

# Cross-Border Disarmament and Intercommunal Security: A Case of Turkwel River Belt

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**Abstract:** Disarmament of illegal firearms has been identified as a key to global security especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the trade on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) is a booming business. The influx of SALW is also considered as a major contributor of intercommunal conflict along the Turkwel River Belt, among the Turkana and; Pokot of Kenya and Uganda common border. This study sought to assess why after many governments attempts at eradicating insecurity in the region through various levels of disarmament programs, there remains persistent insecurity and armed violence. The study used the cooperative security theory and the conflict theory to weave the facts presented in the study. Moreover, the study adopted an exploratory and historical research designs. The selection of the Turkwel River Belt was purposive due to the high occurrences of conflict and high presence of SALWs in the region. the insecurity and as a special characteristic directly touches four countries; Kenya and Uganda. Simple random sampling was used during the pretesting to test the validity and reliability of the instruments. Respondents were clustered into three groups of men, women and youth. The study relied on both qualitative and quantitative data. Questionnaires and interviews schedules were used to collect data which was analyzed using simple descriptive statistics and qualitatively. The study indicated that there were significant intervention measures through diplomacy and address of the challenges at hand by government and non-government organization. However, much needs to be considered for the effective achievement of sustainable peace among the communities. The study recommended the strategies marshalled by both state and non-state actors in addressing alternative sources of livelihoods and in conducting advanced disarmament programs. This study is necessary since the United Nations is envisaged on a peaceful coexistence among countries. The information in this will therefore provide and recommend strategic measures that should be undertaken to achieve sustainable peace among the Pokot of Uganda and the Turkana of Kenya.

**Key Words:** Cross border Disarmament, Intercommunal Security, Cross-border Conflict, Influx of SALW, Cross-border Insecurity, Interventions

## I. INTRODUCTION

Disarmament of illegal firearms has been identified as a key to global security in regions witnessing influx of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). Cross border intercommunal conflict in Sub-Sahara Africa and especially the Turkwel Belt remains a threat to peace against aspirations the United Nations charter, chapter 1, article 1 states that the UN's first purpose and principle are to sustain universal peace and security, and to that end; to take active collective actions for the inhibition and elimination of threats to the peace, and

for the suppression of acts of antagonism or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by diplomatic means, and in conformity with the philosophies of justice and international law, modification or settlement of global dispute or circumstances leading to a breach of the peace. (UN Charter on Purposes and Principles-1945). Even with the laid down strategies to prevent the escalation of the trafficking of illegal arms across the globe that have been seen to ignite conflict and violence, from South America to the Arabic World, little efforts have been taken into consideration by many states and other non-state actors. (Bevan, 2008; Mkutu, 2008a).

According to Kaimba, (2011), Pastoralists exist in over 21 countries across the African continent. Numerous communities are affected by wars, with possible impacts on their livings. Pastoralism is a main economic approach in which people raise herds of animals, typically in arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). ASALs cover about 80% of Kenya's mainland and back around a third of the country's human populace and 70% of the general livestock herd. An estimated 13 million cattle, 25 million goats, 14.9 million sheep, 1.7 million donkeys and 2.9 million camels are in Kenya's ASALs (KNBS, 2010 and Kaimba et al. 2011). Turkana and Pokot pastoralists of north-western Kenya hold a high number of livestock (GoK2010). Pastoralism backs about 12% to the country's gross domestic product (FAO 2005), with the livestock segment creating a projected 90% of all employment prospects and additional 95% of domestic returns in ASALs.

Traditionally, livestock prowling was characterized by small-scale, manageable savagery, theft of the best cattle, and animal replenishment during famines or epidemics. Loss of social lives was uncommon, and when it did occur, compensation in the form of animals was given to the fatalities or their family in the event of death (Mkutu, 2008). For more than 9,000 years, Turkana and Pokot pastoralist societies have employed marauding and vengeance to replenish herds, expand grazing territories, acquire access to water and pasture supplies, and increase social standing (Eaton, 2010). However, due to the spread of modern small arms, the commercialization of livestock raiding, clashes over land tenancy rights, banditry, and predation, the cultural practice has evolved into a vast, sophisticated, more violent, and damaging activity among pastoral communities in northern Kenya in recent years (Mkutu, 2008).

The spread of modern automatic weapons is widely acknowledged as having had a negative impact on the scope

and impact of armed vehemence in pastoral communities (Mkutu, 2006). Despite the fact that ferocious battle is one of the harshest encounters that Turkana and Pokot pastoralists must deal with, its influence on pastoral livelihoods in north-western Kenya has not been adequately recognized. There have been studies, such as Kaimba et al. (2011) and Mkutu (2010), to assess the chauffeurs and vindication model for resource-based wars in pastoral areas, but it has been difficult to analyze the encounters posed by fierce fights due to the difficulty and multidimensional nature of the struggles in the study region. This study delivered a suitable case to examine cross-border disarmament on intercommunal security along the Turkwel River Belt on Kenya-Uganda common border which remains a transnational and cross-border security issue between communities living along the belt from Uganda and Kenya side for many years.

#### *Statement of the Problem*

The Pokot and the Turkana of Uganda and Kenya, respectively live along the Turkwel river belt. The two communities have been intricate in cross-boundary livestock rustle for many years, with each community burglary livestock from the other. The unruly of livestock rustle has also been compounded with further disputes that turn around possession of land and resources like water and grassland.<sup>1</sup> The matter of the boundary among Pokot and Turkana communities along the Turkwel River belt arose as a sensitive issue during the Independent Elections and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) hearings in January 2012 in the region.

