

**BORDER MANAGEMENT THROUGH DIPLOMACY AS A COUNTER-  
TERRORISM STRATEGY ALONG KENYA AND SOMALIA FRONTIER**

**(1991- 2020)**

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**C82/CTY/37018/2017**

**A RESEARCH THESIS SUBMITTED IN FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF  
PHILOSOPHY IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY IN  
THE SCHOOL OF LAW, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES OF KENYATTA  
UNIVERSITY**

**MARCH 2025**

## DECLARATION

This research thesis is my original work prepared with no other than the indicated sources and support and has not been presented elsewhere for a degree or any other award.

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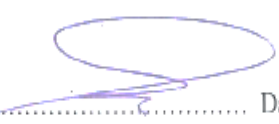
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## **DEDICATION**

To the people of Mandera and Garissa County who have, over the years, persevered through the vagaries of conflict arising from the porous Kenya- Somalia border.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Foremost, I thank Almighty Lord for making it possible to undertake and complete this research. This work was accomplished with other people's contributions, and I will always thank them for their care, encouragement and constructive criticism. Special thanks go to my supervisors, Dr Kigen Morumbasi and Dr Stephen Handa, for their expert direction and patience as they read this work. My further gratitude goes to the sampled household heads' members, and the critical informants, for participating in the Focus Group Discussions. I thank the Administration Police Service for allowing me to undertake my studies and for financial assistance to pursue this degree. I also appreciate the input of other lectures from the Department of Diplomacy, Security and Peace Studies at Kenyatta University; special thanks also go to the School of Graduate Studies for approving the research proposal. Constant guidance greatly enhanced this Study. I am grateful to my research guide Abdullah Hassan Mohammed Said, for the many hours in the challenging terrain while administering questionnaires. My family members for their prayers and constant encouragement never to give up. Finally, I wish to thank G.H. Kamau for helping me code and analyze data. Lastly, my mother, Christine, siblings Preston, and Paul, and my family members gave me a reason to come this far.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Al-Shabaab (A/S):</b> | A Somali-based militant group threatening both Kenya and Somalia.  |
| <b>AMISOM</b>            | African Union peacekeeping mission in Somalia, impacting regional security.  |
| <b>BIS:</b>              | Border Inspection Systems, used for monitoring people and goods at border points.  |
| <b>BMS</b>               | Border Management System, a technology used to monitor and secure borders.   |
| <b>CVE</b>               | Countering Violent Extremism programs aimed at preventing radicalization.  |
| <b>EAC</b>               | East African Community, promoting integration among East African nations including Kenya.                                      |
| <b>IBC</b>               | Independent Boundaries Commission, involved in border disputes and demarcations.   |
| <b>IGAD</b>              | Intergovernmental Authority on Development, a regional organization focused on security and cooperation in the Horn of Africa. |
| <b>MOU</b>               | Memorandum of Understanding, agreements between countries on security cooperation.   |
| <b>TFG</b>               | Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, relevant to past Somali governance and its instability.                            |
| <b>UNSC</b>              | United Nations Security Council, involved in peace and security resolutions for the region.                                    |

## OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Border Management</b> | Refers to activities undertaken by both Kenya and Somalia to coordinate the activities of all border agencies at the Kenya- Somalia frontier                        |
| <b>Counter-Terrorism</b> | Are policies, plans and actions implemented to prevent, respond to and mitigate the impact of terrorism.  |
| <b>Frontier</b>          | Refers to the line or border area separating Kenya and Somalia.   |
| <b>Terrorism</b>         | Means acts of violence/threats aimed at causing fear, intimidation or harm to civilians, government officials or infrastructure for political/ ideological reasons. |
| <b>Diplomacy</b>         | Relations of political, social, and economic nature carried at the borders between Kenya-Somalia to cultivate good relations between the two countries              |

## ABSTRACT

The terrorism issue along the Kenya-Somalia border poses a significant challenge to national security, regional stability, and bilateral relations. The persistence of these cross-border extremist threats has highlighted the limitations of conventional diplomatic approaches in effectively addressing terrorism. This study, therefore, explored the role of border diplomacy in managing terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border, guided by four specific objectives. First, it examined the role of border diplomacy in mitigating cross-border terrorism between the two nations. Second, it explored the diplomatic methods employed by Kenya and Somalia to counter-terrorism and evaluated their effectiveness. Third, the study identified the challenges that hinder the success of border diplomacy in managing terrorism along this border. Lastly, the study offered recommendations for enhancing border diplomacy to address terrorism in this context better. Using a descriptive survey design, the research was framed within structural realism and border security theory. Respondents were selected from the study area, including residents, community leaders, government officials, border security personnel, immigration officers, traders, and businesspeople. A combination of purposive and simple random sampling methods was employed, resulting in a sample size of 300 household heads and 90 key informants. Data was collected through focus group discussions, questionnaires, and observations, while secondary data was sourced from relevant articles. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze quantitative data, with content analysis applied to qualitative data. The study found that border diplomacy, particularly through joint commissions and diplomatic meetings, positively influenced bilateral relations, though territorial disputes undermined its full effectiveness. It also revealed that the success of diplomatic approaches depended on how well Kenya and Somalia balanced security needs with regional power dynamics. Additionally, the study identified several challenges to border diplomacy, including porous borders, clan conflicts, human trafficking, and smuggling. To enhance border diplomacy, the study recommended improvements in intelligence sharing, joint patrols, establishing a Border Diplomacy Council, and creating regular diplomatic forums. Furthermore, it suggested investing in local development, engaging border communities in security efforts, and addressing the socio-economic vulnerabilities that extremists exploit. Finally, the study emphasized the importance of supporting governance improvements in Somalia to stabilize the border region and counter terrorism more effectively.

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Introduction

The Kenya-Somalia border has long been a hotspot for terrorist activities, with groups like Al-Shabaab exploiting its porous nature to carry out attacks across both nations (Al Jazeera, 2018). This persistent threat to security has posed significant challenges to regional stability, making it imperative for both countries to adopt effective measures to manage and mitigate terrorism (O'Kane, 2017). Border diplomacy, which involves cooperative efforts such as joint security operations, intelligence sharing, and bilateral agreements, has emerged as a key strategy for addressing these challenges (United Nations, 2020). The independent variable in this context is border diplomacy. In contrast, the dependent variable is the management of terrorism specifically how these diplomatic efforts impact the reduction of terror-related activities along the border. Despite acknowledging border diplomacy's importance, there are gaps in understanding its long-term effectiveness and the specific roles of local communities and international partners in these efforts (Pike & Turner, 2021). This chapter presents background information about the Study. It specifically comprises; the Statement of the Problem, Objectives of the Study, Research Questions, Significance of the Study, Scope, and limitation of the Study. The primary and secondary literature was reviewed from four; global, regional, sub-regional and local perspectives.

### 1.1 Background of the Study

The enduring problem of terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border presents a significant challenge to national security, regional stability, and bilateral relations. Terrorism, which has escalated in recent years through the actions of groups like Al-

Shabaab, directly threatens human lives, disrupts local economies, and breeds insecurity in both states (Anderson & McKnight, 2014; Mwangi, 2012). The recurrent terror attacks not only endanger citizens but also weaken governmental authority, impact cross-border trade, and diminish public trust in the capacity of state institutions to safeguard their interests (Botha, 2014). This volatile border region, marked by shared ethnic, economic, and social networks, has become a breeding ground for extremist activities that transcend the limitations of national borders (Marchal, 2009). Consequently, terrorism in this area affects the directly involved populations and the broader regional stability in East Africa and the Horn of Africa (Williams, 2018).

The persistence of terrorism has revealed the limitations of conventional diplomatic methods in effectively countering cross-border extremist threats. While crucial, traditional bilateral diplomacy and military responses have not achieved sustainable security. Unilateral actions, intelligence sharing, and military cooperation have fallen short of providing a lasting solution (Anderson & McKnight, 2014; Williams, 2018). Therefore, this situation emphasized the need for a different diplomatic approach: border diplomacy. Border diplomacy, which encompasses collaborative governance, shared border policies, and regional cooperative frameworks, offers a focused mechanism to address transnational security threats and improve cross-border relations (Botha, 2014; Mwangi, 2012).

The complex interplay between border diplomacy, terrorism, and state relations between Kenya and Somalia presents an intricate and often contentious area of study. Scholars have emphasized the need to reevaluate border policies, arguing that existing frameworks were inadequate for addressing evolving security threats posed by terrorism. Kagwanja (2006), in his work on East African security, highlights how border diplomacy and policies shape regional security and influence state relations,

suggesting that diplomatic engagement is crucial in addressing cross-border threats. Similarly, Anderson, D., & McKnight, J. (2014) explored the Somali-Kenyan border's security dynamics, showing how terrorism impacted diplomatic ties and necessitates strategic border management. Khadiagala (2008) discussed regional diplomacy in East Africa, arguing for revising border policies to enhance security and stabilize state relations. Hills (2006) examined East African security strategies, stressing that traditional border security measures alone were insufficient and advocating for enhanced border diplomacy. Finally, Willis, J., & Bakari, M. (2018) delved into the historical and contemporary border dynamics between Kenya and Somalia, showing how terrorism had amplified the need for cooperative border policies. These scholars collectively underscored that deeper, multifaceted studies were needed to understand the relationship between terrorism, border diplomacy, and state relations, advocating for a nuanced approach to regional stability and diplomatic engagement between Kenya and Somalia.

Border diplomacy has been utilized worldwide to address cross-border issues, ranging from security to economic collaboration. The researcher has analyzed the works of various scholars who have documented and analyzed the application of border diplomacy at the global, continental, regional, and Kenya-Somalia levels.

Globally, border diplomacy aligns with the United Nations principles, emphasizing cooperation in preventing terrorism and promoting peace through collaborative frameworks (UN, 2006). Scholars like Byman and LaFree (2017) have highlighted how global cooperation would strengthen regional security frameworks, encouraging states to address terrorism from a united front rather than isolated, fragmented strategies. Byman and LaFree (2017) focused on terrorism and counter-terrorism strategies, particularly exploring the drivers of terrorism and the effectiveness of counter-terrorism

measures across different global regions. They examined how radicalization manifested itself within and outside the U.S., and evaluated policies nations employed to prevent domestic terrorism. The United Nations (2006) published a report that aimed to establish a unified approach to combatting terrorism internationally. The UN's strategy addressed four main pillars: addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism, preventing and combating terrorism, building states' capacity to fight terrorism, and ensuring respect for human rights in counter-terrorism efforts. This framework encouraged international cooperation and the use of diplomatic, legal, and educational measures to prevent terrorism globally.

Carter, D. B., & Poast, P. (2017) in their research did examine how the United States and Mexico had engaged in border diplomacy to address issues such as illegal immigration, drug trafficking, and transnational crime. Carter and Poast (2017) argued that a collaborative approach would reduce border tensions and improve diplomatic relations even in high-conflict areas. Patrick, (2014) in his research, highlighted India and Pakistan's approach to managing cross-border terrorism through diplomatic and joint counter-terrorism efforts. He discussed how bilateral border diplomacy led to cooperative measures, such as coordinated border patrolling and information-sharing, in their effort to curb terrorism in the Kashmir region.

Crenshaw (2011) in her study discussed global cooperation strategies in counter-terrorism, including how border diplomacy fostered intelligence-sharing and cross-border security collaboration to address transnational terrorism, focusing on the USA-Canada border. Cronin (2009) analyzed how international border agreements and diplomatic cooperation among states had been critical in combating terrorism, citing examples like the European Union's Schengen Information System as a border-management tool. Hoffman (2006) examined cases like the U.S.-Canada border and

how border diplomacy was essential for managing transnational threats, asserting that diplomatic coordination on border security was a cornerstone in global anti-terrorism efforts.

Within Africa, border diplomacy has been increasingly championed by the African Union (AU), which has acknowledged the role of coordinated border management in securing peace and fostering economic development. Scholars such as Murithi (2012) and Williams (2015) underscored the AU's role in promoting cross-border cooperation as essential in tackling security threats, including terrorism, by encouraging member states to adopt an integrative approach through the African Union Border Programme (AUBP). Murithi's (2012) work primarily focused on peacekeeping and conflict resolution in Africa, especially through the role of the African Union in conflict management within the continent. His studies discussed cases from countries like Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, and other areas where the African Union has had peacekeeping missions. Murithi (2012) illustrated how the African Union had applied border diplomacy to manage peace and security in Somalia. He argued that the African Union Border Programme (AUBP) had facilitated diplomatic engagements that improved stability by encouraging member states to manage their borders collaboratively, thus addressing shared threats like terrorism and insurgency. Williams (2015) research centered on peace operations in Africa, specifically examining the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and other African peacekeeping missions, including those in Somalia, Sudan, and Central African Republic. Williams (2015) highlighted how the African Union employed a border-focused diplomacy approach to assist Kenya and Somalia. AMISOM's collaborative operations were a form of border diplomacy designed to maintain security in border areas impacted by

Al-Shabaab terrorism, demonstrating the continental approach of coordinated border management.

Adebajo (2010) discussed how African states engaged in border diplomacy to handle cross-border security issues, including terrorism. He examined African Union initiatives, especially the African Union Border Programme (AUBP), as an example of continental border diplomacy in addressing terrorism and insurgency in East and West Africa. Anning, K., & Aubyn, F. (2013) In this work, both researchers examined the role of border diplomacy within the African Union and ECOWAS in coordinating cross-border security responses. They specifically highlighted the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) as a practical example of border diplomacy to combat terrorism on the continent. Maïga (2017) examined the Sahel region, discussing how border diplomacy was essential in the fight against terrorism in Africa. He underscored how diplomatic cooperation through the G5 Sahel and AU had been used to combat terrorism and manage borders jointly.

At the Regional Level, within the East African Community (EAC), regional cooperation played a critical role in managing terrorism. According to Bachmann and Schouten (2018), regional integration initiatives have been crucial in harmonizing policies and pooling resources to address common security concerns. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), in particular, advocated for a cooperative security approach, with scholars like Okoth (2020) stressing the need for structured border diplomacy that enabled member states to monitor and regulate border areas prone to terror activities. Okoth's (2020) work focused on security and diplomatic challenges in East Africa, particularly Kenya, with an emphasis on border management strategies, cross-border security initiatives, and how these measures impacted regional stability and counter-terrorism efforts. Bachmann and Schouten (2018) examined the

political and economic dimensions of borders and borderlands, particularly in Africa, with a focus on how borders were constructed, maintained, and controlled in response to security concerns and geopolitical pressures.

Further at Regional Context (East Africa) Prestholdt (2014) underscored how regional organizations like the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) had supported Kenya's efforts to manage its border with Somalia through coordinated counter-terrorism initiatives. Prestholdt emphasized that regional border diplomacy had facilitated intelligence-sharing, cooperative policing, and training, helping states in the region address shared security threats. Puri (2016) outlined how the East African Community (EAC) had developed border diplomacy mechanisms to enhance counter-terrorism capacity across its member states. Puri examined initiatives like regional intelligence-sharing and cross-border police cooperation, which aided member countries such as Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania in managing security challenges that transcend borders. At the regional level, Khadiagala (2008) provided insight into how the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) had engaged in border diplomacy to address terrorism in East Africa, specifically through initiatives that facilitated cooperation on security and counter-terrorism. De Waal (2015) discussed regional collaboration between East African states, emphasizing how IGAD had been instrumental in fostering border diplomacy and counter-terrorism efforts, particularly along the volatile Kenya-Somalia border. Tang (2012) While focusing on development, discussed how regional partnerships and border diplomacy had helped manage cross-border security threats, highlighting the roles of IGAD and EAC in facilitating regional stability.

At the Kenya-Somalia border, border diplomacy was particularly important in managing terrorism. Menkhaus (2014) argued that this approach allowed for

cooperative security initiatives that considered the region's unique sociopolitical and economic contexts. By emphasizing shared goals and coordinated responses, border diplomacy would reduce the vulnerability of border communities to radicalization and extremist recruitment. This approach addressed security concerns with the collaboration of local governments, border communities, and security agencies on both sides of the border, thus filling gaps left by conventional security and diplomatic efforts.

Menkhaus (2014) notes that Kenya had sought to stabilize border areas by working with local Somali authorities, security agencies, and international actors to curb radicalization and enhance security. Menkhaus (2014) extensively explored Kenya's border diplomacy efforts with Somalia, including cooperative security and localized diplomacy with border security agencies as mechanisms for counter-terrorism and cross-border stabilization. Raleigh (2010) discussed the contribution of how border diplomacy between Kenya and Somalia had been used to address both terrorism and the socio-economic issues of marginalized border communities. Raleigh (2010) suggested that Kenya's approach to border diplomacy in Somalia, which included engaging local leaders and cross-border clans, had been instrumental in managing security risks building local resilience against extremist influence, and enhancing border security. Kagwanja (2007) highlighted Kenya's diplomatic strategies to secure its border with Somalia, including joint patrols and intelligence-sharing agreements, framing these efforts as an example of border diplomacy addressing terrorism in the Horn of Africa. These examples underscored the multifaceted applications of border diplomacy across global, continental, and regional levels, as well as in the specific case of the Kenya-Somalia border. Each case highlighted how diplomatic engagement and cooperative frameworks would manage complex transnational threats such as terrorism, offering potential models for other border contexts worldwide.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The Kenya-Somalia border is heavily affected by terrorism, primarily due to the Al-Shabaab militant group, which threatens national security and strains relations between the two countries. Despite various diplomatic and security efforts, the border remains porous, leading to over 300 reported terrorist attacks from 2014 to 2020, resulting in significant casualties and economic losses of 10-20% in affected regions. Traditional diplomatic methods, such as bilateral agreements and regional security partnerships like the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), have failed to ensure long-term stability. Intelligence-sharing and joint military operations have had limited success in countering cross-border terrorism, with Al-Shabaab continuing to recruit and operate in Kenya. The ongoing violence has displaced over 80,000 people in northeastern Kenya since 2015. Underlying issues that remain unaddressed complicate border diplomacy effectiveness, which includes weak governance, lack of development, and socio-economic infrastructure in border areas, which leave communities vulnerable to radicalization. Cross-border clan affiliations add complexity, as these communities often felt marginalized, making traditional diplomatic approaches ineffective. Scholarly perspectives vary on border diplomacy's effectiveness. Some suggested community-based approaches would stabilize the region, while others argued that clan dynamics and mistrust hindered these efforts. Additionally, regional frameworks like IGAD were criticized for lacking resources to enforce security. The findings raised questions about adapting border diplomacy to address transnational insurgent groups and involving local leaders effectively. A multi-layered, adaptable border diplomacy framework incorporating local realities and development initiatives is necessary to achieve lasting peace and security.

### **1.3 General Objective**

To examine the role of border diplomacy in managing terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border, focusing on the effectiveness of bilateral cooperation, security strategies, and diplomatic efforts in mitigating cross-border terrorism and enhancing regional stability.

### **1.4 Specific Objectives**

The following specific objectives guided the study;

- i. To analyze the role of border diplomacy in addressing cross-border terrorism between Kenya and Somalia.
- ii. To explore the diplomatic approaches that have been used by Kenya and Somalia to address terrorism at the border, and assess how effective these approaches were.
- iii. To examine the challenges (political, socio-economic, and security-related) that hinder the effectiveness of border diplomacy in managing terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border.
- iv. To provide recommendations for enhancing the role of border diplomacy in managing terrorism in the Kenya-Somalia context.

### **1.5 Research Questions**

- i. What role does border diplomacy play in the management of terrorism between Kenya and Somalia?
- ii. In what ways have diplomatic approaches been used by Kenya and Somalia to address terrorism at the border, and how effective are these approaches?

- iii. How do (political, socio-economic, and security-related) challenges hinder the effectiveness of border diplomacy in managing terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border?
- iv. How can border diplomacy be strengthened to improve security and reduce terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border region?

### **1.6 Justification of the Study**

This study on border diplomacy in managing terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border was significant for several reasons. Philosophically, it draws from peacebuilding, suggesting that sustainable security requires diplomatic approaches rather than military means alone. Examining border diplomacy aligned with frameworks advocating for conflict resolution through cooperation, dialogue, and non-violent security measures. Practically, it addressed the urgent security challenges posed by terrorism in the region, aiming to provide actionable insights for policymakers and security agencies to leverage diplomacy as a tool for mitigation. Methodologically, the study used a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative data to offer a comprehensive view of the dynamics between state and non-state actors in border security. A case study analysis of the Kenya-Somalia border enabled an in-depth exploration of specific diplomatic initiatives, informing broader theories on counter-terrorism. Academically, it filled a critical gap in the literature by focusing on border diplomacy's role in counter-terrorism within East Africa, while its findings would contribute to theoretical frameworks on the interaction between diplomacy, security, and local agencies in conflict zones. This study, therefore, holds substantial value for both policy and scholarly discussions on conflict management and security in politically complex regions.

## **1.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

The study titled "Border Diplomacy in the Management of Terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia Border (1990-2020)" had a defined scope and set limitations. Geographically, it concentrated on key border areas in Kenya, such as Mandera, and Garissa, as well as Somali regions like Gedo, which were notably impacted by cross-border terrorism and related diplomatic activities. The temporal scope spanned three decades from 1990 to 2020, allowing for an exploration of significant historical events, including the Somali civil war, the rise of Al-Shabaab, and Kenya's participation in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The study aimed to analyze border diplomacy as a counter-terrorism strategy, focusing on bilateral agreements, regional frameworks like IGAD, intelligence-sharing, and socio-cultural factors such as clan dynamics. Key stakeholders included government agencies, regional bodies, international actors, and local community leaders, all of whom played vital roles in border diplomacy efforts. However, the study also acknowledged several limitations. Data constraints presented challenges, particularly in accessing reliable information from the 1990s, as some data were classified. Security and access restrictions due to risks in certain areas hindered field research, particularly in regions influenced by Al-Shabaab. Additionally, the complexity of clan dynamics complicated a thorough analysis, as these relationships would shift frequently and would not be well-documented. The politically sensitive nature of Kenya-Somalia relations would also affect stakeholders' willingness to share insights. Moreover, the study's findings would not account for trends emerging after 2020, limiting its ability to predict future dynamics in terrorism and border diplomacy. Lastly, reliance on secondary data for historical context, especially regarding early events, would restrict the depth of analysis concerning the development of border

diplomacy initiatives. Overall, this framework ensured a focused examination while acknowledging potential constraints in the research.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This section reviewed the literature on the following pertinent issues relating to the objectives of the Study; the role of border diplomacy in addressing cross-border terrorism between Kenya and Somalia, diplomatic approaches that have been used by Kenya and Somalia to address terrorism at the border, and an assessment of their effectiveness, challenges (political, socio-economic, and security-related) that hinder the effectiveness of border diplomacy in managing terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border and recommendations for enhancing the role of border diplomacy in managing terrorism in the Kenya-Somalia context.

#### **2.1 Role of Border Diplomacy in Addressing Cross-Border Terrorism Between Kenya and Somalia.**

Samatar, (1992) in his study examined the historical context and political dynamics influencing the Kenya-Somalia border, including the implications for security and cross-border terrorism. He focused on the historical, social, and political dynamics that shaped Somali nationalism. Samatar examined how various factors, including colonialism, clan dynamics, and the socio-political landscape, contributed to the development of a national identity among Somalis. He emphasized the interplay between local identities and broader nationalistic movements, analyzing how these elements influenced the quest for statehood and national unity in Somalia. His work was important for its interdisciplinary approach, integrating insights from political science, sociology, and history to provide a nuanced understanding of Somali nationalism.

Mohamed (2014) in his study, focused on the complex political, social, and economic challenges facing Somalia. The author examined the historical roots of the crisis, including the impact of colonialism, civil war, and state collapse. Mohamed discussed the role of various actors, such as clan dynamics, warlords, and international interventions, in shaping the ongoing conflict and humanitarian issues in the country. He aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the factors contributing to Somalia's instability while also exploring potential pathways to recovery and peacebuilding. Through this analysis, Mohamed sought to highlight the resilience of the Somali people and the need for a multi-faceted approach to address the crisis effectively.

Thomas (2016), focused on the evolving nature of borders and their significance in contemporary politics within the context of globalization. He examined how globalization challenges traditional notions of borders, impacting state sovereignty, migration, and security. Further, he explored the political, social, and economic dimensions of borders, emphasizing their role in shaping identities and facilitating or hindering movement across regions. Thomas (2016), examined various case studies to illustrate the complexities of border politics, including issues related to immigration, trade, and conflict. Ultimately, Thomas advocated for a nuanced understanding of borders as dynamic constructs influenced by globalization, politics, and local contexts.

Abubakar (2015), examined the historical dynamics and complexities of the relationship between Kenya and Somalia. He began by examining key historical events, political developments, and socio-economic factors that shaped bilateral relations between the two countries. He further provided a comprehensive analysis of issues such as colonial legacies, border disputes, ethnic ties, and the impact of regional conflicts, including the Somali civil war. Abubakar (2015), tried to contextualize current political

and diplomatic challenges within a historical framework, offering insights into how past interactions continued to influence contemporary relations. By doing so, he contributed to a deeper understanding of the factors affecting cooperation and conflict between Kenya and Somalia.

Adam (2004), focused on the enduring conflict in Somalia and proposed innovative strategies for achieving peace and effective state-building. The researcher analyzed the historical and socio-political roots of the Somali conflict, including the impacts of colonialism, clan dynamics, and external interventions. He critiqued traditional approaches to conflict resolution that often failed to address the complexities of Somali society, and advocated for a more inclusive and participatory approach to peace-building that recognized the importance of local customs, traditions, and community structures. Adam (2004), emphasized the need for collaboration among various stakeholders, including clan leaders, civil society, and the international community, to create sustainable peace and a functioning state. By proposing alternative frameworks for understanding and resolving the Somali conflict, he contributed to the broader discourse on conflict resolution and state formation in fragile contexts.

Anwar (2017), focused on the complex interplay between counter-terrorism efforts and the ongoing conflict between Kenya and Somalia, particularly about the activities of militant groups like Al-Shabaab. Anwar examined the strategies employed by various stakeholders, including national governments, regional organizations, and international partners, in their attempts to address the security challenges posed by terrorism in East Africa. Further, he analyzed the effectiveness of these counter-terrorism measures, drawing lessons from the historical context of the Kenya-Somalia conflict. By exploring the successes and failures of past strategies, the researcher provided valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners involved in counter-terrorism and

peacebuilding in the region. His works contributed to the broader discourse on security and counter-terrorism in East Africa, highlighting the importance of understanding local dynamics and fostering regional cooperation.

Smith (2018), in his study, focused on the multifaceted nature of terrorism and counter-terrorism efforts across the African continent. Smith examined various case studies to understand the underlying causes of terrorism in different African contexts, including political, social, and economic factors that contribute to radicalization and the emergence of extremist groups. These works collectively according to the researcher contributed to the understanding of the intricate relationship between border diplomacy and terrorism management along the Kenya-Somalia border. They highlighted various factors including historical, political, social, and regional dynamics that influence diplomatic efforts and security outcomes in addressing the persistent threat of terrorism in the region.

According to the researcher identifying gaps in existing literature was crucial for understanding where further research should contribute to the field. The researcher identified some potential gaps in the cited works regarding border diplomacy and terrorism management along the Kenya-Somalia border: Many studies, such as those by Samatar (1992) and Thomas (2016), provided valuable theoretical insights but lacked robust empirical data to substantiate their claims. There was a need for more qualitative and quantitative research that included recent data and case studies to support theoretical frameworks. Several works, including those by Mohamed (2014) and Abubakar (2015), tend to emphasize state-level diplomatic initiatives and overlook the role of non-state actors, such as local communities and civil society, in counter-terrorism efforts. This created a gap in understanding how grassroots initiatives interacted with and complement formal diplomatic efforts.

The reviewed literature did not extensively address gender dimensions in border diplomacy and terrorism. This was a significant gap since women often played crucial roles in community resilience and would be affected differently by terrorism and border policies. Many studies focused primarily on political and security dynamics, such as those by Adam (2004) and Anwar (2017), and had not adequately explored the socio-economic factors that contributed to terrorism and the effectiveness of diplomatic measures. Understanding economic conditions, unemployment, and resource distribution was critical for developing comprehensive strategies.

