

Security Implications of Policing Strategies used in Curbing Cattle Rustling in Samburu County, Kenya

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Abstract. This study analyzed security implications of policing strategies used in curbing cattle rustling in Samburu. Specific objectives included: to analyze the security effect of disarmaments, assess the security implication of police deployment, examine the security impact of curbing illegal arms trade, and determine the security impact of community policing as policing strategies for curbing cattle rustling in Samburu. The study was guided by the routine activity theory; rational choice theory, and structural theory of conflict. The target population for the study was 524 individuals which were categorized as church leaders, local chiefs and their assistants, deputy county commissioner, national police unit, community elders, and teachers of Samburu County. Purposive and stratified random sampling were used to identify 172 respondents by using Kathuri and Pals sampling formula of 20-30% where the upper limit of 30% of the target population was applied. A semi-structure questionnaire and interview guide were used for collection of primary data. Quantitative data was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics with the help of SPSS version 23 and Excel worksheets whereas qualitative data was analyzed thematically. Analyzed quantitative data was presented using tables while qualitative data was presented using narratives. Based on the study findings, more than 48% of the respondents revealed that disarmament efforts, police deployment, curbing of illegal trade, and community policing were concurrently applied in curbing of cattle rustling in Samburu, with significant positive outcomes. Other critical players in the fight against livestock theft in the area included the Kenya police reservists, NGOs, churches, and community leadership, among others. However, persistent cattle rustling practices called for more collaborative efforts necessary for enhanced curtailing of the menace through long-lasting solutions. The study recommendations included the fact that the government should always conduct disarmament exercises in a holistic manner; more police-public partnership should be encouraged; collaborative efforts should be increased to eradicate illegal firearms; and that community policing structures should be enhanced to monitor and report cases of livestock theft to relevant government authorities.

Key words: cattle rustling, disarmaments, police deployment, illegal arms, community policing, policing strategies

Introduction

Background to the Study

Cattle rustling in certain African communities have persisted for long despite application of several strategies by the government and other stakeholders to curb the problem (UIS Fact Sheet, 2011). Meanwhile, the persistence of cattle rustling continues to cause a number of negative socio-economic and security effects in many countries in Africa. The practice of cattle rustling is a process that is organized by different groups for different reasons. Cattle rustlers entail planned and organized criminal group or individuals who violently steal livestock for commercial purposes or as part of retaliatory attacks (Abbink, 2017). A number of strategies have been applied to deal with this problem, including increased border securities, recruitment

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of police reservists, and use of local leadership among others. Yet, the problem of cattle rustling is believed to persist among a number of pastoral communities globally, thus having major effects on both development and security.

According to Straight (2009), for many years governments and other agencies have tried to come up with strategies such as tracking of animals, KOPR use, disbarment, drought prevention strategies, naming and shaming, intelligence gathering, community policing among others to end cattle rustling in the effected regions. These strategies have however failed to completely combat persistence of cattle rustling. In this sense, the practice has remained a serious security and global issue even with United Nations Security Council terming it as one of the threats in attainment of international security. For instance, in Australia, \$1.5 million (KES. 150 Million) worth of livestock theft is reported annually by New South Wales Farmers' Association (Abink, 2017). In the US, livestock rustling has been a problem going back to the days of open range ranching in 1860s. As an intervention to combat persistence of cattle rustling in United States, the Northern Texas Stock Growers' Association increased by up to 5,000 per cent the rewards given for the arrests of cattle rustlers. However, the practice has not completely ended.

In Africa the United Nations Report of 2009 states that livestock rustling kills and displaces thousands every year in South Sudan. The violence causes widespread hunger, with families expelled from farms, hence getting no time to grow food to maturity and subsequent harvesting (Adano & Witsenburg, 2014). In Nigeria persistence of cattle rustling has been due to armed trigger in attacks by herders in farming communities. Currently, the Zamfara State in the northwest region of Nigeria remains a major hotspot for cattle rustling activities. Despite the amnesty program granted by the state governor in 2015 for cattle rustlers to surrender their weapons, the intervention seemed not to work (Toronto Sun Report, 2015).

Moreover, Northeastern Nigeria's experience with cattle rustling has been extending throughout the Lake Chad Basin with involvement of Boko Haram as this serves as their main source of funding. Militants frequently raid cattle in northern Cameroon and transport them via middle men to markets in northern Nigeria (Anderlini et al., 1999). The group's activities in this regard have had a drastic impact on Nigeria such that major cattle markets in Borno state have been temporarily shut down to ensure that Boko Haram did not exploit the livestock trade. Limitations on local trades have been put in place to prevent terrorist financing, but this has adversely affected local livelihoods leading to a loss of cattle (Cheserek et al., 2012).

In Kenya, in the past cattle rustling was traditionally carried out using bows and arrows where wanton acts of killing were not part and parcel of the practice. However, this was to change with the arrival of British colonizers in Kenya in 1885. The policies and practices established by the colonialists to marginalize pastoralist communities were carried on in independent Kenya. New regional dynamics, particularly the political instability experienced in Uganda, Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia have led to the replacement of bows and arrows with bullets and guns as the latter have become increasingly and readily available (Pierli et al. 2006). A closer look at the cattle rustling phenomenon in the northern part of Kenya would reveal that the government's efforts to deal with the menace and restore peace in the region have not resulted into a lasting solution (Cheserek et al., 2012).

