

The Strategic **JOURNAL of Business & Change**  
**MANAGEMENT**

ISSN 2312-9492 (Online), ISSN 2414-8970 (Print)



[www.strategicjournals.com](http://www.strategicjournals.com) Volume 3, Issue 4, Article 78

**THE INFLUENCE OF LIVESTOCK RUSTLING ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MARSABIT AND  
SAMBURU COUNTIES, KENYA**

**CHRISTOPHER SIMIYU KHISA, DR. EDMOND WERE, PROF. CRISPINOUS ITEYO**

---

**THE INFLUENCE OF LIVESTOCK RUSTLING ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MARSABIT AND SAMBURU COUNTIES, KENYA**

<sup>1</sup> Christopher Simiyu Khisa, <sup>2</sup>Dr. Edmond Were, <sup>3</sup>Prof. Crispinous Iteyo

<sup>1</sup>PhD Candidate, Peace and Conflict Studies, Masinde Muliro University of Science & Technology, Kenya

<sup>2</sup> Department of Social Sciences, Kisii University, Kenya

<sup>3</sup>Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, Masinde Muliro University of Science & Technology, Kenya

**Accepted: November 17, 2016**

---

**ABSTRACT**

Livestock rustling remains a major cause of insecurity and conflict among the pastoral communities occupying the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) of Kenya. Since the year 2000 there has been an upsurge in incidences of livestock rustling, and a protracted use of advanced weaponry which has not only grown to become a major security threat to the lives of the pastoralists but also a key threat to their livelihoods which is anchored in the ownership of large herds of livestock. This study explored the impact on social-economic development of affected communities and the major players in Kenya's pastoral areas with a specific focus on Marsabit and Samburu Counties of Kenya. The study was guided by Cattle Complex Theory. This study utilized the descriptive research and explanatory design. The study areas were Samburu and Marsabit counties and it targeted household heads, herder, market chairmen, politicians, chiefs and officer commanding police stations. Simple random, purposive and snowballing sampling procedures were used to select 384 respondents. The main research instruments were questionnaires (instrument) in addition to face to face interviews and FGDS. Validity was determined using content validity while reliability using test retest method. Data was analysed using SPSS version 21. Quantitative data was analysed using percentages, frequencies and chi-square at 0.05 significance level and presented in form of charts and tables. Qualitative data was analysed using emerging themes and presented in form of verbatim and narrations. Livestock rustling had negative impact socio-economic development. Socially, it leads to loss of lives & properties, food insecurity, spread of livestock diseases, erosion of social & cultural values, insecurity and displacement. Economically, it leads to poverty and income inequalities, low investments, loss of labour force, tax evasion and environmental degradation. The study recommended that there was need to establish resource centers for awareness creation and sensitization on the livestock rustling. Also, there should be legislations on arms and commercialization of livestock rustling which would ensure the perpetrators are charged. Lastly, there was need to provide compulsory formal education whereby, the youth would appreciate life beyond livestock rustling.

**Key words:** *Livestock Rustling, Social Development and Economic Development*

## INTRODUCTION

The New South Wales Farmers' Association in Australia estimates about \$1.5 million (KES. 205 Million) of stock theft is reported annually in that State but that this would only represent approximately 20% of the actual level of theft that is in fact occurring, (Frank, 2000). It has been said that Queensland is the hub of livestock stealing. Over the 15-year period 1980-1981 to 2000-2001 the level of reported stock offences fell by approximately 86%. Livestock rustling was a problem in the USA going back to the days of open range ranching in 1860s. In U.S. history, the areas of public domain North of Texas where from about 1866 to 1890 more than 5,000,000 cattle were driven to fatten and be shipped off to slaughter. Like other places across the continents, the United Kingdom has also experienced livestock rustling despite stiff laws and modern technology to curb the vice. Livestock rustling continues to blight farming operations all over the UK, with figures from rural insurer NFU Mutual showing the cost of thefts across the UK increased by 170 per cent in 2011 over 2010 (Midgley, 2012). More than 67,000 sheep were stolen in the UK in 2011, costing farmers in the region of £6m (Kshs 858-Billion). Experts believe sheep are the most common target due to them being relatively easy to steal and transport and the fact that the price of lamb is so high (Midgley, 2012).

In Africa, livestock rustling kills and displaces thousands every year in South Sudan, UN report (2009). In 2009 ethnic violence killed more than 2,500 - exceeding the death toll in Darfur - and displaced over 350,000 people. What happens here is part of a larger pattern sweeping Southern Sudan - a spate of cattle raids killing and displacing thousands each year. The violence causes widespread hunger. With families expelled from farms, there will be no harvest. The South is now chronically dependent on food aid, though it has the richest agricultural land in Sudan. Following two civil wars - nearly 40 years of fighting - South Sudan is highly armed and militarized. Now instead of traditional cattle raiding with spears, the trend has become that of cattle raiding with RPGs and AK-47s by men with military experience used to getting power through violence (Aljazeera, 9th Oct. 2013).

In the Kenyan situation, although with no much difference from the South Sudan situation, cattle-rustling was traditionally carried out using bows and arrows where wanton acts of killing were not part and parcel of the practice. However, this was to change with the arrival of British colonizers in Kenya. The policies and practices established by the colonialists to marginalize pastoralist communities were carried on in independent Kenya. New regional dynamics, particularly the political instability experienced in Uganda, Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia have led to the replacement of bows and arrows with bullets and guns as the latter have become increasingly and readily available due to a number of factors that will be shortly discussed below (KHRC, 2001). The genesis of the current trend of increased militarization of cattle-rustling and its transformation from a traditional practice to the current criminal activity of livestock rustling can be traced back to the 1970s. In the early 1970s, the pastoralists were faced with acute and prolonged famine and were at the mercy of donor-assisted development programs (Khan, 1994).

