

**HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND PEACE BUILDING IN CONFLICT  
SITUATIONS: CASE OF INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS IN  
WEST POKOT COUNTY, KENYA**

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## DECLARATION

The origin of this research project is my work, thus it has not been submitted for examination at any other academic institution. Information derived from other sources has also been acknowledged by their respective sources.

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to my family; they have been the biggest support system throughout my studies.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I want to start by thanking God for my health and vigor. My profound gratitude goes out to Dr. Joseph Wasonga, my research supervisor, for his support, encouragement, and input from concept formulation to proposal preparation. I also want to express my gratitude to my classmates for sharing their varied insights and knowledge on the subject at hand. Dear family, without your help, I could not have accomplished this.

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>ASAL</b>	Arid and Semi-Arid Land
<b>CBOs</b>	Community Based Organizations
<b>CCIC</b>	The Canadian Council for International Co-Operation
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>DPA</b>	Department of Political Affairs: United Nations
<b>DPKO</b>	Department for Peacekeeping Operations
<b>HOs</b>	Humanitarian Organizations
<b>IASC</b>	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
<b>ICRC</b>	International Committee of the Red Cross
<b>IFRC</b>	International Federation of the Red Cross
<b>IHL</b>	International Humanitarian Law
<b>IPSTC</b>	The International Peace Support Training Centre
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>OCHA</b>	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>OSCE</b>	Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe
<b>POWs</b>	Prisoners of War
<b>PSC</b>	Protracted Social Conflict
<b>RDRT</b>	Regional Disaster Response Team
<b>SALWs</b>	Small Arms and Light Weapons
<b>SPSS</b>	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
<b>UN</b>	United Nation
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
<b>UNMIH</b>	United Nations Mission in Haiti
<b>UNPROFOR</b>	United Nations Protection Force
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme

## OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

- Conflicts -** refer to a struggle or contest between people with opposing needs, ideas, beliefs, values, or goals.
- Conflict Resolution-** The methods and process of negotiation, arbitration, and institutional building which promotes peaceful ending of social conflict or war.
- Humanitarian Organizations -** refers to organizations that provide swift and efficient humanitarian assistance to people affected by natural disasters or wars.
- Peace building -** is the process whereby a group of people with diverse origins, histories, languages, cultures and religions through any given umbrella come together to work towards eradicating the divisions and injustices of the past; to foster unity; and promote a countrywide conscious sense of being proudly one state, committed to the country.
- Peace Education -** refers to the dissemination of information on peace to individuals and groups.
- Poverty -** This is a condition of not being able to support one's self with basic needs.
- Strategies -** Plans and approached the humanitarian organizations have put in place towards nation building

## ABSTRACT

The study sought to establish the efficacy of International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) in promoting peace in West Pokot County. The study was guided by the following objectives: To establish the conflict situation in West Pokot County, to determine the intervention measures taken by the IFRC in peace building in West Pokot County, to establish whether beneficiaries are involved by IFRC in creating and implementing peacebuilding initiatives in West Pokot County and to identify barriers to IFRC's peace-building operations in West Pokot County. The study employed a descriptive research design and adopted both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The study targeted the staff of the Red Cross, members of the County government, opinion leaders and community members who are victims of conflict in West Pokot County. The study employed convenience sampling to select the respondents. The researcher sampled 15 Red Cross Staff, 3 members of the county government, 5 opinion leaders and 20 community members in West Pokot County. The study utilized a questionnaire for IFRC staff, a discussion guide for the focus group discussions, and an interview schedule for the key informant Informants. Piloting of the research instruments was done with a sample of 10 respondents in Chepareria sub-county, which was not included in the main study. Content validity was established through expert judgement whereas Cronbach's coefficient alpha was used to establish the reliability of the instruments. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages and means were used to analyse quantitative data whereas content analysis was used to analyse qualitative data. The study established that various types of conflicts, including resource-based, territorial, cultural, and politically motivated disputes, still exist in the region. These conflicts have had a significant impact on the county's population, resulting in loss of lives, property, school closures, and contributing to the region's poor economic growth. Further, the study established that the IFRC has put in place a number of intervention measures which are fairly effective in fostering peace in the County. In addition, the study established that the IFRC's principles provide a framework for its operations and that it has performance criteria that allow it to evaluate whether it is fulfilling its accountability commitments, however, it does not involve majority of community members in decision-making processes. As a result, community members reject the organization's efforts to promote peace because they believe that their opinions, concerns and suggestions are not given due consideration. Further, the study identified a number of factors that affect IFRC's peace-building operations in the County these include; insecurity, political interference, lack of commitment from stakeholders, inadequate funds, poor infrastructure, poor networks, and antagonism from communities. The study recommended that The IFRC should invest in long-term peace building programs. The communities need to build their resilience to disasters and conflicts, and to address the root causes of humanitarian crises, such as poverty and inequality. Furthermore, there is a need for capacity-building within the community, community members need to be trained in disaster response and conflict resolution to enhance self-reliance and reduce dependency on external aid. In addition, the IFRC and other humanitarian organizations must consider the cultural diversity of the populations they assist. They ought to refrain from endorsing remedies that are inappropriate from a cultural standpoint or that might make intergroup conflicts worse. Further, the IFRC should improve its accountability; this can be accomplished by putting in place appropriate routes for reporting to impacted communities, keeping in mind the crucial role that impacted communities should play in ensuring that their views are heard during relief operations.

## CHAPTER ONE

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Introduction

This chapter gives a general introduction and provides the background information on the role of humanitarian organizations in peace building. The chapter has the following subsections: the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study and the specific objectives of the study. Further, the chapter presents the research questions, the significance of the study, scope of the study, the delimitations, limitations of the study, and the assumptions of the study.

## 1.2 Background of the study

Globally, states have the responsibility of providing public goods for its citizens including security, food, shelter and health services. However, majority of states have failed in their role of providing for public good due to incapacity or by turning against the people they are supposed to protect. Such circumstances are referred to as humanitarian conditions calling for responses under the principle of responsibility to protect (R2P). Such responses are referred to as humanitarian intervention (Rohwerder, 2015). Humanitarian intervention refers to the employment of military, diplomatic, or economic measures by external players to protect civilians, advance human rights, and lessen suffering in countries impacted by armed conflict (Saaideh, 2023).

Worldwide, a lot of people are displaced from their homes because of conflict, persecution, or more severe natural catastrophes. The United Nations (UN) estimated that there are more than 19.5 million refugees globally, of this, over half are children (UN, 2014). In addition, almost more than 1.5 billion people in the world are estimated to be living in the countries where violent conflicts are rampant thus affecting the growth of those nations (Phillips, 2013).

According to UNHCR (2023), in 2022, the number of people forcibly displaced due to conflicts grew by 21 per cent standing at an estimated 108.4 million at the end of the year. More than 1 in 74 people worldwide remained forcibly displaced as a result, almost 90 per cent of them in low- and middle- income countries. By end of 2022, the total represents an increase of 19 million compared to the end of 2021. During the first five months of 2023, forced displacement continued to rise and UNHCR estimated that the global figure was likely exceeds 110 million people at the time of writing, in May 2023. These figures show us that some people are far too quick to rush to conflict, and way too slow to find solutions. The consequence is devastation, displacement, and anguish for each of the millions of people forcibly uprooted from their homes.

At the end of 2022, 58 per cent of all forcibly displaced people remained in their own country. New internal displacements surged, with 28 million new displacements due to conflict and violence during the year. War in Ukraine and conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Myanmar each displaced more than 1 million people within their own country. A further 32.6 million new displacements were due to disasters, with 21 per cent occurring in the Least Developed Countries (UNHCR, 2023). Sudan is having devastating effects on the civilian population, including the over 3.5 million internally displaced Sudanese and 1.1 million refugees hosted in the country. At least 190 children have been killed in the fighting, and the number of acutely food insecure people in the country was estimated to increase by more than 2 million by end of 2023. Further, an estimated 1.2 million people had been newly displaced within the country, and a further 378,300 had fled to neighbouring countries (UNHCR, 2023). By the end of May 2023, the number of people forcibly displaced within Myanmar increased by 331,600 from the end of 2022 to stand at 1.8 million, while the number of internally displaced people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo climbed to 6.2

million. UNHCR's global estimates of refugees and asylum-seekers reached 35.4 million by the end of May 2023. While most people who have been forced to flee want to return home, this can only occur in safety and dignity if lasting peace is achieved. For most displacement situations around the world, this remained beyond reach (UNHCR, 2023).

People leaving their home nations because of war have a significant economic impact. As more money is invested on peacekeeping operations, global economic growth is severely hampered (Sassen, 2014). According to the global peace index, wars cost the world economy 9.21 trillion pounds (\$13.7 trillion), which comes from greater military spending by nations and more people being forced out of their jobs (Index, 2015).

International humanitarian intervention has gained widespread recognition as a significant approach to addressing conflicts on a global scale (Estes, 2014). It entails the involvement of external actors, including states, international organizations, and regional bodies, in order to safeguard civilians, avert human rights violations, and alleviate humanitarian crises. The fundamental aim of such interventions is to re-establish peace and stability in areas plagued by conflict while effectively responding to the needs of affected populations (Franke, 2006). The idea that development organizations, and even more so humanitarian organizations, have a role to play in supporting the transition process emerged in the 1990s as the international community was looking for cost-effective and non-military ways to contain the growing number of internal conflicts. It is notable that the signing of a comprehensive peace accord between parties to internal conflicts was not enough to consolidate peace, with 40–50% of the conflicting parties relapsing back into conflict (Latf, 2005).

Kindly consider the flow and organisation of your thoughts/ideas. Your writing is such that, you mention an idea, then you go to another idea and back to the same idea in a rather scattered and

disjoined manner. Simply think through your work, similar ideas present them together, then move to another but set of ideas

As a multi-dimensional element, peace building is a notable humanitarian need and development dimension. In particular, peace building is an important concept in advancing the well-being of humanity and human livelihood in any part of the world. The new relations that humanitarian and especially development agencies have with the security sector in transition situations should fall within the context of the paradigm of peace building (Barnes, 2006). Development agencies have the task of now helping to implement peace accords and to address the root causes of conflict, including in the socioeconomic, political and security fields. Most development agencies now accept the need to work in and on conflicts rather than around them, and make peace building the focus when dealing with conflict situations. Humanitarian organizations have also increasingly played a crisis management and peace-building role, through capacity-building activities and mediation. The second lens through which one has to see the role of development organisations is through their role in democratisation and the building of “good governance” in relation to the security sector. When assessing the work and operations of different humanitarian organizations, there is a revelation that integration remains a polarizing issue amongst peacekeeping, political and humanitarian organizations (Cuppen, 2013).

In most conflict prone regions of the world, it is notable that the efforts for peace building and keeping remain an integral part of the concerned parties. Several humanitarian organizations together with their humanitarian coordinators have contributed to the complementing of each other’s advocacy efforts, by respectively calling on the government and the non-state armed group to gain humanitarian access to deliver aid to people in need (Beaudoin, 2013). According to Barajas, Howard and Silver (2013), in Afghanistan Humanitarian organizations have helped

to maintain the country's security and stability by forming alliances with the military forces. They've strengthened the credibility and capacity of emerging businesses. This shows that Humanitarian groups have the power to contribute to the growth of a diversified society and economy and can act as a kind of "caulk" or "glue" between the people and the government and assist in educating citizens about the basics of democracy.

Humanitarian groups must consider potential consequences to further up their involvement in the process of peace-building when examining the humanitarian projects in Afghanistan. Fragile central governments may view humanitarian organizations as a threat to their authority and work to prevent them from entering society. Conflicts between charitable organizations and unofficial social institutions that have helped locals instead of creating a lawless state are another possibility. Humanitarian organizations can simply lack the resources necessary to carry out the challenging task of peace-building. The achievement of peace-building objectives may occasionally be hampered by coordination issues between governments and humanitarian organizations (Howard et al., 2013). Nothing of the sort can be said regarding peace-building in West Pokot since there are no empirical studies on the same.

In Sri Lanka, peace-building projects quickly became internationalized as a result of a truce agreement signed in 2002. This multi-layered transnational engagement included financial support for reconstruction in conflict-affected areas, security assurances to create the conditions for peace dialogues and the application of peace conditionality, monitor one facilitation, a supervising mission, support for other Track Two and Three efforts, and monitor one facilitation. Most humanitarian organizations in Sri Lanka used workshops, rallies, trainings, exchange visits, research projects, and media campaigns as part of their nation-building initiatives to strengthen ties between various ethnic communities, support public support for peace building initiatives, and lessen intercommunity pressures (Walton, 2008).

Humanitarian organizations have, according to Genugten (2016), played a crucial role in Burundi's philanthropic growth and humanitarian aid. Despite its underlying goodness, it has recently come under a variety of criticisms. This is a result of the rise in the quantity of humanitarian groups with comparable goals in conflict-prone regions (Daley & Popplewell, 2016). The operations of humanitarian groups have been impacted by the authoritarian nature of governments in war-torn countries. Humanitarian organizations are feared by those who live in such communities, which have a substantial impact on important aspects of the participatory model, such as social cohesiveness and involvement. Limiting citizens' ability to express themselves weakens people's power and demoralizes humanitarian efforts. Humanitarian groups are impossible to function successfully when a governing elite dominates all facets of society, even at the local level (Genugten, 2016).

In Nigeria, according to Uzuegbunam (2013), Non-governmental Organizations participate in numerous peace building activities. They offer humanitarian mediation and assistance while also enhancing local community capacity by incorporating them in a number of cooperative projects and empowering them. In Somali, humanitarian organizations use a variety of socioeconomic segments as part of their strategy in to create peace in Somalia's Conflicts and anarchy (Felicity, 2012). Non-governmental organizations, like Somali Peace Line started training by conducting peace building activities in educational institutions. Other organizations with comparable goals included the Peace and Human Rights Network (PHRN), and the Somali Organization for Community Development Activities (SOCDA), which held peace seminars for students and youth in Bosaso and Mogadishu and engaged in advocacy and campaigning. The many organizations increased public awareness of the importance of eliminating poverty, inequality, and conflict in Somalia (Felicity, 2012).

Kenya has experienced four significant conflicts since the 19th century. Conflicts in Kenya include those between the colonial government and indigenous people (1895-1963), the Somali secession conflict from 1963-1967, post-2007 election violence, and conflicts between pastoral communities in the northern region, such as the Pokot and Turkana communities in the North Rift (Devine, 2016). Juma (2000) categorizes disputes in Kenya into four types: (a) among pastoral groups, (b) related to refugees, (c) between pastoralists and crop farming communities, and (d) ethnic fights. He notes that present environmental pressures have altered conflict dynamics. During the 1999-2001 drought, the Turkana group had to rely on raiding other settlements to replenish their livestock. The 2000 drought resulted in water shortages in ASAL areas of Kenya, including 23,022 m<sup>3</sup>/d in Mandera, 29,769 m<sup>3</sup>/d in Wajir, 25,529 m<sup>3</sup>/d in Garissa, 49,495 m<sup>3</sup>/d in Kitui, 17,916 m<sup>3</sup>/d in Tana River, and 12,710 m<sup>3</sup>/d in Samburu, 35,816 m<sup>3</sup>/d in Turkana, 29,105 m<sup>3</sup>/d in West Pokot and 24,690 m<sup>3</sup>/d in Laikipia. Water and pasture shortages fueled rivalry, resulting in clashes between rival groups (UNEP/GOK, 2000). The 2011 drought in dry northern Kenya led to inter-clan violence and counter-attacks in Moyale, resulting in the deaths of seven individuals in Burji (International Organization for Migration, 2011).

West Pokot County has perpetually experienced ethnic conflicts and insecurity at a high scale, which have negatively affected the development of the region (Devine, 2016). West Pokot County borders Uganda to the west, Trans Nzoia and Markwet districts to the south, Turkana district to the north and east, and Baringo district to the southeast. The West Pokot region is divided into 4 districts, with the headquarters in Kapenguria. Estimated populations of 396,000 people occupy the remote region of West Pokot, largely the semi-arid and arid region (Kermut, 2016). The Pokot generally have historically clashed over animals, pasture, ethnic-oriented conflict, and water with their neighbours. Like other semi-arid parts of Kenya, this area is

characterized by high poverty levels and illiteracy. Cattle rustling bear the histo-cultural face of this community with their neighbours (Shalom-SCCRR, 2017).

Generally, violence involving pastoralists is widespread and increasingly intense in West Pokot. Most Pokots lead a nomadic life primarily in arid and semi-arid remote areas. Management and utilization of natural resources come out as contentious issues leading to conflict in West Pokot (Mosol, 2022). The government, which ought to be a neutral arbitrator in all possible resource conflicts, has not fully taken up its responsibility. Thus, nongovernmental organizations such the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (KRCS) have appropriated certain responsibilities of the state to bring peace to the region. The organization plays a role in advocacy, lobbying, education, health disarmament, repatriation, restocking after a long drought, and other humanitarian activities. The KRCS envisages the promotion of peace building initiatives and the development of civil society as a very important strategic pillar in its operations (KRCS, 2020).

Amnesties and establishing peace committees in West Pokot have seen the region come close to the prospect of peace, and perhaps just that. This is because, despite all these efforts, insecurity and conflict in the region prevail (Mosol, 2022). Therefore, this study This study aimed to answer why the Pokot conflict endures despite International Federation of Red Cross' measures to promote peaceful coexistence. To address this issue, it was important to assess the conflict situation in the County, examine the intervention measures put in place by IFRC in peace building in the County, establish whether beneficiaries are involved by IFRC in creating and implementing peace building initiatives and identify barriers to IFRC's peace-building operations in the county. By scrutinizing these elements, this study sought to contribute to a deeper understanding of the complexities inherent in international humanitarian intervention and shed light on its overall efficacy in addressing conflicts.

### **1.3 Problem statement**

The scale and complexity of today's humanitarian crises in the world is gradually growing. Humanitarian organizations are crucial, as seen by the rise in protracted conflicts, natural disasters, infectious diseases, and other pandemics (Amiara, Odi, & Nwobi, 2020). According to UN projections made in December 2019, 168 million people worldwide would require humanitarian aid and protection in 2020 (Ayaz, 2019). Similar ethnic conflicts and high levels of instability have plagued West Pokot County for a long time, significantly impacting the region's development (Mosol, 2022). The International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) has played a key role in providing humanitarian aid to West Pokot County residents. However, despite all these efforts, insecurity and conflict in the region prevail. Therefore, this study scrutinized the overall efficacy of IFRC in addressing conflicts, this was achieved by assessing the conflict situation in the County, examine the IFRC's intervention measures for peace building in the County, assess extent of involvement of beneficiaries in creating and implementing peace building initiatives and identify barriers to IFRC's peace-building operations in the county.

### **1.4 Objectives of the study**

The main objective of the study was to establish the efficacy of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent society in promoting peace in West Pokot.

#### **1.4.1. Specific objectives**

The study was guided by the following specific objectives:

- i) To assess the conflict situation in West Pokot County
- ii) To determine the intervention measures taken by the IFRC in peace building in West Pokot County

- iii) To establish whether beneficiaries are involved by IFRC in creating and implementing peacebuilding initiatives in West Pokot County
- iv) To identify barriers to IFRC's peace-building operations in West Pokot County.

#### **1.4.2 Research questions**

The study delved to answer the following questions:

- i) What is the conflict situation in West Pokot County?
- ii) What are the IFRC's peace-building interventions in West Pokot County.
- iii) To what extent are beneficiaries involved by IFRC in peace building initiatives in West Pokot County?
- iv) What obstacles hinder the IFRC's peace-building efforts in West Pokot County?

#### **1.5 Justification and Significance of the study**

This study is justified since it examines how the International Federation of Red Cross and Crescent Society contribute to peace building in West Pokot County. Extended ethnic strife and insecurity inside the County have had a detrimental impact on the regional economy. Consequently, in order to evaluate the IFRC's efficacy, information regarding areas for efficiency and effectiveness improvement will be shared with stakeholders and other humanitarian organizations. This will guarantee fewer casualties, destruction of property, and disruption of socio-economic processes in the event of a conflict. The study is noteworthy because it describes how humanitarian groups might improve the process of establishing peace, which is crucial for all societal members.