Problem Statement

Despite adaption of several strategies by the government and other security stakeholders to deal with cattle rustling in the northern part of Kenya, the problem still persists (Schilling et al., 2012; Greiner, 2013). As such, cattle rustling and sporadic animal-related conflicts among communities living in the northern part of the country have continued to cause untold suffering to the people. Some of the strategies that have remained ineffective include tracking of animals, disbarment, and drought prevention strategies, naming and shaming, intelligence gathering,

and community policing among others. The persistence has partly been linked to ineffective strategies used to curb the problem, since the residents of Samburu County for instance keep on experiencing thefts of their animals.

Persistence of the problem of cattle rustling has led to destruction and loss of property among the Samburu Community. For instance, the Suguta valley which borders Turkana, Pokot Counties and Samburu Counties, has been dubbed as the valley of death by the local media due to the numerous cattle rustling revenge attacks in this region. Following the deadly attacks witnessed in this area in 2012 where 42 policemen pursuing stolen cattle were ambushed and killed, it is evident that cattle rustling still remain a big threat to the local communities in Samburu County, implying that the current strategies use by the government are not effectively working.

Despite disarmament and arming communities through the Kenya Police Reservists (KPR), no lasting peace seems to have been achieved. Peace building meetings, prosecuting perpetrators, declaring illicit firearms, offering surrender amnesties and establishing peace committees have not yielded a permanent solution to the problem. Insecurity and violent conflict in the region continue to prevail, even on the face of increased police deployment in the affected areas. Therefore, despite the existence of literature on cattle rustling in Samburu, there lacks an explanation as to why cattle rustling has persisted for years. Given the magnitude of the problem and the fact that most of the residents of Samburu North rely purely on pastoralism as a source of livelihood, this study sought to find out security implications of policing strategies used in curbing cattle rustling in Samburu.

Objective of the Study

The general objective of this study was to analyze security implications of policing strategies used in curbing cattle rustling in Samburu.

Specific Objectives of the Study

This study was guided by the following specific objectives:

- i. To analyze the security effect of disarmaments as a policing strategy for curbing cattle rustling in Samburu.
- ii. To assess the security implication of police deployment as a policing strategy for curbing cattle rustling in Samburu.
- iii. To examine the security impact of curbing illegal arms trade as a policing strategy for curbing cattle rustling in Samburu.
- iv. To determine the security impact of community policing as a policing strategy for curbing cattle rustling in Samburu.

Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

Disarmaments as a Policing Strategy for Curbing Cattle Rustling

Kaimba et al. (2013) noted that disarmament interventions in African were largely not successful due to lack of inclusive and participative processes. This concerns did not include the fact that, eligibility criteria was unclear, provision of security in the absence of community armed guard was not defined and lastly the unavailability of an “acceptable and across the board framework made this process quite difficult. This scenario requires that disarmament interventions planners and executioners to consider a broader approach which incorporates economic, labor market and development conditions. These concerns play a central role as impediments to smooth disarmament interventions in conflict regions as most ex-combatants become unwilling to surrender their only source of “power, security and survival.” As was the

case in Northern Uganda, most ex-combatants lacked the drive to use new skills due to suppressed demands and depressed market conditions.

Ng'ang'a (2012) attests that disarmament interventions in Africa are a process calling for the presence of the following conditions in order that it is successful. There must be reduced animosity between the warring parties, or significant drop in violence to avoid a renewal of conflict. The purpose of this security is the capacity to generate "sober levels of trust" between former belligerents. Secondly there must be an inclusion process where all the belligerents are involved, in order to structure relationship building, where disarmament is not lopsidedly executed. Thirdly and most importantly there must be enough funds or sufficient resources to ensure that the process is driven to completion and successful execution, otherwise incomplete actions may provide room for more conflicts and quick relapse to violence. A disarmament intervention faces challenges that are political, economic and strongly social in Africa, and thus any successful execution must be wary of such environments.

Kaimba et al. (2013) noted disarmament interventions in African were largely half successful due to non-consideration of strategies which did not reflect realities in the region. Most disarmament interventions were absent of inclusive and participative processes for designing and executing them. This concerns did not include the fact that, eligibility criteria was unclear, provision of security in the absence of community armed guard was not defined and lastly the unavailability of an "acceptable and across the board framework made this process quite hideous. Wenstein attests that disarmament interventions in Africa are a process calling for the presence of the following conditions in order that it is successful. There must be reduced animosity between the warring parties, or significant drop in violence to avoid a renewal of conflict. The purpose of this security is the capacity to generate "sober levels of trust" between former belligerents. Secondly there must exist an inclusion process where all the belligerents are involved, in order to structure relationship building, where disarmament is not lopsidedly executed.

Police Deployment as a Policing Strategy for Curbing Cattle Rustling

Deployment of police for curbing cattle rustling has often been applied in dealing with the problem. Ng'ang'a (2012) in a study titled "Culture as the cause of conflict" have particularly echoed the importance of Police Reservists in pastoral areas of Kenya by positing that the government uses them to supplement the police in these areas. This study tries to find out the role of KPR in ending cattle rustling in Samburu County. Muiruri (1998) in her study titled "Community Policing in a Pastoral Community" observed a trend where there is a shift in the role of Police Reservists mainly due to the difficulties associated with pastoral environments. She noted that police inadequacy has created a security vacuum which has forced the community to preconceive the Reservists as their only hope for security.

