

**INFLUENCE OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS PROLIFERATION  
CONTROL ON HUMAN SECURITY AMONG THE RENDILLE COMMUNITY  
OF MARSABIT COUNTY, KENYA**

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OF ARTS IN PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION  
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**OCTOBER, 2021**

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## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is dedicated to my wife Catherine Ruguru and children Kendi, Claire, Noelle and Valarie for their moral support, love and encouragement throughout the course of my study.

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## ABSTRACT

Globally, millions of small arms and light weapons continue to be proliferated despite international community ratifying measures as well as domestic legislations to contain the menace. This study sought to interrogate the influence of small arms and light weapons proliferation control on human security among the Rendille community of Marsabit County, Kenya. The objectives of the study were; to interrogate the factors that contribute to the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, to assess the implication of small arms and light weapons possession on human security and, to determine the approaches to control proliferation of small arms and light weapons among the Rendille community in Marsabit County. While filling existing intellectual gap and field related challenges on small arms proliferation and human security, the study will inform policy making process on small arms related challenges in Kenya. Open system theory and Relative deprivation theory were adopted to guide the study. Descriptive survey research design was used and the target population was 477 individuals, from which a sample size of 150 respondents participated in the study. Questionnaires, interview schedules and Focus Group Discussions were used in collection of primary data. Convergent parallel mixed method of data analysis was used and research ethical considerations adhered to. The findings indicated that the major factors contributing to proliferation of small arms and light weapons included the readiness for revenge attacks, conflict over resources, boundary disputes, cattle rustling, inter-ethnic conflicts, and political differences among the various ethnic groups living in the County. Secondly, with prevalent crimes such as highway banditry, cattle rustling, inter-community attacks and electoral violence associated with use of small arms and light weapons, food security, community and personal security, environmental security, health security and economic security had been negatively affected. The study also noted that sensitization and community policing, arrest and prosecution of illegal holders of firearms, amnesty, proper border control mechanisms, disarmament and registration of all illegal firearms holders were cited as strategies to control proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Based on these findings, it was concluded that widespread proliferation of small arms have indeed affected the various aspects of human security in the study area and thus the need to mitigate the problem. The researcher recommended that government should recruit, equip and deploy adequate security personnel to Marsabit County to provide requisite security and secure the porous borders from arms traffic flow. With the help of the County Government of Marsabit, national government can identify development projects that provide an alternative source of income to the pastoralist communities. Further research was recommended on the implication of primordial social linkages among the trans-border communities in proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ACC:</b>	Assistant County Commissioner
<b>ASAL:</b>	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
<b>ATGW:</b>	Anti-Tank Guided weapons
<b>CAR:</b>	Central Africa Republic
<b>CC:</b>	County Commissioner
<b>CHD:</b>	Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
<b>CSO:</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>DCC:</b>	Deputy County Commissioner
<b>DCI:</b>	Directorate of Criminal Investigation
<b>DCIO:</b>	Directorate of Criminal Investigation Office
<b>FBO:</b>	Faith Based Organizations
<b>IEBC:</b>	Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission
<b>KNFP:</b>	Kenya National Focal Point
<b>MANPADS:</b>	Man-Portable Air Defense System
<b>NGOs:</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>SALWs:</b>	Small Arms and Light Weapons
<b>REGABU:</b>	Rendille Gabrra and Burji
<b>UNICEF:</b>	United Nation International Children's Emergency Fund



## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the background of the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions, significance of the study, justification of the study, the scope of the research study as the limitations of the study.

#### **1.2 Background of the Study**

Globally, there is a total estimate of 975 million Small, Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs), and with over 100 million located in Africa, and above 30 million found in sub-Saharan Africa (Alley, 2019). It is further documented that from the global statistics of SALWs, over 650 million are in civilian hands (either as licensed or illegally owned) and thus posing grave danger to human security and especially in conflict prone areas around the world (Detzner, 2017). Small arms are designed for personal use and ranges from light machine guns, sub-machine guns, machine pistols, fully automatic rifles and assault rifles, and semi-automatic rifles, while light weapons includes portable weapons designed for use by several persons serving as a crew and includes heavy machine guns, automatic cannons, howitzers, mortars of less than 100 mm calibre, grenade launchers, anti-tank weapons and launchers, recoilless guns, shoulder-fired rockets, anti-aircraft weapons and launchers, and air defence weapons (Eve, 2017).

Traditionally, SALWs were developed for use by government forces (military and police). However, the end of the Cold War unleashed an outbreak of intra-state and inter-state conflicts resulting in proliferation of SALWs especially to vigilantes, militia groups,

rebels, terrorist groups, war profiteers and private citizens pursuing their group and individual interest rather than state interests (Detzner, 2017). Mwenga (2017) observed that the proliferation of SALWs has complicated conflict resolution efforts in various parts of the world including in the Middle East, Latin America, South East Asia and the Horn of Africa. A study by Ndawana and Ghuliku (2018) noted that small arms are attractive tools of violence because they are widely available, low in cost, extremely lethal, light in weight, simple to use, durable, highly portable and can easily be concealed. Most small arms and light weapons would not be lethal without their ammunition and World Arms Survey posit that over 12 billion bullets are produced annually across the globe (Alley, 2019). Ammunition and explosives thus form an integral part of small arms and light weapons used in conflicts. They include cartridges (rounds) for small arms, shells and missiles for light weapons, anti-personnel and anti-tank hand grenades, landmines, explosives, and mobile containers with missiles or shells for single-action anti-aircraft and anti-tank systems that are used by civilians during war (Ndawana & Ghuliku, 2018).

A study by Alley (2019) noted that small arms and light weapons proliferation and use especially during violent conflicts have been particularly devastating in the Middle East (e.g. in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Lebanon), South East Asia (e.g. in Thailand, Vietnam, and Philippines), Latin American states (such as in Colombia & Mexico) and in a number of African states (such as in Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia and Democratic Republic of Congo), where machine guns, rifles, grenades, pistols and other small arms and light weapons have been used to kill many civilians. In the last two decades, the World Arms Survey noted that an average of 500,000 people get killed annually and attributed to use

of SALWs. Such weapons are frequently recycled from country to country, and their ownership is transferred among fighters, security forces and war profiteers (Detzner, 2017).