Disarmament exercises have been conducted especially from the Ugandan side, trying to offer the pastoralist communities new alternatives of earning livelihoods, but the influx of Small Arms and Light Weapons still remains a big contest and has become a big catalyst for livestock rustling between the Uganda's Pokot and Kenya's Turkana communities along the Turkwel River Belt. Insecurity in the region is heightened by a diversity of factors with lack of satisfactory resources like the shared Turkwel River, intensely rooted cultural practices such as cattle rustling, shifting associations and contention amongst ethnic groups, and the accessibility of weapons. This phenomenon is not only a national or a regional security issue but also a threat to the international peace and security as envisaged under the UN Charter that mandates all the UN member States ratify the security-related treaties as advised by the UN Security Council through various Security-related resolutions.

The Turkwel river belt has been for a long time been viewed and studied by historians, therefore this study sought to give it a global view with regard to peace and security which informs the mandate of the international system's multinational entities such as the UN. This study sought to establish key tenets that have continued to make the region a security threat amid several efforts by the governments of Uganda and Kenya in trying to bring stability in the region since the early 1970s. This study sought to closely fill up the study gap looking at inter-governmental efforts drawn from Kenya and

Uganda on how the duo have handled and continue to handle the issues of disarmament, conflict and security in the region and how these two governments have allocated general budgets in trying to convey a semblance of command to conflict susceptible areas and trying to curb the intercommunal conflict marred by violent conflicts. It is in the light of the above statement of the problem that this is study sought to examine the cross-border disarmament and Intercommunal security along the Turkwel River Belt of Kenya and Uganda Common Border.

#### *General Purpose of the Study*

The general purpose of this study was to examine the influence of cross-border disarmament on intercommunal security along the Turkwel River Belt among the Turkana and the Pokot of Kenya- and Uganda respectively.

#### *Research question*

What is the status of the cross-border disarmament campaigns that have been carried out along the Turkwel river belt?

#### *Specific objective*

The specific objectives of this study were:

To explore the cross-border disarmament campaigns along the Turkwel river belt.

#### *Theoretical framework*

The cooperative security theory is largely used to define a more diplomatic, but committed, tactic to security through amplified worldwide accord and cooperation. The cooperative security model unconventional by many studies holds four concentric and equally strengthening "rings of security", Individual security, collective security, collective defense and endorsing solidity. Shared Security, which is a political and legal obligation of members states to defend the integrity of individual states within a group of agreement guarantors, and Collective Defense, which is the obligation of all States to defend each other from outside hostility, are the two most well-known and well-understood of these four rings. A Common commitment to Individual Security and Promoting Stability are the new cornerstones of this Cooperative Security paradigm.

When this theory is examined, it is discovered that, despite the fact that many universal security institutions, such as the League of Nations, the United Nations, the OSCE, NATO, and the Warsaw Pact, were founded on the basis of either Collective Security or Collective Defense, only NATO has the authority to work effectively in all four rings of this Cooperative Security model. In recent years, the idea that factual security must be founded, first and foremost, on the security of the individual human being has gained widespread acceptance. Human security and human rights are synonymous with individual security. The cooperative Security plan must also be operational, with its affiliates structured to take collective diplomatic, economic, and, if

necessary, armed action in places beyond their mutual space that endanger their welfare and stability.

The theory is informed by the idea that people living together or sharing a similar set up compete over scarce resources for their survival. And that such conflict may manifest itself in short or long term or may be latent or protracted. It further opines that scarce resources lead to competition and eventually to conflict especially when the mechanisms of sharing such resources are either weak or not there all together. This study used the former to interpret this conflict after the Pokot of Uganda and the Turkana of Kenya usurped power from their elders after it became weak. This theory perceives every individual, group or society to represent a force whose action may give a negative or positive relationship and that if the two forces are combined, they produce what Hegel (1975) Calls a synthesis or a combination of a thesis and anti-thesis in philosophical and logical terms.

Its tenets or principles include scarcity, inequality, and marginalization of people, poverty, competition and strict adherence or non-observation of traditional or cultural beliefs. For *Ubuntu* African philosophy theoretical perspective, it holds the view that Africans can bond and blend using their own heritage in the management of their conflict. That the divergent African political, social and economic challenges leading to their conflict can be managed as a community enterprise based on the understanding that promoting the good of a community is promoting the good for all which forms the major function of this theory's tenet of collectiveness. Using its tenets of solidarity, teamwork, cooperation and collectiveness in the African expression that "a thumb alone cannot kill a bed bug, it underscores the importance of togetherness in solving or managing a problem like conflict. Therefore, the study will give more emphasis to the Cooperative Security Theory in analyzing this study for the intercommunal security and cross-border disarmament remains our key variables in the study unlike the analysis of conflict using the Conflict theory.

## II. RESEARCH METHODS

This study adopted an exploratory and historical research design. Historical design was instrumental to gather, substantiate and create signal from the previous to launch realities that protect a hypothesis especially from the qualitative materials on the Turkwel River Belt and clusters that exhibit similar security issues such as Karamoja cluster. For an exploratory design as the most convenient and suitable design for inquiries that are addressing a topic around which there are high heights of doubt and obliviousness around the topic, and when the delinquent is not very fine tacit, that is very slight knowledge prevailing study on the issue. The idea, therefore, will be to decipher from different facets generating an understanding and a credible conclusion. Consequently, the approach will begin by evaluating the outcomes of the use of the cooperative approach in dealing with cross-border disarmament and intercommunal security matters.