Pierli et al. (2006) further observed that, although Police Reservists play a noble role, some have privatized the arms given to them by the government and allegedly use them for criminal ends. Allegations of corruption, political interference and weak accountability in the recruitment, deployment and control of Police Reservists were also noted in a KHRC (2010) report titled "Morans no More: The Changing Face of Cattle rustling in Kenya". The report observed that there is a lot of political interference with respect to recruitment and management of Police Reservists, with politicians ensuring that their community members outnumber those of their rivals in the recruitment exercises. The report further argued that, while Police Reservists recruitment was initially meant to be a transparent Community Policing initiative, the same has been marred with allegations of corruption, incompetence and favoritism along ethnic lines. The report also noted that there are weak accountability procedures within the Reservists system, as it has been reported that some of them either use their official guns to carry out criminal activities or loan them out to criminals.

Similar challenges were also found in a study conducted by Mohamudand Pkalya (2015) titled “Availability of Small Arms and Perceptions of Security in Kenya”. The study noted that although Police Reservists enjoyed legitimacy from the local communities and were a better option in securing the pastoral areas, they were facing poor supervision and management which has been seen to create grounds for misuse and abuse of their role. The study further noted that the Reservists are not well equipped, supervised, trained and motivated to work for the community. Wepundi (2011) in his study titled “Analysis of Disarmament Experiences in Kenya” examined some of the actions the government has taken in reaction to the problems facing Police Reservists. Wepundi observed that the move was based on the Reservists’ previous implication in banditry, cattle-rustling and trafficking of small arms, with people using unscrupulous means to join the system and later using the guns issued to them for personal purposes.

Curbing Illegal Arms Trade as a Policing Strategy for Curbing Cattle Rustling

Illegal arms trade has largely been linked to cattle rustling where the rustlers take advantage of the fact that the locals cannot defend themselves and therefore steal their animals. Despite of disarmament program there is high prevalence on the use of guns being major factors underlying Samburu cattle rustling (Cheserek, et al., 2012). The study by Cheserek (2012) found that traditional values only accounted for 8 percent of the cattle rustling. This shows that the decline in traditional bases of cattle rustlers and the rise in modern facets accounts for cattle rustling.

Payment of bride was identified as a key factor that explains cattle rustling. As indicated earlier, it takes between 20-60 cattle and 10-40 goats for one to get a wife among the Samburu. This figure could fluctuate either way depending on the beauty, character and education level of the girl (Cheserek, et al., 2012). This figure could also fluctuate downwards depending on the socio-economic status of the bridegroom. Therefore, the importance of cultural fulfillments is a motivating factor in cattle rustling. In the context of the Samburu, in particular, the celebration of has a strong connection to cattle rustling. It is a rite of passage to elder hood. The demands to fulfill bride price push young adults to engage in cattle rustling in order to accomplish this stage. Women escalate cattle rustling since they celebrate and identify with the successful cattle rustlers and shun the unsuccessful ones (Opondo & Namunane, 2008).

There has been a connection between claims over territory and cattle rustling in northern Kenya. However, the connection between cattle rustling and territorial claims often spearheaded by political interest still remains unclear. Relying on ethnographic data obtained from interviews with community elders, chiefs, district officers, politicians and peace committee members it was possible to piece together aspects of cattle rustling and territorial redrawing (Nyassy, 2009). Cattle rustling and other forms of conflict in northern Kenya were a phenomenon before the colonial period. Before the colonial period conflict in the region was mainly for territorial expansion of the Samburu (Lamphear, 1988). British imposition of fixed ethnic boundaries scuttled this expansion (Nunow, 2000). Aspects of climate change and environmental security is another strand of literature on the debate about cattle rustling in the arid and semi-arid northern areas of Kenya. Population pressure, climate change and scarcity of resources are the main motivators of conflict between pastoralist communities (Ng’ang’a, 2012). In the context of the Samburu County pastoralists their raids are not aimed at separating expanding territory, hence administrative boundaries did not constitute the basis of conflict.

Community Policing as a Policing Strategy for Curbing Cattle Rustling

Over the years, the community has been largely responsible for its own peace. The elders have the powers to sanction war or peace with rival groups. The elders send peace emissaries to the opponent party once the toll of a conflict becomes too great or if it has reached a stalemate. Decisions to make peace and end conflict used to be entirely within the hands of the elders, but today, even youth and women -in consultation with the elders- can supplicate for

peace. Community dialogue meetings are open to all men in competing factions and involve each side making concessions to the other. This is a common community system of addressing conflict. This method is effective only if it involves the active youth and allows them to implement the resolutions of the meetings. The problem with community peace meetings is that they are merely considered by the parties as temporary ceasefire to permit stock taking and to allow assessments of the impact of the conflict. Sometimes, the youth and profiteers of raiding deliberately disregard the consensus reached by the elders.

While it is true that in the past government security agencies have made attempts to deploy more security personnel and disarm the locals in some parts of Samburu County as a way of curbing stealing of animals among the communities involved in the skirmishes, this problem still persists. Not even increasing police reservists to stop illegal trade and clamp on illegal livestock business in Samburu County has led to the stoppage of the threat in the region. According to 2015 Kenya Police Report, many cases of theft of animals continue to be witnessed, with more than 56 raids having been staged in 2015 where over 25,000 livestock were reported to have been stolen and 75 people killed within a span of only 4 days (Kenya Police Report, 2015).

