

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND NATIONAL SECURITY AT JOMO
KENYATTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND MOI INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT, KENYA**

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JUNE, 2024

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this research thesis has not previously been submitted for a degree award in this university or any other and that all references have been acknowledged.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to my family and many friends. Special gratitude goes to my loving parents Naomi Wanjiru and the late Ephantus Karanja, whose words of encouragement and push for tenacity still ring in my ears. Very special gratitude to my siblings who have walked with me in this academic journey and have never deserted me. I also dedicate this thesis to my church, ACK St. Monica Utawala, for their prayers throughout my academic life in the university. I will always appreciate Rev Jack Morris who steadfastly stood with me in prayers.

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Many thanks to the Almighty God without whom, I am nobody. This thesis has been another instrument God has used to mould my character; it has not been simple, but the results have been worth it. Each success I achieve is a result of keeping my eyes on Him; every failure is a result of losing sight of Him. May His righteousness, love and honesty triumph.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

| | |
|----------|---|
| CHS | Commission on Human Security |
| DCI | Directorate of Criminal Investigations |
| HT | Human Trafficking |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| INTERPOL | International Police |
| JKIA | Jomo Kenyatta International Airport |
| KNHCR | Kenya National Commission on Human Rights. |
| MIA | Moi International Airport |
| NPS | National Police Service |
| OHCHR | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| SALWs | Small Arms Light Weapons |
| TOCs | Transnational Organized Crimes |
| TT | Transnational Threats |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNCTC | United Nations Convention against Transnational Crime |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNODC | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| UNTOC | United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime |
| US | United States |
| USA | United States of America |
| USNSS | United State National Security Strategy |

ABSTRACT

This study endeavored to analyze the effects of Human Trafficking on National Security with a focus on Jomo Kenyatta and Moi International Airports in Kenya. The study embraced cross sectional survey design using both qualitative and quantitative approaches in data collection and analysis. The target population was security agents, mainly officers from the Directorate of Criminal Investigation and the Kenya Airport Police Unit, as well as immigration officers stationed at Jomo Kenyatta and Moi international airports. Proportionate stratified random sampling and purposive sampling were adapted to identify the participants for the study. Data collection was through thematically structured questionnaires that were in line with the study objectives, and through an interview guide. Quantitative data was analyzed through descriptive statistics using frequency distributions while qualitative data was analyzed thematically. Findings from the quantitative data revealed a significant prevalence of human trafficking at airports, with a notable gender disparity among both victims and traffickers. The results also showed that human trafficking was sustained by weak laws, involvement of human trafficking cartels, involvement of airport employees, challenges in detecting victims of human trafficking due to work permits and weak systems as well as interference by the political class. Findings from qualitative data showed that the high rate of unemployment, poverty, and discriminatory labour laws obscured the dangers associated with human trafficking, making the victims fall in the trap of the traffickers. Among other things, kidnapping, terrorism, money laundering and banditry were the biggest security risks associated with human trafficking. The findings showed that money laundering affected financial institutions and stalled economic growth of the country. Moreover, the victims of abduction engaged in heinous crimes against the nation. In addition, the study showed that human trafficking threatens national security in various ways including; undermining international cooperation, weakening governance, supporting terrorist and armed groups, supporting abusive regimes, bankrolling criminal activities, undermining community and national stability as well as fueling conflict among others. Qualitative data also revealed that human trafficking ruptured the social fabric, and denied individuals, especially children, opportunities for development. Overall, the study found human trafficking to have far-reaching negative effects on national security. Based on the findings, the study recommended promotion of comprehensive approaches that involve coordinating security in all airlines and law enforcement agencies to strengthen security at the airports, and address various undercurrents that make individuals vulnerable to the persuasions of human traffickers.

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DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

Human Trafficking means an act of procuring another person's cooperation with intent to exploit through abducting, transporting, transferring, harbouring, or receiving of that person through threats, coercion, force, or other coercive measures, fraud, deceit or abuse of power. It also involves disbursing or collecting money or perks.

Exploitation involves using people for sexual purposes, forcing them to perform labour or provide services, engaging in slavery-like behaviour, servitude, or removing organs from them

National security means guarding against threats to Kenyans, their rights and freedoms, peace and stability, property and prosperity, as well as other national interests.

Cartels are all persons involved in any kind of coordination of efforts among recruiters, transporters and exploiters of human trafficking victims.

Trafficked persons are people whose consent has been taken away by the offender in an effort to gain control over them through violence, deceit, or any other tactic that might persuade them in the process.

Traffickers include recruiters, transporters, those who exercise control over trafficked persons, those who transfer and/or maintain trafficked persons in exploitative situations, those involved in related crimes, and those who profit either directly or indirectly from trafficking, its component acts and related offences.

Undercurrents refer to the hidden or subtle forces, dynamics, or trends that sustains the prevalence of human trafficking.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Human trafficking (HT) is a crime against humanity. It has, in recent years become a serious threat to global peace and security (UN report, 2019; Swaileh, 2020). Numerous security stakeholders as well as the affected communities have raised concerns about the rate of human trafficking (UNODC, 2020). Kenya remains a point of entry and exit for illicit trafficking of human beings (UNODC, 2020). Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) in Nairobi and Moi International Airport (MIA) in Mombasa, are the main gateways to the global community. The study endeavored to examine the security implications of HT on National Security (NS), with specific reference to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and Moi International Airport in Kenya. Chapter One presents the background to the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions, justification and significance, and finally, the scope and limitation.

1.2 Background to the Study

Security is crucial for national survival. However, as a concept it has different meanings under different contexts. A study by Bourne (2019) on redefining security indicated that, security is a multifaceted concept crucial for national well-being. The study emphasised the constitutional provision that deems national security as not solely confined to traditional military aspects but as an all-encompassing shield against diverse perils. These perils include those that could disrupt the peace, stability, and prosperity of the nation. Importantly, the concept recognizes the

interconnectedness of various national interests, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive approach that extends beyond conventional defence strategies. To this end, national security is a holistic concept denoting a state's capability to safeguard its citizens, territorial integrity, and sovereignty against a spectrum of internal and external threats.

The definition, in accordance with the UNODC (2023) and the Constitution of Kenya (2010), demonstrates that national security encompasses multifaceted dimensions. Primarily, it involves the protection of citizens, ensuring their rights, freedoms, and property are secure. Furthermore, national security extends to shielding the nation's territorial boundaries and sovereignty from external encroachments. Accordingly, any activity such as human trafficking - the focus of this study - that jeopardizes the well-being of individuals, communities, or a nation becomes a security concern.

Human trafficking represents a grave manifestation of exploitation, encompassing the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of individuals through force, fraud, or coercion, with the intent of exploitation (Winkler 2021; UN report, 2023). This exploitative conduct manifests in diverse ways, such as forced labour, sexual exploitation, and involuntary servitude. As a modern-day form of slavery human trafficking stands as a flagrant violation of fundamental human rights (Lauren & Annie, 2019). The practice entails the abuse and manipulation of vulnerable individuals, which breach ethical and moral standards (UN Report 2018; Winkler, 2021) in addition to violating various aspects of human security.

As indicated by UNODC (2018), human trafficking process results in both physical and psychological harm that threaten the survival, livelihood and dignity of individuals. According to Bourne (2019), Human Security entails protection of individuals from severe and prevalent threats.

From the existing literature, HT is associated with transnational crimes like terrorism, drug trafficking, and proliferation of small and light arms all with far reaching consequences on national security (Moore, 2018). The implication of this is that HT has direct effect on human security and, by extension, national security. Scholars such as Dominique (2019); Nzioka (2021) and Winkler (2021) argue that the main motive for human trafficking is for various purposes including sexual, economic and forced labour exploitation. Though these issues threaten the survival of nations, there has been limited research on how the security threats posed to individuals through human trafficking affect national security. This study sought to address this gap.

Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) and Moi International Airport (MIA) in Kenya are key hubs in this intricate network because human trafficking is a complex problem that affects national security on both a local and global scale. This heightens worries about possible risks to national security and the exploitation of weaker people.

Previous researches pointed out that criminal networks span continents, exploiting the dreams and desperation of millions of people seeking better lives (Fouladvand and Ward, 2018; Najar, 2021). The clandestine nature of these operations often involves coercion, fraud, and force. Victims are subjected to various forms of

exploitation such as forced labour and sexual exploitation. Nonetheless, the world continues to witness an increase of the vice. A study by International Labour Organization - ILO (2019) for instance, estimated that, approximately 24.9 million people were trafficked globally. Out of the total, approximately 16 million (64%) of them were trafficked for unforced labour, 4.8 million (19%) for sexual exploitation, and 4.1 million (17%) for forced labour. Similarly, the U.S State Department Report (2023), revealed that more than 27 million people were victims of human trafficking. As seen from the existing literature, the vice is rampant across the globe. This has the implication that the associated security threats are experienced across the world.

According to the Global Slavery Index (2018), 23% of global human trafficking takes place in Africa, with over 9.2 million people living in modern slavery. This makes up nearly a quarter of all-human trafficking around the globe (UNODC, 2020). According to the report, countries within Africa with the highest number of victims per 1,000 people include Eritrea with the highest prevalence of 93 victims per 1,000, followed by Burundi with 40 victims while the Central African Republic has 22.3 victims (UNODC, 2022). In recent years, Eastern Africa has become a new hub for trafficking routes. Criminal groups and illicit traffickers operate effectively across borders, trafficking their victims through airways (UNODC, 2023). A growing number of Africans are being trafficked and exploited along migration routes to Europe and the Middle East (UNODC, 2023). This has the implication that the mode of transport could be airports.

Air transport plays a pivotal role in international trade (both legal and illegal), facilitating the movement of people, goods, and services across diverse geographical

markets. In line with this view, Hulseley (2018) observed the potential for air transport being exploited for illegal activities, including the clandestine movement of people and illicit goods. Existing literature demonstrates that airports are one of the many avenues within the transportation sector that traffickers use to conduct their illicit activities (Fordham, et al 2023). This being the case, the insecurities associated with human trafficking, such as terrorism, money laundering and human slavery are likely be experienced through the airports. However, although there is evidence that a large number of victims are trafficked through airports, there has been a gap in analysing how this could affect national security. This study, therefore sought to establish the effect of HT on national security at JKIA and MIA in Kenya.

Kenya serves as a point of origin, transit, and destination for illicit trafficking in human beings. Individuals from Ethiopia, Somalia, and Eritrea often pass through Kenya on their way to South Africa and Europe (UNODC, 2022). The strategic geographic location of Kenya makes it a preferred gateway for many perpetrators in the East Africa region (Global Initiative, 2021). To this end, vulnerable populations, particularly women and children, are the target for trafficking where by JKIA in Nairobi and MIA in Mombasa, stand as critical junctures for trafficking networks (African Sisters Education Collaborative, 2021; UNODC, 2023).

JKIA, as East Africa's largest and busiest airport, handles a significant volume of passengers and cargo, making it susceptible to trafficking activities (National Crime Research Centre, 2022). Moi International Airport, serving the coastal region, faces similar challenges (Atieno, 2021).

Traffickers may exploit the anonymity and chaos of busy terminals, utilizing false documents and thus use tactics to deceive or coerce their victims into compliance. Manipulation to move victims undetected. Accordingly, victims and traffickers are able to blend in with other travellers; hence, it is easy to pass through the airport without detection (Fodharm et al., 2023.) The fact that human trafficking is a covert crime that may go undetected by security agencies at airports, the impact of this illicit activity on Kenya's security, both at the airports and in the country, remains unclear. Obviously, lack of clarity poses a challenge for national security assessment (National Crime Research Centre - NCRC, 2022).

Understanding these undercurrents is crucial for formulating effective strategies to address the complexities arising from human trafficking within the realm of air transport. The possible intersection of human trafficking and national security at these airports underscored the need for this study.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Human trafficking is a severe and growing global issue that poses significant threats to national security, public safety, and human rights. In Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and Moi International Airport serve as major hubs for international travel and commerce. Unfortunately, these airports are also exploited as transit points for human trafficking activities. Despite efforts by authorities, human trafficking continues to thrive, facilitated by sophisticated networks that exploit vulnerabilities in airport security and immigration controls. Traffickers use these airports to smuggle individuals, often under false pretenses, to various destinations. The victims are subjected to forced labor, sexual exploitation, and other forms of abuse.

The presence of human trafficking networks at JKIA and MIA undermines national security by facilitating illegal activities and potentially funding other criminal enterprises, including terrorism and drug trafficking. The porous security measures and corruption at various checkpoints exacerbate the problem, allowing traffickers to operate with relative impunity. This compromises the safety and integrity of the country's borders and its overall security apparatus. Effective detection and enforcement are hindered by several factors, including limited resources, inadequate training of personnel, and insufficient inter-agency coordination. Traffickers frequently exploit legal loopholes and use advanced technologies to evade detection, which further hampers efforts to combat this menace. Beyond the immediate security implications, human trafficking has profound social and economic consequences. It undermines the rule of law, exacerbates human suffering, and damages Kenya's international reputation.

Although human trafficking has aspects that may directly and indirectly affect national security few empirical studies have systematically examined its effect on transit locations, such as airports that are the ultimate nodes of a country's national security. This study, therefore sought to examine the effects of human trafficking on national security in Kenya, specifically in the international airports of JKIA and MIA.

1.4 Purpose of study

The purpose of this study was to analyse the relationship between human trafficking and national security with specific reference to JKIA and MIA, Kenya.

1.5 Research Objectives

The following research objectives guided the study;

- i. To examine the undercurrents that sustain the prevalence of human trafficking and their effects on national security at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) and Moi International Airport (MIA), Kenya
- ii. To assess the security threats associated with forms of human trafficking and their effects on national security at JKIA and MIA, Kenya.
- iii. To analyze the implications of the security challenges posed by human trafficking on national security at JKIA and MIA, Kenya.
- iv. To determine best practices to address human trafficking so as to enhance national security at JKIA and MIA, Kenya.

1.6 Research Questions

The study sought to answer the following research questions;

- i. What are the undercurrents that sustain the prevalence of human trafficking and how do they affect national security at JKIA and MIA, Kenya?
- ii. What are the security threats associated with forms of human trafficking and their effect on national security at JKIA and MIA, Kenya?
- iii. How do the security challenges posed by human trafficking affect national security at JKIA and MIA, Kenya?
- iv. Which are the best practices needed to address human trafficking in order enhance national security at JKIA and MIA, Kenya?

1.7 Significance of the study

By addressing the study objectives, this study aimed to contribute to the body of knowledge on human trafficking in the air industry, offering insights that can inform evidence-based policies and strategies to enhance national security efforts in Kenya.

The information analysed by this study may contribute to knowledge by generating and documenting information about security implications of HT on Kenya's national security. This may inform the policy makers at NPS, immigration, other security agencies and researchers in undertaking effective intervention strategies against human trafficking. By addressing these aspects, this study aimed to contribute to the body of knowledge on human trafficking in the aviation sector, offering insights that can inform evidence-based policies and strategies to enhance national security efforts in Kenya.

This study uniquely contributes to the existing body of knowledge by employing Differential Opportunity Theory to delve into the socio-economic drivers of human trafficking at Jomo Kenyatta International airport and Moi International Airport. Additionally, it adopts Securitization Theory to analyse the framing of trafficking as a security issue, offering a nuanced understanding crucial for tailored interventions.

To the NPS, police officers could be able cooperate with citizens and civil society organizations to support the development of civic education programs, community and school-based interventions for at-risk children, and community forums. This underscores the significance of a multi-faceted approach involving collaboration, prevention, community engagement, protection of vulnerable groups, and

understanding the security implications of human trafficking in efforts to combat HT and enhance national security.

To the immigration department, the officers could be able to produce novel ideas or information about security implications of human trafficking on national security. They will be able to recognize the kind of strategies and actions required to enhance their capacities for effective collaboration with other security agencies in preventing human trafficking at the airports while maintain their autonomy.

To researchers, academicians and students, the study findings will invoke them into doing further research, as well as contribute polices to international cooperation. These will help the policy makers in providing principles that guide counter trafficking agencies in the implementation of more effective collaboration measures.

1.8 Justification of the Study

Human trafficking, a pervasive global issue poses extensive threats to individual well-being and national security, encompassing risks to public safety, human rights violations, and potential ties to transnational crimes. Kenya, positioned as a critical transit point between East Africa and the world, faces heightened vulnerability to human trafficking activities. Major international airports, such as Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) and Moi International Airport (MIA), play a pivotal role in this transnational crime, acting as crucial element in the trafficking supply chain.

Further, JKIA and MIA by their nature, facilitate movement across borders, making them vulnerable to various forms of trafficking, including sex trafficking, labour trafficking, and child trafficking. Investigating human trafficking at these airports

can reveal vulnerabilities in transportation systems that traffickers exploit and help develop targeted interventions. In addition, the two selected international airports are within the counties where regional and international trade thrives. They allow for an in-depth analysis of how trafficking intersects with border security concerns, such as organized crime, terrorism and boarder security. As gateways to the global community, they serve as critical points for monitoring and addressing issues that have international security implications. In addition, the two airports offer multiple border crossing of large number of people, including potential victims as well as perpetrators of human trafficking.

Kenya is a signatory to various international conventions and protocols aimed at combating human trafficking and protecting human rights. Conducting research on trafficking at the two airports demonstrates a commitment to fulfilling these obligations and contributing to global efforts to eradicate trafficking in persons.

Understanding the undercurrents that sustain human trafficking, assessing security threats, analysing challenges posed by human trafficking on national security, and determining best practices are essential for targeted interventions. Investigating the intersection of human trafficking and national security at JKIA and MIA is therefore, imperative for safeguarding Kenya's security interests, protecting vulnerable populations, and advancing regional and international cooperation. This study aims at generating actionable insights and recommendations, mitigating risks associated with human trafficking, and enhancing security within airports and the nation, emphasizing the strategic importance of addressing this issue at key transit points.

1.9 Scope of the Study

This study was carried out in two major airports in Kenya; Jomo Kenyatta International airport (JKIA) and Moi International airport (MIA), the two main international entry and exit points in Kenya. The two are among the busiest in the country, as they serve as critical transportation hubs in East Africa, making them potential hotspots for human trafficking activities.

The targeted population in these locations were police officers from National Police Service, Directorate of Criminal Investigation officers and Immigration officers stationed at the two airports.

The study focused on the undercurrents that sustain the prevalence of human trafficking and their effects on national security; the security threats associated with forms of human trafficking and their effects on national security; the implications of the security challenges posed by human trafficking on national security; and the best practices to address human trafficking in order to enhance national security.

1.10 Limitation of the Study

The study focused on examining HT on Kenya's national security on two selected international airports, JKIA and MIA. The major limitation was that the airports provide a unique environment that is dissimilar to many other contexts where human trafficking could have an impact. Therefore, generalizing the findings of the study may not be possible beyond JKIA and MIA or beyond the context of Kenya. This may limit the applicability of the study findings to broader contexts.

The research used a Cross - Sectional Survey design to examine the variables of interest, using mixed methods approach. For Cross - Sectional Survey design, data

was collected from a sample of individuals at a single point in time. This provided a snapshot of the population at a specific moment, allowing the researcher to examine relationships between variables at that particular time. However, since cross-sectional surveys collect data at one specific time, they do not provide insights into changes over time. Human trafficking and national security issues may evolve dynamically, and a cross-sectional approach may not capture these changes or trends accurately.

Data collection tools were structured questionnaire and an interview guide. While structured questionnaires and interview guides provide standardized data collection methods, they may limit the depth of understanding obtained from participants. Close-ended questions in structured questionnaires may not capture nuanced experiences or perspectives related to human trafficking and national security.

1.11 Theoretical Limitations

Theoretical limitations are the constraints or boundaries inherent in a theory or model that restrict its applicability, accuracy, or predictive power. The study applied Differential Opportunity Theory and Securitization Theory to offer valuable insights into understanding security implication of human trafficking on national security.

Differential Opportunity theory focuses on how individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds seek alternative pathways to success through criminal activities like human trafficking. However, it may overlook other factors, such as cultural, political, or historical contexts that influence trafficking undercurrents at airports. While the theory emphasizes the role of subcultures and criminal organizations in providing opportunities for illegal activities, it may not fully capture the complexity

of trafficking networks operating within airport environments for example the involvement of corrupt officials or transnational criminal syndicates. Additionally, the theory's general applicability may not fully account for the unique features and challenges of airports as hubs for trafficking activities, including the interplay of formal security measures, surveillance technologies, and informal networks that facilitate or hinder trafficking operations.

Securitization Theory focuses on how states construct security threats through securitizing moves and the deployment of security measures. While it is relevant for understanding government responses to human trafficking, it may overlook the perspectives and agency of non-state actors, such as trafficking victims, civil society organizations, or international agencies involved in combating trafficking at airports. However, the theory emphasizes state-centric security concerns, and may narrow the definition of security to traditional military or geopolitical threats, potentially overlooking the human security dimensions of trafficking, such as the protection of individual rights, dignity and well-being. Additionally, the theory may underestimate the complexity of non-traditional security threats posed by trafficking, such as their intersection migration, organized crime, corruption, and human rights abuses, which require multifaceted responses beyond traditional security measures.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The chapter presents thematically a review of the relevant literature pertaining to the topic of the thesis. The themes covered include: the undercurrents that sustains prevalence of human trafficking and their effects on national security, the security threats associated with forms of human trafficking and their effect on national security, the implications of security risks posed by human trafficking on national security, and the best measures needed to suppress human trafficking in order to enhance national security. It also presents both the theoretical and conceptual frameworks.

2.2 The Undercurrents that sustain prevalence of HT on National Security

Binder (2022) in his study on HT as a threat to human and national security, expressed that HT is currently the second largest and most rapidly increasing activity carried out specifically as a black-market trade by organized criminal syndicates with significant implications for national security. He further asserted that, as the vice is a criminal activity that is rapidly spreading throughout the world, no nation is exempt. As a result, a large number of individuals continued to be victims of HT, which is comparable to contemporary slavery. While the assertion underscores the pervasive nature of human trafficking and its resemblance to contemporary human trafficking on a global scale, there is need for research on the precise dynamics of how HT affects national security in different contexts. Existing literature emphasizes the prevalence of trafficking and its effects on victims, yet

there is limited exploration into the specific pathways through which HT undermines the security of nations. Understanding these mechanisms is crucial for developing targeted interventions and policies that address the immediate challenges posed by HT and its broader implications for national security. This current research seeks to unearth these undercurrents.

According to a UN Report (2021) on the prevalence of human trafficking, there are an estimated 21 million victims of this crime, with a high percentage (71%) of women and children and a low percentage (29%) of men being trafficked for forced labour and prostitution. Despite the fact that human trafficking is widely regarded ~~accepted~~ as a security issue that damages various people within countries, little analysis is available on the undercurrents that support the vice. While previous studies provided a comprehensive overview of HT and its significance, they lacked a specific focus on the key undercurrents that sustain it. The current study focuses specifically on two critical points of entry and exit for traffickers and victims into Kenya, JKIA and MIA. By concentrating on these specific locations, the study aimed to uncover insights into the undercurrents that sustain HT within these transit points.

According to publications from the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO-INTERPOL) in 2019 regarding human trafficking (HT) and forced labour, the infiltration of traffickers into the legal economy is evident. The traffickers often utilize legally registered companies to recruit and transport individuals to various locations based on demand. Consequently, victims find themselves coerced into various forms of exploitation, including prostitution, domestic work, or employment in sectors like construction. Despite the inherent risks to victims and society, the use

of officially established companies reveals distinctive economic exploitative tendencies that perpetuate human trafficking. This complexity is exacerbated by high unemployment rates and increasing poverty levels, obscuring the illicit activities and complicating efforts to identify security risks. This indicates that there is lack of detailed exploration into the undercurrents that contribute to the perpetuation of HT, particularly within the context of officially established companies. While ICPO-INTERPOL (2019) acknowledges the existence of economic exploitative tendencies within these companies, it does not delve into the underlying reasons or dynamics that enable such exploitation to persist. Additionally, it is unclear how high unemployment rates and increasing poverty levels interact with these exploitative tendencies to obscure illicit activities and complicate efforts to identify security risks associated with the vice on national security. This study aims at identifying these links clear.

Sultan (2019) contends that although efforts aimed at alleviating unemployment and poverty appear advantageous, they inadvertently create vulnerabilities that criminals exploit. This poses a threat to national security, particularly in the context of combating human trafficking, where prevention efforts are hindered. The current study places emphasis on the Kenyan context, particularly on the economic factors, while examining the foundational aspects of human trafficking.

Conflict zones have higher rates of human trafficking (UNODC, 2022) because armed organizations need resources to fund military operations, support illegal activities, and aid in reconstruction. They exploit ethnic minorities, persons fleeing violence, kidnapped individuals, and force others into looting and pillaging, or as

porters for heavy military equipment (Bigio & Vogelstein, 2019). In support, the NCRC (2022) observes that, Kenya borders countries like Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania, all of which are affected by protracted conflict. This has led to widespread mass population displacement and severe economic crisis. Individuals from the aforementioned nations, particularly Ethiopia and Somalia, are transported through Kenya to other countries. Trafficking of persons is purportedly done for humanitarian purposes, such as evacuating victims of harsh conflict environments. While sincere organizations support needy people and groups, some may take advantage of any opening to traffic people for their own ends. For example, refugees and migrants are trafficked for forced labor, which exposes them to deliberate deceit in the hopes of obtaining better opportunities once they reach their destination (Bigio & Vogelstein, 2019). Significant new security risks associated with human trafficking include the country's high terrorist rate, widespread use of small and light weapons, and explosives. As intrastate conflicts rise, individuals who commit them are likely to take advantage of people's hardships in conflict areas in order to achieve their goals. However, not much research has been done on how combat rescue missions contribute to human trafficking and the security ramifications that this poses for a nation.

In terms of proceeds from transnational crimes, people trafficking only follows drug trafficking, despite being a covert activity, according to latest statistics on criminal activity (Binder, 2022). The fact that human trafficking is so hidden in many places, it has become very popular. This vice may be found in Kenyan streets, schools, universities, airports, massage parlours, and children's playgrounds as criminals lure innocent adolescents and other vulnerable groups with greater opportunities (U.S

Department of State, 2024). For a number of reasons, such as a lack of prior legal decisions and guidelines, problems with victim participation, ignorance, and insufficient funding, human trafficking is a pervasive activity that is frequently disregarded (Husley2018; U.S. Department of State, 2024). Despite this knowledge, not much research has been done on the undercurrents that sustains the vice in the society, an undertaking in this current study.

According to the U.S. Department of State (2024) report, tougher immigration rules coupled with more frequent and effective border inspections have driven crime syndicates to evolve into organizations that are more complex. Syndicates have branched out beyond the illicit drug trade into other profitable sectors where there is increased convenience and larger profit margins linked to HT and exploitation in general. While existing literature highlights the role of communication and trade in facilitating criminal activities like human trafficking and money laundering, it is not clear how these advancements enable criminals to operate covertly and evade detection by national security agencies. Further investigation is essential for devising more effective counter measures.

According to Jongman (2020), after physical break-up of criminal syndicates in the wake of 9/11 counter terrorism campaign networks became spontaneous and self-organized. Criminal networks became more of a home grown initiative as criminal syndicates assumed local autonomy in-terms of self-financing, self-training and informal communication which proved difficult to monitor. The breakdown of larger criminal syndicates into smaller, more localized groups could facilitate human trafficking activities by allowing traffickers to operate more discreetly and evade detection by law enforcement. Indeed, human trafficking often involves organized

criminal networks that exploit vulnerabilities in local communities and operate clandestinely. Additionally, the self-financing and self-training capabilities imply that these groups may be able to sustain their illicit activities over time, further complicating efforts to combat human trafficking thus compromising national security. Despite the recognition of the self-financing and self-training capabilities of these groups, there remains a significant dearth of research into how these undercurrents specifically exacerbate insecurities within nations, particularly in developing countries like Kenya. The existing literature overlooks the nuanced interplay between human trafficking dynamics and national security concerns. The current study, therefore, aims at examining the intricate connections between HT and national security in the context of JKIA and MIA.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (2023) report shows Kenya ranked as a second-tier country. This implies that, although the government is making efforts to combat human trafficking, there is room for improvement. Enhancing measures to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute traffickers not only upholds human rights but also strengthens national security by tackling organized crime networks and promoting stability within the country. Despite efforts to combat human trafficking, the persistence of trafficking activities indicates that existing security measures may be inadequate. This could be due to a lack of effective implementation of policies or insufficient resources allocated to address trafficking-related challenges, a revelation into the poor translation of theoretical frameworks into practical interventions. This therefore, highlights the importance of conducting in-depth research and analysis to identify and understand the undercurrents of human trafficking and their implications to national security.

2.3 Security threats associated with forms of Human Trafficking

The contemporary society confronts numerous security challenges from various fronts, with criminal activities such as human trafficking standing out among them. The entire process of human trafficking, from its initiation to its culmination, presents diverse security threats to both individuals and nations on a broad scale (Reid, 2023). The concept of 'security,' however, proves intricate due to varying interpretations among scholars. Security is intricately connected to personal and social value systems and lacks a universally independent definition (Liv, 2019). In light of this, the author suggests that security can be approached objectively, signifying the absence of threats to valued entities, or subjectively, denoting the fear that the attained values might face attack. Exploring different dimensions of security, this section scrutinizes security threats shaped by subjective concerns associated with human trafficking.

According to Miller et al. (2021), human trafficking exerts a pervasive influence on all facets of security that sustain both nations and international communities, eroding the rule of law and posing risks to domestic and foreign legal systems. Economic security is a sphere particularly impacted by human trafficking (Central Bank of Kenya, 2023). This study examines the association between money laundering, which is a threat to economic security, and human trafficking.