In keeping in line with a "fend-for yourselves" approach which was anchored on government policies of developing the "high potential areas first", the government made no particular effort to alleviate the suffering of the pastoralist communities occasioned by the said famine (KHRC, 2010). On the contrary, the government policies of the seventies, the eighties, the nineties as well as those ushering in the second millennium have focused on agriculture and cultivation, thereby persistently relegating and side-lining the development concerns of the pastoralists to the periphery. Naturally speaking, such endemic marginalization has led to the upsurge of livestock rustling among the pastoralists, manifested through intense inter-clan and inter-tribal armed conflict, as a means of survival (Salih, 1992). Additionally, pronounced conflicts have been experienced amongst Turkana and Samburu communities residing in Baragoi division, Samburu County over grazing land. The situation worsens in the dry season in the event that the Pokot and Rendile join the fight. These areas are neighbouring the study area i.e. Marsabit and Samburu Counties and the effects are felt in these counties in one way or the other (KHRC, 1998).

Marsabit County borders Samburu to the South, Turkana to the West, Isiolo to the East Moyaletto to the North East and the republic of Ethiopia to the North (Ochieng, 1980). The county receives less than 1000mm of rainfall annually and has seasonal rivers that include Milgris, Merille, Dida, Galgallu as well as Chalbi depression. Approximately 80% of the population in this county depends on livestock as major source of livelihood. However, only about 10% of the population practices subsistence agriculture around Mount Marsabit that receives comparatively high rainfall. In Marsabit County, livestock raids are common across the region owing to increasing influx of firearms that is common amongst the pastoral communities. The two communities in this county (The Rendile and the Borana) are in constant fights over water and pasture. Therefore, livestock movement in search of water and pasture is considered one of the major forces promoting livestock rustling. However, there has also been violation of traditional norm and culture of livestock rustling for restocking purposes after severe droughts or diseases. This therefore, causes instability that limits developmental activities within the county (Pkalyaet al., 2003).

Samburu County borders Laisamis to the East and North east, Isiolo to the South east, Laikipia north to the South, Baringo East to the South west and Turkana South to the West and North West. The studies done by Yamano and Deininger (2005) shows that the county is semi-arid with crop farming done in the highland areas with the lowland areas characterized by vast livestock resources. The people of Samburu County derive 90% of their livelihood from livestock. The areas around Lorroki and Kirsia plateaus are characterized by mountains as well as indigenous forests. The county is a water deficit with average rainfall of approximately 500mm annually and with only river WasoNyiro and other seasonal rivers. The Samburu community is in conflict with other communities such as the Turkana, Borana, Meru and Pokot over livestock. The principal aggressors of livestock rustling in Samburu County are the Turkana youths from Baragoi, Pokot from Baringo, the Rendile and the Samburu themselves (Pkalya, et al., 2003).

In Marsabit and Samburu counties, there is regular occurrence of conflict between Samburu,

Turkana, Rendile and the Borana over limited natural resources (grazing land and water resources). The conflict between these communities is more prevalent on the border areas of the two counties including the hinterland where clashes have been experienced between Rendile and Gabbra both in Marsabit County over available grazing resources. The continual reduction of access to these resources, in particular, land and water, has increasingly placed the pastoral communities under intense pressure. As a result, they are increasingly finding themselves fighting for their survival through engaging in livestock rustling. Consequently, these natures of conflicts affect development and provision of essential services in pastoralists' areas through disruption of the communities' livelihood systems by restricting economic development. An in-depth analysis indicates that percentages of population displaced are prevalent in Samburu County. Statistics reveal that livestock rustling contribute 17% of the displaced population. Most of the displaced are Turkana from Baragoi and Nyiro divisions (Le Ster, 2011). However, it is difficult to ascertain the number of displaced Samburu since most of them live in Manyattas of their relatives unlike the Turkana who at times move to urban centers. Samburu and Turkana pastoral communities inhabit most of the area under study. Marsabit County has the least number displaced due to livestock rustling activities (KHRC, 2010).

### **Statement of the problem**

The changing trend in livestock rustling is overt and a vexing problem among the pastoralist communities of Kenya and the whole World. Livestock rustling have contributed negatively on the pastoral communities over the years. Frequent activities involving massive theft of livestock, killings and expansive destruction of property have led to reduced economic activities, collapse of education system and infrastructural development as well as displacements of various pastoral communities within the affected areas such as the Borana, Turkana, Samburu, Burj and the Rendile. Marsabit and Samburu counties record severe cases of livestock rustling especially through cattle raids. This makes the principal manifestation and concern within these counties. The counties are arid traversed by Chalbi desert

and scarce natural resources. Scarcity in natural resources within these regions has brought competition over the use, access and control of available pasture resources. This has led to constant confrontation amongst Rendile, Borana and Gabbra communities especially during dry seasons owing to concentration of livestock on limited pasture and water.

Livestock rustling is one of the biggest threats to Socio-economic development and security within Samburu and Marsabit counties (Amutabi, 2010). This directly and indirectly affects normal livelihood of people within these regions. It is in light of the above background that this study sought to interrogate the influence of livestock rustling on livelihood and socio-economic activities in Marsabit and Samburu counties. This study investigated the extent to which livestock rustling impacts socio-economic development of the pastoral communities in Samburu and Marsabit counties.

