



IMPLICATIONS OF REFUGEES ON COMMUNITY SECURITY: CASE OF GARISSA COUNTY, KENYA (1991-2019)

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ABSTRACT

The Study's general objective was to analyze the implications of refugees on community security in Garissa County, Kenya. A mixed research design was adapted to cater for both qualitative and quantitative nature of this study. This study being more qualitative in nature mostly dwelled on conversational and open ended queries to gain information. Garissa County was a suitable county to carry out this study as the county has grappled with matters of insecurity in the last three decades and it has hosted the largest refugee camp in the country. A sample size of 385 was engaged drawn from Sub county Commissioners, Chiefs, local residents and refugees of Dadaab refugee camp. Purposive, cluster and systematic sampling technique was employed. Interviews, focus group discussions and questionnaires were used in data collection. Qualitative and quantitative data analysis was employed to group, classify and summarize the findings. The study revealed that, 84% of the residents of Garissa have experienced community insecurity in the county. Common genesis of instances of insecurity in the county includes competition over scarce natural resources, administrative and electoral border issues, rivalry and unclear property ownership, historical rivalry, political competition and illegal arms trade. The main impact of refugees on community security are community displacement, sectarian violence and ethnic violence that led to loss and/or destruction of property, additionally there was rape and other forms of gender based violence. The challenges posed by refugees included environmental degradation, criminal gangs, competition over grazing land, threats to personal and property safety, rise in population and illiteracy levels. The study recommended that refugees and the host community work harmoniously on matters touching on their common challenges and with intent of identifying and promoting of conflict management strategies. UNHCR which is mandated to protect and assist to refugees should empower the refugees. This empowerment should include provision of practical livelihood skills to enhance self-sustainability. UNHCR in collaboration with Kenya National government should also train a pragmatic Peace Committee to cater for conflict prevention and conflict mitigation within Garissa County.

Key Words: community security, refugees, Garissa, Refugee Camp

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INTRODUCTION

Contemporary security is no longer strictly tied to the traditional view of protecting state borders and territories against external threats. The emphasis is on citizen centric security focusing on the human survival rather than the state. This is commonly referred to human security. Human security is a wide spectrum of security divided into various subsets which include personal security, community security, environment security political security, as well as economic security (UNDP, 1994). As highlighted by UNDP report (1994), community security as a subset of human security aims towards the general protection of persons against the loss of their traditional relations and human values against ethnic, sectarian and other form of distinctiveness attributed violence. UNDP (1994) further asserts that globally, approximately 50% of the world states have experienced a given form inter-ethnic crisis.

UNHCR describes a refugee as person who has been forced to leave his or her place of domicile because of acts of violence, outright war, threat of violence or any disaster such as drought. Refugees have compelling fear of persecution or threat of survival for reasons that may emanate from their tribe, clan, political opinion, nationality or social group and in other cases due to natural disasters (UNCHR, 2019). Leading causes of the refugee crisis are as a result of political difference instigated crisis, religious persecution and other security threats that are driven by differences in ideals. Violent conflicts lead to misery and poverty which in turn lead to hatred and tension amongst two or more ethnically, religious or any other identity based incongruent communities. As a result, community insecurity within a given country or geographical area are bound to increase due to communal differences leading to negative externalities and incompatible or extremist tendencies and beliefs (Spiegel, 2009).

In Africa according to UNHCR (2018), South Sudan suffers from the worst refugee crisis in Africa. South Sudan refugees soaring over 2.5million refugees spread over six countries. These countries are; Central African Republic, Kenya, Democratic

Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Uganda and Sudan. These countries are continually struggling to provide conducive hosting facilities for the Sudanese refugees. Unlike Turkey, these countries hosting the South Sudanese refugees suffer from dwindling funding from the concerned stakeholders. Sixty (60) per cent of these refugees are children. Close to half a million of South Sudanese refugees are out of school hence having been denied the basic right to education. In the year of 2018, Uganda was home to the highest chunk of South Sudanese refugees hovering over 833,000 across the Adjumani region in Uganda. Since 2018, the Adjumani region experiences unprecedented ethnic based insecurities between the locals and the South Sudanese refugees mostly fighting over resources. Security threat towards both the local community and refugees remains critical because of mistrust and lack of cohesive integration procedures as well as assumed tribal differences between the two groups. Inter communal wars based on tribal lines as well as religious and sectarian wars remain rife in this region (UNHCR, 2019).

Lack of food and water supplies in Ugandan refugee camps and challenges of funding for refugee operations in the region has also led to an exacerbated crisis in the refugee camps spread across Northern Uganda. As such, this situation has led to bad blood between local host community and refugees with refugees attempting to displace the local communities from their ancestral domiciles in search of a source of livelihood. One of the biggest threats to community security in Uganda's Adjumani district has been the occasional farmland wrangles between South Sudan refugees and host communities. The fact that the number of refugees has overtime exceeded the number of local host communities has further worsened the situation (UNHCR, 2019). Further, International Refugee Rights initiative report (2018), pointed out that there have been cases of combatant recruitment in Ugandan refugee camps trained with intent to target tribal communities of Northern Uganda.

Kenya hosts half a million refugees and asylum seekers. Somalia refugees as well as asylum seekers tops as the majority of international migrants comprising of 53.7% of all migrants. Other notable nationalities contributing to refugees in Kenya are South Sudan (25%), Congo (8%), and Ethiopians (5.8%). Others include Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, and Sudan amounting to around 6.5% of total refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya. Noteworthy, 44% of the total refugees in Kenya are hosted in Dadaab refugee camp in Garissa County while around 40% resides in Kakuma refugee camp. The remaining 16% are located in various urban areas mostly within Nairobi County (UNHCR, 2019).