The Suguta valley, which has been dubbed as the valley of death by the local media has witnessed sporadic ethnic tension over the years where the Turkana and Samburu communities often stage attacks and counterattacks as cattle rustling continues to threaten peace and the livelihoods of the people living here. Government security agents have not been spared either, as the area witnessed the loss of lives of 42 policemen when they were ambushed and killed in 2012 as they were pursuing stolen cows. This was reported by the police as one of the deadliest attacks that year (Kenya Police Report, 2015).

Local NGOs and churches have tried to encourage the region to co-exist in harmony with little or no progress at all. Developmental NGOs have also encouraged the communities to embrace education by helping build and paid school fees for children who have enrolled as a means of eradicating cattle rustling but still cattle rustling persist. Unfortunately most peace building and restoration efforts are conducted when major cattle raids have occurred and lots of life lost and mostly they bear no fruits. In addition, government interventions to disarm the pastoralist communities or registering the arms in their possession, new firearms have been recovered during livestock rustling. From the OCS statement in Samburu County, the use of firearms is on the rise amongst raiders despite the fact they have been effort to reduce the number of guns amongst the pastoralist by granting amnesty.

In order to address the persistent cattle rustling menace in Samburu North Kenya, a number of interventions have been put in place to address the challenges emanating from effects of cattle rustling on socio-economic development in Kenya. However, despite the number of interventions the issue of cattle rustling persists and continues to be a threat to security and economic development in the country. This effort is winning a lot of success both within the local community and the international community because women have chosen to challenge the men into promoting peace in the Cluster. This campaign for peace is also supported by the church. Although the women's efforts have been recognized by the society as a likely way to achieve peace in Karamoja Cluster, they face opposition and challenges from the male population in this patriarchal community. Local communities have played a vital role in arresting livestock rustling criminals. Through the Ameto, the community rounds up all those suspect of having participated in a particular raid. The community traditionally punishes criminals and hands recidivist criminals over to the police or court for prosecution.

Theoretical Review

This study was guided by Routine Activity Theory, Rational Choice Theory and Structural Conflict Theory. Each of the three theories is important in helping to anchor different aspects the study seeks to address.

Routine Activity Theory

Routine activity theory as developed by Marcus Felson and Lawrence Cohen drew upon control theories to explain crime in terms of crime opportunities that occur in everyday life. The theory argues that for crime to occur the following elements converge in place and time: motivated offender, suitable target or victim and lack of capable guardian. These three elements are present in pastoralist northern Kenya.

The unemployed youths are willing to raid cattle, arms and livestock businessmen are readily willing to sell arms to the raiders and buy the stolen cattle; and the suitable target are large livestock herd held by pastoralists. Also, there is lack of capable guardian to deter cattle rustlers from committing the crime due to inadequate police protection. "If a target is not protected enough, and if the reward is worth it, crime will happen. Crime does not need hardened offenders, super-predators, convicted felons or wicked people; crime just needs an opportunity for it to occur" (Clarke & Felson, 1993).

The activities of pastoralists are routine and are well understood by the rustlers. In dry seasons, cattle migrate to certain known areas for pasture and water; they again migrate back when it rains. These make it easy to raid the cattle because their movements are regular. Routine activity theory explains that cattle rustling crimes will continue being committed as long as the target (pastoralists and their cattle) are not effectively protected by the police to deter would-be raiders. This theory does not explain the cultural and ethnic nature of cattle rustling.

Rational Choice Theory

Rational choice theory argues that criminals weigh costs/risks and benefits when deciding whether or not to commit a crime. They also minimize the risks of crime by considering the time, place and other situational factors. It argued that punishment if certain, swift and proportionate to the crime can deter would-be offenders if the cost of the crime outweigh benefits such as the possibility of apprehension, conviction and punishment.

This theory explains why cattle rustling have persisted in northern Kenya despite the residents having the option of stopping the criminal practice. Based on this theory, the risk of engaging in cattle rustling may be low compared to the benefits. Furthermore, the possibility of being caught, arrested and prosecuted is almost zero as police have not been able to completely arrest the situation as raiders keep on evading the arrest. The crime is also culturally accepted among the community, leaving the dignity and integrity of the raiders intact. In this sense, the benefits are more than the cost/risk and it is therefore worth committing. This theory does not explain the ethnic and cultural nature of cattle rustling.