### **Theoretical framework**

This study was underpinned by the Cattle Complex Theory to study livestock rustling in the two counties under study. The origin of the Cattle Complex theory is traced to Herskovits, who coined the term while pioneering culture area studies within Africa in 1926. Herskovits (1926), found many East African pastoralists to be adhering to what he called "The Cattle Complex", in which a strong attachment to cattle to the point of irrationality is maintained (VerEecke, 1988). Keeping a large number of herds is not a sign of greediness, rather, an insurance against drought, diseases, bushfires, Livestock rustlings and wildlife attacks. With socio economic and environmental change, keeping a lot of livestock has significant impact on socio-economic development of pastoralist communities as shown by this study.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Descriptive research design was adopted. The study areas were Marsabit and Samburu counties on northern Kenya. The study population was

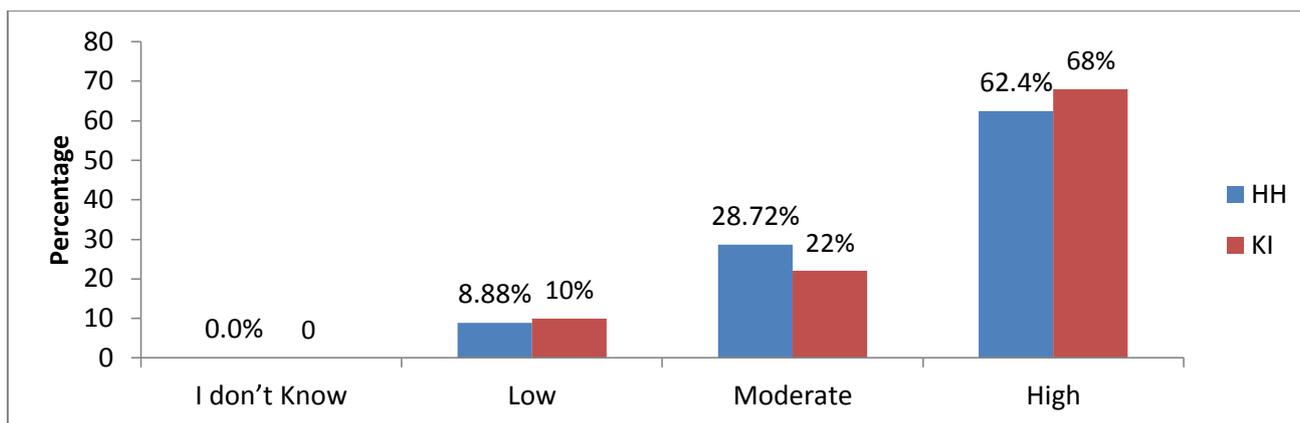
household heads, Livestock market chairmen, Members of the County Assembly-(MCAs), Herders, Livestock owners, and Village heads, Officer Commanding Police Stations in both Samburu and Marsabit Counties. Simple random sampling was used to select 384 households. A sample of fifty six respondents were selected from the household heads, Livestock market chairmen, Members of the County Assembly-(MCAs), Herders, Livestock owners, and Village heads, Officer Commanding Police Stations in both Samburu and Marsabit Counties were interviewed using snowballing technique. Instruments for data collection adopted included questionnaires, focus group discussion, interview schedules and observation. This research is both quantitative and qualitative data analysis applied. Quantitative data was analysed by use of percentages, frequencies while inferential analysis was done using Pearson chi-square at significance level of 0.05. Data was presented in terms of charts, tables, verbatim and narrations.

### **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The extent of livestock rustling had far and reaching effects not only of the socio-economic development of the people of the two Counties but their general social setting. In data collected in this regard, the effects were rated as at over 60 percent as analysed below.

#### **Extent of livestock rustling on socio-economic development**

When household respondents were asked to state the extent of impacts of livestock rustling on the socio-economic development in Marsabit and Samburu Counties, 34 (8.88%) of the household respondents indicated that livestock rustling had low extent effect on socio-economic development, 105(28.7%) moderate extent, while 229(62.40%) high extent on the socio-economic developments in both counties. All key informants were aware on the extent of livestock rustling on socio-economic development with 10% low extent, 22% moderate extent and 68% high extent as shown Figure 1.



**Figure 1: Household extent of Livestock rustling on socio-economic developments**

**Source: Field Data (2015)**

Pearson Chi-Square value  $X^2(4, N=383) = 467.628$ ,  $P=0.001$ , showed that there was highly significant ( $P<0.01$ ) association between extent of livestock rustling and extent of impacts on socio-economic developments in Marsabit and Samburu Counties. Livestock rustling had resulted too many negative effects to the households which range from socio impacts as schools have been shut down as well as economic impacts as business are no longer conducted as usual and few investors are willing to invest in the affected counties (Osamba, 2006). Wamuyu (2014) indicated livestock resulting has resulted to the destabilization of livelihoods which as altered the interaction between people and the environment, to the detriment of the latter, and on to economic and social development of residents. Livestock rustling has caused social and economic disruptions and an unprecedented loss of livelihoods for hundreds of poor men, women and children in the areas. Affected populations have suffered the loss of means of production, assets, and the means to convert their production to income. In addition, a large percentage of the few resources generated are taken up by the purchase of food. Whatever remains is absorbed by conflict related costs such as security and armament, medical care and education owing to the collapse of state provision of these services.

#### **Social Effect of Livestock Resulting**

Livestock rustling has caused social and economic disruptions and an unprecedented loss of livelihoods thus upsetting the social order in the two Counties of Samburu and Marsabit. According to the respondents as stated below, the livestock

theft related activities have has an adverse effect on their general social welfare.