Dadaab refugee camp was established in 1991. The camp is accommodating close 211,365 Somali refugees, which is by the far more than the design specification of the camp holding capacity of 90,000 refugees (UNHCR, 2018). Further, UNHCR, (2019) asserts that the refugee influx into Kenya in the 1990s dramatically brought about demographic shifts in the NER, Kenya. The chief causes of the displacement of these refugees are the civil war in Southern Somalia as well as treacherous drought in the Horn of Africa. These refugees are mainly Muslim of Rahanweyn clan of Somalia amounting to 97% of the total refugees in the Camp. The rest of refugees comprise of majorly Muslims from Ogaden of Ethiopia, Ethiopian Christians as well Sudanese Christian (UNHCR, 2015).

The semi-arid NER of Kenya hosts Dadaab Camp. The region is vastly under developed and faces myriad of insecurities. The predicament of the NER of Kenya can be attributed to marginalization and social exclusion history (Kumssa 2014). According to the Kenya Population and Housing report, (2019), the communities surrounding the Dadaab Refugee camp are mainly of Somali descent. The communities are further divided into sub clans (UNHCR, 2015).

Somalis are largely belonging to four major clans namely; Hawiye, Dir, Darood and Rahanweyn. Clan affiliation plays the major crux to people of Somali descends. This stands out as blood, justice and

honor as indicated by Somali term *heer* which loosely denotes traditional legal system. This is a system that strongly binds together people of same commonality. Clannism is the chief line of identity and the notorious root cause of conflicts in NER, Kenya and the entire Horn of Africa at large. The feuds amongst Somalis are further exuded by sub clan rivalries. Refugees of Dadaab refugee camp are largely of Rahanweyn clan whereas the residents of Garissa County are of Ogadeni sub clan from the larger Darood clan. Over the years, out of historical differences and clans rivalries, there have been bloody conflicts between sections of Refugees of Dadaab Refugee camp and the local residents of Garissa County (UNHCR, 2019).

Over two decades now, Kenya's NER security periphery, has largely been anchored on Somalia's woes as a country. Since 1991, Somalia has been wallowing in political and humanitarian crisis after toppling of Somali President Jaale Mohammed Said Barre in 1991. The clan segmentation within the Somali population led to emergence of a stable and non-cohesive Somalis of different clans. Conflict within the Somali populace led to displacement of over one million Somalis.

Clannism continues to play vital role on matters concerning security and leadership in the region. The main spoken language by residents in this county is Somali while Swahili and English are remotely used. The residents are predominantly Muslims by faith, UNHCR, (2015). Noteworthy Somalis have relatively common language, culture, religion as well as ancestral commonality. On the contrary their genealogy ties have provided a basis of their divisions instead on unity amongst themselves as well as creating resentment towards people of different identities. Over the years these factors have also been used as a basis of their inclination towards internal fission as well as a sense of distinctiveness which borders closely to xenophobia.

Garissa county resident are mainly Muslim. Notably, the bulk of the working force is of Christian faith. These two diverse groups often engage into inter

group conflict on issues touching on religion difference, linguistic differences, ethnic variance as well as cultural distinctiveness. The communities residing in the region of Garissa County principally depends heavily on livestock keeping as well as commerce. Marginally, agriculture is practiced through utilization of River Tana which also has an adverse effect on settlement patterns (UNHCR, 2010). According to Kenya Bureau of Statistics (2017), literacy level in Garissa county stands at a staggering 39.7%. This has profound effect on community involvement on policy matters touching on community security.

Since the NER forms the entry point for these refugees, this region has been marred with the highest cases of community insecurity perpetrated in the form of terrorism, piracy, kidnapping and other crimes committed by Somali perpetrators against the local communities. This direct influence of Somalia's conflict on Kenya's security prompted the country to go the extra mile and deploy its troops to Somalia on 16 October 2011 to safeguard her National security interests, (Sadako, 2012).

Kenya's military entry in Somalia to assure Kenya national security interest has resulted in a serious blowback. Alleged Al Shabaab militant have since embarked on retaliatory sporadic attacks especially in the NER, Kenya (Daveed, 2014). The fact that most of the refugees entering the country are in a disadvantaged position in terms of obtaining basic needs, they have become easy targets of radicalization by the economically empowered Al Shabaab that promises them better-living conditions if they subscribe to the extremist ideologies. Because Kenya's refugee policies are lax and the Northeastern national border is porous, these radicalized militants easily find their way into the country through Garissa mascairaing as refugees and wreak havoc on specific communities within the region (Sadako, 2012).

Refugee conflict with the local community in Garissa has been one of the key causes of community insecurity in the region. The corrosive relationship between refugees in the Garissa county

and the local residents remains disruptive for both groups. Community security aspect of human security has been degenerated due to incongruence and incompatibility of religious and other community-based ideals. These frequent wrangles have been further fueled by competition for available resources and religious extremism. There have also been reported cases of toxic politics which interferes with the tranquility and invigorate conflict within Garissa County (Kumssa, 2014).