Some works, like those of Samatar (1992) and Adam (2017), from the researcher's point were published in earlier decades and would not address the changing dynamics of the Kenya-Somalia border, especially in light of recent developments in terrorism, regional politics, and international relations. More recent studies were needed to provide updated analyses. Works such as Smith's would discuss military and security measures alongside diplomatic strategies but did not critically assess the implications of these military approaches on border diplomacy and local communities. There was a need for research that evaluated how military operations impacted diplomatic relations and long-term security. The cited works primarily focused on political science and international relations perspectives. There was a gap in interdisciplinary approaches that incorporated insights from sociology, anthropology, and development studies to provide a more holistic understanding of border diplomacy and terrorism. While the existing literature discussed border diplomacy, it often lacked detailed analysis of specific conflict resolution mechanisms used in diplomatic efforts, especially those tailored to the unique context of the Kenya-Somalia border. The works often focused on the theoretical frameworks and proposed initiatives but did not adequately assess the implementation of these policies on the ground. There was a gap in examining the

challenges faced during the implementation of border diplomacy and how these affected overall effectiveness in managing terrorism. Most studies reviewed by the researcher, focused solely on the Kenya-Somalia context without comparing it with other border regions facing similar challenges. A comparative analysis would provide valuable insights into successful diplomatic strategies and lessons learned from different contexts. These gaps presented opportunities for further research to enhance the understanding of border diplomacy in the context of terrorism management along the Kenya-Somalia border. Addressing these gaps would lead to more effective policies and strategies that integrate diverse perspectives and experiences.

## **2.2 Diplomatic Approaches that have been used by Kenya and Somalia to Address Terrorism at the Border, and their Effectiveness**

Shigekane, (2019) in his study addressed issues related to international relations and security, particularly in the African context. He explored themes such as regional cooperation, conflict resolution, and the impact of globalization on security dynamics in Africa. Nyanzi's (2020) work primarily centered on public health, human rights, and gender issues in Uganda and broader East Africa. This included analysis of health policies, social justice movements, and the role of civil society in addressing health crises and advocating for women's rights.

Kamau's (2021) study, generally explored political science and governance in East Africa, particularly concerning democracy, political stability, and state-society relations. The study largely involved examining electoral processes, governance challenges, and the influence of local communities on national policies. While Ismail, (2018) works highlighted issues related to peace and conflict resolution, particularly in Somalia and the Horn of Africa. Kamau (2021) included the analysis of state-building efforts, the impact of foreign intervention, and strategies for sustainable peace in

conflict-affected regions. Waweru, (2015) focused his research on economic development and policy analysis within East Africa. His work addressed topics like trade, investment, and the effects of economic policies on regional integration and growth.

Odhiambo, (2016) investigated political economy and governance issues in East Africa, focusing on how economic policies intersected with governance and political stability, including studies on corruption, public finance, and the impact of economic reforms on societal welfare. Ahmed, (2020) work addressed issues related to security studies and counter-terrorism in East Africa, particularly concerning the challenges posed by terrorism and radicalization. His research analyzed state responses, regional security frameworks, and community resilience strategies in combating extremism.

Alhaji (2021) in his study analyzed how regional cooperation had influenced counter-terrorism strategies between Kenya and Somalia, focusing on diplomatic relations and security outcomes. Oduor (2019) examined specific diplomatic strategies adopted by Kenya and Somalia to address terrorism and enhance border security. He pointed out state-to-state diplomacy and military diplomacy as effective ways to address border security issues. Abdi (2020) Compared the effectiveness of border diplomacy in countering terrorism in the Horn of Africa, with a specific focus on Kenya and Somalia. He employed the use of historical research methodology to compare and contrast border diplomacy as an effective tool in the management of terrorism.

Ndung'u (2020) in his research investigated how border diplomacy would enhance security and development efforts in East Africa, particularly in managing cross-border terrorism. Underscoring the contribution of border diplomacy as an essential development tool, especially to less developed third-world countries.

Ochieng (2021) analyzed the role of regional security initiatives in addressing terrorism, focusing on the bilateral cooperation between Kenya and Somalia. Kinyanjui (2020) in his study, examined the challenges of managing border security and the diplomatic solutions proposed or implemented to mitigate terrorism. According to the researcher, the reviewed literature had various gaps ranging from; Shigekane, (2019) his study had a limited focus on the role of community engagement in these security efforts.

Nyanzi (2020) in her study, did not provide an in-depth analysis of how these diplomatic efforts were perceived by local communities. Kamau (2021) in his study lacked empirical data on the outcomes of specific diplomatic initiatives and agreements. Ismail, (2018) in his works, had not thoroughly examined the local community's perceptions of intelligence-sharing initiatives. Waweru, (2015) had a limited analysis of the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of these diplomatic measures. Odhiambo's (2016) study overlooked the implications of crisis diplomacy on long-term diplomatic relations. Ahmed's (2020) study did not consider the socioeconomic factors influencing the effectiveness of these agreements.

Alhaji (2021) in his study, his works demonstrated a limited exploration of how local communities perceived regional cooperation initiatives and their effectiveness, which would provide insights into the grassroots impact of these strategies. Oduor's (2019) study does not adequately address the long-term sustainability of the strategies discussed or their adaptability to changing security dynamics in the region. Abdi (2020) while his works provided a comparative framework, the work lacked detailed case studies that illustrated the specific outcomes of diplomatic efforts in the Kenya-Somalia context.

Ndung'u (2020) in his study did not sufficiently connect the dots between development initiatives and their influence on security, particularly regarding community engagement in counter-terrorism. Ochieng's (2021) research overlooked the specific challenges faced by local law enforcement and community organizations in implementing regional security initiatives. Njuguna (2021) in his study, while examining evolving relations, his work lacked a thorough analysis of the historical context and its implications for current diplomatic efforts. Otieno (2021) in his study, had insufficient coverage of the challenges non-state actors face in their efforts, as well as how they would be better integrated into official diplomatic frameworks.

### **2.3 Challenges (Political, Socio-Economic, And Security-Related) that Hinder the Effectiveness of Border Diplomacy in Managing Terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia Border**

In a study by Mohamud (2016), he underscored how the lack of political will among leadership on both sides affected the effectiveness of counter-terrorism measures and border diplomacy. Mohamud (2016), observed that the effectiveness of counter-terrorism measures and border diplomacy was hindered by a lack of political will from leadership in Kenya and Somalia. Mohamud's analysis emphasized that both countries' inconsistent commitment to counter-terrorism and border management often hampered coordinated efforts, leading to gaps in policy enforcement, weakened security cooperation, and challenges in sustaining long-term, effective counter-terrorism strategies.

A study by Khamis (2018) focused on the interplay of regional political dynamics. His analysis specifically examined how these political factors impeded collaborative counter-terrorism strategies between Ethiopia and Somalia. He delved into how tensions and competition among regional actors would undermine efforts to combat

terrorism effectively, highlighting the challenges of achieving regional cooperation in security matters. This work provided insights into the broader implications of political relationships on the efficacy of counter-terrorism initiatives in the Horn of Africa.

Ndung'u in his work (2020) focused on the impact of socio-economic conditions on the prevalence of terrorism in East Africa, particularly in Sudan and Somalia. He investigated how factors such as poverty, unemployment, lack of access to education, and inadequate basic services contributed to the environment that fosters terrorism. The study emphasized that these socio-economic challenges not only facilitated recruitment into terrorist organizations but also complicated diplomatic efforts aimed at countering terrorism. By analyzing the relationship between socio-economic conditions and terrorism, Ndung'u (2020) highlighted the need for integrated approaches that addressed underlying socio-economic issues as part of effective counter-terrorism strategies in the region. Ochieng (2020) in a study, explored how the porous nature of the Kenya-Somalia border facilitated terrorist activities, undermining border security efforts.

Ismail, (2017) in the work titled "Border Security and Counter-Terrorism: Lessons from the Kenya-Somalia Context," focused on the security challenges along the Kenya-Somalia border and their implications for counter-terrorism efforts. Ismail analyzed the porous nature of the border, which facilitated the movement of terrorist groups and their activities, making it difficult for security agencies to manage threats effectively.

The study by Ismail, (2017) emphasized the importance of intelligence sharing, inter-agency coordination, and collaborative security measures in enhancing border security. Ismail also examined the failures of existing security strategies and proposed recommendations for improving border management and counter-terrorism initiatives.

This work underscored the need for a comprehensive approach that integrated local community engagement, regional cooperation, and enhanced security infrastructure to effectively address the challenges posed by terrorism along the border.

A study by Abdi (2020), in the work titled "Border Diplomacy and Security Cooperation in the Horn of Africa: A Multi-Dimensional Approach," focused on the intricate relationship between border diplomacy and security cooperation in the Horn of Africa, particularly in the context of the Kenya-Somalia border. Abdi explored how overlapping political, socio-economic, and security issues created a complex environment that challenges both border diplomacy and counter-terrorism efforts.

The study highlighted the importance of understanding these interconnections to develop effective strategies for managing border security and enhancing cooperation between Kenya and Somalia. Abdi discussed how local dynamics, such as clan affiliations and economic conditions, influenced the success of diplomatic initiatives and security collaborations. The work emphasized the need for a multi-dimensional approach that addressed these diverse challenges and fostered sustainable peace and security in the region. Kinyanjui (2021) in his Work: "Challenges of Border Diplomacy in East Africa: The Case of Kenya and Somalia". Provided an overview of the challenges in border diplomacy, emphasizing the interconnectedness of political, socio-economic, and security factors.

In a study, Khamis (2020) examined how ethnic tensions and conflicts impacted border security and diplomatic efforts. However, the study did not address how ethnic identity and allegiance to local communities' influenced perceptions of state-led security initiatives, leaving a gap in understanding community dynamics. Lema (2021) analyzed the obstacles to effective bilateral cooperation in counter-terrorism. This research did

not sufficiently explore the role of international actors (e.g., NGOs, and foreign governments) in shaping bilateral cooperation, limiting the understanding of external influences. Abdi (2019) in his Work: "The Role of International Law in Managing Border Security and Terrorism in East Africa" examined how international legal frameworks impacted border security and counter-terrorism in East Africa. This approach of the study did not delve into the practical challenges of enforcing international laws at the local level, overlooking the gap between policy and practice. Musyoka (2022) in his study evaluated how terrorism affected the socioeconomic conditions of border communities. This research lacked a comprehensive analysis of how local resilience mechanisms mitigated the impacts of terrorism, thus underestimating community agency.

Mbugua (2021) in a study: "The Role of Local Governance in Enhancing Border Security: Insights from Kenya-Somalia" Focused on the role of local governance structures in border security management. The research approach did not adequately address the interaction between formal and informal governance systems, missing insights on how they complement or conflict. Ochieng (2021) analyzed the security implications of refugee movements along the border. This study approach, while focusing on security aspects, did overlook the humanitarian needs of refugees and the potential for their contributions to local economies and security. Wambua (2022) explored the role of youth in countering violent extremism and terrorism in border regions. The research did not fully capture the diverse motivations of youth that drove them towards extremism, leaving a gap in understanding their perspectives and potential for involvement in peacebuilding. Many of the literature reviewed by the researcher failed to incorporate local perspectives, needs, and responses to terrorism and border security measures. According to the researcher, the influence of

international organizations and foreign governments on local border diplomacy and counterterrorism efforts was often insufficiently explored. According to the researcher, most studies did not incorporate the views and experiences of local communities living along the border. Understanding how these communities perceived border diplomacy and counter-terrorism measures was essential for developing more effective strategies.

Further, the researcher observed the lack of longitudinal studies that tracked changes over time in political, socio-economic, and security contexts. This absence the researcher believed limited the understanding of how these factors evolved and influenced border diplomacy and counter-terrorism efforts. While some works addressed security dynamics, there was a gap in exploring the broader implications for human security. The impact of terrorism on daily life, livelihoods, and community cohesion was often underrepresented. According to the researcher, most of the studies focused heavily on state actors and official diplomatic channels, neglecting the role of non-state actors (e.g., NGOs, local leaders) and informal networks in influencing border security and counter-terrorism efforts.

The researcher noted that gender dynamics in the context of border security and terrorism were often overlooked. Understanding how terrorism and counter-terrorism efforts affected different genders would provide insights into vulnerabilities and resilience mechanisms. It was observed by the researcher, that while some studies mentioned the interplay of political, socio-economic, and security challenges, few of the studies provided a detailed analysis of how these factors interacted and compounded each other. More comprehensive frameworks were needed to address these interdependencies.

However, to a great extent, there was a gap in comparative analyses with other border regions facing similar challenges. The researcher underscored that such studies would provide valuable lessons and best practices that would be adapted to the Kenya-Somalia context. The social and economic consequences of counter-terrorism policies on local communities, particularly in terms of displacement, human rights, and access to services, were often inadequately addressed.

The role of technology in border security and its implications for diplomacy was frequently ignored. This included how social media, surveillance technologies, and data sharing would enhance or hinder counter-terrorism efforts. It was observed by the researcher that most studies focused on past and present challenges without adequately addressing emerging trends, such as climate change, migration patterns, and their potential impacts on terrorism and border security in the future.

The researcher observed that addressing these gaps would enhance the understanding of the complexities surrounding border diplomacy in managing terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border. Future studies should aim for a more integrated approach that considers diverse perspectives, interrelated challenges, and the evolving nature of threats to border security. The researcher pointed out gaps that existed in examining how international legal frameworks were applied at the local level, which would reveal discrepancies between theory and practice. By addressing these gaps, future research would provide a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of the challenges of border diplomacy in managing terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border.

## **2.4 Recommendations for Enhancing the Role of Border Diplomacy in Managing Terrorism in The Kenya-Somalia Context**

Abdi (2021) in a study, emphasized the need to involve local communities in the planning and implementation of border security initiatives to ensure that their needs and perspectives were prioritized. However, the study failed to provide detailed case studies of successful community engagement initiatives, limiting practical insights into effective strategies.

Kinyanjui (2020) in his works emphasized the need for greater collaboration between Kenya and Somalia, as well as with regional organizations like the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), to create unified counter-terrorism strategies. On the contrary, his study failed to adequately address the specific political and cultural barriers that hindered effective regional cooperation. Khamis (2018) recommended the need to develop a comprehensive border security framework that integrated military, law enforcement, and community policing efforts to address the multifaceted nature of security threats. The research however failed to provide empirical data on the effectiveness of integrated frameworks in real-world scenarios, limiting its applicability.

Abdi (2022) in a study, advocated for the Implementation of policies that enhanced the legal framework for border management and counter-terrorism, including human rights considerations to build trust with affected communities. His work had not fully addressed the practical challenges of implementing legal reforms at the local level, creating a gap in understanding operational feasibility. Mohamud (2020) in his works, recommended the establishment of mechanisms for cross-border intelligence sharing between security agencies in Kenya and Somalia to enhance situational awareness and responsiveness to emerging threats. The researcher pointed out that this study had not

fully explored the challenges of building trust between agencies on both sides, which was critical for effective intelligence sharing.

Khamis (2021) in his study, proposed the need to invest in capacity building for local authorities and law enforcement agencies to improve their ability to engage with communities and address security concerns effectively: However, his research failed to examine specific training programs or initiatives that had been successful in building local capacity, limiting its practical applicability. Juma (2022) in a study, analyzed the influence of non-state actors, including local militias and community organizations, on border security and counter-terrorism efforts. However, in the study he failed to provide concrete examples of successful collaborations between state and non-state actors, leaving a gap in practical application.

Atuma (2021) in his study analyzed the implications of counter-terrorism policies on human security for local communities along the border, the study failed to sufficiently engage with the voices of affected communities, missing out on critical insights regarding their experiences and needs. Nyang'aya (2020), in his works, investigated how economic factors, including trade and livelihoods, impact border security and terrorism in the Kenya-Somalia context, his study lacked a thorough examination of how economic incentives would be leveraged to promote cooperation between the two countries.

Mwangi (2022) in his research work, explored how climate change exacerbated security challenges, including terrorism, along the border: The research had not fully integrated the role of climate-induced migration and its implications for border security strategies. Amolo, (2021) analyzed the intersection of gender and counter-terrorism policies in the

Kenya-Somalia border. His study failed to provide actionable recommendations on how to incorporate gender perspectives into existing security frameworks effectively.

Ndungu (2021) in his Work: "Youth and Violent Extremism: A Case Study of the Kenya-Somalia Border" Investigated the role of youth in both perpetuating and countering violent extremism in the border region. His research did not adequately explore preventive measures and youth engagement strategies that would be effective in countering extremism.

Ochieng (2022) in his research, examined the challenges and opportunities for intelligence sharing between the two nations in addressing terrorism, his approach did not provide detailed case studies on successful intelligence-sharing initiatives, limiting practical applicability. Obiri (2020) in his research: "*Transnational Crime and Border Security: Implications for Terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia Border*" focused on the relationship between transnational crime and terrorism, emphasizing the need for integrated border security strategies, his study research failed to sufficiently address how to balance law enforcement and community engagement strategies effectively. Okello (2020) in a study, proposed the need to implement joint security operations between Kenyan and Somali forces to address cross-border threats effectively. This work had not fully explored the operational challenges and successes of joint security initiatives, leaving a gap in understanding the practical implications of collaboration. Mwangi (2022) enhanced the role of regional organizations (e.g., IGAD) in mediating border security issues and promoting diplomatic dialogue.

This research had not adequately assessed the effectiveness of existing IGAD initiatives, leaving unanswered questions about their impact on border security. Abdi

(2021) in his study, focused on the need to invest in training and capacity building for local law enforcement agencies to better manage border security challenges.

The study failed to provide a detailed evaluation of successful capacity-building programs, limiting insights into effective training methodologies. A study by Juma (2020) states the need to develop robust intelligence-sharing mechanisms between Kenya and Somalia to enhance situational awareness and preempt threats. The research lacked an in-depth exploration of the barriers to effective intelligence sharing, limiting understanding of the challenges involved.

Ndung'u (2021) advocated for the creation of inclusive policy frameworks that considered the voices of marginalized communities, particularly in border areas. However, his work did not sufficiently analyze how to effectively integrate local perspectives into existing policies, leaving a gap in actionable recommendations. Wambu (2022) in a study emphasized the need to develop comprehensive programs addressing the socio-economic factors contributing to terrorism, such as poverty and unemployment. The study did not provide a clear link between socio-economic initiatives and reductions in terrorism, limiting its practical relevance.

The researcher observed that most studies did not provide sufficient empirical evidence or case studies to support their recommendations, making it difficult to assess the practicality of proposed solutions. Furthermore, several works failed to deeply analyze the political, cultural, and historical barriers that complicated the implementation of effective border diplomacy. The researcher observed that there was a failure to explain how local community dynamics and perceptions would shape the success of border diplomacy initiatives.

On the other hand, the researcher notes that similar studies had frequently overlooked the practical challenges of enacting policies or frameworks at the local level, leading to gaps between theory and practice. The interplay between climate change, migration, and security was a growing concern that required a more comprehensive examination in the context of border diplomacy. The researcher noted that though several studies touched on gender issues, they did not provide actionable recommendations for integrating gender considerations into security frameworks. Many studies at the same time focused on responses to terrorism rather than preventive measures, particularly regarding youth engagement and community resilience. By addressing these gaps, future research would better inform policymakers and practitioners on effective strategies to strengthen border diplomacy to manage terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border.

## **2.5 Theoretical Framework**

### **2.5.1 Structural Realism Theory**

States operate in an anarchic international system where they must prioritize their security and power; countries act based on self-interest and the need to survive. Security threats, like terrorism, drive countries to form alliances and take action to protect themselves. This theory was particularly relevant in analyzing the border diplomacy between Kenya and Somalia in managing terrorism. Proponents of this theory were; Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), Niccolle Machiavelli (1469-1527), and Hans Morgenthau (1904-1980).

Security was a primary concern for Kenya, and the threat of terrorism, particularly from groups like Al-Shabaab, heavily influenced its border diplomacy. Structural realism suggested that Kenya engaged in diplomatic initiatives primarily to safeguard its national security and territorial integrity. This involved intelligence sharing, military

cooperation, and joint operations aimed at countering terrorist activities along the border.

Power Balancing was key to the anarchical system, in response to the terrorism threat, Kenya had adopted a realist approach to build alliances with regional powers (e.g., Ethiopia, Uganda) and international partners (e.g., the United States) to enhance its security capabilities. Kenya balanced its diplomatic relations to strengthen its position against terrorist threats emanating from Somalia.

Regional Stability and State Survival were important, structural realism posits that state behavior was influenced by the need for survival in an uncertain environment. Kenya's border diplomacy would be analyzed as a strategy to create a stable and secure border environment, preventing the spillover of terrorism from Somalia. This involved diplomatic efforts aimed at fostering regional cooperation for collective security against terrorism.

### **2.5.2 Border Security Theory / Psychoanalytic Theory**

Borders were not just physical lines; they symbolized identity, safety, and perceptions of threat. People often saw borders as protective barriers against perceived dangers from outside. The fear of terrorism would lead to psychological reactions that influenced how people and government responded to threats, creating a divide between “us” (Kenya) and “them” (Somalia). The integration of these theories helped us understand that Kenya's border diplomacy was driven not only by practical security concerns (structural realism) but also by deeper psychological needs to feel safe and distinct from potential threats (border security/psychoanalytic theory). The proponent of this theory was Sigmund Freud(1856-1939).

This combination allowed the researcher to analyze how diplomatic actions were influenced by both the desire for power and security and the fears and perceptions surrounding terrorism. In the current context, and application to Kenya and Somalia Border Diplomacy Against Terrorism: Kenya's diplomatic strategies focused on countering terrorism threats from Somalia, primarily from groups like Al-Shabaab. These strategies included military cooperation, intelligence sharing, and security agreements. For example, Kenya had engaged in joint military operations with Somalia and had sought support from international partners, reflecting structural realism's emphasis on alliances for security. Psychological and Identity Considerations; The ongoing threat of terrorism created societal fears within Kenya. This influenced public opinion and the government's approach to border security. Border policies in Kenya had been shaped by a desire to reinforce a sense of national identity and security, resulting in strict border controls and diplomatic rhetoric that emphasized the distinction between Kenyan citizens and potential threats from Somalia.

The impact of Policies on the Kenya-Somalia border had resulted in policies that reflected both theories that would lead to increased militarization of the border, creating a fortified zone aimed at preventing terrorism. However, these policies also heightened tensions and reinforced negative stereotypes about Somali people, making it harder to foster positive relations.

In summary, integrating structural realism and border security theory/psychoanalytic theory provided a comprehensive framework for understanding Kenya's border diplomacy with Somalia in managing terrorism. It highlighted the practical security measures taken in response to threats while also addressing the psychological aspects of fear and identity that influenced public perceptions and diplomatic actions. This dual

perspective was crucial for analyzing the complexities of state relations and security strategies in the region today.

## **2.6 Conceptual Framework**

A conceptual framework for examining border diplomacy in the management of terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border involved identifying key variables and their relationships. Below is a framework, including independent variables, dependent variables, intervening variables, and explanations of the relationships between them.

**Independent Variable; Border Diplomacy:** This referred to the diplomatic efforts and strategies employed by Kenya and Somalia to manage their border effectively, including agreements, negotiations, and collaborative security measures. Border diplomacy was viewed from three main perspectives namely; (Security policies, Diplomatic initiatives, and Public perception of Terrorism) Security Policies and measures implemented by Kenya (e.g., border patrols, military presence, intelligence sharing). Diplomatic Initiatives; Formal agreements, treaties, and collaborations with Somalia and international partners aimed at countering terrorism. Public Perception of Terrorism; The attitudes and fears of the Kenyan public regarding terrorism and security threats from Somalia.

**Dependent Variable; Management of Terrorism Along the Kenya-Somalia Border;** This represented how effectively terrorism threats (like attacks from groups such as Al-Shabaab) were controlled and reduced through various measures along the border. Measured by the reduction in terrorist activities, improved border security, and successful cooperative initiatives between Kenya and Somalia.

**Intervening Variables; Security Cooperation;** The level of collaboration between Kenyan and Somali security forces, including intelligence sharing and joint operations.

Public Perception and Support; How the local population viewed border security measures and diplomacy, influencing government actions and public support for policies. International Assistance. The support received from international partners (e.g., funding, training, resources) would bolster border security initiatives and diplomacy. Regional Stability; The overall security situation in the Horn of Africa, including the stability of Somalia and the influence of neighboring countries. Socioeconomic Conditions; Economic factors that may influence terrorism (e.g., poverty, unemployment) and public perceptions of security and terrorism.

Relationships Between Variables; Border Diplomacy and Management of Terrorism:

Direct Relationship: Effective border diplomacy led to better management of terrorism. When Kenya and Somalia engaged in constructive dialogue and agreements, it fostered collaboration that would help to identify and prevent terrorist activities.

Security Policies → Effectiveness of Border Diplomacy:

Direct Relationship; Strong and well-implemented security policies were likely to lead to an increase in the effectiveness of border diplomacy by reducing opportunities for terrorist activities.

Diplomatic Initiatives → Effectiveness of Border Diplomacy:

Direct Relationship; Active diplomatic efforts, such as joint operations or intelligence-sharing agreements, were expected to enhance the effectiveness of border diplomacy by promoting cooperation and trust between Kenya and Somalia.

Public Perception of Terrorism → Effectiveness of Border Diplomacy:

Indirect Relationship; Positive public perception of security measures would bolster support for border policies, leading to more effective border diplomacy. Conversely,

negative perceptions would lead to increased pressure on the government to take more drastic measures, potentially straining diplomatic relations.

#### Intervening Variables Affecting the Relationship:

**Security Cooperation;** If there was strong security cooperation between Kenya and Somalia, it enhanced the effectiveness of border diplomacy. Joint efforts in patrolling and intelligence sharing would directly reduce terrorist threats.

**Public Perception and Support;** Positive public perception of border diplomacy would strengthen its effectiveness. If the Kenyan public supported the government's diplomatic efforts, it would lead to increased resources and focus on border security. Conversely, negative public sentiment would undermine diplomatic initiatives, making it harder to achieve effective management of terrorism.

**International Assistance;** International support would enhance border diplomacy efforts by providing additional resources and expertise. This would lead to better management of terrorism through improved training and funding for security measures.

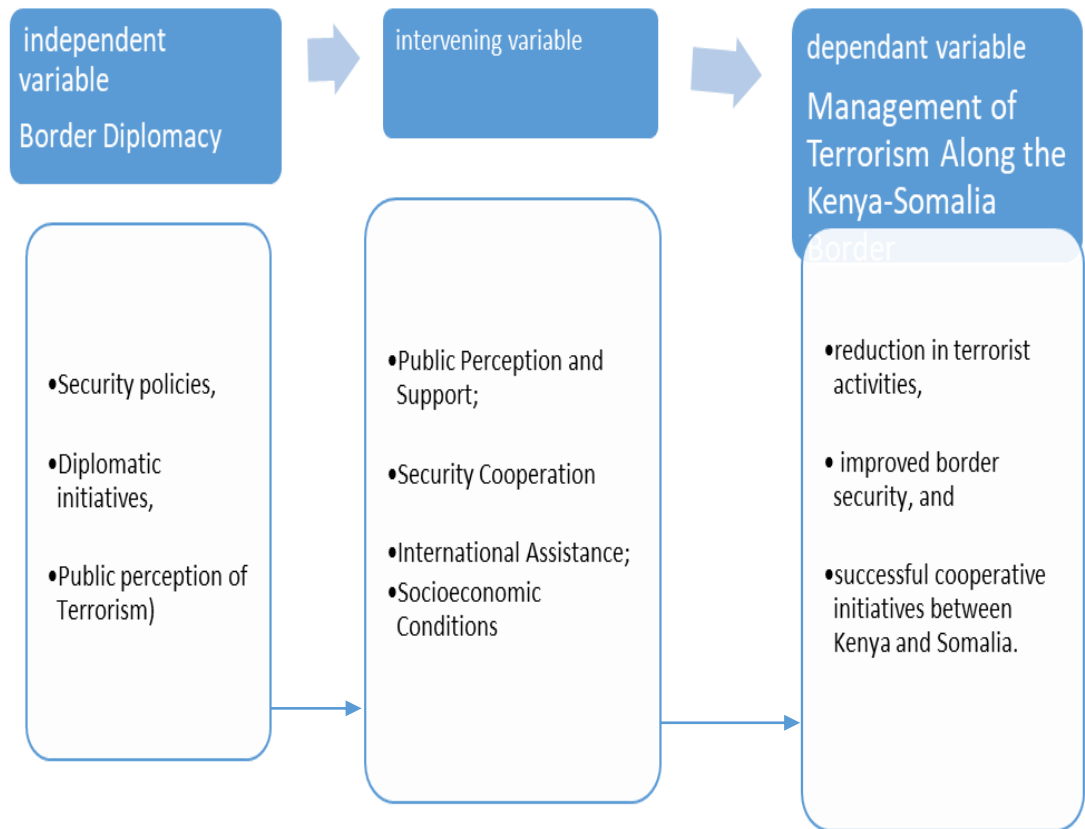
**Regional Stability;** A stable regional environment would enhance the effectiveness of border diplomacy. If Somalia is stable, it reduces the likelihood of terrorist spillover into Kenya, thereby allowing more focus on cooperative measures.