The negative effects of such weapons are felt not only in the immediate conflict area, but also in neighbouring countries and regions as well (Ndawana & Ghuliku, 2018). Small arms and light weapons can easily spread across porous borders, igniting violence in adjacent areas that may have experienced peace in the past. In some societies, these surplus weapons may create a "culture of violence" that traps the whole populations in an endless cycle of war as witnessed in Syria, Colombia and South Sudan (Alley, 2019). The destructive effects of arms proliferation on peace and security are well attested - including exacerbating conflicts in weak states and undermining peace efforts, facilitating human rights offences, and as being one of the largest single contributors to corruption world-wide (Mwenga, 2017). Owing to the destructive nature of illicit SALWs as witnessed in Bosnia, Afghanistan, Syria, Colombia, DRC, and South Sudan where such weapons have been used to commit crimes against humanity, genocide and forceful eviction of human population, the United Nations, regional organizations (such as EU, ASEAN, ECOWAS etc), Government of states, and a wide range of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have initiated efforts to curb the proliferation of SALWs and to remove such weapons from areas of conflict (Eve, 2017).

The United Nations through UN Programme of Action (2001) sought to have member states adopt a Program of Action (POA) on Preventing, Combating and Eradicating the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (Alley, 2019). Some of the major commitments of the UN Programme of Action (UNPOA) included making illicit gun

production/possession a criminal offense, establishing a national coordination agency on small arms and light weapons, identifying and destroying stocks of surplus weapons, keeping track of officially held guns, disarming, demobilizing and reintegration of ex-combatants, including collecting and destroying their weapons etc (Eve, 2017). The UNPOA however, is not binding and does not indicate how to regulate small arms and light weapons among civilian populations. Regionally, the European Union (EU) on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 adopted the EU Strategy against illicit Firearms, Small Arms and Light Weapons and their Ammunition, which for instance required member states to license all gun holders and declare unlicensed SALWs illegal and punishable by law (Detzner, 2017).

In Africa, regional blocs have also established initiatives to address SALWs for instance ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, and the SADC Protocol on Firearms, Ammunition and Related Materials (Eve, 2017). The ECOWAS Convention on SALWs for instance, is binding to all member states and took effect from 2009. It requires member states to ban international small arms and light weapons transfers (except those for legitimate self-defense and security needs, or for peace support operations), ban transfers of small arms and light weapons to non-state actors that are not authorized, stringent regulatory scheme for anyone wishing to possess small arms and light weapons and strong management standards to ensure the security of weapon stockpiles (Kurantin, et al., 2016).

In Eastern Africa, Kenya is a signatory state to the 2004 Nairobi Protocol, which sought to strengthen the Nairobi Declaration of 2000 and legally commits the 11 signatory states (DRC, Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda

and Seychelles) to concrete actions, including mandatory gun registration and a ban on the civilian ownership of military assault rifles (like the AK-47), to deal with the problems caused by small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa regions (Ndawana et al., 2018). It requires these countries to incorporate provisions into their national laws including the following; ban on civilian ownership of automatic and semiautomatic rifles, registration of all guns, regulation of gun storage and competency testing for prospective owners, restrictions on the number of guns a person can own, uniform minimum standards regulating the manufacture, control, possession, import, export, transit, transport and transfer of small arms and light weapons , standardized marking and identification of small arms and light weapons, regulation of security companies and uniform tough sentencing for unlicensed gun possession (Kurantin et al., 2016).

In Kenya, the Kenya National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons (KNFP) brings together relevant government ministries and departments, civil society organizations and stakeholders to coordinate all arms control and management approaches under the UNPOA (Wepundi et al., 2012). To achieve this, the government crafted KNFP technical and policy sub-committees in all the regions with a special focus on regions with rampant illicit SALWs and those that share international borders with other countries like Marsabit County which is the focus of this study. The committees are also tasked with building the capacity and creating awareness to the community on the negative effects of illicit trade and use of SALWs. In addition, government administers this by deploying competent and skilled officers who participate in disarmament processes and maintaining law and order (Alley, 2019). Even as Kenya

starts the manufacture of light weapons in Eldoret Ordnance Factory and in Ruiru, there are already various legislative and administrative provisions on arms management and control. They include; Firearms Act, Police Act, Explosives Act, Penal Code, Armed forces Act, Customs and Excise Act, Wildlife Act, Extradition Act, Immigration Act, Administration Police Act, Refugee Act, Prisons Act and Forest Act (Shyaka et al., 2006). These constitutional Acts are supported and applied together with other provisions, all of which seek to regulate supply and use of SALWs which contributes to achievement of UNPOA international safeguard standards.

Despite existence of both international and domestic efforts to contain the spread of SALWs, empirical studies show existing loopholes in the eradication of illegal supply and demand for SALWs and a significant percentage of SALWs are used for unlawful purposes by civilians especially among the pastoralist communities in Kenya (Alley, 2019; Nyariki & Amwata, 2019; Osamba, 2000). Pastoralist communities have encountered underlying challenges associated with proliferation of small arms and light weapons all of which gradually lead to their undermined overall security, loss of lives and livestock, decreased trade and investments, denial of education and health, violence and ethnic conflicts (Nyariki & Amwata, 2019). This further affects livelihood and socio-economic activities contributing to increasing poverty and declining living standards among most pastoralist communities (Schilling et al., 2012). This study mainly focused on the influence of small arms and light weapons proliferation control on human security among the Rendille community of Marsabit County in Kenya.

The ethnic communities in Marsabit County as noted by Mkutu (2006), are largely dependent on pastoralism where they herd cattle, sheep, goats, donkeys and camels for

milk, meat, hides and skins as well as means of transporting heavy loads- mainly donkeys and camels. Livestock keeping is also considered as a source of prestige and wealth. Owing to centrality of pastoral farming among the residents of these counties, cattle rustling have been prevalent and characterized by use of small arms and light weapons (Nyariki & Amwata, 2019). While there are laws and regulation regarding possession and use of firearms, this County has been documented among high risk areas on proliferation of illicit SALWs. This study sought to interrogate the influence of SALWs proliferation control on human security among the Rendille community in Marsabit County, Kenya.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

Globally, proliferation of illicit SALW continues to pose grave danger to human security with hundreds of thousand lives lost annually and continued human displacement and destruction of property (Alley, 2019; Ndawana & Ghuliku, 2018; Detzner, 2017; Eve, 2017; Mwenga, 2017; Jekada, 2005). Consequently, global, regional and domestic initiatives to combat illicit spread of SALWs have been initiated for the purpose of implementation. Although there is considerable evidence about positive impact of arms control interventions on illegal possession and use of SALWs for instance in USA, EU states and even in West Africa, much is yet to be achieved in the Horn of Africa including in Kenya.

In spite of the Kenya government having comprehensive domestic laws and policies such as Firearms Act as well as a pool of international treaties that criminalizes proliferation of SALWs, such legislation does not put into consideration the cultural context under which such SALWs are possessed and used and thus casting doubt on their efficacy on curbing SALWs proliferation in Kenya and specifically among the Rendille community. It is

against this background that this study sought to interrogate the influence of small arms and light weapons proliferation control on human security among the Rendille community of Marsabit County, Kenya.