This study was conducted in the Turkwel River belt which is a region bordering Kainuk Sub County and Sigor sub-county. The Turkwel River belt region is inhabited by members of both the Pokot of Uganda and the Turkana communities of Kenya. Kainuk sub-county is in Turkana County which is one of the main in Kenya and shares worldwide boundaries with Ethiopia, Sudan, and Uganda. The two divisions are largely undeveloped, and extremely arid. The pastoralists in Turkwel River belt are largely nomadic. They live primarily in arid or semi-arid areas and depend on livestock (cattle, sheep, goats and camels) for their livelihood. The Turkana (Kenya) and Pokot (Uganda) people have constantly conflicted with one another and well as their neighbors in Kenya and Uganda, mainly the Pokot, Samburu and Marakwet and also in Sudan, Karamojong of Uganda and Ethiopia.

The population to be considered included those that have been directly affected by disarmament are residents or were residents in Turkwel River Belt, who reside to the North West region of Kenya and to the north east of the Uganda during the exercise. The study mainly targeted local leaders, human rights organization, the government of Uganda (provincial administration) as well as other security stakeholders for more appropriate information. The leadership units along the Turkwel River Belt will inform the target population. The Turkana are a Nilotic community that relates to the Karamojong of Uganda in language and lifestyle (White 1920). They are estimated to be 340,000 and live-in north-western Kenya, north-eastern Uganda and southern Sudan. Kainuk division is estimated to have a population of 19,799 people and a population density of 7 according to 2019 census (KNBS 2019). The Pokot of Uganda community accounts to about 130,000 people (UBS, 2006). The communities living along the Turkwel River Belt are mostly socio-economically and politically sidelined, which hinders the region's progress.

In an exploratory design, a sample size that lies between the ranges of 10-50% is suitable (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2013). This was determined from 698 target population was assumed as 700, which is 250 officials from the County & Sub County Commissioner's offices in Turkana County, the 130 officials were drawn from the Ugandan side from the districts of Moroto, Kapchorwa and Kotido and office of the north east region of Uganda that has a high Pokot inhabitants, the 108 staff members of the KNCHR and the 210 officials drawn from Church Based Organizations and NGOs along the belt, Therefore going as per Mugenda & Mugenda sample size determination, the study will use a sample size of 20% ( $0.2 \times 698 = 139.6$ ) rounded off to 140 which is adequate so long as it permits for consistent data analysis and permits analysis for importance of variances between approximations.

The data was composed from both primary and secondary sources by use of semi-structured interviews, focus groups and key informant interviews. The primary data was collected from key informants and from randomly sampled community members. The researcher gathered secondary information from a comprehensive investigation of official government and civil society policy documents, papers, reports, journals,

magazines, periodicals and research papers. Key persons interviewed included the County Commissioner, Sub County Commissioners, area chiefs and sub chiefs, sub county security personnel, The District Commissioner from Uganda side, Human Rights Officials, Church leadership. A Key informant interview guide was used. The study also used focus group discussions involving 109 community members. A focus group discussion guide will be employed to collect this information. This study employed interview schedules for the top security personnel and Civil-based organizations. This method helped the researcher to interact with the respondent's face-face and can perceive non- verbal cues and expressions which would not be detected in other methods (Cohen & Manion, 1995).

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Questionnaire Return Rate

From the table above, a total of 108 questionnaires were distributed as per the category of the respondent listed. A total of received back 87 questionnaires were returned after completion while 11 questionnaires were not returned as some of the respondents were away on various reasons including security operations duties. This reflected a return rate of 89 %. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2013), a response rate of 70% and above is excellent. Figure 1 below depicts the return rate.

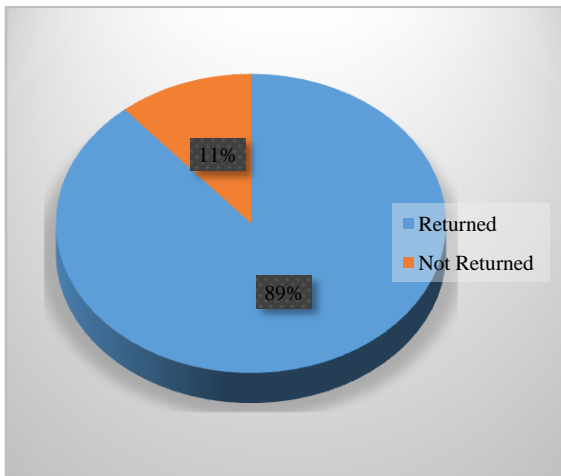


Fig 1: Questionnaire Return Rate

Source: Field Data, 2021

Gender of the Respondents

Cross border disarmament programs cut across all gender. The study sought to collect data from both males and females to ascertain the extent to which the illegal firearms identified as a key cause and driver of intercommunal conflict along the Turkwel River Belt, among the Turkana and Pokot of Kenya and Uganda common border affected either gender. The gender of the respondents was as follows. Approximately 77% of the respondents were male while 23 percent were females.