West Pokot is a pastoral community that values its nomadic lifestyle. Identifying effective solutions can be duplicated in other counties in the region, including Turkana, Samburu, Marakwet, Laikipia, and Baringo. These counties experience spillover effects due to

competition for scarce resources. This could result in a strong and stable economic zone. This study will inform future research on controlling inter-ethnic conflicts in society. The study is also a significant source of reference to policy-makers in creating a comprehensive security policy to address issues of insecurity in pastoral areas in Kenya, to handle challenges such as reducing ethnic tensions, promoting human rights, address historical injustices of land ownership and the marginalization of pastoral areas, all enshrined in Vision 2030 under the flagship of “Human rights, Managing diversity and Consolidation of National Unity”.

IFRC was selected as the humanitarian organization of emphasis for this research because of the positive feedback it has received from the government and other humanitarian stakeholders regarding its exceptional work in delivering humanitarian services throughout the country. IFRC is a well-known and respected organization that has gained recognition for having a strong grassroots organization that enables quicker local disaster response.

Since the study will be able to inform policies on conflict resolution and peace building, it may be important to a variety of stakeholders. From the perspective of non-state actors, the study's recommendations might help offer ways to resolve conflicts in West Pokot County. In a similar vein, the study's conclusions will be crucial in helping the county and federal governments devise plans and act to address the issue of ethnic disputes in West Pokot County and promote peace.

Additionally, the results will help shape policy and strategy aimed at improving the efficacy of peace building, particularly in West Pokot County, for the IFRC and other significant non-state actors, including the other NGOs engaged in humanitarian aid and the community. IFRC will greatly benefit from the gaps in the study that will be found to be ineffective and inefficient since they will highlight areas in which IFRC needs to improve.

The research may help the general public understand and value the role that humanitarian organizations play in promoting peace so that they can put the methods that support these organizations' activities into practice. The study offers the information needed for activities aimed at promoting peace, which will be advantageous to stakeholders and humanitarian organizations. Organizations will be better equipped to handle obstacles that may arise in peace building endeavours in conflict areas as a result of this study.

Finally, the contributes to the existing body of knowledge on efficacy of IFRC in peace building. Majority of the existing studies have focused on causes and effects of conflicts in West Pokot. However, there is no empirical research on roles and efficacy of humanitarian organizations in peace building. Also, the study provides a foundation for future research on related subjects and has created opportunities for exploration for researchers. This research work contributes to the already rich field of peace studies and provides gaps for future research for other researchers in the area of peace studies. The study also promotes the expansion of scholarly understanding in the area of peace building.

### **1.6 Scope of the study**

The study focused on West Pokot County, which has the highest occurrence of inter-ethnic disputes compared to other counties. The County has experienced ethnic conflicts and high levels of instability for a long time, significantly impacting the region's development (Mosol, 2022)

The study was delimited in the overall efficacy of IFRC in addressing conflicts in West Pokot County. This was achieved by focusing on specific variables which included: assessing the conflict situation West Pokot County, determining the intervention measures taken by the IFRC in peace building, establishing whether beneficiaries are involved by IFRC in creating and

implementing peacebuilding initiatives and identifying barriers to IFRC's peace-building operations in West Pokot County.

IFRC was selected as the humanitarian organization of emphasis for this research because of the positive feedback it has received from the government and other humanitarian stakeholders regarding its exceptional work in delivering humanitarian services throughout the country. IFRC is a well-known and respected organization that has gained recognition for having a strong grassroots organization that enables quicker local disaster response.

The study covered conflict events from 2010 to 2023, covering the period of Kenya's 2010 Constitution, which established devolved government and economic decentralization at the grassroots level. The study targeted the staff of the Red Cross, members of the County government, opinion leaders and community members who are victims of conflict in West Pokot County.

### **1.7. Limitations of the study**

Limitations of the study refer to the constraints that are largely beyond the researchers control but could affect the study outcome (Simon & Goes, 2013). The data collection exercise was rendered unfeasible due to the violence in West Pokot. In order to overcome this difficulty, the researcher enlisted the help of locals who live in these remote locations; the individuals were trained on how to collect data on behalf of the researcher. Language barriers prevented some respondents from expressing themselves clearly in English during the data collection process, which was the other limitation. In order to mitigate this, the researcher hired two research assistants who were proficient in the community's language and were in charge of translating during interviews.

## **1.8 Research assumptions**

The study was carried out under the following assumptions that:

- i. West Pokot County had the highest occurrence of inter-ethnic disputes compared to other counties.
- ii. The IFRC's intervention measures contributed to West Pokot County's efforts to promote peace.
- iii. The IFRC had involved beneficiaries in all the peace building initiatives in West Pokot County
- iv. There were obstacles that hindered the IFRC's peace-building efforts in West Pokot County.
- v. The respondents were truthful in providing their input and were aware of the role that IFRC play in fostering peace.
- vi. The respondents provided accurate data on the variables that were under investigation.

## CHAPTER TWO

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Introduction**

The section presents relevant literature according to the objectives of the study. It also focuses on theoretical framework.

### **2.2 The Conflict Situation in West Pokot County**

Conflict manifests itself through institutional unfairness and unequal power allocation (Brigitte, 2015). It is also a situation in which two groups actively oppose each other and pursue irreconcilable aims (Graham & Frances, 2015). Conflicts can be caused by a variety of factors, including historical rivalry, cultural values, land concerns, political incitement, youth unemployment, and the spread of illicit weapons (Hopkin, 2012). Conflicts are widespread in dry locations with few natural resources. Global environmental change and population growth have resulted in unprecedented demand for resources. Competition for limited resources has led to conflicts. Climate-related environmental changes are a key cause of disputes (Mathew et al., 2009; Sterzel et al., 2012).

Droughts in the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) have increased from once every six years to once every three years, indicating climate change. Drought frequency in Ethiopia has increased from 6-8 to 1-2 years (Meier et al., 2007). Ruey (2017) argues that conflicts lead to moral and material devastation. The destruction of capital infrastructure and loss of life can lead to a loss of morale and economic benefits for a community. According to Mathew et al. (2009), the exploitation of natural resources and other environmental pressures play a critical role in all stages of conflict, from escalating violence to threatening peace. Over the past 60 years, natural resources have been linked to at least 40% of intrastate disputes. Drought-related natural resource scarcity has exacerbated hostilities in certain areas of Sudan (United Nations Development Programme Sudan, 2010).

Conflicts and conflict resolutions among pastoral communities are not new phenomena. Among the pastoral communities living in arid and semi-arid environments of Kenya, conflicts over control of and access to natural resources are a common phenomenon. Despite the increase in peace building initiatives conflicts in these areas are far from ending resulting in conflict-torn pastoral regions. Perennial conflicts in northern Kenya's dry and semi-arid area extend back to pre-colonial times, and the region is frequently in the headlines for wars, fatalities, displacements, drought, diseases, and destruction (Practical Action, 2014). West Pokot, a typically conflict-prone region, has recently seen flare-ups and escalating fighting with the Marakwet, Tugen, and Turkana, resulting in alarmingly high casualties (Shalom, 2017). The Pokot have been accused of being the primary aggressors by their neighbors, but they consider themselves as victims of provocation by other communities who, they allege, conspire with the government to destroy them (Okari, 2017). The Pokot claim that they obtain and use weaponry against their neighbours to protect their flock and community.

Peace building, which aims to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violence, is a common practice among warring cultures. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have a role in promoting peace at national and international levels. World Vision Kenya (WVK) and Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) have launched peace-building programs in the county. In 1997, the World Vision Peace Initiative aimed to educate rival communities on the benefits of peaceful coexistence, provide formal education, drill boreholes and pipe water from highlands to lowlands, and provide drought-resistant Sahiwal cattle. In 2010, WVK built a water project that provides potable water to over 68,000 people in Chepareria, West Pokot, Kenya. The Kenya Red Cross made significant contributions by distributing food and non-food supplies to affected communities. Food provision reduced the frequency and severity of confrontations. The IOM's Japan-funded project in West Pokot County aimed to prevent conflicts, protect

victims, and strengthen policies that promote peaceful coexistence and partnership with formal and grassroots structures, such as peace committees.

According to Kona (2004), breaking the cycle of conflict in pastoral communities remains a problem for most peace building programs, despite efforts made by government and non-governmental organizations to broker peace among pastoralists. According to Nangulu (2001), livestock raiding continues to be a big issue among the Pokot community, despite Kenya's efforts to combat it. Conflicts in West Pokot County have persisted for two decades due to a decreasing pastoral industry caused by climate change and scarcity of water and pasture. Competition for scarce water and pastures can lead to conflicts. According to Huho et al. (2009) and Huho and Ngaira (2012), the primary danger to the pastoral economy in northern Kenya's dry regions is water and pasture scarcity due to climate change-induced droughts.

According to Kaino (2017), West Pokot County, like many other pastoral districts, experienced intra and inter-community conflicts over access to natural resources, especially water and pasture. Other drivers of violence were cattle raids, historical rivalries, and politically motivated wars. Land disputes were the primary cause of intra-community conflict among Pokot in the county. Land ownership in West Pokot County includes both communal and freehold. Pastoralism is primarily practiced on communal lands in the lowlands, whereas freehold land ownership is more common in the highlands for arable land. During the dry drought, fighting arising among community members residing in the lowlands over access to available land resources.

Nembrini et al. (2005) reported that pastoral groups have been fighting over water and pasture for the past decade. During the 2001-2002 droughts, Orma and Wardei pastoralists reported that the Pokomo denied them access to water stations and grazing pastures, leading to clashes

and over 100 deaths. USAID (2005) found that disputes between Turkana, Pokot, and Sabinu populations often stemmed from limited access to natural resources.

Cheseremi (2018) reported that in 2016, there was a violence between Baringo, Elgeyo Marakwet, and West Pokot counties that killed over 30 people and displaced many more from their homes and crops. In 2017, bandits shot and killed a chief during a security meeting. In January 2018, more than 100 teachers from public primary and secondary schools in the volatile Chesegeon district on the boundary of Elgeyo Marakwet and West Pokot counties fled the region due to personal safety concerns as a result of violent conflict. The government's approach to conflict has been largely reactive, failing to address fundamental concerns, with local officials condemned for siding with their communities during confrontations. Security forces' efforts to execute the law exacerbate the problem due to charges of bias, resulting in vicious gun battles, and with porous borders, livestock rustlers flee to neighbouring countries. Local cultural solutions have not resolved the dispute, either.

Brigitte (2015) highlights that the historical literature on the Pokot-Turkana conflict has primarily focused on acts of direct violence, including as cattle raiding, killing, maiming, property destruction, and displacement. In a semi-arid terrain with little water and pasture, the two groups rely heavily on pastoralism to support their fundamental human requirements. Cattle are highly valued by both groups, and when herds are depleted due to starvation, drought, or disease, they will raid to replenish them, even if it means fighting and even dying. It's important to note that both parties' activities are influenced by ethno-cultural institutions, which may justify both behavioral and structural violence. There is still a dearth of analysis on how the humanitarian organizations should intervene and modify these systems to ensure peace and socioeconomic progress for all citizens without prejudice.

A study by Huho (2014) investigated conflict and conflict resolution strategies in West Pokot County. The main method of data collection was scheduled interviews. The study established that the main source of conflicts was control over and access to natural resources particularly pasture and water and in fewer instances land intra-conflicts followed by livestock raids and politically initiated conflicts. Through peace building initiatives, decreased incidences of historical conflict between pastoral communities and the Pokots living in West Pokot County were established but not with conflicts associated with natural resources. Scarcity of pasture and water, which is a manifest of the effects of climate change, negates the attempts made at national and local levels to resolve conflicts.

According to the KNBS (2015), West Pokot County is one of Kenya's top ten poorest counties, with a poverty rate of 57.3%. According to Rohwerder (2015), the county experiences frequent interethnic conflicts with its neighbouring ethnic communities, with an average of 18-10 incidents of violence each year. Inter-ethnic conflict, as argued by Rohwerder is a problem that can be traced back to a situation in which the Pokot ethnic community engages in conflicts with neighboring ethnic communities in order to provide protection and assurance of livelihoods for its residents. Rohwerder (2015) goes on to say that the frequent inter-ethnic conflicts between the Pokot ethnic community primarily occur against the Turkana, Samburu, Tugen, and Marakwet ethnic communities in arid areas of the county that border those ethnic groups. This could be related to nomadic pastoralism practices, in which the Pokot Ethnic community's cattle forages into neighbouring communities' grazing areas, increasing competition for already scarce water and grazing fields for the animals, resulting in tensions and confrontations. This issue is common in the County's desert areas, where nomadic pastoralism is practiced, particularly in Pokot North and Pokot Central Sub-Counties. The National Government has previously attempted to manage these conflicts through the deployment of government security machinery, changes in policies, and operational responses

aimed at addressing inter-ethnic community conflicts in West Pokot County, including but not limited to disarmament exercises such as the 1984 disarmament in Pokot North, but has had little success Rohwerder (2015).

A study by Devine (2016) sought to establish why the Pokot-Turkana conflict persists despite the interventions by the State and the Catholic Church. The study was guided by structural violence theory. The research design employed was cross-sectional sample survey wherein 381 cases comprising Pokots and Turkanas were selected through cluster sampling. Quantitative data was collected from these cases through structured questionnaire, supplemented by focus group discussions and interview data. The hypotheses were tested using factor analysis, Pearson correlation, analysis of covariance and multiple regression/correlation. The study established three underlying causes of the conflict, namely, core resources, political economy and infrastructure insecurity. In addition, the study established that the State approaches to managing the conflict were not effective. Therefore, there was a need to establish the missing link between peace building initiatives and the escalating conflicts in West-Pokot County.

### **2.3 Role of Humanitarian and Development Organisations to Peace Building**

The approach and contributions of humanitarian and development organisations to the security sector are necessarily very varied, and depend on the context. The study will concentrate on some of the key aspects of the relationship of humanitarian and development organisations to the security sector in the fragile peace context of transition, which covers several dimensions, including the operational security and access dimension and the direct and indirect contributions of these organizations to security sector reform.

### 2.3.1 General Considerations

One key dimension is the role that the security sector plays in providing security to humanitarian agencies in transition situations, where they are often still vulnerable to numerous threats and thus their relationship with the security sector may be ambiguous. On the one hand, humanitarian organizations are often dependent on the local armed forces or militia to provide security for their activities and to guarantee them access to the beneficiaries of humanitarian aid. On the other hand, humanitarian organizations are often involved in upholding humanitarian law and other international standards in the security sector, including in the penitentiary sector.

The situation for development organizations is different in several respects as they generally operate in an already more secure environment and are thus less dependent on the security sector for security and access. Their activities in situations of transition generally cover the reform of governance structures, which often include the security sector. They usually operate within a political or policy framework elaborated in close cooperation with the national authorities. Humanitarian organisations, on the other hand, operate independently of this framework and their goal is principally to save lives and livelihoods and to uphold relevant international humanitarian standards, especially through protection activities. Where an outside intervention is taking place, such as by a UN peacekeeping force or a regional organisation, the situation for humanitarian organisations may become particularly challenging. The humanitarian *modus operandi* and principles, especially neutrality, require that these organisations avoid taking sides with any force that is or may become a party to the conflict, i.e. use force. This implies certain difficulties, because while often seeking to coordinate with the external force in supporting transition, they must keep a certain distance from all political and military authorities, including the host government and the external force. The rule of thumb is generally that the ‘hotter’ a conflict, the greater the distance that must be kept.

### **2.3.2 Intervention measures by Humanitarian Organizations to Peace Building**

Humanitarian organisations are not closely involved in the reform agenda of the security sector, but there are nevertheless some activities, which are worth highlighting because they do or can have a direct impact on this sector. For example, in several South-Eastern European countries the ICRC has been cooperating with the OSCE in relation to the security sector. The ICRC also undertakes actions to regulate the armed forces better through the national implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL) and has recently started several programmes for human rights training for security and police forces. Innovative approaches such as "food-for-arms", where humanitarian food rations are distributed in exchange for the deposit of small arms and light weapons, have confirmed the relevance of targeted humanitarian interventions in this field. Still work remains to be done to ensure that non-combatants do not feel disadvantaged for having not taken up arms, which can lead to increased tensions. Another area of direct impact is in protection, which relates directly to the military, judicial, penal and human rights practice of the authorities.

Some humanitarian organizations, such as the ICRC and the UNHCR, maintain close contacts with security sector agencies and institutions in undertaking their protection activities, based in particular on international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law. Protection activities essentially seek to uphold the rights of non-combatants, especially civilians, but also prisoners of war (POWs) and other detainees. To achieve this goal, the cooperation of the security sector is clearly indispensable. Many humanitarian agencies, including the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), have stepped up their advocacy efforts in relation to the security sector in recent years in view of ensuring better protection for civilians, including refugees and internally displaced persons, often with a focus on vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly or in some cases, women. The indirect impact of humanitarian action on the environment in which the transition takes place complements the direct impact of

humanitarian organisations on the security sector. Humanitarian action may have a pacifying and stabilising role. In addition, many humanitarian organisations undertake “environment-building”, which, in complement to the core tasks of humanitarian protection and assistance, seeks to build up a culture and institutions likely to support peace-building efforts. Together, the wide spectrum of humanitarian activities can contribute to creating the conditions for reduced tensions and may thus lay the groundwork for a successful reform process of the security sector. This indirect role of humanitarian action relates to the provision of humanitarian aid in response to vital needs. The struggle for access to life-sustaining resources, such as water and fertile land, contributes to perilous tensions in many areas, especially if there are no effective political mechanisms to overcome them. It is not possible to neither achieve nor sustain political stability without tangible improvements in the basic conditions of people’s lives, in contrast to their situation during or even before conflict.

Humanitarian action does not seek to resolve these underlying structural problems, but it can act as a palliative by temporarily addressing shortages in access to resources that are essential to save lives and livelihoods. This can in turn reduce existing tensions and create a sense of hope among beneficiaries and a momentum towards a political resolution of the crisis. A second dimension of indirect action is in the field of protection. It is now recognizable that humanitarian organizations, through the protection activities, contribute to creating an environment favourable to respect for human rights and humanitarian law. In doing so, they address sources of grievance and tensions and help create the right conditions for transition peace building. The protection activities carried out by humanitarian organizations are very varied. For instance, the UNHCR has a mandate for the protection and reintegration of refugees. The ICRC has a mandate to protect non-combatants including especially civilians but also prisoners of war (POWs) and political detainees. UNICEF has a special mandate to protect children. A large number of specialized NGOs play a protection role in a wide range of issue

areas, such as mine awareness, unaccompanied minors, and persons missing due to conflict. A third dimension is social-psychological, since rehabilitation and reconstruction after violent conflicts covers not only the physical structures, but also include social structures in general. The activities of humanitarian organisations can help to build up trust between warring communities and to facilitate the reconciliation process. The actions of humanitarian organizations in this field are quite diverse, and the design of the following examples illustrates this point. For one thing, physical reconstruction projects can have a positive social effect if it creates a new rationale and opportunities for cooperation among and between communities.

Recently, the United Nations has sought to build on the positive team-building and social effects of sport to contribute to peace building. The UN Secretary-General has named a Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace, Mr Adolf Ogi from Switzerland, to advance this agenda worldwide. Other activities support reconciliation and the psychological well-being of a population. In particular, it is recognizable that feelings of grief and revenge fuel violent conflict. Activities that help the grieving process and channel feelings of anger and revenge into constructive actions thus contribute to the peace-building process. The ICRC has a tracing mandate whereby it seeks to reunite family members that have lost trace of each other. Reunited families are better able to cope with the trauma of armed conflict. Similarly, the ICRC transmits Red Cross messages from prisoners and detainees to family and friends. Many humanitarian organizations integrate a psychological element into their activities, and provide counselling for adults and children affected by conflict and related traumatic experiences. All these activities lay the groundwork for reconciliation, peace building and ultimately for successful security sector reform

According to Barajas, Howard, Miner, Sartin, and Silver (2013), humanitarian organizations in Afghanistan, have contributed to the security and stability of the country by having

partnerships with the armed forces. They have buttressed the credibility and capacity of developing establishments. Humanitarian organizations possess the capacity to help in developing a diverse society and economy. The organizations can help in training citizens the fundamentals of democracy and work as a form of “caulk” or “glue” amongst the people and the government.

For a nation that is recovering from post-conflict challenges humanitarian organizations can help in the re-framing of governance issues along with providing substitute dialogue mechanisms between conflicting parties. Humanitarian bodies can aid in the process of connecting new governments to their citizens who may lack awareness of their novel tasks and bigger responsibilities as the organizations are deeply entangled within the civil society. As a result, these efforts can encourage equitable services delivery all over the population.