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The subsequent section highlights on the broad and specific objectives of the study.

##### **1.4.1 Broad Objective**

The purpose of this study was to interrogate the influence of small arms and light weapons proliferation control on human security among the Rendille community of Marsabit County, Kenya.

##### **1.4.2 Specific Objectives**

The study was guided by the following specific objectives;

- a) To determine the factors that contributes to the proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille community in Marsabit County, Kenya
- b) To assess the implication of SALWs use on human security among the Rendille community in Marsabit County, Kenya.
- c) To determine the approaches for minimizing the proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille community in Marsabit County, Kenya.

#### **1.5 Research Questions**

The study sought to answer the following questions:

- a) What are the factors that contribute to the proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille community in Marsabit County, Kenya?



- b) What are the implications of SALWs use on security among the Rendille community in Marsabit County, Kenya?
- c) Which are the approaches to minimize proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille community in Marsabit County, Kenya?

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

The purpose of carrying out this research was based on the following aspects. First, the study was aimed at understanding how possession of SALWs influences security through data and information sharing. Through primary data, this study provided an understanding on aspects of the sources, the factors contributing to proliferation of SALWs, the implication of SALWs use on human security and the remedies to mitigate SALWs proliferation in Marsabit County, Kenya.

Secondly, this study sought to fill existing intellectual gap related to SALWs proliferation and human security in Kenya. As noted, most studies on proliferation have focused on general proliferation of SALWs in various parts of the world such as in Latin America, South East Asian states, Middle East and with generalized approaches of mitigation without contextualizing the unique situations in every country. Although literature existed on SALWs proliferation among African states such as in Nigeria, South Africa, Rwanda and even in Kenya, scanty research existed on how SALWs possession influence security especially among the Rendille in Kenya and thus the need for this study to fill the research gap.

Thirdly, the findings of this research study are of importance in policy making on different dimension both at the county and national level of government. By

understanding the dynamics of SALWs proliferation and how it impact on human security, policy makers at both levels of government are able to come up with strategies on how to address them based on facts as opposed to generalized assumptions. Lastly, this research, in its entirety, also form a basis for further future research on SALWs and human security related issues in Kenya.

### **1.7 Justification of the study**

This study in its entirety contributes towards developing an ideal framework through which pastoralists communities can cooperate with the government in finding ways and means through which security can be maintained amidst the presence of SALWs. Further, the study is also expected to be helpful in designing better strategies for promoting diplomacy, peace and security among nomadic pastoral communities in Kenya.

### **1.8 Scope of the Study**

This study interrogated the influence of small arms and light weapons possession on security among the Rendille in Marsabit County, Kenya and specifically focused on the factors contributing to proliferation of SALWs, the implication of SALWs use on security and the approaches to mitigate proliferation of SALWs in the County. The study was confined only to Saku and Leisamis Sub-Counties because they are predominantly occupied by the Rendille and the County is so vast in terms of its geographical size. The research adopted a descriptive survey research and convergent parallel mixed method in analysis of data for presentation.

## **1.9 Limitations of the Study**

Among the limitations of the study included the fact that the study area was very vast in terms of its geographical size and travelling to every Ward proved to be a great challenge. To overcome this, the study was concentrated in Leisamis and Saku Sub Counties because they are mainly inhabited by the Rendille. The respondents from the Rendille community were at first unwilling to reveal information regarding SALWs given that in the past, some community members had been forcefully disarmed and a number of them charged over firearms related charges. However, the researcher through the help of local administration was able to assure them that their responses would be treated with confidentiality and anonymity of respondents assured. They were also assured that the research was purely for academic purpose and not for any other purpose.

During the study, there were fear of insecurity to the researcher attributed to banditry but this was addressed when the Sub-County security officers provided security during the study period. Lastly, the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic during the initial stage of data collection interrupted collection of data. However, with strict observance of the Covid-19 health protocol from the Ministry of Health, it enabled the researcher to successfully collect all the data that was required for the study.

## **1.10 Operational Definition of Terms**

**Arms Control:** Refers to efforts to reduce the quest of superiority in small arms and light weapons amongst various combatants engaged in a conflict (Detzner, 2017). In this study it refers to initiatives to stop possession and use of fire arms among the Rendille community.

**Arms Proliferation:** Uncontrolled spread and accumulation of small arms and light weapons by various combatants (Pieter et al., 2015). It has been used in the study in reference to acquisition and use of firearms by the Rendille community.

**Conflict:** It refers to the pursuit of incompatible goals by individuals or groups. Conflict situation arise when individuals or groups identify a goal they want to secure in order to satisfy material interests, needs or values (Eve, 2017). In this study, it refers to use of force against each other by communities emerging due to factors like land cattle rustling and political differences.

**County:** A geographical unit envisioned by the 2010 Constitution of Kenya as the second-level of political division in Kenya (GOK, 2010). Each county including Marsabit County has an independent county assembly and county executive whose members are elected during every general election except for by-election.

**Disarmament:** Disarmament is the act of reducing, limiting, or abolishing weapons (UN, 2019). In this study, it refers to the use of military force to forcefully retrieve illegal firearms held by the Rendille community as a means of avoiding future confrontation with the neighbours.

**Ethnicity:** All aspects associated with a socio-culturally constructed group identity based on language, culture and ancestry and which is the main fulcrum around which national and local politics revolves (Alley, 2019). In this study, it refers to the communities living in Marsabit County such as the Rendile Gabbra, Borana etc.

**Light Weapons:** It refers to portable weapons designed for use by several persons serving as a crew and includes heavy machine guns, automatic cannons, howitzers, mortars of less than 100 mm calibre, grenade launchers, anti-tank weapons and launchers,

recoilless guns, shoulder-fired rockets, anti-aircraft weapons and launchers, and air defence weapons (Eve, 2017). In this study, it refers to fire arms meant for security forces which are owned and used by the Rendille community in Marsabit County.

**Small Arms:** It refers to a wide range of weapons including light machine guns, sub-machine guns, machine pistols, fully automatic rifles and assault rifles, and semi-automatic rifles (Small Arms Survey, 2019). In the study it refers to portable light firearms carried and used by the members of the Rendille community.

**Human Security:** It is the state of being or feeling safe and being free from fear, anxiety, danger and doubt (Alley, 2019). In this research study, it refers to safety in relation to health, economy, environment, food, and personal and community security in Marsabit County.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.1. Introduction**

This chapter provides reviewed literature related to the objectives of this research study. Key issues/themes reviewed include the various factors contributing to proliferation of SALWs, the implication of SALWs possession on security and the approaches to minimize proliferation of SALWs. In addition, it also highlights on the theories adopted in the study such as the system theory and relative deprivation theory, as well as the conceptual framework guiding the study.