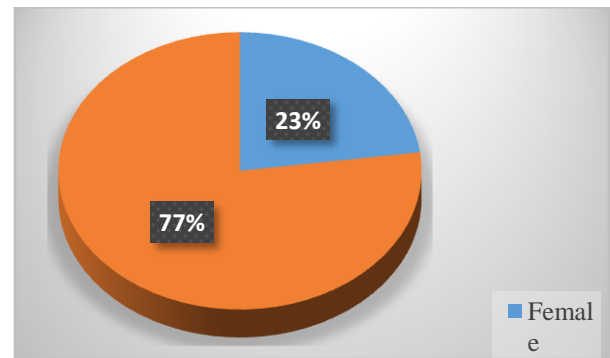


Fig 1: Gender of the Respondents

Source: Field Data, 2021

The data in figure 2 shows that, 77% of the respondents were male and 23% were female. Although the Kenya constitution (2010) stipulates that there should not be more than two thirds of either gender in an organization, the data is not reflective of that. This can be attributed to government sensitive nature of deployment of government officials in hostile environment of Turkana County. It also reflected the old tradition of males domineering the security sector. Thus, most of the officers deployed are males. Further, the nature of the disarmament operations may not adhere to the third gender rule.

Age of the Respondents

This study purposed to investigate how respondents of different ages perceived Cross border disarmament programs. The ages of the County & Sub- County commission officers in Turkana, Kenya, officers of the government of Uganda in the following Districts, Kainuk, Korosuk, and Chew Bahitr, teachers, scholars and the members of the clergy Kenya National Commission of Human Rights employees used as respondents were sampled. The findings were as follows:

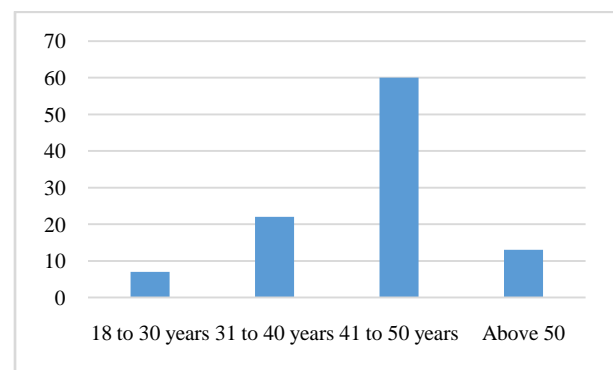


Fig 3: Age of the Respondents

Source: Field Data, 2021

From figure 3 above, 7 respondents were between the ages of 18 to 30 years, 22 respondents were between the ages of 31 to 40 years, while 60 were between the ages of 41 and 50 years. 13 respondents fell in the age bracket of 50 years and above. Majority of the respondents accounted for approximately 60 percent were young adults aged between 41 to 50 years. The distribution also indicated a normal curve.



### *Duration of Stay or Service of the Respondents in the Turkwel River Belt*

The study sought to find out the length of stay or service of the respondents in the Turkwel Belt. The period of stay referred to the inhabitants of the area such as teachers, members of the clergy and the community elites, while period of service targeted the government officers serving in both Turkana County, Kenya and the following Districts in Uganda, Kainuk, Korosuk, and Chew Bahitr. The purpose was to ascertain the duration at which they had first experienced cross border insecurity and cross-border disarmament campaigns along the Turkwel River Belt. Secondly, to examine their knowledge on the inter-governmental policy measures put in place to control the influx of small arms and light weapons in the region. Thirdly, to establish the duration which professionals and community elites have been involved in cross-border disarmament along the Turkwel River Belt. The findings are as depicted in figure 4 below.

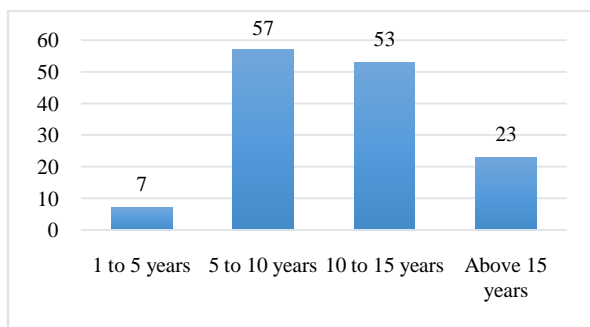


Fig 4: Duration of Stay or Service of the Respondents

Source: Field Data, 2021

From the results, approximately 7% of the respondents had stayed in Turkwel River Belt for a period of 1-5 years, 21% had served for 6-10 years, 27% had served for 11-15 years, 14.8% had served for 16-20 years and 17% had served for over 20 years. This shows that popular of the respondent had served in the area between 5 and 15 years demonstrating wide experience in the matters of concern of this study hence able to make meaningful contribution to this study.

### *Cross-Border Disarmament Campaign Along the Turkwel River Belt*

The evolving dynamics of the cross-border conflict along the Turkwel River Belt and the ensuing proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the horn of Africa has presented many countries in this region with a dilemma. On one hand, the conflict and disarmament programme call for security operation short of a full-blown war requiring police, paramilitary police or military tactical approach to halt the sporadic attacks. On the other hand, the dispute and the disarmament procedures needed economic handling of the Turkwel River Belt to win the hearts and minds of the folks in the region. Furthermore, the cross-border conflict calls for

bilateral and multilateral diplomatic overtures of the states along the Turkwel River Belt.

### *Cross-Border Amnesty Disarmament Strategy*

At first, Kenya was convinced that the perennial conflict would be resolved through peaceful means of amnesty and dialogues. The residents also confirm that the government had issued an amnesty for all SALW to be surrendered to the security personnel in the county and sub-counties. The government issued an amnesty to the illegal gun holders to surrender them before the government implemented the Operation Dumisha Amani. Even though both the Ugandan and Kenyan governments confirm the application of moderate force to disarm the violent groups, the community members indicate that their rights were highly infringed forcing them to surrender what they did not have in the household. According to De Coning and Peter, (2019) peace has to come at a price such as suffering and this is what is drawn from the disarmament exercise at the border point.

