions by KDF. Political interference or manipulation of security forces can undermine impartiality and effectiveness in conflict resolution efforts, complicating the situation further and eroding trust in the security apparatus.

At the local level, the KDF has encountered several operational challenges in its efforts to resolve inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties. Resource constraints, lack of coordination with other security agencies, and resistance from local communities as significant challenges faced by the KDF during its disarmament campaigns and security operations in these regions. Operational challenges such as logistical issues, limited capacity for community engagement, and difficulties in addressing the complex socio-economic drivers of the conflict as factors that hindered the overall effectiveness of the KDF's interventions in mitigating the Pokot-Turkana conflict (Roba, 2021).

5.3 Discussion of Findings

The study found that inter-communal conflicts between communities in West Pokot and Turkana Counties are recurrent and persistent, with sporadic outbreaks of violence occurring over several decades. Cattle raiding is a prevalent form of conflict, driven by the cultural significance of livestock and historical grievances over thefts and reprisals. The study was in support with Wafula (2020) who argued that within Kenya, inter-communal conflicts among pastoralist communities in the North Rift and other arid and semi-arid regions have been a longstanding issue. These conflicts have traditionally revolved around low-intensity cattle raiding, fueled by natural competition for scarce water points and pastureland. Inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties have been a persistent challenge, with recurring cycles of violence and insecurity. The high prevalence of conflicts in these regions, with incidents occurring on a regular basis. The study reported that between 2005 and 2009, there were at least

15 major incidents of inter-communal violence in West Pokot County alone, resulting in numerous casualties and the displacement of communities.

The study found that the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) have utilized several conflict resolution strategies to address inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties. KDF has engaged in dialogue with community leaders, elders, and other stakeholders to understand the root causes of conflicts and to negotiate peaceful resolutions. These findings are supported by Kipyegon (2018) who argued that at the national level, the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) have been involved in addressing internal conflicts, particularly in the northern regions of the country, including West Pokot and Turkana Counties. The KDF's strategies have included disarmament campaigns aimed at reducing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons among pastoralist communities, security operations involving the deployment of military personnel to conflict hotspots, and the establishment of buffer zones and deployment of troops along community borders to separate warring groups. Furthermore, the KDF has engaged in mediation efforts to facilitate dialogue, address grievances, and propose solutions to resolve disputes between conflicting communities. Community engagement initiatives, civil-military cooperation with civilian agencies and NGOs, and the provision of humanitarian assistance have also been employed by the KDF as part of its conflict resolution approach in these regions. It is important to note that while armed forces have employed a range of strategies, their interventions are often multidimensional, combining various approaches to address the complexities of internal conflicts. The effectiveness of these strategies and the operational challenges faced by armed forces in their conflict resolution efforts will be discussed in subsequent sections.

The study also found that KDF interventions have contributed to a reduction in inter-communal conflict incidents in the region. Through security operations, disarmament campaigns, and peacebuilding initiatives, KDF has helped to mitigate tensions and prevent outbreaks of violence. The findings were in line with Mkutu (2008) who evaluated the effectiveness and impact of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) interventions in mitigating internal conflicts have been the subject of several studies. KDF's disarmament campaigns in northern Kenya and their impact on lowering cases of inter-communal violence and cattle rustling. The study found that while the campaigns initially led to a decrease in violence, the lack of complementary developmental initiatives and community engagement limited their long-term effectiveness. KDF's role in the Suguta Valley conflict between the Turkana and Samburu communities. The study highlighted the positive impact of the KDF's interventions in creating a buffer zone and facilitating peace negotiations, which led to the reduction of the conflict and the eventual signing of a peace agreement.

The conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties are deeply rooted in complex inter-communal dynamics, including historical grievances, competition over resources, and ethnic tensions. Understanding and navigating these dynamics poses a significant challenge for KDF in their conflict resolution efforts. The findings were supported by Mkutu (2008) who found that the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) have faced various operational challenges in their efforts to resolve internal conflicts, particularly in the northern regions of the country. Challenges such as limited resources, lack of coordination with other security agencies, and resistance from local communities as factors that hindered the effectiveness of the KDF's disarmament campaigns in northern Kenya. The KDF's interventions in the Suguta Valley conflict were hampered by coordination issues with other government agencies, as well as difficulties in gaining

the trust and cooperation of the conflicting communities due to historical grievances and mistrust.