#### **Loss of Life and Loss of Property**

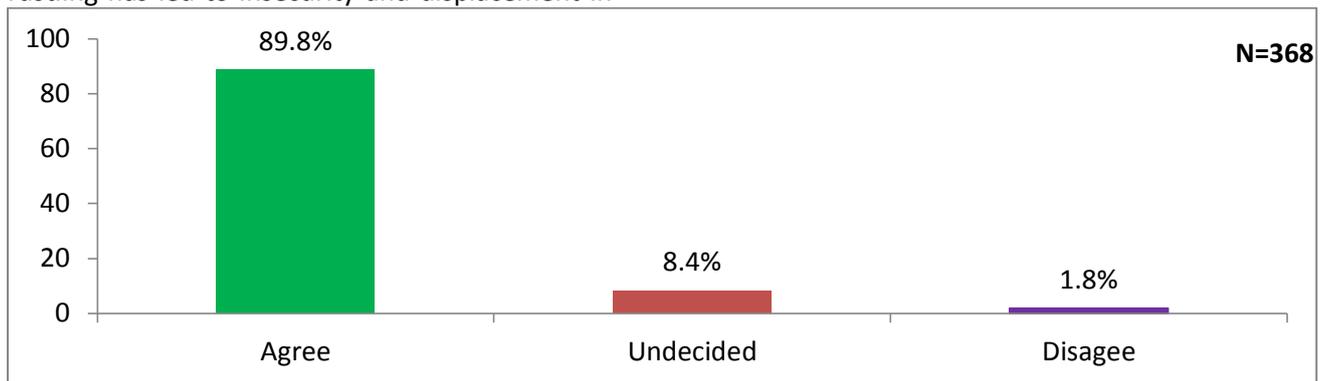
Only two household respondents did not lost their family due to livestock rustling. Up to 99.0% of the household respondents lost their family during raided or the effects associated with livestock rustling. Similarly, all of the household respondents indicated that livestock rustling has resulted to loss of properties. During FGD, the discussant itemized several properties especially electronics, bedding and household have been lost during livestock rustling. It was clear that many of the raids caught the herder off guard and before they can alert other for help, they are usually killed on spot. They mainly target herders who possess firearms so that they can kill them and take the firearms with them. It was also noted that some security agents are scared of raiders and they could respond promptly to distress calls. The motive, of such concerted and sustained attacks is not the supposed hunger for animals, but the need to terrorize and inflict fear among rivals, and by so doing, push them away from points of conflict – pasture and water (Umar, 2004)

#### **Insecurity and displacement**

The researcher was interested in finding out the impact of insecurity and displacement as a result of livestock rustling. The findings from Figure 2 revealed that 89.8% of the household respondents agreed that livestock rustling had resulted to insecurity in the areas which has led to displacement of families. However, 1.8% of the

respondents did not confirm that livestock rustling has led to insecurity and displacement in

their communities.



**Figure 2: Insecurity and displacement**  
**Source: Field Data (2015)**

Livestock rustling had resulted to proliferation of firearms which has made the residents to live with constant fear of been attacked by their neighbouring communities. The insecurity has resulted to displacement of families to safe haven making them to leave their belongings. Displacement of families and clans disrupt cohesion. Family members lost touch with each other particularly with regard to social activities such as cultivation, traditional ceremonies and unity. This resulted to psychological effects (torture) to the affected people. It was revealed that insecurity has been utilized by politician to forcefully displace their opponent supporters. Due to displacement as a result of livestock rustling most of the people are disenfranchised, making them unable to cast their vote in the General Elections. Failing to choose the right leaders has resulted to skewed development in pastoral communities as development project especially in the utilization of CDF funds has been concentrated on specific areas. Roads, schools and hospitals in the opponents' areas are not attended leading to vicious circle of poverty and livestock rustling.

Insecurity does not only interrupt education and other social amenities; it also poses an obstacle for development for the community. Today,

**Table 1: Food Insecurity**

Food Insecurity	Agree	Indifferent	Disagree
Food insecurity making household to over dependency on relief food	343(89.56%)	27(7.05%)	13(3.39%)
High level of malnutrition and hunger among children and aged population.	240(62.66%)	87(22.72%)	56(14.62%)
Rocketing of food prices	291(75.72%)	59(15.4%)	33(8.88%)

**Source: Field Data (2015)**

pastoralist counties are the poorest and most marginalized counties in relatively rich Kenya (Mbaria et al. 2005). The effects of insecurity on pastoral livelihoods go beyond a reduction of food resources. It was observed that livestock markets in Samburu and Marsabit Counties are not used because of insecurity. The lack of secure markets limits the ability of the pastoralists to sell livestock prior to or during dry periods and hence contributes to food insecurity (Barrett et al. 2003; Juma 2010; Speranza, 2010). Kaimba et al. (2011) find that livestock raiding interrupts the mobility which is an integral part of pastoralism in the region. Women reported that they have reduced the picking of wild berries because they are afraid to get killed or raped. This shows how insecurity undermines adaptation to drought as the picking of wild berries was reported to be an important strategy to adapt to water and pasture scarcity.

**Food Insecurity**

Pastoralist communities depend entirely on their livestock for livelihood. The livestock provides them with milk, blood and meat and they also sell the livestock and livestock products so as to purchase other food stuff like grains and clothes (Behnke, 2008). The household respondents were required to agree or disagree with the statements relating to food insecurity as shown in Table 1.