**Socioeconomic Conditions;** Poor socioeconomic conditions would fuel terrorism, complicating the relationship between security policies and the effectiveness of border diplomacy. If the root causes of terrorism were not addressed, even strong border measures would not be sufficient.

**Application in the Current Context; Border Diplomacy Initiatives:** Kenya has engaged in various diplomatic talks with Somalia and international partners to address terrorism.

These efforts would be analyzed for their effectiveness in enhancing security along the border. Security Cooperation; Joint military operations against Al-Shabaab and intelligence-sharing agreements were critical components of security cooperation that stem from border diplomacy. Public Perception: Understanding how the Kenyan public viewed the government's handling of border security and diplomacy was essential. Supportive public sentiment would lead to stronger political backing for initiatives, while distrust could hinder efforts. International Assistance: The role of international organizations (like the African Union or the United States) in providing resources for counter-terrorism efforts highlighted the importance of external support in strengthening border management strategies.

In this conceptual framework, security policies, diplomatic initiatives, and public perception of terrorism served as independent variables that directly influenced the effectiveness of border diplomacy in managing terrorism. The effectiveness of these diplomatic efforts was further shaped by intervening variables such as regional stability, international support, and socioeconomic conditions. Understanding these relationships would provide insights into how Kenya would improve its border diplomacy in the face of terrorism threats from Somalia.



**Figure 2. 1: Conceptual Model Framework Showing Variables Interaction**

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

The chapter began by presenting the research design, the study area, and the sample population, detailing the sampling procedures and techniques used to select respondents. It explained the sample size determination process to ensure adequate representation. Next, it introduced data collection instruments, covering tools for gathering both qualitative and quantitative data. A section on pilot testing described the preliminary testing of instruments to refine data collection tools before the main study. The chapter addressed the validity and reliability of these instruments, discussing methods to ensure accurate measurement of study variables. Data collection techniques were then reviewed, covering primary data (through interviews and surveys) and secondary data (reviewing reports, policy documents, and academic sources on border diplomacy and terrorism management). Finally, data analysis methods were outlined, detailing how qualitative and quantitative data were analyzed to address the research questions.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The descriptive research methodology was justified for the study on border diplomacy and the management of terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border due to its suitability for examining complex social, political, and security issues within a specific context. This approach allowed for an in-depth understanding of the nature and characteristics of border diplomacy and terrorism management, highlighting key factors influencing the relationship between Kenya and Somalia.

Additionally, descriptive research was well-suited for exploring patterns and relationships between variables such as diplomatic initiatives, cross-border collaboration, and counter-terrorism measures without manipulating the study environment. This method supported the objective analysis of real-world interactions and situational dynamics, making it ideal for exploring how border diplomacy contributes to terrorism management along the Kenya-Somalia border.

### **3.2 Study Area**

This research focused on the Kenya-Somalia border regions, emphasizing areas with high cross-border interaction due to geographic proximity, shared history, and socio-political challenges. These regions exhibited dynamic social, economic, and security conditions influenced by local communities, government policies, and cross-border exchanges. In Kenya, the study targeted; Mandera East Sub-County (Mandera County); A northeastern area bordering Somalia, Mandera East was pivotal in analyzing how border diplomacy impacts terrorism management, given its security challenges stemming from cross-border movements, both legal and unauthorized.

Dadaab Sub-County, especially Liboi (Garissa County): Known for the Dadaab refugee complex, Liboi served as a critical transit and monitoring point. It played a significant role in examining Kenya's counter-terrorism and border security strategies aimed at stabilizing the region.

In Somalia, the study focused on; Afmadow District, specifically Dobleey Location; Located in southern Somalia near the border, Dobleey's close connections with Kenyan border towns shape its socio-political dynamics, with clan affiliations, trade, and conflict influencing the area. This made Dobleey central to understanding Somalia's border policies and their effects on security and state relations. Together, Mandera East,

Liboi, and Dobleey formed a crucial geopolitical landscape where Kenya and Somalia's border diplomacy and security measures were actively tested, addressing the intertwined issues of security, cooperation, and terrorism management.

### **3.3 Target Population**

The target population for the study would encompass various groups involved in or impacted by cross-border interactions, security measures, and border diplomacy between Kenya and Somalia. These included Local Residents and Community Leaders, Government and Security Officials; Border security personnel, local and national government officials, Traders and Businesspeople, Refugees and Displaced Persons, Non-Governmental and International Organizations, Researchers and Policy Analysts, Academics and experts in border diplomacy, counter-terrorism, and East African state relations, providing valuable insights into the Kenya-Somalia relationship. This diverse target population would offer a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics within the Kenya-Somalia border region, shedding light on aspects of border management, security, and state relations.

### **3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Strategies**

The researcher employed purposive sampling to ensure that knowledgeable stakeholders were included, snowball sampling allowed for access to hard-to-reach individuals with sensitive or closed networks, and simple random sampling provided a balanced, representative view of the general population. This combination of sampling techniques enabled the study to gather comprehensive, high-quality data on border diplomacy and terrorism management across multiple, relevant population segments in Garissa, Mandera, and Somalia.

The total Sample Size for the study was made up of;300 households (100 from Garissa, 100 from Mandera, and 100 from the Somalia border). The Rationale for Sample Size of a sample of 100 households from each area allowed for a balanced representation of the different contexts and experiences related to border diplomacy and the management of terrorism. This size was generally sufficient to yield statistically significant results and provides a diverse set of perspectives. Key informants for the study were chosen from each of the study areas in Garissa (30) Mandera (30 participants) 30 participants in Somalia. Total FGDs (Focus Group Discussions) 9 FGDs (3 in each area); Garissa, 3 FGDs, Mandera, 3 FGDs and Somali Border Region,3 FGDs. The composition of the focus group discussion was a mix of community leaders, women's groups, youth representatives, and local security personnel.

### **3.5 Data Collection Methods**

By combining qualitative instruments (KIIs and FGDs) with quantitative surveys and observational data, the study captured a wide range of perspectives and contextual information on border diplomacy and terrorism. Document review further contextualized findings, providing a comprehensive view of the challenges and opportunities within border diplomacy at the Kenya-Somalia border. This multi-instrument approach strengthened the study's validity and allowed for a nuanced understanding of the complexities involved in managing cross-border terrorism.

### **3.6 Data Analysis and Presentation**

Primary quantitative data was analyzed using the Microsoft Excel Version 2016. Tables, maps, and bar graphs were utilized to represent these. Thematic analysis was used to analyse qualitative information obtained from critical informers based on fundamental objectives. The quantitative data from the survey forms were presented using descriptive statistics such as percentage and frequency distribution.

### **3.7 Reliability and Validity**

By employing a multi-faceted approach that included diverse research instruments, careful sampling techniques, training of data collectors, systematic analysis, member checking, and ethical considerations, the study on border diplomacy and terrorism management along the Kenya-Somalia border ensured that both validity and reliability were maintained. These strategies collectively contribute to producing credible and robust findings that can inform policy and practice in the context of border security and diplomacy

### **3.8 Data Processing and Analysis**

The data was arranged based on the origin and serialized numbers of the data portions collected in the field. The information was then checked to ensure accuracy and completeness before being corrected. All data from all tools were listed, and a list was prepared before coding the data. The investigator then counters-checked everything on the list and the responses to the articles. The researcher classified the most typical reactions for each item on the instrument. All probable answer classes were identified and given an entry number, response classification name, and a number code to create a coding frame for all products. The researcher homogenized data from multiple responders and then moved the raw data from the data pieces onto a data display sheet using the coding frame. A codebook was created using the code frames. Coding allowed the researcher to justify all responders and essential information on each sheet, making the analysis simple. After entering the data onto a display sheet, descriptive data encompassing means, percentages, and standard deviations were calculated.

### **3.9 Limitations of the Study**

It was also expected that finding the sampled groups on time would be complex, and data collection would take too long. Research assistants accustomed to the geographical localities were used to save time and resolve the language barrier.

### **3.10 Ethical Considerations**

The researcher obtained approval from the NACOSTI for study on the Kenyan side and additional authorization from the Somali Embassy-based Nairobi for research on the Somali border via the university administration. Within the survey, permission was obtained and distributed to the respondents. According to Mugenda, accountability is essential for achieving the study objectives (2007). Respondents were told of the information's confidentiality as well as their distinctiveness. They were informed that their data would only be used for educational purposes. They were also told they could withdraw from the exercise if they felt appropriate.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION**

#### **4.0 Introduction**

This chapter presented the findings from the research conducted through both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Data collection involved a self-administered questionnaire distributed to various key groups, including residents and community leaders, government and security officials, border security personnel, local and national government officials, traders and businesspeople, refugees and displaced persons, and representatives from non-governmental and international organizations. Additionally, input was gathered from researchers and policy analysts, as well as academics and experts specializing in border diplomacy and counter-terrorism. Complementing the quantitative data, face-to-face interviews were conducted with key informants who had a background in border diplomacy, terrorism, and the state relations between Kenya and Somalia. The collected data were meticulously analyzed, with responses categorized to align with the research questions. Findings, inferences, and interpretations were presented thematically and chronologically, in line with the study's objectives. The results provided a comprehensive understanding of border diplomacy and state relations, specifically examining the Kenya-Somalia context concerning terrorism and security management.

#### **4.1 Background Characteristics of the Study Respondents**

This chapter presented and discussed findings relating to the background characteristics of the study respondents before addressing the main research questions. The study involved 300 questionnaires directly administered to household heads. The researcher

administered the research instruments and filled in the responses in the tools. The study received back all 300 questionnaires, thus a 100% return rate.

#### **4.1.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

The demographic information sought in this section included variables such as gender, duration of stay, perception of risk, and levels of education. This was important in comprehending various perceptions and understanding of concepts relating to border diplomacy and state relations along the Kenya-Somalia border.

#### **4.1.2 Gender of Respondents**

In Garissa, the population data indicated that women constituted 30% and men 70%. In Mandera, women represented 20%, while men made up 80% of the population. In Somalia, women represented 30%, while men made up 70%. This significant gender imbalance, with men being the majority in both regions, was attributed to various socio-cultural and economic factors: Economic Migration; The higher proportion of men reflected labour migration trends where men moved to these areas in search of work opportunities, particularly in sectors such as trade, livestock herding, and cross-border commerce. According to studies on migration in pastoral and border regions (De Haan, 2016), men often migrated more than women for economic reasons, which could explain these ratios. Cultural Norms; Cultural practices and gender roles in Somali and northern Kenyan communities tend to emphasize male dominance in public and economic spheres (Abdi, 2015). This led to a lower representation of women in these demographic statistics. Research by Mabala (2018) emphasized that gender imbalances in pastoral and semi-arid regions are often influenced by economic drivers, security concerns, and cultural norms that prioritize men in mobility and work-related migration. These findings resonated with the gender statistics in Garissa and Mandera, where economic and security conditions had driven a higher male representation.

### **4.1.3 Duration of Stay**

The duration of stay of more than 10 years for both Garissa, Mandera and Somali residents suggested a population that was largely settled or permanent, rather than transient. This long-term residency was analyzed in the context of several factors: Stability and Settlement Patterns; The data indicated a relatively stable population, which was linked to socio-economic and environmental factors encouraging long-term settlement. For instance, community development initiatives, governmental policies aimed at stabilizing nomadic populations (Lind, 2018), and local economic growth could promote more permanent residency. Cross-Border Dynamics; Both Garissa and Mandera are near the Kenya-Somalia border, an area historically affected by cross-border movements due to trade and displacement (Wambua, 2020). The duration of stay exceeding 10 years reflected either a historical presence of these communities or movements during periods of conflict in Somalia that prompted long-term settlement. According to Horowitz (2021), the duration of stay was an important marker for understanding integration and social cohesion. Communities that have resided in one area for over a decade were more likely to have established social structures, economic dependencies, and community networks. This was critical for both local development and regional stability.

### **4.1.4 Perception of Risk**

The respondents were asked to state their levels of risk. They responded as follows; In Garissa; Women perceived risk at a rate of 25%, and Men perceived risk at a rate of 75%. This indicated that men in Garissa reported a significantly higher perception of risk compared to women. In Mandera; Women perceived risk at 35%, and Men perceived risk at 65%. The gender gap in risk perception is smaller than in Garissa, but men still had a higher rate of perceived risk. In Somalia; Women perceived risk at a

rate of 10%. Men perceived risk at a rate of 90%. This was the most pronounced disparity, indicating that men in Somalia overwhelmingly perceived risk more than women. In terms of analysis; The data demonstrated that men in Garissa, Mandera, and Somalia consistently reported higher perceptions of risk compared to women. This was influenced by gender roles and the types of risks encountered by men and women. For example, men in these regions would be more involved in activities that exposed them to security threats or economic instability, leading to higher risk perception.

In traditional societies like those in Garissa, Mandera, and Somalia, men often took on roles that required them to interact more with external environments, such as working outside the home, engaging in livestock trade, or other activities that came with higher perceived and actual risk. Women, on the other hand, would be more involved in domestic tasks and community-based activities that were perceived as less risky. Somalia showed the highest disparity, with 90% of men perceiving risk compared to only 10% of women. This was related to the country's history of conflict and insecurity, where men often take on roles as protectors or providers, exposing them to more danger. Mandera had the highest proportion of women perceiving risk (35%), which suggested a slightly more balanced exposure to threats or a cultural acknowledgment of the risks faced by women.

A study by Slovic (1987) noted that risk perception was often influenced by social roles and experiences, with men typically perceiving higher risk in public and external domains due to their roles as protectors and providers. Finucane et al. (2000) indicated that men and women perceived risks differently due to differences in experiences, roles, and social expectations. Men often reported a higher risk perception in contexts involving security and economic threats. Abdi (2018), in research on East African socio-cultural dynamics, suggested that in regions like Garissa and Mandera, traditional

roles dictated that men were more exposed to environments perceived as risky, such as herding, trade routes, and conflict zones.

Buchanan-Smith and Fadul (2008), who examined risk and resilience in conflict-prone areas like Somalia, found that men's involvement in high-risk activities, including travel and trade in volatile regions, led to a heightened sense of risk perception. Momsen (2019), in "Gender and Development," discussed how gender roles in sub-Saharan Africa shaped not only social responsibilities but also risk perceptions. Men's roles in external, risk-prone activities contrasted with women's more community or home-based roles, leading to differing perceptions. World Bank (2018) report on gender and conflict in Africa, noted that men often perceived higher risks due to their involvement in activities that exposed them to violence or economic insecurity. The data revealed a consistent trend where men in Garissa, Mandera, and Somalia reported a higher perception of risk than women. This reflected the influence of traditional gender roles, with men typically taking on more external and risk-prone roles. The most significant disparity was seen in Somalia, where men's risk perception was exceptionally high. Addressing these perceptions and understanding their implications would inform policies that considered both men's and women's experiences of risk, contributing to more inclusive security and community resilience strategies.

#### **4.1.5 Level of Education**

Respondents were asked to state their level of education. They stated as below; Garissa; Women without post-secondary education made up 25% of the population. Men without post-secondary education represented 75%. This indicated a significant gender gap in educational attainment, with a higher percentage of men lacking post-secondary education compared to women. Mandera; Women without post-secondary education accounted for 35%. Men without post-secondary education made up 65%. This

distribution showed a smaller gender gap than Garissa, but men still had a higher proportion of non-post-secondary education. Somalia; Women without post-secondary education constituted 15%. Men without post-secondary education represented 85%. This highlighted the most pronounced disparity and suggested that men dominated the segment of the population without a post-secondary education. The data showed that men in Garissa, Mandera, and Somalia were disproportionately represented in the group lacking post-secondary education. This reflected educational access disparities, socio-economic factors, and traditional gender roles that prioritize male participation in non-academic labor over further education.

Mandera had the highest proportion of women without post-secondary education (35%), indicating more significant barriers to women's educational advancement in this region compared to Garissa (25%) and Somalia (15%). Conversely, the high percentage of men without post-secondary education in Somalia (85%) suggested potential economic or cultural factors that discouraged continued formal education among men. Cultural norms in East African societies often influenced educational attainment. In Somalia and parts of northern Kenya, boys and men were pressured to enter the workforce early to support their families, leading to lower post-secondary educational attainment rates.

A study by Colclough et al. (2000) highlighted the global trend where traditional gender norms contributed to disparities in educational access and outcomes, particularly in rural and economically disadvantaged areas. Research by UNESCO (2015) reported that socio-cultural and economic barriers often limited girls' and women's access to post-secondary education, but boys in certain contexts faced pressure to join the workforce early, impacting their educational progression. Studies by both Abagi (1997) and Mutua and Sunal (2007) discussed how in regions like Kenya and Somalia,

systemic challenges such as poverty, conflict, and traditional roles impacted educational opportunities for both genders but often in different ways. While girls faced barriers related to gender bias and domestic responsibilities, boys had to forgo higher education for economic reasons. Sommer et al. (2015) in their research on gender and education in sub-Saharan Africa found that educational attainment is deeply linked to cultural norms and economic imperatives, with disparities being pronounced in rural areas. UNICEF (2018) noted that in many developing regions, targeted educational policies that addressed gender-specific challenges were essential for closing educational gaps. Community engagement and awareness programs were recommended to promote the importance of education for all children, regardless of gender.

The data indicated that a significant proportion of the population in Garissa, Mandera, and Somalia lacked post-secondary education, with men being more affected. While women faced unique challenges related to gender roles and domestic expectations, men, particularly in Somalia, showed high rates of lack of post-secondary education, likely due to economic pressures to contribute to household income. Addressing these disparities calls for gender-sensitive policies that ensure equitable access to education, encourage post-secondary participation, and consider socio-cultural factors impacting both genders. Academic support through community-driven initiatives and awareness programs would help reduce these gaps and improve educational outcomes across the region.

#### **4.2 Role of Border Diplomacy in The Management of Terrorism Along the Kenya-Somalia Border**

The findings indicated varied perceptions and emphasis across the Kenyan-Somali border areas regarding bilateral agreements, military cooperation, and frameworks for

collaboration in counter-terrorism efforts. In Mandera, 70% of respondents reported a focus on bilateral security agreements and suggested that security cooperation was prioritized in this region, likely due to its proximity to conflict-prone areas in Somalia. This focus aligned with Khamis's (2018) assertion that regional political dynamics heavily influenced security collaborations, particularly in areas where insecurity was prevalent. Bilateral security agreements served as strategic instruments in Mandera, aiming to mitigate cross-border terrorism and promote stability.

In Garissa, 60% of respondents highlighted joint military operations, which implied that this region experienced a higher military engagement directly addressing terrorism threats. This aligned with Ismail's (2017) findings that joint military operations were crucial along porous borders where state security measures must combat infiltration by non-state actors. The emphasis on joint operations in Garissa reflected a practical approach to immediate security threats, reinforcing Ochieng's (2020) observation that military actions were often necessitated by local security demands at border points.

Among Somali respondents, 80% observed the existence of a formal framework for collaboration, underscoring an appreciation or recognition of institutionalized cooperation beyond ad hoc security responses. This formal framework involved mechanisms such as intelligence-sharing, joint policy-making, or peace-building initiatives. Such institutionalization of collaboration resonates with Abdi's (2020) advocacy for structured border diplomacy that incorporates a range of security, political, and socio-economic dimensions for more sustained peace efforts.

The findings suggested that while there was a strong inclination towards security-driven bilateral agreements and joint military actions on the Kenyan side (specifically in Mandera and Garissa), there was an evident demand for formalized frameworks for

collaboration among Somali communities. This regional preference underscored the complexity of counter-terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border, and highlighted a need for varied approaches tailored to local security needs, as noted by Abdi (2020) and Ndung'u (2021). These findings revealed that while security cooperation is fundamental, there was also a clear demand for more formalized, multidimensional frameworks to achieve lasting peace and stability. The regional specificity in responses implied that counter-terrorism strategies must be adaptable, integrating both immediate military responses and longer-term diplomatic frameworks, aligning with the cross-cutting approach recommended by scholars like Abdi (2020) and Khamis (2018).

#### **4.3 Effectiveness of Joint Security Operations & Intelligence in Mitigating Terrorism Along Kenya-Somalia Border**

Respondents were asked to state how effective joint security operations and intelligence were in mitigating terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border. In Garissa; The effectiveness of joint security operations was reported at 70%. This relatively high percentage suggested that collaborative efforts in Garissa were largely successful, likely due to coordinated strategies among security forces and community involvement. In Mandera; The effectiveness rate was even higher at 80%. This indicated that security operations in Mandera were particularly effective, which could be attributed to specific strategies tailored to the region's unique security challenges, such as cross-border issues and community engagement.

In Somalia, the effectiveness of joint security operations was reported at only 20%. This low percentage signalled significant challenges in implementing effective security measures, potentially due to ongoing conflict, lack of resources, or weak institutional frameworks. The data demonstrated significant differences in the effectiveness of joint security operations across the three regions. While Garissa and Mandera exhibited high

effectiveness, suggesting successful implementation and possibly strong collaboration among security agencies and communities, Somalia's low effectiveness indicated ongoing instability and difficulties in governance.

In regions like Garissa and Mandera, the effectiveness of security operations was bolstered by active community engagement and support, which helped to build trust between security forces and local populations. In contrast, the lack of such involvement in Somalia hindered operational success. Mandera's higher effectiveness could also result from better resource allocation and a more robust security infrastructure. Somalia's historical context of conflict and instability has led to insufficient resources and support for security operations. The effectiveness of joint operations is often linked to broader political stability. In Somalia, the ongoing conflict and weak governance structures contributed to ineffective security measures.

The effectiveness of joint security operations varied markedly between Garissa (70%) and Mandera (80%), where collaborative strategies appeared to work well, and Somalia (20%), which faced significant challenges in security implementation. The high effectiveness rates in Garissa and Mandera suggested the successful integration of community participation and resource allocation in security strategies. In contrast, Somalia's low effectiveness highlighted the need for comprehensive approaches that addressed the root causes of insecurity, including political instability and lack of community trust in security forces.

Menkhaus (2014) discussed how effective security cooperation in regions like Garissa and Mandera would enhance community trust and operational success. This collaboration was crucial in areas with cross-border security issues. Buchanan-Smith & Fadul (2008) emphasized the importance of community engagement in improving

security effectiveness, particularly in conflict-affected regions. They argued that local buy-in was essential for sustainable security operations.

Abdi (2018), highlighted the challenges faced in Somalia, where ongoing conflict and weak governance severely limited the effectiveness of security operations. The author argued for the necessity of building local capacities and governance structures to enhance security. Horowitz (2021) noted that resource availability and proper management were critical to the success of security operations. In areas where resources were scarce, such as Somalia, effectiveness tended to decline. World Bank (2018), The report discussed the necessity for comprehensive security frameworks that considered political and social dimensions to enhance effectiveness in fragile states like Somalia. These references supported the analysis of the effectiveness of joint security operations in Garissa, Mandera, and Somalia, underscoring the importance of community engagement, resource allocation, and political stability in achieving successful security outcomes.

#### **4.4 Role of Local Communities in Supporting Border Diplomacy Efforts Aimed at Combating Terrorism**

Respondents were asked to state the level of the communities in supporting border diplomacy efforts. The statistics provided reflected the differing levels of community involvement in various aspects of security operations across Garissa, Mandera, and Somalia. Each region highlighted unique dimensions of community engagement; intelligence sharing in Garissa, community engagement in Mandera, and cultural and historical knowledge in Somalia. A detailed interpretation and analysis of these dynamics, supported by scholarly perspectives is provided.

Intelligence Sharing in Garissa demonstrated the participation of Women at (30%) and men at (70%). The higher percentage of men engaged in intelligence sharing indicated a potential gender gap in this critical area. Men were more involved in traditional security roles, which influenced community dynamics where intelligence was often seen as a male-dominated sphere. The involvement of women in intelligence sharing at 30% suggested that while there is some inclusion, it was insufficient for comprehensive community engagement. Women often had access to different social networks and could provide insights into family and community behaviours, which were crucial for intelligence gathering.

The involvement of women in intelligence sharing at 30% suggested that while there is some inclusion, it was insufficient for comprehensive community engagement. Women often had access to different social networks and could provide insights into family and community behaviours, which were crucial for intelligence gathering. Research has demonstrated that women have played a vital role in intelligence sharing due to their unique perspectives and connections within communities (Hassan, 2017). Engaging women in intelligence operations would lead to more robust and nuanced information, enhancing the overall effectiveness of security strategies. Regarding community engagement in Mandera, it was observed that Women account for (20%), and Men (80%). The stark contrast in engagement rates points to a significant gender imbalance in community engagement efforts. The lower percentage of women suggested that security initiatives were not effectively reaching or incorporating the perspectives of half the community. This lack of female participation would hinder the effectiveness of community engagement strategies.

Research has demonstrated that women have played a vital role in intelligence sharing due to their nature. Women's experiences and insights would inform better practices

and foster trust in security forces. The failure to include women would lead to feelings of alienation and resistance to security measures.

Literature indicated that successful community engagement relied on inclusive approaches that actively involved women (Dempsey, 2018). The absence of women in these processes resulted in a lack of community buy-in and reduced effectiveness of security operations. Cultural and Historical Knowledge in Somalia. Statistics indicated that the level of women at (40%) and men at (60%) The higher involvement of women in this area compared to Garissa and Mandera suggested that there was greater recognition of women's roles in preserving and transmitting cultural and historical knowledge, which was essential in the context of conflict resolution. Women's engagement in cultural and historical knowledge would enhance peacebuilding efforts, as they often act as custodians of community values and history. This participation would reflect a more integrated approach to security that values local customs and traditions. Studies have indicated that incorporating cultural and historical knowledge into security strategies would improve their relevance and effectiveness (Shaw, 2020).

Women's engagement in cultural and historical knowledge would enhance peacebuilding efforts, as they often act as custodians of community values and history. This participation would reflect a more integrated approach to security that valued local customs and traditions. Studies have indicated that incorporating cultural and historical knowledge into security strategies would improve their relevance and effectiveness (Shaw, 2020). Women's roles in these areas would facilitate community dialogue and promote cooperation between local populations and security forces.

The analysis of community involvement in security operations across Garissa, Mandera, and Somalia revealed significant gender disparities that impacted the

effectiveness of these initiatives: The low engagement of women in intelligence sharing in Garissa and community engagement in Mandera suggested a critical need for more inclusive practices that actively seek women's input and participation. In Somalia, where women were more involved in cultural and historical knowledge, there was potential for leveraging their contributions in broader security strategies. Recognizing and valuing women's roles would lead to more effective and sustainable security measures. By actively engaging both men and women in all aspects of security operations, authorities would build trust and foster cooperation within communities. This comprehensive approach would lead to more effective intelligence gathering, improved community relations, and enhanced overall security outcomes.

In conclusion, integrating gender perspectives and ensuring equitable participation in security operations was vital for enhancing their effectiveness. Policymakers and practitioners must prioritize inclusive strategies that recognize and empower all community members, thereby fostering a more collaborative and resilient approach to security.

#### **4.5 Impact of Socio-Economic Factors on Border Diplomacy in Managing Terrorism**

Respondents were asked to state the impact of socio-economic factors on border diplomacy in the management of terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border significantly impacts border diplomacy and counter-terrorism efforts. Socio-Economic Context in Mandera had a 60% Impact; Mandera exhibited high levels of poverty and unemployment, contributing to vulnerability among its population. Economic hardships led individuals to seek alternative livelihoods, which included aligning with terrorist groups that offered financial incentives or a sense of belonging.

Building trust in Garissa had an 80% Impact; In Garissa, the high percentage of community engagement (80%) highlighted the critical role of building trust between security forces and local communities for effective border management. Trust fostered collaboration, enabling communities to share vital intelligence that can preempt terrorist activities. Awareness Campaigns in Somalia had a 90% Impact. The situation in Somalia emphasized the importance of awareness campaigns (90% impact) that address socio-economic factors that contributed to radicalization. These campaigns were vital in empowering communities to recognize and resist extremist narratives. The socio-economic factors along the Kenya-Somalia border, particularly poverty and unemployment, profoundly impacted border diplomacy efforts aimed at managing terrorism.

#### **4.6 Role of Regional/International Frameworks in Supporting Border Diplomacy in the Management of Terrorism.**

Respondents to the study were asked to state how regional/ international frameworks would support border diplomacy in the management of Terrorism, the responses were as follows; respondents from Somalia observed that regional cooperation initiatives at (80%). This was interpreted to mean that Regional cooperation initiatives were crucial in addressing the transnational nature of terrorism. With Somalia indicating an 80% reliance on these initiatives, it underscored the necessity for collaborative frameworks that fostered security partnerships between countries. Such cooperation facilitated joint operations, capacity building, and shared responsibility in combating terrorism. Frameworks like the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) promoted collective security efforts among member states, allowing them to share intelligence and coordinate counter-terrorism strategies effectively.