According to the US Government Accountability Office (2021), human trafficking is a crucial component of transnational crimes that relates closely to money laundering operations in order to justify the proceeds of unlawful activity. Through a variety of channels, including cash transactions, human traffickers frequently

engage in cash transactions in order to evade detection by law enforcement officers. Human traffickers may get cash payments from people who have been trafficked, which they subsequently launder to fit in with the financial system without been noticed. This agrees with The Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF) (2023) report which established that human traffickers launder money in the banking industry. They frequently assist those who have been trafficked in obtaining pre-paid cards and opening bank accounts. In turn, money laundering threatens economic stability by jeopardizing financial institutions. For instance, through its facilitation of the entry of illicit monies into the mainstream financial system, money laundering undermines the integrity of financial institutions. This erodes confidence in the financial system as a whole, as well as in the banking industry. Claver, Khourty and Brown (2023) reveal that, money laundering has directly impacted financial institutions and has contributed to economic instability. While existing research highlights the significant impact of money laundering on financial institutions and economic stability, the security implications of human trafficking on the national security remains unclear.

Proceeds from human trafficking acts, including sexual exploitation, organ trafficking, abductions, and kidnapping, may undergo money-laundering processes to legitimize gains and dodge legal penalties. According to McDonald (2020) who conducted research on human trafficking as a threat to American security, this inflow of illicit funds into the country's economy can have dire consequences. He notes that a connection exists between the inflow of illicit funds and a number of illegal activities, including human trafficking, which frequently yields large profits through using victims in forced labour or sexual exploitation. Consequently, the

illegal proceeds are absorbed into the economy through a variety of means, thereby endangering both the stability and integrity of the financial system and national security. Human trafficking is therefore, not only an economic issue but also a security concern. It jeopardizes the safety of its victims, threatens community stability, and prompts more worries about national security. Human trafficking victims' vulnerability and exploitation can fuel societal discontent, raise crime rates, and foster environments that encourage additional illegal activity. This current research explores effective strategies aimed at combating human trafficking and its associated security threats in order to enhance national security.

According to the Financial Task Force (2022) report on financial implications of money laundering, money laundering poses a threat to the stability of financial institutions. Illicit funds laundered through banks or other financial entities undermine their integrity and can lead to reputational damage. This may affect their ability to operate effectively and can erode public trust in the financial system. Money laundering reduces the contribution of the financial sector to overall economic growth. This is because illicit funds diverted through money laundering do not contribute to legitimate economic activities. As a result, the financial sector's role in fostering economic development is diminished, leading to slower economic growth.

Nations with poor economies due to money laundering face a range of economic issues. These include distorted investment patterns; as illicit funds may be invested in ways that do not benefit the economy or society as a whole. Additionally, money laundering can lead to depressed productivity, as resources are misallocated and

legitimate businesses may struggle to compete with those engaging in illegal activities (International Monetary Fund, 2023).

Money laundering is often associated with various forms of organized crime, including human trafficking, drug trafficking, and terrorism. At airports, where large volumes of international transactions take place, there is a heightened risk of these illicit activities occurring. Airports serve as major hubs for international travel and trade, making them attractive targets for criminals looking to launder money or facilitate other illicit activities. Consequently, airport authorities and financial institutions operating within airports must implement robust anti-money laundering measures to detect and prevent illicit financial flows. While this underscores the nexus between money laundering, organized crime, and national security risks, there is limited research on specific ways in which human trafficking networks contribute to national security threats such as terrorism financing, transnational organized crime, and border security vulnerabilities. This is the focus of the current study.

Dahlstrom (2020) observes that terrorist organizations benefit from the expansive transportation networks maintained by drug traffickers and human traffickers, enabling the movement of operatives worldwide. Many countries witness terrorist organizations funding themselves through money laundering, with human trafficking playing a significant role in certain regions' economies, such as the Balkans, Philippines, Southeast Asia, and parts of the former Soviet Union (Dahlstrom, 2020). McDonald (2020) underscored how human trafficking serves as a crucial funding source for organized crime organizations with ties to terrorism in the Balkans, facilitating money laundering by prospective terrorists in Southeast Asia and the Philippines to conceal the source of their income. This highlights the

importance of recognizing human trafficking as both a crime against individuals and a threat to national security due to its potential links to terrorist financing. At airports like JKIA and MIA, understanding and disrupting these illicit financial flows is critical for preventing terrorist activities thus enhancing national security. Few studies have reflected on how human trafficking launders money and funds terrorist activities, thereby affecting the security of states. The current study addresses this linkage between HT and the national security.

Felbab-Brown (2018) addresses the new direction in research on wildlife and drug trafficking, terrorism, and human security: realities, myths, and complexities beyond Africa. He delves into the interconnected nature of various forms of illicit activities and their implications for national security. He observes that human trafficking is a source for funding for international terrorist syndicates. This implies that proceeds from human trafficking operations are channelled into financing terrorist activities, posing a threat to national security. This as well underscores the complexities inherent in combating human trafficking and its links to other transnational crime. These complexities likely involve navigating intricate networks, understanding the motivations of different actors involved, and addressing underlying socio-economic factors that fuel these illicit activities. This offers a global perspective when addressing the nexus between human trafficking and national security. The current study aims at examine this nexus.

Trafficked girls and women may be coerced into perpetrating suicide attacks. A study conducted by Cockayne and Walker (2018) observed that, over 50% of Boko Haram's suicide bombers in Nigeria were women. The criminal syndicate kidnapped 276 female students from Chibok in Borno State in 2014, and subjected

them to domestic servitude, sexual slavery, forced marriages, forced labour and conversion (Persons, 2020). This avers that human trafficking supports terrorist and armed groups. While this observation highlights the potential link between human trafficking and support for terrorist groups like Boko Haram, it does not directly address how this may have security implications on the national security. This study addresses these security implications.

Oketch (2018) argues that security threats associated with human trafficking are of concern in the international relations or interactions. For example, the emergence of the Al-Shabaab terror group and its link with the Al-Qaida network in East Africa has been a challenge because of the high numbers of trafficked victims who are committing terrorist activities. Notably, human trafficking, just like other forms of unlawful activity, has become an increasingly appealing target for terrorist organizations. According to Bigio and Volgestain (2019), the systematic use of acts of violence by terrorist that is associated with HT have been integral to the modus operandi of Al-Shabaab, Lord's Resistance Army and Islamic State and the Levant (ISIL, also referred to as Da'esh). This makes it quite evident that these kinds of tactics are effective means of achieving their strategic aims, which consist of abusing the victims of human trafficking. These violations of individual freedoms and rights may have broader implications for national security. When individuals are trafficked and subjected to exploitation, it may lead to destabilization within communities and societies. This instability may manifest in various ways, including social unrest, economic disruption, and weakened governance structures, all of which may ultimately affect a nation's security. The current study analyses these effects on the nation's security. It endeavours to establish empirical evidence to

support the assertion that human trafficking leads directly to destabilization within communities and societies, which in turn impacts national security.

According to United Nations Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (2018) report, the nexus between HT and terrorism has been exhibited by the practice of selling Yazidi women in the market, as well as by the practice of using minors as child soldiers, beggars, and suicide bombers. However, efforts to reflect on the probable security implications of HT on national security are hampered by the covert nature of human trafficking, the challenge of acquiring evidence, the lack of competence necessary to carry out comprehensive investigations, and the sensitivity of the phenomenon. However, this study continues to explore the broader human trafficking and terrorism nexus.

Shelley (2020) argues that human trafficking involves a sequence starting with the abduction or recruitment of individuals, followed by transportation and harbouring to another destination. Subsequently, the victims endure exploitation, encompassing forced labour, sexual slavery, or other forms of abuse. For instance, the incidence in Dapchi, Nigeria, in 2018, where 111 school girls were kidnapped, and 104 eventually freed by the Islamic State West Africa Province, highlights the multifaceted nature of these crimes (ISWAP, 2018). However, there is a notable emphasis on kidnapping for ransom, with insufficient attention given to its potential impact on the national security of affected countries. While there is significant attention given to the ransom aspect of kidnappings, there is insufficient consideration of its potential impact on national security. This implies that the broader implications of such crimes, beyond the immediate financial aspect, are not

adequately addressed or understood as well as the national security implication. These are the issues that the current study addresses.

The multitude of crimes associated with human trafficking, including kidnapping and abduction, along with their pervasive and interwoven consequences create a cumulative threat to international peace, security, and stability. Walsh & Poole (2019) observed that both HT and kidnapping are multifaceted crimes that require a comprehensive understanding of various undercurrents involved, including social, economic, and political dynamics. There are similar complexities that exist in other forms of exploitation, such as human trafficking. These apply to the broader study of human trafficking, including cases at airports like JKIA and MIA in Kenya.

2.4 Implications of security challenges posed by HT on National Security

HT is an organized crime operating at the transnational level and has the capacity to compromise peoples' basic human rights and negatively impact on financial markets. Thus, the ripple effects assume the cultural, social, political and economic dimensions. Johnson (2019), in a study on the nexus between crime and state terrorism and how organized crime appropriates counter-insurgency violence, reveals that trafficked individuals seek asylum from persecution and endure human rights abuses, thus perpetuating a state of perpetual vulnerability. Despite global efforts to regulate movement, human trafficking persists due to various undercurrent factors. Vogelstein & Bigio (2019) highlighted how human trafficking may wreak havoc on communities, exacerbating existing conflicts and stifling efforts toward communal growth. The methods used by human traffickers to lure victims create distrust among citizens, disrupting the social support crucial for community

development. The fear of falling victim to human trafficking is a driving force behind displacement, potentially depriving communities of human potential and impairing critical support systems, all of which contribute to community instability. These observations suggest potential effects of human trafficking on national security, given the interconnectedness of community security within the broader national security framework. This current study explores exactly how human trafficking affects national security beyond destabilizing communities.

Cockayne and Oppermann (2019) examine the financial sector commission on modern slavery and human trafficking (HT). They note that the strategic and financial benefits derived from HT incentivize armed and extremist groups to expand their influence and capabilities, consequently prolonging armed conflicts. This dynamic has implications for the national security of affected countries. The emotional and psychological trauma inflicted on communities by HT, is profound and enduring, particularly affecting women and girls subjected to sexual exploitation. Trafficked children, used by armed groups or separated from their kinship networks, face marginalization and isolation.

For women and girls, HT can result in the loss of career and marriage opportunities, along with social stigma for children born from instances of rape, perpetuating a cycle of impoverishment. A report on trafficking in Persons (2019) notes that while leaders in communities mandate the acceptance of women and girls who have been victims of human trafficking, the decision to accept children born to state fighters lies with individual families. This choice often forces victims to navigate the difficult decision of whether to return home or stay with their children. The prolonged separation from their families leads to a sense of discrimination and

family instability, a critical aspect of both community and national security (Hirsch & Lopes, 2020). Additionally, young people targeted for trafficking are bereft of family guidance, impacting their overall development and potentially generating negative ripple effects on families and communities. In addition, these individual impacts may contribute to broader societal issues, such as increased crime rates, decreased economic productivity, and heightened social tensions. While all these are rich and relevant to this study, they are limited in explaining how the implications of security threats posed by trafficked victims may affect national security.

McDonald (2018) established that violence is used by human trafficker as a form of insecurity that is evident in the process. This includes physical violence, which could occur during the process of recruiting victims. It could also include emotional violence /exploitation inflicted when they are tortured. The effects of trafficking in humans can be catastrophic, as victims go through emotional and physical abuse, threats to themselves and their families, rape, and even death. The disastrous impacts are also felt beyond the scope of individual victims, as human trafficking compromises the health, safety, and security of every nation in which it is carried out. While the study acknowledges that human trafficking compromises the health, safety, and security of nations, it does not delve into specific national security implications beyond a general assertion. The current study investigates these specific implications.

In a study on the global diffusion of law, Simmons, Lloyd & Stewart (2018) established that human trafficking is all about the exploitation of social and political unrest triggered by natural disasters, economic hardship, and military conflict. It is

possible that the prospects of rebuilding society following a conflict will be hindered if measures are not taken to combat human trafficking, which will lead to long-term instability in both the community and the nation. The Human Rights Council report (2020) recognized the clear link between human trafficking and conflict, whereby, conflict influences the form and nature of the severity of trafficking related exploitation. However, in situations of armed conflict, vulnerable people may be trafficked. This increases instability, economic desperation, insecurity, erodes the rule of law, in addition to pushing individuals to flee for the sake of their own safety. Consequently, it is possible for armed organizations to participate in human trafficking, especially to compel the recruitment of fresh combatants, perpetrating sexual violence's and generating finances that could further their criminal activities (OCHA, 2018).

The technique of enslaving people by utilizing human trafficking victims for forced labour, sexual exploitation, and as a tactical weapon to subjugate civilians is frequently adopted by terrorist organizations as a policy rather than a clandestine practice (Cockayne and Walker (2018). For example, the Islamic States Research and Fatwa Department (ISRFD) presented ideological reasons for human slavery and published explicit guidelines on how to handle women slaves, including restrictions on how to sell women (ISRFD, 2018). In nations that are engaged in armed conflict, child recruiters work for human traffickers, terrorist organizations, and violent extremist groups.

The recruitment of the children usually leads to exploitation and re victimization. According to United Nation (2017), children trafficking in hostile environment in considered a grave violation against the children. States face a number of difficulties

because of the involvement of terrorist, violent extremist and human trafficking organizations. Prevention has been more challenging since these groups now use cutting-edge recruitment and dissemination techniques. This is a top priority for states, as they address security risks in a way that minimizes the victimization of the affected children. While the recruitment of the children by the human traffickers is a more recent phenomenon, there has been little reflection on the security implications on the national security, which is the concern of this study.

Human trafficking may contribute to violence by abetting armed and extremist organizations to increase their finances, strengthen their position, and develop their military competence (Bigio & Jamille, 2019). For example, criminal syndicates such as the self-proclaimed Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, and Boko Haram in Nigeria have made money through sex trafficking while using women and girls as slaves. This shows that, in addition to trafficking being conflict related, it is also fuelled by conflict since it magnifies vulnerabilities and creates more possibilities for exploitation. Caritas International (2019). reports that HT undermines the rule of law, encourages lawlessness, and obliterates local institutions. For instance, the majority of persons leaving violence are forced to use illicit methods since they lack access to safe and legal migration choices, increasing their risk of exploitation, particularly human trafficking. Human trafficking may also cause community instability and emigration, aggravating conflict and impeding development. Bigio and Vogelstein (2019) further noted that, when security personnel and peacekeepers engage in human trafficking, it jeopardizes the ability of international organizations to fulfil their duties of promoting stability and peace. However, few studies have reflected on conflict and post conflict situations as the undercurrents that sustain

human trafficking and possible security implications on the national security. The current study addresses this gap.

Bigio and Ortiz (2021) noted that human trafficking may be a factor in economic instability, particularly when armed organizations and warlords use institutional unrest to increase their trafficking revenues. However, human traffickers still use financial services to handle and launder money. Significantly, financial institutions run the danger of suffering reputational loss in addition to financial implications that include heavy fines, expensive remediation, and decreases in company share prices when they fail to detect unscrupulous actors abusing their services. Financial institutions' failure to identify human trafficking may cause people to doubt banks and regulators' reliability and effectiveness, undermining local and societal stability. The current study focuses on the security implications posed by human trafficking and money laundering, and how they affect the national security of the country.

According to the National Security Council Report (2020), due to the growth and diversification of criminal networks' operations, there is a confluence of threats, and this has explosive and destabilizing implications. Human trafficking may be used to finance other illicit operations. HT further undermines the rule of law, thus threatening national jurisdictions and international law. Where there is breakdown in the rule of law and weakened social supports caused by conflict or crises, human traffickers take advantage to recruit victims. According to the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking (2021), conflict fuels impunity and causes weakening of government institutions, which further leads people to despair due to a state of insecurity.

Organization for Migration (IOM) (2022) report established that numerous countries acknowledge human trafficking as a menace to global peace and security. This illicit practice undermines the social, economic, cultural, and political development of the international community, and pose a threat to human rights by funding abusive regimes worldwide (UN, 2018). Abusive regimes, lacking adherence to the rule of law, actively subvert legal frameworks and criminalize civil societies to foster corruption. They provide human traffickers with an environment where they can operate with impunity. A report by the Walking Free Foundation (2020) notes that the weakest efforts to combat human trafficking often occur in the context of abusive regimes due to lack of political will. This study examines whether JKIA and MIA provide environments that are conducive to HT.

IOM (2022) also indicates that HT is a global threat that requires urgent attention. This understanding is crucial for policymakers, law enforcement agencies, and international organizations involved in combating trafficking. Trafficking fuels instability by contributing to social, economic, and political vulnerabilities in countries around the world. Understanding this connection is vital for assessing security risks at airports like JKIA and MIA, which serve as key transit points in international trafficking routes. The linkages between HT and abusive regimes that lack adherence to the rule of law underscores how political contexts can enable trafficking by providing environments where traffickers can operate with impunity. It also underlines the role of corruption in facilitating trafficking networks, which can compromise security efforts at airports and other border crossings. Understanding these dynamics is essential for developing strategies to detect,

prevent, and disrupt HT activities while safeguarding national security interests, which is the basis of this study.

Vogelstein and Bigio (2019) also assert that human trafficking supports abusive regimes, while some authoritarian officials trafficking their own countrymen and exploit them in challenging conditions, either to suppress dissent, boost the economy, evade punishment, or achieve a combination of these objectives. Other studies indicate that some governments employ human trafficking as a means of forced labour to suppress or marginalize specific communities or as retaliation for expressing political opinions (ILO, 2020). Although there is little exploration on how human trafficking bolsters abusive regimes, the vice undoubtedly has security implications for national security which this current study seeks to unearth.

The International Labour Organization (2022) estimated that globally 49.6 million people are in modern slavery on any given day, either forced to work against their will or in a marriage that they were forced into. Forced labour accounts for 27.6 million of those in modern slavery and forced marriage for 22 million. The systematic and deliberate withholding of wages, used by abusive employers to compel workers to stay in a job out of fear of losing accrued earnings, is the most common form of coercion, experienced by 36 per cent of those in forced labour. This is followed by abuse of vulnerability through threat of dismissal, which was experienced by one in five of those in forced labour (ILO, 2022). More severe forms of coercion, including forced confinement, physical and sexual violence, and the deprivation of basic needs, are less common but by no means negligible. Due to the significant portion of these individuals being victims of human trafficking, it becomes evident that severe violations of human rights pose risks to both national

security and regional stability. These assessments draw attention to the lack of data on how security measures impact national security and suggest the possibility that oppressive political regimes could exploit victims of human trafficking. This study analyses data to find out how security measures employed at JKIA and MIA impact on national security.

According to Saddam & Sanya (2023), the Kenya-Uganda border has been utilized in Kenya's human trafficking industry. An average of 50 girls are trafficked daily from Uganda into Kenya (Masaba, 2018). In January 2020, authorities at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport stopped 96 Ugandan women en route to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) (Daghar, 2020). The women, some of whom were minors, had been restricted due to a lack of proper documentation and were later found to be victims of a well-established human trafficking ring established in Kenya. Regions in Eastern Uganda, such as Arapai, Chapi, and Sire, are known for hosting markets for trafficking young girls to Kenya. (Saddam & Sanya, 2023). While the recruitment of the young girls by the human traffickers is a more recent phenomenon, there has been little reflection on how the practice could affect the national security, a concern this study analysed.

2.5 The best practices to address HT and enhance National Security in Kenya

Addressing human trafficking is crucial for enhancing national security globally, internationally, regionally and locally. According to the Palermo Protocol and the recommended principles on Human Rights and Human Trafficking (OHCHR, 2020), States have a responsibility under the international law to act with due diligence to prevent human trafficking, to investigate and prosecute human

traffickers and to assist and protect trafficked persons. According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA) (2019), many airports around the world conduct regular training sessions for airport staff, including security personnel, immigration officers, and airline staff, to identify the signs of human trafficking and respond appropriately. These training sessions often include case studies, simulations, and guidance on reporting suspicious persons to relevant authorities. Moreover, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (2020), also indicated that various airports globally conduct comprehensive training programs for airport personnel to identify and respond to potential cases of human trafficking. As an example, the Blue Lightning Initiative, a joint effort by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and airlines, provides training to airline personnel worldwide on identifying and reporting suspected trafficking situations. A research by Smith and Johnson (2021) underscores the significance of training programs for airport personnel worldwide in recognizing and responding to human trafficking situations. The research also highlights the effectiveness of interactive training modules and simulation exercises in improving staff awareness and preparedness. Kamau and Mutuku (2019) emphasized interagency task forces and the introduction of extensive training programs for airport staff. Accordingly, the UNODC report (2022) stated that the Kenyan government typically runs media campaigns, community outreach initiatives, and educational programs as part of its cooperation with non-governmental organizations and foreign organizations. The resultant greater awareness, has led to reporting of more trafficking cases and victims seeking assistance. While training and awareness for airport staff on how to recognize the signs of human trafficking and respond appropriately is important for this study,

they are limited on explaining the best practices that the Kenya government should adopt to address human trafficking at the airports in order to enhance national security. The current research seeks to examine these practices.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA, 2020) views effective collaboration between airports, law enforcement agencies, and border control authorities as crucial in combating human trafficking. International agreements, such as the Passenger Name Record (PNR) and Advance Passenger Information (API) systems, facilitate the sharing of passenger data across borders in order to identify potential trafficking cases. Additionally, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (EUROPOL, 2021) advised that airports collaborate closely with law enforcement agencies, immigration authorities, and border control agencies, to share information and intelligence related to human trafficking. Research conducted by Regional Task Force on Human Trafficking in Southeast Asia (2020) emphasizes the role of regional collaboration and coordination mechanisms in addressing human trafficking at airports. The study highlights the effectiveness of joint operations and intelligence sharing among airport authorities in Southeast Asia in disrupting trafficking networks. In line with this, Groll et al. (2020) highlighted the importance of interagency collaboration and information sharing among airports globally to combat human trafficking. The study emphasizes the role of international agreements such as the Passenger Name Record (PNR) and Advance Passenger Information (API) systems in facilitating data exchange to address human trafficking issues. While interagency cooperation and information sharing are important in this current study, they are limited in explaining the best

practices to be adopted to curb human trafficking at the airports in order to enhance national security.

A Research by Maslen and colleagues (2020) highlights the importance of comprehensive legislation and effective law enforcement mechanisms in combating human trafficking at airports globally. The study emphasizes the role of international conventions, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, in providing a legal framework for addressing trafficking activities. In support of this, Woude and Leun (2021) underscore the significance of international cooperation in enforcing anti-trafficking legislation at airports. They emphasize the need for cross-border collaboration between law enforcement agencies to investigate trafficking networks and prosecute offenders operating across multiple jurisdictions. Europol (2020) highlighted the importance of regional law enforcement cooperation in combating human trafficking at airports within the European Union (EU). The researcher underscores the effectiveness of joint operations coordinated by Europol and national law enforcement agencies in identifying and dismantling trafficking networks operating across EU member states. Further, Musumba and Mwanza (2019) examined the impact of legislation, such as the Counter-Trafficking in Persons Act, in addressing human trafficking at airports. The study highlighted the role of law enforcement agencies, such as the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), in investigating trafficking cases and prosecuting offenders. In Kenya, the government enacted the Counter-Trafficking in Persons Act in 2010. This legislation criminalizes all forms of human trafficking and provides a legal framework for prosecuting traffickers. Specifically, the Act

prohibits trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labor, or slavery (CTA, 2010). While all these recent scholarly research underscores the critical role of legislation and law enforcement in addressing human trafficking, they are limited in explaining the best practices to be adopted at the airports in order to enhance national security. This is the focus of the current study.

The United Nations Government Accountability Office (2023) reports noted that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has enhanced its assessments of danger, vulnerability, and potential hazards related to airport perimeter risk and accessibility control in airport security (UNGAO, 2023). Recent incidents involving unauthorized access to commercial airports and stowaways on aircrafts, along with cases of aviation employees misusing access rights to transport narcotics and weapons, have increased awareness of perimeter and access control security at commercial airports. While increasing this awareness is crucial for addressing insecurity at the airport, it is limited in explaining the implications of security threats posed by human trafficking. The current study explored this aspect so as to get a clear understanding of the best practices to be adopted in addressing human trafficking at the airport in order to enhance national security concerns.

Human trafficking has spurred international response and led to the creation of international conventions by the United Nations. As an example, the UN Convention against Crimes of an Organized Nature was adopted on November 15, 2000, and became operational on September 23, 2003 (Creamer & Simmons, 2020). This served as an addition to the UN treaties and protocols to stop, stifle, and punish human traffickers, particularly of women and children. This demonstrates how

human trafficking is receiving attention on a worldwide scale, and how nations are increasingly assuming collective security responsibility due to similar beliefs and objectives to protect national, regional, and global security interests. This study endeavours to examine why HT persists yet policies have been implemented.

The global air transport system is critical for transnational connectivity, unfortunately, HT criminal actors have not spared it. To keep the sector free from HT, there is need for collaboration amongst the regulating bodies, the individual airlines and the law enforcers (Binder, 2022). Thus, whenever the aviation sector has occasionally been illegally targeted by the criminals involved in trafficking of human beings, all the stakeholders must act in due diligence to create awareness, respond to the perpetrators of HT, and partner with the law enforcers for effective response (Beehner, 2018). Kenya should recognize the national security implications of human trafficking at airports. Trafficking networks operating within the aviation sector can undermine border security, facilitate the movement of illegal goods and persons, and pose risks to the safety and integrity of the country. Therefore, there is need to integrate efforts to combat HT into the broader national security strategies and initiatives. This study therefore focuses on how HT along the airports could affect the national security of Kenya as a country.

According to Husley (2018), the role played by the airports is critical indeed, the world so much relies upon airport industry for its global connectivity and interdependence. However, the criminals behind HT target these same conveyance arrangements. International bodies worldwide have recognized the urgency of securing the airport industry from the criminals behind HT. For instance, the

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has established effective standards and practices that govern its member states in the promotion of the airport sector to ensure that it is economical, safe, secure, efficient, sustainable and responsible (International Civil Aviation Organization, 2018). However, if these standards and practices are not adhered to, then, the results may have negative implications on the national security. This underscores the need for robust security measures within the airport industry in order to mitigate the risks associated with criminal activities and emphasize the role of international organizations in setting standards to promote a secure and responsible airport sector.

Beehner, (2018) pointed out that States have an equivocal responsibility under the framework of the international law to put in place all due efforts and diligence to enhance the prevention of human trafficking. It is upon the individual state to carryout due investigation and prosecution of the suspected human traffickers. Furthermore, states should assume the responsibility of the protection of the victims or the trafficked persons (Boduszynski & Pavlakovic, 2019). According to Binder (2022) the responsibility for detecting, apprehending and prosecuting perpetrators of HT is in the hands of governments and national law enforcement agencies. Airlines and other aviation staff can be critical in the provision of important additional intelligence in case they recognize any signs of potential trafficking situations (Daugirdas, 2019; Husley, 2018).

The selection of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) and Moi International Airport (MIA) for the study on human trafficking and national security in Kenya is based on their pivotal roles within the nation's aviation landscape. JKIA, as East

Africa's largest airport, and Moi International Airport, a key hub on the coast, represent critical points of entry and exit for both domestic and international travellers (Nzioka, 2021). Their high traffic volumes and strategic geographic locations expose them to diverse forms of human trafficking, including forced labour and trafficking for sex. Additionally, these airports serve as significant transit points, making them susceptible to various trafficking patterns. By focusing on JKIA and MIA, the study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the undercurrents sustaining HT activities, assess security threats, and contribute valuable insights to enhance national security efforts within the context of Kenya's major transportation hubs.

2.6 Theoretical Framework

The study applied the Differential Opportunity Theory and the Securitization Theory in analysing the security implications of human trafficking on national security of Kenya. The two theories complement each other as discussed below.

2.6.1 The Differential Opportunity Theory

Originating in the 1960s, the Differential Opportunity Theory, initially proposed by Cloward and Ohlin, is a criminological framework. It underscores the diverse access individuals and societal groups have to both legal and illegal pathways for achieving success and fulfilling their objectives. This theory delves into how individuals in underprivileged communities may employ either conventional or unconventional methods, depending on the opportunities accessible to them, to achieve success and elevate their status (Cloward & Ohlin, 1960; Wang & Piquero, 2010).

The theory offers valuable insights into the factors influencing individuals' inclinations to become traffickers or intermediaries in the criminal enterprise of human trafficking. As an example, where legitimate prospects are scarce, human traffickers may perceive trafficking as a route to attain economic success, social standing, or influence. This theory is instrumental in identifying vulnerable populations susceptible to trafficking. Those with limited access to legitimate opportunities, stemming from factors like poverty, social exclusion, or lack of education, may find themselves at a heightened risk of falling victim to trafficking. Understanding these motivations is pivotal for developing targeted preventative and intervention initiatives aimed at mitigating the risks associated with human trafficking.

Exploring the Differential Opportunity Theory within the context of human trafficking sheds light on how individuals, influenced by their social environments, navigate opportunities for illegal gain. This theory gives insights into the interplay between limited legitimate opportunities and access to illegitimate pathways illuminating the undercurrents fuelling human trafficking networks. Understanding these undercurrents is crucial for safeguarding national security against the multifaceted threats posed by such criminal enterprises. However, by recognizing how circumstances influence individuals, particularly the lack of legitimate opportunities, law enforcement may develop effective strategies for combating trafficking networks. Traffickers capitalize on the vulnerabilities of their victims by offering false promises of better prospects, exploiting the unequal access to legitimate avenues for improvement. By exploring these undercurrents, law enforcement can better identify and disrupt trafficking operations, thereby enhancing

national security. This therefore underscores the importance of understanding the social and economic factors that contribute to human trafficking and its impact on national security.

Individuals who have been trafficked for forced labour or sexual exploitation may undergo experiences of victimization that can potentially lead them towards radicalization and extremism. Such a trajectory poses a significant national security concern as it could contribute to the recruitment of these individuals into extremist groups. Essentially, the cycle of exploitation and victimization may make trafficked individuals more susceptible to extremist ideologies and recruitment efforts, thereby exacerbating security threats within the nation.

As human trafficking intersects with various threats including terrorism, drug trafficking, and money laundering, it fosters the emergence of sophisticated organized crime networks. According to the Differential Opportunity Theory, traffickers and criminal networks exploit the lack of legitimate opportunities available to vulnerable individuals, offering them pathways for illegal gain. This exploitation not only perpetuates the cycle of trafficking but also facilitates the proliferation of criminal activities that threaten national security.