Conceptual Framework

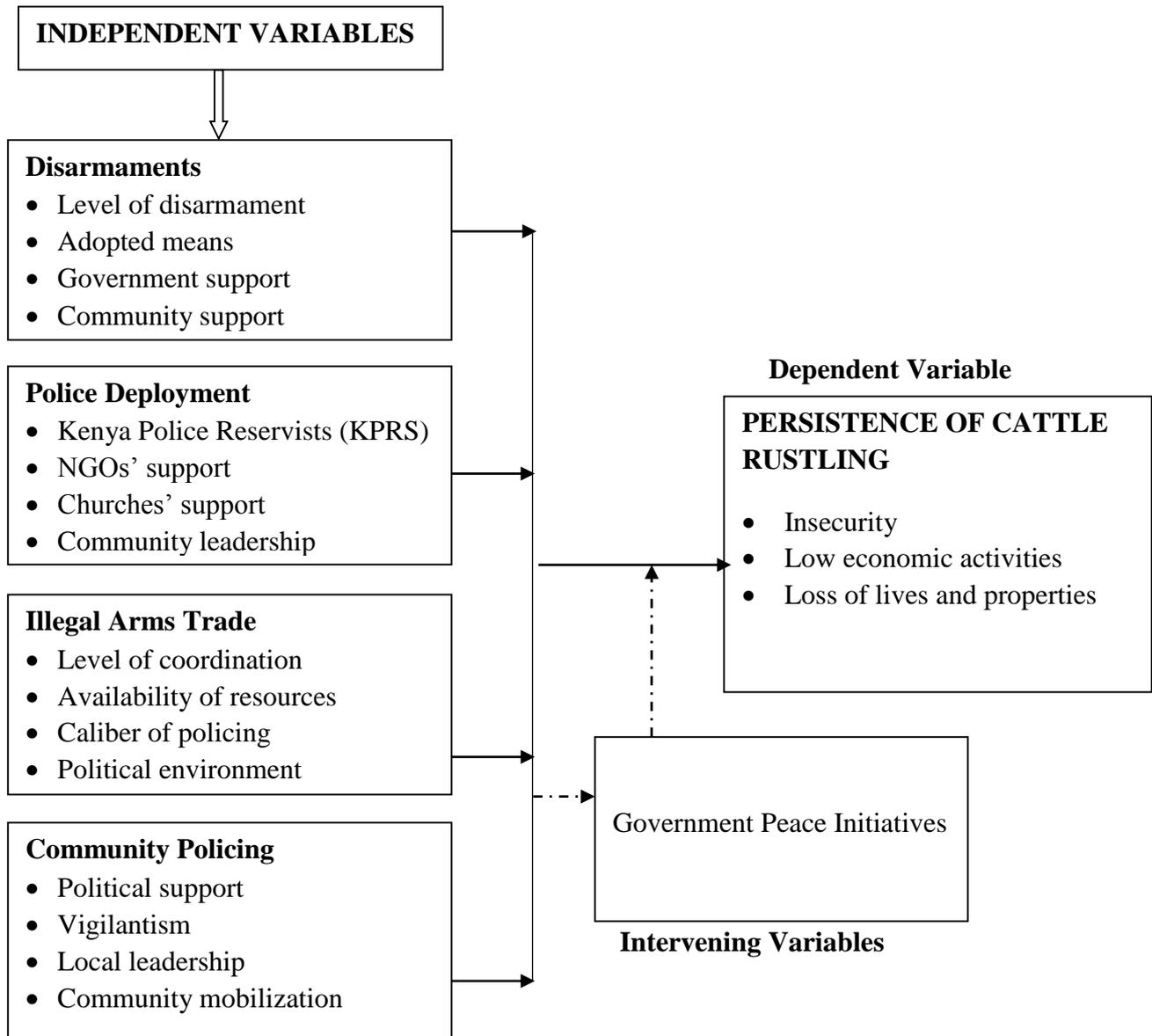


Figure 1. Conceptual framework

Research Methodology

Research Design

This study adopted a qualitative descriptive research design, that according to Kothari and Garg (2016) is concerned with finding out the what, where and how of a phenomenon; and then organizes, tabulates, depicts, and describes the data collected.

Target Population

This study was carried out in Samburu North subcounty in Samburu County, Kenya. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics 2019 national census, the population tally in the county was 310,327 (KNBS, 2019). Samburu County is inhabited by the Samburu, Turkana, Rendille, Somali and Meru communities, with the Samburu forming the largest portion of the population. The study specifically involved categories of the respondents who, by virtue of their positions or occupations in the area, were better placed to give information

on security matters. Therefore, the target population for the study was 524 respondents that were categorized as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Target population

Category	Target Population (N)	Proportion (%)
Deputy county commissioner	2	0.3
Area chiefs	47	8.2
Area assistant chiefs	84	14.6
National police unit	50	8.7
Community elders	134	23.3
Teachers	44	7.7
Church elders	163	28.4
Victims of cattle rustling (community members)	50	8.7
Total	574	100.0

Source: Office of the Samburu County Commissioner (2019)

Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

The Kathuri and Pals sampling formula of 20-30% was used to select a sample of 172 respondents based on the upper limit of 30% of the target population. Purposive and stratified random sampling techniques were used to select the sample for the study. Various categories of the respondents were first identified using purposive sampling method, on the basis of their unique positions to provide crucial data for the study. The second stage was to select a representative figure from each stratum using stratified random sampling technique. Table 2 presents this summary.

Table 2. Sample size

Category	Target Population (N)	Sample Size (n)
Deputy county commissioner	2	1
Area chiefs	47	14
Area assistant chiefs	84	25
National police unit	50	15
Community elders	134	40
Teachers	44	13
Church elders	163	49
Victims of cattle rustling (community members)	50	15
Total	574	172

Source: Researcher (2019)

Data Collection Instruments

The study used a mixed method approach in data collection where quantitative and qualitative data was used. Questionnaire and interview guides were used to collect statistical and narrative information respectively. Key informants provided in-depth data through interview guide while majority of the respondents filled the questionnaire which collected the bulk of data for the study. The research instruments were tested for reliability and validity before they were used for data collection. The instrument's content validity was improved through expert opinion from experienced and peer researchers. The reliability of the instruments was established using split-half method.