5.4 Conclusion

In conclusion, inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties are persistent and multifaceted, driven by a complex interplay of socio-economic, political, environmental, and cultural factors. These conflicts manifest in various forms, including cattle rustling, resource-based disputes, ethnic tensions, border conflicts, and political instability. The prevalence of conflicts underscores the deep-rooted grievances and historical animosities between different communities, exacerbated by competition over scarce resources, environmental degradation, and governance failures. By understanding the prevalence and types of inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties and addressing the underlying drivers, stakeholders can work towards building a more peaceful and inclusive society where communities can coexist harmoniously and thrive together.

KDF adopts a multifaceted approach that combines diplomatic efforts, security operations, community engagement, and development initiatives to address inter-communal conflicts comprehensively. Engagement in dialogue and mediation with community leaders, elders, and other stakeholders is a key strategy employed by KDF to understand the root causes of conflicts and negotiate peaceful resolutions. KDF conducts security operations to maintain peace and stability in the region, including the deployment of troops, disarmament campaigns, and providing security to vulnerable communities. KDF implements peacebuilding initiatives aimed at fostering reconciliation and building sustainable peace within communities through activities such as community meetings, peace rallies, and mediation sessions.

KDF interventions have contributed to a noticeable reduction in inter-communal conflict incidents in the region. Through proactive security operations, disarmament campaigns, and peacebuilding initiatives, KDF has helped mitigate tensions and prevent outbreaks of violence. The presence of KDF has resulted in improved security conditions in West Pokot and Turkana Counties. This has led to a greater sense of safety and stability among local communities, enabling increased economic activities, humanitarian access, and social cohesion. KDF's engagement in dialogue and reconciliation efforts has facilitated peaceful resolutions to conflicts and promoted inter-community cooperation. By fostering communication and understanding between conflicting parties, KDF has helped address underlying grievances and build trust among communities.

In conclusion, the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) face significant operational challenges in their efforts to resolve inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties. These challenges stem from a combination of internal and external factors, including resource constraints, logistical difficulties, terrain obstacles, coordination issues, and complex socio-political dynamics. These challenges have hampered the effectiveness of the KDF's conflict resolution efforts and pose obstacles to achieving lasting peace in the region.

5.5 Recommendations

This study recommends that KDF should prioritize meaningful engagement with local communities, including community leaders, elders, and grassroots organizations, to better understand their perspectives, needs, and grievances. This can be achieved through regular dialogue sessions, community meetings, and participatory decision-making processes. It further, recommends the KDF personnel should undergo cultural sensitivity training to better understand the socio-cultural dynamics of the communities

they serve. This will help prevent misunderstandings and accusations of ethnic bias, fostering trust and cooperation with all affected communities.

KDF should conduct a comprehensive analysis of the root causes, dynamics, and actors involved in inter-communal conflicts in the region. This will inform targeted interventions that address underlying grievances and contribute to sustainable peace.

KDF should also prioritize community engagement and participation in conflict resolution efforts. Foster partnerships with local leaders, elders, and civil society organizations to ensure that interventions are responsive to the needs and priorities of affected communities. Strengthen collaboration and coordination among KDF, civilian authorities, humanitarian agencies, and other stakeholders involved in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts. This multi-sectoral approach will leverage diverse expertise and resources to address complex security challenges.

In addition, the KDF needs to enhance intelligence-gathering capabilities through investments in technology, training, and collaboration with local informants and intelligence agencies. This will enable KDF to anticipate and respond more effectively to emerging conflicts and security threats. They also need to improve mobility and logistical support for KDF operations in rugged and remote terrain by investing in specialized equipment, infrastructure development, and strategic positioning of resources. This will enable quicker response times and better coverage of conflict-prone areas.