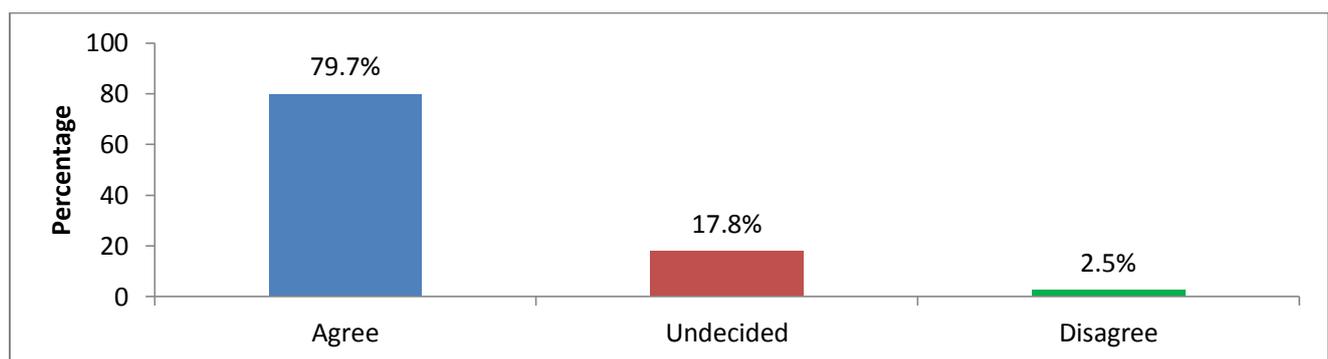
As shown in Table 1, 343 (89.56%) of the household respondent indicated that livestock rustling had resulted to food insecurity and this has led to over dependency on relief food for their survival. However, 13(3.39%) of the household respondents dissociated livestock rustling and over dependency on relief food. Similarly, over three quarters of household respondents (75.72%) confirmed that during livestock rustling, food prices have been sky rocketing making majority of them not to afford thereby relying on relief food from government and NGOs. Nevertheless, a quarter of the household respondents (15.4%) had indifferent opinion on food prices and livestock rustling. Lastly, Livestock rustling hit hard the less fortunate and weak in the society and as a result, 240(62.66%) of the household respondent revealed that livestock rustling has resulted to high level of malnutrition and hunger among children and aged population although 14.62% of the respondent did not associate malnutrition and hunger to livestock rustling.

It was noted that when raiders fail to get the number of livestock they require, they went as far as taking food stuff in the homestead including money. It was difficult for food to be transported during livestock rustling due to fear of insecurity due to revenge. Further, displacement of people with fear of revenge make difficult for them to cultivate their farm or tender

their crops. According to USAID and FEWS NET report (2005), conflict has a strong bearing on the food security status of a region. Food reserves in many households can rapidly deplete because they are either burnt or stolen. Raiders have a tendency to take food and household property if they don't get livestock or if hunger is very severe. The deprivation of both food and livestock expose more families to hunger. An atmosphere of widespread insecurity caused by livestock rustling disrupts most economic activities of the communities. For example, gardens can neither be cultivated nor harvested. Raiding also prevent people from hunting and gathering natural foods like wild fruits, vegetables and honey. Wamuyu (2013) asserted that high levels of starvation and malnutrition among the displaced groups and unprecedented dependency syndrome on relief food are some of the main negative impacts of the increasing and severe livestock rustling in pastoralist communities in Kenya.

### Erosion of social and cultural Values

The researcher sought to find the impact of livestock rustling on the erosion of the cultural values of the community. The results showed that 79.7% of the household respondent revealed that livestock rustling has resulted to erosion of social and cultural values of the society. Only, 2.5% of the respondents did not agree that livestock rustling has resulted to the erosion of social and cultural values as shown in Figure 3.



**Figure 3: Erosion of social and cultural Values**

**Source: Field Data (2015)**

It was revealed that livestock rustling has resulted to rape of the young girls leading to hatred between the communities making it difficult for community to involve in trade, ceremonies and other social gathering for socio-economic development. Similarly, rural-urban migration

becomes an option leading to prostitution hence high number of people contacting HIV/AIDS and street children due to death of parents. Orphaned girls opted for early marriage between 14-16 years old in order to gain protection and security against harassment from male chauvinist during

livestock rustling. The number of disabled and gun-injured people increased, making them a liability to both communities. Elders complained that the youth does not respect them anymore, hence they are referred to us you are useless make it difficult to be listen during period of disputes.

According to Keter and Adan (2005), livestock rustling has visited deep into the emotional and physical status of residents in these areas who have to live with the wounds of terror, torture and rape. They view the community which raided their livestock, torched their granary, killed their loved, raped their sister as evil and any cooperation between the two communities is thwarted before it can begin due to the hatred they harbour toward their aggressors. Beyond the physical effects, livestock rustling negatively affects the inter-communal relations. Community members have expressed strong negative feelings and distrust towards the other group. The distrust

**Table 2: Poverty Rate and Income equalities**

Poverty and Income Inequalities	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
Reduction in capacity of the poor to either maintain or accumulate livestock assets, thus limiting their ability to move out of poverty	72.3	25.5	2.13
Hamper the productivity of the herding enterprise as most of the household prefer to sell their livestock at lower price rather than loss them through rustling	70.2	8.51	21.3
Unequal distribution of wealth as superior communities become wealthy through cattle rustling	76.6	12.8	10.6

**Source: Field Data (2015)**

More than half of the key informants (72.3%) revealed that reduction in capacity of the poor to either maintain or accumulate livestock assets, thus limiting their ability to move out of poverty while 2.13% were not sure. Similarly, 70.2% of the respondents confirmed that livestock rustling hamper the productivity of the herding enterprise as most of the household prefer to sell their livestock at lower price rather than loss them through rustling and 21.3% were not in agreement. Lastly, 76.6% of the respondents agreed that livestock rustling has resulted unequal distribution of wealth as superior communities become wealthy through cattle rustling. The impact of cattle rustling on the livelihoods of the pastoralists is very diverse. In the most direct way, cattle rustling lead to death injury and loss of

decreases the motivation and the capability of the communities to choose a cooperative path which is a prerequisite for peaceful and effective resources sharing (Eriksen and Lind, 2009).