Statement of the Problem

Majority of countries in Africa have been ravaged by conflicts leading to community displacement into those states that are considerably peaceful. Due to the Somali conflict, Kenya's regional community security, particularly in the North-Eastern region has undergone some negative shift. Kenya's NER is considered the most fragile in terms of security outlook. Somalis whom are the majority of the residents within NER, Kenya are strictly bound by clannism which gives identities to different clans of Somali descend. There have been bloody rivalries amongst the clans. Majority of refugees into the NER, Kenya are from the Rahanyen clan whereas the residents of Garissa are of Ogadeni sub clan of Darood Clan. Both groups have strong ties and affiliation to their respective clans. Clans' rivalry has continued to fuel most conflicts in the NER, Kenya as well as in the horn of Africa leading to many bloody conflicts in the region. Most of refugees in the NER, Kenya are not legally documented as well as not duly disarmed. This has further increased the refugee's potency towards community insecurity of the local residents of Garissa.

Further, it's worth noting that most of the residents of Garissa county as well as refugees are Somalis of common language, culture, religion as well as ancestral commonality which breeds a strong sense of distinctiveness which closely borders xenophobia. This has further led a bad blood to exist between Somali communities and other minority tribes within the county. In this case, the million-dollar question that arises out of Kenya playing the role of the host state is whether the

country in accepting migrants from war a torn Somalia is jeopardizing her own society's community security with a special focus on Garissa county, which is the home to Dadaab refugee camp. Somali refugees' presence in Garissa County adds more strain on the already marginal resources available in this arid county further aggravating an already dire situation.

Previous studies have laid emphasis on the impacts against National security of Kenya with regards to presence of refugees in the country possible due to easy entry of militants masquerading as refugees. There is need to refocus security from state centric to community security which is an important sub branch of human security approach towards security. There was, therefore, the need to understand how refugees in Kenya's Garissa County have affected these non-traditional security parameters that determine the state of community security.

Objectives of the Study

The study's general objective was to analyze implications of refugees on community security in Garissa County, Kenya. The study was guided by the following specific objectives;

- To analyze community security in Garissa County, Kenya.
- To evaluate the linkages between refugees influx and the community security of Garissa county, Kenya.
- To examine the challenges posed by refugees in enhancing community security in Garissa County, Kenya.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Community Security Overview of Garissa County, Kenya

Community security refers to measures that are taken towards protections of a given community against loss of traditional relations as well as values and identities against ethnic, sectarian and other forms of violence attributed to divisive distinctiveness amongst two communities.

Community security accurately highlights the plight of vulnerable populations (Hasegawa, 2007).

According to the government of Kenya report (2006), Garissa County had a population of about ten (10) million people. The county is located in largely arid and semi-arid (ASAL) belt of NER of Kenya. Garissa county residents have historically faced challenges of security, under development as well as high levels of poverty as well as social and political exclusion (Jones, 2014). The region is often faced with the problem of food insecurity occasioned by notorious drought and famine. This phenomenon is due to low annual rainfall in the region. Pastoralism is practiced in the county by majority of the residents. Over the years, various communities compete over meager resources leading to intercommunal conflicts within the county (Jones 2014).

According to Garissa County integrated development plan (2019), Garissa County scores literacy level of 8.2% the least of all Counties of Kenya. Further, according to Linda Kjosaa, an education Officer UNHCR Sub Office Dadaab, (2018), literacy levels in Dadaab camp are below five Percent. The County has in the last two decades faced acts of violence instigated by differences in ideals, religion, sect, race, and clans amongst other identity basis. This in turn has led to displacement of persons of certain ideals and identity which grossly undermine fundamental human rights (UNHCR, 2015). As Hasegawa (2007) states, community security approach is a crucial proponent that addresses the core and threats to people's livelihoods as well as their dignity. These threats are injurious towards sustainable development and peace in the region.

This study narrowed down to a human security. This is a subset of community security with a special focus on Garissa County, Kenya. Community Security approach to human security points out threats to specific people. The main aim of this approach was to identify and implement alternative and sustainable programs and approaches to

improve the livelihoods and sustainability of the residents of Garissa County.

Linkages between Refugees Influx and the Community Security of Garissa County, Kenya

According to UNHCR, (2015), there is an identifiable interlink between insecurity of community security of Garissa County communities that come as a result of threats to specific human security domains brought about by existence of Dadaab Refugee Camp in the County. Among the threats posed, most importantly, is identity-based violence or threat of use of violence along identity lines. Somalis whom have very strong affiliation to their respective clans and sub clan forms the bulk of the residents of Garissa County. The residents of Garissa are largely from the Ogadeni sub clan of Darood Clan whereas the refugees of Dadaab are mainly from the Rahanyen Clan. Both clans have historical rivalries and live in fear of each other (UNHCR, 2015). Further this fear of influx of migrants stems from notion that influx may dilute or over run the community identity, vertical competition of a community by a larger or more influential group or horizontal competition whereby a given community is forced to integrate more influential identities within their own (Buzan, 1998).

According to the KNBS (2019), Dadaab Refugee Camp holds 211,365 refugees. This population far much exceeds the original design carrying capacity of 90,000 refugees. Over populating the Camp has over the years led to cut throat competition and over exploitation of the scarce natural resources available within the County. Even though the UNHCR tried to ease the situation at the camp by bringing in humanitarian resources such as boreholes and hospitals, the refugees still live under dire conditions (UNHCR, 2015). The tents that are meant to provide shelter are tattered, exposing them to theft and other vices such as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Kumsa (2014) further stipulated that conflict in Dadaab and the greater Garissa County are closely associated with competition over scarce resources, clannism, ethnicity, and proliferation of influx of

illicit firearms. The study showed that the local host community expressed concerns over the fact that insecurity and violence within the Dadaab camp was being instigated by illegal gangs carrying out criminal activities within the Camp, especially against women belonging to local communities around the refugee camps.