A truce treaty in 2002 in Sri Lanka, impelled a rapid internationalization of peace-building initiatives. This transnational engagement was multi-layered and encompassed security assurances to produce the prerequisites for peace dialogues and the application of peace conditionality’s, monitor one facilitation, a supervising mission, support for other Track Two and Three efforts and financial backing for reconstruction in conflict affected regions (Walton, 2008). Nation building programmes of most of the humanitarian organizations in Sri Lanka sought to forge links between different ethnic communities, buttress public support for the peace building processes, and decrease inter-community pressures by establishing workshops, rallies, trainings, exchange visits and carrying out studies along with media crusades.

With the case of Nigeria, Uzuegbunam (2013) assert that NGOs are in a brilliant position to involve themselves in various nation building activities. They are in good position to provide humanitarian mediation and aid, and also building capacity among the local communities by involving them in a variety of joint endeavours and engaging them in empowerment initiatives.

Ayaz (2019) reported that international non-governmental organizations, due to their very nature, are capable of many international diplomacies without the involvement of their respective governments. These organizations can create peace according to their goals, and enterprise to cultural, social and political actions with the approach of the international security. International organizations are of the main pillars of global system in our era. The temporary actions they take takes place when the deterioration of the situation would be avoided and coercive measures would be decided to establish global peace. It's evident that non-governmental organizations play an important role in avoidance of conflict and help in recovery from post conflict Trauma.

In Sudan, Assal (2016) examined the role of civil society in peace building and post conflict trauma recovery. The study was based on Darfur civil society organizations and two Khartoumbased ones, this research closely looks at the roles civil society organizations play in peace building, the modalities of playing such roles, and the challenges facing them. The research concluded that despite political repression, a deteriorating economy and active war in three parts of the country, civil society organizations in Sudan do contribute to peace making and peace building and post conflict trauma recovery.

In Somalia, Hassan and Kavale (2018) evaluated the role of Civil Society in peace building in Mogadishu, Somalia. The paper specifically examined the role of Civil Society in peace building processes in Somalia. The study used descriptive research design. The target population of the study was 60 employees. Stratified sampling method used to classify the target population into two strata. The sample size was 52 employees arrived at using the Slovenes formulae. Data collection was done using structured questionnaires in Linkert type scale. Data analysed both quantitatively and qualitatively. The study established that the contribution that these actors can make to the peace-building process is crucial for

understanding the underlying mechanisms for the transformation and subsequent resolution of the conflict.

Kabore (2023) sought to analyse the role of international organizations in conflict management in Burkina Faso. The study adopted a desktop methodology. The results showed that international organizations are important actors in conflict management. They are responsible for mediating disputes, preventing armed conflicts and promoting peace building efforts. These organizations have played a key role in providing technical and financial support to the Government of Burkina Faso as well as in facilitating dialogue and cooperation between international actors, the government, and civil society in Burkina Faso

According to Korbéogo (2020), the role of international organizations in conflict management in Burkina Faso is multifaceted. Such organizations have a key role to play in addressing the security, economic and social challenges facing the country, and in promoting peace and stability in the region. In Burkina Faso, these changes come at a time of increasing instability, with unprecedented humanitarian and security crises and diminishing trust in the government. Recognizing the growing risks, the UN, the Burkinabe government, and their partners began recalibrating their efforts in the country in 2018 by developing new strategies and tools to address these multidimensional challenges.

Kangdim (2021) examined the role played by international organizations in conflict management, focusing specifically on the African Union (AU). It used qualitative research techniques. The study's findings revealed that despite the AU's role in proffering solutions to African problems, the organization still faces several challenges regarding its quest to address these problems. These challenges include limited funding, over-reliance on external funding, and the inability of the institution to take ownership of most of the peace building initiatives, manage diversities, and implement policies that prevent conflicts in the region.

Ian (2020) examined the reasons why non-governmental organizations are taking a central role in conflict transformation in the contemporary society, the nature of conflicts and finally the challenges it faces. This paper adopted descriptive approach using an interview schedule drawing its respondents from NGOs, government officials and victims of conflicts in Uasin-Gishu County, rift-valley region of Kenya which has experienced conflicts overtime. The research found that; NGO's role is significant because it seeks to find the root cause of conflict, the nature of conflicts ranges from politically triggered, inter-clan to ethnic conflict, the NGOs challenges are; inadequate financial resources, non-committal by warring parties to conflict resolution, the state and finally the complexity and longevity of protracted conflicts.

### **2.3.3 Situating humanitarian action in relation to peacekeeping**

Discussions of humanitarian and peacekeeping activities often disclose fundamentally different concepts of their relationship. In the view of some, humanitarian action takes place squarely within peacekeeping operations, lodged fully within the political rubric of the United Nations. Others envision humanitarian efforts integrated within but insulated from the surrounding political framework. Still others approach humanitarian efforts as freestanding initiatives, structurally independent of peacekeeping activities. Former Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali noted the vital role of the UN in *An Agenda for Peace* of June 1992. His observation was that with the passing of the Cold War and of frequent superpower, vetoes in the Security Council, the UN and its security arm have emerged as a central instrument for the prevention and resolution of conflicts and for the preservation of peace (Minear, Chelliah, Crisp, Mackinlay, & Weiss, 1992). Humanitarian action ranks among the efforts to foster peace through addressing the deepest causes of conflict: economic despair, social injustice and political oppression. Although the Secretary-General and Security Council later exercised greater caution in approaching the peace enforcement element of *An Agenda for Peace*,

humanitarian activities for the Council remain prominently and firmly situated within peacekeeping operations (Minear et al., 1992).

The confirmation of the centrality of humanitarian action by the experience of Special Representatives of the Secretary-General who have managed such undertakings is that the coordination of humanitarian assistance should be an essential component of any peacekeeping operation. Put in other words, it is an essential instrument in the implementation of the peace agreement. A second approach stresses the need to insulate humanitarian action from peacekeeping activities. An integral part of same world body that authorizes and maintains peacekeeping operations, UN humanitarian organizations also have their own mandates and terms of reference. Despite the UN's inclusiveness, its legitimacy, the size and expertise of its specialized Agencies, and its authority to sanction intervention, notes one analyst, the objectives and motive force of participating organizations are self-generated and self-directed. From this perspective, humanitarian action, in principle and by definition, is a response to basic human needs for protection and assistance. International humanitarian law requires that such action be devoid of extraneous agendas, political, religious, or otherwise. Responding to the tension between their humanitarian mandates and their membership in the UN family, their own governing bodies are themselves comprised of UN member states. UN humanitarian organizations have sought in ways illustrated below to insulate activities from the UN's political-military sphere.

A third approach, reflecting doubts about the desirability of integration and the possibility of insulation, holds that humanitarian action in complex emergencies should be institutionally separated from the United Nations altogether. A host of humanitarian organizations — first and foremost the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) but also some non-governmental organizations — emphasize their structural independence. The ICRC, basing its

activities on the right of civilian populations to humanitarian assistance and the obligation of governments to respect that right, underscores the consensual nature of humanitarian action. In its view, “humanitarian intervention” — that is, humanitarian action backed by military force — is a contradiction in terms. As a matter of principle and of operations, it has maintained a clear separation from UN political-military activities, which, whatever legitimacy they exercise in their own right, compromise the impartiality of associated humanitarian organizations and activities. Although enforcement activities under Chapter VII are perceived as greater threats to the integrity of humanitarian action, independence is also sought from Chapter VI undertakings as well. The ICRC also keeps its distance from the humanitarian efforts of UN and other organizations.

Where to situate humanitarian action in relation to peacekeeping operations has been the subject of ongoing discussions between and among DPKO, DPA, and, since its creation in 1992. Noting an upsurge in responses to internal armed conflicts in the form of multi-faceted UN operations involving political, military, and humanitarian activities, the paper essentially straddles the integrationist and isolationist approaches.

Given the interrelated causes and consequences of complex emergencies, humanitarian action cannot be fully effective unless it is related to a comprehensive strategy for peace and security, human rights and social and economic development as proposed within the framework of the *Agenda for Peace* (Minear et al., 1992). The paper therefore offers operational guidelines for humanitarian activities within integrated and unified operations.” At the same time, the paper affirms the need for carefully insulating such activities. Because humanitarian and political objectives do not necessarily coincide, UN humanitarian organizations should maintain a certain degree of independence from UN-authorized political and/or military activities they are responsible for and should enjoy autonomy in accordance with their mandates.

Regular consultations among the three UN departments have reduced some of the tensions experienced earlier in the decade. In fact, discussions of the Humanitarian Mandates paper, which was approved by the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) in November 1996, have provided a vehicle for clarifying and addressing the issues. However, some confusion remains about where humanitarian action should be situated, playing itself out in matters of coordination, decision-making, programming, and accountability in ways elaborated the following sections.

#### **2.3.4. Orchestrating decision-making in the Security Council**

Decisions by the UN Security Council in the political and peacekeeping arenas establish the framework within which activities by UN and associated humanitarian organizations are carried out. The closer connection now seen after the Cold War between humanitarian crises and threats to international peace and security is clearly a positive development. Nevertheless, tensions between political decisions and humanitarian efforts have arisen in three major areas: the absence of adequate Security Council attention to humanitarian concerns, the substitution of humanitarian for political action, and the intrusion of national political agendas into the humanitarian arena.

At critical junctures in major recent crises, the Security Council has proved inattentive to serious humanitarian concerns. The human cataclysm in Liberia — dramatized by major incidents involving the slaughter of civilians in December of 1989 and July of 1990 — did not surface prominently for years on the Council's screen. As the conflict spread in 1990, it was preoccupied with radical changes in Eastern Europe and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Soon the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia and civil strife within Somalia claimed its attention. A UN political initiative thus came only after the Liberia crisis was well advanced. UN humanitarian organizations had moved more quickly to assess the need and had set up limited

aid operations by March 1990, although all UN personnel were withdrawn in May amid worsening security.

The Liberia experience introduces a caveat to the welcome post-Cold War linkage noted earlier between civilian suffering and perceived threats to international security. From a purely humanitarian standpoint, threats to humanity create their own imperative for action, quite apart from any perceived connection to international peace and security. Noting a similar high-level political inattention at about the same time with respect to the civil war in the Sudan, we recommended the development of a “humanitarian trigger mechanism [which] could automatically bring an acute civil war situation to the attention of the Security Council through the Secretary-General under Article 99 of the Charter.” Although such a provision would not guarantee the Council’s action, it would exercise a claim on its attention.

On a variety of occasions, the Council has also substituted humanitarian for political action. Responses to the crisis in the former Yugoslavia offer a dramatic case in point. During the years 1991-95, the Security Council passed upwards of one hundred resolutions to impose and then tighten a weapons embargo, commit UN peacekeeping forces, decry ethnic cleansing and other human rights abuses, endorse stepped up aid activities, establish “safe areas,” and ensure humanitarian access.

As the wars dragged on and political solutions became increasingly elusive, resolutions addressing humanitarian concerns increased in prominence. Security Council measures were widely viewed as “humanitarian alibis:” that is, high-profile steps that allowed governments to appear to be doing something while in reality avoiding the essential measures. Cedric Thornberry, who headed UNPROFOR’s Civil Affairs unit for three years, has subsequently expressed his personal view that “UN peace operations ... are frequently (especially in the former Yugoslavia) knee-deep in mandates promulgated by a Security Council which, in 1992-

3, lost contact with reality in regard to Yugoslavia and perhaps also elsewhere.” The Yugoslav crisis represented, in the words of UN High Commissioner Sadako Ogata, “a humanitarian problem without a humanitarian solution.” Initiated in the early going to buy time for a solution to the conflicts, humanitarian activities became over time an end in themselves. “It is not simply that the UN’s humanitarian activities have become politicized,” observed a UNHCR official in late 1993. “It is rather that we’ve been transformed into the only manifestation of international political will.” The Security Council not only failed to take the requisite diplomatic and perhaps military action but also undermined humanitarian values as well. “We have chosen to respond to major unlawful violence not by stopping that violence, but by trying to provide relief to the suffering,” observed analyst Rosalyn Higgins. “But our choice of policy allows the suffering to continue.”

Finally, national political agendas of Security Council member states have adversely affected the Council’s responses to humanitarian imperatives. Confronted by genocide unleashed in early April 1994 in Rwanda and against the advice of diplomats and military personnel on the ground, the Security Council reduced the numbers of peacekeeping personnel and then waited fully six weeks before augmenting them. Acting under a restrictive Presidential Decision Directive 25, the United States prevailed at a time when most Council members were prepared to act. The Council deferred to insistence by the People’s Republic of China in 1996 that the extension of the UN peacekeeping operation in Haiti be limited to four months rather than the proposed six. Objections by the Chinese also delayed Council authorization of UN military observers to oversee a long-sought Guatemalan peace agreement, although they ultimately agreed to the mission.

National political interests can, of course, spur as well as deter constructive Security Council action. One of the acknowledged factors in Canadian commitments to UNMIH and its funding

for economic development in Haiti in 1996 was the desire to demonstrate to Quebec “the positive role of a united Canada in a francophone foreign policy setting.” High-profile Canadian involvement in Haiti also helped the government’s electoral strategy in the Papineau-St. Michel district of Montreal, heavily populated by Haitians. Political considerations also figured in the leadership role played by the French government in pressing the Security Council to authorize Operation Turquoise in June 1994, although the positive humanitarian aspects of the French initiative were offset by longer-term political problems.

The area of economic sanctions provides an illustration of all three of these elements at work. First, sanctions imposed by the Security Council have had wide-ranging humanitarian consequences, often without accomplishing their political purposes. While sanctions proponents see such consequences as unanticipated, a report prepared for the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs concluded that the amount of information available today on the devastating economic, social and humanitarian impact of sanctions no longer permits to entertain the notion of ‘unintended effects. Second, sanctions have served as a substitute for serious political action. Such economic measures imposed by the Security Council against Haiti from 1991 onwards, for example, were violated with impunity by those against whom they were targeted and were weakened as well by some of the same governments that had pressed for them. Third, the management of sanctions has reflected the wishes of key Permanent Members of the Security Council rather than a clear consensus of Council members. In the case of Iraq, pressure of the United States and the United Kingdom spearheaded the use of military force against Iraq in January 1991, despite evidence that the sanctions imposed in August of the previous year were beginning to be felt. Pressure from the same governments kept the sanctions in place and deferred until late 1996 implementation of the oil-for-food agreement, at great civilian cost throughout. The added licensing burdens on humanitarian actors imposed by the Sanctions Committees and intensified by the United States also undercut the

responsiveness of humanitarian programs, though recently introduced changes have eased some of the burdens. As the conference reviews the dynamics of orchestrating decision-making in major crises by the Security Council, one conclusion and recommendation from our recent case study of the international response to a series of crises in Haiti over the last decade may have wider application. The interests of one or more major powers in promoting international action, fuelled by domestic political considerations and perceived national interests, should be acknowledged and welcomed to the extent that they converge with the interests of the larger community of states. However, safeguards should be introduced to maximize multilateral action and accountability.

Our conclusion from reviewing the humanitarian/political interface in the Gulf crisis may also be pertinent: Before the Security Council decides on economic sanctions and military enforcement actions with potentially major humanitarian consequences, the views of UN organizations with humanitarian competence and responsibilities should be given serious consideration. Proceeding with such action would commit the UN system to respond fully to their consequences.

#### **2.4. Involvement of Beneficiaries in Peace Building in West Pokot**

The principal objective of international humanitarian action, and the purpose of coordination, is to meet the needs of affected people by means that are reliable, effective, inclusive, and respect humanitarian principles (WHO, 2016). The purpose of humanitarian action is meant to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity. The four core humanitarian principles as outlined by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) are humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence and serve as the foundation for all humanitarian activities. Another principle that must be considered in humanitarian work is accountability, how to use power responsibly by taking account of, and being held accountable

to those who are affected by the use of such power. To be effective, successful, and adhering to international human rights, humanitarian organizations must be able to follow and promote the principles, laws, and norms associated with their work. As a work that is cantered on people, by people and for people, humanitarians must be responsible to the people that are most affected by the emergency (Williamson, 2020)

Despite the consistent use of the term “accountability”, the concept and its definition within the humanitarian sphere remain abstract. In a broad definition by a majority of scholars, accountability concerns processes of holding actors responsible for actions (Hilhorst et al., 2021; Anstorp & Horst, 2021). As defined by Grant and Keohane (2005), accountability implies that actors being held accountable have obligations to act in ways that are consistent with accepted standards of behaviour and that they will be sanctioned for failures to do so. Pathways to Accountabilities (GAP) framework defines accountability as a participatory process that is “first and foremost about engaging with, and being responsive to, stakeholders; taking into consideration their needs and views in decision-making and providing an explanation as to why they were or were not taken on board (Leigh, 2019).

There seems to be a general understanding among scholars that accountability to affected populations only started becoming a concern during the 1990s. This was due to a number of humanitarian scandals, especially the poor reaction and handling of the Rwanda crisis of 1994. According to Graafland & Bosma (2013) and HAP (2013) this incident was the “watershed moment”, which brought accountability to the forefront of humanitarian discourse. Anstorp and Horst (2021) together with Knox-Clarke and Mitchell (2011) argues that it was the deficiencies exposed in the Joint Evaluation on Emergency Assistance to Rwanda (JEEAR) of 1996 - including poor coordination, low accountability to genocide survivors and humanitarian assistance being directed to perpetrators of violence (Madondo, 2015). This created a strong

impetus for the humanitarian community to work towards better professionalism. It became increasingly clear that humanitarian organisations were not accountable to affected populations, and this was recognised as deeply problematic. Since then, the development of accountability has moved fast. The 1990s and 2000s have seen the creation of numerous standards and accountability initiatives to make the humanitarian system more accountable (Kilby, 2006; Jacobs & Wilford, 2010).

Initiatives to a greater commitment to accountability within the humanitarian system can be seen in accountability initiatives and codes of conduct that have been established throughout the sector. While accountability is widely used in the humanitarian sector, there is still no agreed upon standards for accountability. Instead, sectors and organisations have created their own standards that they choose to abide by (Daun, 2020). Three of the most influential initiatives in the humanitarian community is HAP, the Sphere Standards and CHS (Everett & Friesen, 2010).

These standards share common traits on accountability to affected populations, since the creation of CHS stems from the foundation of HAP and the Sphere project among others. These three standards draw together key element of accountability commitments. Accountability standards are simply the principles and beliefs that govern the operations of humanitarian actors. Deloffre (2010) defines them as performance standards which let humanitarian actors know whether they are meeting their accountability duty. According to Kirsch (2013), accountability standards include policies, standards, guidelines, rules, and procedures.

The Sphere Handbook (2011) was the first attempt to produce globally applicable minimum standards for humanitarian response (Gostelow, 1999). The Sphere Handbook discusses the minimum standards and principles and for humanitarian actors to be held accountable for meeting them, and that a system for accountability must be developed in order to do so HAP

is another international accountability standard, the first standard that is designed to assess, improve, and recognise the accountability and quality of humanitarian programs. At the core of the Standard is the Humanitarian Accountability Covenant: “a solemn contract to be accountable to people affected by disasters not just now but also in the future” (HAP, 2007). The Covenant outlines a set of principles and benchmarks, with explanations of requirements and means of verification for accountability. Hence, according to HAP, for the WFP to be truly accountable to affected populations, they have to fulfil the goals stated in the standard (HAP, 2007).

The most prominent accountability standard is the CHS, on quality and accountability. Emphasis was placed on how affected populations cannot solely be seen as recipients of humanitarian assistance; but also, power dynamics between disaster and conflict-affected populations and humanitarian actors needed to be changed. A combination of internal assessments and external peer reviews together with audits for verification and compliance were recommended (CHS, 2014). The standard sets out nine commitments that organisations involved in humanitarian assistance can use to improve the quality and effectiveness of the assistance they provide. It also acts as a tool for affected populations to hold agencies that are aiding account. This is done by providing information about what commitments humanitarian organisations should be making to communities affected by humanitarian interventions (Ibid, 2014; Madondo, 2015).

The literature review points out the growing need for legitimacy and the establishment of a platform to cultivate a trustful relationship between humanitarian organisations and their stakeholders. In response to this, humanitarian actors have begun to implement myriad accountability standards in order to prove their commitment to accountability. This has been done against the backdrop of mistrust that has been rising from corruption, misappropriation

of funds, scandals, and general wastefulness that have plagued the humanitarian sector. Hence, the pressure of evaluations of their performance has grown against their set objectives and success in delivering these objectives, against the real need of the affected populations (Madondo, 2015).