5.6 Suggestions for Further Studies

The researcher acknowledges the fact that the study was limited to a case study along the border of West Pokot and Turkana Counties and not the entire country it is therefore recommended that further studies be conducted to establish the role of the Kenya

defence forces in resolving inter-communal conflicts in other counties that face intercommunal conflicts. This study employed the use of interview and questionnaire techniques to collect data on the role of the Kenya defence forces in resolving inter-communal conflicts. Future studies should employ the use of Focus Group Discussion and observation to obtain detailed information about personal and group feelings, perceptions, and opinions on the role of the Kenya defence forces in resolving inter-communal conflicts.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: INTRODUCTORY LETTER

Ref: Research Questionnaire

Dear Respondents,

I am a student at Africa Nazarene University pursuing a Master's of Science in Governance Peace and Security. As part of a requirement, I am doing a research project on role of the Kenya Defence forces in intercommunal conflicts in Pokot, & Turkana counties; opportunities, challenges, and future prospects.

Regarding the above, I request you to provide the information needed to meet the objectives of this study by completing the questionnaire attached.

Please note that the information obtained will be used for research purposes only and will be accorded the required confidentiality. Your assistance is highly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Annastacia Loko Mutwiwa

Years	Since Birth	1-5	5-10	10-15	Above 15
Response					

SEC B: Prevalence and types of inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties

1. From your experience, how long have inter-communal conflicts been occurring in this region between the pastoralist communities?
2. Can you describe the main types or manifestations of these conflicts that you have witnessed or heard about? (Probe for cattle raids, land disputes, ethnic tensions, revenge attacks etc.)
3. In your opinion, which specific incidents or conflicts over the past few years would you consider as the most severe or impactful on the communities?
4. What have been the major consequences of these inter-communal conflicts on the lives and livelihoods of the local populations? (Probe for loss of life, injuries, displacement, disruptions to pastoralism etc.)
5. From your perspective, what are the root causes and key drivers fueling and perpetuating these conflicts between communities?
6. How significant of a role do issues like competition over grazing land, water sources, cattle rustling etc. play in igniting or escalating the conflicts?
7. Are there any deep-seated historical grievances, ethnic/cultural divides, or border disputes that underlie the tensions and conflicts in this region?
8. In what ways have factors such as poverty, lack of development, marginalization of communities contributed to conflicts arising or intensifying over time?

SECTION C: Conflict resolution strategies employed by the Kenya Defence Forces in addressing inter-communal conflicts

1. Can you describe any specific conflict resolution strategies implemented by the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) in addressing inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties?
2. How do you perceive the effectiveness of the conflict resolution strategies employed by the KDF in West Pokot and Turkana Counties?
3. In your opinion, what role does community engagement play in the conflict resolution efforts of the KDF in West Pokot and Turkana Counties?
4. Have you observed any challenges faced by the KDF in implementing conflict resolution strategies in inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties?
5. How do you think the cultural dynamics of the local communities influence the implementation of conflict resolution strategies by the KDF in West Pokot and Turkana Counties?
6. What improvements or changes would you suggest to enhance the effectiveness of the KDF's conflict resolution strategies in West Pokot and Turkana Counties?
7. Can you provide examples of successful outcomes resulting from the conflict resolution efforts of the KDF in West Pokot and Turkana Counties?
8. How do you think the conflict resolution strategies employed by the KDF align with international best practices and standards in peacebuilding and security enhancement in inter-communal conflict settings?
9. What impact do you believe the presence of the KDF has on the security and safety of civilians during conflict resolution operations in West Pokot and Turkana Counties?

10. From your perspective, what lessons can be learned from the KDF's past experiences in resolving inter-communal conflicts in other regions that can be applied to West Pokot and Turkana Counties?