This study focused on discussing the actual linkages between refugees' influx and the community security of Garissa County, Kenya. The community security approach is important in identifying threats posed by the refugees to the neighboring host community in Garissa County, identifying communities and groups that are at risk given the threats as well as highlight the threat manifestation of different domains of community Security.

Challenges Posed by Refugees in Enhancing Community Security in Garissa County, Kenya

UNHCR stipulates that refugee camps, are supposed to be temporary havens of refuge housed within the camp in accordance to the international law (UNHCR, 2019). Refugees housed in camps with time have three options; legal integration into host country/state as permanent residents, third party country resettlement at will or be repatriated to their original country of domicile at will when their safety and security has been restored and considerably assured. However, a closer look at the refugee situation in Kenya's Dadaab refugee camp reveals that little has been done in as far complying with these three refugee guidelines are concerned, (UNHCR 2019).

For over three decades now, the refugees have found themselves in 'protracted refugee situations (PRS)' which refers to a situation of long-term encampment of refugees in the camp without any meaningful plan to resettle them and close the camp, (UNHCR, 2015). This problem has further been compounded by Kenya's stringent rules of granting citizenship to foreigners especially foreigners without proper documents as is with the majority of cases of refugees in Dadaab Camp. Agreements and treaties, for instance, the 2016 migrant deal between the EU and Turkey as well as

Khartoum Process, can be viewed to have reinforced and reinvigorated lengthy periods of holding refugees in refugee camps leaving the host state to bear the burden of hosting refugees as is the case of Kenya with regard to Dadaab Refugee camp (Trauner, 2014).

The decision to host Somali refugees in Kenya has come to catch up with Kenya's human community security situation. In as much as Kenya subscribed to that path out of goodwill, the repercussions have eventually relegated Kenya to path dependence quagmire. This is a situation compelling someone or an entity to continue embracing on a path defined by an earlier decision as the cost of revising the decision maybe too high (Sewell, 1996). Levi (1997) further defines path dependence as a situation whereby a state or a regional body embraces a track because the cost of reversing an earlier decision is more often very high.

This study highlighted the various challenges brought about by the establishment of a refugee camp in Garissa County. The various impediments faced by both Kenya National authorities and its local administrative arms in enhancing community security in Garissa county brought about by refugee influx were explored.

Theoretical Framework

The Constructivism Theory

In order to understand how the influx of refugees into Kenya has affected the community security domain of human security this study sought to employ constructivism theory as applicable to security studies. This theory is credited to be coined by Nicholas Onuf who described theories that lays emphasis on socially constructed traits although the Constructivism theory has its roots embedded in educational psychology in the work of Jean Piaget (1896–1980). Worth noting also is that works of contemporary constructivism theorist Alexander Wendt, a social constructivist majoring his study on international relations which is paramount to this study. The theory purports that identity relations often explains rivalries as well as security

communities, cooperation on various issues as well as failures to reach upon such agreements between communities. The two basic tenets of this theory are that associations of human beings are determined by their shared ideas and those interests as well as identities of various concerned actors are highly dictated by these shared ideas rather than being nurtured.

Basing on the focus of this study, Somali population forms the bulk of local residents as well as refugees within Garissa County. The Somalis relatively share common culture, religion and language of which they jealously subscribe to and bear very strong ties. This inclination towards internal fission as well as a strong sense of distinctiveness borders closely to xenophobia. This fission in turn leads to resentment and hatred often leading to conflicts to members of different backgrounds. This rivalry explains most of the feuds between Somalis within Garissa County and other ethnic groupings residing in the county.

Local residents of Garissa are mostly of Ogadeni origin from the clan of Darood whereas the bulk of the refugees in the county of Garissa are of Rahweyn clan. Somalis strongly identifies with clan's membership obtained through birth. Members have very high tendencies to other individuals from different clans out of fear of losing identity (Spiegel, 2009). The two clans have a historical rivalry grounded on ideals of clannism. Clannism is the chief line of identity and the notorious root causes of conflicts in NER, Kenya and the entire Horn of Africa at large. Historical differences and clans' rivalries have given rise to bloody conflicts between sections of Refugees of Dadaab Refugee camp and the local residents of Garissa County (UNHCR, 2019)

This theory painted a clear picture of how the flow of Somali refugees into the country has influenced the way the refugee interact and impact the local residents of Garissa County living around the refugee camp with special attention on impacts on community security of Garissa County.

The framework below aids to show the interrelations of variables that are present in this study. Conceptual framework as indicated by the figure (2.1) below shows how the status of community security of Garissa County is affected by refugee influx into the county. Moderating variables

are highlighted as the variables that dictate the strength and the relationship direction between the Independent and dependent variables. The intervening variables are enumerated denoting the various variables that highlight the causal linkage between the dependent and independent variables.