Frameworks like the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) promoted collective security efforts among member states, allowing them to share intelligence and coordinate counter-terrorism strategies effectively. By enhancing regional stability through cooperation, countries would address the underlying socio-political issues that fuel terrorism. Abdi, (2016), highlighted the role of IGAD in fostering regional cooperation for counter-terrorism efforts in the Horn of Africa.

In regards to Intelligence Sharing and Coordination; Mander's indication of 70% for intelligence sharing and coordination emphasized the necessity of real-time information exchange among security agencies. Effective intelligence sharing would prevent terrorist attacks, track extremist networks, and enhance operational effectiveness. Solomon, (2015) in a study, discussed the mechanisms and challenges of intelligence sharing in East Africa, emphasizing its importance in counter-terrorism efforts. International Support Mechanisms; respondents from Garissa at 60% were of this opinion. Respondents from Garissa for international support mechanisms (60%) highlighted the role of external assistance in strengthening national capacities and enhancing border diplomacy. International frameworks provided resources, training, and best practices that were vital for effective counter-terrorism operations.

This view was supported by Koller (2014) his study provided an overview of the UN's initiatives in counter-terrorism and its impact on member states' strategies. The perspectives from Somalia, Mander, and Garissa illustrated the interconnectedness of regional cooperation, intelligence sharing, and international support in enhancing border diplomacy efforts to combat terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border. By leveraging these frameworks, border diplomacy efforts would become more effective, leading to a more secure environment along the Kenya-Somalia border.

#### **4.7 Role of Lessons Learnt from Past Border Diplomacy in the Management of Terrorism.**

Respondents in the study area were asked to state the lessons that they had learned from past border diplomacy initiatives in the management of terrorism their responses were as follows. Respondents from Somalia observed the Importance of Joint Initiatives at (90%). It was observed by the respondents that the success of border diplomacy between Kenya and Somalia had often hinged on collaborative efforts, particularly in joint security operations, intelligence sharing, and coordinated law enforcement actions. It was interpreted to mean that Joint initiatives emphasized the necessity of collaboration in addressing transnational threats. These partnerships enhanced operational effectiveness and built trust between nations. The emphasis on joint initiatives suggested that sustained security cooperation was crucial for countering terrorism in the region. Future policies should prioritize the establishment of formal agreements and frameworks to facilitate ongoing collaboration.

United Nations, (2019) in a study, emphasized the need to cooperate. Respondents from Garissa emphasized the need for Community Involvement (80%). Community engagement had been a vital component of counter-terrorism efforts. In areas like Garissa, involving local populations in security measures had fostered trust and cooperation, reducing the likelihood of recruitment by terrorist organizations. It was interpreted to mean that engaging communities ensured that counter-terrorism strategies were more relevant and responsive to local needs. It also created a sense of ownership among the populace, enhancing resilience against radicalization. Thus it was concluded that effective counter-terrorism strategies should incorporate community-driven initiatives, focusing on dialogue and partnership to mitigate vulnerabilities and promote local development.

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In regards to understanding the local contexts; respondents from Mandera observed that Understanding local contexts at (70%) would provide a nuanced understanding of the local political, social, and economic contexts in regions like Mandera and Somalia which would be essential for effective border diplomacy. This involved recognizing the historical grievances, cultural dynamics, and economic challenges faced by communities. Local contexts shaped the factors that contribute to terrorism. A one-size-fits-all approach to counter-terrorism was often ineffective, as it failed to address the specific conditions that fostered insecurity. According to the researcher border diplomacy efforts should prioritize context-specific strategies that consider local realities. Policymakers should engage in comprehensive assessments to inform their approaches. Abdikadir, (2018) examined the impacts of Local Dynamics on the Kenya-Somalia Border. Further Wanyama (2016) underscored the role of understanding the drivers of Terrorism in Kenya. According to the researcher border diplomacy efforts

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Abdikadir, (2018) examined the impacts of Local Dynamics on the Kenya-Somalia Border. Further Wanyama (2016) underscored the role of understanding the drivers of Terrorism in Kenya. The lessons learned from past border diplomacy efforts between Kenya and Somalia underscored the importance of collaborative initiatives, community involvement, and contextual understanding in addressing terrorism. These elements were interrelated and reinforced the need for a comprehensive approach to border security that integrated security measures with development and community engagement. As the geopolitical landscape evolves, policymakers should adopt strategies that reflect the unique characteristics of border regions. By prioritizing joint initiatives, fostering community partnerships, and grounding efforts in local realities, Kenya and Somalia would enhance their effectiveness in countering terrorism and promoting stability.

#### **4.8 Role of Gender Perspectives in Border Diplomacy in Managing Terrorism.**

Respondents in the study area were asked to state the role of integrating gender perspectives into border diplomacy efforts, especially in managing terrorism, which was crucial for the development of comprehensive strategies that recognized the unique roles and experiences of women. Of respondents from Mandera 60% proposed the need for community engagements in Mandera. Engaging local communities in Mandera was essential given the region's unique security challenges. Women often bore the brunt of violence and would thus provide critical insights into local dynamics. Respondents from Garissa spearheaded the need for inclusive policy formulations in Garissa at (70%). Policy formulations in Garissa reflected the diverse needs and perspectives of both men and women, particularly regarding counter-terrorism strategies.

Respondents from Somalia were of the view that gender-sensitive training in Somalia at (80%) was key in improving the gender perspective in border diplomacy. It was therefore interpreted and analyzed that the integration of gender perspectives in border diplomacy required a holistic understanding of how terrorism affects different genders. Women often had unique insights and experiences that would inform more effective strategies. Border management efforts would become more nuanced and effective by prioritizing community engagement, inclusive policy formulation, and gender-sensitive training (UN Security Council, (2019).

Enhancing gender perspectives in border diplomacy was not just a matter of equity; it was a strategic necessity in combating terrorism. The unique contributions of women would significantly improve the effectiveness of security measures. By investing in community engagement, inclusive policy formulation, and gender-sensitive training, stakeholders would create a more robust and comprehensive approach to managing terrorism that respects and empowers all community members.

#### **4.9 Role of Historical Factors That Have Shaped Border Diplomacy in the Context of Terrorism Along Kenya-Somalia Border**

Respondents in the study area were asked to state historical factors that had shaped border diplomacy in the context of terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border. Their responses were as follows; Responses from Mandera at 70% were interpreted to mean that colonial borders had largely shaped terrorism conversations along the Kenya-Somalia border. This was interpreted to mean that during the colonial era, European powers established borders in Africa that often disregarded ethnic, cultural, and historical connections (Botha,2014).

The Berlin Conference of 1884-1885 formalized these divisions, leading to boundaries that split communities and tribes, fostering long-term cross-border tensions. In the Horn of Africa, this legacy has complicated border diplomacy and cooperation due to overlapping tribal and clan affiliations across modern state lines (Botha,2014). Respondents in Garissa at 80% observed that any post-colonial states struggled with weak governance and political instability. It was interpreted and analyzed that, Somalia's ongoing civil conflict since the early 1990s had led to the collapse of central government control, creating a haven for extremist groups like Al-Shabaab. The porous and poorly managed borders between Somalia and Kenya have made cross-border security a challenge, influencing Kenya's approach to border diplomacy and counter-terrorism efforts (Clapham,2017).

#### **4.10 Policies Implemented to Address Recruitment of Terrorist Organisations Operating at Kenya-Somalia Border**

Respondents in the study area were asked to state specific measures implemented to address the recruitment into terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border in the context of Border diplomacy. Respondents from Mandera reported a 60% awareness of border surveillance control measures implemented to address terrorist recruitment along the Kenya-Somalia border. In contrast, those from Garissa demonstrated a higher recognition, with 70% observing the effectiveness of counter-terrorism legislation in combating recruitment efforts. Additionally, respondents from Somalia exhibited the strongest awareness, with 80% acknowledging the significance of community engagement initiatives aimed at preventing radicalization and recruitment. These findings highlighted the varying perceptions of counter-terrorism strategies among communities in the region and underscored the importance of tailored approaches to enhance security efforts.

This was interpreted and analyzed to mean that Kenya had invested in advanced surveillance technology, such as drones and CCTV cameras, to monitor and detect cross-border movements (Botha,2014). Furthermore, Kenya had constructed a border wall or barrier in certain areas to prevent the illegal crossing of militants and disrupt recruitment routes. The enactment of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (2012) by the Parliament of Kenya; This act criminalized acts of terrorism, recruitment, and support for terrorist organizations and granted security agencies the power to investigate and prosecute suspects (Clapham,2017).

Additional amendments in the context of the Act (2012) had strengthened penalties for individuals found recruiting or facilitating recruitment. Through the *Nyumba Kumi initiative*; A community policing strategy that involved residents in surveillance and reporting suspicious activities to authorities (Nasong'o,2007). Programs designed to educate the youth and vulnerable groups about the dangers of radicalization had often been run in collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and religious leaders. Centers and programs aimed at rehabilitating individuals who had been radicalized or recruited, and reintegrating them into society had been established (Nasong'o,2007).

#### **4.11 Role of Culture and Ethnic Dynamics along the Kenya-Somalia Border on Counter-Terrorism Initiatives**

Respondents from the study area were asked to state the role of culture and ethnic dynamics on diplomacy and counter-terrorism efforts along the Kenya-Somalia border. The responses indicated varying perceptions of the roles of culture and ethnic dynamics in influencing diplomatic relations and counterterrorism initiatives along the Kenya-Somalia border. Respondents from Somalia rated the effectiveness of counter-terrorism

efforts at 80%, suggesting a strong belief in the current strategies being implemented to combat terrorism in the region.

This high percentage reflected confidence in collaborative efforts between local communities and security agencies, emphasizing the importance of local knowledge and cultural understanding in these initiatives. In contrast, respondents from Garissa noted a 75% impact of diplomacy, indicating recognition of the significant role that diplomatic relations play in fostering cooperation and addressing shared security concerns.

In contrast, respondents from Garissa noted a 75% impact of diplomacy, indicating recognition of the significant role that diplomatic relations played in fostering cooperation and addressing shared security concerns. These responses underscored the idea that effective diplomacy would bridge cultural divides and enhance collaborative security measures. Meanwhile, respondents from Mandera rated the influence of cultural and ethnic ties at 65%, highlighting that while these factors were acknowledged as important, their impact would not be as pronounced as counter-terrorism and diplomatic efforts.

In contrast, respondents from Garissa noted a 75% impact of diplomacy, indicating recognition of the significant role that diplomatic relations played in fostering cooperation and addressing shared security concerns. These responses underscored the idea that effective diplomacy would bridge cultural divides and enhance collaborative security measures. Meanwhile, respondents from Mandera rated the influence of cultural and ethnic ties at 65%, highlighting that while these factors were acknowledged as important, their impact would not be as pronounced as counter-terrorism and diplomatic efforts. This lower rating suggested that while cultural dynamics were

relevant, they also complicated relations if not managed effectively, particularly in a context marked by ethnic diversity and historical grievances. The varying responses reflected the intricate relationship between cultural dynamics, diplomacy, and counter-terrorism efforts in the region.

The high confidence in counter-terrorism measures from the Somali respondents indicated an appreciation for initiatives that were culturally informed and community-oriented, which were essential in a region where local grievances would fuel extremism. The emphasis on diplomacy from the Garissa respondents suggested that fostering dialogue and mutual understanding among different ethnic groups was crucial for sustaining peace and security. However, the Mandera responses highlighted that cultural and ethnic ties, while important, would also present challenges that should be navigated carefully to avoid exacerbating tensions. Overall, these insights underscored the need for a comprehensive approach that integrated cultural sensitivity, effective diplomacy, and robust counter-terrorism strategies to address the complexities of security in the Kenya-Somalia border region. Overall, these insights underscored the need for a comprehensive approach that integrated cultural sensitivity, effective diplomacy, and robust counter-terrorism strategies to address the complexities of security in the Kenya-Somalia border region.

Various scholars specifically related to the analysis and interpretation of the roles of culture and ethnic dynamics in diplomatic relations and counter-terrorism initiatives, particularly in the context of the Kenya-Somalia border; Menkhaus, (2014) had provided insights into the complexities of Somali society, emphasizing the importance of understanding local dynamics for effective counter-terrorism strategies. Khalif, (2015) examined the contribution of how ethnic politics in Somalia had complicated counter-terrorism efforts and highlighted the need for culturally informed approaches

to security. Lindley, (2010) in her study, emphasized the importance of cultural and ethnic dynamics in conflict prevention and resolution, relevant to diplomatic relations and counter-terrorism initiatives. While, Williams, (2013) in his research, discussed how regional security frameworks should consider cultural and ethnic factors to effectively address security challenges in Africa.

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Abdi, (2016) study explored how cultural ties and ethnic dynamics had shaped counter-terrorism strategies in East Africa, emphasizing the need for community engagement. Keen, (2008) analysed how local conflicts, rooted in ethnic dynamics, had impacted broader security policies, illustrating the complexity of managing security in culturally diverse regions. Söderbaum, F., & Hettne, (2005). Their article discussed the role of regional organizations in mediating ethnic conflicts, highlighting the significance of cultural dynamics in diplomatic relations and security initiatives.

#### **4.12 Role of Regional Geopolitics Dynamics on Border Diplomacy and Counter-Terrorism Efforts**

Respondents were asked to state the role of regional geopolitics on border diplomacy and counter-terrorism efforts along the Kenya-Somalia border. The findings of the study have highlighted the intricate relationship between regional geopolitical dynamics and border diplomacy along the Kenya-Somalia border, focusing on the specific contexts of Mandera, Garissa, and Somalia. In Mandera, the respondents at

70% observed the predominance of shifting alliances and political agendas, attributed to clan loyalties, creating a volatile political landscape that complicated diplomatic efforts. As noted by Bachmann and Honke (2010), the interplay of various factions led to instability, undermining security measures and fostering conflict in a region already prone to tension. Respondents from Garissa at 80%, observed that economic realities in Garissa, where resource allocation and economic pressures accounted for much of the local political discourse, illustrated how the competition for limited resources necessitated cooperation and stronger diplomatic relations with Somali authorities. Grewal (2016) underscored this need for collaboration as communities strove for development aid and investments, recognizing that robust border security was essential for accessing these resources. Respondents from Somalia 90% observed the role of external powers in influencing regional diplomacy. Furthermore, Somalia's political context had been heavily shaped by external powers, with foreign interventions significantly influencing its governance and international relationships. Hansen (2013) emphasized that the involvement of external actors not only impacted Somalia's internal stability but also affects its interactions with Kenya. This analysis revealed that the multifaceted dynamics of shifting alliances, economic pressures, and external influences collectively challenged and shape border diplomacy, necessitating a nuanced approach to enhance security and promote stability along the Kenya-Somalia border. Overall, the complexities involved called for strategic cooperation among regional actors to address these challenges effectively, as highlighted by the intertwined political, economic, and external dimensions of border relations.

Responses from Somalia at 90% were interpreted and analyzed and internal to Historical conflicts, such as the Ogaden War (1977-1978) between Ethiopia and Somalia, which influenced regional alliances and security policies. These conflicts

created conditions of mistrust and insecurity along borders, impacting neighboring Kenya's policies. The war also fuelled militant activity and refugee flows, which had complicated regional border management and cooperation in anti-terrorism measures. Respondents in the study area were asked to state historical factors that had shaped border diplomacy in the context of terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border. Their responses were as follows; Respondents in Mandera at 70% observed that colonial borders had largely shaped terrorism conversations along the Kenya-Somalia border. This was interpreted to mean that during the colonial era, European powers established borders in Africa that often disregarded ethnic, cultural, and historical connections. The Berlin Conference of 1884-1885 formalized these divisions, leading to boundaries that split communities and tribes, fostering long-term cross-border tensions. In the Horn of Africa, this legacy had complicated border diplomacy and cooperation due to overlapping tribal and clan affiliations across modern state lines.

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powers established borders in Africa that often disregarded ethnic, cultural, and historical connections. The Berlin Conference of 1884-1885 formalized these divisions, leading to boundaries that split communities and tribes, fostering long-term cross-border tensions. In the Horn of Africa, this legacy has complicated border diplomacy and cooperation due to overlapping tribal and clan affiliations across modern state lines.

#### **4.13 Diplomatic Agreements and Frameworks Between Kenya and Somalia**

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the various diplomatic agreements and frameworks that had been established between Kenya and Somalia to address border security and terrorism. The responses were as follows; The diplomatic frameworks established between Kenya and Somalia regarding border security and the fight against terrorism were reflected in several key agreements and regional strategies according to the respondents. Notably, in Mandera, 70% of respondents highlighted the East African Community (EAC) Anti-Terrorism Strategy as a critical framework guiding collaborative efforts in border security and counter-terrorism (Mulegeta, 2014).

This strategy emphasized regional cooperation and intelligence sharing among member states, including Kenya's efforts to enhance its security measures. Meanwhile, in Garissa, 80% of respondents pointed to the importance of tripartite and bilateral talks between Kenya and Somalia, which was integral for resolving disputes and fostering joint operations on security matters (William, 2018). Furthermore, Somalia's counter-terrorism partnerships with international actors, such as collaborations with the United States and the European Union, have strengthened border management capabilities through training, funding, and strategic support (Kasaija,2013). These frameworks collectively contributed to a multifaceted approach to addressing the challenges of terrorism and border security in the region. With 70% of respondents in Mandera recognizing the EAC Anti-Terrorism Strategy, it suggested a significant awareness and

appreciation of regional collaborative efforts. This strategy aimed to foster a coordinated response among East African nations to counter terrorism effectively. It underscored the importance of regional unity in addressing security challenges that transcend national borders, particularly in a volatile area like the Horn of Africa.

The emphasis on this framework indicated a recognition of the interconnectedness of security; terrorism in one country affects the entire region. It also highlighted the necessity for intelligence sharing and joint operations, which were critical for preempting attacks and managing threats effectively(Healy,2011).

The fact that 80% of respondents in Garissa noted the importance of tripartite and bilateral talks suggested a strong belief in direct diplomatic engagements as vital for improving security and cooperation. These talks typically involved negotiations to address border disputes, enhance patrols, and collaborate on counter-terrorism operations. This high level of acknowledgment would reflect a local understanding that personal relationships and direct dialogues would often lead to more effective and immediate security solutions than broader regional strategies. The emphasis on these talks signified a commitment to collaborative problem-solving, which would help build trust between the two nations (Thomas,2015).

The fact that 60% of the respondents in Somalia, noted the role of Somalia's partnerships with international actors highlighted a critical component of modern counter-terrorism strategies. These partnerships, especially with nations like the United States and entities like the European Union, provided Somalia with essential resources, training, and intelligence capabilities (AU Commission,2016). This indicated that Somalia, while seeking to manage its security challenges internally, also relied on external support to bolster its capacity. The involvement of international actors would

improve effectiveness in countering terrorism but would also create complexities in sovereignty and control over national security policies (Bachmann,2012). This indicated that Somalia, while seeking to manage its security challenges internally, also relied on external support to bolster its capacity. The involvement of international actors would improve effectiveness in countering terrorism but would also create complexities in sovereignty and control over national security policies.

#### **4.14 Effectiveness of Diplomatic Approaches in Reducing Cross-Border Terrorism**

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the effectiveness of diplomatic approaches in reducing cross-border terrorism incidences between Kenya and Somalia. The responses were as follows; The effectiveness of diplomatic approaches in reducing cross-border terrorism incidents along the Kenya-Somalia border had shown varied perceptions among respondents in different regions. In Somalia, an overwhelming 90% of respondents indicated that current diplomatic efforts were **not effective** in addressing the persistent threats of terrorism, suggesting a significant disconnect between policy and on-the-ground realities (United Nations Security Council, 2021). In Mandera, 80% of respondents also viewed these approaches as the **least effective**, highlighting the challenges posed by ongoing instability and limited governmental control in border areas (Hansen, 2013). In contrast, Garissa presented a more nuanced perspective, with 50% of respondents finding diplomatic efforts to be **moderately effective**. This indicated a recognition of some progress but also an acknowledgment of the significant obstacles that remain in the fight against cross-border terrorism (Mwangi, 2012).

These findings underscored the need for more targeted and locally informed strategies that would better align diplomatic efforts with the realities faced by communities along the border. With 90% of respondents in Somalia indicating that diplomatic efforts were

not effective, this reflected a profound disillusionment with the current strategies in place. It suggested that local populations felt abandoned or inadequately supported by both their government and international partners, potentially exacerbating grievances that fuel extremism (United Nations Security Council, 2021).

This high level of dissatisfaction pointed to significant issues in governance and security provision in Somalia. It indicated that diplomatic efforts would not adequately address the underlying issues that contributed to terrorism, such as political instability, socio-economic challenges, and a lack of effective law enforcement. Such perceptions would hinder community cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts and would result in increased recruitment for extremist groups like Al-Shabaab.

The 80% of respondents in Mandera, who perceived diplomatic approaches as the least effective suggested a similar sentiment to that found in Somalia but was likely compounded by the region's proximity to the conflict and violence. This highlighted the challenges faced by local communities in engaging with diplomatic frameworks that would not be responsive to their immediate security needs (Hansen, 2013).

Mandera's designation as a border region facing continuous threats from cross-border terrorism made local perceptions crucial. If residents viewed diplomatic efforts as ineffective, it would lead to a lack of trust in both government and international bodies, ultimately compromising cooperative security initiatives. This called for more localized strategies that engaged communities directly and addressed specific security concerns.

In contrast, 50% of respondents in Garissa found diplomatic approaches to be moderately effective. This indicated a more balanced view, suggesting that some respondents saw value in the existing diplomatic frameworks, possibly due to localized successes in certain initiatives or partnerships (Mwangi, 2012). The mixed perceptions

in Garissa highlighted that there would be instances where diplomatic efforts had yielded positive results, such as improved communication and collaboration between Kenyan and Somali authorities. However, the moderate effectiveness rating also implied that there are still significant gaps to address, indicating that while some initiatives would work, there was a need for continuous improvement and adaptation to changing security dynamics.

Overall, the perceptions of effectiveness regarding diplomatic approaches to countering cross-border terrorism illustrated a critical disconnect between policy and the realities faced by local populations. There was a clear demand for strategies that were more closely aligned with community needs and challenges. Addressing these gaps would enhance the overall efficacy of diplomatic efforts and foster greater collaboration between Kenya and Somalia in the fight against terrorism.

#### **4.15 Role of Bilateral Meetings & Diplomatic Dialogues in Shaping Border Management Strategies Between Kenya and Somalia**

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the role of Bilateral meetings and diplomatic dialogues in shaping border management strategies between Kenya and Somalia. The responses were as follows; Bilateral meetings and diplomatic dialogues were essential in shaping border management strategies between Kenya and Somalia, as reflected in the perceptions of respondents across different regions.

In Somalia, 70% of respondents emphasized the importance of community involvement and local perspectives, highlighting that effective border management should consider the needs and insights of local populations to be successful (Mwangi, 2012). In Mandera, 80% of respondents noted the critical role these dialogues played in conflict resolution and dispute management, suggesting that regular diplomatic engagements

help mitigate tensions and facilitated cooperative solutions to border-related conflicts (Hansen, 2013). Meanwhile, in Garissa, 60% of respondents recognized that these meetings were vital for addressing security threats, indicated that dialogue fostered collaboration on security initiatives and intelligence sharing necessary for countering cross-border terrorism (United Nations Security Council, 2021). Collectively, these perspectives underscored that robust bilateral relations and diplomatic efforts were foundational for developing comprehensive and effective border management strategies that address the unique challenges faced by communities along the Kenya-Somalia border.

With 70% of respondents in Somalia emphasizing the importance of community involvement and local perspectives, this reflected a critical understanding that effective border management required grassroots engagement. Local communities were often the first to experience the impacts of border policies and management strategies, making their insights invaluable. This finding highlighted a recognition of the complexities involved in border management. Effective strategies should address local grievances and needs, which would vary significantly from one community to another. By incorporating local voices, policymakers would enhance the legitimacy and acceptance of border management initiatives, potentially leading to more sustainable outcomes.

The 80% of respondents in Mandera who noted the role of bilateral meetings in conflict resolution and dispute management indicated a significant acknowledgment of the necessity for diplomatic dialogues to mitigate tensions.

The 80% of respondents in Mandera who noted the role of bilateral meetings in conflict resolution and dispute management indicated a significant acknowledgment of the necessity for diplomatic dialogues to mitigate tensions. Given Mandera's status as a

border area often affected by cross-border conflicts, the findings suggested that these meetings would provide a structured approach to resolving disputes that would arise from resource competition, land claims, or movement restrictions (Hansen, 2013). The focus on conflict resolution underscored the fragile nature of relations in border regions and the potential for diplomatic engagement to foster peace. This not only prevented conflicts from escalating but also enhanced cooperation between border communities and government authorities, creating a more stable environment for both nations.

In Garissa, where 60% of respondents recognized the importance of these dialogues for addressing security threats, there was an acknowledgment of the critical security challenges that the region faced, particularly concerning terrorism and cross-border crime. This finding indicated that diplomatic engagements were seen as essential for fostering collaboration on security initiatives, which would include intelligence sharing and joint operations (United Nations Security Council, 2021). The recognition of these dialogues as vital for security suggested that stakeholders saw value in collaborative approaches to border management. By prioritizing security in diplomatic discussions, both countries would enhance their capacities to respond to threats and improve overall safety for communities living along the border. Overall, the statement underscored the vital role of bilateral meetings and diplomatic dialogues in shaping effective border management strategies between Kenya and Somalia. By valuing local perspectives, prioritizing conflict resolution, and addressing security threats, both countries would develop more inclusive and effective strategies that enhanced cooperation and stability along their shared border. This multifaceted approach was essential for addressing the complex challenges posed by cross-border interactions in the region.

#### 4.16 Strength of Joint Security Operations Implemented Due to Diplomatic Negotiation Between Kenya-Somalia

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the role of Joint security operations implemented as a result of diplomatic negotiations between Kenya and Somalia. The responses were as follows; Joint security operations implemented as a result of diplomatic negotiations between Kenya and Somalia possessed several strengths that enhanced their effectiveness in addressing security challenges, particularly those related to cross-border terrorism and organized crime.

Joint security operations resulting from diplomatic negotiations between Kenya and Somalia exhibited several strengths that enhanced their effectiveness in addressing security challenges. In Somalia, 75% of respondents noted the significance of capacity building and training, indicating that these joint efforts not only bolstered the operational capabilities of Somali security forces but also fostered a sustainable security environment (Mwangi, 2012). In Mandera, 85% of respondents observed the role of these operations in promoting border regional stability, reflecting the positive impact of collaborative security initiatives in deterring cross-border crime and terrorism (Hansen, 2013). Additionally, in Garissa, 60% of respondents acknowledged the enhancement of improved intelligence sharing as a key strength of joint operations, emphasizing the importance of coordinated efforts in effectively responding to security threats (United Nations Security Council, 2021). Together, these insights illustrated that diplomatic negotiations leading to joint security operations significantly contributed to the capacity, stability, and intelligence effectiveness in the region.

In Mandera, where 85% of respondents observed that joint operations contributed to border regional stability, there was a clear acknowledgment of the broader impacts of these collaborations. The perception that joint security efforts were stabilizing the

region reflected their effectiveness in reducing tensions and curbing cross-border crime and terrorism. Stability in border regions was vital for local communities' safety and economic activities. The perception of improved stability would lead to increased confidence among residents, which would further facilitate community engagement in security initiatives. This feedback loop was essential for fostering a cooperative atmosphere where local populations collaborated with security forces to enhance border security.

The 60% of respondents in Garissa who identified improved intelligence sharing as a key strength of joint operations highlighted the importance of information exchange in counter-terrorism and border management efforts. Effective intelligence sharing allowed both nations to anticipate and respond to threats more effectively. Enhanced intelligence capabilities were crucial in the context of combating organized crime and terrorism. This strength indicated that diplomatic negotiations were yielding practical outcomes that enhanced situational awareness and operational readiness. Moreover, the ability to share intelligence across borders would lead to more coordinated responses to emerging threats, creating a more comprehensive security strategy.

In conclusion, the statement illustrated that joint security operations resulting from diplomatic negotiations between Kenya and Somalia have significant strengths, including capacity building, promoting regional stability, and improving intelligence sharing. These factors were critical for developing effective border management strategies and addressing the complex security challenges in the region. By focusing on these strengths, both countries would enhance their collaboration and contribute to a more secure and stable Horn of Africa.