Moreover, the movement of trafficked individuals across borders, facilitated by these organized crime networks, presents significant challenges to airport security. The Differential Opportunity Theory highlights how traffickers capitalize on differential access to legitimate pathways, exploiting vulnerabilities to facilitate the illicit movement of individuals across international borders. Consequently, this weakens border security measures and amplifies the risks to national security, as

trafficked individuals may be coerced or recruited into further criminal activities, including terrorism financing. Understanding these undercurrents through Differential Opportunity Theory is crucial for devising comprehensive strategies to combat human trafficking and safeguard national security.

While addressing human trafficking from a national security perspective, it is crucial to strike a balance between security measures and the protection of human rights. The Differential Opportunity Theory allows policymakers and law enforcement agencies to understand the underlying socio-economic factors that contribute to human trafficking. By recognizing the vulnerabilities exploited by traffickers, it becomes possible to devise approaches that effectively combat human trafficking while also respecting human rights.

The Differential Opportunity Theory states that individuals acquire the skills, values, attitudes and motivations for engaging in criminal behaviour through social interaction. It notes that criminal delinquency is learned behaviour, influenced by the opportunities and constraints individuals face within their social environments. The theory, therefore explains the reasons as to why people commit crime. Applying the theory to the issue of human trafficking and national security helps in understanding the motivations of both victims and traffickers, as well as the undercurrents that sustains this illicit trade. This understanding can inform more and effective policies and strategies meant to combat human trafficking and its associated threats to national security.

In summary, the Differential Opportunity Theory offers a framework for comprehending the complexities of human trafficking and its intersection with

national security concerns. By leveraging this understanding, interventions can be tailored to address the undercurrents of human trafficking and disrupt criminal networks, ultimately contributing to the protection of individuals and the enhancement of national security. Additionally, utilizing the insights from the theory, comprehensive strategies can be devised to address human trafficking at JKIA and MIA. These strategies could involve collaboration between law enforcement, airport authorities, and relevant stakeholders to effectively disrupt human trafficking networks while protect vulnerable individuals from exploitation and safeguarding national security.

2.6.2 The Securitisation Theory

The Securitization Theory emerged at the Conflict and Peace Research Institute (COPRI) in Copenhagen during the 1990s. It was developed by the Copenhagen School scholars, Barry Buzan, Ole Woever, and Jaap de Wilde. Securitization theory is a framework within the field of security studies that seeks to understand how certain issues come to be defined and treated as security threats. The theory challenges traditional approaches to security, which often focus on military threats and state-centric perspectives. Securitization theory therefore, contends why certain issues are constructed as existential threats to the survival of a community, state, or even humanity itself. This process involves framing an issue as an urgent security concern that requires extraordinary measures to address, potentially bypassing normal political procedures and legal constraints.

This theoretical framework has been instrumental in analysing the construction of certain issues, such as security threats, and understanding the subsequent

implications for policy and governance. In the examination of human trafficking and its impact on national security, the theory proves valuable in analysing how this intricate problem is conceptualized, addressed, and influences security undercurrents (Buzan, Wæver & De Wilde, 1998).

Securitization Theory sheds light on how various actors, such as governments, advocacy groups, and international organizations, frame human trafficking as a security threat. This framing may involve presenting it as a risk to national security, public health, or social stability. The theory enables scholars to scrutinize the different stages of securitization, from the emergence of the issue to the formulation of policy responses (Fasakin, 2022). In the context of human trafficking, it helps identify key actors involved in securitizing the matter and the strategies employed to prioritize it on the security agenda. For instance, governments may underscore the necessity for enhanced border controls or intelligence cooperation to combat trafficking effectively.

Utilizing securitization theory allows researchers to scrutinize how the framing of human trafficking as a security issue shapes policy responses. The securitization of an issue often results in increased resource allocation, the implementation of more stringent laws and regulations, and the involvement of security agencies in combating trafficking. Specifically, securitization can trigger the adoption of various policies, including heightened border controls, intensified law enforcement initiatives, and the utilization of military or intelligence assets against trafficking networks (Liam, 2018). Assessing these policies through securitization facilitates an examination of their effectiveness, potential unintended consequences, and impact on human rights.

Securitization theory proves valuable in exploring the delicate balance between security concerns and the safeguarding of human rights in anti-trafficking endeavours. When human trafficking is securitized, there is a risk of prioritizing security measures at the expense of the rights and well-being of trafficked individuals. This underscores the need for a critical analysis of the trade-offs inherent in securitization processes, prompting a closer examination of how security imperatives may impact human rights protections within the context of anti-human trafficking effort

Applying the Securitization Theory to examine human trafficking and national security extends to an exploration of how regional and international platforms address the issue. This involves analyzing the involvement of international organizations, such as the United Nations or INTERPOL, in securitizing and coordinating responses to human trafficking. Evaluating the securitization of human trafficking at the international level offers insights into the undercurrents that propel certain issues to the forefront of the global agenda, and elucidate collaborative efforts among states to counter trafficking (Fasakin, 2022). It is conceivable that securitization may at times, foster heightened secrecy and the utilization of covert operations in response to perceived security threats. Unraveling how human trafficking is securitized provides valuable perspectives on the clandestine strategies employed in anti-trafficking endeavors.

Policymakers and researchers can assess the effectiveness of counter-trafficking strategies if they understand human trafficking securitization. This includes evaluating whether securitization leads to more comprehensive and coordinated efforts to combat trafficking or if it results in policy responses that prioritize security

over human rights. Securitization theory involves discourse analysis to understand how security narratives are constructed. Analysing the language used to discuss human trafficking in the context of national security can reveal underlying power undercurrents, biases, and the framing of victims and perpetrators (Hansen, 2020).

It is crucial to acknowledge that the securitization of human trafficking holds potential repercussions for the rights and freedoms of individuals, particularly migrants and sex workers, who may bear a disproportionate impact from anti-trafficking policies. Through the Securitization Theory, one can scrutinize how security measures might encroach upon human rights and civil liberties. However, employing the Securitization theory in the context of human trafficking is not immune to critique. According to Buzan, (1991), securitization might elasticise to encompass migration more broadly, potentially resulting in detrimental policies that adversely affect vulnerable populations. Consequently, any analysis utilizing the Securitization theory should be approached with a critical perspective, taking into account the potential ramifications for human rights and social justice.

In summary, the Securitization Theory provides a useful framework for studying the intersection of human trafficking and national security. It helps unravel the discursive and policy dimensions of this complex issue, allowing for a more nuanced understanding of the securitization process and its implications for the protection of human rights and national security.

Securitization Theory provides a critical examination on the relationship between human trafficking and national security at Jomo Kenyatta and Moi International

Airports in Kenya. In the context of the study, the theory enables a comprehensive analysis of how human trafficking is framed as a security threat.

By investigating the securitization of human trafficking at these airports, researchers can scrutinize the political and institutional mechanisms that lead to the designation of trafficking as a security concern. This approach goes beyond the traditional aspect emphasizing how policy decisions, discourse, and societal perceptions influence the securitization process. Understanding the securitization undercurrents is crucial for designing targeted and context-specific security measures, shedding light on the broader implications of framing human trafficking as a threat to national security, and informing policy interventions aimed at countering this complex security issue.

2.6.3 Summary of Theoretical Framework

The Differential Opportunity Theory guided the study to examine the different factors that compel individuals to engage in illegitimate ways of gaining opportunities for their development that made them vulnerable to human traffickers. On the other hand, Securitization Theory guided the study to focus on the identification of existential threats associated with human trafficking that could jeopardize national security thus warranting national attention. Together, the two theories guided the study to unravel the undercurrents that sustain human trafficking and security threats associated that could compromise national security.

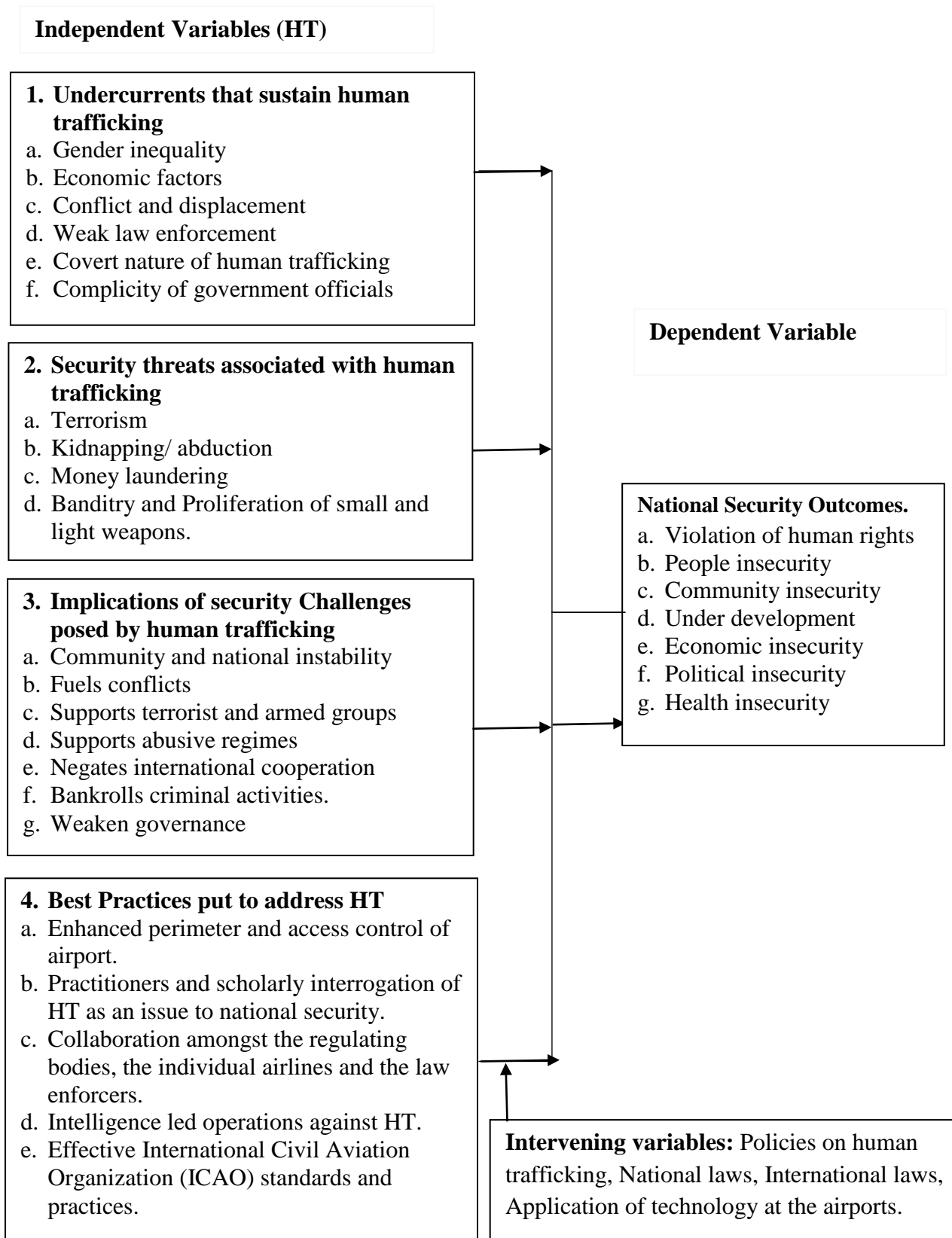
The study on human trafficking and national security at Jomo Kenyatta and Moi International Airports in Kenya employed Differential Opportunity Theory to scrutinize how socio-economic disparities may drive individuals towards trafficking. This theory posits that criminal behaviour arises when legitimate means to achieve

societal goals are limited. The Securitization Theory on the other hand offers insights by highlighting how human trafficking is socially constructed as a security issue through political discourse. By exploring these theoretical frameworks, the study aims to unravel the root causes of trafficking, understand its framing as a security threat, and inform effective interventions to enhance security measures at the two airports which are critical transportation hubs.

2.7 Conceptual Framework

The independent variable in this study was HT undercurrents that sustain its prevalence (gender, economic factors, conflict and covert nature of human trafficking); complicity of government officials and weak laws and policies; the security threats associated with forms of HT (money laundering, terrorism, kidnaping, abduction and proliferation of SALW); security implications of the security risks posed by HT; and measures to address HT. Both successful and unsuccessful national security outcomes are the dependent variables in this research. The intervening variables include: policies on human trafficking, national laws, international laws and application of technology at the airports. The Conceptual Framework is illustrated in Figure 21.

Figure 2.1 Conceptual Framework



Source: Research 2020

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the research design, the study site, target population, sample size, instruments of data collection, validity, reliability, data collection procedure, data analysis and presentation, and finally ethical considerations.

3.2 Research Design

Creswell (2018) assert that research design is simply the logical arrangements of the conditions driving the collection and analysis of data, in such a way that it aims to achieve the critical research purpose while observing all logical procedures. This research used a Cross- Sectional Survey design to examine the variables of interest. The design enabled the researcher to collect data from different participants at a single point in time (Jacobs, Irvine & Walker, 2020). Using mixed methods approach, the research employed both qualitative and quantitative methods of data analysis. The tools used to collect data were a structured questionnaire and an interview guide. Quantitative data was analyzed using frequencies and percentages while qualitative data was analyzed thematically.

3.3 Area of the Study

This study was conducted in two international airports in Kenya; Jomo Kenyata International Airport located in Nairobi, and Moi International Airport located in Mombasa along the coast. The airports serve as critical transportation hubs in Kenya and represent two regions in the country, which were of great interest to the study. For instance, the coastal region is a tourist attraction centre and a popular destination

for people wishing to connect to the rest of the world by either air or sea. Nairobi is in a strategic place for people from many countries intending to travel to various parts of the country as well as other countries. Indeed, people from Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and Uganda find Nairobi a strategic point for global connection where they can be able to use different airlines to connect to different parts of the world. Therefore, the cities are highly prone to possible human trafficking, hence the choice of the airports located in them.

3.4 Target Population

The study targeted National Police Service officers and immigration officers deployed at the two international airports. From the National Police Service, the officers targeted were from Kenya Airport Police Unit (KAPU) and Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DCI). Kenya Airport Police Unit officers are responsible for prevention and detections of crimes at the airports. DCI officers have the mandate of investigating all crimes at the airport. Immigration officers have the mandate of facilitating the clearance of person entering or leaving Kenya. These institutions oversee the daily activities at the airport, mainly focusing on the security of the airports. This makes the officers to be most suitable to provide information on human trafficking as well as its effect on national security. The summary of the target population is displayed in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Target Population

| Respondents | Target Population |
|--|--------------------------|
| Kenya Airport Police Unit Officers | 580 |
| Directorate of Criminal Investigation Officers | 195 |
| Immigration Officers | 420 |
| Total | 1195 |

Source: KAPU, DCI and Immigration Departments (2019)

3.5 Sampling Techniques

Sampling is a process whereby units of a sub group are carefully selected to be a representative of the whole population. To obtain the representative sample of the study, a multistage approach was used. In the first stage, the participants were subdivided into distinct strata according to the departments (KPS, DCI and Immigration). The second stage was proportionate stratified sampling in each of the department. From each stratum as per the department, random and systematic sampling techniques were employed to obtain the participants. For key informants, purposive sampling technique was used.

3.6 Sample Size

To obtain the adequate sample size, Patton's formula was used. According to the formula, the percentage of the study that has the necessary attribute is predicted to be 50% ($P=0.5$) with a 5% margin of error ($e = 0.05$) (Patton, 2015). Some 1195 respondents made up the population in this research.

To determine the sample size from the total population of 1195, the following Patton's statistical calculation was applied.

$$SS = \frac{Z^2 \times (p) \times (1 - p)}{e^2}$$

SS = Sample size

Z = Z – Value (1.96 represents a 95% confidence level)

P = Percentage of population relating to access to services, expressed as decimal

C or e = Confidence level or margin of error, expressed as decimal

For a finite population where the total population is less than 50, 000, Patton’s statistic was as follows:

$$\text{New SS} = \frac{SS}{(1 + \frac{SS - 1}{Pop})}$$

$$\text{New SS} = \frac{384.16}{(1 + \frac{384.16 - 1}{1195})} = 290.8 = 291$$

Table 3.2 Sample size

| Respondents | Sample Size |
|--|--------------------|
| Kenya Airport Police Unit Officers | 141 |
| Directorate of Criminal Investigation Officers | 48 |
| Immigration Officers | 102 |
| Total | 291 |

Source: Researcher, 2019

3.7 Data collection instruments

Data collection is an approach of obtaining precise information on variables of interest from respondents in order to answer specified research questions, test hypotheses, and assess results in a systematic manner. The researcher employed

questionnaires (Appendix II) and key informant interviews (Appendix III) to collect primary data. The questionnaires were utilized to collect data from the participants since it was the best strategy of accumulating significant information from the study respondents. Questionnaires were considered so that the researcher could reach a large group of respondents at the same time. The questionnaire also helped to collect responses from respondents.

The questionnaire was divided into four sections based on the specific objective of the study. Section A contained items on the demographic/background information of respondent while section B, Section C and section D had items on various thematic areas addressing the research questions.

Interviews were used to gather information from key informants. Interviews were preferred because of the ability to gather in-depth information that would explain the undercurrents that are associated with HT and its effects on national security. In addition, interviews provide opportunity for follow up questions to enhance clarity of information.

3.8 Validity

Validity represents the degree to which a test exactly measures what it is meant to measure (Corbin & Strauss, 2015; Kothari, 2014 & Creswell and Creswell, 2018). The researcher ensured that content validity was achieved by ensuring that the domains of interest captured in every objective, was covered. To ensure construct validity, the key variables were accurately defined and measured, minimizing any potential ambiguity. Additionally, the instruments used underwent validation and verification by subject matter experts to further enhance their reliability and credibility.

3.9 Reliability

Reliability measures the degree to which the instrument of data collection yields consistence results or data after a repeated trial (Corbin & Strauss, 2015). The test-retest correlation was applied in establishing predictability, dependability and stability of the test measures. The researcher achieved this by giving the test twice over the course of two weeks to a group of people with the same characteristics as the target demographic under the same circumstances as the first test.

3.10 Pilot Study

The questionnaire was subjected to piloting in Kisumu International airport, which has comparable characteristics to the sample of the main study. Twenty- nine (29) participants representing 10 % of the sample size participated in the pilot study. The findings from the pilot study were utilized to refine the research instrument and to eliminate ambiguities or misinterpretations due to grammatical error.

3.11 Data Collection Procedure

This study employed both questionnaires and interviews techniques to collect information from the respondents. These instruments comprised of research questions that generated data to give a measure of the variables under study (Corbin & Strauss, 2015; Kothari, 2014). The researcher conducted face-to-face interviews with the key informants. Three trained research assistants administered the questionnaires to the participants at Kenya Airport Police Unit, Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Immigration offices. Given the nature of the security work, the questionnaires were distributed and collected on the same day.

3.12 Data Analysis and presentation

The data acquired was analyzed through qualitative and quantitative analysis methods. Qualitative data was analyzed using thematic analysis, specifically, the analysis of the security threats associated with forms of human trafficking. Qualitative methods were used for the analysis of statistical data such as sex, age, level of education, occupation, work station, and length of service. A coding system based on the objectives of the study, for all item responses from the interviews and questionnaires was used. This was necessary in order to organize and reduce the research data into manageable summaries that were thematically organized. The data was then entered into the computer for statistical analysis using SPSS version 25, (2017). This converted the data into numerical codes, which represented the attributes of the various variables of the proposed study. Data were then summarized using percentages and frequencies. The percentages and frequencies were important for comparing similarities and disparities at different levels.

3.13 Ethical Considerations

In research, ethical considerations are an important element (Lloyd, 2018). Accordingly, authority to carry out the study was sought from Kenyatta University. A clearance certificate for the study was obtained from the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) where a Research Authorization Permit was issued. (Appendix IV). Permission was further sought to carry out the study from the NPS and Immigration Department headquarters. This was because the study was to involve participants from security related disciplines, and therefore, this required prior approvals from their respective headquarters.

The researcher additionally requested for informed permission from each respondent by sending a cover letter to each participant informing them of their voluntary involvement and the confidentiality of the data they would provide (Appendix 1).

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between human trafficking and national security at JKIA and MIA in Kenya. This chapter presents the findings of the study organized along the objectives. It will be recalled that the study had four objectives:

1. To examine the undercurrents that sustain the prevalence of human trafficking and their effects on national security at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) and Moi International Airport (MIA), Kenya
2. To assess the security threats associated with forms of human trafficking and their effects on national security at JKIA and MIA, Kenya.
3. To analyze the implications of the security challenges posed by human trafficking on national security at JKIA and MIA, Kenya.
4. To determine best practices to address human trafficking so as to enhance national security at JKIA and MIA, Kenya.

The chapter is organized in three sections. The first and second sections present the response rate and the demographic characteristics of respondents, respectively. The third section presents the findings of the study.

4.2 Response Rate of the Study Respondents

The researcher distributed 291 questionnaires to the National Police Service: KPS, DCI and Immigration Department. Out of the total distributed questionnaires, 240 were completed and returned translating to a return rate of 82.5%. The remaining questionnaires were not filled out. The information is exhibited in table 4.1.

Table 4.0 Response Rate of the Study Respondents

| | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| Police Officer-NPS | 117 | 48.7 |
| Police Officer-DCI | 41 | 17.1 |
| Immigration Officer | 82 | 34.2 |
| Total | 240 | 100.0 |

Source: Study Data (2020)

A total of 141 questionnaires were distributed to the National Police Service, out of which, 171 were completed and returned. The remaining 24 questionnaires were not returned. The total response therefore constituted 83.0% of the targeted National Police Service sample population.

To the DCI, 48 questionnaires were distributed, out of which 41 were completed and returned, while the remaining 7 were not returned. The total response was, therefore, 85.4% of the total targeted sample population of the Directorate of Criminal Investigation.

A total of 102 questionnaires were distributed to the Immigration Department out of which 82 were completed and returned. The total response was 80.4% of the total targeted sample population of officers from the Immigration department.

In total therefore, the questionnaires completed and returned were 240 constituting an 82.5% response rate of the total population. This was sufficient to respond to the concerns of this study. (Gay & Diehl, 1992) indicated that a high response rate is important for obtaining reliable data and insights from a survey. Hedges & Rhoads (2010) indicated that statistical power is enhanced by carefully considering the response rate of the respondents to detect meaningful effects or relationships.

Further to this, the statistics attained from the questionnaires were buttressed by the responses from the interviews conducted as follows: four (4) officers from the KPS, four (4) from the DCI, and two respondents from the Immigration Office.

4.3 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The study aimed at finding out the demographic characteristics of the respondents from the respective security agencies dealing with matters of human trafficking; KPS, DCI and the Immigration Department. Understanding the kind of respondent from which primary data was collected and the basis under which the interpretations were made was important. This also helped the researcher's in-depth understanding of some of the pertinent issues that were important in the analysis of the findings. In this regard, the socio-demographic characteristics measured included sex, age, work location, length of service at that particular station, and the level of education. The results are discussed in the subsections that follow.

4.3.1 Respondent Sex

Participants were asked to indicate their sex, either female or male. This helped to understand the sex more involved in curbing human trafficking at the Kenyan international airport. The data is shown in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2 Respondent Sex

| | Sex | Frequency | Percent |
|-------|------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Male | 152 | 63.3 |
| | Female | 88 | 36.7 |
| | Total | 240 | 100 |
| Total | | 240 | 100.0 |

Source: Study Data (2020).

As can be seen from the table, the male population is higher than the female population. Out of the total respondents, 36.7% were female while 63.3% were male. The percentage of male respondents represents almost two-thirds of the study's respondents. This correlates with the NPS recruitment policy, where females get a third out of the total recruit population. This resonates with Brown (2020) who argues that the "institution of security and war is closely related to gender and in particular, the construction of masculinity". This could then explain the low numbers of female officers compared to the males who are the majority in security sectors. The findings are consistent with other findings, for example, Hulse, (2018). This is a clear indication that many societies have the perception

that security is more of a male domain rather than that of a female. Additionally, the hard training requirements and duties assigned to security training discourages female turnout during recruitment process. However, it is commendable that the security provider appeared to adhere to the Constitution of Kenya 2010. The Constitution stipulates that public institutions should ensure at least 30% of either sex is maintained in employment opportunities to advance gender equality, promote diversity and inclusion, empower women, ensure legal compliance, and drive progressive social change in Kenyan public institutions.

4.3.2 Respondents' Age

Participants were asked to indicate their age. The data obtained is displayed in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3. Age of the Respondents

| | Age Bracket | Frequency | Percent |
|--------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | 18-25 | 50 | 20.8 |
| | 26-35 | 90 | 37.5 |
| | 36-45 | 68 | 28.3 |
| | 46 and Above | 32 | 13.3 |
| Total | | 240 | 100.0 |

Source: Study Data (2020)

From the table, the highest numbers of respondents were between the ages of 26 to 35, representing 37.5% of the respondents. Respondents aged between 36 and 45 were 28.3 %. Those aged 46 and above were 13.3%, while respondents below 26

years and above 18 years of age were 20.8%. This shows that officers in the prime age bracket of between 26 and 45 years, constituting 65.8%, dominate in security institutions dealing with human trafficking. This age bracket is more experienced, with knowledge and skills on issues enhancing national security. They are more productive and energized to handle matters related to criminality in the wider society. The age category of 18-25 was marked as the third. These are young officers in the profession who are getting introduced to different departments in the service. It should be noted that age 18 years is the entry level. It is, therefore, not surprising that they are fewer in-service delivery in sensitive areas like the airport as they are in job learning. The age category of 46 and above is the last with the least respondents. The explanation is that, at this age, most officers have already specialized in their careers and are the Officers in Charge (OC) in the various departments they head. They are people who are trusted by the senior management to be in the frontline of training, mentoring and enhancing individual and institutional capacity building. Equally, they are the key stakeholders trusted by the senior management in supervising and enhancing discipline among the junior officers.

4.3.3 Respondent's Work location

Participants were asked to indicate their work station by marking the relevant options provided. The data provided is shown in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4. Respondent Work location

| | | Frequency | Percent |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Respondent's Work Location | Nairobi | 168 | 70.0 |
| | Mombasa | 72 | 30.0 |
| Total | | 240 | 100.0 |
| | | | |

Source: Study Data (2020)

This study examined two main airports in Kenya located in Nairobi and Mombasa. From the findings, 70% of the respondents were from Nairobi while 30% were from Mombasa. Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) in Nairobi, being the capital city of Kenya, is the largest and busiest airport in East Africa. Therefore, it may be considered as the origin, transit and destination point or a combination of two or of all the three dimensions. From the National Police Service establishment, JKIA and MIA international airports have 649 and 171 officers, respectively. According to office records, the number of officers stationed at JKIA and MIA was 510 and 70, respectively. Deployment in the airports depend on the needs of the specific units. Consequently, JKIA is manned by more officers than MIA. Equally, with immigration officers, the number of officers from JKIA were more as compared to Moi International Airport due to the operational requirements. This was also noted by the Joint Operation Centre (2020), Nairobi, which indicated that most cases of human trafficking occur within JKIA since it is the busier in terms of personnel traveling, as compared to MIA, which mostly deals with fewer and special international flights.

4.3.4 Respondent's length of service at current work station

Participants were asked to indicate their length of service at their current station by marking the relevant options provided. This was important as it could aid in understanding whether the respondents have an in-depth understanding of the nature of crimes in their areas of jurisdiction. The distribution of the respondents is depicted in Figure 4.3.4

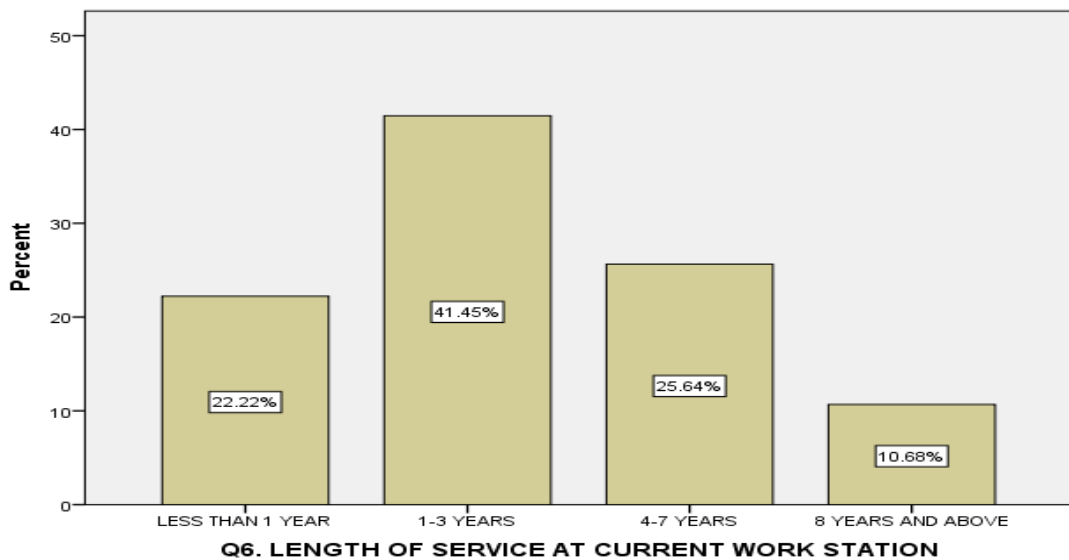


Figure 4.1 Respondent length of service at current work station

Source: Study Data (2020)

From the findings, (41.5%) of the respondents of the study had stayed in their workstation between one and three years. Service Standing Order (SSO), Cap. 72, para. 6 (1-2) of the NPS states that an officer appointed to the service shall be deemed to have consented to serve in any station in Kenya (SSO). Transfers shall be in compliance with the terms and conditions of employment in the service, and in order for the officer to be considered for a transfer, he/she shall have served in a duty station continuously for at least one year and a maximum of three years. Thus, the vast majority of the respondents having worked for at least three-year tenure at

the same work station provides a rich source of first-hand experience and insights that can enhance the depth and validity of the study findings. Although there is a rider that in exceptional circumstances the commission may determine an officer's transfer without due regards to the prescribed period of 1 and 3 years.