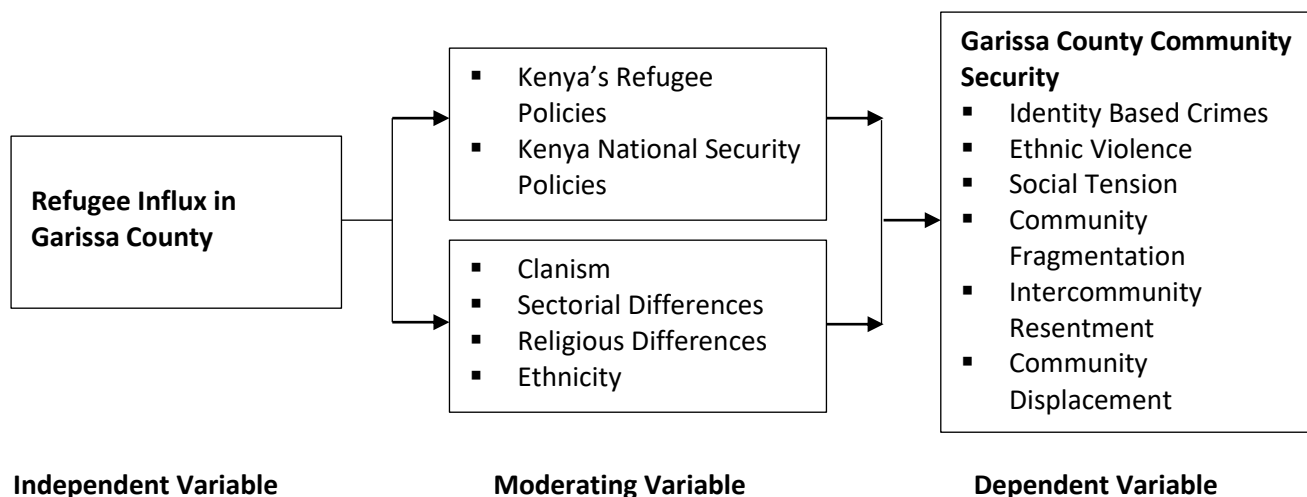


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

METHODOLOGY

The study was both quantitative and qualitative in nature hence a mixed research design was adapted. This design was opted for as it correctly and systematically answered the research question as well as holistically offered a better understanding of this study research problem. The study was carried out in Garissa County of NER, Kenya. Garissa County was the most appropriate region to carry out this study because the county had struggled with community insecurity issues for the last three decades (Kenya police crime service annual crime report, 2018). The camp was holding a total of 211,365 refugees in three sub camps, Dadaab sub camps which were Ifo, Hagadera and Dagahaley (UNHCR 2019). This study explored wide-ranging community security spectrum of Garissa County that entailed protection of communities against loss of their traditional ideals, values, traditional relations, identities from conflicts that of sectarian or ethnic dimensions.

This study identified and utilized a target population of six (6) deputy county commissioners in charge of

the six (6) sub counties of Garissa and additionally chair security committees at the sub county level. Garissa county had 96 locations hence this study identified the 96 chiefs in charge of the 96 location as respondents of interest. The study selected population of above 18 years of age whom could be engaged to be respondents as they were of legal age. In this Study, the Yamani Taro (1967) formula of determining the sample size was used to determine the appropriate sample size. Out of the four (4) categories of respondents a total of 518,572 were the target population. Using the Yamani Taro (1967), a sample size of 385 respondents was determined. This study embarked on purposive sampling to select 12 chiefs for this study.

This study entailed collection of secondary and primary data. Primary data was collected by employing usage of interviews, focus group discussion as well as questionnaires in order to gain fast hand information which offers a more credible response. Collecting data from the local residents and refugees of Dadaab Camp researcher used staff

assisted questionnaire. Interviews were administered to the six (6) deputy county commissioners as they are richly knowledgeable on issues of security and well-being of Garissa County. Secondary information was obtained through in-depth review of the available literature. Both qualitative and quantitative data analysis methods were employed for a wider perspective and review as this study is a mixed research. Qualitative data was analyzed using content analysis technique. Descriptive data analysis technique was utilized to analyze quantitative data in order to effectively group data, classify it and subsequently summarize the findings. The descriptive data analysis of quantitative data analysis also involved a four step procedure to analyze quantitative data.

FINDINGS

Implications of Refugees on Community Security in Garissa County, Kenya

This section responded to the objective of the study which geared to analyze implications of refugees on community security in Garissa County, Kenya. The study's specific objectives were; to analyze community security, to evaluate the linkages between refugees' influx and the community security and to examine the challenges posed by refugees in enhancing community security in Garissa County, Kenya. The subsections below give a detailed analysis of each of the objectives as responded by the targeted groups.

Analysis of Community Security in Garissa County

Various challenges touching on safety and security in Garissa County, Kenya can attributed to lack of trust amongst individuals as well as between communities. This in return affects economic growth and investment, and absorbs government resources, which could otherwise be spent in development. The study first inquired from the respondents if they had ever experienced conflict between communities within Garissa County. The results revealed that a high number of the Garissa County community members' (84.0%) who were respondents to this study had experienced inter communal conflict. Further it was determined that only (16.0%) had not experienced community conflict in their area. Majority of those who expressed to have experienced conflict indicated that communities involved were; Garbatulla against Lagdera-Aulian community, between Borana and Aulian communities and between the Auliyahan and Abduak, sub clans of the Ogaden and Rahnwen clan. These findings were in concurrence by findings of Kinake (2006) who undertook a related study on the Impact of Daadab Refugee Camp and National security, Kenya. Kinake's study indicated that 90 percent of the residents of Garissa County have experienced various form of insecurity during their domicile in the county. This findings on higher percentage of respondents have actually experience on the subject matter assured that the information provided is first hand hence more accurate and reliable, (Kitchin, 2014).