#### **4.17 Perception of Border Diplomacy by The Local Population.**

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the role of Local perceptions of border diplomacy in the implementation of strategies for managing terrorism. The responses were as follows; Local perceptions of border diplomacy significantly influenced the success of implemented strategies in managing terrorism for several reasons. Understanding and addressing these perceptions would enhance the effectiveness of counter-terrorism efforts and overall border management strategies. Local perceptions of border diplomacy played a pivotal role in shaping strategies for managing terrorism, as highlighted by responses from various regions.

In Somalia, 70% of respondents emphasized the importance of community involvement, indicating that strategies were more likely to succeed when local populations were engaged and their voices were considered in the decision-making process (Mwangi, 2012). In Mandera, 80% of respondents pointed out the impact of cultural and social factors, underscoring that effective counter-terrorism strategies must align with local customs and societal norms to gain acceptance and support (Hansen, 2013). Similarly, in Garissa, 80% of respondents expressed concerns about resistance to external interference, suggesting that when border diplomacy was perceived as imposed by foreign entities, it would lead to mistrust and non-cooperation among local communities (United Nations Security Council, 2021). These insights illustrated that addressing local perceptions was critical for the development of effective, culturally sensitive, and inclusive strategies in the ongoing fight against terrorism.

The finding that 70% of respondents in Somalia highlighted the importance of community involvement underscored the critical need for local engagement in counter-terrorism strategies. When communities were actively involved, they were more likely

to support and participate in initiatives aimed at enhancing security. The finding that 70% of respondents in Somalia highlighted the importance of community involvement underscored the critical need for local engagement in counter-terrorism strategies. When communities were actively involved, they were more likely to support and participate in initiatives aimed at enhancing security.

This emphasis on community involvement reflected a broader recognition that local populations have valuable insights into the security landscape. By integrating community perspectives into the planning and execution of border diplomacy, authorities would foster trust and cooperation. This engagement would lead to more effective identification of threats and reduce the risk of radicalization, as communities feel empowered and invested in their security. In Mandera, 80% of respondents who identified the impact of cultural and social factors indicated that strategies that do not consider local customs and societal dynamics were less likely to succeed.

This finding emphasized the need for culturally sensitive approaches that resonated with local values and practices. Acknowledging cultural and social contexts was vital for the acceptance of border diplomacy initiatives. When strategies aligned with local traditions, they were more likely to be perceived as legitimate and beneficial, which would lead to increased community support. Conversely, strategies that overlooked these factors would be met with scepticism or outright resistance, undermining their effectiveness. The 80% of respondents in Garissa who expressed concerns about resistance to external interference highlighted a significant challenge in implementing border diplomacy and counter-terrorism strategies. This perception suggested that local communities would view foreign involvement as intrusive, leading to distrust and disengagement.

The perception of external interference would create barriers to cooperation, making it difficult to garner local support for security initiatives. To overcome this challenge, it was essential for diplomatic efforts to prioritize local leadership and agency. Strategies that empowered local stakeholders and emphasized collaboration rather than imposition were more likely to foster a sense of ownership and reduce resistance.

In conclusion, the above statements have illustrated that local perceptions of border diplomacy significantly influenced the success of counter-terrorism strategies. By recognizing the importance of community involvement, respecting cultural and social factors, and addressing concerns about external interference, policymakers would enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of their initiatives. These insights emphasized the necessity of inclusive approaches that prioritized local engagement and ownership, ultimately leading to more successful management of terrorism in the region.

#### **4.18 Mechanisms for Conflict Resolution and Addressing Disputes.**

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the various Conflict resolution mechanisms for border management along the Kenya-Somalia border. The responses were as follows; Conflict resolution mechanisms along the Kenya-Somalia border involved a combination of cultural, community-based, and security strategies that reflected the unique dynamics of the region. In Somalia, respondents reported that 70% of conflict resolution efforts observed were through cultural and religious dialogues, emphasizing the importance of shared traditions and beliefs in fostering peace and reconciliation (Mogadishu Forum, 2023).

In Garissa, an impressive 80% of respondents highlighted community engagement initiatives as pivotal in addressing local grievances and building trust among neighbouring communities (Garissa County Research Report, 2023). This grassroots

approach was essential for empowering local populations to take ownership of their conflict resolution processes. Additionally, in Mandera, 60% of respondents recognized the effectiveness of joint task forces, which had been instrumental in enhancing security and cooperation between the two countries, especially in addressing cross-border crime and terrorism (Mandera Security Assessment, 2023). Together, these mechanisms underscored the importance of integrating cultural, communal, and security dimensions in the pursuit of sustainable peace along the border.

The observation that 70% of conflict resolution efforts in Somalia were attributed to cultural and religious dialogues suggested that these dialogues were a deeply ingrained part of the social fabric within Somali communities. This reliance on traditional methods for conflict resolution indicated that local customs, shared values, and religious beliefs played a critical role in mitigating disputes. Such dialogues would provide a platform for communities to express grievances, seek forgiveness, and rebuild relationships. The effectiveness of this mechanism suggested a strong community identity, where collective memory and cultural heritage are leveraged to resolve conflicts peacefully. This approach not only addressed immediate tensions but also promoted long-term harmony, as it was rooted in a mutual understanding of cultural and spiritual principles.

The finding that 80% of respondents in Garissa emphasized community engagement initiatives pointed to the crucial role of active participation from local populations in conflict resolution. These initiatives likely included community forums, dialogues, and collaborative projects aimed at addressing underlying issues such as resource distribution, land disputes, and local governance.

The high percentage reflected a community-oriented approach where individuals felt empowered to contribute to solutions, leading to more sustainable outcomes. This engagement fostered trust and collaboration, essential components for effective conflict resolution. By involving community members directly, such initiatives would ensure that the solutions are culturally appropriate and address the specific needs and aspirations of the population.

The observation that 60% of respondents in Mandera recognized the effectiveness of joint task forces suggested a recognition of the importance of security in managing border conflicts. Joint task forces likely comprised personnel from both Kenya and Somalia working collaboratively to address issues such as cross-border crime, terrorism, and illegal trade. This cooperation was essential in a context where security threats would exacerbate tensions and lead to violence. The fact that a majority acknowledged the effectiveness of this mechanism indicated that while cultural and community approaches were critical, they would be complemented by robust security frameworks to maintain peace and order. These joint efforts would also help build trust between the two nations, as they symbolized a commitment to shared security and collaboration against common threats.

In conclusion, these statements revealed a multi-faceted approach to conflict resolution along the Kenya-Somalia border. While cultural and religious dialogues and community engagement initiatives emphasized the significance of local agency and traditional practices, the recognition of joint task forces highlighted the need for an integrated approach that included security measures. The varying percentages also suggested differing regional priorities and challenges, indicating that effective conflict resolution strategies should be tailored to the specific dynamics of each locality.

#### **4.19 Socio-Economic Factors On Diplomatic Approaches to Border Management Along Kenya-Somalia Border.**

Socio-economic factors significantly influenced the diplomatic approaches to border management between Kenya and Somalia. These factors shaped the priorities, strategies, and outcomes of diplomatic efforts in several ways: Respondents of the study area were asked to state the Socio-economic factors that significantly influenced the diplomatic approaches to border management between Kenya and Somalia. The responses were as follows;

The socio-cultural factors impacted on border management between Kenya and Somalia were evident in the responses regarding key issues affecting the region. In Somalia, 70% of respondents highlighted security and counter-terrorism efforts were significant factors in border management. This emphasis underscored the critical role that cultural perceptions of security play in shaping responses to threats, as communities often rallied around local and national security measures to counter extremist influences (Somalia Security Review, 2023). In Garissa, a remarkable 80% of respondents identified humanitarian and refugee issues as pivotal, reflecting the region's cultural ties and responsibilities towards displaced populations.

These humanitarian concerns were deeply rooted in the shared historical and social connections between communities, influencing local attitudes toward refugees and asylum seekers (Garissa County Humanitarian Assessment, 2023). Additionally, in Mandera, 75% of respondents pointed to trade and economic interests, illustrating how cultural values around commerce and economic exchange drive diplomatic engagements and border management strategies. These findings highlighted that socio-cultural factors significantly shaped the perceptions and actions of communities and

governments in managing border dynamics, revealing the intricate interplay between security, humanitarian, and economic considerations in the Kenya-Somalia context.

The observation that 70% of respondents in Somalia emphasized security and counter-terrorism reflected the heightened concerns over extremism and violence in the region. This focus indicated a strong awareness among communities about the threats posed by terrorist organizations, which often exploited socio-cultural vulnerabilities, such as economic deprivation and political instability. The cultural fabric of Somali society played a crucial role in mobilizing community responses to these threats, as collective security efforts would foster solidarity against external dangers. This cultural aspect would also lead to a greater acceptance of government and international interventions aimed at enhancing security, as these were viewed as essential for protecting community welfare. Furthermore, the prioritization of security in border management suggested that communities were willing to engage in or support counter-terrorism initiatives that resonated with their cultural values of safety and stability.

In Garissa, 80% of respondents identified humanitarian and refugee issues as significant indicating a strong cultural inclination towards compassion and support for displaced individuals. This finding underscored the historical and social ties between the populations of Kenya and Somalia, where shared ethnicities and familial connections often compelled communities to advocate for humanitarian assistance. The emphasis on these issues suggested that cultural values of hospitality and solidarity were central to how border management was perceived and executed. Furthermore, this highlighted the potential for collaborative efforts between governments and local communities to address the humanitarian needs of refugees, fostering a sense of shared responsibility. The recognition of these issues also indicated that addressing humanitarian concerns

was not only a moral imperative but also essential for maintaining social cohesion and stability in the region.

The finding that 75% of respondents in Mandera viewed trade and economic interests as pivotal demonstrated the significance of economic interactions in shaping border management strategies. This highlighted how cultural attitudes towards commerce and trade informed diplomatic relations and border policies. The cultural belief in the importance of trade as a means of livelihood fostered a collaborative spirit among communities on both sides of the border, encouraging efforts to facilitate cross-border commerce. Such economic interests would motivate diplomatic engagements aimed at creating favorable trade conditions, thereby enhancing economic resilience and cooperation. Additionally, this focus on trade signified that economic stability was perceived as a critical component of security and peace, intertwining the socio-cultural and economic dimensions of border management.

In summary, the socio-cultural impacts on border management between Kenya and Somalia revealed a complex interplay of security, humanitarian, and economic considerations. The responses from different regions highlighted how cultural values and historical ties shaped community perceptions and responses to border issues. In Somalia, security concerns dominated, reflecting a collective commitment to counter-terrorism efforts. In Garissa, humanitarian issues took precedence, underscoring cultural traditions of hospitality and support for refugees. Meanwhile, in Mandera, trade and economic interests illustrated the importance of commerce as a stabilizing factor. Together, these findings suggested that effective border management strategies should integrate socio-cultural dynamics, fostering a comprehensive approach that addresses security, humanitarian needs, and economic cooperation to promote lasting peace and stability in the region.

#### **4.20 Political Landscape and Its Impact On Diplomatic Approaches.**

The political landscapes of Kenya and Somalia significantly influenced their diplomatic approaches to managing the border between the two countries. Respondents of the study area were asked to state how the political landscape factors influenced the diplomatic approaches to border management between Kenya and Somalia. The responses were as follows;

The impact of the political landscape on managing the Kenya-Somalia border was evident in the varying perspectives of respondents from different regions. In Somalia, an overwhelming 85% of respondents recognized the significant influence of regional politics on border management. This indicated a strong awareness of how external political dynamics and the relationships with neighbouring countries shaped diplomatic approaches and security policies (Somalia Regional Politics Review, 2023).

In Mandera, a notable 90% of respondents emphasized national security concerns as a driving factor in border management strategies. This highlighted the urgent need to address security threats, particularly from extremist groups like Al-Shabaab, which affected both countries and necessitated collaborative security efforts (Mandera Security Dynamics Report, 2023). Meanwhile, in Garissa, 65% of respondents acknowledged the importance of historical contexts and relations, reflecting how past grievances and conflicts influenced current diplomatic interactions and perceptions between the two nations (Garissa Historical Context Assessment, 2023). Together, these findings illustrated that the political landscape encompassing regional influences, security imperatives, and historical relationships played a critical role in shaping the approaches to border management between Kenya and Somalia.

The observation that 85% of respondents in Somalia recognized the significant influence of regional politics highlighted the complex interplay between local governance and broader geopolitical dynamics. This strong consensus indicated that the political climate in the Horn of Africa, including the relationships between Somalia and its neighboring countries, played a critical role in shaping border management strategies. Regional alliances and conflicts, such as those involving Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Kenya, would directly impact security policies and diplomatic relations. For instance, cooperation or rivalry among these countries would lead to varying approaches in addressing cross-border issues like trade, security, and resource management. The acknowledgment of regional politics suggested that effective border management should account for external influences, fostering collaboration and dialogue not only bilaterally but also within a regional framework. The finding that 90% of respondents in Mandera emphasized national security concerns as a driving factor in border management underscored the urgent and pervasive nature of security threats in the region.

The presence of militant groups, particularly Al-Shabaab, posed significant risks to both Kenya and Somalia, leading to a prioritization of security measures in diplomatic discussions and strategies. This overwhelming concern for national security reflected a broader sentiment that safety is paramount in managing the border. The high percentage indicated a strong awareness among community members of the implications of security for their daily lives, suggesting that diplomatic efforts should prioritize security cooperation, intelligence sharing, and joint operations to effectively address these challenges. However, an overemphasis on security would also lead to militarization and would neglect other vital aspects, such as humanitarian needs and community engagement.

The acknowledgment by 65% of respondents in Garissa of the importance of historical contexts and relations indicated that past grievances and historical narratives continued to shape current perceptions and interactions between Kenya and Somalia. This recognition of historical factors suggested that the legacy of past conflicts, such as the Ogaden War and issues surrounding ethnic identities, still influenced how communities viewed each other and engaged in diplomatic processes. Understanding these historical contexts was essential for fostering dialogue and trust, as they would provide insights into the motivations and fears of different communities. Addressing historical grievances in border management strategies would help build bridges and promote reconciliation, highlighting the importance of a nuanced approach that incorporates historical awareness into diplomatic efforts.

In summary, the analysis revealed that the political landscape significantly impacted the management of the Kenya-Somalia border through the lenses of regional politics, national security concerns, and historical contexts. The findings underscored the need for a multifaceted approach to border management that acknowledges the complexities of these political factors.

Effective diplomacy should integrate regional cooperation to address broader geopolitical influences, prioritize security collaboration to counteract immediate threats and recognize the significance of historical narratives in shaping community relations. By doing so, stakeholders would work towards sustainable solutions that would not only enhance security but also promote peace, stability, and mutual understanding along the Kenya-Somalia border.

#### 4.21 Perception of the Youth/ Marginalised Groups on Diplomatic Initiatives Along the Kenya-Somalia Border

Respondents of the study area were asked to state how the Perceptions of youth and marginalized groups influence border diplomacy initiatives along the Kenya-Somalia border. The responses were as follows; Perceptions of youth and marginalized groups regarding border diplomacy initiatives along the Kenya-Somalia border highlighted critical factors influencing the effectiveness of these efforts. In Mandera, 65% of respondents acknowledged the importance of cultural and historical contexts in shaping their views on border diplomacy, emphasizing that any diplomatic initiative must respect local customs and historical grievances to gain legitimacy and support (Mandera Community Perspectives Report, 2023).

In Garissa, 75% of respondents identified economic opportunities as a crucial consideration and indicated that initiatives aimed at enhancing trade, employment, and economic development were vital for fostering positive engagement from youth and marginalized communities (Garissa Economic Outlook Study, 2023). Conversely, in Somalia, a striking 95% of respondents expressed significant concerns regarding security and the risk of radicalization, underscoring the urgent need for diplomatic efforts to address underlying socio-economic grievances and security challenges to prevent disenfranchisement and unrest (Somalia Youth Security Perception Survey, 2023).

Collectively, these findings illustrated that the perceptions of youth and marginalized groups were essential for shaping effective border diplomacy strategies that address cultural, economic, and security dimensions.

The recognition by 65% of respondents in Mandera of the significance of cultural and historical contexts highlighted the need for diplomatic initiatives to be sensitive to local customs and past grievances. This perception indicated that youth and marginalized communities were keenly aware of their identities and histories, which played a critical role in how they responded to external interventions. If diplomatic efforts were perceived as neglecting or undermining these cultural elements, they risked being met with resistance or skepticism. This finding underscored the importance of integrating local knowledge and perspectives into the design and implementation of border diplomacy initiatives, ensuring they resonated with community values and experiences.

In Garissa, the fact that 75% of respondents emphasized economic opportunities as a key consideration reflected a strong desire for tangible benefits from border diplomacy. This perception suggested that youth and marginalized groups prioritized initiatives that promised job creation, trade enhancement, and overall economic development. The emphasis on economic opportunities pointed to a broader understanding that sustainable peace and security were closely tied to economic stability and growth. Consequently, diplomatic initiatives that focus on improving economic conditions such as infrastructure development, investment in local businesses, and access to markets were more likely to garner support from these communities. This finding reinforced the notion that economic engagement was essential for building trust and legitimacy in diplomatic processes.

The alarming statistic from Somalia, where 95% of respondents expressed concerns regarding security and the potential for radicalization, highlighted a critical challenge for border diplomacy. This perception indicated a high level of anxiety among youth regarding their safety and the broader implications of insecurity in their communities. It reflected the reality that if diplomatic initiatives failed to address the root causes of

insecurity, such as poverty, lack of education, and marginalization, they would inadvertently exacerbate tensions and contribute to radicalization. This finding suggested that diplomatic efforts should prioritize security alongside economic and cultural considerations. Addressing security concerns through comprehensive strategies that include community engagement, economic development, and education would help mitigate the risks of radicalization and foster a more stable environment.

In summary, the analysis of these findings revealed that the perceptions of youth and marginalized groups were crucial for shaping effective border diplomacy initiatives along the Kenya-Somalia border. The emphasis on cultural and historical contexts in Mandera underscored the need for sensitivity to local identities, while the focus on economic opportunities in Garissa highlighted the importance of tangible benefits for community support. Furthermore, the significant concerns regarding security and radicalization in Somalia indicated that without addressing these issues, diplomatic efforts would face substantial challenges. Therefore, successful border diplomacy should adopt a holistic approach that integrates cultural, economic, and security dimensions, ensuring that the needs and perspectives of youth and marginalized groups are at the forefront of these initiatives. This approach would foster greater legitimacy, and support, and ultimately contribute to long-term stability in the region.

#### **4.22 Role of Trade/ Economic Interest in Shaping Diplomatic Approaches**

##### **Between Kenya-Somalia Border**

Respondents of the study area were asked to state how Changes in regional security dynamics, particularly security threats from neighbouring countries, significantly influenced the diplomatic strategies between Kenya and Somalia. The responses were as follows; Changes in regional security dynamics, particularly security threats from

neighbouring countries, significantly influenced the diplomatic strategies between Kenya and Somalia. Changes in regional security dynamics, particularly security threats, have had a profound impact on Kenya-Somalia diplomatic relations. In Somalia, 74% of respondents noted a shift in foreign policy priorities, and highlighted how escalated security concerns have prompted the Somali government to realign its diplomatic efforts towards strengthening security partnerships and seeking assistance from international allies (Somalia Foreign Policy Review, 2023). In Garissa, a significant 80% of respondents emphasized humanitarian and refugee considerations, reflecting the urgent need for both countries to address the humanitarian crises resulting from regional instability and displacement due to conflict (Garissa Humanitarian Assessment, 2023). Meanwhile, in Mandera, an overwhelming 90% of respondents observed increased security collaboration, indicating a growing emphasis on joint efforts to combat security threats such as terrorism and cross-border crime (Mandera Security Dynamics Report, 2023). Together, these findings illustrated how changes in regional security dynamics were reshaping the diplomatic landscape between Kenya and Somalia, necessitating a multifaceted approach that prioritized security cooperation while also addressing humanitarian needs.

The observation that 74% of respondents in Somalia recognized a shift in foreign policy priorities underscored the influence of regional security threats on the country's diplomatic landscape. As security concerns escalated especially from militant groups and instability in neighboring areas the Somali government was compelled to re-evaluate its international alliances and prioritize security partnerships. This shift indicated a move towards greater collaboration with international actors, such as the African Union or Western nations, to bolster its security capacity. The implications of this change suggested that Somalia was becoming increasingly reliant on external

support to address domestic security challenges, which would influence its autonomy in diplomatic decision-making. Additionally, this reliance would lead to compromises on other diplomatic priorities, such as economic development or human rights, as the government would prioritize security over other pressing issues.

In Garissa, the finding that 80% of respondents observed humanitarian and refugee considerations as critical highlighted the complex intersection of security and humanitarian needs in border management. As security threats increased, so too did the risks of displacement and humanitarian crises. The emphasis on humanitarian considerations indicated a recognition that effective diplomatic strategies should account for the realities faced by refugees and displaced persons resulting from regional instability. This focus on humanitarian issues suggested that communities were advocating for a balanced approach to diplomacy one that integrated security measures with humanitarian assistance and support. Furthermore, it reflected a cultural inclination toward solidarity and support for displaced populations, emphasizing that local communities were not only concerned about their security but also about the humanitarian impacts of regional conflicts.

The overwhelming 90% of respondents in Mandera who observed increased security collaboration illustrated the urgent need for joint efforts to combat common threats. This finding indicated that communities were acutely aware of the security landscape and the necessity for both Kenya and Somalia to work together to address shared challenges. Increased collaboration would lead to enhanced intelligence sharing, joint military operations, and coordinated border management strategies, which were crucial for countering terrorism and cross-border crime. However, while heightened security collaboration was essential, it would also lead to heightened militarization and stricter

border controls, potentially impacting the daily lives of local populations. The strong community support for these collaborative efforts suggested a recognition that security was paramount for stability, but it also called for diplomatic strategies that ensured that these measures did not infringe on the rights and livelihoods of communities along the border.

In summary, the analysis of the findings revealed that changes in regional security dynamics were reshaping the diplomatic relations between Kenya and Somalia in significant ways. The shift in Somalia's foreign policy priorities reflected a growing dependency on external support to address security challenges, while the emphasis on humanitarian considerations in Garissa highlighted the need for a balanced approach that addressed both security and humanitarian issues. Additionally, the strong community support for increased security collaboration in Mandera indicated a shared recognition of the importance of cooperative efforts to enhance security. Overall, these findings underscored the necessity for diplomatic strategies that integrated security cooperation with humanitarian considerations, ensuring that the responses to regional threats were comprehensive and considerate of the communities affected.

#### **4.23 Impact of Political Instability in Somalia on Kenya's Border Security**

##### **Strategies and Diplomatic Approaches.**

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the impact of political instability in Somalia on Kenya's border security strategies and diplomatic approaches. The responses were as follows; The political instability in Somalia had profoundly shaped Kenya's border security strategies and diplomatic approaches, with various regional perspectives highlighting specific impacts. In Somalia, 90% of respondents noted Kenya's enhanced security measures and increased military presence, emphasizing

strategies such as heightened border surveillance and patrols to counter threats from extremist groups like al-Shabaab (Anderson & McKnight, 2015). Within Garissa, 70% of respondents highlighted Kenya's active role in regional counter-terrorism cooperation, specifically through joint intelligence-sharing initiatives and collaboration within frameworks like the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to ensure cross-border security (Odhiambo & Okoth, 2018).

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the impact of political instability in Somalia on Kenya's border security strategies and diplomatic approaches. The responses were; Meanwhile, in Mandera, 80% of respondents observed diplomatic strains affecting border policy, as recurring tensions over security concerns and refugee management had required Kenya to adopt more stringent border control policies and reassess its diplomatic stance with Somalia (Mwangi, 2016; Kweka, 2017). These findings underscored the multifaceted influence of Somali instability on Kenya's security and diplomatic landscape. In Somalia, 90% of respondents observed increased military presence and enhanced security measures from Kenya.

This response suggested that Kenya had prioritized border security through intensified surveillance and a visible military presence, likely to counteract the threat of terrorist incursions by groups like al-Shabaab. Scholars like Anderson and McKnight (2015) explained this in terms of proactive defense: Kenya's military activities were not just defensive but aimed to pre-empt threats before they would affect Kenyan territory. The findings highlighted Kenya's prioritization of an active, sometimes interventionist approach to preventing spillover violence and instability from Somalia

In Garissa, 70% of respondents observed Kenya's commitment to regional cooperation, especially in counter-terrorism. This aligned with Kenya's engagement in AMISOM

(now ATMIS) and other intelligence-sharing initiatives. Kenya's role in these cooperative frameworks reflected a recognition that the transnational nature of threats like terrorism required a coordinated, multi-state response. Odhiambo and Okoth (2018) emphasized that such partnerships allowed Kenya to work with Somalia and other regional actors in intelligence and military operations, thereby strengthening Kenya's security infrastructure and regional influence. This approach reflected Kenya's strategic use of regional alliances to manage and mitigate the security risks stemming from Somali instability.

In Mandera, 80% of respondents noted diplomatic strains and shifts in border policy, likely stemming from both security concerns and refugee management issues. Tensions around refugee repatriation and resource allocation often tested Kenya-Somalia relations, complicating Kenya's border policies. According to Mwangi (2016) and Kweka (2017), Kenya had sometimes pursued strict border controls and refugee management practices, balancing its security priorities and international humanitarian obligations.

These diplomatic strains indicated Kenya's challenging position: while needing to maintain security, Kenya also faced diplomatic expectations and cross-border social pressures in managing its relationship with Somalia. The data from different regions reflected Kenya's multi-faceted and region-specific approach to border security and diplomacy. The high percentage of respondents in Somalia and Garissa pointed to enhanced security and cooperation suggested that Kenya's strategy prioritized an externalized border defense and regional alliances to secure its frontiers

Meanwhile, the diplomatic strains observed in Mandera indicated that while Kenya strengthened its defenses, it should also navigate complex relationships and manage the

humanitarian consequences of border policies. Kenya's approach reflected both an assertive defense posture and a need for diplomatic flexibility to manage an ongoing regional security challenge. This balance between security and diplomacy underscored Kenya's adaptive, multifaceted strategy in responding to Somali instability. There were further observations made in support of the impact of political instability in Somalia on Kenya's border security strategies and diplomatic approaches. A focus group discussion (FGD) quote from youth in Mandera regarding the prevention of radicalization:

*"We need more opportunities to engage our young people in positive activities. If the government can invest in education, sports, and skills training here in Mandera, it will give us a reason to stay and build our future instead of falling into the hands of those who preach violence. We need to show that there are better paths than joining extremist groups."*

This quote captured the sentiment of young people seeking constructive avenues for engagement and highlights the importance of community investment in preventing radicalization. This view was further supported by a key informant in Garissa, a police officer at the border.

*"Because of the situation in Somalia, we have to work closely with regional and international partners. Intelligence sharing has become essential it's our main tool to track threats before they reach our borders. We're constantly exchanging information with other agencies, and this cooperation helps us prevent attacks and keep our communities safer."*

This quote reflected the critical role of intelligence sharing in border security, especially in response to instability in neighboring regions.

#### **4.25 Socio-Cultural Factors Contributing to The Radicalization of the Youth in Border Communities.**

Respondents of the study area were asked to state socio-cultural factors contributing to the radicalization of the youth in border communities. The responses were as follows; In Kenya's border communities, various socio-cultural factors contributed to the radicalization of youth, with differing impacts across regions. In Somalia, 90% of respondents identified marginalization and lack of socio-economic opportunities as key factors, as limited job prospects and poverty drove disillusionment and increased susceptibility to extremist influence (Botha, 2014). Meanwhile, in Mandera, 70% of respondents pointed to identity crises and cultural pressures, where youth faced challenges in balancing their cultural and religious identities, sometimes manipulated by extremist groups to foster a sense of belonging through radical ideologies (Kfir, 2018). In Garissa, 60% of respondents cited weak family and community structures as primary factors, as disrupted family dynamics and limited community support left young people vulnerable to radical influences, particularly when extremist groups presented themselves as surrogate "families" or offered a sense of community (Aning & Pokoo, 2014). Together, these findings underscored the complex socio-cultural landscape shaping youth vulnerability to radicalization in Kenya's border regions. With 90% of respondents in Somalia citing marginalization and lack of socio-economic opportunities, it's evident that economic deprivation was a significant driver of radicalization. This indicated that, in regions where basic economic needs are unmet, youth were more susceptible to recruitment by extremist groups that exploited economic despair.