SECTION D: The impact and effectiveness of the Kenya Defence Forces' interventions in mitigating inter-communal conflict, promoting peace, and enhancing security

1. How have you personally experienced the impact of the Kenya Defence Forces' interventions in mitigating inter-communal conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties?
2. In your opinion, to what extent have the interventions of the Kenya Defence Forces contributed to promoting peace in the region?
3. Can you describe any specific instances where the presence of the Kenya Defence Forces has enhanced security in West Pokot and Turkana Counties?
4. How do you perceive the effectiveness of the Kenya Defence Forces' strategies in addressing inter-communal conflicts in the region?
5. Have you observed any changes in the level of trust and cooperation between conflicting communities as a result of the Kenya Defence Forces' interventions?
6. In your view, what role do you believe the Kenya Defence Forces play in facilitating dialogue and reconciliation between conflicting parties in West Pokot and Turkana Counties?
7. What challenges, if any, do you think the Kenya Defence Forces face in their efforts to mitigate inter-communal conflicts and promote peace in the region?

8. How do you think the local communities perceive the presence and actions of the Kenya Defence Forces in relation to conflict resolution and security enhancement?
9. Can you provide examples of successful outcomes or positive impacts resulting from the interventions of the Kenya Defence Forces in West Pokot and Turkana Counties?
10. From your perspective, what recommendations would you offer to improve the effectiveness of the Kenya Defence Forces' interventions in addressing inter-communal conflicts and enhancing security in the region?

SECTION E: The challenges that the KDF faces in achieving successful conflict resolution and peacebuilding

1. From your experience or assessment, what have been the major challenges or obstacles faced by the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) in their efforts to resolve inter-communal conflicts in this region?
2. How have factors like the remoteness, harsh terrain, and lack of infrastructure in the conflict areas hindered or complicated the KDF's operations?
3. To what extent have resource constraints, such as limited personnel, equipment, or logistical support, impacted the KDF's ability to effectively intervene and sustain peacebuilding efforts?
4. In your opinion, how well-equipped and prepared are the KDF forces in terms of training, skillsets, and capabilities required for complex conflict resolution and community engagement?

5. What cultural, ethnic or historical factors inherent to the pastoralist communities have made it challenging for the KDF to build trust, gain acceptance, and facilitate dialogue?
6. How have issues like the proliferation of small arms, involvement of armed militias or criminal elements, exacerbated the challenges faced by the KDF in containing violence and achieving lasting peace?
7. To what degree have coordination challenges, lack of cohesion or competing mandates among different agencies (military, government, civil society) hindered the KDF's conflict resolution efforts?
8. From the community's perspective, what concerns, grievances or perceptions about the KDF's role or conduct may have undermined their ability to effectively resolve conflicts and promote sustainable peace?

APPENDIX III: UNIVERSITY APPROVAL LETTER

P.O.Box: 53067 – 00200
Nairobi, Kenya.
Tel: 020 252 7170/1 – 5
Email: vc@anu.ac.ke
www.anu.ac.ke

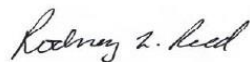
23rd April 2024

RE: TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Annastacia Loko Mutwiwa (21S01DMGP011) is a bonafide student at Africa Nazarene University. She has finished her course work and has defended her thesis proposal entitled: -

“Role of the Kenya Defence Forces in Intercommunal Conflicts in West Pokot and Turkana Counties: Opportunities, Challenges, and Future Prospects”.

Any assistance accorded to her to facilitate data collection and finish her thesis is highly welcomed.