#### **2.2 Sources and Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons**

The subsequent section provided reviewed literature on Small Arms and Light Weapons; Sources, Prevalence and Proliferation, as well as Civilian Possession and Use of Small Arms and Light Weapons

##### **2.2.1 Small Arms and Light Weapons; Sources, Prevalence and Proliferation**

While there is no singular accepted definition of small arms and light weapons (often referred to by other authors as SALWs), the UN Panel of Experts 1997 used the term to include any handheld item used as a weapon (Small Arms Survey, 2016). The experts noted that small arms and light weapons are those manufactured to military specifications for use as lethal instruments of war. However, the reference to “military specifications” has been downplayed as being unhelpful – since most civilian firearms originated from military designs, and manufacturers can easily amend a firearm’s specification to evade it

being classified as a military weapon, thereby evading control (Pieter et al., 2015). The panel identified “small arms” as those which are for personal use and ranges from light machine guns, sub-machine guns, machine pistols, fully automatic rifles and assault rifles, and semi-automatic rifles while “light weapons” being slightly larger includes portable weapons designed for use by several persons serving as a crew and includes heavy machine guns, automatic cannons, howitzers, mortars of less than 100 mm calibre, grenade launchers, anti-tank weapons and launchers, recoilless guns, shoulder-fired rockets, anti-aircraft weapons and launchers, and air defence weapons (Eve, 2017). Ammunition and explosives also form an integral part of small arms and light weapons and include cartridges (rounds) for small arms, shells and missiles for light weapons, anti-personnel and anti-tank hand grenades, landmines, explosives, and mobile containers with missiles or shells for single-action anti-aircraft and anti-tank systems that are used by civilians during war (Ndawana & Ghuliku, 2018).

Globally, there is a total estimate of 975 million Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs), and with over 100 million located in Africa, and above 30 million are found in sub-Saharan Africa (Alley, 2019). It is further documented that from the global statistics of SALWs, over 650 million are in civilian hands (either as licensed or illegally owned) and thus posing grave danger to human security and especially in conflict prone areas around the world (Detzner, 2017). This is due to their lethal efficient nature, easy accessibility, indiscriminate usage, and the devastating havocs they often used to wreak in many societies around the world. The excessive availability of small arms and light weapons is the repercussion of the experiences of the Cold War as states disintegrated with several weapons remaining in the hands of militia, rebels and extremist. The United

Nations Disarmament Commission (1995) reported that one factor bearing on the availability, circulation, and accumulation of small and light weapons in many conflict areas is their earlier supply by Cold War opponent (Pieter et al., 2015). The role played by Cold War in intensifying the production of arms was further reinforced by the activities of globalization. The global experience provided grounds for easy networking of arms dealers, easy procurement and transportation of arms illicitly across international borders, to weak states with porous borders and weak or absent state control system (Stemmet, 2001).

Globalization expanded the arms market and created room for the emergence of sophisticated arm brokers (Pieter et al., 2015). With the sheer number of companies producing arms rising, production of arms also increased. Today, about 8 million new guns and 14 billion units of ammunition are manufactured every year by 1,249 companies in 92 countries – with the United States and the European Union producing about 75 percent (UN, 2019). Similarly, with 16 billion units of military ammunition produced every year, there are small arms and ammunition enough to shoot every man, woman and child on the planet twice (Small Arms Survey, 2016). Thus, small arms and light weapons have continued to account for increased rate of mortality on a daily basis, worldwide.

According to UN (2019) more than 2,000 people are killed as a consequence of armed violence daily and between 500,000 and 750,000 people are killed annually. Therefore, small arms and light weapons remain a factor in armed conflict, the displacement of people, organized crimes and acts of terrorism, thereby undermining peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable social and economic development



(Pieter et al., 2015). Specifically, Africa houses large cascade of arms, which are used to conduct various criminal acts and prosecute conflicts. There is an estimated 100 million small arms and light weapons in Africa, especially around the Horn, including Somalia, Ethiopia, Southern Sudan, the violent belt of Central Africa and many areas of West Africa (Small Arms Survey, 2016). In some countries like Sudan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, possession of guns is almost synonymous with the people's cultural lives; almost everyone carries a personal weapon (Pieter et al., 2015). The undue availability of small arms in illegal hands has continued to rob the continent of its peace and stability, which were its defining identity in the past.

### **2.2.2 Civilian Possession and Use of Small Arms and Light Weapons; Push and pull Factors**

Alley (2019) noted that despite efforts the UN, Regional organization, NGOs and Government of states to have control over SALWs, most illicit SALWs are largely in the hand of civilians. Globally, there is a total estimate of 975 million Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs), and with over 650 million are in civilian hands (either as licensed or illegally owned) and thus posing grave danger to human security (Detzner, 2017). Other studies such as by Small Arms Survey (2016), noted that with over 100 million SALWs located in Africa, and above 30 million found in sub-Saharan Africa, SALWs are distributed among their users as follows: 79% are in the hands of civilians; 16% of the military; 3% of the police and 2% of insurgents. This suggests that in Africa, SALWs are more in the hands of civilians than the real security agencies that are meant to bear arms (UN, 2019). This idea is corroborated by the fact that over 378 million weapons (which amount to 59% of the world's small arms and light weapons arsenal) are in the hands

of civilians. The remaining 38% are owned by government armed forces, 3% by the police and 0.2% by armed opposition groups, totaling 638.9 million.

In the context of this study, ‘civilians’ means ordinary citizens who are not employed within the state or government ‘security sector’ agencies. In most jurisdictions, the security sector agencies include police, military and other law enforcement agencies (UN, 2019). It therefore means, ordinary citizens, private security companies, members of judiciary and other off-duty police officers are regarded as civilians (ibid). The difference in these categories of civilians is the context and restrictions accorded on gun possession and use process as per the law.

It was noted by World Arms Survey (2012) that among the various European countries, over 80% of SALWs are possessed by civilians (both licensed and illicit weapons). Another study conducted jointly by the Government of Kenya and the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey to assess small arms and light weapons proliferation in Kenya, established that civilians holds between 530,000 and 680,000 firearms (Eve, 2017). Further, African Files, (2007) adds AK 47 as the leading possessed and used weapon of mass deaths in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as it is easily acquired in most parts of Africa. In analyzing civilian possession of small arms and light weapons, United Nations guidelines is that civilians are only allowed to own SALWs for legitimate uses such as sport, hunting, self-protection, collections and other legal activities but not by illegal migrants, those with criminal records or psychiatric cases (UN, 2019). However, the big question is why and what motivates this lucrative illegal trade and misuse of these weapons among civilians?