The length of service of 4-7 years was the second one. This may be attributed by a combination of factors related to career development, job satisfaction, organizational culture, external market conditions, and personal priorities, thus await their transfers from the National Police Service Commission (NPSC) or from immigration office.

The duration at the workstations was adequate to respond to the concerns of the study. A Longer stay gave the officers the opportunity to experience different activities at the airports, ranging from legal to illegal activities. Therefore, the 1-3 years and 4-7 years' categories were deemed to have experiences that could add value to the study.

Further to this, 22.2% of the total respondents had spent less than one year in their current workstation. This may be the newly deployed or transferred officers from another work location. As indicated from SSO CAP 72, para 6 (3) of the NPS, The National Police Service Commission (NPSC), may, under extreme circumstances, decide to transfer an officer without taking into account the time frame outlined in paragraph 6(2). Hence, the officers may be having an idea of the subject matter under study (SSO Cap 72).

4.3.5 Respondent's level of education

Participants were asked to indicate their level of education by marking the relevant options provided. The data provided is shown in Table 4.5

Table 4.5 Respondent level of education

| | Frequency | Percent |
|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Below Form 4 | 6 | 2.5 |
| Form 4 | 72 | 30.0 |
| College (post-secondary education) | 123 | 51.3 |
| University | 39 | 16.3 |
| Total | 240 | 100.0 |

Source: Study Data (2020)

In terms of education, majority (51.3%) of the respondents had a post-secondary education certificate. This may be attributed to the fact that, despite having a formal secondary school certificate, the majority of respondents acknowledge the value of advancing their academic excellence. Post-secondary education plays a significant role in preparing individuals for security jobs by providing them with specialized knowledge, technical skills, regulatory compliance, advancement opportunities, and the ability to adapt to evolving security landscapes. This fortifies Finnie and Childs (2020) observation that most youth believe that post-secondary education leads them to secure job opportunities in the government sector. In addition, due to a rise in transnational organized crime, officers have made an effort to advance their careers in order to enhance their skills and knowledge on curbing up organized crime.

The number of officers with Form 4 level of education is at 30%. Although the number is slightly lower than that those with post-secondary education, secondary education is the threshold level required for entry into government jobs. Form 4 level of education plays a crucial role in preparing individuals for entry-level in security jobs by providing foundational knowledge, skills, and opportunities for further education and career advancement in the security field. While Form 4 level of education provides a foundation for entry-level security positions, individuals interested in advancing their careers or specializing in specific areas of security may pursue further education, such as vocational training programs, apprenticeships, or certifications. This prepares officers for these pathways by providing the necessary academic and interpersonal skills which are requisite skills to deal with the vice under study.

Out of the total respondents, 16.3% had a university education, which indicates that security is also entrenched as a career for those who have undergraduate and postgraduate certificates. Lastly, those with education levels below KCSE were (2.5%). This affirms that security jobs, particularly those involving basic surveillance, access control, and patrolling duties, do not require extensive formal education. Employers may hire individuals with below Form Four level of education for these roles as they focus more on practical skills, physical fitness, and reliability rather than academic qualifications. In line with the study findings, James and Johnson (2021) indicated that employers may provide on-the-job training and development opportunities to security officers with below Form Four level of education to enhance their skills, knowledge, and professionalism. With proper

training and support, individuals can succeed and advance in their security careers regardless of their initial educational attainment.

4.4 Findings of the Research Objectives

This section addresses the four main research objectives. The first objective sought to ascertain the undercurrents that sustain the prevalence of human trafficking and their effects on national security at JKIA and MIA in Kenya. The findings of this first objective are presented and discussed in the section below.

4.4.1 Undercurrents sustaining prevalence of HT and their effect on National Security

As discussed in Chapter Two, there are many factors that sustain HT despite the security challenges that are associated with the vice. The first objective sought to establish these undercurrents and their effects on national security.

Before delving in the intricacies that sustain human trafficking, it was important to establish if the participants had experienced any cases of human trafficking in the study areas. The respondents were asked to indicate whether they had encountered any cases of HT in their respective stations of work, JKIA and MIA in Kenya. This was important because the sample of this study comprised security personnel charged with entry and exit points and had the opportunity to encounter all people entering and leaving the country. According to ILO (2022), police and immigration officers may provide data on the prevalence of human trafficking. The findings on the encounter of human trafficking by security agents are summarized in Table 4.6

Table 4.6 Prevalence of Human Trafficking in Kenya

| | | Frequency | Percent |
|---|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| Prevalence of Human Trafficking at JKIA and MIA in Kenya | Yes | 128 | 53.3 |
| | No | 112 | 46.7 |
| | Total | 240 | 100.0 |
| Frequency of respondent who had encountered Cases of human trafficking at the airport | Rarely | 107 | 44.6 |
| | Occasionally | 98 | 40.8 |
| | Often | 20 | 8.3 |
| | Very often | 15 | 6.3 |
| Total | | 240 | 100.0 |

Source: Study Data (2020)

From the findings, 53.3% of the respondents indicated that they had encountered cases of human trafficking, while 46.7% had not encountered such cases. This indicates that human trafficking does take place at the international airports, hence the possibility of affecting the national security of the country. Airports relocate borders from the geographical boundary, offering multiple cross border travels (Mirkovic & Sovilj, 2019). Accordingly, this opens up new opportunities that attract passengers of diverse nature. Both JKIA and MIA offer multiple border controls, making them a catchment of passengers that would likely include victims and perpetrators of human trafficking. Trafficking in people is one of the most profitable areas of transnational organized crime according to UNDOC (2022) report on trends for these crimes. It should be noted that airports are important as points of entry since they serve as the departure and arrival points for a variety of travellers, greeters, employees, and residents (Efthymiou & Papatheodorou, 2018; Hiney, Efthymiou, & Morgenroth, 2021). Airports are extensions of a nation's strength and reputation, giving them symbolic significance. Due to their great visibility, mass

congestion and public accessibility, airports are particularly susceptible to security concerns, including people trafficking (Khan & Efthymiou, 2021). As a result, security must always be improved. Processing travellers through airport terminals and national borders within a suitable amount of time is increasingly difficult due to rising passenger volumes and often inadequate border staff resources (Sultan, 2019). Human traffickers could dodge security personnel to slip in or away with their victims. As earlier argued, the use of conventional methods in human trafficking makes it easier to transit the victims. To this end, at airport immigration, there is still a larger likelihood of dishonest behaviour and illegal crossing of international boundaries.

Existing literature indicates that human trafficking is on the rise due to its minimal risk and significant profit potential. As emphasized in previous chapters, the intricate dynamics of human trafficking, along with its exploitation of vulnerable victims who often collude with perpetrators, pose significant challenges for security personnel in detecting and combating this crime. The fact that 53.3% % of participants aver that they have experienced human trafficking at the airports serves as a demonstration that traffickers use the airports as entry points to transnational routes to destination countries of the victims. The findings are similar to those of the National Crime Research Centre (2021) on human trafficking which indicated that HT from Kenya to other countries was the prevalent at 60.2 %. According to (IOM, 2022), some border control systems were nearly at breaking point, and due to such pressure, a higher probability of illegal crossing and fraudulent behaviour at airport immigration existed. Implicitly, the accuracy of the workers at the airports, which is crucial for detecting human trafficking is compromised by heavy workload, coupled

with long working hours. Bersin and Karlsson (2019) argue that global illicit flows, facilitated by organized crime, pose a significant threat to public safety peace and security.

Notably, the findings of this study present a lower rate (53.3%) as compared with 60.2% as recorded by NCRC (2021). One possible reason of lower rate of 53.3% could be that there is progress in curbing human trafficking at the international airports in Kenya. This could be attributed to introduction of technology for screening and biometric security systems that recognizes individual physical characteristics such as fingerprints, signatures as well as voice and retina (Khan, 2021). Biometric in the airports' environment provides countless way of identity verification. The biometric identification device instinctively confirms a person's identity by assessing a physical feature or action that can be replicated about that person, whereas the verification systems demand the utilization of cards that contain physical characteristics of that person during verification procedures (See Andress, 2019; Ates, 2019; Khan 2021). It is therefore possible that the use of Traveler Verification Systems (TVSs) introduced in 2017, supports comprehensive biometric exit and entry procedures at the airports, having the potential to identify fake documents and visa overstays more effectively. Data on human trafficking flows that have been detected may vary by location and may not accurately reflect the country's real trafficking problem. Market dynamics motivate the human trafficking trade. The business is sustained by the endless demand for the services which the victims of trafficking provide in destination countries.

4.4.1.1 Gender Issue in Human Trafficking

The study further sought to establish the preferred sex of victims of human trafficking as well as the perpetrators. The experience of trafficking might vary greatly between men and women since both are not targeted in the same manner or for the same reasons. This may result in a highly gendered trafficking cycle overall. Participants were asked to identify the preferred sex victims by marking the relevant options provided. The results are shown in Table 4.7 below.

Table 4.7 Sex of Victims and Traffickers

| | | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------------|--------|------------|--------------|
| victims | Male | 42 | 17.4 |
| | Female | 198 | 82.6 |
| Total | | 240 | 100.0 |
| traffickers | Male | 163 | 67.9 |
| | Female | 77 | 32.1 |
| Total | | 240 | 100.0 |

Source: Study Data (2020)

The results indicated that the majority of the victims of human trafficking were female (82.6%). Male victims were at 17.4%. This implies that higher number of girls and women are more trafficked compared to boys and men. Women and girls are disproportionately vulnerable to trafficking due to the social, economic, and cultural factors, such as limited access to education, economic opportunities, and decision-making power. These make them more susceptible to traffickers that perpetuate sex inequality. Sex inequality implies that more women and girls are commonly trafficked for sexual exploitation, including forced prostitution, pornography, and sexual servitude, reflecting the unequal distribution of

vulnerability and victimization based on sex. This unequal distribution of vulnerability based on sex heightens the risk of exploitation and undermines national security by perpetuating social instability and undermining the safety of marginalized groups.

Gender inequality fosters a culture where the objectification and commodification of women's bodies are more prevalent. This contributes to the demand for trafficked persons, particularly for sexual exploitation. Traffickers exploit these inequalities to lure women and girls into the sex trade. The Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (2022) indicated that females make up the majority of the victims detected worldwide. Indeed, Women and girls are more prone to sexual exploitation and forced labour than boys. While women and girls are often trafficked for sexual exploitation, they are also trafficked for forced labour, including domestic servitude and forced marriage. In societies where women have limited economic opportunities and are expected to fulfil traditional roles, they are more vulnerable to such forms of exploitation. In line with the European Parliament's findings in 2022, human trafficking was estimated globally at 70%, with 49% involving women, 21% girls, and 30% men and boys. This exacerbates existing patterns of discrimination against girls and women, increasing their vulnerability to human rights violations and posing risks to national security. During interviews, an immigration respondent stated that...

“In many cases, the majority of victims discovered at the airport are adult women, albeit increasingly minors as well. Women and girls make up over 75 percent of those who identified as victims of human trafficking for sexual

and labour exploitation. Additionally, males make up more than half of the victims of forced labour and human trafficking” (RSP 23).

Another respondent from the migration department also pointed out that;

“Although the trend is not uniform across all locations, trafficking of both girls and women for sexual exploitation is prevalent in the places where the majority of victims are detected worldwide.” (RSP 233)

From the above observations, trafficking of females for sexual exploitation is prevalent both globally and within the country of origin. The victims are deprived of their regular life and forced to provide sexual services, with the direct benefit going to the traffickers. This is done through a variety of forceful techniques, such as gender-based violence and discrimination, which traffickers use to control and manipulate the victims. Women and girls who have experienced discrimination or violence may be more likely to fall into the hands of traffickers. According to the 2019 global report by the United Nations, trafficking individuals for sexual enslavement represents a form of gender-based violence, often influenced by prevailing heterosexual norms in many communities. In such contexts, sexual relations with the opposite gender are commonly accepted, with men typically holding power in matters of sexuality. Consequently, patriarchal societies tend to view women as objects meant to fulfil male sexual desires, perpetuating discrimination and violence against them. This contributes to the vulnerability of girls and women, who constitute a significant proportion of trafficking victims. In line with this view, Cousineau (2020) in his study on sex power and controlling bodies argued that the victims are stripped of ordinary life and forced to provide sexual services, which results in direct financial gains for the traffickers through

sex/gender systems, the built-in power structures, and the coercive tactics that go along with them. The gendered system posited by the author reinforces the core philosophies of male power, which expose women to harmful social norms that sustain human trafficking. From this perspective, women are viewed as rewards or providers of pleasure for male perpetrators involved in human trafficking. These perpetrators coerce women into working as prostitutes, generating revenue that supports the illicit trade. In addition to sexual exploitation, women may be assigned other traditional feminine roles, such as cooking for criminals engaged in illegal activities worldwide. This exploitation is facilitated by the societal expectation of women's passivity, which often promotes loyalty and submissiveness, making them easier to control.

As the perpetrators benefit, the security of women and the larger society is compromised. Sexual exploitation dehumanizes the women by encroaching on their personal security. At the same time, it undermines societal and national security. In many societies, women play a key role as home-makers and therefore, trafficking them from their communities destabilizes their families and societies. The social stigma associated with sex work or with being a trafficking victim can further marginalize women and girls who are trafficked. This stigma can prevent them from seeking assistance or reporting their traffickers. This erodes social cohesion by promoting inequality, criminality and corruption within society, and may have insecurity implication on the national security.

The study's findings align with the observations made by European Parliament (2022) regarding the fight against trafficking in human beings in the Europeans Unions (EUs) external relations. The observation indicates that human trafficking is

more prevalent than ever, with women and girls constituting the bulk of the victims, primarily due to sexual exploitation. It is essential to note that this vice remains shrouded in a culture of silence, which undermines the human dignity, health, autonomy and security of its victims. Trafficking women for sexual exploitation infringes on national security because it is the state's duty to safeguard its people from any form of exploitation. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (2021) annual report established that gender-based violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent human right violations in the world. Most trafficked women are compelled to perform commercial sex acts, while many others end up as domestic slaves. Women are the most frequently trafficked victims due to their susceptibility to the negative effects of abuses and the demand for their sexual services.

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (2022) has similar views. They observed that women and girls are more prone to sexual exploitation than males and, once recruited, women often encounter circumstances with extremely limited liberty. The so-called "owners" of the victims of HT frequently subject them to severe physical and mental abuse, including rape, forced abortions, and physical violence. The victims' lives have serious effects on national security. They become estranged from their families, leaving their children uncared for and unprotected, thus exposing them to security risks. Notably, HT may erode social cohesion by promoting criminality, corruption, and inequality within society, ultimately, affecting national security.

Human traffickers often target women due to their heightened vulnerability, exploiting them in various ways that can evade suspicion. Research indicates that

women are trafficked for sexual exploitation and to sustain other transnational crimes, such as drug trafficking, terrorism, and money laundering, often orchestrated by organized criminal networks. The European Parliament (2022) report highlights forced begging, child selling, and forced marriage as additional forms of exploitation faced by women. For instance, women forced into begging draw empathy from the public, who perceive them as disadvantaged and in need, while they are actually being exploited to sustain criminal acts. This underscores the interconnectedness of human trafficking with broader transnational criminal activities. Understanding and addressing these dynamics is crucial for enhancing security measures, particularly in sensitive locations such as JKIA and MIA.

Socioeconomic disadvantages for women may also explain why women and children are targeted for human trafficking. These include gender inequality, discriminatory labour laws, migration laws, and gender-blind policies, conflict or post-conflict settings, and humanitarian crises that put women and girls at greater risk of exploitation. In many countries, women and girls have limited legal protections and access to justice. This can make it difficult for them to escape trafficking situations and seek help. Other factors include poverty, lack of control over financial assets, lack of access to education, lack of viable employment opportunities, and lack of access to healthcare (see for example, United Nations 2020). Gender discrimination that leads to inequality makes most women poor and marginalized, hence prone to human trafficking. Feminization of poverty and lack of socioeconomic opportunities (Gacinya, 2020), coupled with compassion for their families, predisposes women to susceptible situations, deceiving girls and young women from economically poor countries who are desperately looking for

employment. Accordingly, social economic adversities predispose most women to social challenges that make them vulnerable to vices such as human trafficking.

Push factors, such as gender inequality, have resulted in gendered poverty, lack of viable employment opportunities, as well as lack of control over financial resources and limited access to education. These intensify women and girls' trafficking rather than them being traffickers. One of the interviewees from immigration department indicated that;

“Here at JKIA, most of the young women and girls are travelling to countries like Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Russia, Northern Korea, Middle East and Asia claiming that they are going for domestic work” RSP 23

Based on the above narration, many young women and girls are traveling to countries such as Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Russia, Northern Korea, the Middle East, and Asia to seek domestic jobs. This observation raises concerns about the potential exploitation and trafficking of women and girls from Kenya to these destinations. Such travel warrants investigation and attention from authorities, in order to address human trafficking and safeguard national security. The socially assigned roles and responsibilities of women and girls often lead them to seek low-skilled, low-paying domestic work in foreign countries. This reflects a trend in global labour markets that are deregulated and informal and that lack adequate legal protection. Consequently, women and girls face gender-specific vulnerabilities and risks in their journey, increasing their susceptibility to human trafficking. Towards this end, the Inter - Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking (2017) adduced that, due to gender discrimination, women and girls who seek to work as migrant workers are more susceptible to risks of being trafficked and exploited by their employers. They

find it difficult to negotiate on terms and conditions of their work (Bowles, 2020). Additionally, they have little or no knowledge about their rights.

Restrictions on women's freedom of movement and employment are imposed by discriminatory labour or immigration laws and gender blind policies that disregard human rights and gender sensitivity. This compels more women to choose to work in unregulated and informal sectors. Additionally, women become more susceptible to being trafficked and exploited. Therefore, it is not surprising that more women are trafficked.

The Differential Opportunity Theory states that socioeconomic stratification relegates some people to strenuous environments making them vulnerable to exploitation. In light of this, those from poor socioeconomic backgrounds who have little prospects for achievement may succeed by using whatever means available to them. It is through such conditions that criminals, including perpetrators of human trafficking, recruit women. Coupled with the demand for domestic work that does not always require academic or professional training, traditional domestic roles make women more susceptible to exploitation by perpetrators. This is not to suggest that all women recruited by employment agencies are predestined for human trafficking. Rather, the argument is that the same procedures used for legitimate recruitment for those seeking employment to improve their economic status are also exploited for illegitimate causes. This complicates the motives of travelling, making it difficult to isolate the genuine cases from the criminal cases.

Furthermore, women and girls are particularly susceptible to various forms of exploitation when there is no legal order, whether during war, after a conflict, or during a humanitarian crisis. Armed organizations, for instance, may target women

and girls for forced or under-age marriages, sexual slavery, or domestic servitude. The cycle of violence against women is fuelled by gender-based violence and cultural norms that legitimize it. Similar views were observed by the European Parliament (2022) report which, noted that violence increases female vulnerability to trafficking by eroding their self-confidence and self-esteem, as well as increasing their risk of being trafficked as they attempt to escape abusive environments. All these push and pull factors result in human rights violations and consequently, have security implications for national security.

On the other hand, the 17.4 % of men being trafficked is also an indicator that men are victims of human trafficking, although at a lower rate. This lower rate has been associated with biased focus from policy and legal perspectives. Ingelstrom (2020) found that HT has traditionally been linked with sexual exploitation of women and children, while other victims of exploitation have remained on the margins of identification. Law enforcers primarily focus on trafficked women and children. Through sex/gender systems, men are perceived as breadwinners and presumed to hold significant power, thus considered less vulnerable. Ingelstrom (2020) further observed that men who are victims of labour exploitation are often treated harshly and deported, as they are regarded as unauthorized immigrants. This hinders the identification of men as victims of HT. The security implication is that men are rarely identified as victims of HT, though they are exploited to provide labour in various parts of the world. In line with this perspective, UNODC (2020) indicated that the majority of victims in Sub-Saharan Africa were trafficked for labour servitude, with some nations reporting forced labour, hybrid forms of exploitation, and human trafficking. Considering that most males are exploited for labour, the

actual number could be higher. Additionally, globally, since more men than women are involved in criminal activities, there is the possibility that men are recruited as combatants. Therefore, although the male victims in this study appear to have a lower rate than women, it could be due to gender issues that underrate male victimhood, coupled with the camouflaged nature of the vice.

Apart from labour exploitation, studies have also shown that males are victims of sexual exploitation. According to Inglestrom (2020), cases of male trafficking for sex have been found in countries such as Germany, Sri Lanka and Russia, though they are rarely identified and victims are seldom assisted. Therefore, low identification may explain the low rate.

Significantly, the findings demonstrate that both men and women are trafficked, and this has implication for national security. The victims and the larger society are psychologically, physically, economically, and socially affected, thus impacting societal security and the wellbeing of the entire nation. Men, who should provide security for the families, are taken away, leaving their families vulnerable to lack of basic needs and protection. Most of them are in the productive age and should offer productive service to their families and the nation. Thus, they leave a socioeconomic void.

HT may contribute to political instability and conflict, negatively affecting national security in regions where it is prevalent. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) (2022) observed that migration resulting from war, persecution, or natural catastrophes (humanitarian migration) has a great human cost and poses serious economic and social problems in the nations of origin, transit, and recipients. For

source countries, emigration can lead to the loss of working human capital and brain drain. Contrastively, legal emigration could benefit the source countries from remittances. Human trafficking provides no opportunity for such virtue; instead, the gains sustain the perpetrators of criminal activity. Therefore, HT is not only devastating for survivors of violence and their families but also entails social and economic costs.

As regards the traffickers, the findings indicated that the majority are male at 67.9 % as compared to females at 32.1%. The results resonate with existing literature that both men and women engage in criminal activities. Although most human traffickers are men, 30 % of the convicted perpetrators worldwide are female (Agbulos, 2017). The study finding is in line with the International Labour Organization (2022) report that indicated that in parts of South East, numerous people were trafficked by women or relatives. The increasing involvement of women in human trafficking creates challenges for the security of communities and societies. The fact that 32.1% of human traffickers could be women in a Kenyan case suggests, a worrying trend, given the fact that women are homemakers and sustain the development of communities. Their evidenced active role in human trafficking threatens their socially constructed roles as homemakers and the security of the nation.

Reflectively, in embracing the vice, the motherly nature of women could lure large numbers of victims to the detriment of the society. Agbulos (2017), in his study on women as perpetrators of violence, averred that titles of female perpetrators have gendered labels with a “nurturing mother narrative” that projects concern for the victims. The titles obscure their ill intentions, enabling them to win the trust of

victims. Most women perpetrators are social victims of sexual abuse and, thus, susceptible to illegal trade. Financial gain and stability, and a corresponding sense of empowerment keep female offenders in their position: wealth and economic advantages are more important than conventional social norms and religious beliefs that recognize sex only as an act of reproduction (Agbulos, 2017). This makes the women who are involved in the vice work harder to obtain victims to improve their status in the criminal groups. The use of soft skills of persuasion may work to their advantage, thus enlarging their base for recruitment without detection.

Arguably, women's involvement in the vice has catastrophic implication for security given their power to persuade the innocent victims from disadvantaged background. Surprisingly, there is hardly any investigation of the women perpetrators of HT. The findings of this study underscore the importance of pay attention to female traffickers who could be contributing to the prevalence of this crime, thereby negatively affecting national security in Kenya.

In summary, Kenya continues to struggle with a high prevalence of human trafficking. While this study's findings demonstrate a lower percentage compared to previous studies, the vice still persists. The implementation of various measures including the use of technology at the airports, may account for this decrease. The gender predominantly involved in trafficking is female, primarily due to the specific demands and roles associated with femininity within criminal circles.

The majority of traffickers are male, attributed to their entrenched positions in the criminal world and their expertise in the intricate operations of HT, which give them an advantage in recruitment and transportation of victims. Interestingly, although

women's involvement in trafficking is lower, it still significantly impacts the security of the nation. Despite the sustained prevalence of this vice, Kenya has implemented measures to counter it, mainly due to its implications for security.

4.4.1.2 Undercurrents that sustain HT from security providers' perspective

Human trafficking is a vice that is camouflaged or disguised by various aspects, making it challenging for security providers to control. Security providers in many nations encounter numerous challenges despite being effectively trained to address the security threats. Additionally, the application of advanced technology is expected to aid in the detection of such vices. However, as previously mentioned, the vice persists despite detrimental effects on national security. Therefore, this study aims to analyse the factors that perpetuate human trafficking despite the security measures in place. To this end, participants were also asked to indicate the undercurrents that sustain human trafficking at JKIA and MIA on a Likert scale ranked from 1 to 5, whereby 1= to a very large extent, 2=to a large extent, 3= to a moderate extent, 4= to a lesser extent, and 5= not at all. Table 4.4.1.2 reflects the data obtained from the responses.

Table 4.8 Undercurrents that Sustain HT at Kenya International Airports.

| Undercurrents that sustain prevalence of human trafficking | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Total |
|--|-------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|
| Human trafficking is rampant in Kenyan airports due to weak laws | 66.2% | 30.5% | 2.6% | 0.4% | 0.3% | 100 % |
| Human trafficking is done undercover on daily basis at the airports | 50.3% | 36.5% | 11.9% | 0.9% | 0.4% | 100 % |
| Airport employees and management are involved in trafficking | 34.4% | 56.3% | 7.9% | 0.7% | 0.7% | 100 % |
| There are increased cases of human trafficking recently at the airports | 35.8% | 55% | 8.3% | 0.5% | 0.4% | 100 % |
| Politicians and government officials facilitates human trafficking | 39.1% | 48.3% | 7.3% | 4.5% | 0.8% | 100 % |
| The cartels have made human trafficking a business and thus it is a norm in the airports | 36.4% | 56.3% | 5.3% | 1.8% | 0.2% | 100 % |
| Every day at least someone is trafficked through airports due to weak policies and collusion | 47.2% | 42.8% | 7.2% | 2.5% | 0.7% | 100 % |
| Work permits and weak systems makes human trafficking hard to detect | 49.5% | 39.7% | 7.9% | 2.3% | 0.6% | 100 % |
| Unemployment has made human trafficking a business that thrives at the airports | 46.4% | 43% | 7.3% | 2.6% | 0.7% | 100 % |
| Average Mean | 45.0% | 45.4% | 7.3% | 1.8% | 0.5% | 100 % |

Source (Data, 2020)

The data presented in the table indicates that a significant majority of study participants, 97%, believe that human trafficking (HT) is prevalent at the airport due to weak law enforcement. Additionally, 86.8% respectively perceive human trafficking as occurring on a daily basis at the airport. Furthermore, the findings reveal that 90.7% believe that airport employees and management are complicit in HT. A substantial portion of respondents, 90.8% note an increase in HT cases at airports recently. Moreover, 87.4% attribute the facilitation of HT to politicians and government officials. Many respondents, 92.9%, perceive HT as a norm perpetuated by cartels at airports. Additionally, a considerable proportion, 90% believe that weak policies and collusion lead to daily trafficking incidents at airports. Concerning detection, 89.2% feel that work permits and weak systems hinder the identification of HT. Lastly, 89.4% attribute unemployment to the thriving business of HT at airports.

Overall, many factors sustain the undercurrents of human trafficking at the international airports in Kenya. Significantly, weak laws and policies create loopholes that perpetrators of human trafficking and those charged with the security of the nation in various capacities exploit. The complexity of the vice further complicates matters.

As indicated in the table above, HT is done undercover on a daily basis at the airports. Accordingly, 86.8% to a very large extent and a larger extent established that human trafficking was conducted undercover, allowing the vice to flourish in the country. Working undercover could mean that the vice is camouflaged by many factors, some of which could be victim- related. This makes it difficult for security

agents to detect the vice. The challenges associated with the detection of human trafficking are well documented, with acknowledgement of the camouflaged complexity that makes detection difficult (Felice, 2021; TIP, Report 2021). The lures that traffickers use captivate victims, making them fail to scrutinize the offers made.

One of the participants from the NPS observed that;

“The people who fall victims of trafficking are attracted by the promise of greener pasture. They are happy to play along with them (perpetrators). For example, some are lured with job opportunities...you know our country, if someone hears that they will get a job, they do not think twice” (RSP 21)

As expressed by the quote above, human traffickers take advantage of the vulnerability of the victims. The concept of “greener pasture” is interpreted as promising opportunities in destination countries. Additionally, the high unemployment rate in Kenya makes the lures irresistible, leading victims to play along with the traffickers. As highlighted earlier, various economic sectors present distinct exploitative opportunities that sustain the vice of human trafficking (see UNODC, 2020), hence victims may not immediately realize that they are being trafficked (Interuniversity Institute for Research and Development, 2023).

Human traffickers may also utilize business companies to conceal their illegal trafficking of humans, presenting human trafficking as a legitimate enterprise. In a country where job opportunities are scarce, the promise of employment could be enticing. This sentiment is echoed by one of the respondents who stated:

“Most people who travel outside the county for online jobs are aided by registered agents, who actually trap them to be victims of human trafficking or migrant smuggling” RSP 12.

Trafficked people are lured into the system under the guise of legitimate employment, while others are abducted or ensnared through various techniques. The protracted social economic-challenges seem to blind many victims to the tactics of perpetrators, making it seemingly appear as though it is a legal trade.

The use of disguises by traffickers to gain the trust of victims makes human trafficking a crime that is deeply camouflaged. Accordingly, the trafficker pretends to be someone they are not - a friend, a big sister /brother, or a parental figure to the victim - exploiting their weaknesses. Moreover, they capitalize on the vulnerability of the victim to manipulate, persuade and control them, ultimately entrapping them. Existing literature shows that traffickers go to great lengths to collect information on potential victims, and find ways to entrap them (Congressional Research Service, 2022). Human traffickers lure and groom their victims. UNODC (2020) observes that traffickers target individuals who are marginalized or in challenging situations. The promise of a better life characterized by lucrative jobs, a glamorous lifestyle, and overseas travel works to captivate victims. The disguised caring behaviour of traffickers often serves to persuade victims to believe that they are in safe hands, leading them to cooperate. This makes the detection of human trafficking a challenging task for security personnel.