**Economic Effect of Livestock Resulting**

The new trends in livestock theft have seen the erosion of economic strength of the population in the two Counties of Samburu and Marsabit. The study has analyzed poverty rates and income equalities in comparison with those affected by the crime and those have not been affected. There is a glaring correlation between those two groups as discussed below.

**Poverty Rate and Income equalities**

The study sought to found out has livestock rustling has resulted to increase in poverty and unequal distribution of wealth from household respondents. The results are as shown in Table 2.

livestock and human beings. Indirectly, cattle rustling affect pastoralists in terms of the unfavourable and pro-poverty decisions that they make in order to avoid or reduce the risks that accompany cattle rustling. As such, herders resort to selling their livestock or migrate without regard to prices in the market

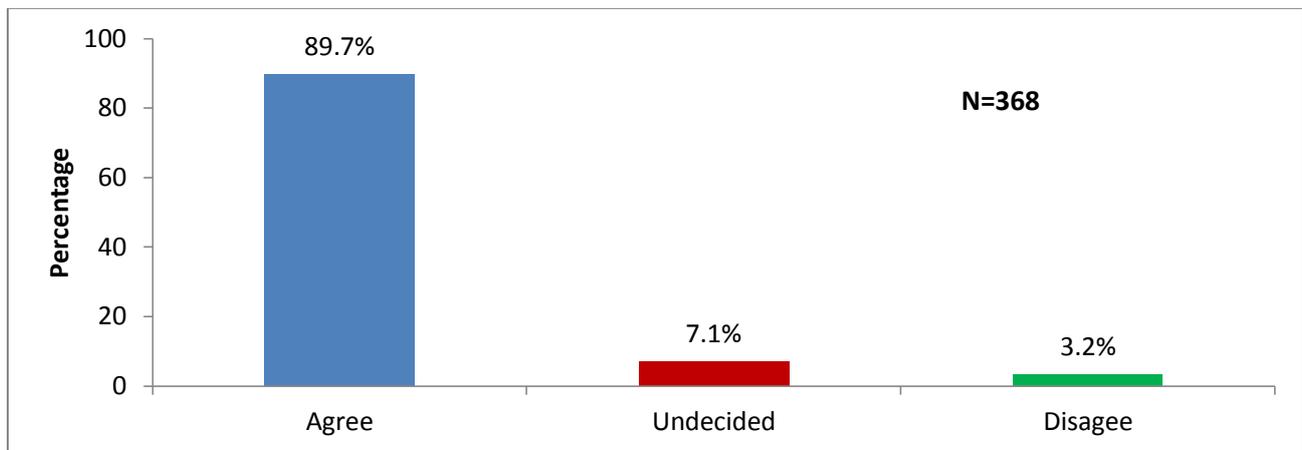
Commercialization which is one aspect of new trends in livestock rustling has resulted to unequal distribution of wealth as business and warlords are able to amass wealth at the expense of poor pastoralist. Herders may also sell their livestock to reduce the herd because principally cattle rustling affects those with large stock and those unable to split herds (Hendrickson et al., 1996). It means that severe intensity of cattle rustling is likely to reduce the herd by almost 12%.The problem of

arms has been made more complex by the commercialization of cattle rustling, whereby wealthy businessmen, politicians, traders or local people pursuing predominant economic objectives, fund raids among the pastoral communities. The combination of factors that limit sustainable livestock production in the pastoral areas, including cattle rustling, and its devastating shocks, reduce the capacity of the poor to either maintain or accumulate livestock assets, thus limiting their ability to move out of poverty. This is made worse by lack of access to

livestock markets due to bad infrastructure and insecurity (Kaimba, Guliye, Njehia, and Bett, 2011)

**Internal and External investment**

The impact of livestock rustling hit hard on the investment which in most cases is the catalyst of social and economic development of the community. From Figure 4, 89.7% of the household respondents agreed that livestock rustling has resulted to reduction in internal and external investment in both counties while only 3.2% did not associate livestock rustling with reduction in investment.



**Figure 4: Reduction in internal and external investments**  
**Source: Field Data (2015)**

The acquisition of guns by community has created a sense of fear and insecurity in the region which has limited the number of internal and external investment. Businesses have been shut down due to fear of revenge from both communities as well as transportation of goods needed in stores have been difficult due to raid. This has limited sustainable livestock production in the Samburu and Marsabit counties as most of the household prefer to sell their livestock at lower price rather than loss them through rustling. The proceeds of the sale of livestock are merger to support in any internal investment in either of the county. The residents enterprise their herding productivity as they are forced to sell their livestock at low prices to middlemen. External investors are not attracted to Samburu and Marsabit counties due to the factor they stand to lose their stock through thefts and looting. Similarly, constant migration and displacement of the population in the affected areas make it difficult for business to make profit as some of the perishable are spoilt as

a result of staying for a longer period without purchase.