A further interview with the region's chiefs, sub-chiefs, and the civil organizations of the region indicated that the inter-governmental operations had extended peace in the region despite the complains from the residents. Some of the residents, engaged in the focus Group Discussion indicated that though they had experienced a devastating condition with the operation to get out the criminals, they have never experienced peace to a little extent. A further engagement within the focus group interview among respondents in Turkana County, Kenya, indicated approximately 75% of the 108 residents noted that the government of Kenya had taken many measures of amnesty to bring peace along the border. However, whenever amnesty is issues and guns are surrendered the Ugandan side becomes was more militant adept compared to the Kenyan side. Hence bringing about the issue of security dilemma.

Resident across the border on the Ugandan side had contrary opinion. The argues that Uganda had made significant progress in terms of offering their citizens alternative means of livelihood. They argued that most of the youths in Uganda were now engaging in alternative activities such as food farming rather than cattle rustling activities and the fight for the green pastures for animals along the Turkwel River Belt. The community members from the Kenyans side were now moving towards Uganda which could also cause another conflict due to population pressure and the transferred conflict. The two regions have the Pokot and Turkana communities that are claiming resources for one another despite the peace missions to coexist by the civil organizations in Karamoja and the community chiefs and sub-chiefs. Despite the border security, there is much to be undertaken to solve the issues relating to resource conflict along the border from both governments in Kenya and Uganda.

### *Cross-Border Security Disarmament Operations*

It is argued that diplomacy hardly functions independently from other instruments statecraft such as military action when

situations warrant. Does military action in terms of internal security to foster disarmament was seen as necessary. The government of Kenya and Uganda adopted the second strategy of disarming the civilians. The internal security operation commenced with the declaration of dawn to dusk curfews as part of ensuring that the internal security operation geared towards disarming the communities succeed. The curfews were followed by an internal security operation undertaken by police, paramilitary police and occasional the army. Based on the questionnaire data collection, cross-border disarmament campaign has been a multi-sectoral plan that has seen the Kenyan and Ugandan governments work together to restore peace within the border communities.

In a focus group discussion with 109 community members, it was evident that the inter-governmental operation from both Kenya and Uganda applied force to get small and light weapons out of the households. Most of the community members are confirming that the government of Kenya imposed a curfew from 6 pm to 6am which was accompanied by security patrol across the border. Most of the households were searched during the day and crude weapons sophisticated from the hands of the civilians. The main objective was to recover the arms and assert to the political authority that the region was volatile. The operation was undertaken by the regular police, GSU, and law enforcement unit. The community members further note a shoot-out on-site order was executed for anyone who refused to surrender to the law enforcement.

County and Sub-County Commission officers and security officers in the three Uganda Districts under review were asked to rate the government's efforts towards security operations on the scale of little, moderate and extreme extend. Where little means that there were few government operations that the government was not keen in disarming the residents. While extreme means that the government had devoted much efforts in eradications small arms in the hands of unauthorized civilians. Their responses were as follows:

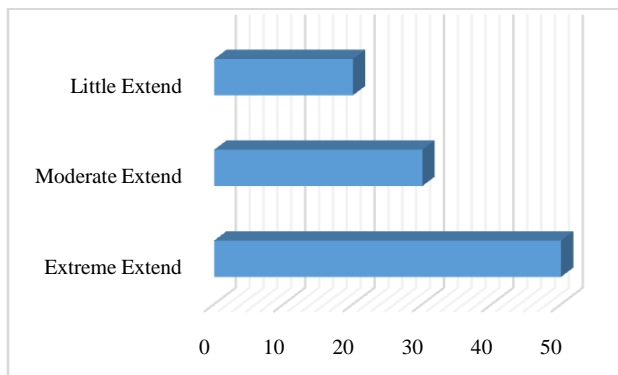


Fig 5: Turkana County Rating of Cross-Border Security Disarmament Operations

Source: Research Data, 2021

Figure 5 above shows that 50% of the respondents from the Turkana Country government indicated that the government had handled the disarmament along the cross-border to an

extreme extend. 30% indicated that the government had moderately handled the disarmament campaign with only 20% indicating that the government had handled it to a little extend. The respondents did not give feedback on whether the government had handled the situation to a very extreme level or at no extend at all. The general implication is that disarmament had been taken to fulfil the peace needs for the people and restore peaceful coexistence among the Pokot of Uganda and the Turkana of Kenya.

Similar response was elicited when the same question was posed to security officials in Uganda. Based on a questionnaire outcome to the Uganda government representatives in the district of Karasuk, Kainuk, and Chew Bahitr, 63% of the respondents indicated that the government had extremely handled the cross-border disarmament in Karamoja, 23% consenting to a moderate handling of the disarmament process and only 14% consenting to little effort in handling the campaigns.

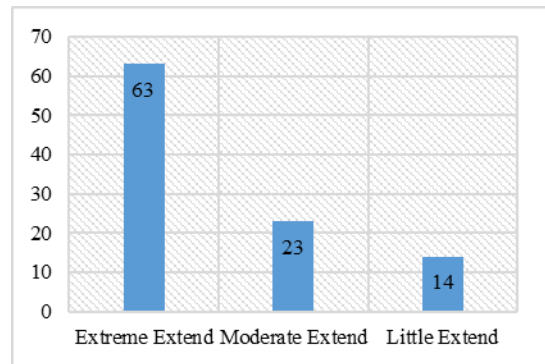


Fig 6: Uganda Official Rating of Cross-Border Disarmament Operations

Source Field Data, 2021

From the data in figure 6 above, the general deduction is that the government had extremely handled the situation in a bid to disarm the people within the community. Professionals and community elites from both countries were also asked to give their view on the government efforts towards the disarmament operations.