In addition to persuading victims, traffickers may also use intimidation and/ or physical force to protect (and control) victims of human trafficking, as captured in the quote below.

“You know, once the victims agree with the involved agents, they surrender their travel documents. Through this, they are made to believe that the purpose is to obtain travel documents.... You see, sometimes they move in groups so the agency takes the responsibility of ensuring that the documents are ready.... once they have the documents, they do not return them back.

This becomes a control measure that they use to threaten the victims.” (RSP 104).

As depicted in the quote above, victims surrendering their personal documents to traffickers are used to control them. Personal documents are not only essential for identification but are also required to obtain travel documents that demonstrate the right to travel regionally and internationally. With personal documents confiscated, an individual is deprived of their rights to plan and organize their lives. Porter & Kubin (2020) observed that important personal documents are crucial for certain events and may be necessary for significant life transactions. They are, victims may fear deportation. UNODC (2020) observes that the fear of being detected as an unauthorized immigrant may be a potent tactic for traffickers, who often threaten to report their victims to the authorities, thus easily keeping them in abusive circumstances.

Furthermore, victims may be intimidated through tactics such as violence and the threat of harm against family members left behind (Annual Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community, 2023). This instills fear among victims, making it difficult for them to expose the perpetrators. This is exacerbated by the fact that once victims are outside their home country, they may not be aware of alternative ways of survival other than dependence on the perpetrators. Apart from the perpetrators, victims may not know anyone else or understand the legal framework of the host country, rendering them dependent on the very people who are harming them. Consequently, threats of deportation, fear of legal repercussions, apprehension of physical and sexual assault, and distrust of the judicial system (David, Bryant & Larsen, 2019) leave victims at the mercy of the perpetrators. According to Wood (2018), the looming threat of deportation has deterrent consequences for victims

reporting their traffickers, driving them to depend even more on traffickers for what they believe to be protection. Therefore, there are seldom convictions of traffickers. It is also impossible to determine the exact number of victims since victims hesitate to report themselves to law enforcement out of fear or humiliation. The widespread enforcement of immigration policies in many destination countries reinforces this fear. This, coupled with the fear of retaliation by traffickers who may harm the victims and their families, compels victims to comply with the perpetrators.

Regarding crime management, victims play a crucial role in the arrest, prosecution and conviction of the criminals. Jongman (2020) observed that victims retain a vital role in the criminal justice process, as the police, to some extent, depend on the victim to bring the commission of a crime to the attention of the authorities. This implies that for some crimes to be detected, the active participation of the victim is required. The inability of victims to bring forth complains/accusations against human traffickers creates an environment of low risk, which may embolden traffickers to continue exploiting victims, knowing that there is less likelihood of facing consequences for their crimes. This perspective aligns with the United Nation Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) (2020), which established that human trafficking has low levels of arrest, low risks of detection, and prosecution, compared to other transnational organized crimes.

A notable observation is that, although there are numerous legal controls, they are all state-based, yet the complex organized criminal groups are transnational (UNITAR, 2020). This creates difficulties for law enforcement to effectively combat the crime. The implication is that with different national legal frameworks,

harmonizing laws to address the vice is challenging due to differing national interests. For example, media reports in Kenya highlight exploitation and mistreatment of many Kenyans recruited to work in Saudi Arabia (some may be victims of human trafficking while others may be legal work immigrants), but there have been minimal legal measures even where some victims have died. In one instance, a Kenyan woman was enticed through an online offer and landed a job as a domestic worker in Saudi Arabia. However, terms and conditions changed when she arrived in the destined. After she was rescued, she reported that her employer mistreated her to the point of starvation. Her family explained that an agent organized everything pertaining to her travel/ flight to the foreign country, and the family did not pay even a shilling (The Standard, Wednesday, September 7, 2022). This is a clear indicator of how potential victims seeking work abroad warm up to those who persuade them to seek greener pastures, oblivious of the problems they are getting into. Although it was not possible to verify the involvement of the agency with human trafficking, the case shares similarities with characteristics of human trafficking. However, agents continue to recruit domestic workers with promises of a better future that continue to lure individuals. On the other hand, unsuspecting job seekers continue to present themselves to those agents, oblivious to the fact that they could be victims of human trafficking.

As seen from the findings above, human trafficking is a complex phenomenon that could be camouflaged in different ways, making it hard to detect, and it is likely that those with no experience may be limited in detection. Consequently, human trafficking continues to persist, thus challenging the rule of law. Based on the

findings, Kenya remains an entry, transit and exit point for human trafficking, among other criminal activities that takes place via the airports.

Apart from the issues involving victims and perpetrators that challenge security personnel in arresting the vice, the study revealed that other factors, such unprofessionalism among employees, sustained the vice. From the study findings, 90.7% of the total respondents pointed out that airport employees and management are involved in trafficking. This indicates a breach of contract by those charged with the responsibility of ensuring safety at airports. Airport employees manage and control security and safety of all people who use the airport. Condoning human trafficking poses security threats to individuals and the nation at large. This is professional misconduct among the employees and a threat to the national security since they ought to be the gatekeepers. Professional misconduct, from this perspective is, a failure to care for the passengers as well as the society as a whole, thereby exposing the nation to security threats. From the gatekeeping perspective, airports are key entry and exit points, and abetting human trafficking exposes the travellers and the entire nation to various security risks.

The quantitative findings were corroborated by qualitative data in which the participants asserted that human trafficking occurs with the collusion of government officials, as indicated by one of the senior officers from the immigration department who contended that;

“Corruption by some government officials enables human traffickers to recruit, transport and harbor victims of trafficking without fear of being arrested by police” RSP 23

From the narrative, organized trafficking usually takes place due to corruption at different stages of the vice. This implies that there could be cartels within the process of human trafficking, as recruitment and transportation are not done at the airports. There could be established alliances that facilitate the process. These cartels could also be responsible for harboring the victims before they are taken to the destined location or transit points, which is done without any fear of arrest. The study findings are in line with John (2020) who established that transnational trafficking operates within the context of corruption and collusion with state officials, thus, emphasizing the role of corruption in enabling trafficking networks to operate with impunity. Further, Feng (2023) analysed the organizational structures of human trafficking networks and the roles of different actors within these networks, shedding light on the presence of cartels or organized groups involved in trafficking.

According to the quote, the possibility of airport management being involved in human trafficking suggests higher-level complicity with serious implications to national security. The study finding resonates with the USAID (2019) annual report's observation that democracy and stability are seriously threatened by the rise of transnational criminal organizations that collaborate with authorities. This is also in line with DCI respondents who noted that the staff allegedly involved in the smuggling are from the National Police Service, Kenya Airports Authority (KAA), airline personnel, and Immigration Personnel (The Standard, Sept 6, 2023). Therefore, the fact that management and other employees, who are representatives of the government, abet human trafficking raises concerns about the extent to which the vice could affect national security.

From a functionalist perspective, the normative worth of occupations in society stems from the role they play in advancing society (Gabbioneta, Falconbridge, Currie, Dinovitzer, Muzio 2018). Accordingly, members of a professional entity are duty-bound and constrained from engaging in actions or inactions that may put an organization at risk. From this standpoint, professional misbehaviour diverts attention from the advantages that clients and society as a whole should receive (Gabbioneta, et al. 2018). Instead, the complicity as portrayed in the findings is for personal gains of senior officials (USAID, 2019).

In addition to senior officials in management, other employees mimicking the management may manipulate their task performance to increase their earnings. Broad & Lord (2018) observe that law enforcers, through corruption, may facilitate human trafficking in various ways, such as recruiting, transporting and harbouring their victims. Although the focus of the study is mainly at the international airports, this observation could inform other processes in human trafficking. For example, when traffickers are assured of a safe exit to their destination, they are likely to increase their recruitment efforts and enhance exploitation to obtain resources to grease their corrupt paths. Furthermore, the law enforcers are charged with the responsibility of conducting investigations to enable justice for the victims and prosecution for the perpetrators. If they are involved in human trafficking by benefitting from corruption, they are unlikely to perform their work effectively, obstructing justice. Fouladvand (2019) supports these findings. In his study on corruption and human trafficking, he indicated that corrupt criminal justice officials may hinder investigations and prosecutions of crimes and/or prevent victims of crime from receiving proper protection. However, irrespective of the nature of

professional misconduct, the result is a compromise to safety and security at airports. This contradicts the traditional role of security agents. Specifically, national security agents should display exemplary conduct in their duties (Seewald & Baillie, 2018). The fact that security agents are among the service providers at the airport and are, therefore, perceived to abet human trafficking, tarnishes their image and, more significantly, poses security risks to the nation.

The findings of misconduct by airport officials in human trafficking resonate with Trafficking in Person (TIP) report of 2020. Kenya serves as an entry, transit, and exit point for those involved in forced labour and sex trafficking in East Africa. The US Department of State Trafficking in Person (TIP) report (2020) evaluated governments' efforts to end human trafficking and pointed out that Kenya continued to harbour illegal recruiters who maintain networks in Ethiopia and Uganda, recruiting Rwandese, Ethiopian, and Ugandan workers through false job offers in the Middle East and Asia. The retention of illegal recruiters challenges the government's commitment to fighting the vice. Due to the large number of trafficked persons in the country, the government's effort to exert authority over its territory is undermined, posing a threat to national security. Although the verification of the different ways in which employees at international airports were involved was beyond the scope of this study, it is possible that some of the vices identified by previous studies still exists.

The involvement of personnel mandated by the government to deter human trafficking in abetting the trafficking of persons is disastrous to both national and international security. Global security depends on the efforts of different nations to

secure their territories. The fissures that can predispose a nation and neighbouring countries to human trafficking leaves the whole world exposed to transnational crimes. The need to identify structural flaws or issues with current standards and laws that would allow policymakers and regulators to act to increase security, and by extension deter human trafficking at airports cannot be overemphasised.

In line with the Differential Opportunity Theory that informed this study, the perceived socioeconomic strains experienced by the officers or the desire to measure up to certain societal groups could be motivating factor. Corruption is deeply rooted in the country, with the National Police Service taking the lead. According to the East African Bribery Index Report by Transparency International (2022), Kenya's National Police Service had a 92 percent corruption rate, making it Kenya's most corrupt agency and ranking in the top 10 bribery-prone institutions in East Africa. Although the figures on corruption were not necessarily drawn from international airports in Kenya, and police officers are not the only security agents at airports, their perceived involvement in corruption puts the country at risk. The weak moral code, as portrayed by over 80 % of employees' involvement, could provide opportunities for exploitation by organized crimes such as human trafficking, which could all take place at airports.

One study respondent from NPS noted that;

“Due to corruption and lack of integrity by some the government officials is hindering the prevention and investigation of human trafficking cases”. RSP 123

From the above quote, a country affected by pervasive corruption experiences a loss of legitimacy that can endanger its ability to serve and protect the sovereignty of its

people. Legitimacy is the capacity of a nation to have its authority completely acknowledged, accepted, and proclaimed across the nation (Tyler, 2022). Corruption compromises the integrity of public officials and institutions mandated to deal with human trafficking cases—which has security implications for the country’s national security as it erodes the country’s long-term capacity to provide common goods. Corrupt government officials may help traffickers recruit, transport, harbour, and exploit victims, fail to properly safeguard victims, and may influence criminal authorities to obstruct cases. This agrees with the UNODC (2018) report, which indicated that the failure of government officials to deal with real and perceived corruption fuels human trafficking and erodes faith in public institutions.

In other instances, where police misconduct, such as abuse of office, acts of corruption, and extortion, is persistent, it may have a direct impact on the image of the organization as well as the public perception of security. This could affect the legitimacy of the police institution as the guardians of national security. Singh (2022) in his study on police strategies and management pointed out that legitimacy is critical for the police to win the compliance of citizens. Without legitimacy, the police cannot provide security nor earn respect from citizens—becoming a major hindrance in their work. Values and standards of fairness, integrity and human rights (Thompson & Payne, 2019) are key aspects that underpin their service delivery. This agrees with the Transparency International Global Coalition against Corruption (2022) report on human trafficking and corruption, which indicated that corruption not only breaks moral principles and institutional image but also promotes fear and insecurity among citizens.

Additionally, corruption allows the execution of crimes as it makes the crime invisible to law enforcement officers. Given the nature of corruption, traffickers can continue to operate unhindered and covertly, even after the discovery of their trafficking crime. There is no fear of being apprehended or found guilty. For instance, a border patrol agent may choose to ignore individuals travelling illegally and crossing the border with their trafficker. Generally, corruption can undermine efforts to identify and hold accountable people traffickers, who may carry out their crimes with impunity because of the collaboration or inactivity of public officials. Therefore, irrespective of the nature of corruption, the institutions capacity to perform its mandated functions within the constitution, in an impartial and accountable manner, is compromised, resulting in compromised safety and security for the citizens and the nation.

Over eighty percent (87.4 %) of respondents indicated that politicians and government officials facilitate human trafficking. One role of politicians is to make laws that govern the nation. This means that the laws made could either enhance or deter human trafficking. Therefore, if the government puts strong legislation and vouches for strict implementation against human trafficking, the vice would reduce. This is in line with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) report, (year) which noted that the effectiveness of governing institutions, notably the rule of law, heavily influences the degree of government involvement in organized crime (USAID, 2019). Therefore, if the laws are weak or if there is failure in implementation, then the crimes will thrive.

In relation to the Securitization Theory, issues of national interest identified as existential threats could be amplified through political leadership to enable stringent measure to be put in place to counter the vice. Accordingly, resources could be mobilized for addressing the issue. Politicians wield a lot of power in making laws and in the allocation of resources for projects of national interest. Therefore, they are in a position to stamp their authority and stop the vice. However, their inability to make strong laws or ensure stringent implementation of the laws on human trafficking could be a factor that sustains the vice. Indeed, partial involvement of some government officials and politicians in criminal activity, such as human trafficking, makes it difficult to establish a strong rule of law that enforces laws impartially to uphold systems of accountability and justice (USAID, 2019). Instead, it will weaken the rule of law characterized by uneven enforcement of laws, predisposing the nation to manipulation, the results of which would compromise national security.

Drawing from the Differential Opportunity Theory, which offers insights into how individuals engage in illegitimate means of achieving success and how these opportunities are structured within society, human traffickers may come from disadvantaged backgrounds where legitimate opportunities for success are limited. They may lack access to education, stable employment, and other conventional means of achieving social and economic success. Human traffickers may also exploit illegal or illegitimate opportunities presented by the demand for forced labor, sexual exploitation, or other forms of exploitation. These opportunities may arise due to factors such as poverty, inequality, weak law enforcement, and societal attitudes that tolerate or condone exploitation. Additionally, human traffickers may

adapt their strategies and tactics based on the availability of opportunities and the risks involved. They may exploit vulnerabilities in legal systems, borders, transportation networks, and social institutions to facilitate their operations while minimizing the chances of detection and prosecution. However, if human traffickers find that the laws or the punishment associated with trafficking are not stringent, they may opt to commit the crime given the anticipated profit. According to deterrence punishment proponents, mainly Thomas Hobbes (1588-1678), Cesare Beccaria (1738-1794) and Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832), severe, certain and swift punishment may deter or stop individuals from violating the law, because the loss will outweigh the gain. Existing literature, for example, the TIP Report (2020), observes that there are faults in the prosecution of human trafficking crimes in Kenya, as immigration or labour law violations attract less stringent sentences. The trafficking of persons still prevails despite the efforts made by the government to curb the crime. This implies that the punishment meted out to human traffickers is not severe enough to deter the vice.

In addition to making laws, politicians also occupy high positions in society. Corrupt politicians could find their way into human trafficking, by manipulating security agents or immigration officials. It should be acknowledged that the sequence of events in human trafficking includes the selection of victims, the supply of legal paperwork (identification documents, visas, and permits), and the transportation of victims, which may involve crossing international borders, their exploitation, and the laundering of the benefits of the crime. Participants in this chain of events may include dishonest security personnel, customs officers, embassies/consulates, border patrol officials, immigration services, other law enforcement agencies,

intelligence/security forces, armed (national or international) forces, and individuals, groups, or parties with sway over public officials, as well as participants from the private sector, such as travel agencies and airlines. Politicians, as high government officials in the chain, could contribute to the vice by protecting the actors in various ways, such as facilitating them in obtaining legal documents for travel.

Other than the weak systems that create loopholes for human trafficking, cartels have made human trafficking a business. This is a norm at the airport, as indicated to a large extent of 56.3% by the respondents. Cartels include all persons involved in some kind of coordination of efforts among recruiters, transporters, and exploiters of victims of human trafficking. Human trafficking, being a multi-billion-dollar criminal enterprise that affects millions of people worldwide, (Ondieki, 2017; UN Report, 2020) is likely to thrive unless there is total commitment to ending the vice.

One senior officer from the immigration department also noted that;

“The biggest challenge in Kenya is corruption. There are so many opportunities for existing corruption, starting from the trafficking chain, the criminal justice chain, the victim support and protection chain. Everyone wants to benefit, in spite of the crime being committed”. RSP 33

From the above quote, when key stakeholders mandated to curb human trafficking engage in corruption either in the country of origin, transit or destination, it means there are impediments to international cooperation. One of the main causes of the growth of human trafficking is corruption. It serves as a catalyst for action and a support system at the same time. The worst is when it may ensure safe havens for the profit collected from this illicit trade. The UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (2018) asserts that corruption can occur before, during, and following a crime. Thus, it is not only a problem in the countries of origin and transit; it may also make it easier for trafficking victims to be exploited after they arrive at their

final destinations. Health professionals, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) employees, law enforcement officers, immigration officials, and other administrative controls personnel may be willing to "turn a blind eye" to cases of human trafficking that come to their notice in exchange for a "small fee." A senior police officer supported this assertion during the interview:

“In Marsabit County, three police officers were detained in connection with human trafficking as Kenya continues to contend with the influx of hundreds of Ethiopian citizens traveling through on their treacherous way to South Africa in pursuit of a better life. Law enforcement officers were detained in the Sololo region for reportedly transporting 23 Ethiopian migrants to Nairobi.” RSD 211

From the narration above, corrupt police officers may accept bribes to inform traffickers of impending operations and government investigations. These unethical actions might nevertheless, have an impact before, during, and after the actual identification and rescue of a trafficking victim. Human traffickers employ these tactics to evade punishment and hinder the efforts of those who should help and protect the victims of trafficking, as well as investigate, prosecute, and convict the traffickers. Investigators assigned to the cases frequently fall prey to the temptation because the traffickers have the resources and have no remorse about buying their way through the criminal justice system.

Corruption can create tight connections between traffickers and those in charge of prosecuting them. One senior police officer from JKIA indicated that;

“The Directorate of Immigration, which is responsible for controlling Kenyans' and foreigners' admission and leave, was plagued with integrity problems, and 15 immigration employees were fired as a result of a human trafficking incident. Additionally, officers from the Kenya National Police Services take bribes to alert people traffickers and smugglers about forthcoming operations against them”. RSP 12

From the above narration, the recruitment, transportation, and exploitation of trafficking victims can be facilitated by corruption. Corruption serves to thwart the pursuit of justice, keeps the vast sums of money generated by this heinous crime in the hands of the criminals, and gives them even more power over the public and private officials who actively or inadvertently take part in it. The person trafficking vice is kept a low-risk, high-profit crime because of corruption. The frequency and intensity of corruption may have an impact on the routes taken by traffickers, their methods of operation, and other trafficking patterns. Corruption may also make people less aware of the dangers of human trafficking: in some places, corruption is so pervasive in daily life that many people may not even distinguish between getting identification documents or essential travel documents legally or illegally, because they both require paying bribes.

Corruption affects not only the actual cases of trafficking and the aftermath of trafficking, but also the environments that encourage trafficking in people. Corruption is one of the biggest obstacles to social and economic growth. It is connected to poverty, a lack of possibilities, fear, the emergence of criminal settings, and the absence of the rule of law, all of which are underlying causes of human trafficking. Corruption also affects the demand side of crime, for example, when rules and regulations protecting migrants and migrant workers are broken and treated as minor infractions. This indicates that cooperative efforts are hindered when government, organizations, or individuals are more interested in personal gain rather than in achieving the broader goal of cooperation that endeavours toward combating human trafficking.

The lucrativeness of HT provides resources that abet corruption to conceal the vice. According to Broad & Lord (2018), illegal business is facilitated by paying off the police, politicians, and judges, or by permitting them to share in the profits of the illegal businesses. As already observed, the police and government officials are perceived to be implicated in the vice of human trafficking. Consequently, the possibility that the local, regional and mid-level public officials abuse their entrusted power to undertake acts or omissions that contravene their public duties for personal financial gain may not be overruled. The study findings resonate with the views of Akanbi (2020) that the models of trafficking usually involve larger groups of people and, more organized operations have been most associated with corruption by local, regional and middle level public officials. Notably, criminal networks, whether hierarchically or more flexibly organised criminal syndicates, are concealed using different forms of corruption that make it difficult to bring the perpetrators to justice. Another factor that seems to sustain human trafficking is the high rate of unemployment in the country. Out of the total respondents, 89 % indicated that unemployment has made human trafficking a business that thrives at the airports. As discussed earlier, the main targets of the victims of human trafficking are usually vulnerable groups that have economic challenges. Human traffickers prey on weak, poor and isolated people. Factors such as social exclusion, disempowerment, and economic vulnerability arise from weak governance that marginalizes people, placing them at risk of being trafficked. Other factors such as natural disasters, political turmoil, and conflict weaken the already tenuous social protection measures that had been put in place to mitigate against such human right abuses. The lure of getting jobs in foreign countries blind many victims to the extent that they are

willing to lie to protect the perpetrators. Lack of employment opportunities in Kenya as a developing country is the single most factor that facilitates human trafficking. Due to rapid population growth that constrains wealth creation, most people desire to migrate to other countries in search of employment opportunities. Obtaining travel documents is not easy, especially if one does not have the resources and credentials that are required in other countries. For example, in most countries, professional skills are a key aspect for eligibility for migration. Those with limited professional skills count themselves lucky when they are lured with this rare opportunity. As such, the nexus between human trafficking and unemployment becomes a cover-up that protects the perpetrators, making it difficult for officers to detect them. More significantly, the members of society may not identify the security threats posed. In some instances, family members have gladly given out their children to travel to foreign countries for search of employment opportunities as exemplified in the quote below as indicated by one of the respondent from the National Police Service;

“Most of the victims who are deported from foreign countries confess that their travel arrangements were made between their guardians’ / family members and a third party who promises for job opportunities oversee like Canada, Swaziland, Dubai/ Arabian countries.” RSP 103

Similarly, another respondent from the immigration department indicated that;

“In Kenya, there are more graduates than there is job opportunity for them, and this is forcing most of them to search for job abroad, thus exposing them to be vulnerable to human traffickers who lure them for job opportunities abroad” RSP 12

The poor and unemployed people are assets and tools for investment for human traffickers. The need for jobs abroad, brought about by high unemployment and unequal economic opportunities, has encouraged human trafficking. This has

resulted in security implications for the economy. Human traffickers would be the beneficiaries, as they face low risks but earn high profits from trafficked victims. As a result, there is a higher likelihood of unlawful crossing of international borders and fraudulent behaviour at airport, with serious implications to the national security.

From a global perspective, youth unemployment remains high especially in developing countries like Kenya (Schwab & Brende, 2018). However, the youth possess skills that may be limited in developed countries, which can be exploited to lure naive individuals. For example, countries like the United Kingdom have shown interest in skilled professions such as nursing. Although agreements are between governments, limited opportunities create stiff competition that could be exploited by traffickers posing as recruitment agents for alternative routes. In summary, unemployment and poverty create low risks for perpetrators but high security risks for the victims and society at large.

Other factors sustaining human trafficking include the nature of the crime itself. The complexity in the movement of victims makes it challenging to identify perpetrators.

One respondent from the immigration department noted as follows;

“It is very difficult to realize when trafficking or smuggling of persons is happening. Most people who are travelling seem to know where they are travelling too” RSP22.

The above statement highlights the challenge in quantifying the criminal activity of people trafficking, migrant smuggling, and the associated human rights abuses. Due to various challenges, there is imperfect and incomplete knowledge about the nature of the problem, the characteristics of both traffickers and victims, and the

effectiveness of practices used to curb human trafficking. These challenges may arise from the overlap between human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

The UNODC (2020) report indicated that no universal instrument covers all facets of human trafficking. This implies that many people do not understand the extent of the crime. Unless all organizations promoting international cooperation evaluate the extent of exploitation, efforts to encourage collaboration by various stakeholders to curb human trafficking may be thwarted. One study respondent from the DCI highlighted that;

“Due to lack of knowledge on human trafficking indicators, it becomes very difficult to identify such cases especially when investigating business owners for economic crime. Police may not take an additional step to evaluate workers to see whether exploitation, has occurred. RSP 23

Human trafficking cases, sometimes go undetected due to a lack of knowledge about the indicators, and the extent of its magnitude. For any investigation to be successful, police officers need to understand the elements of the case and the extent of the crime. Otherwise, the investigation may be unsuccessful. This aligns with the TIP Report (2023) which states that a lack of knowledge concerning human trafficking indicators by police officer may lead them to overlook the crime. Similarly, a UNODC (2022) inquiry found that many nations' law enforcement officials lack the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to investigate sophisticated transnational organized crime. Since human trafficking has recently been criminalized detectives lack the expertise to adequately international organized crime (Farrell, Owens and McDevitt, 2014).

One key respondents from the NPS indicated:

“Human traffickers usually use repressive government officers to obtain travel documents for their clients at a cost”. RSP 23

This quote reveals that human traffickers often use repressive government officers to process travel documents for their clients. These documents include passports and clearance visas, which are mandatory for anyone travelling outside the country. Abusive regimes support traffickers to evade justice. For example, when an immigration officer receives payment to provide a forged passport, a police officer demands a bribe to ignore identified victims of trafficking, or a law enforcement officer deports trafficked victims to prevent their testimony against a criminal defendant these scenarios indicate where an abusive regime profits directly from trafficking of persons. This concurs with the International Bar Association (2020), which noted that such regimes accept bribes to fraudulently provide visas to trafficked persons. This has security implications for the victims, as the expense of the bribes exacerbates their obligations to the traffickers. Additionally, the illegal money obtained by the abusive regime may be laundered, affecting economic security and, in turn, national security.

In conclusion, many factors sustain human trafficking at the international airports in Kenya. The findings reveal issues such as weak laws, involvement of management and employees at airports, and the complicity of politicians. Coupled with life challenges faced by victims that make them protect perpetrators, these factors allow the vice to grow in the nation. These circumstances often evade critical scrutiny from government officials, victims, and society at large, promoting human trafficking despite the associated security threats associated with it.

4.4.2 Security threats associated with forms of HT and their effects on National Security

Having established the undercurrents that sustain human trafficking at JKIA and MIA, the study sought to establish the security threats associated with human trafficking at the airports. To identify the security threats, the participants were asked to mark against the outlined security issues associated with human trafficking as a crime. The findings are shown in Table 4.9.

Table 4.9 Security Threats associated with forms of HT at International Airports in Kenya

| | Frequency | Percent |
|------------------|------------|--------------|
| Terrorism | 74 | 30.8 |
| Kidnapping | 51 | 21.3 |
| Money laundering | 93 | 38.8 |
| Banditry | 20 | 8.3 |
| Others | 2 | .8 |
| Total | 240 | 100.0 |

Source: Study Data (2020)

With regard to the security issues associated with human trafficking via airports, the respondents cited a number of security issues. Out of the total respondents, 38.8% were of the view that human trafficking was largely perpetuated as a criminal enterprise in order to aid in money laundering. Other respondents cited issues such as terrorism (30.8%), kidnapping (21.3%), and banditry (8.3%). This shows that human trafficking is highly related to crimes that either breed into human trafficking or are executed in line with human trafficking. The findings confirm the findings of

the IOM (2020) that, traffickers compel victims to get involved in illegal activities, such as terrorism and drug trafficking, in order to fund the journey to the destination countries. These factors have security implications that may affect the citizens of nation. The security threats associated with human trafficking are discussed below;

4.4.2.1 HT and money laundering as a threat to National Security

From the data, 38.8% of the respondents indicated that human trafficking is associated with money laundering. Money laundering is a process of taking criminal proceeds (money) and turning it into legitimate assets or cash (Haberstroh & Zaugg, 2023). That is, illegally obtained money is introduced into a financial system in order to appear legitimate. For example, at the integration (the final stage of money laundering), the money from human trafficking could be used to purchase real estate or luxury assets, such as vehicles or jewellery. These properties may be sold, creating a trail of legitimate sources of funds. The funds are then introduced into the financial markets, creating unnecessary competition with other investors who use the legitimate means to achieve their goals. This is in line with Broad, Lord & Duncan (2020), who noted that through the process of money laundering, criminal enterprises are able to provide cover and maintain control over their sources of income.

One of the interviewees from the immigration department indicated that;

“Human trafficking can as well abet an increase in money laundering cases as criminals trickily endeavour to cleanse their ill gotten money” RSP 77

From the citation above, the illegal money obtained from criminal activities is concealed to prevent the criminals from being connected with the crimes that gave rise to the money. They gain leeway to use the money as if it were from a legal

origin. If this procedure is effective, it will lend legitimacy to the proceeds (money), which the perpetrators still control (Adomoli, 2022).

One of the study respondent from NPS also indicated that;

*“Money laundering typically harms financial institutions that are essential for Kenya’s economic progress. It also lowers productivity in the economy’s core sectors by shifting resources and fostering crime and corruption.” RSP
7*

As seen from the quote, money laundering not only damages crucial financial institutions necessary for Kenya's economic development but also reduces productivity in key sectors of the economy by diverting resources and promoting crime and corruption. From the existing literature, financial institutions are weakened directly through fraudulent activities. These include negative competition in the market, corruption, and lack of trust among others by employees of the institutions (Haberstroh & Zaugg, 2023). Other than the corruption from employees of financial institutions, an increase in money laundering activities exposes state financial institutions to criminal elements that may run them down. In relation to productivity, criminals, in an effort to clean their “dirty money,” rush to invest in less productive activities. This adversely affects the economic growth of real sectors for country development. Similarly, it may result in the displacement of less capable corporate rivals, creating a monopoly via illegal activity. This distorts the economic growth of the nation. As an example, the private sector in Kenya provides the largest job opportunities for the citizens.