Table 1: Causes of Community Conflict

Causes	Percentage (%)
Competition Over Scarce Natural Resources	99
Administrative and Electoral Border Issues	98
Political Competition	97
Resources scarcity (pasture, land and water)	98
Decline in economic activities	95
Poor and unclear communication	86
Rivalry and unclear ownership of property such as land, boundaries, livestock etc.	97
General feelings of marginalized	88
Historical issues and rivalry	99
Ethnicity	96
Militaristic nature of local community and arms trade	97

The results in Table 1 indicated that, the bulk of the community members agreed to a very great extent that competition over scarce natural resources (99.0%) is the major source of community conflict in the county of Garissa administrative and electoral border issues (98.0%), resources scarcity (pasture, land and water) (98.0%), rivalry and unclear property ownership such as boundaries, land, livestock etc. (97.0%), historical issues and rivalry (99.0%), political competition (97.0%), arms trade and the militaristic nature of the local community (97.4%), poor communication (97.0%), ethnicity (66.0%) and general feelings of marginalized (88.0%) are the other probable causes of conflict among communities in Garissa County, Kenya. The results concurs with Kanake (2016) who argued that, possible ways of managing security in Dadaab Camp includes: sufficient access to water, drilling and maintenance of bore holes and water storage facilities, creation of employment opportunities for refugees, spearheading long-term development funding for the region. The informal sector receives less attention than it should in development policy (Bigsten, 2004).

Garissa County is located in the ASALs belt of Kenya. This county has suffered the blunt of diminishing natural resources such severe droughts as most of the residents are pastoralist in nature (UNHCR, 2004). There have been instances of conflicts between the local communities and refugee due to alleged grazing grounds rights violation. This allegation was raised using one FGD session by a chief who said;

“Refugees are viewed by the local residents as intruders who come over to overgraze their livestock on grounds that have been owned as community lands of the locals hence reducing the available feeding grounds of the locals livestock” (FGD 01)

Data on implications of refugees on community security was collected from deputy county commissioners through interviews from the Key informants. One interviewee noted that;

“In this County (Garissa), administrative and electoral boundary issues are the most drivers of community conflict in all sub counties” (Interviewee, 01).

The interviewee noted that there was reduced community conflict occasioned by commissioning of new internal boundaries by Kenya’s independent boundaries and electoral commission (IEBC). As per the interviewee, IEBC have aided to clearly defined resource ownership and allowed ease of access to government services. This was in concurrence with the findings of Chuma and Ojielo, (2012) who indicated that there have been reported conflicts related that were due to administrative boundaries in border areas such as disputed land clashes among pastoralists in Northern Kenya.

Another interviewee averred that;

“Misunderstanding and disagreement about border demarcations in Garissa County had greatly contributed to clan tensions” and that “another major source of clan animosity and hostilities are caused by political competition since elected leaders tended to favor their clans in awarding tenders and employment opportunities” (Interviewee, 02).

In a different session during a FGD, a participant further stressed that

“Most of the cases that i have dealt with in my office concerns border disputes. In the year 2016 when we experiences worst skirmishes in Dadaab Sub county was based on disagreements on the extent of the border between the Garbatulla against Lagdera-Aulian community” (FGD 02)

Another interviewee intimated that Garissa County faces rampant clan-based favoritism in access to economic opportunities. Further he indicated that there has been cases of incitement and intimidation, especially during electoral campaigns, have instigated conflicts in the region. He was quoted saying that;

“Political provocation evidenced as some politicians openly utter messages that arouse incitation of their clans to evacuate opposing clans that might not

vote for them and may reclaim their land back if they are allowed to graze and settle” (Interviewee, 03).

This corroborated the findings of Hassan (2014) who indicated that clan inclined politics, cut throat competition between various persons in politics in Garissa County. He further purported that anticipated rivalry and inter community conflicts have been witnessed flared with intent to settle scores in politics enmity. Divergence of political ideals has also been a major cause of sub-clan conflict. Political maligning carried out by various local leaders targeting various communities that they view as ‘outsiders’ is highly witnessed in Garissa county and this was stressed by a Chief in one of the FGD session who said

“Local politician blatantly ask their kinsmen and other members of friendly communities to ensure that members of other communities are ejected from their sub counties as they are not the original settlers of that region” (FGD 03)

Devolution was introduced in 2010 in Kenya in order to reduce political marginalization, expand the democratic space and promote more

responsive and accountable government. However, an interviewee purported that devolution has also intensified clan-based competition for representation. He said that devolution had significantly intensified local competition for power, notably for gubernatorial positions. This is due to perceived associated political and economic benefits. This has led to dominant clans striving to control of county affairs at any cost. This was best indicated by one of the interviewee quoted during his presentation:

“The devolution has divided various communities living in Garissa. The larger clans and their allies have benefit more from impacts of devolution while the minorities and marginalized are ill represented in county affairs. This in turn has aggravated the existing inter-community conflicts in the county even further” (Interviewee, 04)

The Linkages between Refugees Influx and Community Security of Garissa County

The respondents were requested to rate the possible impacts of refugees on community security. Data that was received was analyzed and presented as indicated in table 2 below;

Table 2: Linkages between Refugees Influx and Community Security

	Not at all (1)	Little extent (2)	Moderate extent (3)	Great extent (4)	Very great extent (5)
Sectarian Violence	1.4%	2.6%	2.6%	70.2%	23.2%
Ethnic violence	1.0%	2.2%	1.6%	62.6%	32.5%
Social Tension	1.2%	13.0%	17.4%	48.0%	20.4%
Community Fragmentation	9.1%	19.5%	12.2%	46.9%	12.4%
Intercommunity Resentment	3.7%	15.1%	17.5%	47.3%	16.5%
Community Displacement	0.4%	2.0%	3.0%	71.2%	23.3%

Results presented Table 2 showed that 70.2% of the respondents were in consensus to great extent that the possible impact of refugees on community security was sectarian violence. These findings were in concurrence with by Kumsa (2014). Kumsa did a research on security issues specifically the realm of human security of refugees and the host

community in Northeastern Kenya. Their study showed that the local host community expressed concerns over the fact that criminal gangs within the camps are responsible for the surge in insecurity and violence, especially against women belonging to local communities around the refugee camps. Majority of the respondents 62.6% also

indicated to great extent that Ethnic violence resulted from refugees. Other impacts of refugees on community security greatly agreed on were; social tension (48.0%), Community Fragmentation (46.9%), Intercommunity Resentment (47.3%) and Community Displacement (71.2%). These results show that community displacement, sectarian violence and ethnic violence were the main possible impacts of refugees on community security.