Data Collection Procedure

Blank copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the respondents so that they could complete them during their convenient time and thereafter completed ones picked by the researcher. In some cases, the research was required to administer the questionnaire through face-to-face interactions. On the other hand, the interview guide which was administered to a selected few participants (key informants) including the Deputy County Commissioner and Police bosses in the subcounty; this was conducted by the researcher. In all cases, high professional social research standards were observed.

Data Analysis and Presentation

Completed questionnaires were checked for completeness and edited accordingly before descriptive and inferential data analysis was conducted using SPSS (version 23.0) and Excel worksheets. Quantitative data was presented using tables and charts while qualitative data was analyzed thematically and presented using narratives.

Results and Discussion

The study sought to analyze security implications of policing strategies used in curbing cattle rustling in Samburu. Out of the study sample size of 172 respondents, 123 of them managed to participate in the research, translating to 72% response rate. The respondents were involved from various subsectors directly or indirectly involved with security matters at the community level.

Descriptive Analysis of Variables

Security Implications of Policing Strategies used in Curbing Cattle Rustling

The findings revealed that there were frequent cases of cattle rustling in Samburu. Several factors contributed to cattle rustling in Samburu. Some of these included lack of proper livelihood means for the locals, high level of ignorance and lack of formal education which resulted into so many young people idling around, political instigations by leaders who had a lot to directly or indirectly benefit from the skirmishes, and cultural factors, such as the need for young men to raid cows for their dowry, among others. Laxity of the security agents also provided cattle rustlers the opportunity to engage in the phenomenon, especially by idling young men who lacked other meaningful alternative means of livelihood.

Idling and unemployed youth popularly referred locally as morans or young warriors who had recently been circumcised were commonly involved in cattle rustling in the area. Similarly, there were political leaders, community elders, and business people engaged in animal business, and security agents who worked in collusion to aid young men in cattle raiding in order to propagate their business. There were also a number of middle-aged men who did not have formal employment and so took cattle rustling as their only source of income. In this sense, cattle rustling can be viewed as a complex web of business that involves numerous players with varied cultural, social, and economic interests.

As historical phenomenon among the pastoralist communities in Samburu, cattle rustling has for a long time been fought, but with no finality. The national government, local community groups, village elders, the religious community, the business community, and the county government are the major stakeholders in fighting cattle rustling in Samburu. However, these institutions' efforts have not yielded a permanent solution to this problem. Given that the practice of cattle rustling has almost become a cultural phenomenon where the perpetrators have tended to adopt it as a way of life, this continues to pose a serious challenge to the efforts directed towards eradicating the practice with finality.

Furthermore, the National Police unit played a significant role in helping to deal with cattle rustling, with 49 (40%) of the respondents saying that police involvement was to a great

extent. Others in the fight included church elders, local leadership, village elders, the political class, women and the youth among others. Peace meetings, rallies and peace caravan campaigns were some of the strategies that were commonly being used by the communities in Samburu to address the problem of cattle rustling. There were also timely reconciliation efforts, return of stolen livestock and the government's prosecution of offenders as some of the common approaches used to deal with the cattle rustling menace. Furthermore, increased police presence, disarmament, and community policing as well as mediation processes were commonly employed to deal with the problem of cattle rustling in Samburu. The common strategies used for curbing cattle rustling have various security implications, such as people being forced to return illegal guns, delays in movement and lack of goodwill from security actors, and ideological differences between the conflicting communities.

The government was determined to curb cattle rustling in Samburu. Some of the strategies the government is using include increasing policing units and building of more police stations and outposts. Additionally, the government is actively involved in disarmament of the local communities, engaging in more community meetings and sensitization as well as increasing the local administration's participation through the local chiefs' offices to ensure that all illegal activities are firmly dealt with. The government is also encouraging all stakeholders, such as the political class and community leadership to actively get involved in helping to address the problem of cattle rustling in Samburu. Furthermore, the government is charged with the responsibility of enacting relevant policies for sensitization of the public on the need to completely shun the cattle rustling practice. The national and county governments were also actively involved in facilitating games and sports activities in the area as a way of keeping the youth busy hence dissuading them from engaging in cattle rustling activities.

Besides the government's active role in curbing stealing of cattle in Samburu, the local community also played an active role in boosting the government's efforts. For instance, through local leadership and enhanced community engagements, young people were encouraged to stop glorifying cattle rustling as a cultural engagement and focus on more long-lasting profitable activities, such as small businesses and concentration on education pursuits. Through community leadership and local groups' involvement, there were awareness creation efforts to sensitize community members on the dangers and implications of being involved in cattle rustling. Regular meetings to spread messages of peace, involvement of the civil society groups, prompt reconciliation efforts, and encouraging parents to take their children to school were some of the common approaches used by the communities living in Samburu to address cattle rustling both directly and indirectly. For instance, ensuring that young boys were encouraged to pursue education enabled the youth to concentrate on learning rather than participating in illegal activities, such as stealing of animals.