Financial institutions, which include banking and non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs), and equity markets, which are important for economic development could all be negatively affected by money laundering. These institutions allow the

concentration of capital resources from local savings and foreign money. For this to happen, they need to provide incentives for furtherance of investment prospects through a conducive environment. However, money laundering distorts the environment, making it difficult for investment, thus threatening long-run economic growth. The findings of this study are in line with the views of McDowell & Novis (2020), who observed that money laundering undermines the stability of a nation's economy by distorting financial systems and markets. Illicit funds flowing through the financial system can lead to inflation, exchange rate fluctuations, and economic imbalances, which in turn can threaten a country's overall national security.

Both the nations of entry and exit are affected by trafficking. There are security ramifications in both sets of nations. For instance, on the economy, specifically in situations when persons are looking for employment-related migration prospects but end up being trafficked, the result is some losses in remittance. In addition, laundering of proceeds from human trafficking facilitates domestic corruption and crime that undermine national economic development, as well as the national security of a county. For example, when financial institutions fail to identify illegal actors that are exploiting their services, they risk not only financial consequences, such as remediation costs, steep fines and declines in corporate share values, but also reputational harm. Therefore, a failure for financial institutions to remedy money laundering from illegal businesses such that of human trafficking may lead to security implications for both human and national security.

Although the effects of money laundering on economic development may be difficult to measure (Haberstroh & Zaugg, 2023), damages on the financial sector of the country cannot be underestimated. Money laundering diverts resources,

encourages crime and corruption, and distorts the trade indicators in the economic sector, thus threatening national security.

Going by the finding of this study in which most of the government officials are in misconduct and corruption, money laundering may be used to hide the proceeds (money) from human trafficking, as well as that of other organized crimes. Money laundering often goes hand in hand with corruption. Corrupt officials and politicians launder money to hide their ill-gotten wealth, undermining the integrity of public institutions and the rule of law. This weakens a nation's governance and its ability to address security challenges effectively. Awwa (2020) noted that, despite the government putting more effort into anti- money laundering measures, politicians tend to commit the crime of money laundering, especially in developing countries. Despite the enormity of these revenues, they have no impact on the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) since no taxes are taken from the money made by organized crime. This indicates that neither the community nor the government gains from unlawful trafficking. Given that human traffickers and smugglers engage in legal enterprises to launder their illicit funds in an effort to hide their organized crimes, society loses money as a result. This has a negative impact on how fiercely the firms compete. From the study findings, one of the interviewees from the immigration department also highlighted that;

“Despite young people having the passion to start a business, they can't get enough needed capital to start a business because of the money laundered from illegal business which is affecting the financial institutions where they can borrow capital (money) from” RSP 345

From the citation above, money obtained from illegible business is affecting other people who may be willing to start up their business. This negatively affects the

economic security of individuals as well as the nation at large. It hinders the creation of job opportunities for the young generation and the economic development of the country. Accordingly, the ill-gotten money is used to set up front companies, which are then used to market items at costs that are less than what it costs the producer, giving them a competitive advantage over legitimate firms, thus leading to the collapse of legitimate private businesses.

Unemployed youth due to lack of economic opportunities are vulnerable to the lures of unconventional groups that lead them to crime, with serious implications for national security. Literature on national security is replete with radicalized youth who become terrorists because of lack of employment. Money laundering provides a means for criminal organizations, terrorist groups, and other illicit actors to legitimize and access the proceeds of their illegal activities. These funds can then be used to finance a wide range of illicit activities, including terrorism, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and cybercrime posing a direct threat to national security. Shauri (2020) has documented the youth gangs in the Coastal region of Kenya, attributing the vice partly to unemployment. Similarly, the National Crime Research Center (2020) emphasized that underemployment and / or unemployment are key factors that contribute to the engagement of youth in crime, thus threatening national security. It is important to acknowledge that the unemployment rate in the country is due to many complex social-economic factors. In addition, it is important to be cognizant that the study was limited in unraveling the relationship between money laundering and unemployment as this was beyond the scope of this study. However, the fact that money laundering negatively affects economic development is suggestive of its possible effect on employment.

Money laundering may have a negative impact on long-term economic development by reducing productivity in the real economy, slowing economic growth, and distorting capital flows and international commerce, as well as damaging financial institutions that are critical for economic growth (see Broad et.al 2020). This results in adverse effects on the economy and political instability, thus affecting the national security of a country. This implies that when one security sector is affected, all other security sectors are affected. Buzan (1991) established that the security sectors; economic, societal, political, military and environmental security cannot be addressed separately. Each is intricately linked with the others. This is also supported by Bellamy (2020), who noted that when people's rights are violated by force and exploitation, it threatens all seven aspects of human security (personal, environmental, economic, political, community, health, and food), undermining both individual and state security. The negative effect of money laundering on national security is thus perceptible.

One of the study respondents from the immigration department noted that,

“The entry of illegal enterprises into normal markets has the potential to tip the scales of economic dominance in favour of rogue actors with no fiscal responsibility”. RSP 122

From the above, the infiltration of illegal enterprises into mainstream markets could shift economic power towards unscrupulous actors lacking fiscal accountability. Once the criminal entities infiltrate legitimate businesses, they are able to destabilize the market. This gives criminals economic power. Money laundering allows human traffickers, smugglers, drug traffickers, and other criminal syndicates to expand their operations. This has some security implications in that the economic power is transferred from the market, citizens, and the government to the criminals. In

extreme cases, money laundering may lead to a complete take-over of a legitimate government by criminals. As Operti (2018) pointed out, numerous factors, including the use of resources to combat theft, robbery, or extortion, as well as economic distortions brought on by the presence and activity of criminal organizations in a region, can cause organized crime to impair the prosperity and well-being of a nation. In addition, Mirenda, Mocetti and Rizzica (2021) argue that organized crime has both direct and indirect costs to the economic security of a nation. In general, the intimidating influence of criminal organizations distorts the market's ability to function, and enterprises affiliated with these groups have a competitive advantage because of unlawful financing.

In summary, money laundering erodes the integrity of a country's financial institutions and undermines public trust in the financial system. When people lose faith in the stability and fairness of their financial institutions, it can lead to financial crises and disrupt economic security, which in turn affects national security.

4.4.2.2 HT and Terrorism as a threat to National Security

According to the study findings, 30.8% of respondents identified terrorism as the second most prevalent security threat linked to human trafficking. Similar to other criminal activities, human trafficking has increasingly attracted the interest of non-state armed groups, including terrorist organizations. The study suggests that proceeds from human trafficking may be laundered to support criminal syndicates engaged in various transnational organized operations. Terrorist syndicates, therefore, accumulate proceeds as well as tactical adaptability and ideological reinforcement for their organization by employing human trafficking acts and means

to exploit vulnerable children, women and men. One of the key respondents from NPS indicated that;

“The revenues from migration and human smuggling have grown to be a significant source of funding for terrorists across the world” RSP 40

Another respondent said:

“Some of the human traffickers have the intention of getting funds for financing terrorist or rebel groups and that some may be trading human beings so as to get suicide bombers in order to advance their terrorist activities and other transnational organized crime” (RSP 230)

From the citations above, proceeds generated from both human trafficking and migrant smuggling activities could potentially fund terrorism. These profits serve as opportunistic sources of income, granting criminals the financial resources to perpetrate various transnational organized crimes, including acts of terrorism. These findings align with those reported by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE, 2021), which highlighted how trafficking syndicates accumulate proceeds and exploit victims through sexual exploitation, forced labor, and other forms of exploitation.

Acts of violence linked to HT are central to the modus operandi of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da’esh), Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram and the Lord’s Resistance Army (OSCE, 2021). This expounds on the trafficking modus operandi applied by terrorist groups. Through the UN Trafficking protocol, the “act” element covers recruitment, transportation transfer, and harbouring, leading to exploitation situations (UN protocol, 2000). For example, human traffickers may employ deceptive recruitment by terrorist groups to lure victims into gainful employment as well as sexual exploitations (UNODC, 2019). This indicates that

human traffickers use deception as a controlled tactic of recruiting the victims of human trafficking.

Proceeds from human trafficking represent a lucrative source of financing for terrorists, allowing them to exploit victims in multiple ways for profit. This exploitation aligns with the findings of the Financial Action Task Force (2020) on counter-terrorism financing, which highlights how different forms of human trafficking such as sexual and gender-based violence, forced labor, involuntary servitude, and organ removal—can serve as means of bolstering terrorist finances. This implies that terrorist groups may exploit these forms of human trafficking for financial gain and to advance their objectives. For example, they may use ideologies such as religious extremism or political radicalism to justify and recruit individuals to participate in trafficking activities. Terrorist groups are significantly involved in trafficking women and girls, subjecting them to various forms of sexual violence, which constitutes a severe manifestation of human trafficking. This indicates that the systematic use of violence against trafficked individuals has become a tactic employed by terrorist organizations. The findings resonate with the United Nations' (2019) report, which acknowledged that human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and terrorism are becoming more prevalent among displaced people in armed conflict and post-conflict settings.

Human trafficking victims may also be used to commit terrorism activities. For example, Avdan & Omelicheva (2021) in their research on the nexus between human trafficking and terrorism established that traffickers with wide alliances networks and territorial control are more likely to commit terrorist activities. This

implies that organizations that are losing command of the territory and are experiencing weak rule of law are also more inclined to engage in human trafficking. The interwoven crimes of human trafficking and terrorism have negative economic security implications, which result in security implications national security.

Further, terrorist groups utilize human trafficking in various interconnected ways. As previously mentioned, a large number of the victims are women and girls, who are exploited by terrorist organizations in diverse ways. Research indicates that besides sexual exploitation, women and girls are abducted to generate funds through their sale or ransom payment (UN report, 2022). Additionally, they may be given to fighters in exchange for financial compensation. This underscores that the primary motivations behind these crimes are financial gain and military strategy, as supported by Kenney and Malik (2019).

According to Fouladvand (2019), degrading members of a targeted group to encourage them to do inhumane deeds has been used to terrorize the larger targeted population. The harm unleashed on individuals and society includes instilling fear. This fear creates an insecure environment that compromises the nation's security in many ways. For example, it curtails economic investment and harms the psychological well-being of citizens. Therefore, the insecurities arising from terrorists' acts cannot be overemphasized.

Other studies have noted that some victims of human trafficking and migrant smuggling have been radicalized into violent extremism. For example, United Nations Security Council Resolution 2331 (2016) noted that in areas affected by

armed conflicts, human trafficking undermines the rule of law, thus contributing to other forms of transnational organized crimes. Out of these, terrorist organizations may earn money, strengthen their capabilities, and acquire sex and work slaves. From gender perspective, violent extremism creates different vulnerabilities towards human trafficking. More women and girls are trafficked for sexual abuse and exploitation by the warlords in conflict areas. This is due to uncertainties regarding the implementation of peace processes, weak governance, poverty and misogyny, which threaten both human and national security. Armed and violent extremist syndicates use human trafficking as a direct tactic for recruiting victims for war and generating finances that they may use to advance their aims (Malik, 2019). As a result, violent extremism may thrive. Human traffickers may recruit across gender, age, ethnicity, and class, as many people are susceptible to promises of financial rewards and high standards of living. This observation is also made by UN women (2020) in their research on gender at the nexus of violence extremism and trafficking in persons in Muslim Mindano, noting that violent extremism may contribute to trafficking in persons as well as amplifying the vulnerabilities of the affected communities. Armed and violent extremist organizations can grow more powerful and capable because of the monetary benefits from people trafficking. This could result in protracted conflict and endanger the national security of some countries.

One study respondent indicated that,

“In March 2017, The Kenyan Police arrested Ali Hussein Ali (Alias, The Trusted One), a terrorist linked to ISIL, whom they described as a key link in terrorism financing as well as human smuggling and trafficking” (RSP57)

This citation highlights an incident involving the arrest of Ali Hussein Ali, also known as "The Trusted One," by Kenyan Police in March 2017. Ali was identified as a terrorist affiliated with ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) and was

described by authorities as a crucial figure in terrorism financing, as well as in human smuggling and trafficking networks. This suggests a significant overlap between terrorism and human trafficking, emphasizing the interconnectedness of these issues and their implications for national security.

This is in line with Security Resolutions 2331(2016) and 2388 (2017), which underscore the interconnectedness of human trafficking with terrorism and organized crime, recognizing the implications of trafficking for national and international security. The resolutions call for concerted efforts to address trafficking in conflict zones and to disrupt the financial networks that support these illicit activities. UN reports on human trafficking highlight the complex interplay between trafficking, national security, and peacebuilding efforts, emphasizing the need for holistic and coordinated approaches to address these interconnected challenges. According to a UN report (2020), human trafficking increases terror activities as trafficked terrorist sympathizers can possibly find their way into countries where they carry out terrorism- related activities as a means of survival. Indeed, Samson (2019) observed that terrorist activities experienced in Kenya, for example, the trafficked gunmen in the Dusit D2 attack were financed by other criminal networks. Though the author does not make direct reference to human trafficking as one of the criminal networks responsible, there is a likelihood of that connection. According to the National Police Service (2017), Kenya, the lone offender Ali was a crucial member of the Magafe network who facilitated the safe transit of unauthorized migrants to Europe through Libya, as well as the journey of recruits from Kenya to Somalia to join ISIL there. In this regard, it can be seen that human trafficking, money laundering, and terrorism are all related in real life,

creating a vicious cycle where each crime feeds the others. All of these factors impact national security from various angles.

A respondent from the National Police Service (NPS) highlighted this concern, stating:

“When people are trafficked from our country Kenya, and for example they are taken to Somalia, the AL Shaabab may abduct them and radicalize them to become suicide bombers, porters transporting heavy military equipment, or may use them to assist in looting and Pillaging, leading to prolonged conflict” RSP 206.

This quote underscores the vulnerability of individuals trafficked from Kenya to Somalia, where they may fall prey to radicalization by groups like Al-Shabaab. Trafficked individuals are coerced into serving various roles for Al-Shabaab, including as suicide bombers, porters for heavy military equipment, or assistants in looting and pillaging. This exploitation not only endangers the lives of the trafficked individuals but also exacerbates conflict in the region, prolonging instability and insecurity. According to John (2020), a bleak life with no prospects for improvement leads to despair, one of the factors driving individuals to suicide bombing. The author further observes that, where suicide bombing is used as a military weapon, individuals may be deployed for self-destruction to counter superior forces. Although verifying the views of the participants was not possible, the likelihood that victims of human trafficking participate in suicide bombing to achieve terrorist objectives is plausible. In line with this view, the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive directorate (2019) indicated that terrorist organizations have utilized human trafficking as a technique to coercively recruit new fighters and as a way to encourage and entice those willing to die as suicide bombers. This indicates that in many parts of the world, terrorists use traffickers and

smuggled persons to carry out their operations. Criminal networks are not only expanding but also diversifying their operations, posing a threat to national security.

In summary, human trafficking supports terrorist activities and other transnational organized crimes that threaten national security. From the findings of this study, it is clear that proceeds from human trafficking fund terrorist activities, while the crime itself may be a means through which terrorists could access their targets. Additionally, women are used for sexual exploitation, and children are utilized as porters, human shields, informers, executioners, suicide bombers, and bomb makers. Furthermore, due to terrorist activities, countries like Kenya are forced to divert resources to protect their borders and other critical infrastructure, thus foregoing other basic needs that contribute to human and national security.

4.4.2.3 HT and kidnaping/ abduction as a threat to National Security

From the study findings, 21.3% of the respondents indicated that human trafficking is associated with kidnaping. Kidnapping involves forcibly taking and transporting a person against their will by force, fraud or intimidation. Kidnapping may take different forms based on the motive. Among these forms are stereotypical kidnappings perpetrated by strangers or slight acquaintance and may involve a child. Kidnapping of children is common and instils fear in families and communities. This has implications for community security, which encompasses human security, human development and state building (Obamamoye, 2020)-putting them at risk. For example, fear of kidnapping may prevent communities from engaging in development activities. State building, the responsibility of both citizens and the government, is also undermined, reflecting the government's failure to protect its

people. It is important to note that the government has a contractual responsibility to provide security to the citizens. Implicitly, kidnapping infringes on national security by creating fear and undermining the state's capacity to protect its citizens. Kidnapping can be perceived as a tactic used by criminals to perpetrate crimes, as noted by a key respondent;

*“You see, human traffickers are criminals; one of the reasons is to use their victims to commit crimes. The people we see committing heinous crimes against their own people, some are abductees. Some are taken to what is perceived as enemy community/country to carry out crimes. We have heard of suicide bombersI think these could be people who are abducted against their will and forced to die as they serve the human traffickers” RSP
29*

From this account, it's evident that human traffickers abduct individuals for illicit purposes. The quote suggests that the abductees are coerced into committing serious crimes that harm both the targeted communities and the individuals themselves, as well as the societies they originate from. Suicide bombers, it seems, are victims of kidnapping/ abduction. The processes involved in kidnapping and their outcomes all carry significant security implications. Acts of kidnapping violate individual's freedom, a fundamental aspect of human security. As noted by Julie and Dahlstrom (2020), security encompasses freedoms from fear and from want. When these freedoms are compromised, it indicates that the social, environmental, political, economic, military and cultural systems that provide individuals with the foundations of life, survival, and dignity are all under threat. The fear instilled by kidnapping may lead to poverty, as observed by the National Crime Research Centre (2022), which found that strangers abduct individuals and demand that they commit a crime on their behalf under threat of harm or death. This fear compels abductees to engage in criminal acts. It is thus arguable that kidnapping coerces individuals into

criminal activity. In line with this perspective, the UNODC (2022) established that human trafficking imposes a heavy cost on communities as it necessitates high expenses for rehabilitating people forced into crime.

Acquaintance kidnapping creates conflict and distrust among community members rupturing community stability. Abduction by someone known to the victim violates societal bonds and values, undermining social capital, which is crucial community security and central to community policing. The cohesion fostered by societal bonds is undermined, creating rifts exploited by criminals. It can be argued that kidnapping by acquaintances not only harms individuals but also creates opportunities for kidnapers and criminals to exploit, thus contributing to national insecurity. As noted by Jongman, 2020, collective identity is integral to national security, and acquaintance kidnapping undermines this key aspect in community security.

Inside kidnapping occurs when a domestic worker is offered money to provide access to their employer's home or other information in exchange for kidnapers holding the employer's children hostage (US Department of State, 2020). The resources used to investigate kidnapping cases could be directed towards more beneficial and profitable projects aimed at enhancing the economic well-being of both the targeted individuals and the nation as a whole. Potential investors may avoid investing in countries with high rates of abduction, resulting in losses to both investors and businesses, exacerbating the issue of high unemployment rates in the country.

In summary, kidnapping has extensive ramifications for national security. The distrust and fear associated with kidnapping, as well as coercion into criminal

activities, compromise the security of a nation. If community security is compromised, the entire nation may face paralysis in various aspects.

4.4.3 Implications of security challenges posed by HT on national security

After identifying the security threats associated with various forms of human trafficking on national security, the study aimed to analyze the security risks posed by HT on national security. Participants were asked to indicate the degree of security risks posed by human trafficking on national security using a Likert scale. The findings are presented in Table 4.10, where: 1= To a very large extent, 2=To a large extent, 3=To a moderate extent, 4= To a less extent, and 5=Not at all.

Table 4.10 Implications of security challenges associated with HT on National Security.

| Security Challenge | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Total |
|--|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Undermining community and national stability | 50.3% | 36.5% | 6.5% | 5.4% | 1.3% | 100 % |
| Fueling conflict and undermines national security. | 28.5% | 58.3% | 6.3% | 5.8% | 1.1% | 100 % |
| Supporting terrorist and armed groups | 39.1% | 52.3% | 5.2% | 4.4% | 1.0% | 100 % |
| Supporting abusive regimes | 40.4% | 49.0% | 6.5% | 3.4% | 0.7% | 100 % |
| Undermining international cooperation | 27.2% | 67.5% | 3.1% | 1.6% | 0.6% | 100 % |
| Bankrolling criminal activities. | 36.4% | 51.0% | 8.2% | 3.7% | 0.7% | 100 % |
| Weakening of the governance | 37.7 % | 54.3% | 5.3% | 2.0% | 0.7% | 100 % |
| Average Mean | 37.0% | 52.7% | 5.8% | 3.7% | 0.8% | 100% |

Source (Data, 2020)

From the table, the majority of respondents (86.8%) indicated that human trafficking can undermine community and national stability. The same percentage (86.8%) of

respondents said that HT fuels conflict and undermines national security, while 81.4% indicated that human trafficking supports terrorist and armed group. A percentage of 89.4% indicated that human trafficking supports abusive regimes. A large proportion of respondents (94.7%) said that human trafficking undermines international cooperation. Those who indicated that human trafficking can lead to bankrolling criminal activities stood at 87.4%. Lastly, 92.0% indicated that HT leads to weakening of governance.

The findings highlight various security risks stemming from the challenges posed by human trafficking. According to the data, regions affected by or facilitating human trafficking are susceptible to social instability, the perpetuation of oppressive regimes, diminished international cooperation, and the funding of criminal enterprises. These risks contain latent opportunities through which threats could materialize.

Human trafficking may impair community development and destabilize communities, escalating violence. As noted from previous discussion, human traffickers use different methods to exploit their victims, creating distrust among citizens. This disrupts the social support within a community, which is crucial for development. As highlighted, the lure to obtain victims resides in the belief that the perpetrators are providing opportunities for self and social development. However, this turns out to be a fallacy that only leads to lamentation, provoking dissent among those involved and interfering with the social capital crucial for social cohesion. Additionally, trust is a critical factor in national development, particularly for nations with multi-ethnic communities that may hold different cultural values. As observed by Khaile, Roman, October, Staden, and Bologun (2022), trust is a key

factor in the development of a united, democratic, peaceful and prosperous society. Implicitly, without trust, democratic principles supporting national security are challenged. Accordingly, aspects such as freedom and respect for humanity are all negatively affected. This affects both national security and international cooperation, elements that are key to global security.

Human trafficking and the associated criminal activities disrupt social cohesion and trust within communities. This can lead to increased social unrest and conflicts, posing further security challenges.

Other than distrust, human trafficking instils fear in the affected community, which may lead to their displacement and a weakening of essential support structures. Bigio and Vogelstein (2019) observed that the fear of human trafficking begets displacement, depriving communities of human potential and weakening essential support structures thus undermining community and national stability.

When women, girls, men and boys are trafficked within a certain community, it yields numerous societal challenges, which may include discrimination, health hazards, lack of community development, among others. One of the study respondent from the NPS indicated that;

“When any person from the family is trafficked, then the social fabric of that family is ruptured” RSP4

As seen from the quote, when family members (men - breadwinners and women - home makers) are taken away through trafficking, the consequences include the breakdown or weakening of family structures. The economic and social security of a nation is ruptured since the facilitators of these key institutions are taken away. The children are left without guidance. This leads to insecurity but more significantly,

destruction of an entire generation. As Nathan (2013) argues, instability in society generates uncertainty and tension among states, inhibiting trust and a sense of collective identity.

The application of violence is one form of insecurity evident in the process of human trafficking. Physical violence could occur during the process of kidnapping as well as in terrorist activities. It could also be emotional violence or torture. The victims of human trafficking often endure severe emotional and physical abuse, including threats against themselves and their families, instances of rape, and even death. The impacts of such exploitation are devastating and inhumane, extending far beyond the lives of the victims and their loved ones. In communities where kidnapping and terror activities occur, individuals and community initiatives find it difficult to undertake development activities. This contributes to poor social and economic development, with long-lasting effects on the community as a whole. Moreover, the actions linked to human trafficking have detrimental effects on the mental well-being of individuals. Arguably then, the risks posed by human trafficking undermine the health, safety, and security of all nations affected by the vice.

One of the respondents from the immigration department said:

“Human trafficking usually prevents children from accessing education, whereas girls and women are trafficked for sexual exploitation, exposing them to reproductive health problems as well as deadly diseases such as HIV/AIDS. For men, they are usually exposed to fatal-related work” RSP 18

The human costs that human trafficking exerts on communities are harmful and persistent. For instance, the failure to access education denies children the

opportunity to develop, thus jeopardizing personal security and the development of a nation. Education stands as the single most important aspect for a child as it facilitates the development of various faculties. Cognitively, it equips children with knowledge in diverse fields contributing to their understanding of the world. Sharma (2018) observes that education equips children with sociable practices such as empathy, friendship, participation, and assistance, which are crucial in building community relations essential to both the community and national security. Empathy, friendship and participation aid in cultivating trust among community members, deflating possible tensions, and enhancing peaceful coexistence. However, if children are deprived of schooling, they miss out on attributes crucial for the foundation of a stable society. This has implications for individual security.

Moreover, without education, children engage in antisocial behaviour and become vulnerable to criminal syndicates, who exploit their innocence and immaturity. The result is often child abuse, particularly if they are recruited as child soldiers. Shelly (2013) notes that trafficked children do not have the opportunity to attend school, blocking their legitimate chances for growth. Blocked legitimate opportunities condemn children to criminal activities for survival—endangering their lives and the security of the nation at large. According to the Differential Opportunity Theory, people's structural situations must be considered both in terms of the legitimate denied, to them and the "illegitimate opportunities" they can access in particular social contexts. In this case, illegitimate opportunities are criminal in nature and endanger national security.

Furthermore, children who interact with unconventional groups such as human traffickers risk acquiring criminal behaviour and may adopt criminality as a means of survival, posing a threat to national security. The UNDP report (2022) observed that community insecurity weakens the social fabric of society. The Differential Opportunity Theory asserts that the process of acquiring values and skills associated with child's performance depends on the environment. Children learn through interaction with other members of the society in which they grow, implying that such children may become a security threat to society and are likely to engage in antisocial behaviour. In their adulthood, these children may become human traffickers, thus perpetuating the vice in society.

This study also noted that human trafficking generates profit through different means, such as sex trafficking, to support terrorist and armed groups. This undermines community values by demeaning the integrity of women and girls, leading to their rejection or isolation by the societies to which they belong. This has negative implications for the personal security of victims. Indeed, the Copenhagen School of Thought on Security, which addresses non-military issues, noted that relationships of collective identity are key aspects of national security (Filmon, 2020). Accordingly, the securitization of social and individual aspects reflects the classical view of national security, where the state is the key referent object. From this perspective, the personal security of women and girls violated by human traffickers directly contributes to national security through the securitization of their acts. Additionally, demeaning the integrity of women in any society violates security of the collective identity of a community, as well as national security. Another example is of children who are born out of relationships with perpetrators of human

trafficking, who are discriminated against and rejected due to the perception that they are a threat to society (Binder, 2022). The study thus concludes that human trafficking is an existential threat to societal values.

When men, who are the breadwinners in the society, are taken away, leaving their families uncared for, and when, women who are homemakers, are sexually abused and taken away, these economic and social consequences weaken the community and reduce their resilience, thereby advancing the strategic aims of criminal groups and threatening the national security of a country. The devastating effects of human trafficking and associated stigma destroy kinship networks. The stigma associated with sexual violence traumatizes individuals, leading to stress, low self-esteem, and anxiety among victims of HT as exemplified by the quote below

“Trafficked persons usually suffer from diseases like post-traumatic stress disorder, low self-esteem, depression and disorientations due to psychological torture that they undergo in the process of exploitation. In most instances, victims are not in a position to access medical services”
RSP, 131

From the citation, it is evident that victims often endure psychological distress, including post-traumatic stress disorder, low self-esteem, depression, and disorientation resulting from exploitation. Despite these challenges, they encounter difficulties in accessing necessary medical services. These psychological conditions profoundly affect their lives, leading to long-term consequences. Disorders such as depression, anxiety, and low self-esteem significantly impair victims' well-being and quality of life. Mental health issues, coupled with other physical health problems such as sexually transmitted diseases, have a direct link to the health security of a nation. This resonates with the views of Omozusi (2022), who observed that terror

and experiences of victims of human trafficking continue to create a prison of fear in them long after physical release.

Aside from security issues arising from health, survivors may face marginalization or isolation from the community. Families and communities may regard exploited children, or those recruited by armed actors, with mistrust or open rejection (Haer, 2019). This observation is also echoed by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (2021), who noted that rescued children, who should be integrated back into their communities, are viewed with suspicion, while others despair at the thought of returning to their community. Societal marginalization and associated stigma may lead to a lack of future job prospects due to a lack of skills, qualifications, social and economic capital.

Victims of human trafficking may return to their community while ill or psychologically affected due to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment during trafficking. Furthermore, victims may succumb to deadly communicable diseases and physical injuries resulting from abusive exploitations. This leaves their families and the community burdened with rehabilitation. For example, many Kenyans sent to Saudi Arabia in search of green pastures, under what seems like a legitimate cause, have suffered significant physical and emotional torture, and even death. While the verification of the extent to which victims in the case of Saudi Arabia could fall under human trafficking was beyond the scope of this study, nonetheless, the strategies employed mirror the economic undercurrents that sustain human trafficking, as discussed in the first objective of this study. As pointed out by one of the respondents from the immigration department;

“...victims of human trafficking suffer from physical harm, mental and sexual abuse, which is a burden to society”. RSP 27

From the narration, victims of human trafficking endure various forms of harm. These abuses not only inflict significant suffering on the victims themselves but also pose a burden on society as a whole. The International Organization for Migration (2021) reports that inhumane living circumstances, violent physical and mental abuse, and hazardous working conditions may cause a variety of physical and psychological health concerns for victims of human trafficking. This is in line with the National Library of Medicine (2021), which indicates that the effects of violence on the sexual and reproductive health of victims are multiple and long lasting. For example, the physical consequences of rape include STDs/HIV infections, unwanted pregnancy, abortions, homicide as well as suicide. Arguably, when these occur, the progression and continuity of society are jeopardized, and national security is threatened.