During the interviews and focus group discussions with deputy county commissioners and chiefs it was revealed that there were other serious impacts of refugees on community security. One interviewee noted that;

“Suspected terrorist initially taking harbor in Ifo Camp shot dead 148 people. Out of this total, 142 of them were students of Garissa University College in April 2015 mostly systematically targeted Christian” (Interviewee, 05).

It's worth noting that the residents of Garissa are largely from the Ogadeni sub clan of Darood Clan whereas the refugees of Dadaab are mainly from the Rahanyen Clan. Both clans have historical rivalries and live in fear of each other. During a focus group discussion, one chief reiterated that

“2011: in February, a Somali sheikh (Ogadeni) was assassinated in Garissa town by suspected members of Rahnweyn clan, while another scholar (Ogedeni) was gunned down in Dadaab refugee complex” (FGD04)

Education level in Garissa County has also been on the receiving end due to tension and war activities in the region. Various school programmers are more often disrupted due to fear of attacks of school going student. This has been compounded by various conflicting communities and displacement of some resident due to community conflicts. During this study's FGD session one Chief indicated that

“A huge number of school going individuals experienced episode of disturbed periods of learning due to displacement or insecurity in their home or school areas” (FGD 04)

Refugees have always been associated with being armed with firearms that are not legalized or proliferation of various arms especially small arms. Numerous acquisitions pointing at refugees as the main perpetrators of instances of insecurity ranging from petty crimes, grand thefts as well as murders.

These findings were corroborated by UNHCR (2019). This report indicated that Historical differences, clans' rivalries and resentment have led to bloody conflicts between sections of Refugees of Dadaab Refugee camp and the local residents of Garissa. This has to a smaller extent extended to other tribes within the county of Garissa. Further, another scholar similarly indicated that Sectarian and/or ideological character, community-based definitions are more likely to reflect individuals' localized and lived experiences of insecurity and violence within Garissa County, Kenya (Vicencio, 2016)

Despite these complaints and claims, respondents in focus group discussion also revealed that residents of Garissa County have also been benefactors from the presence of refugees within the region. The myriads of these benefits include; improved market for their milk and meat and also enhanced infrastructure due to increased businesses. A research carried out as collaboration between Norwegian and Danish Embassies in Kenya (2010) indicated that a gross income that the host residents of Garissa County, Kenya obtained from milk as a well livestock sale to the refugee camps in Garissa soared above 3 million USD. These benefits were well captured by one Chief interviewee who said;

“Garissa County has over the last twenty (20) years benefited from the presence of Dadaab refugee camp. Dadaab Sub County was just a region of scattered village prior to commission of the refugee camp. Afterwards, the economy and the general living standards as well as education facilities and market of local products for instance dairy products has been bolstered by the refugee camp that has offered a ready market for local products” (FGD 05).

Further, the Norwegian and Danish Embassies report on Dadaab refugees, Kenya (2010) indicated that the businesses within the refugee camp and those surrounding it made a hoping turnover of nearly 25 million USD annually. Additionally, presence of the refugee camp in Garissa County, Kenya has also led to improvement of various infrastructures including banking systems in the county as well as communications facilities to support the business within the county

Challenges Posed by Refugees in Enhancing Community Security in Garissa County

The study determined the challenges posed by refugees in enhancing community security in Garissa County. The results found out that among the various challenges posed by refugees in enhancing community security in their respective sub counties include environmental degradation, criminal gangs, competition over grazing land, threats to personal and property safety, rise in population and illiteracy levels. The findings indicated that criminal gangs are the major challenge as shown by 99%, followed by rise in population 98%. Other challenges include; competition over grazing land 94% and environmental degradation 92%. During a personal interview session with one of the deputy county commissioners, an interviewee indicated that;

“ Al Shabab terrorist masquerading as refugees have infiltrated the Dadaab Camp, they then recruit and train young refugees in the camps whom in turn organized as criminal gangs attack local residents mostly of rival clans” (Interviewee 06)

The above sentiments were in line with a study by Kumsa (2014) on his study on issues of human security of refugees and the host community in Northeastern Kenya. Local host community expressed concerns over the fact that criminal gangs within the camps are responsible for the surge in insecurity and violence, especially against women belonging to local communities around the refugee camps.

In one of the Focus group discussion, a chief indicated that;

“Refugees from Somalia have over the years cleared thickets within and around Dadaab Camp so rapidly leading to both degradation of the environment as well as leading to sharp rise on the cost of firewood” (FGD 06)

These findings concurred with Kenya Forest Services report (2015), which observed that there have been a sharp decline of over 45% of the forest cover. The report used the year 1990 as the baseline year and the year 2015 as the current context. This is the period that the county of Garissa recorded a soaring increase in population whereby majorly the increase in population was attributed to increase of the refugees from the neighboring country of refugees. Further, Gitau (2011) found that In Garissa County, Kenya, firewood is the main source of fuel. The firewood is mainly obtained in the thickets that are found around the villages scattered in the county. In some cases, resident are forced to travel long distances to obtain this precious commodity. These distances at times pose threats to human security from rival communities. Further, the prices of firewood and charcoal have over time increased tremendously adding the woes of the residents of Garissa. Gitau (2011) further gave a suggestion that cleaner energy strategies should be introduced in Garissa County in order to curb negative climate changes brought about by environmental degradation. Such initiatives may include introduction of innovative and efficient *jikos* and solar energy.