Furthermore, humanitarian actors have historically been very vocal in regard to holding different stakeholders, such as governments, to account and have therefore taken on the role of watchdog. Kirsch (2013) states in relation to this, then who is watching the watchdog? There are increasing calls for humanitarian actors themselves to be held accountable for their actions, and to further demonstrate this accountability. In essence, different scholars within the humanitarian sector seem to agree that accountability measures are vital and are beginning to take centre stage in current humanitarian initiatives. However, concerns about lack of accountability in the humanitarian sector keep reappearing in the academic literature and little evidence exists to show how humanitarian organisations have been more accountable (Daun, 2020).

Kilby (2006) emphasises the voluntary nature of downward accountability processes. This is echoed by Hilhorst et al (2021) and Daun (2020) who cast doubt on the impacts of current accountability commitments in humanitarian action. Knox-Clarke and Mitchell (2011) further argues that the underlying rationale for accountability discussions to affected populations is based on moral arguments, a position that is informed by humanitarian principles. One argument is how the concept of accountability, one that according to the majority of literature should be a non-negotiable part of humanitarian assistance, instead is presented as more of a reactionary aspect by organisations to their previous failings. Rather than a self-critical realisation of the need to hold themselves accountable. Perhaps this can explain why, nearly

two decades after the establishment of the first accountability initiative, humanitarian accountability is still being treated as a relatively new concept (Madondo, 2015).

Within the realm of lack of accountability, the review found that attention by scholars was devoted to the unequal power relations that characterise the relationship between humanitarian actors and affected populations. The ultimate goal of downward accountability is for humanitarian actors to release some power to their beneficiaries by including them in the aid chain (Rahman, 2014). According to Hilhorst (2018) although downward accountability is emphasised in humanitarian assistance, critical evidence-based data is still lacking on how it contributes to aid appropriateness and commitments to affected populations. This gap is further highlighted by Featherstone (2013) who stresses that the lack of evidence of accountability to affected populations and Rahman (2014) argues that practices of accountability to affected populations exists, however the impacts and these mechanisms are rarely assessed.

A study conducted by Jazmin (2020) sought to examine what guidelines and regulations help ensure that humanitarian organizations are held accountable to their beneficiary populations. The study reported factors that lead to a hindrance in accountability to affected populations which include: limited to no localization of aid in conflict settings, lack of communication between national and non-national humanitarian actors, marginalization of aid recipients' leadership roles, problematic downward accountability measures, and a lack of participation when it comes to people's perceived needs. However, due to prominent shortcomings in many recent major humanitarian responses, the importance of increasing accountability to people in humanitarian work has now become a focus that can no longer be ignored in the international community. The study concluded that lack of accountability to affected populations is not due to a lack of policy or principles, but rather it deals with the obscure nature of the rhetoric surrounding the humanitarian concept- humanitarian relief must involve, and be accountable

to, the crisis affected people it serves" – and the inability of the humanitarian community to turn this idealistic doctrine into a reality.

It is globally acceptable that the entity whose responsibility among many others is to ensure the prevalence of peace amongst communities and the prevention of conflict amongst such communities is the government (Barnes, 2006). When a government owns the peace-building process among the warring groups of persons in its jurisdiction, then it is highly likely that the peace process will be fruitful and sustainable in the end than if the government does not get involved in the process. The role of organizations such as civil societies is to offer a facilitative platform in which the government can collaborate with its people in developing sustainable conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms (Barnes, 2006). In other words, the undertakings of such outside parties should build capacities and enable the government to implement its mandate in a more conscious and informed perspective especially with the groundwork laid by the civil society organizations in their interventions. In most cases when the facilitative groups engage in directing the outcomes of the peace-building process of the conflict resolution mechanisms, the results are always detrimental rather than productive, and their found solutions are never sustainable and may escalate the conflicts in some cases (Barnes, 2006). Several pitfalls have become manifest especially in community conflict situations where facilitative civil society organizations try to determine the outcomes of intercommunity tensions in conflict-ridden regions. For example, one of the limitations of such an approach is the fact that some civil society groups may find themselves of fixing peace instead of finding and establishing peace (Latf, 2005). In other words, there are possibilities that an organization like the IFRC may find itself in a situation where it tries to find a quick solution for peace probably to reduce the magnitude of such a conflict without actually putting much emphasis on the sustainability of such a solution. The danger with quick fixes at peace is that they are never sustainable and may lead to greater damage especially when there is a

conspiracy by one community against another masked by the quick fix. The most unfortunate bit is that the interventions carried out by these organizations only hold to the extent that the bodies still run their response in those regions. When these groups pull out at the end of their programs, there may be a restoration of conflicts.

Similarly, the international civil society groups carry out their peace building initiatives whether on the verge of conflict or in post-conflict situations on the presents that the government and its associated agencies may have failed in their mandates of protecting its citizens from harming each other (Latf, 2005). However, when the government and its institutions fail in this role, the international community and the in particular international civil society groups may intervene in such situations albeit with short-lived commitment thus plunging the communities back to war when they leave.

It is imperative that civil society organizations to continue to perform their critical role in advocating as intermediaries for duty bearers to carry out their functions and commitments to rights holders efficiently. Nevertheless, it is crucial for these organizations to implement such duties with the utmost transparency and responsibility both on the part of their donors and the beneficiaries of their undertakings. Civil society groups should make sure that the resources availed to them for public good undergo proper utilization and should be able to account for such use with a lot of integrity. Therefore, the organizations should go about their business scoring above board and reproach when it comes to issues of corruption and mismanagement of the resources availed to them.

Unfortunately, it is sad that most of the civil society groups especially those with an international reach, have been reported with cases of malpractices and furthermore it is almost impossible for the beneficiaries to hold such organizations accountable to what these organizations may have pledged to the source of their funding and specifically their donors.

Mismanagement of program funds does not only constitute in the wrong use or diversion but also through misplaced priorities (Latf, 2005). It is possible that the IFRC engaged and expended on activities that may not have been immediately helpful in averting potential conflicts amongst the warring communities in the West Pokot County. For instance, the training of volunteers as counsellors with the intention of making them a standby lot of conflict counsellors was a good move though it was not going to bring the much-needed immediate peace that was necessary for the area at the time of intervention (International Federation of the Red Cross, 2014). Similarly, it is possible to assume that giving of food handouts, as a way of solving the interethnic conflict in West Pokot as was adopted by IFRC cross was a very short-term approach. It was important for IFRC to help in the development of the agriculture sector in the area as an economic activity, which would have a sustainable pathway to peace than giving out a few days meals to the different hunger torn families.

Concisely, it is important for IFRC to undertake interventions in a way that the organization can be transparent and accountable to both the persons that they intend to serve and the people from whom they get money. Transparency and accountability in such an approach not only makes it possible for the beneficiaries to have a mental cognition of the expected outcomes of the program but also embrace and own it through their involvement.

Research on accountability within the humanitarian sector has grown significantly since the 1990s, coming to a fairly robust consensus about the importance of accountability to affected populations. Despite this, what is missing from much of the discourse on accountability is an integrated look at how organisations deal with multiple and sometimes competing accountability demands (Hilhorst et al., 2021). It is evident in the literature that accountability to affected populations is largely rooted in the concepts of participation (Kilby, 2006; Jacobs & Wilford, 2010). The review found participation as an important mechanism for

accountability for affected populations to have ownership in humanitarian initiatives (Kolker & Kulldorff, 2013).

Few studies have explored how accountability is dealt with in practice at the organisational level. Most academic studies on focuses on explaining the underpinnings of the clash between upward and downward accountability (Wenar, 2006 & Carman, 2010). Despite numerous academic studies on accountability being theoretical and overarching, there have been few studies that have examined it through the organisational level. Another research gap identified that this research would aim to cover is the understanding of what role international standards on accountability plays in accountability to affected populations. While accountability tools are widespread across the international humanitarian system, few academic studies have examined the impact empirically (Gasper 2000; Crawford & Bryce 2003). This project contributed to this research gap by exploring the measures for accountability to beneficiaries undertaken by IFRC in West Pokot County.

#### **2.4.1 Barriers to Peace Building by Humanitarian Organizations**

According to Onodugo, Odo and Onodugo (2021) no government that can take on single handily, the weight of peace building in form of aid. Among the various actors that participate in these processes are the nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), which fulfil a pivotal role in terms of establishing and maintaining essential services like assisting refugees and internally displaced populations and helping to strengthen societies. NGOs increasingly work "in the field," providing humanitarian relief and development assistance in post terror places like Maiduguri. As they carry out their work, they face many serious problems. Insurgency often denies them access to those in need, terrorist groups demand payoffs, and local violence threatens the safety and even the lives of field personnel. Donors also subject these NGOs to political pressure, diminishing their neutrality.

Non-governmental Organizations face a lot of challenges in the discharge of their duties often caused by Insurgent activities. They are faced with the dilemma; should they negotiate with terrorists to deliver aid, or should they maintain independence and impartiality. Some Nigerian agencies like WACOL operate only through local partners because they cannot negotiate with terrorist-affiliated groups. Red Cross has resorted to having armed escorts and allow Movement for Peace in Maiduguri (MFPIM) and Africa Awake to supervise the aid distribution. Although impartiality is valuable for the long term operation in Maiduguri, humanitarian aid agencies feel they are forced to compromise these principles in an effort to gain aid access according Osueke (2006).

According to Carey (2017), a significant hurdle which humanitarian organizations can encounter in their peace building efforts is achieving along with maintaining balance while refraining from advocating for some parties involved in a conflict. Other challenges include managing people's commotion and intolerance in a clash. Therefore, humanitarian organizations should be aware of various psychological aspects associated with conflicts as contrition, morning forgiveness and victimhood. Among the ethical issues which arise in conflict management include ethnocentricity, moral issues pertaining to power and individual agendas of intermediaries.

In Afghanistan, Howard et al., (2013) reported that humanitarian organizations are faced with possible drawbacks to intensifying the role of humanitarian organizations in the process of nation-building. Fragile central administrations may perceive humanitarian organizations as a menace to their power and labor to bar the humanitarian organizations from reaching the society. Also, there can be clashes between humanitarian organizations and informal social establishments that have served residents instead of an unresponsive state. At some instances the humanitarian organizations can simply lack the capacity to conducting the tall order of

nation-building. Coordination hindrances between administrations and humanitarian organizations may obstruct the realization of nation-building goals at times. However, nothing of such can be said about IFRC in West Pokot since there is no study or report to confirm the challenges humanitarian organizations. Therefore, this study attempted to address the gap by establish the challenges faced by IFRC as they seek to help in peace building in the County.

Genugten (2016) observed that humanitarian agencies have played a vital part in philanthropical development and relief in Burundi. Despite humanitarian work being fundamentally good, it has attracted criticism of different kinds in recent years. This is because of the rise in the number of humanitarian organizations in conflict prone areas with the similar objectives (Daley & Popplewell, 2016). The controlling nature of the governments in war-torn nations has affected the operations of humanitarian organizations. Members of such society fear the humanitarian establishments, affecting significant essentials of the participatory model which include social participation and cohesion. Restricting citizens from expressing themselves demoralizes humanitarian efforts as it disempowers people. When a ruling control every aspect of the society even at the grassroots level, humanitarian organizations are unable to work effectively (Genugten, 2016).

In Nepal, Furlani Green (2018) explored the role of social workers attached to NGOs in peace building in order to promote wellbeing and work-life in Nepal. This paper gives an insight into the life and relationship among the community members in Nepal, and an insight of how culture, religion, and history may impact people's everyday-life. The data collection of this study was carried out through a field visit, with semi-structured interviews with twenty-five different key informants, during the period of February to May of 2018. The interviewees include grass-root to national level faith-leaders as well as social work academics. The result of this study indicated that there is a lack of trust among the community members, between

government and its people, and government and its external influences, which effect community's socio-economical standard. The findings also concluded that Nepali society lacks adequate and effective information sharing, which seems to impact the community's health and work-life. Social workers were insightful on how social bonds and trust among groups could be established, which could increase the well-being of the people in rural area of Nepal." encouraging recovery during post conflict period through provision of services like trauma counselling.

In Syria, Afghanistan and South Sudan, Shoebriidge (2019) established that efforts to address root causes of conflicts can only be effective and sustained if local actors lead them from the community affected by conflict. Such efforts also require a gradual and sequenced approach beginning with engaging with communities to understand their own perceptions of conflict and, importantly, to map existing capacities, approaches or platforms for resolving disputes or conflict within the community. While external actors such as UN agencies, international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other donors can provide useful support, community level peace builders possess legitimacy, entry points and networks that cannot be matched by external actors such as development or humanitarian actors that have a long history of presence or engagement with a particular community. The various locally led conflict prevention and peace-building efforts among the South Sudanese refugee community in Uganda demonstrate the impact that can be achieved when external actors take a 'back seat'. External actors can play important roles but they should increasingly be accompanying, rather than directing, and be open to an iterative process which embraces the messiness of reality.

According to Onodugo et al, (2021), Non-Governmental Organisations in peace building in Africa could have done better if not for some challenges militating against their effectiveness. These challenges include the following: Lack of Funds: NGOs are expressing difficulty in

finding sufficient, appropriate and continuous funding for their work. They find accessing donors as challenging as dealing with their funding conditions. They perceive there to be certain cartels of individuals and NGOs that control access to donor funds. They have limited resource mobilization skills and are often not looking for funds that are available locally, preferring to wait for international donors to approach them. There is a high dependency of donors and a tendency to shift interventions to match donor priorities. There is a lack of financial, project and organizational sustainability.

In addition, Onodugo et al, (2021), reported that poor governance was recognized within the sector as a whole, within the NGO Council and within individual NGOs. Knowledge of good governance varied widely, with some regions indicating very little understanding of why NGOs are required to have Boards or what their roles and functions should be. Many other participants explained that it is difficult to achieve good governance with founders who wished to own their NGOs for their own purposes. Participants with better understanding of good governance appreciated that this is fundamental to NGO accountability and transparency. Many NGOs mismanage their resources, quite often with the involvement and encouragement of their Boards that eat their NGOs resources.

Further, Onodugo et al, (2021) reported that absence of Strategic Planning was another challenge identified by the study. Few NGOs had strategic plans which would enable them to have ownership over their mission, values and activities. This leaves them vulnerable to the whims of donors and makes it difficult to measure their impact over time. Also, poor networking was identified as a major challenge. It is the cause of duplication of efforts, conflicting strategies at community level, a lack of learning from experience and an inability of NGOs to address local structural causes of poverty, deprivation and under-development. Negative competition for resources also undermines the reputation of the sector and the

effectiveness of NGO activities at community level. As a result, there is a great deal of suspicion among NGOs, secrecy and lack of transparency.

In addition, NGOs recognize that many of them have limited technical and organizational capacity. Few NGOs are able or willing to pay for such capacity building. Weak capacity was identified in fundraising, governance, technical areas of development, and leadership and management. Some NGOs felt that the existence of quality standards would assist them to develop the required capacities. The speed of technology changes is also a challenge particularly in areas of IT capacity. **Development Approaches:** Many NGOs are still focusing upon what some refer to the ‘hardware’ approach to development, i.e. the building of infrastructure and the provision of services; rather than what some refer to as the ‘software’ approach of empowering people and local institutions to manage their own affairs (Onodugo et al, 2021).

## **2.5 Research Gaps**

The study examined and evaluated a number of empirical studies on role of humanitarian organizations in peace building in conflict situations. Most of the studies on role of humanitarian organization were general on role of civil societies. It is evident from the reviewed studies that not much research has been done on the role of International Federation of Red Cross in promoting peace. Further, majority of the studies have dwelled on accountability towards donors, but very little is available on accountability to beneficiaries. Therefore, this study aimed to close these academic gaps by examining the function of the IFRC in promoting peace among the vulnerable populations and establish the measures put in place by IFRC to ensure accountability for beneficiaries.

In addition, studies by Emmanuel and Nyambicha (2022), Kangdim, Lena and Lucky (2021), Ian (2020), Eva (2018), Heidi (2017), Oussen (2016), Mpaka (2015), Wamalwa and Alunga

(2014) and Mwamba (2013) did not establish the barriers to Peace Building by Humanitarian Organizations. Therefore, the current study sought to address this gap by establishing factors affecting peace building initiatives by IFRC.

## **2.6 Theoretical framework**

In describing the process of peace building, it is inherent to discuss conflict. As part of the theoretical framework, the study adopted the theory of protracted social conflict (PSC) by Edward E Azar to try to explain the objectives of the study. Edward E Azar, one of the key scholars in the conflict resolution field was the first to describe events of violence in the developing world as Protracted Social Conflicts, which he defines as follows:

In brief, protracted social conflicts occur when communities are deprived of satisfaction of their basic needs based on the communal identity (Reimann, 2002). However, the deprivation is the result of a complex causal chain involving the role of the state and the pattern of international linkages (Beaudoin, 2013). Furthermore, initial conditions (colonial legacy, domestic historical setting, and the multi-communal nature of the society) play important roles in shaping the genesis of protracted social conflict (Beaudoin, 2013).

This understanding of conflict was in stark contrast with a realist notion of politics that saw conflict being an inevitable power struggle which saw actors at all levels trying to establish some comparative advantage and instead argued for a view that sought ‘collective security, community building and prosperity. Protracted social conflicts have a number of key characteristics that define them incorporating three key phases, Genesis, Process Dynamics & Outcomes Analysis.

### **Genesis**

Genesis refers to a set of conditions that are responsible for the transformation of non-conflicting situations into conflicting ones. Azar identifies four key variables for this process,

which includes the role of the society or communal content, the needs of human beings, the role of the state and finally the role of international relationships (Reimann, 2002).

### Communal Content

Azar suggests that the most significant of all factors that lead towards the formation of PSC are societies (Reimann, 2002). The societies take the characteristics of having a ‘multi-communal’ composition. Multi-communal societies whether formed because of divide-and-rule policies of former colonial powers or whether through historical rivalries often result into dominance of one group over the other, which Azar outlines as being characterised by disarticulation between the state and society as a whole. In most cases, there is a tendency that a single communal group or coalitions of a few communal groups that are unresponsive to the needs of other groups in the society usually dominate the state especially with the fostering of politics of inequity. Azar suggests that efforts to reconcile this by enforcing integration or co-operation retards the nation-building process, strains the social fabric and eventually breeds fragmentation and protracted social conflict.

### Human Needs

Azar’s second variable allows us to consider to what extent identity groups are able to access developmental human needs. The most obvious ontological need is individual and communal physical survival and well-being (Reimann, 2002). Individual or communal survival is contingent upon the satisfaction of basic needs. In the world of physical scarcity, these basic needs are seldom even or justly met. Whilst one group of individuals may enjoy satisfaction of those needs in abundance, others do not. Grievances resulting from need deprivation are usually expressed collectively (Beaudoin, 2013). Failure to redress these grievances by the authority cultivates a niche for a protracted social conflict.’

Azar continues to note that developmental needs do not need to be thought of as primarily physical and neither do such unmet material needs lead directly to conflict (Beaudoin, 2013). What is however key, is the degree to which minority groups can access the market or political institutions or the recognition of communal existence. This then leads to us having a much broader understanding of human needs that if unmet, may become causal variables, which individuals or communities will attempt to address by use of violence.

### **Government and the State's Role**

Azar's third variable turns its attention to the role of the state and its role in ensuring that all communal groups under its jurisdiction are able to meet their basic human needs (Reimann, 2002). Azar notes that in those countries that are experiencing protracted social conflict, political power tends to be dominated by one identity group that uses its resources to maintain power over the other (Reimann, 2002). In turn, to ensure that the group in power remains so, PSC-affected communities will often see attempts by the dominant group to resist participation of minority groups. Azar concludes with that, such crises exacerbate already existing competitive or conflictive situations, diminish the state's ability to meet basic needs, and lead to further developmental crises. Thus, regime type and the level of legitimacy are important linkage variables between needs and protracted social conflict.

### **International Linkages/ relationships**

Azar's fourth variable points to the role of how it not simply governance at the state level that leads to communal groups being unable to access basic human needs, security or recognition but the extent to which internal policy is dictated by international linkages (Reimann, 2002). Azar categorises two distinct forms in which these international linkages can take economic dependency and client relationships. States, which are economically dependent on the broader international economic system, in turn see their autonomy weakened as economic development

policies are part dictated by outside influences. Azar goes further to explain that dependency often exacerbates denial of the access needs of communal groups, distorting the domestic political and economic systems through the realignment of subtle coalitions of international capital, domestic capital and the state. Client relationships, refers to the arrangements whereby a state's security is guaranteed in return for loyalty. The impact of such loyalty can be significantly dire with governments potentially distracted from their key responsibilities. Client loyalty and obedience involves some sacrifice of autonomy and independence, which induces the client state to pursue domestic and foreign policies disjointed from, or contradictory to, the needs of its own public.