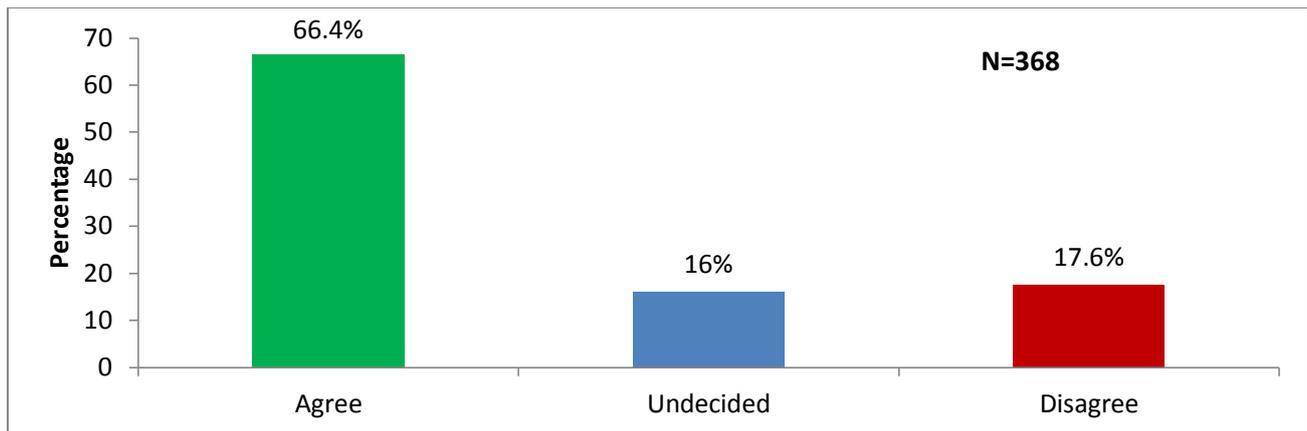
The findings are in agreement with Schiling (2012) who indicated that livestock rustling is an obstacle to investment. They stated during livestock rustling, the business people cannot access the suppliers nor the customers cannot access their premises. Most of the investors especially the external shut down their business and prefer to take them somewhere else where their security and that of their properties is guaranteed.

**Loss of Labour Force**

Youth are the main actors who execute livestock rustling. It does matter whether they are doing it cultural motive or commercial motive. As such, the researcher sought to find out the impact of livestock rustling on loss of labour which is needed for economic development of the community. Deprivation of community labor force was supported by 66.4% of the respondents while 17.6% of the respondents had an opposite

perception as shown in Figure 5. Formation of heavily armed and militarized groups has led to the rise of criminal gangs who engage in cattle-rustling for purely commercial reasons. All this has resulted to loss of lives of productive age in the area. The youth are easily attracted to easy cash and more sophisticated weapons that are provided by the warlords in both counties. The same youth are expected by the community to be in school getting basic education and secondary

education so that they can participate in various development projects in the county. The findings are in agreement with Kaprom (2013) who found out that livestock rustling in Masol Location, West Pokot County has robbed the county its labor force. Many of the youth in the County preferred to be hired by warlords in participate in livestock rustling and they are been promised to be giver firearms in the return.

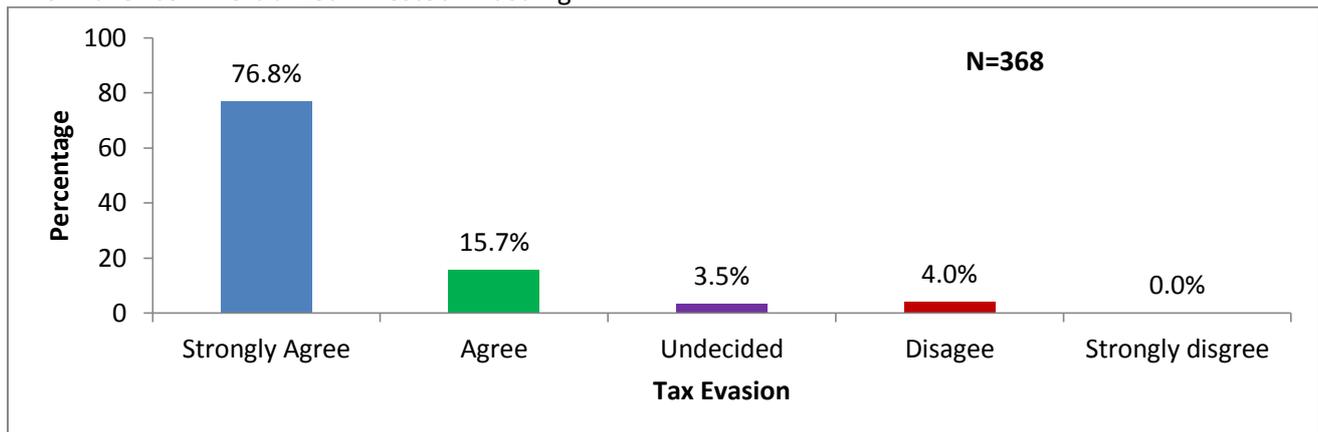


**Figure 5: Loss of Labour Force**  
**Source: Field Data (2015)**

**Tax evasion**

Livestock rustling hurt the revenue of both national and county governments through tax evasion. As a result, the researcher sought to find out the impact of unscrupulous business people who have commercialized livestock rustling in

regard to tax evasion. From Figure 6, 76.8% of the respondents strongly agree that livestock results to loss of revenue due to tax evasion, 15.7% agree, 3.5% undecided and disagree on tax evasion as result of livestock rustling in the two counties.



**Figure 6 2: Tax evasion**  
**Source: Field Data (2015)**

Unscrupulous business people with good links to politicians and senior government officials were reported to have organized and supervised cattle rustling for individual gain. They purchasing stolen livestock at low prices and fetching high profits by

selling them in major urban centres and international markets. The researcher noted that for development to be realized in the both counties, efficient collection of taxes from livestock sell which is the main source of revenue

for pastoralist communities. However, both continued have lagged behind in social economic development as compared to other parts of the country. With devolution system of government, tax evasion hurt the community development projects. The livestock market centers were found to be in poor conditions as there is lack of fund to maintain them. The tax collected from livestock sell are expected to develop these centers but with livestock rustling, tax evasion in undeniable.