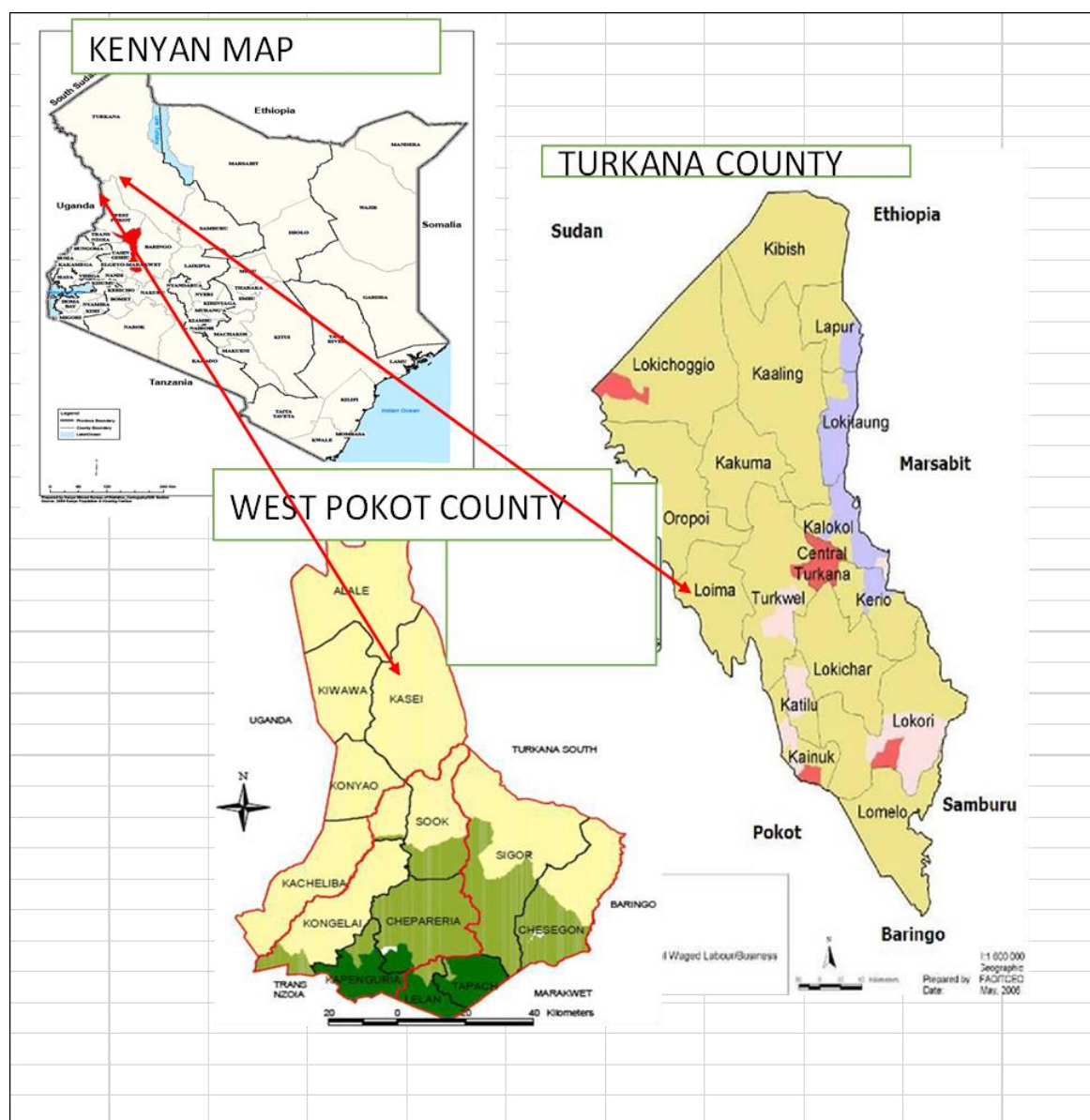


Prof. Rodney Reed
Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs

APPENDIX IV: RESEARCH PERMIT

 REPUBLIC OF KENYA Ref No: 441142	 NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION Date of Issue: 06/May/2024
RESEARCH LICENSE	
	
This is to Certify that Ms. ANNASTACIA LOKO MUTWIWA of Africa Nazarene University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Westpokot on the topic: ROLE OF THE KENYA DEFENCE FORCES IN INTERCOMMUNAL CONFLICTS IN WEST POKOT, AND TURKANA COUNTIES: OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, AND FUTURE PROSPECTS for the period ending : 06/May/2025.	
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APPENDIX V: WEST POKOT COUNTY AND TURKANA COUNTY MAPS



(Source: 2009, Kenya Population and Housing Census, KNBS)