### **Process**

The second component of PSC is that of process dynamics variables which, given the preconditions mentioned previously, are responsible for the activation of overt conflict. Azar recognises three key determining factors such as communal actions and strategies. These refers to the potential of various 'triggers' which activate otherwise latent conflict, which then escalate into broader and possibly more violent conflict. Azar summarises this process as follows: Initially, a trigger may, but not need be, a trivial event (e.g., an insult to an individual with strong communal ties). Nevertheless, the trivial event tends to become a turning point at which the individual victimization is collectively recognised. Collective recognition of individual grievances (or incompatible goals) naturally leads to collective protest. Collective protest is usually met by some degree of repression or suppression. As tension increases, the victimised communal groups begin to draw the attention of their constituents not only to the event itself, but also to a broad range of issues involving communal security, access and security needs (for instance selective poverty and political inequality). The spill over of the event into multiple issues increases the momentum for organising and mobilizing resources. As the level of communal organisation and mobilization becomes greater, communal groups

attempt to formulate more diverse strategies and tactics, which may involve civil disobedience, guerrilla warfare or secessionist movements. The extent to which this escalates is in part influenced by the ability of communal groups to effectively organise and develop strong leadership as well their tendency to gather support outside of national boundaries, which may in turn result in the conflict taking on a regional nature.

### State Actions and Strategies

Azar notes that in the majority of cases, the response by states to communal grievances, particularly those that have weak governance structures is usually one of coercive repression or instrumental co-option to avoid outward signs of weakness or defeat. In many cases, a militant or harsh response constitutes the core of state strategy in coping with communal dissent. Such a hard-line strategy invites equally militant responses from repressed groups. Co-option could serve to mitigate communal grievances, but it is usually perceived as being a tactical manoeuvre to fragment the opposition and divert its attention. Failure of the co-option strategy further justifies coercive repressive options, leading to an upward spiral of violent clashes.

### Built in Mechanisms of Conflict

The last of Azar's process variables relates to the effects of long-term conflicts on perceptions and how this, in-turn, can influence the behaviour of belligerent groups. The perceptions and motivations behind the behaviour of the state and communal actors are conditioned by experiences, fears and belief system of each communal group. In a situation of limited or proscribed interactions, the worst motivations tend to be attributed to the other side. There is little possibility of falsification, and the consequence is reciprocal negative images, which perpetuate communal antagonism and solidify protracted social conflict.

## **Outcomes Analysis**

Azar distinguishes Protracted Social Conflicts as those, which result in negative-sum outputs in which there is often no clear end-point and no clear winner, and there is no solution that comes anywhere near in meeting unmet needs (Beaudoin, 2013). The process of protracted social conflict deforms and retards the effective operation of political institutions. It reinforces and strengthens pessimism throughout the society, demoralises leaders and immobilizes the search for peaceful solutions. We have observed that societies undergoing protracted social conflict find it difficult to initiate the search for answers to their problems and grievances. As the protracted social conflict becomes part of the culture of the ravaged nation, it builds a sense of paralysis, which afflicts the collective consciousness of the population. An environment of hopelessness permeates all strata of society, and a siege mentality develops which inhibits constructive negotiation for any resolution of society. Azar points us to four possible consequences of PSC:

- 1) Deterioration of physical security
- 2) Institutional Deformity
- 3) Psychological Ossification
- 4) Increased Dependency & Clemency

## **2.7 Relevance of Edward E. Azar's Protracted Social Conflict (PSC) Concept in This Study**

Individual members within communities or the communities as a whole may exhibit the need to address inequalities, needs, identity and grievances in the form of conflict if there is no other way to meet these peacefully or in other diplomatic ways (Lokiyo, 2014). Considering Azar's perspective of the sum of both obvious and conspicuous inequalities and those that do not seem

to be so obvious, it is apparently in order to agree that the inequalities in the satisfaction of needs between the native communities inhabiting West Pokot County provides a fertile platform for inter-communal struggles and dissents. Apart from needs, the role of the societal influence on the incessant violence between the communities emanates from the fact that some communities hold on to cultural practices such as cattle raiding for wealth accumulation or cultural initiation that may continue to fuel inter-ethnic conflicts. The feeling that the government interventions have been favouring other communities over others and the perspective that the government has not been doing much to prevent or curb violence between the communities living in the county also brings out the role of the government as explained in the PSC. Similarly, the international community also plays a negative significant role in the county especially with the proliferation of small arms and light weapons within the county, which in effect increases the occurrence of armed conflict and violence especially from those who own such weapons. From the information gathered in the process of carrying out this study, the use of PSC in explaining the genesis of violence amongst the communities in West Pokot is very relevant. The study clearly reveals the role of needs, society, the government and international relationships in the protracted inter-ethnic conflict amongst the communities dwelling in the West Pokot County of Kenya.

## CHAPTER THREE

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Introduction**

In this chapter, the study presents the methods used in conducting the study. The chapter focuses on research design, target population, sample and sampling procedures, research instruments, validity of the instruments, reliability of the instruments, data collection procedures, data analysis and Ethical Considerations.

### **3.2. Research design**

The study adopted a descriptive research design using a mixed method approach. The design was appropriate for this research work since the study was guided by research questions which sought to describe the role of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society in peace building in West Pokot County. According to Orodho (2016), descriptive research design allows researchers to describe the characteristics of a phenomenon without manipulation of variables. Descriptive research uses a naturalistic approach that seeks to understand phenomena in a context-specific setting, such as real-world settings where the researcher does not attempt to manipulate the phenomenon of interest. Therefore, the researcher was able to collect data in the participants' natural environment without manipulating any variables.

In addition, the design allowed the use of both qualitative and quantitative approaches of collecting data. This helped the researcher to gain in-depth and breadth of corroboration and understanding of the study variables, while offsetting the inherent weaknesses of using either quantitative or qualitative methods alone. Further, the design allowed the researcher to use a number of instruments in collecting information from the participants. This enabled collection of detailed information and triangulation of findings from different sources.

### **3.3 Location of the Study**

The study was carried out in West Pokot County, Kenya. The county covers an area of approximately 9,169.4 square kilometres and stretches a distance of 132 kilometres from north to south. West Pokot County is bordered to the north by Turkana County, to the east by Baringo County, to the southeast by Elgeyo-Marakwet County, to the south by Trans Nzoia County, and to the west by Uganda. According to the 2019 census, the county has a population of 621,241. Estimated populations of 396,000 people occupy the remote region of West Pokot, largely the semi-arid and arid region. The Pokot generally have historically clashed over animals, pasture, ethnic-oriented conflict, and water with their neighbours. Like other semi-arid parts of Kenya, this area is characterized by high poverty levels and illiteracy. A cattle rustling bears the histo-cultural face of this community with their neighbours (Shalom, 2017). Since independence, West Pokot County has perpetually experienced ethnic conflicts and insecurity at a high scale, which have negatively affected the development of the region (Mosol, 2022). Generally, violence involving pastoralists is widespread and increasingly intense in West Pokot despite the peace building initiatives by non-governmental organizations such as IFRC.

### **3.4 Target Population**

According to Mugenda and Mugenga (2007), a research population is a big group of people or items that are the subject of a scientific inquiry. The ultimate goal of research is to help the population. However, due to the enormous size of the population, researchers are unable to examine every individual because it would be exceedingly time-consuming and expensive. This is why researchers use sample samples which are representative (Orodho, 2016). The target population of this study was 623,944. This comprised of the 2, 617 Red Cross Staff, 32 members of the County government of West Pokot, 54 opinion leaders and 621,241 community members who are victims of conflict in West Pokot County.

### **3.5 Sampling Techniques and Sample Size**

A sample is a representative subset of the population from which generalizations are made about the population or sampling is simply stated as selecting a portion of the population, in the research area, which is a representation of the whole population (Creswell, 2015). Chambers (2003) defines sampling as selecting a subset of a population to estimate overall characteristics. The study used convenience sampling to select respondents. Those chosen to participate were those who were available during the data gathering process and agreed to participate in the study. As a result, the study sampled 15 Red Cross staff, 3 representatives of the county government, 5 opinion leaders, and 20 community people from West Pokot County.

### **3.6 Research instruments**

The study utilized three research instruments for the collection of primary data. These included a questionnaire, a discussion guide for the focus group discussions, and interview schedule for the key informant Informants. A questionnaire was used to collect information from staff of the Red Cross. According to Creswell (2016), questionnaires are unique data collection tools, as they enable the researcher to collect detailed data on a wide range of variables in the sample. Therefore, the tool enabled the researcher to collect a lot of information from staff of the Red Cross within a short period of time.

Qualitative data was collected using a discussion guide for focus group discussions (FGDs) with beneficiaries from West Pokot and an interview schedule for oral interviews with key informants (KIIs) drawn from local opinion leaders and members of the county government. Responses from the focus group discussions and interviews were recorded using notebooks and a tape recorder. According to Creswell (2016), FGDs provide an effective means to identify community norms, views, and behaviours. FGDs are therefore important to help in the understanding of the perceptions of conflict victims and beneficiaries of humanitarian aid about the role played by the IFRC in peace building in West Pokot. Interviews were also advantageous

in this study in the sense that questions were elaborated on and detailed information was obtained.

### **3.7 Pilot Study**

Piloting ensures that the instruments' weaknesses can be identified and rectified before the actual study (Creswell, 2016). Melody and Hertzog (2008) observed that most authors recommend obtaining 10% of the final study sample (Lackey & Wingate, 1998) or approximately 10 respondents (Nieswiadomy, 2002), for a pilot study. Based on these arguments, the piloting of the research instruments was done with a sample of 10 respondents in Chepareria sub-county, which was not included in the main study. The exercise helped gauge the clarity and relevance of the instrument items with the aim of discarding or modifying of those items found to be inadequate for measuring variables and thus improved the quality of the research instruments. The findings of the pilot study were used to review and rewrite questions that were unclear or ambiguous. In addition, the exercise helped the researcher test the clarity of the questions as well as the commonality of interpretations of the same questions. The exercise further assisted the investigator in getting acquainted with the data collection exercise and rectifying all the inadequacies before commencing the actual collection of data.

### **3.8 Validity of the instruments**

Validity is the degree to which the findings generated from the analysis represent the phenomena being investigated (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). The content validity of the research instruments was ensured. According to Creswell (2016), content validity is a measure of the level to which collected data by a certain instrument represents a specific content of a particular concept or domain of indicators. Therefore, the researcher ensured that all the questions in the tools were in line with the study variables. Further, expert opinion was sought from the supervisor in addition to a peer review of the instrument by colleagues at Kenyatta University. The

expert and peers checked the questions in the research instruments to ensure they are adequate, relevant, and accurately measured the variables as per the objectives of the proposed study.

### **3.9 Reliability of the Instrument**

Reliability is the measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results or data after repeated tests when administered a number of times. The procedure for extracting an estimate of reliability will be obtained through a test-retest reliability method. The test-retest reliability method involves administering the same instruments twice to the same group of subjects with a time lapse between the first and second tests. The most common reliability coefficient is Cronbach's alpha, which estimates internal consistency by determining how all items on a test are positively correlated to one another and tests the internal coherence of data. The reliability is expressed as a coefficient between 0.00 and 1.00. If the items are strongly correlated with each other, their internal consistency is high, and the alpha coefficient will be close to 1.0. The higher the coefficient, the more reliable the test (Delpont & Rustenburg, 2011). The researcher obtained a coefficient of 0.86 which was greater than the standard threshold of 0.7. This showed that the tools used to collect the data were reliable.

### **3.10 Data Collection Procedure**

The researcher collected data using questionnaires, FGDs, and key in-depth interviews. The procedure that was employed is described below:

**Procedure for Questionnaires:** The questionnaires were administered to the sampled staff of the Red Cross. The questionnaires were issued to the respondents and collected on the following day from each of the participants.

**Procedure for FGDs:** Victims and beneficiaries of humanitarian aid across the four sub-counties of West Pokot, North Pokot, Central Pokot, and Pokot South conveniently sampled to form

four FDGs. The discussion guide was prepared with relevant questions to ensure that discussions were to the point and elicit data that would be useful in understanding the role of the IFRC in peace building. At the start of every FGD, the moderator outlined the purpose of the discussion, introduced the participants, acknowledged the audio recording equipment, assured participants of confidentiality, and gave people the opportunity to withdraw if they felt uncomfortable. The researcher moderated the FGD and recorded the discussions using a notebook and a tape recorder.

**Procedure for interviews:** The selected local opinion leaders and members of the county government were contacted and scheduled dates for the interviews. The interviews were conducted in an environment in which the respondents were comfortable. Both note-taking and audio recording were used to record data. The researcher asked respondents' permission before audio recording.

### **3.11. Data processing and analysis**

After collection, the data was cross-examined to ascertain its accuracy and identification of those items wrongly responded to, and blank spaces. Quantitative data was analysed using frequencies and percentages using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22. The data was presented in tables and graphs. Qualitative data, on the other hand, was categorized according to the themes; this was guided by the study objectives. The responses from participants were captured in the analysis to complement the self-reported data from questionnaires.

### **3.12 Ethical Considerations**

The researcher adhered to a number of ethical requirements in the process of conducting the study. A letter of introduction was sought from the Dean of the Graduate School of Kenyatta University. The letter was useful in expediting the acquisition of a research permit from the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI). The participants

were guaranteed confidentiality, during which they were informed and assured that their answers would be handled with the utmost confidentiality and that the answers and responses they provided during the study would be used for the purposes of the study. The participants were also provided with a clear explanation of the principal aim of the study. The research process took into consideration the principle of voluntary participation, where participants were not coerced into participating in the study. The participants were allowed to do so out of their own volition. In this regard, informed consent was obtained from participants by providing them with all necessary information about the aim, procedures, benefits, and risks involved in the study.

## CHAPTER FOUR

## PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents results of the study, interpretation and discussion of the findings on the role of the IFRC in peace building in West Pokot County. The response rate is first presented followed by demographic information of respondents and finally, results are presented in figures and tables based on the specific objectives of the study. The study objectives were;

- i. To assess the conflict situation in West Pokot County
- ii. To determine the intervention measures taken by the IFRC in peace building in West Pokot County
- iii. To establish whether beneficiaries are involved by IFRC in creating and implementing peacebuilding initiatives in West Pokot County
- iv. To identify barriers to IFRC's peace-building operations in West Pokot County

### 4.2 Response Rate

The study had total sample 58 respondents; these included 15 Red Cross Staff, 3 members of the county government, 10 Opinion leaders and 30 community members in West Pokot County. The table below shows the response rate.

**Table 4.1: Response Rate**

Data collection tool	Sample	Participants	Response rate
Red Cross Staff	15	15	100%
Members of the county government	3	3	100%
Opinion leaders	10	8	80%
Community members	30	25	83.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>87.9%</b>

Table 4.1 shows that all the Red Cross Staff and Members of the County government participated in the study as indicated by a response rate of 100%. In addition, 80% of the Opinion leaders participated in the study while 83.3% of the community members participated in the study. Consequently, the average response rate was 87.9%, suggesting that the researcher gathered sufficient data for analysis. This complies with the suggestion made by Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) that response rates greater than 70% are sufficient for analysis.

### 4.3 Respondents' Demographic Information

Background information of respondents was analysed and presented in Table 4.2 under the following demographics.

**Table 4.2: Respondents Demographic Information**

<b>Demography</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Percentage (n = 15)</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	9(60.0%)
	Female	6(40.0%)
<b>Age (Years)</b>	18-24	1(6.7%)
	25 – 34	5(33.3%)
	35 – 44	8(53.3%)
	45-54	1(6.7%)
<b>Work Experience (years)</b>	0-5	1(6.7%)
	6-10	6(40.0%)
	11-15	5(33.3%)
	16-20	2(13.3%)
	Above 20	-
<b>Level of Education</b>	Primary Education	-
	Secondary Education	-
	College education	7(46.7%)
	University Education	8(53.3%)

The results on Table 4.2 expressed that most 9(60.0%) of the Red Cross Staff were male compared to female staff who accounted for 6(40.0%). This indicates that men make up the majority of Red Cross employees, suggesting that men predominate in the field. This may be due to the fact that most women find the type of work to be incompatible with raising a family. In addition, the study sought to establish the age range of the Red Cross Staff; the results showed that majority 8(53.3%) of the personnel were within the range of 35 to 44 years while 5(33.3%) were between 25 to 34 years and only 1(6.7%) ranged between 45 to 54 years and 18 to 24 respectively. This demonstrates that the study included a range of ages among its respondents, which was advantageous since it allowed for the collection of rich data based on the diverse viewpoints of the participants. Various age groups also had distinct opinions on the many topics related to the study problem.

Further, the study sought to determine the duration of the respondents' employment with the Red Cross. According to the results, the majority of respondents (64.0%) reported having six to ten years of experience, followed by 5 (33.3%) who indicated they had eleven to fifteen years of experience, 2 (13.3%) who indicated they had sixteen to twenty years of experience, and the least number of respondents (6.7%) who reported they had less than five years of experience. This suggests that the study's participants represented a wide range of experiences, which resulted in the collection of rich data representing respondents' distinct perspectives as a function of their various experiences.

Finally, the study sought to determine each participant's level of education. The results showed that the majority of the respondents 8(53.3%) had University degrees, whereas 7(4.7%) had college education. This shows that the vast majority of respondents possessed the training, expertise, and abilities required to offer clients top-notch services. The respondents'

educational backgrounds also showed that they were able to understand the study questions and provide relevant details about the study variables.

#### **4.4 Conflict Situation in West Pokot County**

The first objective of the study was to assess the conflict situation in West Pokot county. To accomplish this goal, the researchers aimed to determine the nature and frequency of conflict in the counties, as well as the key causes and perpetrators of the disputes and the locations most prone to conflict. Information on these indicators was collected using questionnaires which were distributed to sampled respondents. In addition, focus group discussions and key informant interviews were conducted to address the same issues.

##### **4.4.1 Types of Conflicts**

The study aims to first establish the most common sorts of conflicts that occur in West Pokot County. This was assessed in terms of intensity and frequency. Table 4.3 shows the results:

**Table 4.3: Common Types of Conflicts**

<b>Type of Conflicts</b>	<b>Percentage of Respondents</b>
Resource based Conflicts	43.4%
Territorial Disputes	33.8%
Culture based Conflicts	16.8%
Politically Instigated Conflicts	5.7%

After analysing the data, four frequent types of disputes were found, in order of their intensity and/or frequency of occurrence as presented in table 4.3: These include resource-based (43.4%), territory disputes (33.8%), culture-based conflicts (16.8%), and politically motivated conflicts (5.7%). The results show that the major cause of conflicts in West Pokot County is

competition for resources. Furthermore, analysis data from Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) revealed that border disputes, cattle rustling, and contests over resources such as pasture and water were the most common types of conflicts in West Pokot. These findings concur with the findings reported by (Huho, 2014) that West Pokot County faced intra and intercommunal conflicts over access to natural resources, particularly water and pasture. Other sources of conflict were cattle raiding, historical rivalries, and politically motivated warfare. Land conflicts were the main source of intra-community conflict among Pokot in the county. West Pokot County's land ownership options include both communal and freehold. Pastoralism is mostly practiced on communal lands in the lowlands, although freehold land ownership is more popular in the highlands for arable land. During the dry drought, community members living in the lowlands fought for access to available land resources. Conflicts developed as a result of inaccurate land boundaries or when one tribe claimed ownership of another's property.

Further, the findings agree with the findings reported by Rohwerder (2015) who indicated that most dry season grazing areas and water points are on disputed property. Reliable dry season pasture and water points can be found in areas such as Lorengippi hills, Lokori, and Kainuki along the borders of Turkana and West Pokot Counties, Kerio Valley along the border of Pokot and Marakwet Counties, and lower Sigor and Turkwell bordering Turkana and Kenya-Uganda, respectively. Conflicts arose among the Pokot, Turkana, and Marakwet communities for access to resources during dry seasons.