Some 86.8 % of the respondents indicated that human trafficking fuels conflict and undermines international security. Nearly all nations in the world experience human trafficking, although it typically assumes heinous forms before and during times of war. Human traffickers could intensify social unrest. There are several types of human trafficking and vulnerabilities, both before and after conflicts, including sexual and gender-based abuse, prejudice, and a lack of job prospects. One of the respondent from NPS said:

“During and post conflict situations, traffickers exploit the weak in the society, fuelling conflict that may impede the chances of rebuilding the societies”. RSP 17

From the citation, during and after conflict situations, traffickers take advantage of vulnerable individuals within society, exacerbating existing conflicts and hindering efforts to rebuild communities. In a conflict situation, individuals and groups are prone to many risks that human traffickers could exploit. For example, they may persuade marginalized communities to take up opportunities in foreign lands and, once in their control, make them victims of exploitation. They could also collaborate with perpetrators to obtain victims. According to UNODC (2021), human traffickers could exploit conflict situation by spreading terror and controlling groups to carry on their criminal activities. Trafficking in persons in the context of armed conflict is another dimension of violence, abuses, and brutality that may affect human security and national security at large. Trafficked victims undergo exploitation in different sectors, such as mines and agriculture, for forced labour, leaving a significant human resource deficit in their localities and nations. This denies nations the needed revenue for development, in addition to causing physical harm to the victims.

Human traffickers employ mass abduction as a strategy to obtain victims of sexual slavery. The mass abduction instils fear in communities that could be opposed to armed groups. The implication is that human traffickers may collude with armed groups in a conflict zone to sustain their enterprise. In line with this view, UNODC (2021) notes that crimes of enslavement, such as conscription and the use of child soldiers, are strategies used by human traffickers. It is, therefore, possible to argue that human traffickers exploit conflict situations and sustain conflict in societies, thus negatively affecting national security. Human trafficking amplifies the economic and social vulnerabilities of the affected community. The erosion of the rule of law, which protects and safeguards community in peacetime, is a

consequence of human trafficking. In addition, in an environment where human trafficking thrives, there may be a breakdown of state institutions, and national security is threatened.

In relation to international security, human trafficking interferes with security in various ways. Due to its clandestine operations, it illegally migrates people to countries, thus putting strains on social amenities that could compromise their social security. In addition, it violates immigration laws that could see criminals of different kinds entering a country. For example, foreign individuals have been involved in committing crimes, such as terrorism in Kenya. In line with this view, John (202) argues that illegal immigrants turn into criminals in trafficking networks for safe trafficking across borders. The Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (2022) has similar views. The report states that trafficking networks employ fake papers to help their victims migrate across borders unlawfully, as well as to get around limitations in the country of residency. Transnational syndicates use trafficked persons to ferry tools and other illegal contraband used to commit other crimes. This is a direct attack on international security, given the interconnectivity exhibited in globalization.

Further, the study findings indicated that human trafficking supports abusive regimes. Human trafficking in conflict settings may benefit from abusive regimes in many ways and, therefore, work to sustain the system. Accordingly, abusive regimes promote structures of inequality, autocratic governance, violent institutions, and thereby damage structures that lead to collective and societal harm (Hearn, Strid, Hubert and Balkmar, 2022). This social presentation of an abusive regime provides

opportunity that criminals in human trafficking could be exploit. The criminals support such regimes to remain in power such that they have a free way to carry on with the vice. In line with this view, UNODC (2022) thematic paper on Countering Trafficking in Persons in Conflict Situations established that, as state and non-state structures weaken, repressive government officials use illegal means to achieve their legitimate goals.

One of the study respondents from the NPS pointed out that; “*Abusive government officials rely on human trafficking to sustain their oppressive acts to its citizens*”. (RSP 20) As seen from the quote, abusive government officials utilize human trafficking to perpetuate their oppressive control over citizens. This suggests that trafficking is a criminal enterprise and a tool for maintaining power and control within oppressive regimes. Human trafficking does not stop with individual victims. Human traffickers may sustain a government that is abusive and not ready to observe constitutionality. Oppressive governments may use illegal means to create fear among citizens to enable them to remain in power (Blakeley, 2020). Accordingly, they may work with criminal gangs to oppress victims. The Global Initiative against Transnational Crime (2022) observed that organized criminals can establish relationships with political actors, eroding the rule of law and the openness of decision-making processes, and subverting the values of justice, democracy, and liberty through the systematic exploitation of human and institutional weakness. Human trafficking, as a form of organized crime, is no exception. As discussed earlier, it engages in acts such as terrorism and money laundering, which can be of value to oppressive regimes. As Blakeley (2020) argues, totalitarian regimes or state

terrorists throughout history have turned against their own people, using different approaches to achieve their goal of staying in power.

Additionally, human traffickers may support abusive government officials who conscript their citizens into forced labour to circumvent sanctions. This aligns with Bigio and Vogelstein (2019) observation that the North Korean government had conscripted its citizens to work abroad in Russia and China under harsh conditions, mainly to circumvent sanctions. Such governments exploit their people through human trafficking to generate money annually, thus helping them achieve their development goals. The government collaborates with criminal gangs, making it very difficult to institute counter measures against the vice. In addition, repressive government officials may employ forced labour against a specific group or generally, as a way of oppression or discrimination (Bigio & Vogelstein 2019), or as retaliation against the expression of political opinions. Such governments sponsor human right abuses, thereby contributing to mass displacement and regional instability, which has security implications for the national security of states.

Since abusive regimes do not uphold the rule of law, victims of trafficking lack the means to challenge their abusers. Additionally, they cannot count on the government to intervene to protect their human rights. Toney-Butler (2023) established that repressive government officers perceive human trafficking cases as very complex and resource-demanding burdens to a state. Government and state offices may be compromised to prevent, prosecute and protect the victims. They may also suppress advocacy and civil societies that focus on promoting and protecting the rights of vulnerable and marginalized peoples, including victims of human trafficking. The

Human Rights Foundation (2022) found that in a country with repressive government officers, the arrest, detentions, and sentencing of human traffickers occur indiscriminately, often for politically motivated reasons. Additionally, repressive government officers working within the criminal justice system prosecute fewer human trafficking cases. All these have security implications for national security.

A large extent, 84.7 %, of the study respondents indicated that HT undermines international cooperation. International cooperation among various countries is an essential ingredient in combating human trafficking. In a criminal matter, when all states share information or evidence and collaborate to bring a criminal to justice, international cooperation is achieved (Akanbi, 2020). Enhancing international cooperation faces impediments created by resistance from some states. Such impediments include corruption, differing legal systems or legal approaches, competition, and evaluation. As noted from the findings in this research, undermining of international laws by government officers mandated to curb human trafficking may affect international cooperation. International cooperation may be hindered when individuals, organizations, and governments prioritize personal gains (UNODC, 2022) over achieving the broader aim of international cooperation, which is geared towards the prevention and combating of human trafficking.

One of the key respondent from the NPS indicated that:

“In some countries, when an investigation officers cross over in pursuing cases of human trafficking, one is expected to pay government officials for the services rendered, from access to key people to an escort to various locations”. RSP 11.

The citation from the study respondent highlights that, in some countries, law enforcement officers investigating cases of human trafficking may encounter corruption, where they are required to pay government officials for various services related to their investigations. This includes expenses such as gaining access to key individuals involved in trafficking networks and obtaining escorts to different locations during the investigation process. This suggests that corruption within government institutions can hinder efforts to combat human trafficking effectively. Corruption undermines the effectiveness of efforts to combat human trafficking and poses significant challenges to national security. Within law enforcement agencies, it can lead to compromised investigations into human trafficking cases. Officers may be influenced to overlook or minimize evidence, hinder the identification and prosecution of traffickers, and fail to provide adequate protection to victims. Additionally, corrupt officials may enable human trafficking by condoning suspicious activities at airports, or even actively participating in trafficking networks. This facilitates the movement of traffickers and their victims across borders, exacerbating the problem of trafficking and posing security risks. Moreover, corruption within critical security institutions like airports undermines national security by weakening border control measures and allowing criminal activities to thrive. This can compromise the safety and well-being of citizens and contribute to broader security threats within the country and region. Indeed, Oechslin and Steiner (2021) observed that issues such as bureaucracy slowness, problems related to corrupt governments, organizations, and individuals make it difficult to achieve cooperation to counter human trafficking. Retrospectively, the prevalence of corruption within law enforcement and government agencies erodes

public trust in institutions and the rule of law. This hampers efforts to address human trafficking effectively and undermines confidence in the government's ability to uphold national security. As the International Bar Association Presidential Task Force (2023) reports, there is a need for accountability and transparency within government institutions, including law enforcement agencies and immigration departments. This involves recommendations for enhancing oversight mechanisms, ensuring integrity in recruitment and training processes, and prosecuting corrupt officials involved in trafficking or enabling criminal activities at airports.

Overall, the presence of corruption within law enforcement and government agencies, particularly in the context of human trafficking investigations at JKIA and MIA, represents a significant challenge to both the study of human trafficking and efforts to enhance national security. Addressing this issue is crucial for effectively combating human trafficking and safeguarding national security interests. Moreover, human trafficking erodes democratic institutions, ethical standards, and principles of justice, thereby undermining sustainable development and the rule of law in affected states. These detrimental effects underscore the importance of international cooperation in addressing human trafficking, as they ultimately impact national security considerations.

Another respondent from NPS indicated that:

“When destination countries are not helping countries of origin in arresting traffickers of victims of human trafficking, it affects their international cooperation” RSP 14.

When countries are unwilling to cooperate in bringing traffickers to justice, it becomes an impediment to international cooperation in combating human trafficking. For example, when victims are exploited and coerced into debt bondage

and forced labour across an international border, and the countries of transit and destination fail to take effective measures to protect such victims, this may affect international cooperation among those affected countries. As the UNODC (2022) report notes, human trafficking requires every country to join efforts in preventing and curbing it. Indeed, as Homan (2018) observes, cooperation among organizations and agencies in curbing human trafficking is of great importance.

Another respondent from NPS indicated that:

“There is an underlying conflict between crime control and human rights approaches to human trafficking that can make it difficult for organizations mandated to find a common ground as to the appropriate response to curb human trafficking”. RSP 32.

Different people and organizations may respond to human trafficking as a human rights issues, whereas others approach the vice from a crime control perspective (UNODC 2018). Human trafficking is a human rights issue with global dimensions (Irwin, 2017; Akanbi, 2020). The human rights approach emphasizes the protection of the victim (UN Report, 2022). The crime control approach emphasizes stopping and preventing continued human trafficking behaviour. According to human rights proponents, cooperation is affected when criminal justice officers promote the goal of arresting and prosecuting the offenders over the interests of the victims, who may not be willing to assist law enforcement or prosecutors (UNODC, 2018). Criminal justice officials are unlikely to be pleased if they believe that victim advocates are undermining efforts to stop human trafficking by not encouraging victims to assist law enforcement and prosecutors. The underlying conflict between crime control and human rights approaches to human trafficking may make it challenging for institutions tasked with stopping human trafficking to reach an agreement on the best way to respond to both criminals and victims.

The UNODC (2019) report on human trafficking observed that unless organizations mandated to promote international cooperation towards curbing human trafficking are familiar with how a country's legal systems assign roles and responsibilities among the legal actors, efforts to promote international collaboration may be thwarted.

A large proportion of the study respondents (92.0 %) indicated that HT leads to weakening of governance. As observed in this study, real and perceived corruption fuels human trafficking. If the government does not address such issues that affect people, community and national safety, it erodes faith in public institutions. The findings also noted that some government officials were complicit in human trafficking since they support traffickers to recruit, transport and exploit victims through forced labour and sexual exploitation. These findings resonate with observations made by UNODC (2022), that corrupt criminal justice impedes prosecution or fails to provide victims of human trafficking with adequate protection. This reinforces public distrust in the government. Security on a national and international level is gravely threatened by human trafficking, and there are horrifying effects on the economy, democratic institutions, and public health and safety. The UN. GIFT (2018) pointed out that people are usually vulnerable to trafficking because of the allure of opportunity, expectation of reliable income, relentless demand for inexpensive goods and services, and weak governance in their countries. A large-scale crisis may significantly increase the vulnerability of the affected people owing to social instability since fragile governments are typically poorly prepared to handle it.

In summary, human trafficking is an atrocity to human rights and dignity, and it is a criminal and security concern. It causes displacement and destabilizes community and national stability, thereby enhancing conflict and undermining social, economic and political development. It fuels conflict by empowering extremist and armed groups to raise revenue that expands their power and military capabilities. Abusive government benefits from state-sponsored trafficking that provides them with a source of income. Other security implications of human trafficking are weakening of governance, bankrolling of criminal activities, as well as impairment to international cooperation. These complex security issues arise from human trafficking within a nation where the vice is experienced. The attendant risks could spread to compromise international security. Considering that JKIA and MIA are points of entry and exit into Kenya, as well as transit points that traffickers could use, the national security implications cannot be underrated. Therefore, Kenya needs to act deliberately to counter the vice. As a state with a role in international security, its ability to counter human trafficking in its territory, and more so in the two international airports, will enhance international security.

4.4.4 The best practices to address HT and enhance national security in Kenya

This section presents, analyses, and interprets data related to objective four, focusing on the best measures needed to address human trafficking at Kenyan international airports to enhance national security. Study respondents were asked to identify the best measures the government needs to put in place in order to suppress human trafficking at Kenya's international airports. Their varied responses were compressed into five measures as presented in Table 4.11 below.

Table 4.11 Best Practices needed to address HT at JKIA and MIA to enhance national security

| Promoting a comprehensive approach that involves coordination with all airlines and law enforcement agencies | | |
|---|-----------|------|
| | Frequency | % |
| Yes | 224 | 93.3 |
| No | 16 | 6.7 |

| Strengthening individual and institutional capacity of the stakeholders on relevant national and international legal framework | | |
|---|-----------|------|
| | Frequency | % |
| Yes | 206 | 85.8 |
| No | 34 | 14.2 |
| Enhancing mechanism for identifying victims of human trafficking | | |
| | Frequency | % |
| Yes | 185 | 77.1 |
| No | 55 | 22.9 |
| Sensitizing the communities and all stakeholders mandated to curb human trafficking | | |
| | Frequency | % |
| Yes | 157 | 65.4 |
| No | 83 | 34.6 |
| Enhancing local and international coordination among all stakeholders curbing human trafficking | | |
| | Frequency | % |
| Yes | 86 | 35.8 |
| No | 154 | 64.2 |

Source: Study Data (2020)

The analysis of the table reveals significant trends among participants. The majority (93.3%) underscored the importance of adopting a comprehensive approach that entails close collaboration with airlines and law enforcement agencies to identify victims of human trafficking, as evidenced by a count of n=224 (93.3%). Following

closely, stakeholders emphasized the necessity of strengthening both individual and institutional capacities on relevant national and international legal frameworks, with a notable percentage of n=206 (85.8%). Subsequently, enhancing mechanisms for identifying victims of human trafficking emerged as a priority, garnering support from n=185 (77.1%) of the participants. Sensitizing communities and relevant stakeholders mandated to combat human trafficking ranked fourth, with n=167 (65.4%) expressing its importance. Lastly, the participants emphasized the critical need for enhancing local and international coordination among all stakeholders involved in combating human trafficking, which was represented by n=86 (35.8%). These findings are summarized in Figure 4.2.

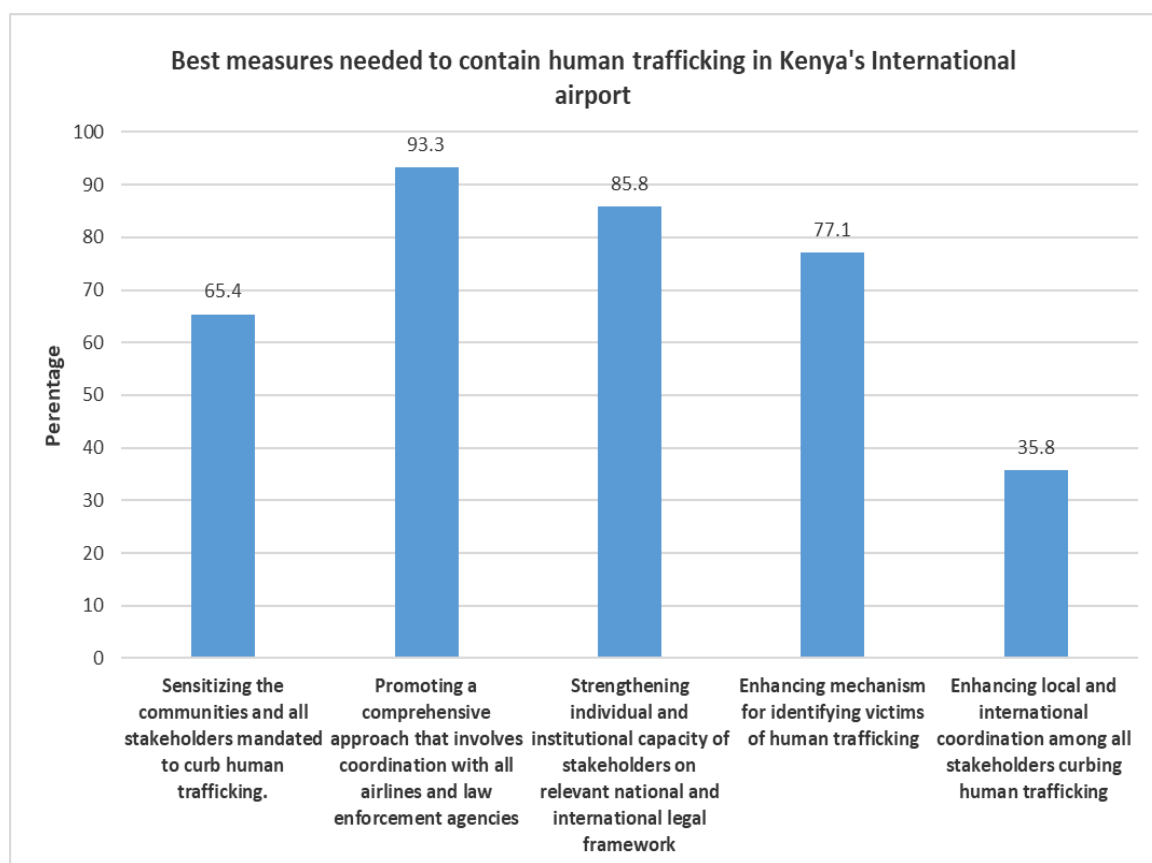


Figure 4.2: Best measures needed to address HT at JKIA and MIA to enhance National Security

Source: Study Data (2020)

Beginning with the data reflecting the highest respondents, it is evident that a significant majority, comprising 93.3% of participants, advocate for the promotion of a comprehensive approach to combating human trafficking, emphasizing collaboration between airlines and law enforcement agencies. Following closely behind, 85.8% of respondents underscore the necessity of bolstering both individual and institutional capacity within stakeholders regarding pertinent legal frameworks, both nationally and internationally. Moreover, 77.1% of participants prioritize the enhancement of mechanisms aimed at identifying victims of human trafficking, while 65.4% stress the importance of sensitizing communities and relevant stakeholders mandated to combat this pervasive issue. Lastly, 35.8% of respondents' advocate for the enhancement of local and international coordination among all stakeholders involved in combating human trafficking. These findings, encapsulated in Figure 4.2, lay a foundational framework for comprehensive discussions on strategic interventions in the ongoing fight against human trafficking.

4.4.4.1 Promoting a comprehensive approach that involves coordination with airlines and law enforcement agencies to prevent HT

Promoting a comprehensive approach that involves coordination among all airlines and law enforcement agencies was the most preferred approach, with the highest number of 224 (93.3%) respondents.

One of the study respondents from the immigration department pointed out that;

“All airport /airlines staff who are providing airport services are supposed to share any information/intelligence when they observe any signs of potential trafficking situation with law enforcement and immigration officer at the airport” RSP 9,12,23...

A respondent from NPS indicated that:

“It’s very important to have joint training for all personnel and agencies mandated to prevent cases of human trafficking”. RSP 10, 24, 23....

Another key respondent from the immigration department also noted that;

“All Airports and airline management should enhance good cooperation with law enforcement and border agencies in the fight against human trafficking”. RSP 4, 8, 34 46...

Another respondent from NPS pointed out that;

*“All security personnel and immigration authorities should embrace the use of technology in terms of detecting the movement of all passengers at the airport and authenticating all the documents used by the passengers”
RSP 12*

Based on the responses above, to counter human trafficking at airports, it is recommended that all airport staff worldwide should adopt a proactive, comprehensive approach. According to the Airport Council International (ACI, 2019), this approach includes measures such as information sharing, joint training, enhancing good cooperation, and utilizing technology by airport and airline staff. These measures aim to strengthen the ability to identify and protect victims of human trafficking, thereby promoting national security (ACI, 2019). When there is proactive sharing of information or intelligence on suspected human trafficking cases with law enforcement and immigration authorities, it becomes easier to deter the crime. This fosters trust among various agencies mandated to contain the menace (ACI, 2019). Information sharing also facilitates understanding and communication during any trafficking situation, thus safeguarding the global air transport network from exploitation by traffickers and migrant smugglers (ACI, 2019). Inter-agency collaboration reduces duplication of services and enhances efficiency in the use of public resources. Strengthening working relationships among

law enforcement officers, immigration authorities, and other official employees at airports and airlines promotes effective communication in case of any identifiable consistent behaviour indicating human trafficking along airport routes. It also improves reporting mechanism to authorities during flights and at airports. These findings align with those of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) (2020), which noted that information sharing in security management offers several benefits including creating situational awareness and legal protection, enhancing technological incentives, providing common standards for easy access to information, and offering reliable information actionable and relevant to security management. Enhancing collaboration among the various security actors at airports, as well as improving their performance helps to counter human trafficking.

Joint training of all personnel mandated to suppress human trafficking provides the initial opportunity to introduce officers to the roles and responsibilities of other agencies. Training and skills development for all personnel are crucial factors for instilling confidence within oneself. As emphasized by ACI (2019), joint training plays a crucial role in enabling officers to understand their responsibilities and shared objectives, fostering trust and unity among team members. Through training sessions, staff members gain awareness of indicators and behaviours associated with human trafficking, including how victims interact with travel companies and handle travel documentation. Research by Mary, Kathryn and Chad (2019) highlighted that training should include the most common indicators of human trafficking encountered by personnel from various agencies and provide them with in-flight and on-ground methods to report suspected trafficking incidents to law enforcement officers. The Indicators should encompass aspects such as the appearance of the

victim, signs of intimidation or nervousness, consistency of answers, and signs of physical abuse, symbols, names, or branded tattoos on individuals, as noted by Binder (2022). Additionally, trained officers have an advantage in enhancing their knowledge and skills in understanding potential security threats (ACI, 2019) and responding to emerging threats. Training empowers employees with the requisite knowledge and skills needed for effective and efficient work, as highlighted by Mary et al. (2019).

The study respondents emphasized the importance of good cooperation among law enforcement and border agencies as a means of promoting a comprehensive approach in deterring human trafficking. Cooperation denotes a more formal structure, whereby regular official meetings are organized for the sharing of information and resources aimed at achieving set objectives. In response to security threats posed by criminal networks, cooperation among law enforcement and customs services can help identify various crimes committed at airports, including human trafficking. This cooperation can aid in preventing the abuse of passports and other travel documents by traffickers at border checkpoints. Angela (2019) observed that the security and safety of passengers remain paramount in all airports, and the coordination of all airline services and security agents should be enhanced to stop the appealing crime of HT. Through cooperation, various agencies can counter human trafficking and other transnational organized crimes thereby, enhancing human and national security.

In addition to a collaborative approach, study respondents also noted the use of technology by airline staff and law enforcement officers as another way to help to

contain human trafficking at airports. Such technology includes behaviour detection for monitoring passenger movements, face detection of frequent airport visitors, and detection of passengers travelling on a last-minute bookings paid for by someone else or holding documents belonging to another person. Using technology, the system can provide immediate analysis of a passenger data, enabling immigration authorities to detect any trafficking cases. This facilitates quick communication of information to law enforcement officers, who can then prevent and protect potential victims from being trafficked. Technology such as the World Customs Organization (WCO) CENcomm, an encrypted communication tool for the exchange of security intelligence available twenty-four seven, is part of Customs Enforcement Network that assists security agencies in combating transnational organized crimes through real-time exchange of intelligence within a secure information technology network during international operation (INTERPOL, 2018). This aligns with the Airport Council International (ACI) report, which affirmed the commitment to embracing technology at airports to combat HT, by training all staff to identify trafficking situations and by raising awareness about human trafficking and migrant smuggling (ACI, 2029). Additionally, enhanced surveillance and good communication within all airports and airlines may help to notify each other of any incident of human trafficking.

4.4.4.2 Strengthening stakeholders' capacity on relevant national and international legal frameworks

Strengthening the capacity of all stakeholders on relevant national and international legal frameworks was supported by 206 (85.8%) of the total respondents. One respondent from DCI noted that....

“...Many individuals and stakeholders involved in combating human trafficking interpret existing laws differently, particularly when dealing with children” RSP 1

Another respondent from NPS indicated that....

“There is a need to enlighten all relevant agencies mandated to curb human trafficking on relevant law and policy instruments such as the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act 2010, Sexual Offences Act 2006, Employment Act 2007, Children Act 2007, Citizens and Immigration Acts 2011, and Victim Protection Act 2014”. RSP 13

Another respondent from NPS said;

“Many people are unable to distinguish between human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The laws have not specifically indicated what should be done to victims of human trafficking and immigrants, bearing in mind some of the victims are very uncooperative, especially when they hear about the police”. (RSP 106).

From the above narratives, enhancing institutional and individual capacity building of criminal justice systems could enable law enforcement officials to function more successfully within the rule of law, with a focus on the needs of vulnerable populations like children and crime victims. An efficient, impartial, and compassionate criminal justice system is a necessary component of any strategy to stop and address transnational organized crime, including human trafficking (UN report, 2019). The respondents in this study indicated that most individuals and stakeholders fighting human trafficking interpret existing law differently. There is a need to educate them on the existing legal polices for curbing human trafficking. Different studies observe that most stakeholders mandated to address HT find it difficult to differentiate between trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. (Guhad, 2017; Ondieki, 2017). By enhancing the capacity of both individuals and institutions tasked with combating human trafficking, officers and organizations can more effectively identify trafficking victims who require protection from further

exploitation. This capacity-building effort also strengthens the criminal justice system's ability to prosecute human traffickers efficiently and effectively.

The Kenyan government should focus on strengthening individual capacity building on relevant national and international conventions and laws. Commendably, the country has taken strides ahead in addressing the issue of human trafficking. According to the United Nations (2000), Kenya has ratified and is a party to international frameworks aimed at combating human trafficking. She is also a party to: The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; the protocol Against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; Counter Trafficking in Persons Act 2010; Prevention of Terrorism Act 2012; and the Security Laws Amendment Act of 2014 (UN, 2010, 2012 & 2014 respectively). All these aim at curbing human trafficking.

As indicated in the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2019, Kenya has been rated at Tier 2, meaning the government initiatives to tackling human trafficking are significant but do not meet the required minimum standards set by the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. It is therefore, necessary for the government to assess existing laws and regulations to determine if they are enough to combat the most recent advancements in human trafficking and if they are compliant with current international treaties. Furthermore, due to the clandestine nature of HT, the majority of human trafficking cases go unreported and traffickers remains at large. However, with a deeper understanding of existing relevant laws and policy, law enforcement officers and other relevant agencies can create awareness among the public and enable them to report such incidences.

A respondent from the immigration department noted that:

“It is very important for the government to monitor and ensure proper enforcement of the law since most of the people involved in criminal justice system are very corrupt. In case a police officer makes an arrest, the drive of the case depends on the benefit of what she/he will get and actually the public give bribes to police in order to get led for the case” (RSP 2)

A respondent from NPS pointed out that;

“The most impacted nations should offer assistance to those who have been victims of human trafficking, including extended witness protection services and possibilities to bring criminal charges against traffickers as some victims choose not to speak in court”.

Another respondent from NPS said;

“... destination countries should have a system of social support for victims and on humanitarian grounds consider residency permission for human trafficking victims who cannot cooperate with investigators or return home”. (RSP 110).

The citation suggests that destination countries, meaning the countries where victims of human trafficking end up, should have systems in place to provide social support for these victims. On humanitarian grounds, these countries should consider granting residency to victims of human trafficking who are unable to cooperate with investigators, or return them to their home countries. This shows a recognition of the vulnerability of the victims and the need to prioritize their well-being and protection, even if they are unable to provide assistance in criminal investigations. This underscores the importance of adopting a victim-centered approach in combating human trafficking. By prioritizing the well-being and rights of trafficking victims, destination countries can create systems of social support that address the immediate needs and vulnerabilities of survivors. Provision of residency or return to victims' home countries helps prevent re-trafficking and re-exploitation. This contributes to national security by reducing the likelihood of victims falling back into trafficking networks and being used for criminal activities. While the citation acknowledges

that some trafficking victims may be unable to cooperate with investigators due to various factors such as trauma or fear, it also highlights the importance of creating conditions that encourage cooperation when possible. This cooperation can aid in the investigation and prosecution of human traffickers, thereby strengthening national security efforts. Moreover, granting residency permission to trafficking victims on humanitarian grounds reflects a commitment to upholding human rights and dignity. By offering protection and support to vulnerable individuals, destination countries contribute to broader efforts to combat human trafficking and promote national security and stability.

This, therefore, necessitates that the government conduct frequent evaluations and monitoring of the government agencies tasked with enforcing anti-human trafficking laws and regulations. In order to stop the problem, authorities implicated in trafficking, as well as human traffickers and recruiting firms, must be punished. Furthermore, there is a need to regulate, register, license and monitor private recruitment and employment agencies for labour to ensure illegal recruitment does not lead to trafficking of persons. The government should ban recruitment fees charged to employees to ensure such agencies do not abet trafficking of persons.