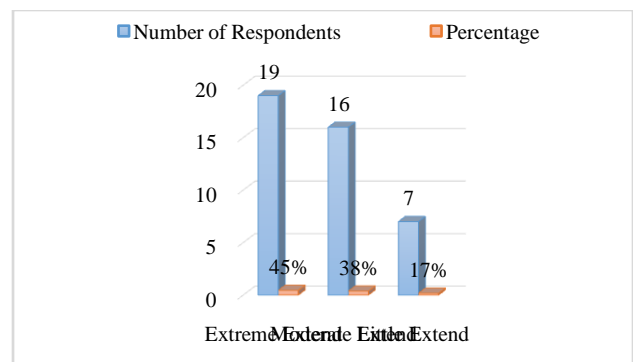


Fig 7 Professionals and Community Elites Rating of Disarmament Operations

Source: Field data, 2021

Figure 7 above shows that the respondents classified under this cluster consented that the government had extend effort

in the campaign for the disarmament along the Turkwel River Belt. Out of the 42 respondents, 45% of the professionals were contented that the government took an extreme extend in campaigning for cross-border disarmament. 38% indicated a moderate extent in cross-border disarmament and only 17% indicating the campaign at a little extent to disarm the violent and rival communities along the Turkwel River Belt. The elites and professionals did not give feedback on whether the government applied a very extreme or no extent at all.

Questionnaire review on the feedback of Kenyan National Commission on Human Rights on government efforts towards disarmament indicated as follows:

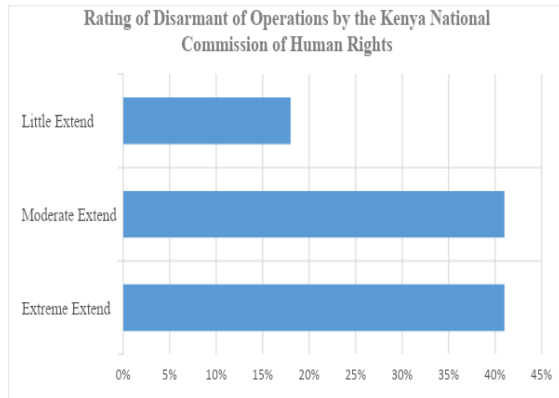


Fig 8: Kenya National Commission of Human Rights Rating on Disarmament Operations

Source: Research Data, 2021

According to Figure 8 above, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights representatives, 41% agreed that the government was handling disarmament operations with seriousness to an extreme extent, 41% also agreeing that the government was dealing with it at a moderate extent. Only 14% indicated that the government was making progress but at a little extend thus supporting the consequent of disarmament. The commission respondents did not show any concern at either no extent or very extreme extent for the disarmament process.

*Outcome of the Cross-Border Operations*

The strategy applied in the disarmament process involved the use of amnesty and force for those that did not submit the arms within the set timeline. In a focused interview, the respondents noted that the disarmament was conducted in absolute recovery of the illegal weapons by the General Service Unit and other law enforcement units within the region. Most of the community members surrendered the SALW within the set timeline that was accompanied by objectivized confiscation of community animals to threaten the submission of the illegal arms in the hands of the civilian. According to Karlsrud (2017), the use of force by the government is warranted if the criminals fail to honor the government amnesty to surrender the weapons as directed. The extreme handling of the disarmament process was due to the delayed process of voluntary submission of the SALW. It

is the reason the government instituted extreme measures such as arrests and confiscation of animals to threaten the community to reveal the perpetrators of the violence within the community.

A further exploration through the focus interview on disarmament strategy along the Turkwel River Belt indicated that there was a shoot on site on suspected criminals that refused to surrender to the orders leading to ambush within the community. The community members note that a significant number of law enforcers collaborated with the county security enforcement teams to combat the criminals that were fleeing away with animals to ensure they stopped the animals retained by the security personnel. The community also confirms that there was an extreme violation of the human rights in a bid to disarm the community of the arms they used in conflict execution. However, most respondents in the focus group note that they acquired most of these arms to protect themselves from the hostile communities they believed attacked them as a result of neglect from the Kenyan government. The most devastating aspect is that both countries have been subjected to high level and forceful disarmament from both Uganda and Kenya making it more hostile for both communities. The Situation was witnessed in both Karamoja in Uganda and the Kenyan Turkana community.

The findings of the study are illustrated in the following figure below.

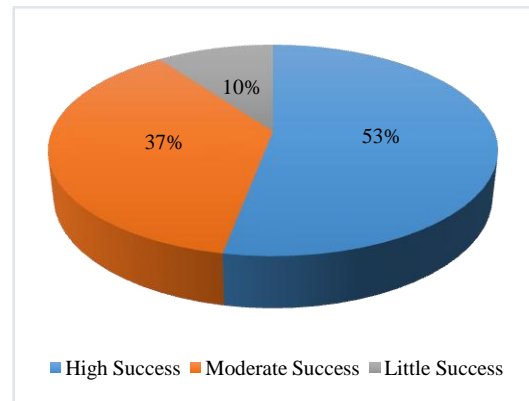


Fig 9: Feedback on Success of Disarmament Operations

Source: Field data, 2021

Figure 9 above shows that a significant percentage at 53% of the government officials indicate success in security attainment along the Turkwel River Belt. The feedback also indicates that 37% the disarmament has achieved moderate success while 10% indicate that the operations had achieved little success in attaining security goals. It generally indicates the government success in achieving the disarmament mission along the border even though 100% success has not been fully achieved.