Similarly, the findings from this study echo the findings reported by Kermut (2016) that Inter-communal conflict along the Turkana-West Pokot borderline is caused by a complex interplay of factors, including governance policies, socio-economic and political marginalization, the

availability of illegal arms, competition for natural resources, inadequate land tenure, insecurity, and inadequate use of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms. On the same breath, Devine (2016) identified core resources (water, pasture, and livestock), political economy (land/territorial disputes), and infrastructure insecurity as the root causes of conflict between Turkana and Pokot communities. Also, Shalom-SCCRR (2017) conducted a conflict analysis along the Turkana-West Pokot borderline and identified competition for natural resources (pasture, water, and territorial/boundary disputes) as the leading cause of conflict.

#### 4.4.2 Root Causes of Conflicts

Further, the study attempted to identify the fundamental causes of conflict in West Pokot. Table 4.4 below summarizes the identified root causes of conflict in the region.

**Table 4.4: Root Causes of Conflicts**

<b>Causes of Conflicts</b>	<b>Percentage of Respondents</b>
Disputed Boundaries	51.9%
Competition for Resources	39.2%
Retrogressive Cultural Practices	4.7%
Historical Injustices	1.2%
Divisive Politics	0.9%
Clannism	0.9%
Availability of illegal fire Arms	0.9%

The results on table 4.4 indicates that the majority (51.9%) of the respondents indicated that conflicts in West Pokot county are caused by disputed boundaries, followed by 39.2% of the respondents who indicated that the conflicts are caused by competition for resources, while

4.7% of the respondents indicated retrogressive cultural practices as the cause of conflicts in the region. Further, a small number of respondents (1.2%) pointed at historical injustices as the cause of conflict. As well, a few (0.9%) indicated that divisive politics, clannism and availability of illegal fire arms as the causes of conflicts in West Pokot County.

Based on the responses of the majority of the participants, it is evident that the common and major causes of disputes in West Pokot are disputed boundaries and competition for resources. This was supported by FGDs and KIIs, which revealed that the two most common causes of conflict were rivalry for resources and disputed boundaries. The findings agree with the findings reported a study by Huho (2014) which investigated conflict and conflict resolution strategies in West Pokot County. The study established that the main source of conflicts was control over and access to natural resources particularly pasture and water and in fewer instances land intra-conflicts followed by livestock raids and politically initiated conflicts.

In addition, the findings are in line with findings reported by Meier et al. (2007) that raiding to replenish herds after droughts becomes more often as climate conditions change. West Pokot County is semi-arid to desert, with limited water and pasture supplies and increasing circumstances due to increased drought frequency and severity. As the county becomes drier, competition for water and pasture supplies increases, as does the need to replace animals lost due to droughts. Also, Oxfam (2011) reported that climate and environmental calamities, such as droughts and floods, can lead to forced migrations and competition for natural resources among pastoral groups, negatively impacting political stability and conflict resolution.

Further, the findings agree with Mirzeler and Young (2000) who examined how inter-ethnic conflict affects cultural institutions and customs. The study reported that the spread of small

guns has altered the old normative order, intra-ethnic authority, and permissible levels of violence among ethnic groups. On the same breath, a study by Huho (2014) investigated conflict and conflict resolution strategies in West Pokot County. The study established that the main source of conflicts was control over and access to natural resources particularly pasture and water and in fewer instances land intra-conflicts followed by livestock raids and politically initiated conflicts. Through peace building initiatives, decreased incidences of historical conflict between pastoral communities and the Pokots (living in West Pokot County) were established but not with conflicts associated with natural resources. Scarcity of pasture and water, which is a manifest of the effects of climate change, negates the attempts made at national and local levels to resolve conflicts. However, the aspect of climate change mitigation was absent in all peace building initiatives in the county. The study established a missing link in conflict resolution initiatives and therefore recommended that mitigation of climate change should be the focal point in addressing conflict in pastoral regions since natural resources, which pastoralists entirely depend on, are depleting at an alarming rate due to the changes in climatic patterns.

#### **4.4.3 Effects of Conflict in West Pokot County**

In addition, the study aimed to determine the effects of conflict in West Pokot County. Participants were asked to indicate the extent of the consequences of conflict occurrence, the results are presented in table 4.5.

**Table 4.5 Effects of the Conflicts**

<b>Effects of Conflicts</b>	<b>Percentage of Respondents</b>
Deaths	40.0%
Loss of Property	30.7%
Low Economic Growth	13.8%
Closure of Schools	15.6%

Table 4.5 illustrates the consequences of conflict in West Pokot County. According to the data, 40% of sampled respondents reported that violence resulted in loss of lives, 30.7% reported loss of property, 15.6% indicated closure of schools, and 13.7% reported low economic growth in the region. Similar reports were collected during interviews and focus group discussions;

*“The conflicts have really affected us; we have lost our loved ones, property, animals. Many people, especially children, suffer from post-traumatic stress due to the violence and instability they've experienced. These humanitarian organizations are important during conflicts; they help a lot especially in donating food and some basic needs for the people” (Key Informant I, 2023)*

*“The conflicts have made it challenging for us to access basic services like healthcare. In times of violence, it's often unsafe to travel to the nearest healthcare facility, which can be many miles away. This puts our health at risk, especially for pregnant women and children. We appreciate the fact that KFRC helps us get access to such essential services especially in emergency cases.” (Key Informant IV, 2023)*

*“I was displaced from my home by conflict and lost everything I had. Red Cross provided me with food, water, shelter, and medical care. They were the first ones to help us when our village was attacked last year. We love Red cross they really help us a lot.” (Participant C2, FGD 3, 2023)*

*“Inter-ethnic tensions have a wide range of implications for various groups of people in our community. Hundreds of men have perished in the battles, while hundreds more have been injured, rendering them unproductive members of society. Many guys endure hardships as they are displaced and their belongings are lost. Men are unwilling to participate to household and societal subsistence practices as a result of these concerns. Women are often widowed and destitute. When breadwinners die, the women assume their responsibilities. When women are moved, their participation in subsistence activities suffers, particularly.” (Key Informant V, 2023)*

*“Majority of the community members migrate to different places, never to return to their homes.” (Participant C3, FGD4, 2023)*

*“We normally have a lot of problems with students in conflict situations. Their livelihoods are disrupted, and the problem is carried to schools, but we do not have the capacity to feed them satisfactorily except for lunchtime, when we have rescue food from the county government.” (Key Informant VI, 2023)*

The findings provide evidence that the conflicts largely affect community members in so many ways. These findings concur with Masaka and Ongaga (2017), who noted that inter-ethnic violence along boundaries had an effect on people's ability to conduct economic activities

smoothly. Victims of aggression suffered economic losses as a result of inter-ethnic strife. During the crises, commerce was often disrupted. Links to key markets for food stuffs and commodities were disrupted. During the conflict, many citizens abandoned farming due to a shortage of buyers for their agricultural goods. The regular interruption of farming operations resulted in low yields and income loss for the majority of small-scale farmers. Because of border disputes, many victims spent no time maintaining their farms and limited the number of animals they kept because they were afraid of cattle rustlers. The findings identified that repeated inter-ethnic conflict has a wide-ranging impact on the livelihoods of border residents. It has an effect on the livelihoods of livestock farmers and when conflicts occur, most of them were not able to move their cattle from one location to another in search for pasture and water therefore losing their herds due to drought.

In addition, the findings are in line with Hamasi, (2018) on the effects of inter-ethnic conflicts and economic growth in Nyando, Muhoroni and Tinderet Sub-counties where it established that indeed inter-ethnic conflicts affect socio-economic growth of the sub-counties which also includes negative effects on livelihoods. Further, the findings are in line with the findings reported by Kaprom (2013) who sought to determine the effects of cattle rustling on the economic development of Masol Location of West Pokot County. The study established that cattle rustling had impacted negatively on the economic development of this region. The study recommended that community empowerment should be forefront and diversification to other economic activities like farming be encouraged.

The findings concur with the findings reported by Nyang'au (2019) that ethnic conflicts resulted to high level of physical dispossession of youngsters, teachers, and relatives. During ethnic strife, physical displacement was caused by death and hateful comments, rape, and disabilities

as a result of the injury and wounding. Physical dislocation also resulted in the loss of livelihoods, possibilities, and the closing of educational institutions. As a result of physical dislocation, there was an increase in student absenteeism, a decrease in child enrollment and retention, mental stress, low teacher-pupil ratios, and a decrease in the quality of student achievement. Similarly, the findings concur with the findings reported by Mosol (2022) who sought to examine the impact of alternative economic livelihoods in managing Inter - Ethnic Conflicts. The study found that the most significant impact was the loss of lives, closure of schools and low socioeconomic growth. The study recommended that the County Government of West Pokot County should enhance provision of alternative economic initiatives to the residents of West Pokot County.

#### **4.4.3 Extent of impact of Conflict on Livelihoods**

The researcher wanted to assess the level of conflict's influence in West Pokot County, thus respondents were asked to rate how much it affected them. Table 4.6 shows the results.

**Table 4.5 Impact of Conflict on Livelihoods**

<b>Extent of Impact</b>	<b>Percentage of Respondents</b>
Very high extent	44.2%
High extent	22.0%
Medium Extent	14.0%
Low Extent	19.8%
Very Low extent	10.0%

The results on table 4.6 shows that majority of respondents expressed severity of conflict in West Pokot County with 44.2% indicating very high extent, 22% high extent, 14% medium extent, 9.8% low extent while 10% very low extent. The findings show that conflicts have a

significant impact on community members' livelihoods. The findings concur with the findings reported by Nyang'au (2019) that ethnic conflicts resulted to high level of physical dispossession of youngsters, teachers, and relatives. During ethnic strife, physical displacement was caused by death and hateful comments, rape, and disabilities as a result of the injury and wounding. Physical dislocation also resulted in the loss of livelihoods, possibilities, and the closing of educational institutions. As a result of physical dislocation, there was an increase in student absenteeism, a decrease in child enrollment and retention, mental stress, low teacher-pupil ratios, and a decrease in the quality of student achievement.

On the same breath, Kiprop (2019) reported that ethnic conflicts led to an increase in the fires of houses and educational institutions, destruction of property, thievery of classroom supplies and instructional materials, and the loss of investment decisions and livelihoods. Destroying property elevated rates of anxiety for children, educators, and parents, resulting in school closures and increasing student chronic absenteeism. Furthermore, crop devastation, diocese devastation, business decimation, and private residential disintegration result in significant losses. As a result, schools have been used as Refugee settlements, affecting school re-opening, interruption of educational programs, attendance levels, retention, and teacher-pupil ratios. This reduced the standard of teaching as well as teachers' and children's access to and involvement in primary school

#### **4.5 Intervention Measures taken by the IFRC in Peace Building in West Pokot County**

The second objective of the study was to determine the intervention measures taken by the IFRC in peace building in West Pokot County. The data on this objective was generated through questionnaires, which were distributed to IFRC Staff. The questionnaires had statements rated on a five-point Likert scale, 1-strongly disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Uncertain, 4-Agree, 5-Strongly agree, against which the respondents were requested to check the appropriate

option. Furthermore, comprehensive data on the same was gathered by means of interviews conducted with opinion leaders and county government officials. By focus group discussions, more information was also gathered from locals who had been affected by conflict in the county. Table 4.6 presents the findings.

**Table 4.6: IFRC's Intervention Measures for Peace Building**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Mean</b>
The IFRC has been holding public awareness meetings on peace building in West Pokot County	-	-	-	6 (40.0%)	<b>9</b> <b>(60.0%)</b>	3.92
IFRC provides humanitarian aid assistance and services during conflicts in West Pokot	-	-	-	3 (20.0%)	<b>12</b> <b>(80.0%)</b>	4.21
IFRC organizes for social forums/meetings to educate people on peace building	-	-	-	7 (46.7%)	<b>8</b> <b>(53.3%)</b>	3.78
The role played by the IFRC has enhanced conflict resolution in West Pokot	-	4 (26.7%)	1 (6.7%)	<b>6</b> <b>(40.0%)</b>	4 (26.7%)	2.78
The IFRC deliver humanitarian aid during/after conflicts on time	2 (13.3%)	4 (26.7%)	1 (6.7%)	<b>5</b> <b>(33.3%)</b>	3 (20.0%)	2.54
Existence of the IFRC has reduced instances of conflicts in West Pokot County	-	2 (13.3%)	1 (6.7%)	<b>8</b> <b>(53.3%)</b>	4(26.7%)	2.96

Note: 1-strongly disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Undecided, 4-Agree, 5-Strongly agree

The results on table 4.6 shows that majority 9 (60.0%) of the respondents strongly agreed that the IFRC holds public awareness meetings on peace building in West Pokot County as indicated by an average response of 3.92. In addition, majority 12(80.0%) of the respondents from IFRC strongly agreed that IFRC provides humanitarian aid and services during conflicts in West Pokot County, presented by a mean of 4.21. Further, majority 8(53.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that IFRC organizes for social forums/meetings to educate people on peace building as given by a mean of 3.78. In addition, majority 8(53.3%) of the respondents agreed that the IFRC deliver humanitarian aid during/after conflicts on time as indicated by a response mean of 2.96. As well, most of the respondents 6(40.0%) agreed that the role played by the IFRC has enhanced conflict resolution in West Pokot as indicated by a response mean of 2.78. Similarly, the majority 5(33.3%) agreed that the role played by the IFRC has enhanced conflict resolution in West Pokot as indicated by a response mean of 2.54.

The results from the descriptive statistics reveal that the IFRC has put in place intervention measures to enhance building peace in West Pokot County. Some of its interventions include: hosting public awareness sessions/ meetings to educate people about peace building and providing humanitarian relief and services during crises in the County. Similar reports were given during interviews and focus group discussions as observed:

*“The conflicts have really affected us; we have lost our loved ones, property, animals. Many people, especially children, suffer from post-traumatic stress due to the violence and instability they've experienced. These humanitarian organizations are important during conflicts; they help a lot especially in donating food and some basic needs for the people” (Key Informant I, 2023)*

*“They come in during conflicts to help mitigate the crisis but they haven't really achieved the objective. We need to build trust between communities and address the root causes of conflict, but this will take time and effort.” (Key Informant II, 2023)*

*“The organization has come into enhance conflict resolution and peace building, however, they haven't seen the light of the day yet because people are still fighting. The divisions between communities are too deep. I don't think we can ever overcome them.” (Key Informant III, 2023)*

*“The conflicts have made it challenging for us to access basic services like healthcare. In times of violence, it's often unsafe to travel to the nearest healthcare facility, which can be many miles away. This puts our health at risk, especially for pregnant women and children. We appreciate the fact that KFRC helps us get access to such essential services especially in emergency cases.” (Key Informant IV, 2023)*

*“The organization plays an important role during conflicts. They provide food to people who have been displaced by conflict or who have lost their access to food and water sources. They also provide medical care to people who have been injured or who have fallen ill due to the conflict.” (Key Informant V, 2023)*

FGD participants also reported:

*“Conflicts are sparked by external actors, like cattle rustlers or bandits from neighbouring regions. This has disrupted our children's education; many people have lost their lives, livestock and properties. These external threats can disrupt our community and lead to conflicts as we try to protect our livelihoods. The organizations are trying to intervene but not yet managed to solve the issues, the conflicts are still ongoing.” (Participant A1, FGD 1, 2023).*

*“Yes, humanitarian organizations are very important during conflicts, many of us are misplaced and humanitarian organizations support us a lot. When our livestock are raided and we do not have any source of income, they really come in handy to provide us with food and offer us support especially healthcare to our children.” (Participant B1, FGD 2, 2023).*

*“Kenya Red Cross is always there for us when we need them. They were the first ones to help us when our village was attacked last year. They've provided us healthcare and food during conflicts.” (Participant C1, FGD 3, 2023).*

*“They play a crucial role during conflicts. Most people are greatly affected during conflicts and the organization helps a lot. Most people are hurt during conflicts and they offer health services. They also offer us support in terms of food, tents and beddings.” (Participant D1, FGD 4, 2023).*

*“The IFRC has offered us support when we needed it most especially food. The KRCS is working to promote peace and reconciliation in our community. We appreciate their efforts to build a more peaceful future for all of us. They are there when we need their support.” (Participant E1, FGD 5, 2023).*

*“The organization is important during conflicts; they create a multi-agency stakeholder approach to solving problems. They create peace building forums and teach the locals on how to solve conflicts. On the same forums, they also take note of people's suggestions. They also enhance peace through school activities and having peace monitors in the community.”(Participant A2, FGD 1, 2023).*

*“The organization is trying to help mitigate the crises, they hold peace meetings where they educate us the importance of peace and ways that can enhance unity, though not successful yet. However, humanitarian organizations are very important during conflicts, they provide us with food” (Participant B2, FGD 2, 2023).*

*“I was displaced from my home by conflict and lost everything I had. Red Cross provided me with food, water, shelter, and medical care. They were the first ones to help us when our village was attacked last year. We love Red cross they really help us a lot.” (Participant C2, FGD 3, 2023).*

*“The organization has tried to reduce the occurrence of conflicts through peace building forums but there still exist conflict between communities” (Participant D2, FGD 4, 2023).*

*“They offer health education and care during and after conflicts. When displaced from our homes in search of safe places to reside, they help us with the necessities like food, water, cash voucher assistance and other things that help us to survive.” (Participant E2, FGD 5, 2023).*

Based on the responses obtained from the interviews and focus group discussions it is evident that IFRC plays an important role in mitigating the conflicts in West Pokot County. This is done through a multi-agency stakeholder approach to solving problems. They also create awareness through peace building forums where they educate locals on the importance of peace and ways solve conflicts. They also enhance peace through school activities and having peace monitors in the community. Further, IFRC provides the affected people with basic needs and helps them get access to essential services especially in emergency cases. It is therefore evident that the organization plays a key role in mitigating the conflicts in West Pokot County; however, there still exists conflict between communities in the County.

These findings concur with the findings presented by Barajas et al. (2013) on the role of humanitarian organizations in Afghanistan. The study reported that humanitarian organizations have contributed to the security and stability of the country by having partnerships with the armed forces. Further, the study reported that the organizations helped in training citizens the fundamentals of democracy and work. Further, they helped in the re-framing of governance issues along with providing substitute dialogue mechanisms between conflicting parties. Also, the study concluded that humanitarian bodies can aid in the process of connecting new governments to their citizens who may lack awareness of their novel tasks and bigger

responsibilities as the organizations are deeply entangled within the civil society. As a result, these efforts can encourage equitable services delivery all over the population.

In addition, the findings agree with the findings reported in Sri Lanka by Walton (2008) who established that nation building programmes of most of the humanitarian organizations in Sri Lanka sought to forge links between different ethnic communities, buttress public support for the peace building processes, and decrease inter-community pressures by establishing workshops, rallies, trainings, exchange visits and carrying out studies along with media crusades.

Similarly, Uzuegbunam (2013) assert that humanitarian organizations are in an brilliant position to involve themselves in various nation building activities. They are in good position to provide humanitarian mediation and aid, and also building capacity among the local communities by involving them in a variety of joint endeavours and engaging them in empowerment initiatives. On the same breath, Ayaz (2019) reported that Non-governmental organizations play an important role in avoidance of conflict and help in recovery from post conflict Trauma. Further, the study reported that International non-governmental organizations can create peace according to their goals, and enterprise to cultural, social and political actions with the approach of the international security. International organizations are of the main pillars of global system in our era. The temporary actions they take takes place when the deterioration of the situation would be avoided and coercive measures would be decided to establish global peace.

Further, the findings are in line with the findings reported in Sudan by Assal (2016) who examined the role of civil society in peace building and post conflict trauma recovery. The study was based on Darfur civil society organizations and two Khartoum based, this research closely looked at the roles civil society organizations play in peace building, the modalities of

playing such roles, and the challenges facing them. The research concluded that despite political repression, a deteriorating economy and active war in three parts of the country, civil society organizations in Sudan do contribute to peace making and peace building and post conflict trauma recovery.

Additionally, the findings concur with the findings reported in Somalia by Hassan and Kavale (2018) who evaluated the role of Civil Society in peace building in Mogadishu, Somalia. The paper specifically examined the role of Civil Society in peace building processes in Somalia. The study used descriptive research design. The target population of the study was 60 employees. Stratified sampling method used to classify the target population into two strata. The sample size was 52 employees arrived at using the Slovenes formulae. Data collection was done using structured questionnaires in Linkert type scale. Data analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively. The study established that the contribution that these actors can make to the peace-building process is crucial for understanding the underlying mechanisms for the transformation and subsequent resolution of the conflict.