Empirical studies show that nearly all illicit weapons are initially produced as legally weapons (Alley, 2019; Eve, 2017; Stohl, 2005). This change from legal to illicit is facilitated by existing gaps within government such as corruption, weak law enforcement, looting of government arsenals, sale by disgruntled soldiers, theft of civilian-owned and private sector weapons, craft production among others. In most countries, especially in Africa, civilian possession and trade of illicit weapons is influenced by political, social and economic factors such as political instability, crime, religious conflicts, ethnicity, competition for resources, unemployment, border conflicts among others (Eriksen & Lind, 2009; Lind, 2006).

From the reviewed literature it is noted that civilian possession and availability of SALWs does not in itself lead to violence and that access to these weapons brings significant difference to the way tension is managed (Eve, 2017). Evidence from countries experiencing peace and those in conflicts show that easy availability of SALWs to some extent escalates and prolong violence encounters (Detzner, 2017). Considering earlier evidence about civilian possession of SALWs the above observation that access and availability of SALWs among civilian does not lead to violence that creates a conflict (Alley, 2019; Mc Cullum et al., 2012). This is because numerous scholars advocate for reduction of availability and regulation of possession of weapons among civilians in order to reduce lethality of violent confrontations and ultimately impact on human security (Detzner, 2017; Jacqmin, 2017). Therefore, this is a knowledge gap that requires further study, and importantly the influence of civilian possession and use of SALWs on security in rural communities is less likely to be understood without exploring the availability, accessibility and regulation. To further demonstrate this knowledge gap,

several security and development scholars as well as United Nations urge that availability of SALWs is not necessarily the problem but absence of strict law enforcement structures and failure of states to commit to more effective regulation of civilian possession and use of SALWs.

Generally, the reviewed literature indicates that close to a billion SALWs are in circulation worldwide posing a global human security threat (Alley, 2019; Mwenga, 2017; Eve, 2017). While traditionally, these weapons were intended for government forces (military and police), hundreds of millions are in the hands of private citizens, militia groups, vigilantes, religious extremist groups as well as terrorist groups who have no regard to sanctity of life (Alley, 2019; Ndawana & Ghuliku, 2018; Detzner, 2017; Mwenga, 2017; Eve, 2017; Jekada, 2005). Evidently, proliferation and use of SALWs in the Middle, South East Asia, Latin American states and in a number of African states have led to loss of tens of millions of lives since the collapse of the Soviet Union (Detzner, 2017). While the reasons for proliferation of SALWs have varied over time especially among African states, this study sought to assess the factors that have contributed to proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille Community in Kenya.

### **2.3 Implication of Small Arms and Light Weapons on Human Security**

This section discusses the proliferation of SALWs and Traditional aspect of Human Security as well as the implication of SALWs proliferation on other Aspects of human Security.

### **2.3.1. Proliferation of SALWs and Traditional aspect of Human Security**

In 2012, the General Assembly (GA) adopted a common definition of human security to entail a multifaceted ‘freedom from fear’ and ‘freedom from want’ with respect to economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political needs (Wepundi et al., 2012). Traditionally, human security focused on the state as the key actor with primary focus on protection of the physical, political and cultural identity of the state against the threats and potential threats posed by the capabilities of others through military means (Sabala, 2013). Proliferation of SALWs across the world is becoming increasingly difficult to trace and has long-lasting effects on human security.

Often small arms and light weapons become available in a region for valid and legal reasons related to national security, peacekeeping or law enforcement (UN, 2019). In fact, much of the trade in arms is legitimate and accounted for; it is a well-established and prosperous industry. Like other industries, it has become increasingly globalized. Most weapons are now assembled from components sourced from many countries (Jacqmin, 2017). The result of this rapid global expansion is that weapons, their parts and ammunition are more easily diverted from their intended destination (Detzner, 2017). They may end up in countries that have few controls over how they will be used. Surplus or poorly guarded military weapons find markets in war-torn or post-conflict nations, or are stolen and end up in the hands of non-state armed groups or terrorists. Illicit brokers are able to manipulate the inconsistencies and loopholes between national arms trade laws (Detzner, 2017).

Small arms and light weapons can cross from state to private owners many times over and once weapons enter an area, they can remain there for many years (Nte, 2011). Guns

in particular have a functional lifetime of many decades and small arms and light weapons change the dynamics of a conflict instantly (Chew, 2012). They are lethal; they are meant to kill. They can transform a simple argument into a tragedy, and be used against civilians seeking to protect themselves. In some countries considered to be at peace, the level of small arms and light weapons violence can be as high as in war zones, and their presence is an acknowledged means through which domestic violence occurs (Sabala, 2013). Small arms and light weapons are responsible for the majority of battle-related conflict deaths—an estimated 60–90 percent of all direct conflict victims are killed with firearms (Jakkie, 2015).

As noted by Jacquemin (2017), a large numbers of men, women, older people and children die indirectly from the effects of armed conflict on the economy, ruined health and security infrastructures, disease and famine (Jakkie, 2015). In addition, many more people are made refugees or are internally displaced, injured or abused. Arms fuel conflict and conflict fuels instability and poverty (Hueske, 2008). Violence does not necessarily begin with a weapon, but it increases dramatically when weapons are present, particularly in already volatile environments rife with poverty, mistrust or injustice. Small arms and light weapons proliferation has been particularly devastating in Africa, where machine guns, rifles, grenades, pistols and other small arms and light weapons have killed and displaced many civilians across the continent (Jakkie, 2015). These weapons have been used in deadly conflicts in Sudan, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and other African countries. They are frequently recycled from country to country, and their ownership is transferred among fighters, security forces and war profiteers (Detzner, 2017).

In central and eastern Africa, many lives have been lost through conflict and its related effects. The irregular warfare that has been common in recent decades is characterized by use of SALWs which are easily available and sometimes cost less than food items. Studies by Detzner (2017) noted that in 1994, an intra-ethnic conflict in Rwanda left more than 800,000 people murdered, while an estimated 300,000 civilians also lost their lives in Burundi and with both conflicts characterized by use of SALWs. It was further noted that since these atrocities were committed, foreign supply of arms to both governments and rebel groups continues to grow in illicit, ungoverned or poorly controlled transactions (Alley, 2019). The small arms and light weapons that are already in the sub-region move easily across borders—the borders between Cameroon, Chad and the Central African Republic have been identified specifically as areas of high proliferation (Small Arms Survey, 2016).