*International Corporation*

The third disarmament strategy was through adoption of diplomatic strategy by engaging the international community based on international practices of UN peace Keeping Missions. According to the United Nations peace keeping mission is a multi-dimensional approach that involves an international approach to solving the issues at hand and maintaining a peaceful coexistence among communities (UN, 2021). Based on the research undertaken, Kenya and Uganda have taken a common goal of solving the existing conflict between Turkana and Pokot. There is the aspect of international corporation that is witnessed in the resolution to the conflicting communities.

A questionnaire distributed to the county and sub-county commissioners of Turkana and district officer of Uganda-Karamoja gives evidence that the peace mission is an international corporation affair and seeking to create a harmonious existence between the conflicting communities of the two countries. According to Naish, any conflict arising from borderline, a people centered approach should be undertaken by both parties to enhance diplomatic relations among the existing communities (Naish, 2017). A focus interview with the region's chiefs, sub-chiefs, and the civil organizations of Karamoja indicated that the inter-governmental operations had extended peace in the region despite the complains from the residents. Even though peace is a long-term concept to achieve in an area, the corporation among the countries have been enhancing a progressive conflict resolution for the communities.

*National Action Plan*

The fought strategy adopted by the Government of Kenya and Uganda in addressing cross-border disarmament programs was through the adoption of national action plan on disarmament. This is the strategic plan set by the national government to enhance a prospective disarmament process and regaining of peace within the border of Turkana and Pokot. The national government has a strategic role to play in managing conflict along its borders by looking at the root cause for the problems at hand and finding a solution for the problems. Some of the major aspect the residences note as action plan by the national government to combat conflict and gain peace within the area include putting up schools within the region to support learning and increase enrollment to reduce future culprits to cattle rustling and peace destabilization. Even though this has been undertaken, the residences note that there is still much that need to be done to achieve a peaceful coexistence.

The increasingly sensitized education program is facing a hitch in the resources available and inadequate teachers to implement the plan which has derailed the overall action plan. 90% of the 109 residences engaged in the focus group interview hint to the government implementing programs addressing the primary to secondary school bottleneck. Some of the strategies they recommend include merit scholarship for leaners from poor backgrounds gaining admission into national schools and an enhanced enrollment to ensure the

region is not remaining behind. As an action plan implementation strategy, the government should also take up school feeding programs to see the learners are remaining in schools and undertaking civic education to inform parents of the economic value of schooling to reduce school dropouts. These strategies will ensure the National Action plan is fulfilling the needs for education in the region.

*Community Economic Empowerment*

The fourth strategy adopted by the government of Kenya and Uganda in order to achieve effective disarmament of illegal arms was economic empowerment of the region. By establishing political conditions that fostered winning the hearts and minds of the people. Inside Kenya, the government was after mollifying the people of Turkana and Pokot Counties by initiating development projects. There was vivid evidence that the Government of Uganda had established a number of economic projects in the region. However, the benefits of such projects have not tricked to the locals. Pkalya and Adan (2005) argues that conflict between the Pokot and Turkana communities in 1992 led to shutting of numerous business grounds and marketplaces. The capacity of trade in Makutano and Chepareria trading centres went down drastically. Non-pokot traders fled with their business to other counties such as Trans Nzoia. Additionally, between 1998 and 2003, most livestock markets in West Pokot County experienced recurrent closings creating deflation of livestock value.

Based on the results, the researcher accomplishes that insecurity has a significant impact on investment opportunities in West Pokot County although other factors mentioned by various key informants may have also played a role. For instance, a government official in the region attributed the lack of investment in the region to poor infrastructure. Most of the roads have not been tarmacked and this makes accessibility a problem. In addition, lack of rural electrification is one of the reasons why investors are reluctant to invest in the County. However, there are some attempts by the government to spur investments to the county, for instance the proposed cement factory in Sebit in Pokot South Sub County, which is yet to commence its operations

These aspects are the basic roots towards the destabilized peace along Turkana and Karamoja areas between the border of Kenya and Uganda. Turkana County is also undertaking projects with the UN regional network such as the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) that draws strategic programs with the aim of developing a successful shift from community-based conflict to a sustainable county. According to the focus group interview with the administrators and the district officers, 85% of them indicated that these projects have helped address the issues of conflict but by a smaller percentage as arms are still in the hands of some communities and require more resources to support the projects. If the projects can receive a successful support the it could create a successful peace within the region.



*Multi stakeholder Approach*

The achievements so far made along the Kenya-Uganda border between the Pokot and Turkana is an image of multi-stakeholder approach in enhancing peaceful coexistence among the communities in the region. Based on the research study, the peaceful coexistence has been the function of the county and county commissioners representing the Kenyan government, government of Uganda, professionals and county elites, and the National Commission for Human Rights. Each of these stakeholders has played a role as interviewed in building a collaborative relation between the communities along Turkwel River Belt. Each stakeholder has played a critical role in managing a successful disarmament and peaceful coexistence among the people living along the boundary. Based, on the outcome of the study, 70% of the questionnaire feedbacks received from the 138 questionnaires indicate that there has been an objective engagement that has enhanced disarmament by each party whether it is through collaboration or use of force. The outcome of the engagement indicates that multi-stakeholder engagement is fruitful despite the challenges that may exist in disarming the violent communities.