## **CONCLUSION**

The research unearthed that there has been new trend in livestock rustling in both Marsabit and Samburu counties. This new trend has been characterized by great extent of livestock rustling as previously. Livestock rustling has impacted on socio-economic development of Samburu and Marsabit counties. Socially, high frequency of raid and continual use of firearms has resulting to loss of lives, injuries, food insecurity, spread of

livestock diseases, erosion of social and cultural values, insecurity and displacement. Economically, commercialization of livestock rustling has led to poverty, dysfunction of internal and external investments, loss of labour force and environmental degradation. The study recommended that, there is need to contain livestock rustling in pastoralist communities. Establishment of a project resource center will ensure the pastoral communities 'turn on a new leaf' through embracing alternative source of living (alternative development). Communities should be empowered through formal education to diversify to other economic activities apart from over reliance on livestock rearing. Community, governments, NGOs, CBO and FBOs should put in place elaborate coping mechanisms for the purposes of dealing with the livestock rustling menace in Samburu and Marsabit Counties.

## REFERENCES

- Frank, W. (2000 April 1). 'Cattle thieves hit NSW farms', *Sydney Morning Herald* Retrieved from: <http://www.smh.com.au/news/0010/01/national/national6.html>
- Midgley, O. (2012 April 9). *Rural Crime on the Increase*. Farmers Guardian: <http://www.farmersguardian.com/home/business/fg-investigation-reveals-rural-crime-picture/48790.article>
- Khan, M. (1994). Market based early warning indicators of famine for the pastoral households of the Sahel. *World Development* 22(2).
- Kenya Human Rights Commission [KHRC]. (2010). Morans no More: The Changing Face of Cattle-rustling in Kenya. Retrieved November 27, 2012 from [www.khrc.or.ke](http://www.khrc.or.ke).
- Salih, M. A. (1992). Agro-Pastoralism: An underestimated regional food production system. *Eastern Africa Social Science Review (EASSR)* IX (1), 23-37
- Kenya Human Rights Commission [KHRC]. (1998). *Killing the Vote: State Sponsored Violence and Flawed Elections in Kenya*. Nairobi: KHRC Report.
- Ochieng, W.R. (1980). *An outline history of the Rift Valley*. Nairobi: Macmillan.
- Pkalya, R., Adan, M., & Masinde, I. (2003). *Conflict in Northern Kenya: A focus on the Internally Displaced Conflict Victims in Northern Kenya*. DTP Martin Karimi Publisher
- Yamano, T., & Deininger, K. (2005). Land Conflicts in Kenya: Causes, Impacts, and Resolutions; Foundation for advanced studies on International development/National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies- The World Bank 27
- Le Ster, M. (2011). Conflicts over water around Lake Turkana; *Volume IX, No. 3; French Institute for Research in Africa (IFRA); pp 1-4*
- Amutabi, M. N. (2010). Land and Conflict in Ilemi Triangle of East Africa. *Kenya Studies Review*, 1 (2), pp 22
- Herskovits, M. J. (1926). The Cattle Complex in East Africa. *American Anthropologist New Series*, 28 (1), 230-272
- Osamba, J. (2000). *The Sociology of Insecurity: Livestock rustling and Banditry in North-Western Kenya*. Nairobi: African Journal of Conflict Resolution 1 (2): 11–37.
- Wamuyu, I. (2014). The effects of livestock rustling on livelihoods of pastoral communities in the Turkwel River belt along the Turkana/Pokot border. *Unpublished Master Thesis. UoN*
- Umar, A. (1997). "USAID Organised Seminar on Conflict Resolution, Resource Utilisation, and Conflict and Insecurity in Pastoral Areas of Kenya," Nairobi, Kenya Pastoral Forum.
- Mbaria, JM, Munenge, L., Njuguna, N., Orre, L, and Dabasso, D. (2005). Occurrence of a severe acute livestock poisoning by borehole water in Marsabit District, Kenya: a case study. *Kenya Veterinarian* 28: 16–19.

Barrett, C., Chabari, D., and Coppock, D. (2003). Livestock pricing in the Northern Kenyan Rangelands. *Journal of African Economies*. 12(2): 127–155.

Juma, M. (2010). *Security and regional cooperation in Africa: how can we make Africa's security architecture fit for the new challenges?* In Heinrich Böll Foundation (ed) *Climate change, resources, migration - securing Africa in an uncertain climate*. Cape Town, pp 16–25.

Speranza, Cl. (2010). Drought coping and adaptation strategies: understanding adaptations to climate change in agropastoral livestock production in Makueni District, Kenya. *European Journal of Development Research* 22(5): 623–642.

Kaimba, G, B Njehia, and Aguliye. (2011). *Effects of cattle rustling and household characteristics on migration decisions and herd size amongst pastoralists in Baringo District, Kenya*. *Pastoralism: Research, Policy and Practice* 1 (1): 1–18.

Behnke, R.H. (2008). *The economic contribution of pastoralism: case studies from the horn of Africa and Southern Africa*. *Nomadic Peoples* 12 (1): 45–79.

USAID and FEWS NET. (2005). *Conflict Early Warning and Mitigation of Resource Based Conflicts in the Greater Horn of Africa: Conflict Baseline Study Report Conducted in the Karamajong Cluster of Kenya and Uganda*.

Keter, S. and Mohamoud, A. (2005). *Impact of HIV/AIDS among pastoral communities in Kenya*. Report by ITDG-EA

Eriksen, S, and J Lind. (2009). Adaptation as a political process: adjusting to drought and conflict in Kenya's Drylands. *Environmental Management* 43(5): 817–835.

Hendrickson, D, J. A., & Mearns, R. (1996). Livestock raiding among the pastoral Turkana of Kenya: Redistribution, predation and the links to famine. *Institute of Development Studies Bulletin* 27 (3): 17–30.

Schilling, Janpeter, Francis Opiyo and Jürgen Scheffran (2012). "Raiding pastoral livelihoods: Motives and effects of violent conflict in north-western Kenya." *Pastoralism* 2(25): 1-16.