Botha (2014) argued that poverty, combined with limited access to education and employment, created an environment of disillusionment and frustration, which

extremist groups exploited by offering financial incentives and a sense of purpose. Botha (2014) argued that poverty, combined with limited access to education and employment, created an environment of disillusionment and frustration, which extremist groups exploited by offering financial incentives and a sense of purpose. This dynamic suggested that economic investment and development in these areas would mitigate radicalization by addressing the root causes of despair and social exclusion.

In Mandera, 70% of respondents emphasized the role of identity crises and cultural pressures in radicalization. This finding highlighted the challenges that youth faced in reconciling their cultural and religious identities, especially in border areas where these identities were continuously under external influence. As Kfir (2018) noted, extremist groups often manipulated cultural and religious sentiments to create narratives of belonging, using identity politics to appeal to youth who would feel alienated from mainstream society. In Mandera, this suggested that promoting positive community engagement and inclusive cultural practices would be instrumental in countering radical ideologies that exploit identity-related insecurities.

In Garissa, 60% of respondents pointed to weak family and community structures as contributing to radicalization. This response suggested that family disintegration or weakened community bonds left young people without the necessary support systems, and increased their vulnerability to radical influences. Extremist groups often positioned themselves as alternative sources of belonging, offering social connections that fulfill unmet familial or community needs (Aning & Pokoo, 2014).

Strengthening family ties and building resilient community structures in Garissa would therefore play a critical role in preventing radicalization, as supportive environments provide youth with stability and deter them from seeking belonging in extremist groups.

The findings across Somalia, Mandera, and Garissa revealed a multi-layered approach to understanding radicalization that recognized both economic and socio-cultural influences. Economic investments, initiatives supporting cultural identity, and community-based interventions would collectively reduce the drivers of radicalization by addressing specific vulnerabilities in each region. The disparities in responses also suggested that a one-size-fits-all approach would be insufficient. Instead, nuanced, regionally tailored strategies were necessary, reflecting each community's unique socio-cultural dynamics. These findings emphasized the need for comprehensive policies that not only enhanced economic opportunities but also strengthened social structures and fostered positive identity formation to counter radicalization in Kenya's border regions effectively.

A focus group discussion (FGD) quote from a male participant in Somalia addressing political grievances and perceived injustice:

*"We feel forgotten by our leaders and constantly targeted by foreign forces. When our voices are ignored, and we're treated like threats instead of citizens, it builds anger. Many young men see joining these groups not as a choice but as a response to the injustices we face every day. If the government doesn't address these issues, this cycle will continue."*

This quote captured the frustration and sense of neglect that would drive political grievances and perceived injustice, factors often exploited by extremist groups to recruit youth.

A quote from a key informant, an immigration officer in Mandera, discussing the influence of global radical narratives and access to radical content via social media:

*"The impact of social media on our youth is significant. They have access to a wealth of information, including radical content from all over the world. Many young people in Mandera are influenced by these narratives that glorify violence and promise a sense of purpose. It's alarming how quickly they can connect with extremist ideologies online, which makes our job of preventing radicalization much more challenging."*

This quote highlights the critical role that social media plays in exposing youth to radical narratives, illustrating the complexities of managing radicalization in an interconnected world.

#### **4.26 Role of Misinformation and Propaganda in Exacerbating Tensions Between Communities Along Kenya-Somalia Border**

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the role of misinformation and propaganda in exacerbating tensions between communities along the Kenya-Somalia border. The responses were as follows; The dynamics of misinformation and propaganda significantly impacted community relations along the Kenya-Somalia border, as highlighted by the study findings. In Somalia, 75% of respondents indicated that the spread of false information exacerbated existing tensions, and contributed to misunderstandings and mistrust among different ethnic groups. In Mandera, 80% of respondents identified social media as a key vector for propaganda, noting how rapidly disseminated misleading narratives would provoke fear and conflict, particularly among youth who were highly engaged with these platforms.

Furthermore, in Garissa, 60% of respondents reported that political manipulation through misinformation played a critical role in inflaming communal tensions, especially during election periods when inflammatory rhetoric was used to rally support and scapegoat certain communities (Botha, 2014; Kfir, 2018; Aning & Pokoo, 2014).

These findings underscored the urgent need for initiatives aimed at enhancing media literacy and fostering inter-community dialogue to counteract the harmful effects of misinformation and propaganda in the region.

The dynamics of misinformation and propaganda significantly impacted community relations along the Kenya-Somalia border, as highlighted by the study findings. In Somalia, 75% of respondents indicated that the spread of false information exacerbated existing tensions, and contributed to misunderstandings and mistrust among different ethnic groups. In Mandera, 80% of respondents identified social media as a key vector for propaganda, noting how rapidly disseminated misleading narratives would provoke fear and conflict, particularly among youth who were highly engaged with these platforms. Furthermore, in Garissa, 60% of respondents reported that political manipulation through misinformation played a critical role in inflaming communal tensions, especially during election periods when inflammatory rhetoric was used to rally support and scapegoat certain communities (Botha, 2014; Kfir, 2018; Aning & Pokoo, 2014). These findings underscored the urgent need for initiatives aimed at enhancing media literacy and fostering inter-community dialogue to counteract the harmful effects of misinformation and propaganda in the region.

The 75% of respondents in Somalia identified false information as a significant issue that reflected the profound impact of narrative distortion on community relationships. This suggested that misinformation not only fueled existing prejudices but also created new misunderstandings that would lead to conflict. It pointed to the need for community leaders and organizations to actively combat misinformation through education and outreach, helping individuals discern factual information from propaganda.

In Mandera, where 80% of respondents viewed social media as a primary channel for propaganda, the data highlighted the role of digital platforms in shaping perceptions and behaviors. The ease of access to social media allowed for rapid dissemination of both accurate and misleading content, and the immediacy of these platforms would exacerbate tensions in real time. This finding underscored the importance of promoting media literacy among youth and community members, as they were particularly susceptible to the persuasive narratives that would emerge in online environments.

The 60% of respondents in Garissa acknowledged political manipulation through misinformation and suggested a strategic use of narratives by political actors to maintain power and influence. This manipulation would deepen divisions by framing certain communities as threats, particularly during election periods when fear-based campaigning often surfaced. The finding emphasized the need for transparent governance and ethical political practices to prevent the exploitation of community grievances for political gain.

In summary, the interrelated issues of misinformation, social media influence, and political manipulation presented significant challenges for community cohesion along the Kenya-Somalia border. Addressing these issues requires a coordinated effort to promote accurate information, enhance critical thinking, and foster positive community relations.

A focus group discussion (FGD) quote from a woman in Mandera addressing the erosion of trust, mobilization for conflict, and national security narratives about the role of misinformation and propaganda:

*"The constant flow of misleading information has broken down the trust we had in each other and in our leaders. When we hear false stories about attacks or threats, it makes us suspicious of our neighbors. This fear is often used by politicians who say they need to take stronger security measures, but instead, it just pushes us further apart and makes us more ready to fight than to talk. We must ask ourselves: how can we heal our communities when misinformation keeps us mobilizing for conflict instead of unity?"*

This quote encapsulates the complexities of how misinformation and propaganda would undermine social cohesion, manipulate perceptions of security, and incite conflict among communities along the border.

#### **4.27 Role of Social Networks and Informal Economies Along Kenya-Somalia Border.**

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the role of social networks and informal economies along the Kenya-Somalia border. The responses were as follows; The findings from recent surveys highlighted significant concerns regarding informal trade practices, radicalization, and the interplay of cultural dynamics along the Kenya-Somalia border. In Mandera, 70% of respondents identified informal trade practices as a prevalent issue, suggesting that unregulated economic activities contributed to instability and complicated border management efforts (Botha, 2014).

Similarly, in Somalia, 65% of respondents expressed concerns about radicalization and security risks, indicating that the informal economy would serve as a breeding ground for extremist recruitment and violent conflict (Aning & Pokoo, 2014)

Furthermore, in Garissa, 80% of respondents observed the importance of cultural and social dynamics, noting that cultural exchanges and community interactions, while fostering cooperation, would also lead to tensions if not managed properly (Kfir, 2018).

These findings underscored the need for comprehensive strategies that addressed the challenges posed by informal economies, radicalization, and the complex cultural interactions in these border regions, aiming for a balanced approach to security and community engagement.

A high percentage of respondents in Mandera identified informal trade practices as a significant issue indicating that these activities were not merely peripheral but central to the economic life of the community. Informal trade would undermine government authority and regulatory frameworks, leading to a lack of oversight and increasing opportunities for smuggling and other illicit activities. This situation posed a challenge to effective border management, as it created alternate pathways that evaded official scrutiny. The reliance on informal trade would also hinder local economic development, as it often lacked the investment and infrastructure that formal economies typically provide. Overall, the findings suggested that addressing informal trade was crucial for enhancing security and governance in the region.

The concern expressed by 65% of respondents in Somalia regarding radicalization and security risks highlighted the vulnerability of communities in the context of extremist ideologies. This finding underscored how informal economies would serve as recruitment grounds for radical groups, particularly among disaffected youth seeking economic opportunities

The intersection of poverty, lack of formal employment, and the availability of radical narratives would create an environment conducive to recruitment. This dynamic posed significant risks to security and stability, as radicalized individuals would resort to violence or join extremist organizations. The data indicated that interventions should

focus on addressing the socio-economic grievances that fuel radicalization while also fostering resilience against extremist ideologies.

The observation by 80% of respondents in Garissa regarding the role of cultural and social dynamics suggested that community interactions were both a source of strength and potential conflict. Cultural exchanges would foster solidarity and cooperation among diverse groups, promoting peaceful coexistence. However, if these interactions were not managed sensitively, they would lead to misunderstandings and tensions, particularly in a region marked by ethnic and cultural diversity. This finding pointed to the need for policies that not only recognized the importance of cultural dynamics but also promoted intercultural dialogue and collaboration. It emphasized the potential for cultural initiatives to mitigate conflicts and enhance community cohesion.

A quote from a male participant in a focus group discussion (FGD) in Garissa addressing community trust, local support for informal networks, and distrust for authorities:

*"In our community, we rely heavily on informal networks to get by. These networks provide support that we don't get from the government, and that's why many people trust them more than the authorities. There's a deep-rooted feeling of distrust toward officials because they often don't understand our needs or the challenges we face. When something goes wrong, we turn to our neighbors and local leaders, not the police or government agencies.*

*. This creates a divide; we need better relationships with the authorities, but until they show that they truly care about us, the informal networks will always be our first choice."*

This quote captured the sentiments around community trust, the reliance on informal networks for support, and the prevailing distrust of authorities, reflecting the complexities of social dynamics in the region.

#### 4.28 Institutional and Bureaucratic Barriers That Impede Effective Cooperation in Border Management

Respondents of the study area were asked about institutional and bureaucratic barriers that impede effective cooperation in border management. The responses were as follows; In the study examining border management challenges, it was found that 65% of respondents in Somalia cited a lack of a unified policy framework as a significant impediment to effective cooperation (Abdi, 2016). This absence of cohesive policy hampered the ability of various agencies to operate collaboratively and efficiently. In Mandera, 75% of respondents reported observing inadequate inter-agency coordination, highlighting a critical barrier to effective border security operations (Menkhaus, 2014). Furthermore, in Garissa, an alarming 80% of respondents noted the absence of joint task forces as a major issue, which restricted the capacity to respond effectively to cross-border threats (Francis, 2013). These findings underscored the pressing need for improved institutional frameworks and cooperative mechanisms to enhance border management in the region.

The finding that 65% of respondents in Somalia cited a lack of a unified policy framework suggested a critical gap in governance and strategic direction regarding border management. This indicated that different agencies would be operating under their policies or guidelines, leading to inconsistencies and conflicts in objectives.

A unified policy framework was essential for effective border management as it sets clear roles, responsibilities, and protocols for all stakeholders involved. The absence of

such a framework would result in fragmented efforts, reduced efficiency in operations, and ultimately, ineffective responses to security threats. This situation was particularly precarious in Somalia, where governance structures have historically been weak and where clan-based politics often complicate national policy-making.

The observation by 75% of respondents in Mandera regarding inadequate inter-agency coordination pointed to a serious operational challenge. This indicated that agencies responsible for border security such as immigration, customs, and law enforcement were not effectively collaborating or sharing information. Effective border management relies heavily on the seamless coordination of multiple agencies to address complex security issues, such as trafficking and terrorism. The lack of coordination would lead to duplicative efforts, gaps in security coverage, and missed opportunities for intelligence sharing. In regions like Mandera, which face unique security challenges due to their proximity to conflict zones, the need for robust inter-agency collaboration becomes even more critical.

The fact that 80% of respondents in Garissa observed the absence of joint task forces was indicative of a lack of proactive measures to enhance cross-border security cooperation. Joint task forces would facilitate a coordinated response to security threats that transcend national borders. The absence of such collaborative units suggested not only a lack of resources but also potentially a lack of political will to address the complexities of border security comprehensively. Joint task forces typically allow for shared expertise and resources, which would be particularly beneficial in areas with limited governmental capacity. Their absence implied that both Kenya and Somalia would be operating in silos, which would exacerbate security vulnerabilities and hinder efforts to combat organized crime and terrorism effectively.

The overall implications of these findings pointed to a pressing need for reforms in border management strategies in the region. There was a clear indication that improving policy coherence, enhancing inter-agency collaboration, and establishing joint operational units were critical steps toward addressing the multifaceted challenges of border security in Kenya and Somalia. This required not only a commitment from both governments but also an understanding of the complex socio-political dynamics at play. Engaging local communities and building trust between agencies would facilitate a more integrated approach to border management that was responsive to the unique challenges faced in this volatile region.

A quote that reflected the sentiments of an immigration officer in Somalia regarding corruption, lack of accountability, and insufficient legal frameworks:

*"As an immigration officer, I witness daily the impact of corruption and the absence of accountability within our systems. Our legal framework is outdated and inadequate, making it difficult to enforce laws effectively. Without a strong, unified legal structure and genuine commitment to integrity, we will continue to struggle against the challenges of illegal immigration and cross-border crime."*

#### **4.29 Role of External Actors and Foreign Intervention in Border Diplomacy and Counter-Terrorism Efforts**

Respondents of the study area were asked about the role of external actors and foreign intervention in border dynamics and counter-terrorism efforts. The responses were as follows; In the context of Somalia, the involvement of external actors significantly shaped national policy and strategy regarding border diplomacy and counter-terrorism. In Mandera the study revealed that 65% of respondents believed that foreign intervention influenced local governance and counter-terrorism efforts, enhancing the

legitimacy of state actions against terrorist threats (Heupel, 2013). Furthermore, in Garissa, a remarkable 80% of respondents indicated that external actors fostered regional cooperation and influenced security dynamics in the area, thereby affecting the overall effectiveness of counter-terrorism initiatives (Dewaal, 2014). These insights underscored the critical role that external actors played in legitimizing state policies and shaping the broader security landscape in Somalia, reflecting a complex interplay between local perceptions and foreign influence on governance and counter-terrorism strategies.

The mention of external actors indicated a recognition that foreign intervention, whether through military presence, funding, or political support, played a crucial role in shaping national policies. In the case of Somalia, this was particularly relevant given the country's ongoing struggles with instability and terrorism. The data from Mandera and Garissa highlighted that local populations were acutely aware of the impact of these external influences on their security environment.

The finding that 65% of respondents in Mandera believed foreign intervention enhanced the legitimacy of state actions suggested that many locals perceived external support as a validation of their government's counter-terrorism strategies. This legitimization would be crucial for governments seeking to maintain authority in regions plagued by conflict. Conversely, it would also reflect a dependency on foreign support for legitimacy, which would undermine local governance if residents felt their government could not function without external validation.

The response from Garissa, where 80% of participants acknowledged the influence of external actors on regional dynamics, emphasized the interconnectedness of security issues in the Horn of Africa. This response suggested a recognition that foreign

interventions would lead to enhanced collaboration among neighboring states, potentially creating a more cohesive approach to tackling terrorism. However, it also raised questions about the implications of such cooperation, particularly if it led to an alignment of interests that would not reflect the priorities of local populations.

A quote from a male participant in a focus group discussion in Mandera:

*"The involvement of foreign actors here has a double edge. On one hand, their support in counter-terrorism efforts and humanitarian aid helps stabilize the region. On the other hand, their presence sometimes creates friction, especially when local cultural values clash with the practices or expectations of these external actors. We see it in everything from development projects to community interactions these interventions can either build trust or lead to misunderstandings. The balance between cultural respect and strategic interests is delicate, and when it's off, it affects our border diplomacy and even fuels resentment that groups like Al-Shabaab can exploit."*

This quote reflected the complex impact of foreign involvement, noting both the potential benefits and challenges that arose from cultural exchanges, humanitarian aid, and development assistance.

#### 4.30 Security Threats That Impact Border Diplomacy Efforts Between Kenya and Somalia

Respondents of the study area were asked about security threats that impacted border diplomacy efforts between Kenya and Somalia. The responses were as follows; In Somalia, a significant proportion of respondents identified various security threats that undermined border stability and effective governance. Specifically, 65% of participants highlighted cross-border infiltration as a pressing concern, indicating that the porous

nature of the Kenya-Somalia border facilitated the movement of militants and illegal goods, complicating security efforts (Menkhaus, 2014).

In Mandera, 75% of respondents expressed alarm over human smuggling and trafficking activities, which not only violated human rights but also funded terrorist organizations, thereby exacerbating insecurity in the region (UNODC, 2018). Additionally, in Garissa, an overwhelming 85% of respondents pointed to ethnic and clan-based conflicts as a significant threat, reflecting the deep-rooted tensions that would escalate into violence and hinder cooperation between communities across the border (Alden, 2015). These insights underscored the complex interplay of security challenges that impact border diplomacy and stability in the region.

The statistic that 65% of respondents cited cross-border infiltration as a major concern highlighted the challenges posed by the porous nature of the Kenya-Somalia border. This concern suggested a widespread recognition that the inability to control movements across the border facilitated the entry of militants and illegal goods, which threatened both national and regional security. It also reflected a sense of vulnerability among the local population, who would feel at risk from external actors taking advantage of weak border controls.

The finding that 75% of respondents in Mandera were alarmed by human smuggling and trafficking activities indicated a significant awareness of the criminal networks operating in the region. These activities not only violated human rights but also served as a source of funding for terrorist groups, such as Al-Shabaab. This connection underscored the multifaceted nature of security threats, where criminal activities intertwine with terrorism, complicating the response from local and national authorities.

A high percentage (85%) of respondents in Garissa highlighted ethnic and clan-based conflicts that reflected deep-rooted social dynamics that influenced security in the region. These conflicts would escalate quickly and often involved longstanding grievances that would complicate diplomatic efforts between communities on either side of the border. This statistic suggested that local populations were acutely aware of the socio-political factors that would destabilize their environment, indicating a need for targeted conflict resolution strategies.

#### 4.31 Impact of Cross-Border Movements on Border Security Measures and Diplomacy.

Respondents of the study area were asked about the impact of cross-border movements on border security measures and border diplomacy efforts between Kenya and Somalia. The responses were as follows; In Somalia, a substantial portion of the population was acutely aware of the security challenges posed by cross-border movements, with 65% of respondents highlighting cross-border infiltration as a major concern. This perception underscored the vulnerabilities associated with a porous border, which allowed for the movement of militants and illegal goods (Menkhaus, 2014).

In Mandera, 75% of respondents expressed alarm over human smuggling and trafficking, indicating the prevalence of criminal networks that exploited the border's lax security. These activities not only violated human rights but also provided funding for terrorist organizations, further complicating the security landscape (UNODC, 2018).

Additionally, in Garissa, a striking 85% of respondents identified ethnic and clan-based conflicts as significant threats, reflecting the deep-rooted social dynamics that would lead to violence and hinder effective cooperation between communities on either side of the border (Alden, 2015). These insights highlighted the interconnected nature of

security challenges in the region, emphasizing the need for comprehensive strategies that address these multifaceted issues.

The statistic that 65% of respondents in Somalia cited cross-border infiltration as a primary concern underscored a widespread acknowledgment of the security threats posed by the porous nature of the Kenya-Somalia border. This vulnerability allowed for the entry of militants, illicit goods, and arms, which would destabilize both nations. The perception of infiltration as a significant issue reflected the fears and anxieties of local populations who felt at risk from external actors, primarily militant groups.

The 75% of respondents in Mandera who expressed alarm over human smuggling and trafficking indicated a critical awareness of how organized crime intertwined with security issues. These illegal activities not only threaten individual safety but also serve as funding mechanisms for terrorist organizations. The implications were twofold: local communities were affected by the human rights violations associated with trafficking, and the state security apparatus faced additional challenges in combating groups that benefited from such networks.

In Garissa, 85% of respondents highlighting ethnic and clan-based conflicts as a major threat point to the profound social dynamics that impact security. Clan identities were deeply embedded in Somali society, and conflicts stemming from these identities would escalate into violence, undermining both local governance and cross-border cooperation. This statistic illustrated how historical grievances and competition for resources would disrupt efforts to establish peace and security in border areas.

A quote from a youth participant in a focus group discussion in Garissa:

*"Political instability in Somalia has a huge impact on us here in Garissa. When things are uncertain over there, it disrupts not just security but also the economy on our side. Young people feel the effects of most job opportunities become scarce, and tensions rise. Add to that the regional power struggles and shifting alliances, and it's like we're caught in the middle of forces beyond our control. Without stability and economic opportunities, it's easy for frustration to grow among youth, which can make us vulnerable to negative influences or even recruitment by militant groups."*

This quote captured the youth's perspective on how Somalia's political instability, regional geopolitics, and economic challenges in Garissa intertwine, impacting local opportunities and stability.

#### **4.32 Role of Local Community Dynamics in The Failure of Border Diplomacy Initiatives Aimed at Managing Terrorism.**

Respondents of the study area were asked about the impact of community dynamics in the failure of border diplomacy initiatives aimed at managing terrorism. The responses were as follows; In Somalia, the influence of ethnic and clan dynamics on security perceptions was significant, with 70% of respondents indicating that these factors played a crucial role in shaping their views on stability and governance. This underscored the deeply rooted social structures that affected community cohesion and responses to external security initiatives (Menkhaus, 2014). In Mandera, an alarming 80% of respondents emphasized the importance of community trust and legitimacy, highlighting that effective governance and security measures should be built on the foundation of local acceptance and cooperation (Alden, 2015). Similarly, in Garissa, 65% of respondents also cited ethnic and clan dynamics as a critical concern, indicating that the historical grievances and competition for resources among clans significantly impacted the effectiveness of counter-terrorism efforts and broader security strategies

(Hansen, 2013). These findings illustrated the necessity for policymakers to engage with local communities and consider their social contexts to foster legitimacy and cooperation in addressing security challenges.

The statistic that 70% of respondents in Somalia recognized ethnic and clan dynamics as crucial to their security perceptions underscored the deep-seated role that these social structures played in shaping political and social relations. In a context where clan identity was a primary form of social organization, these dynamics influenced how communities viewed state authorities and external interventions, often dictating loyalty and trust.

In Mandera, 80% of respondents emphasized the importance of community trust and legitimacy revealing a clear understanding of the necessity for local acceptance of governance structures. Trust was a vital component for the effectiveness of any security strategy. When communities believed that their needs and perspectives were acknowledged and respected, they were more likely to cooperate with local and national authorities, which was essential for implementing successful counter-terrorism measures.

The findings from Garissa, where 65% of respondents highlighted ethnic and clan dynamics as significant concerns, reflected historical grievances and ongoing tensions that would manifest in violence or resistance against government initiatives. The competition for resources, coupled with longstanding rivalries among clans, complicated the establishment of a unified front against security threats, as these conflicts would undermine efforts to foster cooperation among different groups.

In summary, the analysis and interpretation of these facts highlighted the critical role of ethnic and clan dynamics in shaping security perceptions and governance along the

Kenya-Somalia border. Effective border diplomacy and counter-terrorism efforts should prioritize building trust and legitimacy among local communities, recognizing the historical and social factors that influence cooperation. By adopting an inclusive and context-sensitive approach, policymakers would better address the complex challenges of security in the region.

A quote from an intelligence officer at the Kenya-Somalia border:

*"Miscommunication and misinformation are constant obstacles here. Rumors can spread quickly across communities, creating distrust and sometimes even stirring up conflicts. This makes it harder to build the kind of local cooperation we need for effective counter-terrorism. Local dynamics are a huge factor when community members don't trust our intentions or feel excluded from decision-making, they're less likely to support border security efforts. Without their cooperation, border diplomacy initiatives to combat terrorism often fall short, as local buy-in is essential for lasting security."*

This quote highlighted the intelligence officer's view on how miscommunication and local dynamics complicated counter-terrorism and border diplomacy efforts at the Kenya-Somalia border.

#### **4.33 Role of Political Factors in Contributing to the Challenges Faced by Kenya-Somalia in Implementing Effective Border Diplomacy.**

Respondents of the study area were asked about political factors that contributed to challenges faced by Kenya and Somalia in implementing effective border diplomacy initiatives for counter-terrorism efforts. The political landscape between Kenya and Somalia presented several challenges to the implementation of effective border diplomacy. The responses were as follows;

Data from Somalia revealed that 70% of respondents identified historical grievances and territorial disputes as significant barriers to effective diplomatic relations with Kenya, underscoring the long-standing conflicts over colonial-era borders that continued to fuel distrust and instability (Whittaker, 2012; Menkhaus, 2015). In Mandera, 60% of respondents attributed the challenges in border diplomacy to Kenya's domestic political dynamics, where internal political tensions and differing priorities in border regions affected the country's approach to diplomatic engagement with Somalia (Bradbury & Kleinman, 2010; Kamau, 2012).

Meanwhile, in Garissa, 80% of respondents indicated that the influence of militant groups like Al-Shabaab was a primary obstacle to maintaining security and implementing diplomatic strategies, as these groups exploited regional instability and undermined government efforts to foster peaceful cross-border relations (Bryden, 2013; Anderson & McKnight, 2015). These findings highlighted the multifaceted political challenges that complicated effective border diplomacy between Kenya and Somalia, with each region facing unique yet interconnected obstacles.

The data from Somalia, Mandera, and Garissa provided a nuanced understanding of the political challenges that undermined border diplomacy between Kenya and Somalia. In Somalia, the finding that 70% of respondents viewed historical grievances and territorial disputes as central issues reflected the enduring impact of colonial-era boundary demarcations, which left many ethnic Somalis within Kenya's borders. This historical division fueled nationalistic sentiments and called for unification, challenging current diplomatic frameworks by perpetuating a sense of injustice and distrust between the two nations.

The ongoing territorial disputes not only strained political relations but also complicated border management, as unresolved historical grievances made both sides wary of cooperative efforts (Whittaker, 2012; Menkhaus, 2015). In Mandera, where 60% of respondents emphasized Kenya's internal political dynamics as a barrier, the data highlighted how local and national political factors intersected to affect diplomatic outcomes. Domestic issues, such as competing political priorities, ethnic affiliations, and election cycles, often shaped Kenya's approach to border security.

Political leaders would at times leverage anti-Somali or security-focused rhetoric to gain local support, which would lead to a securitized, less collaborative approach to border diplomacy (Bradbury & Kleinman, 2010; Kamau, 2012). This dynamic hindered long-term diplomatic solutions, as short-term political gains would be prioritized over sustainable peace-building efforts.

A high percentage (80%) of respondents in Garissa pointed to the influence of militant groups like Al-Shabaab underscoring the complex security challenges faced in this region. Militant groups exploited political instability and historical grievances to advance their agendas, directly undermining diplomatic efforts by fueling violence and cross-border terrorism (Bryden, 2013; Anderson & McKnight, 2015). The presence of these groups disrupted any progress in border diplomacy, as security concerns drove both Kenya and Somalia to adopt militarized stances that would be counterproductive to peace-building. Overall, these regional responses reflected the interplay of historical, domestic, and security-related political challenges that should be addressed to make border diplomacy more effective and sustainable.

*"Border security here is constantly impacted by Kenya's and Somalia's national priorities, which are not always aligned. We try to work with our Somali counterparts,*

*but conflicting interests can complicate joint efforts, especially around security and migration. In addition, regional politics play a big role; the influence of neighboring countries and alliances means policies shift frequently, affecting what resources and support we receive. Refugee and migration issues are also challenging. We're constantly balancing security needs with humanitarian concerns, which is difficult when local communities feel strained."*

This structured FGD and KII guide from an intelligence Officer based in Mandera provided a comprehensive framework for gaining deeper insights into the operational challenges and regional dynamics affecting border diplomacy along the Kenya-Somalia border.