This study sought to investigate the opinion of the KNCHR on the state of implementation of the state of multi-agency and multi-stakeholder approach towards disarmament. Analysis of the questionnaires yielded the following responses.

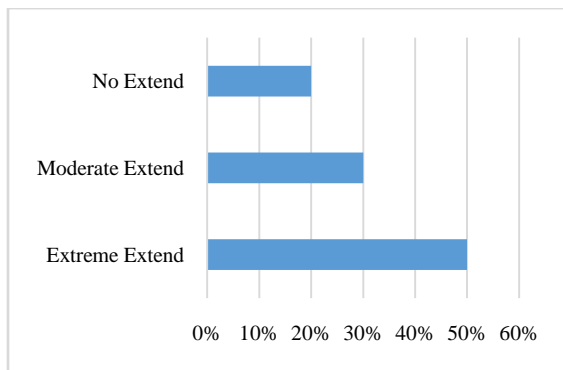


Fig 10: KNCHR Feedback on Implementation of Multi-stakeholder approach on Disarmament

Source: Field data, 2021

From Figure 10 above, shows that a further study and response from KNCHR they applaud the multi-sectoral initiative the government has taken in disarming the conflicting communities along the Turkwel R. Belt by a moderate extent. 50% of the respondents from KNCHR said that the multi-sectoral engagement worked better in the disarmament process, 30% noted a moderate extent in the exchange of information between the government and other key sectors in disarming the communities for peace building along the border. 20% agree that no extent has been achieved from the multi-sectoral engagement of the key sectors involved.

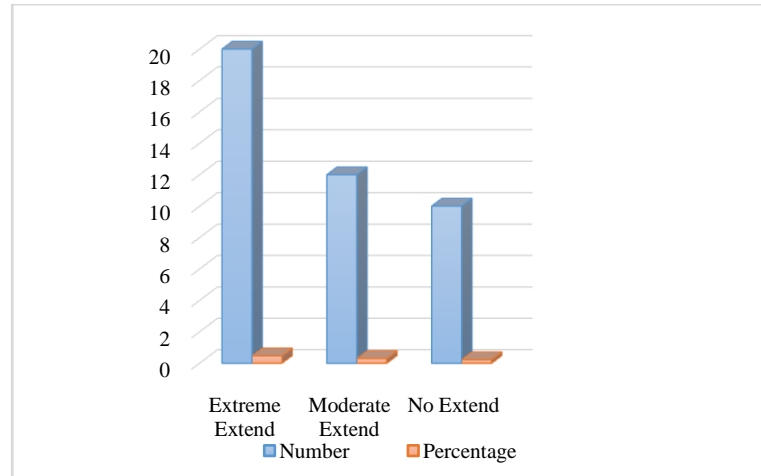


Fig 11: Community elites and professionals' response on the State of Multi-agency corporation

Source: Research Data, 2021

Professionals have played a key role in the disarmament process and the respondents in this study note that all the stakeholders have extremely played a role in the disarmament process. 47% agree that to an extreme extent the professionals, government, community leaders, and the clergy have played an important role in managing the disarmament process. 30% have indicated a moderate extent in the engagement of the community to enhance a successful disarmament process while only 23% of the professionals agree that nothing has been done for the success of the disarmament process within the Turkwel River. Belt.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

i. Understanding the drivers of a conflict in depth allows one to comprehend motivations and consider possible settlement procedures. Culture, availability to illicit fire guns, poverty, and food security are four characteristics that have been examined in this study to explain the Pokot and Turkana conflict. As previously stated, culture was a major predictor of the disagreement, which can be addressed by incorporating traditional conflict resolution procedures into existing mechanisms.

Insecurity in Pokot and Turkana can be ascribed to easy availability to illegal firearms, which has resulted in the loss of life and animals due to indiscriminate attacks. The flow of arms can be reduced by addressing the mechanisms through which arms enter the country and reach communities. Despite the government's disarmament efforts, the conflict endures, necessitating a better understanding of how peace might be reached through various approaches to disarmament and partnership with neighboring countries to limit the flow of weaponry.

Insecurity has hampered access to basic services needed to improve one's life in Pokot and Turkana counties. The resolution of insecurity in the two counties will allow access to education, which will affect employability and the addition of skills, as well as access to water sources and grazing land,

which will help to alleviate poverty and food security in the counties, as well as access to health centers.

## V. RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. The multi stakeholder approach should continue putting in more effort to reach the entire community through civilization and changing the community through education and training to sensitize on importance of peace. Peace is a long-term process that will be achieved with much resilience.
- ii. Turkana County should receive equal interest in development projects as other counties to eliminate the aspect of marginalization that is seen to be causing most of the clashes and increasing insecurity. This will bring the county development on board and at par with other counties thus enhancing a successful development and withdrawal of backward cultures.
- iii. The government should increase the administrative units within the region to increase security surveillance for any individuals raiding other people's cattle. It will also control smuggling of arms along the border and contribute to the reduction in entry of arms through the porous points along the border.

### *Areas for further research*

The role of women in the Pokot and Turkana conflict has to be studied in future research. As the primary breadwinners of the family, women play a crucial role in conflict. It is necessary to investigate the role of women in conflict resolution and peacekeeping.

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