On same breath, the findings agree with the findings reported by Kabore (2023) who sought to analyze the role of international organizations in conflict management in Burkina Faso. The results showed that international organizations are important actors in conflict management. They are responsible for mediating disputes, preventing armed conflicts and promoting peace building efforts. These organizations have played a key role in providing technical and financial support to the Government of Burkina Faso as well as in facilitating dialogue and cooperation between international actors, the government, and civil society in Burkina Faso

Similarly, the findings agree with the findings reported by Ian (2020) who examined the reasons why non-governmental organizations are taking a central role in conflict transformation in the contemporary society. The study adopted descriptive approach using an

interview schedule drawing its respondents from NGOs, government officials and victims of conflicts in Uasin-Gishu County, rift-valley region of Kenya which has experienced conflicts overtime. The research found that; NGO's role is significant because it seeks to find the root cause of conflict, the nature of conflicts ranges from politically triggered, inter-clan to ethnic conflict, the NGOs challenges are; inadequate financial resources, non-committal by warring parties to conflict resolution, the state and finally the complexity and longevity of protracted conflicts.

On the same breath, Shoebridge (2019) established that efforts to address root causes of conflicts can only be effective and sustained if local actors lead them from the community affected by conflict. Such efforts also require a gradual and sequenced approach beginning with engaging with communities to understand their own perceptions of conflict and, importantly, to map existing capacities, approaches or platforms for resolving disputes or conflict within the community. While external actors such as UN agencies, international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other donors can provide useful support, community level peace builders possess legitimacy, entry points and networks that cannot be matched by external actors such as development or humanitarian actors that have a long history of presence or engagement with a particular community.

#### **4.5.1 Effectiveness of IFRC's Peace building Intervention Measures**

The researcher wanted to determine whether the IFRC's peace-building measures were effective. Participants were asked to indicate if the intervention measures were very effective, fairly effective, or ineffective. Table 4.7 shows the results:

**Table 4.7: Effectiveness of IFRC's Intervention Measures**

<b>Level of effectiveness</b>	<b>Percentage of Respondents</b>
Highly effective	5.0 %
Fairly effective	56.2%
In-effective	38.8%

Table 4.7 shows that majority (56.2%) of the respondents indicated that the IFRC's intervention measures for building peace in West Pokot were fairly effective. On the other, hand 38.8% of the respondents reported that they were ineffective, whereas 5.0% of the respondents indicated that the interventions were highly effective. Based on the results, it is evident that the IFRC's interventions for building peace in West Pokot were fairly effective. This implies that more needs to be done to effectively address the conflicts in the region.

The findings concur with the findings reported by Lokiyo (2014) that despite disarmament and rearming communities through the Kenya Police Reservists (KPR), peace building meetings, prosecuting perpetrators, declaring illicit firearms surrender amnesties and establishing peace committees, insecurity in Turkana and Pokot regions continue to prevail. It was recommended that the governments of Kenya and Uganda adopt a regional approach to effectively address the problem of small arms and light weapons in the region. The government of Kenya together with NGOs, CBOs and FBOs, expand educational facilities in these two regions, as well as sensitize the two communities on the effects of conflict on development so as to curb the spread across borders to the neighbouring countries.

Further, the findings agree with the findings reported by Huho (2014) who investigated conflict and conflict resolution strategies in West Pokot County. The study reported that through peace building initiatives, decreased incidences of historical conflict between pastoral communities and the Pokots living in West Pokot County were established but not with conflicts associated with natural resources. Scarcity of pasture and water, which is a manifest of the effects of climate change, negates the attempts made at national and local levels to resolve conflicts. However, the aspect of climate change mitigation was absent in all peace building initiatives in the county. The study established a missing link in conflict resolution initiatives and therefore recommended that mitigation of climate change should be the focal point in addressing conflict in pastoral regions since natural resources, which pastoralists entirely depend on, are depleting at an alarming rate due to the changes in climatic patterns.

#### **Involvement of Beneficiaries in Creating and Implementing Peace Building Initiatives**

The third objective of the study was to establish whether beneficiaries are involved by IFRC in designing and executing peacebuilding initiatives in West Pokot County. Information on this objective was gathered through questionnaires which were administered to IFRC employees. In addition, in-depth information on the same was also acquired through interviews with county government representatives and opinion leaders. Additional information was also obtained from those who had been impacted by the conflicts in the County through focus group discussions. Table 4.4 presents the results.

**Table 4.8: Measures for Accountability to Beneficiaries**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Mean</b>
The IFRC has principles and beliefs that govern their operations	-	-	1 (6.7%)	<b>8</b> <b>(53.3%)</b>	6 (40.0%)	3.78
The IFRC has performance standards which let them know whether they are meeting their accountability duty	-	2 (13.3%)	4 (26.7%)	<b>5</b> <b>(33.3%)</b>	4 (46.7%)	2.76
The IFRC is accountable and responsible to those who are affected by their actions	-	1 (6.7%)	1 (6.7%)	7 (46.7%)	<b>8</b> <b>(53.3%)</b>	3.82
The IFRC engages with members of the community and takes into consideration their needs and views in decision-making	-	-	1 (6.7%)	5 (33.3%)	<b>9</b> <b>(60.0%)</b>	4.18
The IFRC implements their duties with the utmost transparency and responsibility both on the part of their donors and the beneficiaries	-	-	4 (26.7%)	<b>6</b> <b>(40.0%)</b>	5 (33.3%)	2.92
The IFRC ensures that the resources availed to them for public good undergo proper utilization and are able to account for such use with a lot of integrity	-	-	2 (13.3%)	<b>8</b> <b>(53.3%)</b>	5 (33.3%)	3.64

Note: 1-strongly disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Uncecided, 4-Agree, 5-Strongly agree

Table 4.4 shows that majority 8(53.3%) of the IFRC staff agreed that the IFRC has principles and beliefs that govern their operations as indicated by a response mean of 3.78. In addition, the majority 5(33.3%) agreed that the IFRC has performance standards which let them know

whether they are meeting their accountability duty with a response mean of 2.76. Further, majority of the IFRC staff 8(53.3%) strongly agreed that the IFRC is accountable and responsible to those who are affected by their actions as indicated by a response mean of 3.82. Similarly, the majority 9(60.0%) strongly agreed that the IFRC engages with members of the community and takes into consideration their needs and views in decision-making with a response mean of 4.18. Also, most of the respondents 6(40.0%) agreed that the IFRC implements their duties with the utmost transparency and responsibility both on the part of their donors and the beneficiaries as indicated by a response mean of 2.92. Finally, majority of the staff 8(53.3%) agreed that The IFRC ensures that the resources availed to them for public good undergo proper utilization and are able to account for such use with a lot of integrity with a response mean of 3.64.

Based on the results obtained from descriptive analysis, the IFRC staff members agreed that the organization's operations are guided by its principles and IFRC has performance standards that allow them to determine whether they are fulfilling their accountability obligation. In addition, the results show that the IFRC implements their duties with the utmost transparency and responsibility both on the part of their donors and the beneficiaries and they ensure that the resources availed to them for public good undergo proper utilization and are able to account for such use with a lot of integrity. Furthermore, the results indicate that the IFRC is accountable and responsible to individuals who are affected by their efforts and it interacts with community members and takes their needs and opinions into consideration when making decisions.

During focus groups and interviews, contrary reports were presented as follows:

*“They try to get peoples’ ideas during, and after helping in conflict situations, although they don’t include most members of the community, because they prefer engaging our leaders.” (Participant E3, FGD 5, 2023).*

*“We appreciate the role that Red Cross Play in this area, however they fail to engage all community members in their plans or programs. They need to involve us in decision-making processes and seeking our input. Also they need to be keen on our culture and our ways.” (Participant A4, FGD 1, 2023).*

*“The key area of failure that organizations like the Kenya Red Cross Society need to address to enhance efficiency in service delivery is the issue of engaging all members of the community in their programs, not all members of the community are engaged in consultative meetings and this has a negative effect. They also need to familiarize themselves well with our culture and be timely in their service delivery.” (Participant B4, FGD 2, 2023).*

*“They fail to involve all members of the community and help only a few community members leaving others. Additionally, they sometimes they delay in assistance, they bring us support late and they don’t ensure that every person in need gets assistance.” (Participant C4, FGD 3, 2023).*

*“The KRCS and other humanitarian agencies need to involve all communities members in their plans, they should also involve all our local leaders and community members in decision-making processes, listen to their concerns, and collaborate closely with them. They also need to be sensitive to the cultural differences of the communities they serve. They should avoid promoting solutions that are not culturally appropriate.” (Participant D4, FGD 4, 2023)*

*“They need to work closely with us as the community and improve their response rate by ensuring they provide the services on time. They should also make sure all the affected community members get assistance especially food.” (Participant E4, FGD 5, 2023)*

*“Yes, the KRCS always seeks our ideas before they start any new program in our community, especially from us as community leaders who represent the people.” (Key Informant I, 2023)*

*“I appreciate the fact that the KRCS values our input. They call us for meetings and take note of our suggestions. It makes me feel like we are partners in their work, not just beneficiaries.” (Key Informant II, 2023)*

*“Yes, we love Red cross, we are greatly involved in all matters because we represent our people and that that is the best way to get our opinions and ideas that leads to good service delivery to the members of the community” (Key Informant III, 2023)*

The answers provided by the participants make it clear that the IFRC involves community people in decision-making processes at a low level because they typically involve community

leaders more than community members. Community members may feel that their opinions, concerns, and suggestions are not respected as a result, which could make it more difficult for the organization to accomplish its goal. According to WHO (2016) the principal objective of international humanitarian action, and the purpose of coordination, is to meet the needs of affected people by means that are reliable, effective, inclusive, and respect humanitarian principles. Similarly, Williamson (2020) highlighted that the purpose of humanitarian action is meant to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity, while observing the principle of accountability. This will be achieved by using power responsibly, taking account of, and being held accountable to those who are affected by the use of such power. To be effective, successful, and adhering to international human rights, humanitarian organizations must be able to follow and promote the principles, laws, and norms associated with their work. As a work that is cantered on people, by people and for people, humanitarians must be responsible to the people that are most affected by the emergency.

The findings are similar to those reported by Anstorp and Horst (2021) that there were deficiencies exposed in the Joint Evaluation on Emergency Assistance to Rwanda (JEEAR) of 1996, including poor coordination, low accountability to genocide survivors and humanitarian assistance being directed to perpetrators of violence. This created a strong impetus for the humanitarian community to work towards better professionalism. It became increasingly clear that humanitarian organisations were not accountable to affected populations, and this was recognised as deeply problematic. Initiatives to a greater commitment to accountability within the humanitarian system can be seen in accountability initiatives and codes of conduct that have been established throughout the sector (Daun, 2020).

On the same breath, Madondo (2015) pointed out the growing need for legitimacy and the establishment of a platform to cultivate a trustful relationship between humanitarian

organisations and their stakeholders. In response to this, humanitarian actors have begun to implement myriad accountability standards in order to prove their commitment to accountability. This has been done against the backdrop of mistrust that has been rising from corruption, misappropriation of funds, scandals, and general wastefulness that have plagued the humanitarian sector. Hence, the pressure of evaluations of their performance has grown against their set objectives and success in delivering these objectives, against the real need of the affected populations

Furthermore, Kirsch (2013) states that there are increasing calls for humanitarian actors themselves to be held accountable for their actions, and to further demonstrate this accountability. In essence, different scholars within the humanitarian sector seem to agree that accountability measures are vital and are beginning to take centre stage in current humanitarian initiatives. Kilby (2006) emphasises the voluntary nature of downward accountability processes. This is echoed by Hilhorst et al (2021) and Daun (2020) who cast doubt on the impacts of current accountability commitments in humanitarian action. Knox-Clarke and Mitchell (2011) further argues that the underlying rationale for accountability discussions to affected populations is based on moral arguments, a position that is informed by humanitarian principles.

Further, the findings are in line with the findings reported by Jazmin (2020) who sought to examine what guidelines and regulations that help to ensure that humanitarian organizations are held accountable to their beneficiary populations. The study reported factors that lead to a hindrance in accountability to affected populations which include: limited to no localization of aid in conflict settings, lack of communication between national and non-national humanitarian actors, marginalization of aid recipients' leadership roles, problematic downward accountability measures, and a lack of participation when it comes to people's perceived needs.

However, due to prominent shortcomings in many recent major humanitarian responses, the importance of increasing accountability to people in humanitarian work has now become a focus that can no longer be ignored in the international community. The study concluded that lack of accountability to affected populations is not due to a lack of policy or principles, but rather it deals with the obscure nature of the rhetoric surrounding the humanitarian concept- humanitarian relief must involve, and be accountable to, the crisis affected people it serves and the inability of the humanitarian community to turn this idealistic doctrine into a reality.

#### **4.6 Barriers to IFRC's Peace-building Operations in West Pokot County**

The study's forth objective was to determine barriers affecting IFRC's peace building efforts in West Pokot County. Red Cross employees were given questionnaires with an open-ended question in order to gather information for this objective. Additional information was gathered via focus groups and interviews. The study established that the IFRC faces a number of challenges which affect their mission in peace building, in West Pokot County. Some of the challenges reported by the participants include: Lack of adequate funds to cater for all the needs of the victims in the communities.

*“The funds are limited compared to the needs of the community members who always have very high expectations and over-reliance on organizations.” (Key Informant III, 2023)*

In addition, the insecurity issues make the working environment for IFRC staff and volunteers uncomfortable and uneasy as reported by the participants in the Key Informants during interviews.

*“Insecurity: Security issues are also a big concern for KRCS staff and volunteers working in this area. They are human beings, so they are always worried about their safety as they engage in conflicts” (Key Informant IV, 2023)*

According to the respondents, the lack of adequate funds and insecurity concerns are some of the difficulties that challenge the IFRC staff. The findings are in line with the findings reported by Kangdim (2021) who examined the role played by international organizations in conflict management, focusing specifically on the African Union (AU). The study's findings revealed that despite the AU's role in proffering solutions to African problems, the organization still faces several challenges regarding its quest to address these problems. These challenges include limited funding, over-reliance on external funding, and the inability of the institution to take ownership of most of the peace building initiatives, manage diversities, and implement policies that prevent conflicts in the region.

In addition, the findings concur with the findings reported by Onodugo et al, (2021) that Non-Governmental Organisations in peace building in Africa could have done better if not for some challenges militating against their effectiveness. These challenges include the following: Lack of Funds: NGOs are expressing difficulty in finding sufficient, appropriate and continuous funding for their work. They find accessing donors as challenging as dealing with their funding conditions. They perceive there to be certain cartels of individuals and NGOs that control access to donor funds. They have limited resource mobilization skills and are often not looking for funds that are available locally, preferring to wait for international donors to approach them. There is a high dependency of donors and a tendency to shift interventions to match donor priorities. There is a lack of financial, project and organizational sustainability.

According to Osueke (2006), Non-governmental Organizations face a lot of challenges in the discharge of their duties often caused by Insurgent activities. They are faced with the dilemma; should they negotiate with terrorists to deliver aid, or should they maintain independence and impartiality. Some Nigerian agencies like WACOL operate only through local partners because they cannot negotiate with terrorist-affiliated groups. Red Cross has resorted to having armed

escorts and allow Movement for Peace in Maiduguri (MFPIM) and Africa Awake to supervise the aid distribution. Although impartiality is valuable for the long-term operation in Maiduguri, humanitarian aid agencies feel they are forced to compromise these principles in an effort to gain aid access according.

Similarly, Onodugo et al. (2021) highlighted that no government can take on single handily, the weight of peace building in form of aid. Among the various actors that participate in these processes are the nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), which fulfil a pivotal role in terms of establishing and maintaining essential services like assisting refugees and internally displaced populations and helping to strengthen societies. NGOs increasingly work "in the field," providing humanitarian relief and development assistance in post terror places like Maiduguri. As they carry out their work, they face many serious problems. Insurgency often denies them access to those in need, terrorist groups demand payoffs, and local violence threatens the safety and even the lives of field personnel. Donors also subject these NGOs to political pressure, diminishing their neutrality.

In addition, the participants indicated that the IFRC staff encounter language barrier because the large majority of the population in the county is illiterate, as a result, they cannot communicate or understand national languages except their local language. Further, the study established that the IFRC staff experience difficulties in accessing remote areas due to poor infrastructure and rough terrains in the county coupled with poor networks which make communication difficult. Furthermore, the IFRC has finds it challenging to create peace in the area because cultural barriers, some of the community members feel like the organizations are undermining their culture as a result some of the communities are hostile and against the peace programs.

*“Sometimes language barrier because majority of community members are illiterate meaning they are not able to speak in English or Kiswahili. They only understand their local language.” (Participant D4, FGD 4, 2023*

*“Yes, they also experience challenges like poor infrastructure, there are rough terrains in this county, Cultural barriers and the insecurity and hostile communities keeping them at risk.” (Participant C5, FGD 5, 2023*

*“Hard to reach areas and hostile communities causing back and forth during peace negotiations Network instability in the remote areas.” (Participant E4, FGD 4, 2023)*

It is evident from the responses that the IFRC staff is unable to work effectively due to language barriers, poor infrastructure, cultural barriers and hostility from community members. The findings are similar to the findings reported in Nepal, by Furlani (2018) who explored the role of social workers attached to NGOs in peace building in order to promote wellbeing and work-life in Nepal. The result of this study indicated that there is a lack of trust among the community members, between government and its people, and government and its external influences, which effect community’s socio-economical standard. The findings also concluded that Nepali society lacks adequate and effective information sharing, which seems to impact the community’s health and work-life. Social workers were insightful on how social bonds and trust among groups could be established, which could increase the well-being of the people in rural area of Nepal.” encouraging recovery during post conflict period through provision of services like trauma counselling.

Further, the study established that the IFRC is affected by interference from various parties who sabotage the process and lack of commitment from stakeholders as reported.

*“The organizations are trying their best to solve this perennial problem, but they have not succeeded to stop the conflicts because some politicians are supporting the conflicts and sabotaging the peace building programs” (Key Informant IV, 2023)*

*“It is unfortunate that some senior members in the government are behind it. Some communities are supplied with fire arms by politicians. The government should be supporting the organizations to create peace, but some our leaders are doing contrary. It is therefore difficult for the organization to achieve their objectives.” (Key Informant V, 2023)*

It is evident from the responses that lack of commitment from stakeholders and interference from different groups that undermine the IFRC’s mission of building peace in West Pokot County. These findings agree with the findings reported by Ian (2020) who examined the reasons why non-governmental organizations are taking a central role in conflict transformation in the contemporary society. The study adopted descriptive approach using an interview schedule drawing its respondents from NGOs, government officials and victims of conflicts in Uasin-Gishu County, rift-valley region of Kenya which has experienced conflicts overtime. The research found that; NGO’s role is significant because it seeks to find the root cause of conflict, the nature of conflicts ranges from politically triggered, inter-clan to ethnic conflict, the NGOs challenges are; inadequate financial resources, non-committal by warring parties to conflict resolution, the state and finally the complexity and longevity of protracted conflicts.

In similar vein, Howard et al., (2013) reported that humanitarian organizations are faced with possible drawbacks to intensifying the role of humanitarian organizations in the process of nation-building. Fragile central administrations may perceive humanitarian organizations as a menace to their power and labor to bar the humanitarian organizations from reaching the society. Also, there can be clashes between humanitarian organizations and informal social establishments that have served residents instead of an unresponsive state. At some instances

the humanitarian organizations can simply lack the capacity to conducting the tall order of nation-building. Coordination hindrances between administrations and humanitarian organizations may obstruct the realization of nation-building goals at times.

The findings also concur with Genugten (2016) who observed that humanitarian agencies have played a vital part in philanthropical development and relief in Burundi. The controlling nature of the governments in war-torn nations has affected the operations of humanitarian organizations. Members of such society fear the humanitarian establishments, affecting significant essentials of the participatory model which include social participation and cohesion. Restricting citizens from expressing themselves demoralizes humanitarian efforts as it disempowers people. When a ruling controls every aspect of the society even at the grassroots level, humanitarian organizations are unable to work effectively.

According to Carey (2017), a significant hurdle which humanitarian organizations can encounter in their peace building efforts is achieving along with maintaining balance while refraining from advocating for some parties involved in a conflict. Other challenges include managing people's commotion and intolerance in a clash. Therefore, humanitarian organizations should be aware of various psychological aspects associated with conflicts as contrition, morning forgiveness and victimhood. Among the ethical issues which arise in conflict management include ethnocentricity, moral issues pertaining to power and individual agendas of intermediaries.



## CHAPTER FIVE

## **SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

The summary of the results, conclusions, and suggestions are presented in this chapter in accordance with the study's specific objectives.