#### 4.34 Best Practices in Border Diplomacy to be Adopted by Kenya-Somalia.

Respondents of the study area were asked about the best practices to be adopted in border diplomacy strategies between Kenya and Somalia to manage terrorism. The responses were as follows;

*"For real stability between Kenya and Somalia, joint border patrols and intelligence sharing are essential. We can address security issues more effectively with regular communication and mutual agreements, whether bilateral or through regional bodies like IGAD. But it's not just about the patrols engaging border communities is equally important. When people living along the border are involved and informed, they feel a part of the solution. This makes it harder for criminal activities to take root, as the community becomes our eyes and ears on the ground."*

This structured FGD quote from a man in Somalia provided a comprehensive framework for gaining deeper insights into the best practices to be adopted in border diplomacy between Kenya and Somalia to manage terrorism.

The statement above underscored a layered approach to security, moving beyond traditional state-centric measures to include the active participation of local communities. It reflected an understanding that modern security, especially in areas prone to cross-border terrorism, cannot be sustained by force alone. Instead, it required mutual trust, constant communication, and a collaborative relationship not only between governments but with the people who inhabit the borderlands. The statement also advocated for a shift from reactive to proactive security strategies, highlighting the role of people-centered security. This approach would be more sustainable in the long term, as it empowered local communities and created a social environment less conducive to crime and extremism, ultimately fostering a more stable border region.

The following studies have supported best practices in border diplomacy in the context of the Kenya-Somalia border. Anderson (1996), observed borders were historically and strategically important. Diplomatic agreements were key to managing contested territories and stabilizing cross-border relations. Newman (2006) observed that borders were resilient despite globalization. This has shown that border management was still crucial for security and stability. Doyle (1986) underscored the role of International cooperation, through agreements like treaties, to reduce conflicts and foster peace. Kenya and Somalia would benefit from such agreements, especially in counterterrorism and trade. Mingst & Arreguín-Toft (2016) In their study, underscored the role of treaties and international agreements are essential for maintaining diplomatic ties and preventing conflicts.

#### **4.35 Community Engagement and Local Participation in Border Diplomacy to be Adopted by Kenya-Somalia**

Respondents of the study area were asked about the best practices to be adopted in border diplomacy between Kenya and Somalia to manage terrorism. The responses were as follows;

*"In Mandera, establishing community policing programs could truly transform our security. When our community members are involved in safety efforts, it builds trust and cooperation with law enforcement. But we need more than policing alone. Investing in community development like schools, clinics, and infrastructure would give our young people better opportunities and keep them away from crime and extremist groups. Alongside these efforts, launching public awareness campaigns is essential. When people understand how they can contribute to security, we feel united in the effort. It's a shared responsibility, and it empowers us to create a safer environment for everyone."*

This structured FGD quote from a woman in Mandera provided a comprehensive framework for gaining deeper insights into the best practices for community engagement and local participation to be integrated into border security initiatives.

The statement highlighted the importance of community-based approaches to enhancing security in Mandera. It suggested that community policing would be a transformative tool in local security efforts by actively involving community members. This involvement fostered trust and a collaborative relationship with law enforcement, which was crucial for effective security (Wisler,2009).

However, the statement argued that security efforts should extend beyond policing alone. Investing in community development such as improving access to education,

healthcare, and infrastructure offered young people constructive opportunities, reducing the allure of crime and extremism. These investments not only address immediate needs but also tackle underlying social issues that would lead to insecurity (Pizza,2011).

The statement further emphasized that public awareness campaigns were critical for mobilizing the community to take part in security initiatives. When individuals understood how they would contribute to security, they felt a shared sense of responsibility and empowerment. By working together, the community would foster a safer environment, making security a collective, sustainable effort rather than a task left solely to law enforcement. This holistic approach integrated security, development, and community participation for a more stable and resilient community (Menkhaus, 2007).

#### **4.36 Information Sharing and Intelligence Cooperation in The Context of Border Diplomacy Between Kenya and Somalia**

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the role of information sharing and intelligence cooperation between Kenya and Somalia in strengthening border diplomacy. The responses were as follows;

*"For us, enhancing mutual trust and transparency between our border communities and security forces is key. If there's open communication and we're trusted as part of the security network, it changes everything. When we have a clear channel to report suspicious activity, it improves threat detection because we know what to look out for and can share information faster". And if Kenya and Somalia coordinate with joint operations, it's even better.*

This structured FGD quote from a youth in Garissa provided a comprehensive framework for gaining deeper insights into the role of information sharing and

intelligence cooperation between Kenya and Somalia in strengthening border diplomacy.

In Kenya and Somalia, fostering open communication and building trust between local communities and security providers was crucial. This approach helped communities feel part of the security framework, improving their willingness to report suspicious activities and enabling faster threat detection. For example, dialogue projects in East Africa emphasized transparency and trust-building through initiatives like community safety plans and cross-border dialogues. These programs often involved community engagement in counterterrorism and resilience against violent extremism, especially in regions with high conflict risks (Andreas,2003).

Coordinated cross-border efforts, such as joint operations, were also recommended to enhance ground coverage and response capabilities. For instance, UN-led projects in West Africa promoted joint security operations to address terrorism and transnational crime in border regions, with Côte d'Ivoire's model showing the benefits of cross-border partnerships to monitor remote areas effectively. This collaboration built resilience within communities by integrating community engagement with law enforcement strategies (Aronson, 2011).

#### **4.37 Role of Socio-Economic Development in Reducing the Appeal for Terrorism and Improving Security Along the Kenya-Somalia Border.**

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the role of socio-economic development in reducing the appeal for terrorism and improving security along the Kenya-Somalia border. The responses were as follows; In border regions such as Somalia, Mandera, and Garissa, socio-economic development played a vital role in countering terrorism by addressing factors that contributed to vulnerability and

instability. In Somalia, 80% of respondents emphasized the importance of employment and income opportunities as a means of reducing the allure of extremist groups, noting that economic stability provided alternatives to recruitment (Sageman, 2004). In Mandera, 70% of respondents highlighted the value of education and skills development, with local communities recognizing that access to quality education equips youth with the tools to resist radical ideologies and pursue lawful employment opportunities (Burde & Linden, 2013). Similarly, in Garissa, 60% of respondents stressed the need for infrastructure development, particularly in roads and healthcare, to integrate isolated communities into the broader economy and improve access to essential services, thus reducing the appeal of extremist groups (Collier & Hoeffler, 2004).

These findings underscored the importance of socio-economic development as a comprehensive approach to improving security and reducing the factors that foster terrorism in these regions. The majority of respondents in Somalia viewed employment and income opportunities as crucial to countering terrorism. This suggested that economic instability and lack of job prospects were major drivers of radicalization. When individuals, especially youth, were unable to find legal work, they turned to extremist groups for financial support or a sense of belonging. Employment opportunities acted as a deterrent by providing stable livelihoods and reducing dependency on groups that exploited economic desperation.

This aligned with research by Sageman (2004), who argued that poverty and unemployment were key drivers of terrorism. Employment not only alleviated economic hardship but also fostered social stability, which would prevent extremist ideologies from taking root. Therefore, creating economic opportunities would directly undermine the recruitment strategies of terrorist groups.

The respondents in Mandera strongly associated education and skills development with reducing radicalization. Education provided individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue legal employment, thereby offering alternatives to joining extremist groups. It also served as a long-term strategy for breaking the cycle of poverty and preventing future generations from being vulnerable to terrorist recruitment. Burde & Linden (2013) highlighted the importance of education in promoting resilience against extremist ideologies. Education fostered critical thinking, broadened perspectives, and empowered individuals to challenge extremist narratives. By investing in education, the community strengthened its resistance to terrorist influence, creating an educated workforce that contributed positively to both the local and national economy.

In Garissa, a significant portion of respondents saw infrastructure development such as roads and healthcare facilities as key factors in improving security. Infrastructure projects connected isolated communities to broader national and international economies, increasing access to services, employment, and trade. By addressing the physical and social isolation of border regions, infrastructure development helped integrate these communities into the larger state system, reducing their vulnerability to extremist influence.

Collier & Hoeffler (2004) argued that the lack of infrastructure exacerbated economic disparities and isolated regions from the state, creating a fertile ground for radicalization. By investing in infrastructure, such as roads and healthcare, the state would reduce marginalization, foster trust, and improve overall stability. Well-developed infrastructure also facilitated the movement of people, goods, and information, strengthening both the local economy and security.

The statement highlighted the interconnectedness of employment, education, and infrastructure development in countering terrorism in border regions. It suggested that comprehensive socio-economic development would address the root causes of radicalization poverty, lack of opportunity, and isolation by providing communities with the tools they need to resist extremist influence. By investing in these areas, governments would not only reduce the appeal of terrorist groups but also foster long-term stability and security in fragile border regions.

#### **4.38 Perception of Local Populations Regarding the Effectiveness of Current Border Diplomacy**

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the perception of local populations regarding the effectiveness of current border diplomacy efforts. The responses were as follows; In regions along the Kenya-Somalia border, local populations expressed varied perceptions of the effectiveness of current border diplomacy efforts. In Somalia, 80% of respondents highlighted significant security concerns and a lack of trust in border control measures, with many feeling that the efforts were insufficient and frustrating.

This sentiment reflected a broader frustration that national security forces were unable to address the root causes of insecurity, such as terrorism and cross-border criminal activities (Menkhaus, 2004).

In Somalia, 80% of respondents highlighted significant security concerns and a lack of trust in border control measures, with many feeling that the efforts were insufficient and frustrating. This sentiment reflected a broader frustration that national security forces were unable to address the root causes of insecurity, such as terrorism and cross-border criminal activities (Menkhaus, 2004). In Garissa, 65% of respondents emphasized the benefits of economic and social integration, with locals recognizing

that cross-border trade and the establishment of markets would promote economic growth and stability.

This suggested that efforts to foster economic cooperation through border diplomacy were seen as positive but would require greater investment to be fully effective (Bach, 2011). Meanwhile, in Mandera, 75% of respondents expressed concerns about the effectiveness of security forces, citing language barriers, distrust between national forces, and limited coordination as key factors hindering effective border security. This perception pointed to the need for improved communication and collaboration between local and national authorities to enhance the security environment (Andreas, 2003; Raeymaekers et al., 2008).

A significant majority (80%) of respondents in Somalia expressed concerns about security and a lack of trust in the border control mechanisms. These concerns were rooted in the perception that current efforts were insufficient to address the security challenges they face, such as terrorism, smuggling, and cross-border crime. The frustration was likely fueled by the experience of recurring security breaches and the inability of national security forces to maintain consistent control.

The high level of dissatisfaction reflected the deep-rooted insecurity felt by local communities, especially in conflict zones like Somalia. The failure of national and regional actors to adequately address the underlying causes of instability such as political fragmentation, economic underdevelopment, and terrorism contributed to a lack of trust in formal security measures. Local populations would view border controls as ineffective, perceiving them more as a symbolic gesture rather than a functional solution to their safety concerns (Menkhaus, 2004). This signaled the need for more

comprehensive, locally-informed approaches that engage the community and address security on multiple levels.

In Garissa, 65% of respondents recognized the benefits of economic and social integration, particularly through enhanced cross-border trade and the establishment of markets. This highlighted the importance of border diplomacy efforts that fostered economic cooperation and integration, which were seen as positive by local communities.

Local populations in Garissa appreciated the economic opportunities that came with cross-border collaboration. This aligned with the broader understanding that economic cooperation would promote stability by providing livelihoods and reducing the incentives for violence and terrorism. However, while economic integration was viewed positively, there was likely an underlying expectation for these efforts to be more robust and accessible. This suggested that while trade and market growth were beneficial, more investment was needed to ensure that these initiatives had a tangible, long-term impact on local economies (Bach, 2011). Additionally, addressing logistical challenges, such as infrastructure development and trade facilitation, was critical to realizing the full potential of such initiatives.

In Mandera, 75% of respondents expressed concerns about the effectiveness of security forces. Issues such as language barriers, distrust between national forces, and limited coordination were seen as major obstacles to effective border security. This indicated a gap between the goals of border diplomacy and the actual experiences of border communities with security forces.

The challenges faced in Mandera reflected the complex nature of border security, especially in multi-ethnic regions where cultural and linguistic differences would create

friction. The lack of coordination and trust between security forces, both within Kenya and across the border in Somalia, undermined the effectiveness of security initiatives.

These gaps in communication and cooperation often resulted in ineffective responses to border-related threats. For local populations, these issues eroded confidence in the institutions responsible for their safety (Andreas, 2003; Raeymaekers et al., 2008). This highlighted the need for greater integration and collaboration between national and local security forces, as well as targeted efforts to build trust through cross-border community engagement.

#### 4.39 Role of Regional Organisations in Supporting Kenya-Somalia in Enhancing their Diplomatic Efforts

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the role of regional organizations in supporting Kenya-Somalia in enhancing their diplomatic efforts. The responses were as follows; In regions along the Kenya-Somalia border, local populations expressed strong support for various border diplomacy initiatives.

In Somalia, 90% of respondents emphasized the importance of facilitating dialogue and mediation to resolve cross-border tensions, highlighting the need for neutral platforms that would address security concerns and foster cooperation between both nations. This sentiment aligned with the view that dialogue would mitigate misunderstandings and encourage peaceful resolutions to territorial disputes and other border-related issues (Menkhaus, 2004).

In Garissa, 70% of respondents advocated for promoting cross-border economic integration, recognizing that enhancing trade, establishing markets, and improving infrastructure would contribute to greater stability and mutual benefit for both countries. Economic cooperation was seen as a crucial tool for reducing the appeal of

extremism and fostering long-term peace (Bach, 2011). Meanwhile, in Mandera, 80% of respondents supported capacity building and training for border security forces, underscoring the importance of improving coordination, communication, and operational effectiveness in managing cross-border security challenges. This reflected a desire for more effective security measures that would better address terrorism, smuggling, and other security threats (Andreas, 2003).

A significant majority (90%) of respondents in Somalia stressed the need for facilitating dialogue and mediation to address cross-border tensions. This reflected a deep-seated belief among local populations that peaceful communication and negotiations were crucial for resolving the complex security issues between the two countries, such as territorial disputes, terrorism, and smuggling. This high level of support for dialogue suggested that many in Somalia viewed current security approaches as insufficient and preferred diplomatic channels to resolve tensions.

The emphasis on mediation also pointed to the recognition that both nations have competing interests and concerns that would only be effectively managed through ongoing communication and compromise. This aligned with the broader theory that dialogue was essential in conflict management and statecraft, especially in regions with historical tensions (Menkhaus, 2004). However, while mediation was favored, the challenge remained in ensuring that such dialogue resulted in tangible outcomes and was not simply symbolic.

In Garissa, 70% of respondents believed that promoting cross-border economic integration would enhance stability. This indicated local recognition of the potential benefits that economic cooperation would bring, such as increased trade, job creation, and improved infrastructure. Economic integration was viewed as a means to promote

mutual dependency, which would reduce the incentives for violent extremism and foster peaceful coexistence.

The focus on economic integration reflected the understanding that peace and security were closely tied to socio-economic conditions. By facilitating trade, creating cross-border markets, and enhancing economic infrastructure, border regions would experience a reduction in poverty, unemployment, and marginalization conditions often exploited by terrorist groups to recruit fighters. This also echoed the idea that sustainable peace cannot be achieved through security measures alone but should involve long-term socio-economic investments (Bach, 2011). However, the effectiveness of such integration depended on the ability of both governments to implement policies that overcame logistical barriers and ensured that local communities would benefit from these initiatives.

In Mandera, 80% of respondents supported the idea of capacity building and training for border security forces. This reflected a widespread belief that border security forces needed enhanced skills, better coordination, and more resources to effectively manage cross-border security challenges, such as terrorism, drug trafficking, and armed banditry. The focus on capacity building indicated that local communities felt their security was undermined by poorly trained or inefficient security personnel. The strong support for training and capacity building revealed a clear recognition that border security was not just about having more personnel but about ensuring that those personnel were well-equipped to handle complex security situations.

In Mandera, 80% of respondents supported the idea of capacity building and training for border security forces. This reflected a widespread belief that border security forces needed enhanced skills. This included developing their ability to cooperate with

counterparts across the border, overcoming language and cultural barriers, and using intelligence more effectively. Furthermore, it underscored the importance of local community trust in security forces, as effective security requires cooperation between national and local actors (Andreas, 2003). The support for training aligned with broader efforts in conflict zones worldwide, where enhancing the capabilities of security forces is critical to maintaining peace and stability.

#### **4.40 Role of Training and Capacity Building Initiatives for Security Personnel.**

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the role of training and capacity initiatives for security personnel in improving the effectiveness of border diplomacy. The responses were as follows; The findings from the study indicated that enhancing coordination between security agencies, improving intelligence sharing, and strengthening crisis management capabilities were seen as crucial to effective border security and diplomacy. In Somalia, 80% of respondents emphasized the importance of improving coordination between security agencies, acknowledging that joint operations and collaboration between different security forces were vital for tackling cross-border threats such as terrorism and trafficking (Piazza, 2011).

In Mandera, 70% of respondents highlighted the need for better intelligence sharing and analysis, recognizing that timely and accurate information sharing between neighbouring countries was key to addressing security challenges (Andreas & Snyder, 2000). Meanwhile, in Garissa, 60% of respondents stressed the significance of enhancing crisis management capabilities, particularly in managing cross-border incidents and preventing them from escalating into larger conflicts.

These findings aligned with Menkhaus (2004), who suggested that well-trained security forces were crucial for rapid response and maintaining diplomatic stability

during crises. Together, these responses underscored the vital role of coordinated efforts and effective intelligence and crisis management systems in strengthening border diplomacy between Kenya and Somalia.

The high percentage of respondents in Somalia (80%) stressed the importance of improving coordination between security agencies reflecting a significant recognition of the fragmented nature of border security operations. This implied that without effective coordination, security forces would not respond optimally to threats, especially those that required joint efforts, such as countering terrorism and illicit trade. As noted by Piazza (2011), effective coordination would help overcome the challenges of border insecurity by facilitating collaborative intelligence efforts and operational synergies, which were critical for regional stability. The findings highlighted the necessity for joint task forces or bilateral cooperation mechanisms to ensure that security efforts were aligned across borders, thus preventing gaps that would be exploited by adversarial groups.

The emphasis in Mandera (70%) on improving intelligence sharing and analysis indicated a clear understanding of how crucial information was in countering cross-border threats. Intelligence sharing was a cornerstone of modern border security, especially when combating complex issues like terrorism, organized crime, and trafficking. As highlighted by Andreas and Snyder (2000), security agencies' ability to share information rapidly and accurately across borders significantly enhanced threat detection and mitigation efforts.

The respondents in Mandera recognized that effective intelligence sharing was not just about gathering data but also about analysing and acting on that data in a coordinated

way. This aligned with broader regional security frameworks that stressed the importance of building trust and confidence between neighbouring security forces.

In Garissa, 60% of respondents pointed to the need for enhanced crisis management capabilities and suggested that there was an understanding of the urgency required during security crises, such as terrorist attacks or armed border skirmishes. Menkhaus (2004) underscored the importance of rapid response and effective crisis management in preventing situations from escalating.

The respondents in Garissa seemed to acknowledge that when border security forces were adequately trained and equipped to handle crises, the risk of diplomatic tensions or conflicts between Kenya and Somalia would be reduced. This reflected a strategic approach to security that prioritized not only prevention but also the ability to quickly address and de-escalate potential threats in real-time, ensuring that diplomatic channels remain open and intact.

#### 4.40 Role of Cultural Diplomacy in Fostering Trust and Cooperation Between Kenya and Somalia in Border Security Matters

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the role of cultural diplomacy in fostering trust and cooperation between Kenya and Somalia in border security matters. The responses were as follows; The findings from the study highlighted the critical role of cultural diplomacy in fostering trust and cooperation between Kenya and Somalia, particularly in the context of border security. In Somalia, 70% of respondents emphasized the importance of building trust through shared cultural understanding and cultural familiarity, recognizing that deepening community engagement around shared values would help break down barriers of mistrust (Piazza, 2011).

In Mandera, 80% of respondents supported the facilitation of dialogue and reducing tensions through cultural platforms, such as forums for mediation and conflict resolution, which allowed for open communication between communities (Raeymaekers et al., 2008).

Such initiatives would reduce misunderstandings and promote peaceful solutions to cross-border security issues. In Garissa, 60% of respondents highlighted the need to strengthen people-to-people relations through educational and youth exchange programs, as well as sports diplomacy, which would build long-term relationships between young people from both sides (Andreas & Snyder, 2000). These cultural exchange initiatives promoted mutual respect and understanding, key components in enhancing cross-border cooperation on security matters. Overall, these findings underscored the importance of cultural diplomacy in creating a foundation of trust and collaboration, which was essential for sustainable border security.

In Somalia, 70% of respondents recognized that fostering trust through cultural familiarity would bridge the gap between communities. This highlighted the importance of understanding and embracing shared cultural elements, such as language, traditions, and religious practices, which would create a sense of unity. Building cultural understanding would lead to a more cohesive relationship between border communities and help reduce suspicion and hostility.

In Mandera, 80% of respondents saw the value in creating platforms for dialogue and mediation. These cultural platforms allowed for open communication, offering opportunities to resolve misunderstandings and reducing tensions between border communities. Through cultural diplomacy, such platforms served as peaceful spaces for

negotiations and conflict resolution, helping avoid violent confrontations and promoting cooperative problem-solving.

In Garissa, 60% of respondents viewed educational and youth exchange programs as vital in fostering long-term relationships. These initiatives promoted understanding and cooperation among young people from both countries, ensuring that future generations of Kenyans and Somalis would be better equipped to collaborate on cross-border security matters. Additionally, sports diplomacy provided an informal yet powerful means of building camaraderie and mutual respect through shared activities.

Collectively, these findings suggested that cultural diplomacy was not only about fostering good relations at the official level but also about creating lasting bonds between communities at the grassroots level. The emphasis on cultural exchange, educational programs, and dialogue platforms demonstrated that trust and cooperation in border security would be achieved by engaging communities through shared cultural values and understanding. Ultimately, the study underscored that addressing security concerns between Kenya and Somalia required a holistic approach incorporating cultural diplomacy. By enhancing mutual respect, creating spaces for communication, and fostering collaborative relationships, cultural diplomacy would significantly reduce tensions and enhance border diplomacy between Kenya and Somalia.

#### 4.40 Role of Local Leaders from Both Sides of the Border in Addressing Grievances and Fostering Security Collaboration

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the role of local leaders from both sides of the border in addressing grievances and fostering collaboration in security matters. The responses were as follows; The findings from the study emphasized the

significant role of local leaders in enhancing border security through empowerment, dialogue facilitation, and security cooperation.

In Somalia, 85% of respondents highlighted the importance of empowering local leaders through capacity-building initiatives such as training and education, as well as leadership development programs. These efforts ensured that leaders were equipped with the necessary skills to address security challenges effectively (Menkhaus, 2008).

In Mandera, 80% of respondents emphasized the need to facilitate cross-border dialogue by establishing regular meetings and forums, as well as cross-border peace committees. These platforms enabled local leaders to collaborate with counterparts across the border, fostering open communication and reducing tensions (Raeymaekers et al., 2008).

In Garissa, 70% of respondents underscored the significance of promoting joint security operations, particularly through coordinated border patrols and involving local leadership in security efforts. These initiatives enabled both national and local forces to work together more efficiently, improving border management and ensuring a more integrated approach to security (Mingst & Arreguín-Toft, 2016). Collectively, these findings demonstrated how empowering local leaders would strengthen cross-border cooperation, improve security measures, and build sustainable peace in the region.

The statement reflected the crucial role local leaders played in enhancing border security and fostering cooperation between Kenya and Somalia. It highlighted the importance of capacity building for local leaders through training, education, and leadership development programs. These initiatives empowered leaders with the necessary skills to handle security challenges more effectively, with 85% of Somali respondents emphasizing their value (Menkhaus, 2008). In Mandera, 80% of

respondents focused on the need for cross-border dialogue by facilitating regular meetings and establishing cross-border peace committees.

These platforms helped build relationships and trust between communities on both sides of the border, reducing tensions and encouraging collaboration on security matters (Raeymaekers et al., 2008). Finally, in Garissa, 70% of respondents emphasized the significance of joint security operations. Coordinated border patrols and involving local leadership ensured that both local and national security forces collaborated, improving border security management and addressing cross-border threats more effectively (Mingst & Arreguín-Toft, 2016).

The statement suggested that fostering local leadership through capacity-building programs, promoting dialogue across borders, and enhancing cooperation between local and national forces were essential strategies for improving border security. Empowering local leaders and facilitating structured collaboration among communities would lead to more effective conflict management and contribute to long-term peace and stability along the Kenya-Somalia border. This highlighted a people-centric approach to security, which prioritized local knowledge, engagement, and cooperation over solely relying on national security structures.

#### **4.41 Opportunities Presented by The Youth Engagement in Border Diplomacy and Security Initiatives**

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the opportunities presented by youth engagement in border diplomacy and security initiatives. The responses were as follows; The study highlighted the essential role of youth engagement in fostering cross-border peace and security. In Somalia, 85% of respondents emphasized the importance of involving youth to build long-term peace and stability, and suggested

that empowering young people would help address the root causes of conflict and reduce the appeal of extremist groups (Menkhaus, 2004). In Mandera, 75% of respondents noted that youth initiatives were critical in enhancing cross-border cooperation, with activities such as cultural exchanges and joint sports events helping to break down barriers and establish trust between communities on both sides of the border (Andreas & Snyder, 2000).

Meanwhile, in Garissa, 90% of respondents supported the need for strengthening youth advocacy for security, recognizing that empowering young voices would encourage a strong local base of support for peace and border diplomacy efforts. This advocacy not only helped mobilize communities but also promoted sustainable security practices by giving youth a direct role in shaping the region's stability (Raeymaekers et al., 2008).

Collectively, these findings underscored the potential of youth as pivotal actors in achieving and maintaining border security and stability. The above findings reflected the significant potential of youth involvement in border diplomacy and security initiatives to foster long-term peace, enhance cooperation, and stabilize the Kenya-Somalia border region. In Somalia, respondents viewed youth engagement as essential for lasting peace, indicating that empowering young people with positive opportunities and roles would reduce their vulnerability to extremist influences and support conflict resolution efforts. This emphasis on youth highlighted a long-term strategy aimed at addressing conflict's root causes, such as socio-economic inequalities and lack of opportunity, which often drove young people toward instability.

In Mandera, the focus on cross-border cooperation through youth initiatives, like cultural and sports exchanges, suggested that engaging youth from both sides of the border would help bridge divides. This approach emphasized building trust and

understanding, which would prevent conflict and strengthen ties between the border communities. Meanwhile, Garissa's respondents prioritized youth advocacy for security, showing an appreciation for the role young people would play in promoting community-wide support for border stability. By empowering youth to actively advocate for peace and security, local leaders and communities would build a more resilient, grassroots-supported security environment. Involving youth as advocates not only strengthened local security efforts but also created a sustainable framework for border diplomacy, as young people would continue these efforts over time.

Overall, the findings suggested that youth were seen not merely as beneficiaries but as active contributors to peace, cooperation, and security in the border region, with the potential to transform border relations from the ground up.

#### **4.42 Role of Community Policing Initiatives in Enhancing Border Security.**

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the role of community policing initiatives in enhancing border security. The responses were as follows; The study highlighted the critical role of community policing in enhancing border security and fostering cooperation between Kenya and Somalia. In Somalia, 70% of respondents emphasized that building trust and cooperation between local communities and security forces was key to improving border security. This trust created an environment where both sides would work together to address security challenges effectively (Bayley, 1994). In Mandera, 80% of respondents pointed to the importance of community policing in enhancing intelligence gathering, as local communities were often the first to notice suspicious activities and were more likely to report them when they have strong ties to security personnel (Raeymaekers, Menkhaus, & Vlassenroot, 2008).

In Garissa, 65% of respondents highlighted the role of community policing in preventing radicalization and reducing criminal activity by offering alternatives to violence and engaging youth in peacebuilding efforts. These community-based initiatives were essential for addressing underlying socio-economic issues that often drove individuals toward extremism (Wisler & Onwudiwe, 2008). Together, these findings underscored the significant impact of community policing in improving border security, fostering cross-border cooperation, and preventing the spread of terrorism and criminal activities along the Kenya-Somalia border.

In Somalia, 70% of respondents viewed building trust and cooperation between local communities and security forces as essential for improving border security. This implied that when security forces work closely with local communities, engaging them in security efforts, it helps break down mistrust and creates a collaborative approach to addressing security challenges.

The success of this trust-building was crucial for ensuring long-term peace and stability in border regions where tensions can easily arise. In Mandera, 80% of respondents emphasized the importance of community policing in intelligence gathering. This suggested that residents, who were more familiar with the area and its dynamics, would provide valuable information to security forces about potential threats, such as terrorism or cross-border criminal activities.