Small arms and light weapons widely available in southern Africa (Such as in Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Angola) poses risks of Civil and interstate conflicts (UN, 2019). Most of the SALWs were transferred there during the Cold War, but some others originated from within the region (Pieter et al., 2015). Recognizing the problems posed by its proliferation, many countries are involved in coordinated action, mainly within the framework of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

It is estimated that over 8 million small arms and light weapons that are circulating throughout western Africa play a central role in fostering instability in the region (Mwenga, 2017). Demand for small arms and light weapons in West Africa are motivated by weak governance, insecurity and poverty. The supply comes mostly from external sources. They have been used in armed robberies, intra- and inter-communal feuds, local

wars, armed insurrections, armed rebel activities and terrorism (UN, 2015). They are used to facilitate drug trafficking, smuggling and other such crimes. As a result of the armed conflict in the region, many people have been killed, many others displaced or made refugees and property destroyed (Ombaka, 2015). Every country in West Africa has experienced widespread violence in which small arms and light weapons were a factor.

### **2.3.2 Implication of SALWs Proliferation on Other Aspects of Human Security**

Under traditional security, the state is the primary actor of security and external military threats constitute the major threat to national security (Araba, 2007). National security policy was aimed at the protection of the physical, political and cultural identity of the state against the threats and potential threats posed by the capabilities of others through military means (Jekada, 2005). However, the emergence of SALWs to unauthorized people within the state is a huge predicament that affect the various socio-economic, environmental, political, and food security aspect of human life. Excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALWs in most regions of the world have a wide range of humanitarian effects and also a threat to peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development at the individual, local, national, regional and international levels (Kurantin, et al., 2016).

Mwenga (2017) noted that In relation to conflict and insecurity, massive quantities of SALWs in circulation contribute to a world-wide epidemic of ethnic, sectarian, and criminal violence as well as terrorist activities. SALWs give their holders false courage to pursue their goals by all means (Jekada, 2005). The availability of SALWs has also transformed the nature of conflict from traditional combat between nation-states to intra-state conflict involving a wide variety of actors. They include governments, rebel



movements, militias, ethnic and religious groups, tribes and clans, refugees, criminal gangs and mercenaries (Eve, 2017). The easy availability of arms reduces the incentives to find non-violent solutions to conflicts, and can breed a spiral of insecurity that mimics, on a lower level, inter-state arms races (Alley, 2019). In addition, SALWs have contributed to a “culture of violence” characterized by gun dependency and their glorification.

Ndawana and Ghuliku (2018) argued that the proliferation of SALWs has largely contributed to violation of human rights and humanitarian laws. Weapon availability poses a grave threat to the security of civilians, and indeed the entire humanitarian enterprise (Jakkie, 2015). As noted by Detzner (2017), the 1994 Rwandan genocide which led to the death of over 800,000 people and hundreds of thousand displaced was fuelled by the presence of SALWs among the combatants. Human Rights Watch (2003) argue that the uncontrolled proliferation and widespread misuse of SALWs represents a global human rights crisis by facilitating countless human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law (Mkutu, 2006). The coercive potential of these weapons, when exploited by abusive actors catalyze human rights abuses such as torture, rape, intimidation, and looting (Kamenju et al., 2003).

Sustainable development is a combination of economic growth and social progress that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Kurantin et al., 2016). Small arms and light weapons affect development in the most basic way because they are the tools of conflict. During conflict, physical and human resources are destroyed; transit routes or fertile areas are blocked and diverted; and sometimes national industries are corrupted or taken over by armed groups

(Pieter et al., 2015). Foreign investors and aid agencies are discouraged from proceeding with essential projects and support. All of this undermines halts or prevents development. In Darfur, for example, security deteriorated rapidly in 2005 as armed forces terrorized civilians. Many development organizations withdrew thousands of personnel who had been delivering critical basic services to displaced citizens (Kurantin et al., 2016).

The cost of conflict on African development was approximately \$300 billion between 1990 and 2005, according to new research by World Arms Survey, 2012. The report shows that on average, a war, civil war or insurgency shrinks an African economy by 15 percent. The continent loses an average of around \$18 billion a year due to armed conflict (Bourne, 2011). Half of the countries emerging from war resume conflict partially due to inadequate post-conflict development and reintegration programs, and the availability of arms supports this regression. In post-conflict societies, large numbers of former combatants flood the job market only to discover a lack of economic opportunities (Kurantin, et al 2016). Ex-soldiers, typically still armed, often turn to crime as the only means of survival.

As noted by UN (2019), public health can be greatly affected by the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. Violence leads to injury; injury requires care and when there is widespread injury, it is all too easy for health care systems in developing countries to become overwhelmed (Jakkie, 2015). Tending to victims of armed violence can also divert medical resources away from those who are ill or need other attention. The cost of medical care for these individuals can be overwhelming and, for some, may last a lifetime. Moreover, it is not uncommon for armed groups to target health workers, hospitals, ambulances and clinics. In many conflict zones, transportation

routes used for the distribution of food and medicine are insecure due to the proliferation or threat of small arms and light weapons, and sanitation and water purification systems break down, leading to outbreaks of diseases such as cholera (Kurantin et al., 2016).

Mwenga (2017) observed that one particular disturbing example of the indirect consequences of SALWs is the forced displacement of populations, both as internally displaced people (IDPs) and externally as refugees. At the beginning of 2003, almost 35 million people (13 million refugees and 22 million internally displaced persons) remained uprooted by conflicts and persecution world-wide (Sabala, 2013). SALWs-related intimidation and insecurity may be a key factor inhibiting sustainable repatriation or resettlement. Mc Cullum et al. (2012) observed that in many recent and current internal armed conflicts, combatants deliberately attack and displace local populations to further their pursuit for economic control over natural resources. In such cases, combatants rely on, even profit from, civilian displacement (Lenegwezi, 2017).

### **2.3.3 Cultural Context of Pastoral Communities in Kenya and SALWs Proliferation**

It is widely recognized that majority of pastoralists communities inhabit over 21 countries on the African continent, and are highly dependent on nomadic livestock grazing for livelihood and income (Mohamed, 2018 & Schilling et al., 2012). In Kenya, pastoralist communities are mostly concentrated in North-Eastern and North-Western, and upper Eastern arid and semi-arid regions such as Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Turkana, West Pokot, Marakwet, Baringo, Samburu, Isiolo, Marsabit, Moyale Tana River, Laikipia and Lamu (Mohamed, 2018; Mkutu, 2006). For a long time, these regions have been characterized by prolonged cattle rustling, drought, environmental degradation, increased competition for resources such as water and pasture, and under-development which in

turn impacts on efforts to improve their livelihoods (Mkutu, 2006). Apart from these traditional causes of conflicts, supply and demand of arms and pastoral politicization are other causes of insecurity in Northern Kenya (Sharamo, 2014).