### **5.2 Summary of Key Findings**

The first objective of the research was to assess the conflict situation in West Pokot County. The survey found that disputes still existed in the region. The most common sorts of conflicts were resource-based, territorial, cultural, and politically motivated. According to the results, competition for resources is the leading cause of violence in the county. It was also determined that conflicts are triggered by disputed borders, rivalry for resources, retrogressive cultural practices, historical injustices, and the availability of illegal firearms. The conflicts had a tremendous impact on the county's population, resulting in the loss of lives, property, school closures, and contributing to the region's dismal economic growth.

The second objective of the study was to establish the IFRC's intervention measures in peace building in West Pokot County. The study established that the IFRC is crucial in mitigating conflicts and enhancing peace in the County. A multi-agency stakeholder approach is used to accomplish this in order to address the problems. Additionally, they raise awareness by teaching locals in peace building forums about the value of harmony and conflict resolution techniques. Additionally, they promote peace in the communities by having peace monitors and implementing peace activities in schools. Additionally, IFRC provides the affected people with basic needs and helps them get access to essential services especially in emergency situations. The respondents did note, however, that occasionally during conflicts, the IFRC is unable to meet the needs of every member of the community who is impacted by the conflicts and does not deliver humanitarian aid on time. Furthermore, the study discovered that the

interventions by IFRC were fairly effective, but there is still violence in the County's communities, despite the organization's major contribution to peacebuilding.

The third objective of the study was to determine whether IFRC involved to beneficiaries in creating and implementing peace building initiatives in West Pokot County. The study established that the IFRC has performance criteria that enable them to assess if they are meeting their accountability obligations and that its principles serve as a framework for its operations. Additionally, the findings demonstrated that the IFRC carries out its mandate with the highest accountability and transparency toward both its donors and its beneficiaries. It also makes sure that the resources provided to it for the public good are used appropriately and that they can provide a transparent accounting of that use. Moreover, the outcomes demonstrated that the IFRC is answerable and liable to people who are impacted by their work. Furthermore, the study discovered that the IFRC usually involves local leaders in peace building initiatives, it does not incorporate community members in decision-making processes. Consequently, the community members feel that their views, concerns and recommendations are not taken seriously, and as a result, they reject the organization's efforts to promote peace.

The study's fourth objective was to identify barriers affecting the IFRC's peace building efforts in West Pokot County. The study found that the IFRC encounters a variety of difficulties that have an impact on their goal of promoting peace in the County. Among the difficulties mentioned by the participants are: insufficient resources to meet all of the victims' needs in the communities. Furthermore, according to the participants, the insecurity concerns create an uncomfortable and uneasy work atmosphere for IFRC personnel and volunteers. The respondents also revealed that the IFRC personnel face language barriers because the vast majority of people in the County lack formal education. Consequently, they are unable to converse in any national language other than their native tongue. The survey also found that

the IFRC personnel find it challenging to reach remote locations because of the county's undeveloped infrastructure, rugged terrain, and poor networks, all of which impede communication. Cultural obstacles are another reason why the IFRC finds it difficult to bring about peace in the region; some community members believe that the organizations are destroying their culture, which makes them hostile and opposed to the peace initiatives. Furthermore, the study found that the IFRC's objective of fostering peace in the County is undermined by the lack of commitment from stakeholders and interference from politicians.

### **5.3 Conclusions**

The study came to the following conclusions in light of its findings:

Regarding the conflict situation in West Pokot. The study concludes that disputes in West Pokot County have negatively impacted socio-economic interactions between the county and its neighboring villages. The study found that inter-ethnic conflict in West Pokot County has multiple implications, including physical, psychological, political, social, and cultural. During the inter-ethnic violence, residents of the County lost lives and property and were forced to live in internally displaced camps for extended periods.

Regarding the IFRC's intervention measures in fostering peace in West Pokot County, the study concluded that the IFRC performs a variety of roles that are essential to reducing conflict and fostering peace in the County. These include conducting peace building forums to create community awareness and sensitization, putting peace initiatives into schools, and giving the impacted individuals access to vital services and basic necessities. The study also concluded that sometimes during conflicts, the IFRC is unable to provide humanitarian relief on time and to every member of the community who is affected by the conflicts. Furthermore, despite the organization's major role in the County's neighbourhoods, the study concluded that conflicts still exist in the County.

The third objective was to establish extent to which beneficiaries are involved in Peace building interventions in West Pokot County. The study concluded that the IFRC's principles provide a framework for its operations and that it has performance criteria that allow it to evaluate whether it is fulfilling its accountability commitments. The investigation also concluded that the IFRC fulfills its duty with the utmost transparency and accountability toward both its donors and its beneficiaries. Additionally, it guarantees that the funds granted to it for the benefit of the public are utilized properly and that an open accounting of such usage may be produced. Furthermore, the study concludes that those who are affected by the IFRC's activities hold them accountable. Nonetheless, the study concluded that the IFRC does not involve majority of community members in decision-making processes. As a result, community people reject the organization's efforts to promote peace because they believe that their opinions, concerns and suggestions are not given due consideration.

With regard to the obstacles that affect the IFRC's efforts in building peace in West Pokot County. The study concluded that the IFRC faces several difficulties in implementing their peace building operations in the County, including insecurity, political interference, lack of commitment from stakeholders, inadequate funds, poor infrastructure, poor networks, and antagonism from communities.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

Based on the conclusions, the study recommends that:

The role of humanitarian organizations needs to be revitalized by sensitizing the public on the role played by these organizations. IFRC can enhance their role in peace building to stay relevant in the eyes of the public and the government. They can do this by rewarding peaceful communities with more interventions, allowing the community to take ownership of projects, benchmarking the community on peace initiatives, and involving political leadership in

national building projects like infrastructure development and long-term funding of local financial systems to support peace. Additionally, they can increase access to education in order to educate and include the youth, the public and the government in upholding the signed peace deal. Further, they should provide humanitarian relief to all victims in a timely manner and facilitating nonpartisan, cross-party chances for shared commemoration are essential if they are to carry out their peace-building goals.

The IFRC should invest in long-term peace building programs. The communities need to build their resilience to disasters and conflicts, and to address the root causes of humanitarian crises, such as poverty and inequality. Furthermore, there is a need for capacity-building within the community, community members need to be trained in disaster response and conflict resolution to enhance self-reliance and reduce dependency on external aid. In addition, the IFRC and other humanitarian organizations must consider the cultural diversity of the populations they assist. They ought to refrain from endorsing remedies that are inappropriate from a cultural standpoint or that might make intergroup conflicts worse.

The IFRC should improve its accountability. It should be dedicated to making sure that the people impacted are at the core of all it does. This can be accomplished by putting in place appropriate routes for reporting to impacted communities, keeping in mind the crucial role that impacted communities should play in ensuring that their views are heard during relief operations. As a result, the IFRC should work to attain complete community engagement and involve the beneficiary population in the planning, administration, and execution of humanitarian programs. Furthermore, in order to ensure accountability, impacted groups must be able to influence decision-making processes and, if necessary, be able to evaluate and even sanction the actions of IFRC when needed.

In order to support peace over time, the study suggests that the county political leadership should engage IFRC in county-building projects like infrastructure development, benchmark communities on peace initiatives, and provide funding for local financial systems. In order to guarantee the sustainability of the projects being carried out by IFRC, donors should standardize their financing requirements, such as accountability reports, and establish an atmosphere in which these organizations can readily obtain money. Furthermore, the study suggests that non-state and state actors should work together to achieve peace, better community members' livelihoods, and the establishment of an environment that allows both the government and non-state organizations to carry out projects at the grass root level.

### **5.5 Area of Further Research**

A similar study can be conducted on other humanitarian organizations focusing on peace building in conflict situations in West Pokot County can be carried out in order to find out how the findings will compare to those of the present study. Additionally, a study can be conducted on the role of government in peace building as a means of identifying the strengths and weakness of the Government in conflict resolution.

Finally, this study urges further investigation into how humanitarian principles and policies effect the development of feasible and quantifiable changes in accountability to impacted populations and guarantee that humanitarian organizations answer to the people most impacted by their work.

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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX I: Questionnaire

#### Introduction

I am a graduate student in international relations and diplomacy at Kenyatta University. I'm gathering information on the IFRC's contribution to West Pokot's peacemaking. Regarding this study, I have a few questions I'd like to ask you. The information you provide will be treated in absolute confidence and used only for academic reasons. You can choose not to respond to some of the questions, but I do hope that you will because your opinions are very significant.

#### Section A: Demographic Information

1. What is your gender? (Please tick as appropriate)

(a) Male { }

(b) Female { }

2. What is your age in years? (Please tick as appropriate)

(a) 18 – 24years { }

(b) 25 - 34 years { }

(c) 35 – 45 years { }

(d) 46 years and above { }

3. What is your highest academic qualification? (Please tick as appropriate)

a) Primary education { }

b) Secondary education { }

c) College education { }

d) University education { }

e) Other, specify.....

#### Section B: Conflict Situation in West Pokot County

1. What are the types of conflicts in West Pokot County?

a.....

b.....

c.....

d.....

2. What are the effects of the occurrence of Inter-Ethnic Conflict in West Pokot County?

a.....

b.....

c.....

d.....

3. To what extent has these effects affected the residents of West Pokot County?

Very High Extent { }

High Extent { }

Medium Extent{ }

Low Extent { }

Very Low Extent{ } t

### Section C: Intervention Measures of IFRC in Peace Building

1. Are you aware of the existence of Kenya Red Cross Society? (Please tick as appropriate)

(a) Yes { } No { }

2. According to your knowledge how long Kenya Red Cross Society been operating in West Pokot County?

1-5 years { } 5-10 years { } 10-15 years { } 15-20years { } above 20 years { }

3. Have the existence of Kenya Red Cross Society reduced instances of cattle rustling in the County?

Yes { } No { }

Please explain.....

4. Have you been in a situation that required the response of Kenya Red Cross Society?

(a) Yes { } No { }

5. How would you rate their response to different crises in Kenya? (Please tick as appropriate)

a) Excellent { }

b) Good { }

c) Moderate { }

d) Poor { }

3. Have you worked or volunteered with the Kenya Red Cross Society and if so, how was the experience?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

4. How frequent does the Kenya Red Cross Society organise for social functions to educate people on peace building?

Once per year { }

Twice per year { }

Thrice per year { }

Four times per year { }

Five times per year { }

Rate the impact of the above activities in conflict resolution in West Pokot

Very High { } High { } Uncertain { } Low { } Very Low { }

5. Some of the West Pokot community have outdated cultural practise which nature conflict.

Can discouraging of these practices wart conflict?

Strongly agree { }

Agree { }

Uncertain { }

Disagree { }

Strongly disagree { }

6. The Kenya Red Cross Society has been holding public awareness seminar on peace building in West Pokot County?

Strongly agree { }

Agree { }

Uncertain { }

Disagree { }

Strongly disagree { }

7. Has the existence of the Kenya Red Cross Society reduced instances of conflicts in West Pokot County?

Yes { } No { }

Please explain your answer

.....

.....  
 .....  
 8. How effective are the intervention measures taken by Kenya Red cross in building peace in

West Pokot

Very effective{ }

Fairly effective{ }

Ineffective{ }

9. Please read through the statements and tick the correct answer.

Key 1-strongly disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Undecided, 4-Agree, 5-Strongly agree

<b>Measure</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
The IFRC has been holding public awareness meetings on peace building in West Pokot County					
IFRC provides humanitarian aid assistance and services during conflicts in West Pokot					
IFRC organizes for social forums/meetings to educate people on peace building					
The role played by the IFRC has enhanced conflict resolution in West Pokot					
The IFRC deliver humanitarian aid during/after conflicts on time					
Existence of the IFRC has reduced instances of conflicts in West Pokot County					

### Section C: IFRC's Involvement of Beneficiaries in Peace Building

Please read through the statements and tick the correct answer.

Key: 1-strongly disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Undecided, 4-Agree, 5-Strongly agree

Measure	1	2	3	4	5
The IFRC has principles and beliefs that govern their operations					
The IFRC has performance standards which let them know whether they are meeting their accountability duty					
The IFRC is accountable and responsible to those who are affected by their actions					
The IFRC engages with members of the community and takes into consideration their needs and views in decision-making					
The IFRC implements their duties with the utmost transparency and responsibility both on the part of their donors and the beneficiaries					
The IFRC ensures that the resources availed to them for public good undergo proper utilization and are able to account for such use with a lot of integrity	-	-			

**Section D: Intervention of Kenya Red Cross in Conflicts**

1. Focusing on the period 2010-2023 in particular what type of humanitarian aid assistance or service did you receive or work on with the Kenya Red Cross Society to enhance peace in West Pokot?

.....  
.....  
.....

2. Are you aware of any humanitarian work the Kenya Red Cross Society has done to build peace in West Pokot? List some examples.

.....  
.....  
.....

3. How would you describe the speed of response at which humanitarian aid is delivered by the Kenya Red Cross Society during/after conflicts?

- a) Excellent { }
- b) Good { }
- c) Moderate { }
- d) Poor { }

4. Are the members of the community involved in peace making process?

- Yes { }
- No { }

If yes, in what ways were they involved?

.....  
.....  
.....

5. Apart from the services you receive/ offer, what other services would you have liked to get from the Kenya Red Cross Society in order to satisfy your needs or community needs?

.....  
.....  
.....

6. What do you like or dislike about Kenya Red Cross Society?

.....  
.....  
.....

7. Are there measures for accountability to beneficiaries undertaken in West Pokot County?

Yes { }

No { }

If yes, please explain?

.....  
.....  
.....

8. What challenges face the IFRC in peace building in West Pokot County?

.....  
.....  
.....

9. What suggestions would you recommend to the Kenya Red Cross Society and other humanitarian agencies to improve their services in order to enhance their effectiveness in their future humanitarian activities to enhance peace building in West Pokot?

.....  
.....

## **APPENDIX II: Interview Guide Schedule**

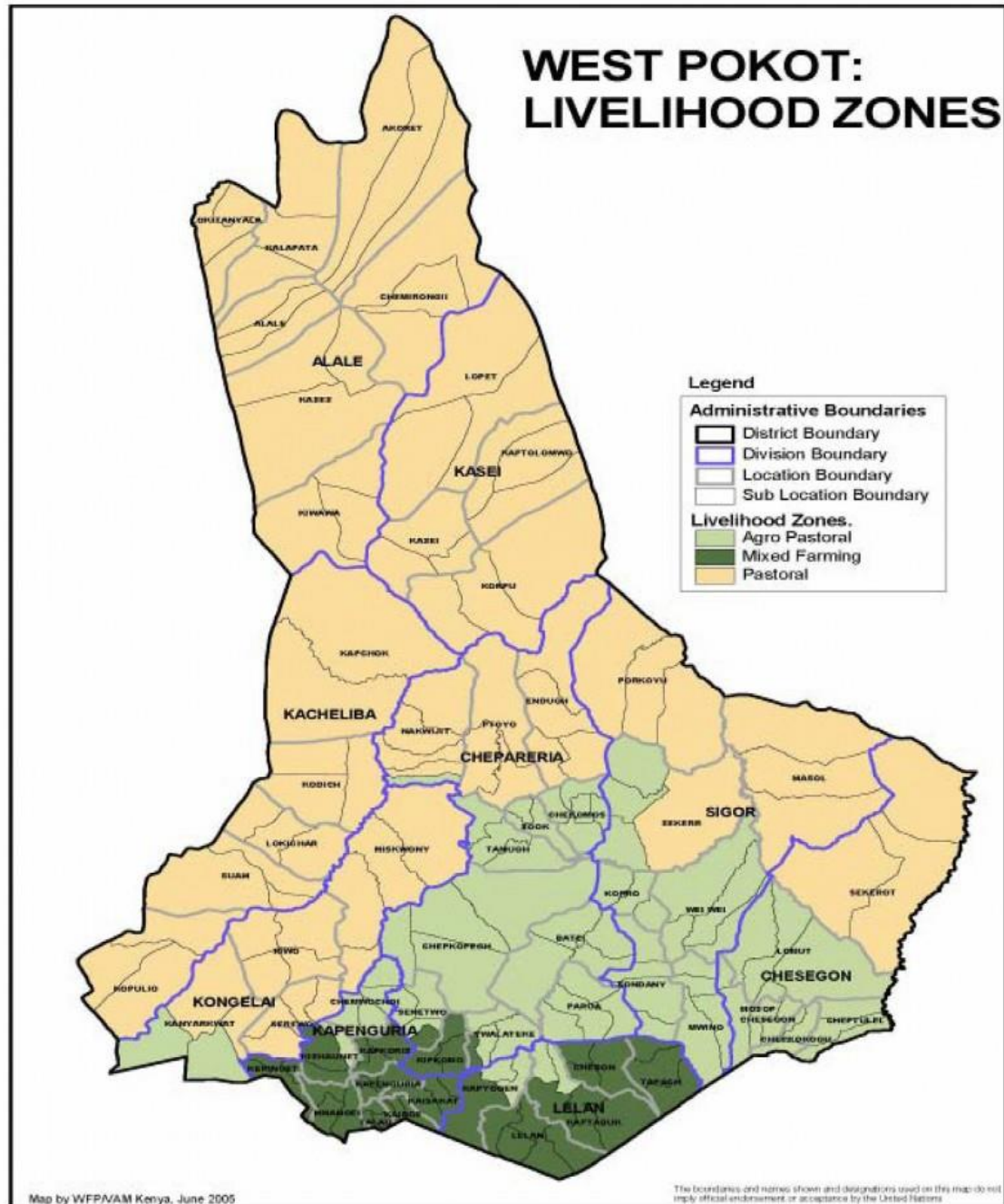
1. What are the types of conflicts in West Pokot County?
2. What are the effects of the occurrence of Inter-Ethnic Conflict in West Pokot County?
3. To what extent has these conflicts affected the residents of West Pokot County?
4. Are you aware of the existence of Kenya Red Cross Society?
5. According to your knowledge how long Kenya Red Cross Society been operating in West Pokot County?
6. What roles do you play as the Kenya Red Cross Society?
7. What role does the Kenya Red Cross Society play in West Pokot community?
8. What activities is the Kenya Red Cross Society implementing in West Pokot County?
9. Have the existence of Kenya Red Cross Society reduced instances of cattle rustling in the County
10. Does the Kenya Red Cross Society engage in peace building activities?
11. What mechanism does the Kenya Red Cross Society use to contribute to peace building activities?
12. How does the organization channel information on conflict resolution to people in West Pokot?
13. Has the existence of the Kenya Red Cross Society reduced instances of conflicts in West Pokot County
14. Are you aware of any humanitarian work the Kenya Red Cross Society has done to build peace in West Pokot?
15. Are the members of the community involved in peace making process?
16. Apart from the services you receive, what other services would you have liked
17. to get from the Kenya Red Cross Society in order to satisfy your needs or community needs
18. Are there measures for accountability to beneficiaries undertaken in West Pokot County?
19. What challenges face the IFRC in peace building in West Pokot County?
20. What suggestions would you recommend to the Kenya Red Cross Society and other humanitarian agencies to improve their services in order to enhance their effectiveness in their future humanitarian activities to enhance peace building in West Pokot?

### **APPENDIX III: Focus Group Discussions Guide**

1. What do you think are the cause of conflicts? Why?
2. How were you affected with the conflicts?
3. Has culture, traditions and beliefs been a factor to the recurring conflicts?
4. Several organizations have come in during conflicts to help mitigate the crisis. Do you think they have done well in terms of conflict resolution and peace building?
5. Do you think humanitarian organizations are important during conflicts?
6. How and when do they usually help during conflicts?
7. Are you aware of the existence of Kenya Red Cross Society
8. Do they ever seek your ideas before, during and after helping in conflict situations?
9. How do you think the community can help itself in managing conflicts?
10. What positive effects has the Kenya Red Cross Society had in your community?
11. What negative effects has the Kenya Red Cross Society caused in your community?
12. What are the key areas of failure that organizations like the Kenya Red Cross Society needs to address to enhance efficiency in service delivery?
13. What challenges face the IFRC in peace building in West Pokot County?
14. What suggestions would you recommend to the Kenya Red Cross Society and other
15. humanitarian agencies to improve their services in order to enhance their effectiveness in their future humanitarian activities to enhance peace building in West Pokot?

APPENDIX IV: Map of West Pokot County

DISTRIBUTION OF ETHNIC COMMUNITIES IN WEST POKOT COUNTY



Source: <http://www.pokot.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/WestPokotLivehoodZones-799x1024.jpg>