Despite the concerted efforts by the government, local communities and other non-governmental agencies to fight cattle rustling, there were numerous challenges. For instance, owing to the general insecurity posed by neighboring communities both within and outside the Kenyan borders, government disarmament exercise has not been very successful as easily access other weapons almost immediately they are disarmed by security agencies. Aggression by neighboring communities also forces locals in Samburu to always strive to own guns, which are then used for stealing of animals in the area. Also, despite community support in eradicating the menace through collaboration with youth groups, NGOs and CBOs as well as civil society organizations, this approach was often hampered by personal vested interests of powerful politicians and business people who occasional sabotage peace processes in the area for personal gains. Besides, due to high levels of poverty, sometimes some of the community members tended not to cooperate with government security agents as a way of protecting cattle rustling as some sort of common means of livelihood for a number of households in the area.

Increased police presence in many cattle-rustling prone areas in Samburu tended to scare away criminals, hence making this an effective approach in maintaining peace in the affected areas. Furthermore, increased police deployment gave the local communities assurance that even if they reported criminals to the authorities, they were assured of their own security and so there was no room for any retaliatory attacks from criminals who might be tempted to revenge. However, there were cases when the police were compromised by politicians to act in a partisan manner in some instances; hence leading to failure in decisively addressing the problem of cattle rustling. Despite these challenges, members of public in the region were ready and willing to donate land for construction of more police stations/posts.

Illegal arms continued to persist as an impediment to security in Samburu. Despite the government's efforts in discouraging illegal arms trade, corruption and mismanagement of border areas are often blamed for rampant cases of illegal arms in the hands of local people. Furthermore, illegal arms trade was associated with prominent business people and politicians who use their positions and money to influence poor unemployed young people to act as conduits in this trade. Apparently, illegal arms trade is directly linked to widespread cattle rustling in Samburu. However, the government was trying to address the menace through recruitment of more chiefs and sub chiefs, deployment of more police officers, and increased collaboration with the community and political leadership. There was also increased employment of police reservists to help the mainstream police to deal with illegal arms trade by arresting suspects as soon as they are identified. The government was also working closely with other stakeholders at the community level to enhance information flow which is very important in key decision making. There was also tremendous community support in curbing illegal arms trade as a strategy for ending cattle rustling in Samburu. Increased collaboration between the local communities and the government made it easier for exchange of crucial information to help in apprehending criminals and coordinating disarmament exercises.

Community policing was also actively applied by the government to address insecurity issues related to cattle rustling. Good rapport between the members of the public and Kenya police reservists also helped a lot when it came to reporting suspected criminals to the authorities, tracking of stolen animals, and prioritizing on security areas the government needed to put in more emphasis, action, and resources. Despite the remarkable efforts by the government and the local communities in support of community policing as a strategy for curbing cattle rustling in Samburu, there was no clear goodwill by the government. Hence, improvement in the whole question of policing was required for improved community policing.

Inferential Analysis of Variables

In order to establish the level of security implications of policing strategies used in curbing cattle rustling in Samburu, multiple linear regression analysis was carried out. Table 3 provides a summary of coefficients for policing strategies used in curbing cattle rustling.

Table 3. Regression Coefficients for Policing Strategies

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	3.232	0.31		2.312	0
	X ₁ Disarmament	0.324	0.121	0.352	1.214	0.001
	X ₂ Police deployment	0.421	0.134	0.365	1.214	0.002
	X ₃ Curbing illegal arms trade	0.532	0.231	0.276	0.918	0.000
	X ₄ Community policing	0.572	0.237	0.284	0.721	0.003

Based on the bivariate regression analysis in Table 3, holding all other factors at zero, the constant for policing strategies used in curbing cattle rustling in Samburu was 3.232. However, a unit increase in disarmament as a policing strategy for curbing cattle rustling in Samburu, when all other factors were not factored in, would lead to a 0.324 improvement in curbing of cattle rustling. Additionally, at 5% level of significance, it meant that $p=001<0.05$, disarmaments as a policing strategy for curbing cattle rustling in Samburu had a strong effect on curbing of the problem. Furthermore, a unit increase in police deployment as a policing strategy for curbing cattle rustling, with all other variables remaining not factored in, this would result into a 0.421 increase in performance in curbing of cattle rustling. Besides, at 5% level of significance, it implied that $p=002<0.05$, police deployment as a policing strategy for curbing cattle rustling had a strong implication on curbing of the cattle rustling menace.

Additionally, the bivariate regression analysis in Table 3 indicates that a unit increase in curbing illegal arms trade, all other factors remaining constant, would result into a 0.532 increase in performance of policing strategies for curbing cattle rustling. Also, at 5% level of significance and $p=000<0.05$, it implied that curbing illegal arms trade as a policing strategy for dealing with cattle rustling had a strong impact on curbing of the cattle rustling menace. Finally, a unit increase in community policing while maintaining all other factors constant, would result into a 0.572 improvement in performance of policing strategies for curbing cattle rustling. At 5% level of significance and $p=003<0.05$, it meant that community policing as a policing strategy for curbing cattle rustling had a strong impact on curbing of the cattle rustling problem in Samburu. In summary, each of the four independent variables had a significant influence on the outcome of the study, which was curbing of the cattle menace in Samburu.

By and large, the findings of this study are a reflection of the outcomes of previous studies. For instance, Kaimba et al. (2013) noted that disarmament interventions in Africa were largely half successful due to non-consideration of strategies which did not reflect realities in the region. Most disarmament interventions did not involve inclusive and participative processes for designing and executing them. In the current study, it also emerged that disarmament alone may not be effective in curbing cattle rustling unless this approach is combined with other strategies and executed in a holistic manner. Regarding police deployment as a strategy for combating cattle rustling, like this current study, Ng'ang'a (2012) revealed that Police Reservists in pastoral areas of Kenya played a key role in helping the government to complement the police in these areas. Given that the reservists were ideally part of the community in which they offer service, it is usually easier for them to understand the general challenges facing the community and how to approach them.