Past research studies on proliferation of arms in Kenya noted that it is accelerated by proximities of the East African conflict zones such as South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Somalia, DRC, and Eritrea as well as porous borders with inefficient border controls (Mohamed, 2018; Sharamo, 2014; Mkutu, 2006). African Files (2007) reported how gun traffickers find ready customers not only in most of the Kenyan cities such as Nairobi, Mombasa and Nakuru, but also among pastoral communities in the Northern Frontier Counties. It is worth noting that widespread availability of firearms, coupled with competition for scarce resources and overall socio-economic situation in these pastoralists regions has created conducive environment for SALWs proliferation (Saferworld, 2005). In a move to alleviate SALWs and high levels of armed violence and enhance security in these pastoral communities, key stakeholders, namely, county and national governments, civil society and development partners have all joined hands to implement development projects on peace building and conflict management, livelihood improvement as well as cross-border peace dialogues (Wepundi et al., 2012).

However, reality on the ground is that majority of these initiatives have had limited or no impact as most of them are not community centred, sustainable and collapse immediately the project timelines come to an end (Hunqe, 2005). Empirical studies also show that pastoralists in Kenya do not usually possess SALWs with criminal intentions but it's the context in which they live, conflict prone and limited livelihoods opportunities which forces them to arm themselves (Sharamo, 2014). This conflicting debates in the literature

therefore require further clarity to ascertain what then causes increased insecurity cases and if at all SALWs possession by pastoral groups influence security in their community.

In summary, it is noted that the negative effects of use of SALWs are felt not only in the immediate conflict area, but also in neighbouring countries and regions as well (Alley, 2019; Ndawana & Ghuliku, 2018). As noted by Kurantin, et al., (2016), SALWs tend to have destructive nature to various aspects of human security (food, environment, political, health etc) as witnessed in Bosnia, Afghanistan, Syria, Colombia, DRC, South Sudan and Rwanda. Realist theorists however, argue that armament serves as a deterrent measure against possible and potential enemies and thus grant security as opposed to causing insecurity. For instance, armament has enabled powerful state actors such as USA, Israel, China and Russia to have some element of security at the macro-level of analysis (Alley, 2019; Nyariki & Amwata, 2019). However, scanty research has been conducted to ascertain whether armament among communities within states (micro-level analysis) also guarantee security. This study therefore sought to interrogate security dynamics related to SALWs among the Rendille community in Marsabit County-Kenya.

#### **2.4 Control of Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons**

The subsequent sections examine the various global and regional efforts aimed at addressing the menace related to SALWs proliferation. It focuses on efforts by the United Nations (UN), regional and sub-regional organizations such as ASEAN, ECOWAS, SADC and the Nairobi Protocol. Lastly, it also outlines the Kenya's domestic approach towards mitigation of SALWs use and proliferation.

### **2.4.1 Cross-Cultural Context of SALWs and Arms Control**

According to World Arms Survey (2012), arms control mainly focuses on efforts to restrain the production of new as well as the quantity of SALWs. It also focuses on the limitation of proliferation of weapon systems. Arms control is a multilateral effort usually facilitated through international organizations and with states being the primary actors in all these efforts (Alley, 2019). Eve (2017) noted that disarmament and arms control is based on the theory that arms cause wars, and implies the complete abolition or at least drastic reduction of all armaments. The theory on arms control accepts armaments as a necessary part of the state security system, but proposes that the risk of war should be reduced by agreement between potential enemies to stabilize and curtail the proliferation of arms in order to establish a balance of power, which can prevent emergence war (Lind, 2009). Arms control and disarmament are almost synonymous because they are concerned with arms reduction or total stoppage of its production. Stohl, (2005) posited that "to disarm" implies a reduction or limiting the size of armament or to deprive of arms.

Detzner (2017) noted that although complete disarmament is deemed idealistic, the concept is often considered interchangeable with arms control, which is viewed as more practical and refers to restraints on specific weapons or forces. More of a process than an event, disarmament theoretically speaking contributes to a reduction in tensions, delegitimizes the reflexive turn to military force in conflict, and redirects military expenditures and resources towards other endeavours. Arms control or disarmament is based on the evolution of methods and procedures that are centered on how to reduce limit or totally stop the production and circulation of arms with the motive to prevent

their excessive availability, indiscriminate usage and fuelling of war in order to ensure that peace gain preeminence in the world (Sharamo, 2014).

#### **2.4.2 Small Arms Control Mechanisms: International Perspectives**

America, the Great Britain, France, Italy, Russia, and China are the top nations in the world that have been implicated in the production of arms in large quantities (Pieter et al., 2015). From the view of these world powers, investment in arms is a serious security business that has implications for who gets what, when and how in international politics. Discourses in the international arena have continued to project small arms and light weapons as being of strategic importance in terms of its economic and security values, which as a matter of fact has become a possible bane to arms control (Alley, 2019). Therefore, controlling arms has become a sensitive issue that cannot be faster than the ways it is being conducted and more so may not make much headway because of the strategic importance attached to arms. Before the Cold War era, arms control was principally based on limiting nuclear weapons, which was a reflection of the fact that small arms and light weapons were underrated in terms of its lethality and efficiency (Detzner, 2017). However, the havocs which small arms and light weapons have posed have necessitated the need for its urgent control, and the awareness had spread fast in this regard in order to reduce its devastating effects on humanity and material resources, domestically and internationally. Before now, the provisions made for the control of conventional arms were: the UN Register of conventional Arms, and the Wassenaar Arrangement (Eve, 2017).

The UN Register of conventional arms exists in relation to the sales and destination of arms and really did not capture small arms and light weapons (Detzner, 2017). The

Wassenaar Arrangement on export controls and conventional arms was established purposely to contribute to regional and international security, by promoting transparency in arms transfers among participating states and reducing the need for states to acquire advanced weapons (Lind, 2006). The political will and trust required to implement the conventions were lacking, hence, the reasons why they were easily by-passed. The United Nations in a meeting of the General Assembly in 1995 raised the issue of small arms and light weapons proliferation for the first time (UN, 2015). Since then, the United Nations have been playing leading role in the evolution of approaches and procedures that can be adopted by nations and NGOs to control small arms and light weapons around the world (Detzner, 2017). The meeting culminated in the setting up of a body of governmental experts to look into the issue of small arms and light weapons proliferation and make recommendations (UN, 2019). It was the recommendations of the body that gave birth to the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects, which took place in New York in 2001 (Stohl, 2005).

As noted by Alley (2019), the conference provided a rare opportunity for the UN to raise public awareness about the need to control the spread and misuse of small arms and light weapons, as 138 governments of states attended the programme. The following procedures have been used by the UN in controlling small arms and light weapons:

- a) Increasing public awareness about the need to control small arms and light weapons. Information about the issue has been disseminated through public enlightenment campaigns or programmes often conducted by the UN through its specialized agencies such as the United Nations Institute for Disarmament



Research (UNIDR). The UN has also supported governments of countries, such as Mali, Albania, Cambodia, Sierra Leone among others; private organizations and NGOs such Small Arms Survey, Human Rights Watch in campaigning against the illegal use and transfer of small arms and light weapons around the world.