Strategies to Alleviate Impacts of Refugee on Community Security

The study sought to determine the strategies that can be adapted to alleviate each impact posed by refugees in enhancing community security in their respective locations within Garissa County. The results suggested several strategies; resolving underlying drivers of community conflicts which involve building and strengthening platforms for inter community dialogue for conflict management. They suggested that various organizations of civil

society and NGOs to be engaged in order to address community concerns, like border disputes and sharing of natural resource which increases disputes in the county of Garissa. Equal employment opportunities should all be looked in to across all communities including refugees in order to curb cases of marginalization and enhance community-refugee togetherness. Further they suggested that these platforms also be employed to gather insight on how various external actors they may include but not limited to Al-Shabaab may be involved in breaches of community security in the County of Garissa.

Respondents also suggested strategies such as capacity building of various civil society organizations and Community Peace Committees with intent to flourish cohesiveness between various security stakeholders of security agents, refugees and the host community. This strategy was summarized by one participant of this study FGD who said;

“Trust and cooperation between various NGOs and security agencies as well as local security committees should be enhanced through sound and productive communication channels, engagements that are peace oriented, and initiatives of reconciliation amongst the various warring communities, and refugees impacts to be monitored through enhanced early-warning systems and response framework” (FGD 06)

Further it was suggested that as part of their county action plans counties need to include provisions for managing inter-community conflicts through a comprehensive development and implementation of County Action Plans as well as County leadership. This initiative creates interventions to address inter- as well as intra-community conflicts arising from increased refugees impact. Further, this strategy will aid to prevent extremist of violent nature among the neighboring communities. Beyond border security monitoring was also deemed necessary to mitigate cases of border spillover over breach of security. Smuggling of illegal goods and proliferation of illegal small arms was found to be

rampant in Garissa County. This menace has been mainly due to highly porous nature of the Kenya–Somalia border, Kenya border security command should be highly enhanced to prevent, deter and disrupt the illicit free movement of goods and people that pose a threat to community security status of Garissa County.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In specific objective one, the study concluded that more than 84% of the inhabitants of Garissa County had experienced conflicts between two or more communities. These conflicts had persisted for more than three decades. The causes of conflicts mentioned being competition Over Scarce Natural Resources, Administrative and Electoral Border Issues, Resources scarcity (pasture, land and water), Rivalry and unclear property ownership of property such as land, boundaries, livestock amongst other. Other causes included, historical issues and rivalry, political competition, militaristic nature of local community and arms trade, poor communication, Ethnicity and General feelings of marginalized.

In specific objective two, the study concluded that the linkages between refugees and community security of Garissa are sectarian violence, ethnic violence, and social tension, Community Fragmentation, Intercommunity Resentment and Community Displacement.

In specific objective three, the study concluded that the main challenges of refugees on community security are environmental degradation, criminal gangs, competition over grazing land, threats to personal and property safety, rise in population and high illiteracy levels.

The study recommended that UNHCR, a body that assists and protects refugees, to enhance development of specific vocational skills. These skills shall enhance self-employment amongst the refugees to avoid competitions with the locals for the limited resources in the county of Garissa. These skills include tailoring, carpentry, masonry, hairdressing amongst other life skills that are economically oriented.

UNHCR also should consider extra funding to Dadaab camp to aid set up effective income generating projects within the camp. UNHCR should fund effectively and implement programs that enhance the socio economic status of the residents and refugees within Garissa County. This can be achieved by brokering and fully operationalizing projects that are income generating to enhance self-reliance. These initiatives include craft industry, agricultural schemes, and food processing plants amongst other initiatives. These initiatives will increase the esteem of both refugees and local residents of Garissa County, Kenya, and improve their intrinsic self-worth by tapping disused human capacity which also in turn enhances human dignity.

The study recommended that the ministry of interior and coordination on National Government of Kenya and UNHCR sensitize refugees and host community on the peaceful coexistence. This may be achieved through operationalize proactive peace committees. These Committees should be empowered to provide civic peace education, identify root causes of conflicts and offer timely solutions. Further these committees shall steer campaigns to help local communities and refugees define and own their challenges. Proper understanding of conflict will aid them to come up with indigenous conflict management strategies. This process will aid to enhance harmony, good relation equity of opportunities as well as peaceful

co-existence between the residents of Garissa and refugees within the County.

The study recommended that the Kenya National government consider integrating Dadaab refugees into citizenry of Kenya. This recommendation calls for permanent asylum and integration of refugees. Through a legal process, cultural, social as well as economic incorporation of Dadaab refugees will aid to reduce social; tension as well as resentment towards the host communities around Garissa County.

Suggestions for Further Research

There is need to carry out study on the overall economic impacts of refugees in Garissa County. One of the unexpected findings was that presence of Dadaab refugee camp has tremendously improved the economic status of the County of Garissa. This impact is purported to have improved the livelihood of Garissa county residents over the last three decades.

There is also need to carry out study on the effects of an effective environmental management program as a peace tool between residents and refugees in Garissa County. It's worth noting, competition for meager natural resources came out as a key cause of inter community conflict in Garissa county. An improved environmental resource management program may be handy towards reducing tension and enhance cooperation between residents and refugees within Garissa County.

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