Curbing of illegal arms has a direct correlation with curbing of cattle rustling. Like in this current study, these revelations are evident in a number of previous studies. According to Cheserek et al (2012) for instance, illegal arms trade has largely been linked to cattle rustling where the rustlers take advantage of the fact that the locals cannot defend themselves and therefore steal their animals. Despite the disarmament programs by the Kenyan government, there is high prevalence of the use of illegal guns by many residents of Samburu, hence greatly contributing to cattle rustling in the area. Cheserek (2012) further found out that traditional values only accounted for 8 percent of the drivers of cattle rustling. This shows that there is decline in traditional bases of cattle rustlers and the rise in modern facets mostly accounts for cattle rustling.

Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations

Summary

The study sought to analyze security implications of policing strategies used in curbing cattle rustling in Samburu. Specific objectives included: to analyze the security effect of

disarmaments, police deployment, curbing illegal arms trade, and community policing as policing strategies for curbing cattle rustling in Samburu. On disarmament, although there were periodic government disarmament efforts in Samburu, the community members were quick to buy other weapons, especially due to the general insecurity in the region. Therefore, getting rid of illegal arms from the communities alone was not enough to address the question of cattle rustling since other communities around posed security risks to the local communities in Samburu. Disarmaments must be conducted alongside other strategies, such as sensitizing the communities against stealing of animals as a trade and encouraging them to educate their children for long term gains. Despite the weaknesses of disarmament strategy, there was a general feeling that disarming the local communities tended to create a peaceful environment for majority of the people in the area to go about their businesses uninterrupted. This also included the fact that majority of the people were dissuaded from cattle rustling as they did not have superior weapons to aid them in the practice.

Regarding security implications of police deployment as a policing strategy for curbing cattle rustling in the region, it emerged that improved police presence in areas riddled in conflicts helped in scaring away criminals. Furthermore, increased police deployment gave the local communities assurance of arrest of suspected criminals to prevent further looming security crises, including cases related to stealing of livestock in the area. Conversely, some security officers collaborated with cattle rustlers and well-connected business people in livestock trade to escalate cattle rustling and other related criminalities. All the same, generally the government and local communities were collaborating well to make police deployment a better strategy in addressing cattle rustling in Samburu.

Regarding security impact of curbing illegal arms trade as a policing strategy for curbing cattle rustling in Samburu, it emerged that so many people had lost lives and a lot of animals stolen due to common possession of illegal firearms by a number of residents of Samburu. The government was actively doing everything possible to ensure that there are no illegal guns in the hands of local people lest they misuse them in committing crimes, such as cattle rustling. Despite the government's efforts in discouraging illegal arms trade, corruption and mismanagement of border areas are often blamed for rampant cases of illegal arms in the hands of local people. Furthermore, illegal arms trade was associated with prominent business people and politicians who use their positions and money to influence poor unemployed young people to act as conduits in this trade.

It also emerged that community policing gave all stakeholders at the local level an opportunity to come on board, speak with one voice, and fully support the government's efforts in eradicating cattle rustling and restoring peace in the area. Collaborative efforts between the communities and government agencies also enabled easy flow and sharing of crucial information for helping in key decision making when it came to peace in the region. Furthermore, community policing was important for helping to form vigilante groups that created some basic rules to deal with suspected criminals at the village levels. In this sense, a number of potential criminals got discouraged from engaging in cattle rustling lest they receive harsh punishments and penalties from the local community policing groups. It further emerged that collective approach through vigilante groups and other localized security groups had greatly improved security matters even at the very local levels.

Despite the remarkable efforts by the government and the local communities in support of community policing as a strategy for curbing cattle rustling in Samburu, proactive government initiatives were required to cement more the relationship between the local communities and government offices, such as the county government and various arms of the national government. Additionally, building of more police posts would go a long way in reducing the distance local people had to walk to locate a police post to report criminal acts. Other security stakeholders to be incorporated in community policing included political

support, enhanced vigilantism, improved roles of the local leadership, and extensive community mobilization and sensitization.

Conclusions

Various strategies were being used to deal with cattle rustling in Samburu. Disarmament efforts, police deployment, curbing of illegal trade, and community policing were concurrently applied to deal with rampant cases of livestock theft in the areas. In order for these approaches to bear more tangible and long-lasting positive outcomes, more concerted efforts were required through extensive consultative forums by other key players, such as the Kenya police reservists, NGOs, churches, and community leadership, to mention but a few.

Recommendations

Recommendations by the study included that the government should always conduct disarmament exercises in a holistic manner to avoid the just disarmed communities tempted to rearm themselves in order to protect themselves against those who may not have been disarmed at any given time. At the same time, more police-public partnership should be encouraged in order to make police deployment strategy more effective as members of the public develop more confidence in the police personnel. Also, eradication of illegal firearms should be pursued by the government in clear collaboration with and involvement of members of the public to avoid creating unnecessary heightened suspicions that make some members of the public to withhold crucial information from government security agencies. Finally, the government should enhance community policing structures in order to encourage citizen participation in matters touching on security.

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