Law enforcement officers should protect the rights of trafficked victims throughout the criminal justice procedures. UNODC (2022) reports that several jurisdictions have updated their laws or added measures to safeguard victims, who commonly worry about being intimidated or subject to retaliation from traffickers. Laws must consider the particular requirements of all victims, including minors (UNODC, 2022). According to George, McNaughton, and Tsourtos (2021), the focus of

victims' protection should be to the victims themselves irrespective of their behaviour. The safety of the victims of human trafficking is paramount. The United Nations Declaration of 1985 calls for all states to safeguard the safety of victims as well as that of their families and witnesses from retaliation and intimidations (UN Declaration, 1985). Consequently, all stakeholders involved in curbing human trafficking should bear outmost obligations regarding the protection of victims of trafficking.

An officer from NPS pointed out that,

“There is need for countries mostly affected by human trafficking to develop clear regulations and guidelines for a national referral mechanism in order to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies and /or Criminal Justice System to protect victims and prosecute the offenders” (RSP 69).

From the above, there is a need for the affected countries to develop clear regulations and guidelines for a national referral mechanism. National referral mechanisms help to promote cooperation between all relevant government departments and other agencies and organizations involved in providing assistance to victims of human trafficking.

Through coordinated efforts, the organizations and authorities tasked with combating human trafficking fulfill their obligation to protect and promote the human rights of trafficked individuals. National referral mechanisms play a crucial role in ensuring effective referrals of trafficked victims to relevant service providers. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (2021), establishing national referral mechanisms in countries of destination, transit, and origin can promote a comprehensive and inclusive system of support that is targeted at and accessible to all trafficked persons. In line with the study's findings, the

UNODC (2022) report also noted that identification of the presumed victim of trafficking involves verifying and ascertaining all the indicators that determine whether an individual is a victim of human trafficking. This helps to establish whether the victim fits within the elements of the definition of trafficking in persons. Once the victims are successfully identified through a proper process, they are then referred to the relevant authority who may again provide the relevant services depending on the assessed needs of the victims.

4.4.4.3 Enhancing mechanisms for identifying victims of HT

On enhancing mechanism for identifying victims of human trafficking, 185 (77.1%) responses were given. This was further supported by qualitative data, as evidenced by a respondent from the immigration department who pointed out that

“Security agents should develop mechanism for identifying victims of trafficking and smuggling among general populations. The issues of assuming someone has the right to travel to any destination by simply having paid the air ticket and valid passport should come to an end”. RSP 10

Another respondent from Immigration department noted that;

“...there is a need for proper screening and authentication of the documents used by all passengers in air travel” (RSP 16).

The citation suggests that there is a need for thorough screening and authentication of documents used by all passengers in air travel. This implies that there should be rigorous checks to verify the validity and authenticity of travel documents, such as passports and visas, for every traveller. This measure is likely to enhance security and prevent various illegal activities, including human trafficking, that may involve the use of fraudulent or counterfeit documents. As pointed out by ITA (2018),

recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying suspected victims. This may help save the victims from further exploitation and, therefore, demands that all security officers embrace team work, integrity and professionalism while executing their duties. Among the indicators of human trafficking are; the victims not controlling their own identification cards or travel documents, having restricted movement, and lacking knowledge or logical means of reaching the final destination. In addition, the victim may not have a genuine relationship, especially for a child versus the guardian, and may appear disoriented or confused, or exhibit signs of mental and/ or physical abuse (ACI, 2019).

The respondents also emphasized the need for proper authentication of visas, passports and other travel documents. This may help prevent illegal immigration, which may, in turn, subject people to human trafficking or immigrant smuggling. Authentication helps curb criminals who may book travel with one airline but use another to conceal their movements.

4.4.4.4 Sensitizing the communities and stakeholders mandated to curb HT

A significant majority of respondents, 157 (65.4%), emphasized the importance of raising awareness among communities and all stakeholders responsible for combating human trafficking as the most effective measure for the Kenyan government to adopt in curbing trafficking at airports. This quantitative finding is further supported by qualitative data, exemplified by the views of one respondent from the immigration department who pointed out that

“The government should play an active role in coordinating with local advocacy groups and other entities like foreign consulates to raise awareness and implement detection strategies to identify victims of human

trafficking as well as programmes for identified victims of human trafficking” (RSP 225).

Another respondent from the same department contended that...

“Airports should provide an ideal environment to raise public awareness on issues of human trafficking”. (RSP 87).

An officer from the immigration department indicated that...

“Airport personnel should engage with their local communities and schools to raise awareness about the dangers of human trafficking” RSP 135

From the above narratives, security officers working at airports should actively interact with their local communities and schools to educate them about the risks and dangers associated with human trafficking. This indicates a proactive approach to raising awareness and preventing human trafficking by informing and involving the broader community in efforts to combat this crime. By educating local communities and schools about the dangers of human trafficking, airports can contribute to preventing individuals from becoming victims of trafficking in the first place. Awareness initiatives can empower individuals to recognize trafficking indicators and take proactive steps to protect themselves and others.

Furthermore, increased awareness among airport personnel and the broader community can lead to the early detection of potential trafficking situations. This may enable authorities to intervene swiftly and prevent trafficking crimes from occurring or escalating, thereby enhancing security at airports and in surrounding areas. The Airport Council International (2019) report affirmed that the airport provides an ideal environment to raise public awareness through video presentations, hand outs, public announcement, and exhibits. Further, engaging with local communities and schools’ fosters collaboration between airport personnel, law

enforcement agencies, and community members in the fight against human trafficking. By working together, stakeholders can share information, resources, and expertise to develop comprehensive strategies for combating trafficking and safeguarding national security interests. Consequently, raising awareness about human trafficking can disrupt the operations of trafficking networks by reducing the vulnerability of potential victims and increasing public scrutiny of suspicious activities. This may make it more difficult for traffickers to operate undetected and undermine their ability to exploit vulnerable individuals for criminal purposes. The European Commission (2022) indicated that by educating local communities and schools, airports can help protect vulnerable populations, such as children and marginalized groups, who are at greater risk of falling victim to trafficking. This contributes to the promotion of human rights and social justice, which are fundamental components of national security. Engaging with local communities and schools to raise awareness about human trafficking at airports like JKIA and MIA is essential for preventing trafficking, detecting potential cases early, fostering collaboration, disrupting trafficking networks, and protecting vulnerable populations. These efforts contribute to the broader goals of enhancing national security and promoting the well-being of communities.

Another respondent from the NPS noted that;

“... there is a need for sensitizing communities along identified corridors where human trafficking is prevalent”. RSP 21

This suggests the necessity to raise awareness among communities residing along identified corridors where human trafficking is prevalent. It indicates a recognition of the importance of educating local populations about the risks and indicators of human trafficking, particularly in areas where trafficking activities frequently occur.

By sensitizing these communities, authorities and stakeholders aim to empower individuals to recognize and report trafficking incidents, thereby contributing to efforts to combat human trafficking and enhance national security. Raising awareness among communities along trafficking corridors enables early detection and prevention of trafficking incidents. Educated community members are more likely to recognize suspicious activities and indicators of trafficking, allowing for timely intervention to prevent trafficking crimes from occurring or escalating. This finding resonates with the findings of the National Crime Research Centre (2022), which noted the need to raise awareness of the security implications of human trafficking to enhance national security. Sensitizing communities fosters greater engagement and collaboration between local residents, law enforcement agencies, and airport authorities. Community members become active participants in efforts to combat human trafficking, providing valuable information and support to authorities in identifying and addressing trafficking activities. By increasing awareness among communities along trafficking corridors, authorities disrupt the operations of trafficking networks. Human traffickers rely on secrecy and the exploitation of vulnerabilities, but heightened community awareness makes it more difficult for them to operate covertly, thereby undermining their ability to exploit victims and transport them through airports.

Sensitization efforts prioritize the protection of vulnerable populations, such as women, children, and marginalized groups, who are at greater risk of falling victim to trafficking. Educating communities empowers individuals to safeguard themselves and others against exploitation, contributing to the promotion of human rights and social justice. Consequently, sensitizing communities along trafficking

corridors complements broader security measures implemented at airports like JKIA and MIA. This helps to address the root causes of HT and strengthens the resilience of communities against trafficking threats, enhancing the overall security landscape in Kenya. In summary, sensitizing communities along identified trafficking corridors is essential for the early detection and prevention of trafficking incidents, fostering community engagement and collaboration, disrupting trafficking networks, protecting vulnerable populations, and promoting a comprehensive approach to security at airports and beyond.

4.4.4.5 Enhancing local and international coordination among stakeholders to curb HT

Enhancing international coordination among all stakeholders curbing human trafficking was also another key measure that was recommended by 86 (35.8 %). This was further reinforced by findings from the qualitative data. Collaboration was seen as a major factor in enhancing anti-human trafficking vice. One of the key respondents from the immigration department indicated that

“There is a need for the government to ensure there is smooth collaboration and coordination between the border and law enforcement agencies and airport personnel for the effective identification and investigation of all incidents of human trafficking at the airports”. (RSP18)

Another respondent from NPS indicated that...

“Information sharing on human trafficking among relevant government agencies and neighboring counties and countries is very key” (RSP38)

When relevant stakeholders are not sufficiently aware of what is happening on the other side of the border, it becomes difficult to control the inflow and outflow of persons. It is imperative to involve all communities from either side of the boarder

to help curb human trafficking. To reduce people trafficking successfully, airports must collaborate with border authorities, regional, national, and international law enforcement organizations such as Interpol police. Airports cannot act alone because they lack the resources to police the law, but they may be a vital part in helping other organizations identify and stop possible cases of human trafficking.

A clear demarcation of responsibilities between agencies and other stakeholders should be established as the law shall be applied accordingly. This helps address barriers towards collaboration, such as role conflict or role ambiguities. Role conflict results from work overlaps that could lead to tensions that negate efforts of collaboration informed by negative competition. On the other hand, role ambiguity obscures individual or agency opportunities making it difficult for them to gain clarity on their responsibilities or progress in their work due to lack of adequate information (see Unguren & Arslan, 2021). This leads to poor performance undercutting the expected output. According to Ankrah and Sarpong (2018), role conflict and role ambiguity create tension and lead to dissatisfaction at work. Unguren and Arslan (2021) argue that role conflict and role ambiguity have negative effects on commitment, engagement, job satisfaction, and employee turnover. Dissatisfied workers are not committed to their work and may engage in malpractices that tarnish the image of the organization. It is, therefore, important that information sharing is enhanced among agencies to avoid such job confounders.

In summary, the study found that some of the best measures needed to contain human trafficking at Kenyan international airports include promoting an all-encompassing strategy that involves coordination with all airlines and law

enforcement organizations, enhancing the mechanisms for identifying human trafficking victims, and strengthening institutional and individual capacity building of all stakeholders. Additionally, sensitizing communities and all stakeholders mandated to curb human trafficking would ensure that all stakeholders involved in curbing human trafficking are sensitized to the dangers of trafficking in persons, which in turns affects the national security. Lastly, enhancing local and international coordination among all stakeholders curbing human trafficking will enhance national security.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of the study's findings, draws conclusions based on emerging implications, and presents recommendations aligned with the study objectives. The primary goal was to analyse human trafficking and national security at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and Moi International Airport in Kenya. The study objectives were to: examine the undercurrents sustaining HT and their effects on national security; assess the security threats associated with various forms of HT and their effects on national security; analyse the security challenges posed by HT on national security; and determine best practices to address HT to enhance national security at the airports in Kenya.

5.2 Summary of Findings

This section highlights the summary of the findings based on the objectives of the study.

5.2.1 Undercurrents sustaining the prevalence of HT and their effect on National Security

The first objective aimed at analysing the undercurrents sustaining the prevalence of HT and their impact on national security. The Findings revealed numerous factors contributing to the persistence of human trafficking at international airports in Kenya. These include the use of conventional methods by traffickers, employment of disguises to gain victims' trust, and exploitation of the high unemployment rate in Kenya, which create an environment for HT. Socioeconomic disadvantages,

including poverty, limited financial control, lack of education access, biased labour laws, and gender-blind policies, further sustain human trafficking. The use of business fronts by traffickers masks their activities, portraying human trafficking as a legal enterprise. Deceptive promises for a better life entice victims, while traffickers' seemingly caring behaviour fosters victim cooperation. Weak laws, involvement of airport personnel and politicians, and the life challenges faced by victims contribute to protecting perpetrators, allowing the growth of this illicit trade and evading scrutiny despite associated security threats.

5.2.2 Security threats associated with forms of HT and their effect on National Security

The second research objective was to assess the security risks associated with forms of human trafficking at JKIA and MIA. The findings revealed that human trafficking primarily functions as a criminal enterprise, intertwining with activities like money laundering, terrorism, kidnapping, and banditry. This underscores the close connection between human trafficking and crimes that either contribute to or result from it. The study highlighted kidnapping as a crime enabling human trafficking, while terrorism can emerge from trafficking activities.

Moreover, the study uncovered that financial institution employees who launder proceeds from human trafficking, expose state financial institutions to criminal elements, potentially leading to their decline. This, in turn, leads to the eviction of less-equipped business competitors, fostering a monopoly by criminal enterprises, and distorting the nation's economic growth. Money laundering was identified as a factor impeding economic growth, negatively affecting external trade, capital, and

the vital sectors of banking, non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs), and equity markets essential for economic well-being.

The findings reveal that the infiltration and occasional saturation of laundered money from transnational organized crimes into legitimate financial sectors and national accounts pose threats to economic and political stability. The economic and political influence wielded by criminal organizations potentially erodes society's moral foundations and democratic institutions over time, posing a severe danger to national security.

The study underscores that the impact of human trafficking extends to both countries of origin and destination. In both sets of countries, security issues affect the economy, especially when individuals seeking work-related migration inadvertently become victims of trafficking, resulting in significant remittance losses.

The research also establishes that proceeds from HT may be laundered, facilitating crime and corruption that distort trade indicators in the economic sector, thereby undermining both national economic development and the security of a country. Consequently, money laundering adversely affects long-term economic development by reducing productivity in the real sector, potentially stalling economic growth and skewing international trade and capital flows.

Additionally, the research uncovered that the proceeds from human trafficking serve as an opportunistic source of profit, providing criminals with economic power to engage in other transnational organized crimes, including terrorism. The findings suggest that terrorist organizations can enhance their financial resources, tactical adaptability, and ideological support by employing human trafficking methods to

exploit vulnerable children, women, and men for sexual exploitation, forced labour, and other forms of abuse.

The systematic use of various forms of violence against trafficked individuals has become a tactic for terrorism. The resulting harm to individuals and society, including the instillation of fear, creates an insecure environment that compromises the nation's security, hindering economic investment, and adversely affecting the psychological well-being of citizens through dehumanizing acts.

The research revealed that human traffickers employ kidnapping as a strategic tactic. Individuals, such as suicide bombers who willingly sacrifice their lives, may have been victims of kidnapping or abduction, indicating significant security implications for a country. The study highlighted the extensive impact of kidnapping on national security. Compromised community security can lead to various nationwide disruptions, instigating distrust, fear, and involvement in criminal activities that collectively undermine the overall security of a nation.

This interference may hinder communities from engaging in development activities, ultimately infringing on national security by fostering fear and eroding the state's capacity to protect its citizens

5.2.3 The Implications of challenges associated with forms of HT on National Security.

The third research objective aimed to analyse the security implications of the risks associated with various forms of human trafficking on national security. The findings indicate that HT has the potential to contribute to both community and national instability. Trafficking leads to population displacement, draining

communities of human potential, and dismantling crucial support networks, ultimately resulting in national instability. The human costs incurred by human trafficking are profound and enduring, with financial instability at the state level being a notable consequence, especially when armed organizations and warlords exploit it to boost revenues from illicit activities.

In addition, communities bear devastating effects, including stigma, particularly when armed groups exploit children for sexual exploitation. For girls and women, the repercussions may involve the loss of economic opportunities, forced marriages, social rejection of children born from rape, and the perpetuation of a cycle of poverty that is hard to reverse. These are infringements on human rights and pose a threat to national security.

The study observed that HT fuels conflict and undermines international security. While trafficking occurs globally, it takes particularly egregious forms during and after conflicts when vulnerabilities such as sexual violence, gender-based violence, discrimination, and lack of economic opportunities emerge, posing a direct threat to national security.

The research confirmed that HT has a direct connection with armed conflict when it arises from violence and hostilities perpetrated by conflicting parties. An indirect link to armed conflict occurs when traffickers target vulnerable individuals affected by war, including those escaping violence, populations residing on the fringes of conflict zones, and post-conflict societies.

The study highlighted that in conflict settings, human trafficking supports oppressive regimes. Certain repressive government officials engage in trafficking

their own citizens, coercing them into labour under harsh conditions to strengthen the economy, suppress dissent, or bypass sanctions. Additionally, officials participate in human trafficking by conscripting citizens into forced labour to evade sanctions and providing support to traffickers so that they may escape legal consequences.

The research revealed that HT disrupts international cooperation, particularly when government officials violate international law. Instances arise where individuals, organizations, and governments prioritize personal gains over the overarching goal of international cooperation, which aims to prevent and combat human trafficking

The findings underscored that certain government officials may be complicit in human trafficking. They collaborate with traffickers to recruit, transport, and exploit victims for forced labour and sexual exploitation. They also extend support to corrupt elements within the criminal justice system, hindering prosecutions or neglecting to provide adequate protection for victims of human trafficking.

The study confirmed that human trafficking is a violation of human rights and dignity, and a criminal and security concern. HT has the potential to cause displacement, destabilize communities, and undermine both national and community stability. It leads to conflicts and hinders socio-economic and political development. These contribute to conflict by providing revenue to extremist and armed groups, enhancing their power and military capabilities. State-sponsored trafficking benefits repressive governments by serving as a source of income to circumvent economic sanctions. Additional security implications include the weakening of governance,

financing of criminal activities, and hampering of international cooperation, which compromise countries' interests in global peace and security.

5.2.4 Best practices to address HT and enhance national security at JKIA and MIA

The fourth objective was to determine best practices to address HT at JKIA and MIA, thereby bolstering national security. The best practices identified in the study are: promoting a comprehensive approach involving coordination with all airlines and law enforcement agencies; strengthening the individual and institutional capacity of the judicial system on relevant national and international legal frameworks; enhancing mechanisms for identifying trafficking victims; sensitizing communities and all stakeholders mandated to curb human trafficking; and enhancing local and international coordination among stakeholders tasked with combating human trafficking.

The study underscored that adopting a comprehensive approach, including effective coordination with airlines and law enforcement, facilitates robust communication channels for reporting trafficking activities and ensures appropriate actions are taken upon discovering potential victims.

The study revealed that reinforcing the individual and institutional capacity of the Criminal Judicial System in alignment with relevant national and international legal frameworks is crucial. This ensures that the System can effectively counter human trafficking and prosecute traffickers. Moreover, it plays a vital role in protecting the victims of human trafficking, contributes to community security, and ultimately bolsters national security.

The findings further indicated that improving mechanisms for identifying victims of human trafficking would significantly enhance the effectiveness of security personnel stationed at airports and airlines. This improvement enables security personnel to identify trafficking victims promptly, facilitating appropriate protection and assistance measures. Additionally, a well-defined mechanism assists security officers in accurately identifying human traffickers, allowing for proper engagement with the criminal justice system.

The study also established that creating awareness among communities and all stakeholders tasked with combating human trafficking would enhance efficiency by ensuring these groups maintain professionalism and integrity. Sensitizing security personnel to the dangers of human trafficking would boost the effectiveness of their performance, ultimately contributing to the enhancement of national security.

Furthermore, the study found that fostering local and international coordination among all stakeholders involved in combating human trafficking would yield various networking benefits. These include better control over the movement of people across borders, the exchange of knowledge and skills related to human trafficking, and the clear delineation of responsibilities among agencies and international stakeholders. This coordination enhances the proper application of the law when addressing issues of human trafficking.

5.3 Conclusion

Human trafficking is a serious offense affecting nations globally, adversely influencing individual and community security. This crime jeopardizes fundamental rights, health, and safety, posing a threat to national security. The prevalence and

severity of human trafficking is higher in regions experiencing conflicts, amplifying vulnerability to this vice.

The study concludes that various factors contribute to sustaining the undercurrents of human trafficking, allowing its prevalence to thrive. The use of conventional methods by traffickers facilitates the seamless transit of victims, and the adoption of disguises by traffickers, aimed at gaining victims' trust makes human trafficking a more discreet crime.

The vulnerable conditions experienced by individuals and communities, such as high unemployment, poverty, lack of financial control, limited access to education, gender-based violence, discriminatory labour or migration laws, conflict or post-conflict settings, and humanitarian crises, create an environment where victims conceal the crime. Victims are enticed by recruiting agencies, often disguised as legitimate and benevolent entities, including business companies, relatives, and acquaintances who may be traffickers. The disguised caring behaviour of traffickers persuades victims that they are in safe hands, encouraging their cooperation and sustaining the prevalence of human trafficking. Weak laws, involvement of corrupt individuals in management, dishonest employees at airports, rogue security agents, and greedy politicians create vulnerabilities exploited by traffickers, protecting perpetrators and allowing human trafficking to flourish. These circumstances collectively pose a threat to national security.

Additionally, the study concluded that money laundering, terrorism, kidnapping, and other transnational organized crimes are either sustained by, or can emerge as offshoots of, human trafficking. These threats affect various dimensions of security,

as evident from human security perspectives. The adverse effects are on personal security, economic security, health security, community security, and national security. In essence, human trafficking exerts a negative influence across all sectors of security.

Human trafficking has the potential to instigate displacement and disrupt both community and national stability, leading to conflicts and undermining socio-economic and political development. The various activities associated with human trafficking, spanning recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of individuals, carry inherent security risks that contribute to conflict by providing extremist and armed groups with revenue to enhance their power and military capabilities. Additionally, human trafficking has security implications such as weakening governance, financing criminal activities, and hindering international cooperation, ultimately undermining a country's interests in global peace and security. In summary, human trafficking negatively influences national security by eroding the foundational structures that support nationhood.

However, despite the complexity of human trafficking, particularly at airports serving as entry and exit points, effective control and countermeasures are feasible through various approaches. These involve supporting a comprehensive strategy involving collaboration with law enforcement and all airlines, strengthening individuals' and institutions' capacity building on relevant national and international frameworks, and improving mechanisms for identifying trafficking victims. Furthermore, sensitizing communities and all stakeholders tasked with combating human trafficking ensures that all those engaged in this effort are aware of the perils associated with trafficking in persons, ultimately affecting national security. Lastly,

enhancing local and international coordination among all stakeholders combating human trafficking will significantly contribute to bolstering national security.

5.4 Recommendation

Addressing HT is closely intertwined with Kenya's national security interests, including counter-terrorism, conflict prevention, stabilization efforts, and multilateral cooperation. However, the persistence of underlying factors within human trafficking presents challenges to initiatives aimed at fostering a safer and more peaceful world. Based on the conclusions drawn from the study, the proposed recommendations are:

1. The Kenyan government should address various undercurrents sustaining human trafficking, including high unemployment rates, poverty, discriminatory labour laws, and gender-biased policies. This should help prevent individuals from falling into vulnerable situations that expose them to human trafficking.
2. Public and state officers should maintain professionalism and integrity in their duties. Any public or state officer found involved in facilitating human trafficking should undergo thorough investigation, trial, and appropriate conviction.
3. The Immigration department should implement measures to ensure the quality and security of passports, travel documents, and visas, making them immune to falsification, misuse, unlawful alteration, or replication.

4. The Kenyan government should actively investigate money flows supporting terrorism, organized crime, and human trafficking, particularly during times of crisis.
5. The National Police Service-Kenya and Immigration department should include training programs to identify and prevent human trafficking. This should aim to enhance officers' knowledge and skills in identifying and preventing human trafficking within the country.
6. The Kenyan government should invest in research and analysis on the relationship between human trafficking and conflict, fostering a deeper understanding of their interplay.

5.5 Further Research

Building on the scope and findings of this study, the following recommendations for future research are proposed:

- i. **Comprehensive assessment of Human Trafficking across airports:** Building upon the current study's focus on human trafficking and its impact on Kenya's national security at JKIA and MIA, future research should broaden the scope to encompass all other airports within Kenya. This would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the issue.
- ii. **Implications of Human Trafficking on international cooperation:** Further investigation into the implications of human trafficking on international cooperation is needed. Understanding how this phenomenon affects

cooperation between nations could offer insights into strengthening collaborative efforts to combat trafficking.

- iii. **Gender Issues in Human Trafficking and Security:** Research should delve into the gender dynamics of human trafficking and its intersection with security in Kenya. Examining how gender influences both victimization and response strategies can inform more targeted and effective interventions.
- iv. **Impact of Human Trafficking on human Security:** There is a need to examine the broader impact of human trafficking on human security. This could explore how trafficking undermines individuals' safety, well-being, and rights, and how it contributes to insecurity at both individual and societal levels.
- v. **Effect of Human Trafficking on conflict:** Investigating the relationship between human trafficking and conflict is essential. Understanding how trafficking intersects with conflict dynamics can shed light on its role in exacerbating or perpetuating conflicts and inform conflict prevention and resolution strategies.
- vi. **Assessment of multiagency approach effectiveness:** Building on the need identified in the current study, further research should assess the effectiveness of a multi-agency approach in curbing human trafficking. Examining how various agencies collaborate and coordinate their efforts can provide insights for enhancing anti-trafficking measures and strengthening responses to this pervasive issue.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Transmittal Letter

RE: Letter of Transmittal

My name is Monicah Karanja a PhD. Candidate at Kenyatta University pursuing a Doctor of philosophy on security studies. I am seeking your participation to provide information on collecting data on human trafficking and national security at Jomo Kenyatta and Moi International airports, Kenya. This study is important because the knowledge generated will go a long way in assisting the world, our nation and all the stakeholders involved in curbing HT. The information you will share will be held strictly confidential and shall not be used for any other purpose other than for this study. Your assistance will be much appreciated. I therefore request you if you can agree to be part of this important study.

I want to use this opportunity to express my gratitude for your participation in this study.

Yours sincerely,

Monicah Wanjiku Karanja

Appendix II: Questionnaire for police officers (KAPU and DCI) and

Immigration officers

Dear Respondent,

This questionnaire is designed to assist the researcher make an objective analysis of human trafficking and national security at Kenyan international airports. The exercise is purely for academic purpose and your answers will be treated with the utmost confidentiality they deserve. Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

Use a cross (X) to fill in the blanks to represent the right answer.

Section A: Background Information

- a) Sex
Male [] Female []
- b) Age
18 – 25 [] 26 – 35 []
36 – 45 [] 46 and Above []
- c) Level of education
Below form 4 [] Form 4 []
College [] University []
- d) What is your occupation?
Police officer (NPS) []
Police officer (DCI) []
Immigration officer []
- e) Where is your workstation?
Nairobi []
Mombasa []
- f) How long have you served in this station?
Less than 1 year [] 1 – 3 years []
4 – 7 years [] 8 years and above []

Section B: Undercurrents that sustains prevalence of human trafficking and their effects on national security.

- a) Have you ever encountered cases of human trafficking at the airport?
1. Yes []
2. No []
- b) If yes in (a) above, how often?
- Rarely [] Occasionally []
- Often [] Very often []
- c) Who are the majority of the persons involved in human trafficking based on gender?
- Victims [Male] [Female]
- Trafficker [Male] [Female]
- d) To what extent do you agree with the following statement concerning undercurrents that sustains human trafficking at Kenyan International Airports? Use the following key to answer: **1- strongly agree, 2- agree, 3- neutral, 4- disagree, 5- strongly disagree**

| Undercurrents that sustain prevalence of human trafficking | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Human trafficking is rampant in Kenyan airports due to weak laws | | | | | |
| Human trafficking is done undercover on daily basis at the airports | | | | | |
| Airport employees and management are involved in trafficking | | | | | |
| There is increased cases of human trafficking recently at the airports | | | | | |
| Politicians and government officials facilitates human trafficking | | | | | |
| The cartels have made human trafficking a business and thus is a norm in the airports | | | | | |
| Every day at least someone is trafficked through airports due to weak policies and collusion | | | | | |
| Work permits and weak systems makes human trafficking hard to detect | | | | | |
| Unemployment has made human trafficking a | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| business that thrives at the airports | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|

Section C: Security risks associated with forms of human trafficking on national security.

a) What are the security issues associated with the problem of human trafficking via the airport?

Terrorism []

Kidnappings []

Criminal activity []

Banditry []

Proliferation of small arms and light weapons []

Others (Specify) []

Section D: The implications of security risks posed by human trafficking on national security.

- a) To what extent do you agree with the following statement concerning the security implications of the security risks posed by human trafficking? Use the following key to answer: **1- strongly agree, 2- agree, 3- neutral, 4- disagree, 5- strongly disagree**

| The implications of security risks posed by human trafficking on national security | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Human trafficking undermines community and national stability | | | | | |
| Human trafficking fuels conflict and undermines national security. | | | | | |
| Human trafficking supports terrorist and armed groups | | | | | |
| Human trafficking supports abusive regimes | | | | | |
| Human trafficking undermines international cooperation | | | | | |
| Human trafficking can lead to bankrolling criminal activities. | | | | | |
| Human trafficking can lead to weakening of the governance | | | | | |

- b) In your opinion, what are some of the best measures that can be put in place to address human trafficking in Kenya, via airports?

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Appendix III: Interview schedule for senior officers

1. What are the undercurrents that sustain prevalence of human trafficking in Kenya?
2. From your experience, how many persons were trafficked in/out Kenya?
3. What are the forms of human trafficking that are commonly in Kenya?
4. What are the methods used in conscripting of human trafficking in Kenya?
5. What are the security threats associated with the forms of human trafficking prevalent in Kenya?
6. Are there security implications of the methods used in conscripting victims of human trafficking Kenya?
7. What are the effects of human trafficking on national security in Kenya?
8. What measures would you recommend to suppress human trafficking at Kenya airports?

**Appendix IV: National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
(NACOSTI) Permit.**

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|--|--|
|  REPUBLIC OF KENYA |  NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION |
| RefNo: 649258 | Date of Issue: 10/February/2020 |
| RESEARCH LICENSE | |
|  | |
| This is to Certify that Ms. MONICAH WANJIKU KARANJA of Kenyatta University, has been licensed to conduct research in Mombasa, Nairobi on the topic: Relationship between Human Trafficking and Kenyan's National Security: A Study of Moi and Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for the period ending : 10/February/2021. | |
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