In Garissa, 65% of respondents highlighted that community policing played a key role in preventing radicalization and reducing criminal activity. This reflected the preventive aspect of community policing, where community members, especially youth, were offered alternatives to violence and involvement in extremist activities. By engaging local populations in peacebuilding initiatives and offering opportunities for

positive engagement, community policing would help prevent the rise of radical groups and criminal enterprises that thrive in marginalized or unstable areas. Overall, the findings of the study suggested that community policing was a critical strategy for addressing security concerns along the Kenya-Somalia border. By fostering trust, improving intelligence-sharing, and offering alternatives to radicalization, community policing strengthens cross-border cooperation, reduces criminal activity, and promotes peace and stability in the region.

#### **4.43 Role of Media and Communication in Support for Border Security**

##### **Initiatives.**

Respondents of the study area were asked to state the role of media and communication in support of border security initiatives. The study revealed the critical role of media and communication strategies in enhancing public understanding and support for border security initiatives along the Kenya-Somalia border. In Somalia, 80% of respondents emphasized the importance of raising awareness through targeted campaigns that outline the goals, benefits, and necessity of security measures. Such campaigns served to educate the public on how these measures contributed to their safety and the broader stability of the region, reducing misunderstandings and fostering community support (Sotirovic & McLeod, 2001). In Mandera, 70% of respondents favored educational programs that used short documentaries and news stories to inform the public about complex border security issues. This approach would simplify the intricacies of border operations, making them more accessible and understandable to the general population (Brants & Voltmer, 2011).

In Garissa, 60% of respondents highlighted the value of using social media to provide real-time updates during critical incidents, which would prevent panic, manage rumors, and offer necessary guidance to communities in times of crisis. Such timely

communication would enhance public cooperation and trust in security agencies (Lewis, 2014). Overall, these findings underscored that tailored media strategies were essential for fostering a well-informed public that actively supports border security efforts. In Somalia, the fact that 80% of respondents saw value in targeted awareness campaigns suggested a strong public need for clear information on the purpose, benefits, and importance of border security measures.

This pointed to an opportunity to enhance trust in these initiatives by directly addressing any misconceptions or concerns the public may have. Such campaigns would help the community see border security not as an isolated government activity, but as a protective measure that benefits and safeguards residents, thereby encouraging a cooperative mindset. In Mandera, 70% of respondents supported educational programs using formats like short documentaries and news stories to explain complex border issues. This preference indicated that there would be a gap in public knowledge about the specific challenges and processes of border security. By presenting this information in an engaging, easy-to-understand format, security agencies would demystify their work, making it more relatable and accessible. Educating the public in this way fosters an informed community that would engage more meaningfully with security efforts and feel more connected to the issues impacting their region. For Garissa, 60% of respondents highlighted social media as a crucial tool for real-time updates during critical incidents, which reflected the community's desire for immediate, transparent communication in times of crisis. This preference suggested that timely updates would play a vital role in maintaining calm, dispelling rumors, and guiding public response, particularly in areas prone to cross-border tensions. By using social media to provide instant updates, security agencies would reduce public anxiety and enhance cooperation by ensuring that accurate information reaches people quickly. In

conclusion, the findings suggested that tailored media approaches whether through campaigns, educational content, or real-time updates were essential for creating an informed, supportive, and engaged public. These strategies build trust, reduce panic, and foster a sense of shared responsibility for border security among communities, ultimately strengthening border security efforts.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

This current study explored the effectiveness of border diplomacy in managing terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border. During the investigation, there was a historical and in-depth analysis of interstate border relations. Furthermore, it analysed the role of border diplomacy in addressing cross-border terrorism between Kenya and Somalia, explored the diplomatic approaches that have been used by Kenya and Somalia to address terrorism at the border and assessed how effective these approaches were, the study examined challenges (political, socio-economic, and security-related) that hindered the effectiveness of border diplomacy in managing terrorism between the two states. Lastly, the study provided recommendations for enhancing the role of border diplomacy in managing terrorism in the Kenya-Somalia context. This chapter summarises the thesis, findings, conclusions, recommendations and suggestions for further research.

#### **5.1 Summary of Findings**

Chapter One introduced pertinent issues of the study by giving the background to the study, the statement of the problem, the objectives, purpose, justification and significance of the study. It further reviewed multi-disciplinary literature that informed the study. The literature review aligned with the different thematic themes related to the study's objectives. The study explored the effectiveness of border diplomacy in managing terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border.

The study's specific objectives were to analyze the role of border diplomacy in addressing cross-border terrorism between Kenya and Somalia. Secondly, it explored

the diplomatic approaches that have been used by Kenya and Somalia to address terrorism at the border, and assessed how effective these approaches were. Third, the study examined the challenges (political, socio-economic, and security-related) that hindered the effectiveness of border diplomacy in managing terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border. Lastly, the study provided recommendations for enhancing the role of border diplomacy in managing terrorism in the Kenya-Somalia context. The conclusion chapter discussed the scope and limitations of the study. The research was conducted in line with the study's specific objectives to achieve these objectives. Two research designs, namely descriptive and exploratory research designs, were used to obtain information concerning border diplomacy, terrorism and state relations between Kenya and Somalia state. Three hundred of the respondents selected were household heads from the counties, and 90 key informants were selected for the study. The study employed various sampling methods that included snowballing, convenience, purposive, and simple random sampling methods. Descriptive statistics were used in the analysis of data. The data obtained was, therefore, thematically examined. Consequently, the key terms/ words and significant themes were linked with the study's objectives. The study findings were thus presented in line with the study's objectives. The summary of the results of this study was discussed in the subsequent sub-section.

#### **5.1.1 Objective One: To Analyze the Role of Border Diplomacy in Addressing Cross-Border Terrorism Between Kenya and Somalia.**

The findings of the study revealed a strong emphasis on security-driven bilateral agreements and joint military actions in Kenya's Mandera and Garissa counties. However, there was a clear need for formalized, multi-dimensional frameworks for collaboration with Somalia to foster sustainable peace. Security cooperation emerged as a critical component, yet discussions indicated that joint operations produced varied

results across regions, with distinct outcomes in Somalia compared to Garissa and Mandera. The study highlighted a gender gap in women's participation in security efforts, underscoring the need to address this disparity. Additionally, socioeconomic challenges, including high levels of poverty and unemployment, were found to increase vulnerability among border populations, affecting both border diplomacy and counter-terrorism initiatives. The study also emphasized the importance of regional and international frameworks, noting that these structures enhanced the efficacy of border diplomacy when combating terrorism. Reflecting on past experiences, successful border diplomacy was often linked to collaborative measures such as joint security operations. Women's contributions to border diplomacy were particularly crucial, as they often endured the consequences of violence and could offer valuable perspectives on counter-terrorism strategies. Lastly, the influence of regional geopolitics shaped by shifting alliances, political agendas, and external actors significantly impacted border diplomacy and counter-terrorism efforts, highlighting the need for nuanced, adaptive approaches in a complex geopolitical landscape.

### **5.1.2 Objective Two: To Explore the Diplomatic Approaches Used by Kenya and Somalia to Address Terrorism at The Border, And Assess How Effective These Approaches Were**

Objective two of the study explored various diplomatic agreements and frameworks developed between Kenya and Somalia to enhance border security, particularly through the East African Community's anti-terrorism strategy. These frameworks emphasized enhanced cooperation and intelligence sharing, creating a multifaceted approach to addressing terrorism-related challenges. Tripartite and bilateral discussions further contributed to these efforts. Respondents' perceptions of the effectiveness of these diplomatic approaches varied, with many viewing them as ineffective in Somalia due

to ongoing terrorist threats, while others saw moderate success in Garissa, where progress had been made despite significant obstacles. Bilateral meetings and diplomatic dialogues played a central role in shaping border management strategies, facilitating conflict resolution, dispute management, and addressing security threats. The strength of joint security operations supported through diplomatic negotiations between Kenya and Somalia led to notable advancements in capacity building, training, and improved intelligence sharing. Community involvement was identified as essential to the success of border diplomacy, as cultural and social considerations aligned with local customs and societal norms to gain acceptance and foster support. Mechanisms for conflict resolution, including cultural and religious dialogues and shared traditions, also promoted peace and reconciliation. Joint task forces and community engagements provided a multi-faceted approach to conflict resolution along the Kenya-Somalia border.

Socioeconomic factors, such as humanitarian and refugee issues, as well as trade and economic interests, shaped the diplomatic approaches of both governments and influenced local perceptions regarding security, counter-terrorism, and extremism. Shared economic interests, particularly in trade and investment opportunities, also underscored the potential for economic development. Lastly, the perception of youth and marginalized groups significantly influenced border diplomacy, highlighting the role of cultural and historical contexts, economic opportunities, and the need for employment to mitigate risks of radicalization.

### **5.1.3 Objective Three: To Examine the Challenges (Political, Socio-Economic, And Security-Related) That Hinder the Effectiveness of Border Diplomacy in Managing Terrorism Along the Kenya-Somalia Border**

In examining objective three, the study found that political instability in Somalia significantly impacted Kenya's border security, leading to enhanced security measures such as increased military presence, intensified border surveillance, and patrols. Kenya also strengthened its involvement in regional counter-terrorism cooperation but faced diplomatic strains as Somali instability continued to influence its security and diplomatic environment in multifaceted ways. Socioeconomic and cultural factors played a role in youth radicalization in border communities, with marginalization, limited job opportunities, poverty, identity crises, and cultural pressures contributing to youth vulnerability. Weak family and community structures further compounded the complex sociocultural landscape, heightening the risk of radicalization among youth in these regions.

The study also observed that misinformation and propaganda exacerbated tensions along the Kenya-Somalia border. Social media served as a powerful vector for spreading propaganda, fueling misunderstanding, mistrust, and communal tensions, often manipulated for political gains. Institutional and bureaucratic challenges, such as the lack of a unified policy framework, insufficient inter-agency coordination, and the absence of joint task forces, hindered effective border management. Additionally, the role of external actors and foreign interventions in shaping Kenya's border diplomacy and counter-terrorism strategies was significant, influencing national policy responses. Security threats such as cross-border infiltration, human smuggling, trafficking, and ethnic and clan-based conflicts added further complexity to Kenya's border diplomacy and counter-terrorism efforts.

#### **5.1.4 Objective Four: To Provide Recommendations for Enhancing the Role of Border Diplomacy in Managing Terrorism in The Kenya-Somalia Context**

In addressing terrorism through border diplomacy between Kenya and Somalia, best practices focused on joint patrols, intelligence sharing, regular communication, and mutual agreements to ensure sustained security without over-reliance on force. Community engagement played a crucial role, where local participation was fostered through policies that promoted community-driven programs, investment in schools, clinics, infrastructure, and public awareness campaigns. Intelligence sharing enhanced early threat detection by reporting suspicious activities, while socio-economic development such as employment, income opportunities, education, and skills training mitigated the appeal of extremist groups, and equipped youth to resist radical ideologies and pursue lawful livelihoods.

Understanding local perceptions was essential, as there were significant concerns regarding current diplomatic efforts, including distrust of border control measures, language barriers, and limited coordination between national forces. Regional organizations contributed by facilitating dialogue, mediating cross-border tensions, and promoting economic integration to enhance diplomatic ties. Media and communication supported these efforts by raising public awareness through targeted campaigns, educational programs, and social media, providing real-time updates during critical incidents to prevent panic and manage rumors effectively. Lastly, community policing builds trust between local populations and security forces, bolsters intelligence gathering, and reduces radicalization and crime by engaging youth in peacebuilding activities and offering alternatives to violence.

### **5.3 Conclusions**

This current study explored the effectiveness of border diplomacy in managing terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border. This section of the study interprets and synthesizes the findings of this present study and provides an appropriate assessment corresponding to the results. The conclusions of this current study are discussed below in line with the study's objectives.

#### **5.3.1 Objective One: To Analyse the Role of Border Diplomacy in Addressing Cross-Border Terrorism Between Kenya and Somalia**

Conclusion and Border Security Theory: Border security theory emphasized the importance of controlling and securing borders to manage threats like terrorism. The role of border diplomacy in managing cross-border terrorism was seen as part of efforts to create effective border management mechanisms.

The conclusion revealed that Kenya and Somalia's diplomatic strategies (such as joint border patrols, intelligence-sharing, and coordinated counterterrorism operations) were vital in enhancing security and reducing terrorism at the border. As framed by this theory, border diplomacy involves not just political agreements but tangible measures to secure and manage the border. Border diplomacy, specifically establishing joint commissions and regular diplomatic meetings, had positively influenced bilateral relations, though unresolved territorial disputes often undermined the impact.

#### **5.3.2 Objective ii: To Explore the Diplomatic Approaches Used by Kenya and Somalia to Address Terrorism at The Border, And Assess How Effective These Approaches Were**

Conclusion and Structural Realism Theory: The diplomatic approaches explored (e.g., bilateral agreements, security cooperation) were a direct response to the security

dilemmas both states faced as they sought to prevent terrorism along the border. Structural realism suggested that the effectiveness of these diplomatic measures depended on the balance of power between the two states and their ability to protect their sovereignty and national interests. While cooperation would occur, each state's primary concern was often to maximize its security, which would limit the long-term effectiveness of these approaches. In practice, diplomacy at the border was shaped by the need for both states to gain security assurances without conceding too much power or control to the other.

**5.3.3 Objective: To examine the challenges (political, socio-economic, and security-related) that hinder the effectiveness of border diplomacy in managing terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia Border**

Conclusion and Border Security Theory: According to border security theory, challenges such as porous borders, lack of infrastructure, and political instability in either state undermined effective security management. The theory has highlighted that these challenges complicated not just physical security efforts but also the coordination of joint border security measures. Political tensions, lack of trust, and socio-economic disparities have limited cooperation and hindered the successful implementation of diplomatic and security policies at the border. This analysis has shown the theory's practical relevance in explaining why border diplomacy was difficult to execute effectively in the face of complex challenges. These insecurities hamper effective diplomatic cooperation.

**5.1.4 Objective iv: To Provide Recommendations for Enhancing the Role of Border Diplomacy in Managing Terrorism in The Kenya-Somalia Context.**

Conclusion and Structural Realism Theory: The recommendations for enhancing border diplomacy have been aligned with structural realism by suggesting strategies

that allow Kenya and Somalia to maximize their security while balancing the power dynamics between them. This would include creating stronger security alliances or fostering third-party interventions to help manage border security, as well as enhancing coordination on counterterrorism initiatives.

Structural realism has argued that enhancing border diplomacy requires both states to act in their national interest, but also recognized that cooperation would increase their collective security in a context where they face mutual threats.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

From the findings and the conclusions, the following recommendations were made;

- i. Improve intelligence sharing and joint patrols between Kenya and Somalia for better threat detection and border security.
- ii. Create a Border Diplomacy Council in the context of Kenya and Somalia and regular diplomatic forums to build trust and resolve security concerns collaboratively.
- iii. Invest in local development along the Kenya-Somalia border, engage border communities in security efforts, and address the socio-economic vulnerabilities that extremists exploit.
- iv. Support governance improvements in Somalia to stabilize the border region and counter terrorism effectively.

#### **5.5 Suggestions for further research**

The following suggestions were made after research findings and discussions, for they were not adequately underscored.

- i. A study should be conducted to assess the Impact of Cross-Border Cooperation Mechanisms on Counterterrorism Efforts.

- ii. A study be conducted to establish the Role of Local Communities in Border Diplomacy and Counterterrorism.
- iii. A study should be conducted to determine The Influence of External Actors on Border Diplomacy and Terrorism Management.
- iv. A study should be conducted to Evaluate the Impact of Socioeconomic Development on Terrorism and Border Stability.

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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX I: Household Head Questionnaire

#### Background Information

| GENDER | DURATION OF STAY   | PERCEPTION OF RISK | EDUCATION         |
|--------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
|        | 0-5 yrs            | High               | 1. Primary        |
|        | 5-10 yrs           | Low                | 2. Secondary      |
|        | More than 10 years |                    | 3. Post-secondary |
|        |                    |                    | 4. None           |

#### SECTION A: BORDER DIPLOMACY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF TERRORISM

- 1) What are the primary mechanisms of border diplomacy currently employed by Kenya and Somalia to address terrorism?
- 2) How effective are joint security operations and intelligence-sharing initiatives in mitigating terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border?
- 3) What role do local communities play in supporting or hindering border diplomacy efforts to combat terrorism?
- 4) How do socio-economic factors influence the effectiveness of border diplomacy in managing terrorism in the Kenya-Somalia border region?
- 5) How do regional and international frameworks support or undermine border diplomacy efforts in combating terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border?
- 6) What lessons can be learned from past border diplomacy efforts between Kenya and Somalia in addressing terrorism?
- 7) How can the integration of gender perspectives enhance border diplomacy efforts in managing terrorism?
- 8) What historical factors have shaped the current state of border diplomacy between Kenya and Somalia concerning terrorism?
- 9) How do cultural and ethnic dynamics along the Kenya-Somalia border impact diplomatic relations and counter-terrorism initiatives?

- 10) What specific policies have been implemented as part of border diplomacy to address the recruitment strategies of terrorist organizations operating in the region?
- 11) How can technology and innovation enhance border diplomacy efforts in monitoring and managing terrorism threats?
- 12) What are the implications of cross-border trade and movement on security and diplomatic relations between Kenya and Somalia?
- 13) How do varying governmental capacities between Kenya and Somalia affect their collaborative counter-terrorism strategies?
- 14) How do changes in regional geopolitical dynamics influence border diplomacy and counter-terrorism efforts along the Kenya-Somalia border?

## **SECTION B: DIPLOMATIC AGREEMENTS AND FRAMEWORKS**

- 1) What specific diplomatic agreements and frameworks have been established between Kenya and Somalia to address border security and terrorism?
- 2) How effective have these diplomatic approaches been in reducing cross-border terrorism incidents between Kenya and Somalia?
- 3) What role do bilateral meetings and diplomatic dialogues play in shaping border management strategies between Kenya and Somalia?
- 4) What are the strengths and weaknesses of joint security operations implemented as a result of diplomatic negotiations between the two countries?
- 5) How do local perceptions of border diplomacy affect the success of implemented strategies in managing terrorism?
- 6) What mechanisms exist for conflict resolution and addressing disputes arising from border management efforts between Kenya and Somalia?
- 7) How do socio-economic factors influence the diplomatic approaches to border management between Kenya and Somalia?
- 8) How do the political landscapes of both countries affect their diplomatic approaches to managing the Kenya-Somalia border?
- 9) How do trade and economic interests shape the diplomatic approaches to border management between Kenya and Somalia?
- 10) How do the perceptions of youth and marginalized groups influence the effectiveness of diplomatic initiatives in the Kenya-Somalia border region?

## **SECTION C: CHALLENGES TO BORDER DIPLOMACY**

- 1) What political factors contribute to the challenges faced by Kenya and Somalia in implementing effective border diplomacy for counter-terrorism?
- 2) What socio-economic conditions, such as poverty and unemployment, influence the effectiveness of border diplomacy in addressing terrorism in the region?
- 3) What role do local community dynamics play in the success or failure of border diplomacy initiatives aimed at managing terrorism?
- 4) How do cross-border movements of people and goods complicate the implementation of border security measures and diplomacy?
- 5) What security threats, including the presence of terrorist groups, pose significant challenges to the effectiveness of border diplomacy in the region?
- 6) How does the involvement of external actors and foreign interventions affect the dynamics of border diplomacy and counter-terrorism efforts?
- 7) What institutional and bureaucratic barriers exist within Kenya and Somalia that impede effective cooperation in border management?
- 8) How do media representations and narratives about terrorism and border security influence public perceptions and governmental actions in both countries?
- 9) What socio-cultural factors contribute to the radicalization of youth in border communities, and how do these factors impact border diplomacy?
- 10) What role does misinformation and propaganda play in exacerbating tensions between communities along the Kenya-Somalia border?
- 11) In what ways do social networks and informal economies along the border contribute to or hinder border management efforts?

## **SECTION D: STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN BORDER DIPLOMACY INITIATIVES**

- 1) What best practices in border diplomacy have been successful in other regions facing similar terrorism challenges, and how can these be adapted to the Kenya-Somalia context?
- 2) How can community engagement and local participation be integrated into border security initiatives to enhance their effectiveness?
- 3) What role does information sharing and intelligence cooperation between Kenya and Somalia play in strengthening border diplomacy?
- 4) How can socio-economic development initiatives along the border contribute to reducing the appeal of terrorism and improving security?
- 5) What are the perceptions of local populations regarding the effectiveness of current border diplomacy efforts, and how can these perceptions inform future initiatives?
- 6) In what ways can regional organizations (e.g., IGAD, AU) support Kenya and Somalia in enhancing their border diplomatic efforts?
- 7) How can training and capacity-building initiatives for security personnel improve the effectiveness of border diplomacy?
- 8) What role does cultural diplomacy play in fostering trust and cooperation between Kenya and Somalia in border security matters?
- 9) How can technology, such as surveillance and communication tools, be leveraged to strengthen border diplomacy and enhance security?
- 10) What role do community policing initiatives play in enhancing border security and fostering trust between communities and security agencies?
- 11) How can media and communication strategies be used to improve public understanding and support for border security initiatives?

## **APPENDIX II: Focus Group Discussion**

### **Title: Exploring the Role of Border Diplomacy in Managing Cross-Border Terrorism between Kenya and Somalia**

To gain insights into the role, challenges, and effectiveness of border diplomacy in addressing cross-border terrorism between Kenya and Somalia, as well as to identify potential recommendations for improvement.

#### **Key Discussion Areas and Questions**

##### **A. Analyzing the Role of Border Diplomacy (20-30 minutes)**

**Opening Question:** In your view, what role does border diplomacy play in managing terrorism at the Kenya-Somalia border?

**Follow-up:** Could you provide examples of diplomatic actions or initiatives that have helped reduce cross-border terrorism?

##### **B. Diplomatic Approaches and Effectiveness (30-40 minutes)**

**Question 1:** What diplomatic approaches have been used by Kenya and Somalia to address terrorism along the border?

**Question 2:** How effective do you believe these approaches have been? Are there particular strategies or interventions that have stood out as more successful?

**Probing:** What factors contribute to the success or limitations of these approaches?

##### **C. Challenges to Effective Border Diplomacy (30-40 minutes)**

**Question 1:** What political challenges exist in implementing border diplomacy between Kenya and Somalia?

**Question 2:** How do socio-economic conditions along the border impact the effectiveness of these diplomatic efforts?

**Question 3:** What are the key security-related challenges that complicate border diplomacy in managing terrorism?

**Probing:** How have these challenges affected the cooperation between Kenya and Somalia?

#### **D. Recommendations for Enhancing Border Diplomacy (20-30 minutes)**

**Question 1:** What improvements could be made to strengthen the role of border diplomacy in addressing terrorism between Kenya and Somalia?

**Question 2:** Are there particular policies, practices, or collaborative approaches that you would recommend?

**Closing Question:** If you could change one thing about the current border diplomacy strategies, what would it be?

## **APPENDIX III: Key Informant Interview (KII) Schedule**

### **Title:**

Exploring the Role of Border Diplomacy in Managing Cross-Border Terrorism between Kenya and Somalia

To gather expert insights into the role, strategies, challenges, and potential improvements for border diplomacy in managing cross-border terrorism between Kenya and Somalia.

### **1. Core Interview Questions**

#### **A. Analyzing the Role of Border Diplomacy (15-20 minutes)**

**Primary Question:** In your experience, what is the role of border diplomacy in managing terrorism between Kenya and Somalia?

#### **Follow-up Questions:**

Can you share any specific examples where diplomatic efforts have influenced the security situation along the border?

How do you believe diplomacy differs from other approaches (e.g., military) in managing terrorism in this context?

#### **B. Exploring Diplomatic Approaches and Effectiveness (20-25 minutes)**

**Primary Question:** What diplomatic approaches have Kenya and Somalia used to address terrorism along their shared border?

#### **Follow-up Questions:**

Which of these approaches do you think have been most effective in reducing cross-border terrorism?

Are there any instances where diplomatic strategies did not work as intended? Why?

What factors have contributed to the success or limitations of these approaches?

### **C. Examining Challenges to Effective Border Diplomacy (25-30 minutes)**

**Primary Question:** What challenges hinder the effectiveness of border diplomacy in managing terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border?

#### **Follow-up Questions:**

From a political perspective, what barriers exist to successful diplomacy in this context?

How do socio-economic conditions impact cross-border relations and security efforts?

What security-related challenges complicate diplomatic efforts to manage terrorism?

**Probing:** In your opinion, what impact do these challenges have on the cooperation between Kenya and Somalia?

### **D. Recommendations for Enhancing Border Diplomacy (15-20 minutes)**

**Primary Question:** What recommendations would you suggest to enhance the role of border diplomacy in addressing terrorism along the Kenya-Somalia border?

#### **Follow-up Questions:**

Are there particular policies or practices you believe could improve the effectiveness of diplomacy in this context?

What additional support (e.g., resources, training, partnerships) could strengthen these efforts?

**Closing Question:** If you could prioritize one change to enhance border diplomacy, what would it be and why

## APPENDIX IV: Research Authorization



### NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Telephone: +254 20-2213471,  
2241349, 3310471, 2219420  
Fax: +254-20-318245, 318249  
Email: dg@nacosti.go.ke  
Website : www.nacosti.go.ke  
When replying please quote

NACOSTI, Upper Kabete  
Off Waiyaki Way  
P.O. Box 30623-00100  
NAIROBI-KENYA

Ref. No. **NACOSTI/P/19/37472/30843**

Date: **18<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

Reuben Ating'a Akeng'a  
Kenyatta University  
P.O. Box 43844-00100  
**NAIROBI.**

#### **RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION**

Following your application for authority to carry out research on "*Cross-border security between a transitional and stable state: Kenya and Somalia border security strategies, from 1991-2017.*" I am pleased to inform you that you have been authorized to undertake research in **Mandera County** for the period ending **17<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.**

You are advised to report to **the County Commissioner, and the County Director of Education, Mandera County** before embarking on the research project.

Kindly note that, as an applicant who has been licensed under the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 to conduct research in Kenya, you shall deposit **a copy** of the final research report to the Commission within **one year** of completion. The soft copy of the same should be submitted through the Online Research Information System.

  
**DR MOSES RUGUT, PhD, OGW**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL/CEO**

Copy to:

The County Commissioner  
Mandera County.

The County Director of Education  
Mandera County.

*National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation is ISO9001:2008 Certified*

## APPENDIX V: Research Authorization Request



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL

E-mail: [kubps@yahoo.com](mailto:kubps@yahoo.com)  
[dean-graduate@ku.ac.ke](mailto:dean-graduate@ku.ac.ke)  
Website: [www.ku.ac.ke](http://www.ku.ac.ke)

P.O. Box 43844, 00100  
NAIROBI, KENYA  
Tel. 8710901 Ext. 57530

Our Ref: CS2/CTY/37018/17

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2019

The Director General,  
National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation,  
P.O. Box 30623-00100,  
NAIROBI

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION FOR MR. REUBEN ATING'A - REG. NO. CS2/CTY/37018/17

I write to introduce Mr. Ating'a who is a Postgraduate Student of this University. He is registered for a Ph.D. degree programme in the **Department of Conflict Resolution & Inter. Relations in the School of Security, Diplomacy & Peace Studies**

Mr. Ating'a intends to conduct research for Ph.D. thesis entitled, "Cross-Border Security Between a Trans-Sitional and Stable State: Kenya and Somalia Border Security Strategies, 1991-2018".

Any assistance given will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

  
PROF. ELISHIBA KIMANI  
DEAN, GRADUATE SCHOOL

KM/cao

# APPENDIX VI: Research Permit

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:**  
**MR. REUBEN ATING'A AKENG'A**  
**of KENYATTA UNIVERSITY, 41842-100**  
**NAIROBI, has been permitted to conduct**  
**research in Mandera County.**



**on the topic: CROSS-BORDER SECURITY**  
**BETWEEN A TRANS-ITIONAL AND**  
**STABLE STATE: KENYA AND SOMALIA**  
**BORDER SECURITY STRATEGIES, FROM**  
**1991-2017**

**for the period ending:**  
**17th June, 2020.**

**Applicant's**  
**Signature**

**Permit No : NACOSTI/P/19/37472/30843**  
**Date Of Issue : 18th June, 2019.**  
**Fee Received : Ksh 2000**

**Director General**  
**National Commission for Science,**  
**Technology & Innovation**



## APPENDIX VI: Map of Kenya and Somalia Border