- b) Organizing conferences and Workshops on SALWs: This has helped to bring a larger number of countries, private organizations and NGOs together to evolve a collective programme of action that will stimulate the formulation of legal codes or protocols to control small arms and light weapons at individual basis, domestically and internationally. These legal codes or protocols are directed at the production, transfer and procurement of small arms and light weapons worldwide.
- c) Supporting governments of nations on the collection and destruction of weapons through demobilization and re-integration of rebel groups. This is done to strengthen the countries in maintaining peace by reducing arms in illegal hands. In Sierra Leone, the figures released by the National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilization, and Integration (NCDDR), which was set up in 1998, estimated that 45,000 combatants were disarmed. On April 17, 1998 about 28,189 were disarmed, and 16,216 guns and 299,526 rounds of ammunition were collected (Detzner, 2017). In Nigeria, between March and December 2002, the force recovered 1,872 firearms and 15,300 ammunition. By the first week of June, 2004, the Nigerian police confiscated 2,699 arms, 6,583 ammunition and 111,964 cartridges. In October 1999, the disarmament program in Liberia had destroyed some 20,000 small arms and light weapons and more than three million rounds of ammunition.

- d) The programmes of Buy-Back and Weapons for Development (WFD): The buy-back method involves exchanging weapons for money from members of a society, who are holding them illegally by the government. Liberia and Sierra Leone adopted these methods, especially the buy-back approach, to create stability in their countries. WFD was adopted in Mali and involves giving out weapons for the collective development of a place. However, the rate and manner at which arms are flowing back into the regions, made these programmes less effective in tackling the proliferation of arms. Equally, regional provisions such as the Bamako Declaration on illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons in 2000; the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of SALWs in 2004 and ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and light weapons, their Ammunitions and other related materials in 2006 were made to help countries involved to strengthen their control measures.
- e) Supporting private organizations, NGOs and Human Rights organizations to conduct researches, organize conferences, and workshops. This has gone a long way in promoting campaign against small arms and light weapons and its usage, and closing the gap created by insufficient information on the issue of arms proliferation. In West Africa, controlling small arms and light weapons has been difficult because governments cannot directly determine the quantities of small arms and light weapons flowing into their countries, and the quantities in the hand of non-state actors due to porous border, politics, corruption and leaking state armories which are the major channel of access to small arms and light weapons.

### **2.4.3 Regional and States Efforts to Minimize Proliferation of SALWs**

By recognizing that weapons acquired for national security can be diverted and misused to increase poverty or suffering, regional organizations/blocs and governments of states can work in close coordination to move toward a human security approach to nonproliferation and disarmament (UN, 2019). It is not feasible to ban most small arms and light weapons, but it is possible to put in place stricter agreements for their use, regulation and trade that will keep small arms and light weapons away from their abusers and prevent illicit transfer and diversion (Detzner, 2017). Regional and states efforts against SALWs are discussed in subsequent sections.

#### **2.4.3.1 2018 EU Strategy against Illicit Firearms, SALWs and their Ammunition**

On 19 November 2018 the Council adopted a new EU Strategy on illicit firearms, small arms and light weapons (SALWs) and their ammunition: *Securing Arms, Protecting Citizens: EU Strategy against illicit Firearms, Small Arms and Light Weapons and their Ammunition* (Alley, 2019). The starting point of this strategy is the observation that illicit trafficking in firearms and SALWs continues to fuel instability, armed conflict and terrorist violence in the European Union, in its immediate neighbourhood and in the rest of the world. The Council noted that the illicit trafficking of these weapons also thwarts the EU's development and crisis management, humanitarian and stabilization efforts in parts of the EU's neighborhood and Africa (Nyariki & Amwata, 2019). The 2018 SALWs Strategy aims for a comprehensive approach and contains various measures to support different aspects of curbing SALWs proliferation. The different actions foreseen by the strategy are grouped under four pillars: (a) strengthening the normative framework; (b) implementation of norms in different life cycle phases of

firearms/SALWs; (c) compliance through monitoring and enforcement, and (d) international cooperation and assistance.

In relation to strengthening the normative framework, EU commits itself to continue to support the implementation of international normative frameworks on regulating the arms trade and combating illicit SALWs proliferation. This support will include actions on the different phases and aspects of the full life cycle of firearms, such as the collection and destruction of surplus weapons, PSSM and capacity building for: (a) arms export control; (b) marking, record keeping and tracing of weapons; and (c) law enforcement for combating illicit SALWs proliferation.

Regarding the implementation of norms in the different life cycle phases of firearms and SALWs, the 2018 EU Strategy seeks to closely monitor the manufacture, export, storage and disposal of such weapons. On compliance through monitoring and enforcement, the 2018 SALWs Strategy stresses the importance of monitoring existing arms embargoes (Alley, 2019). It states that the Council will explore modalities to improve the monitoring and enforcement of EU arms embargoes and will consider ways to improve access to the relevant findings on arms diversion by UN Expert Panels. For monitoring and curbing illicit arms flows within the EU, the 2018 SALWs Strategy also stresses the importance of developing a good intelligence picture, keeping up to date with evolving security needs and improving operational cooperation within the EU (Ndawana et al., 2018).

In line with the 2016 EU Global Strategy, international cooperation and assistance are key elements of the 2018 SALWs Strategy (UN, 2019). In its section on international cooperation and assistance, the 2018 SALWs Strategy lists actions at the international

and the regional levels. Actions to improve cooperation at the international level focus on support and coordination with international organizations such as the World Customs Organization (WCO), and Interpol. The EU will continue to support the implementation and promotion of relevant international normative frameworks and instruments.

#### **2.4.3.2 ASEAN's Response to SALWs Proliferation in the Region**

The issue of small arms and light weapons was first raised within ASEAN at the 1997 ASEAN ministerial meeting held in Malaysia (Ehiane & Uwizeyimana, 2018). The meeting set the tone for ASEAN's current approach to small arms and light weapons by emphasizing the need for regional co-operation in combating transnational crime. Small arms and light weapons and the smuggling of small arms were recognized as an integral part of terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering, trafficking of persons, and piracy (Small Arms Survey, 2012). Later that year, the ASEAN Ministers of Interior and Home Affairs adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Transnational Crime. The declaration reflected ASEAN's resolve to confront the problem of transnational crime and included agreement in principle to increase regional co-operation and explore ways in which member countries could work more closely with relevant international agencies and organizations (Jakkie, 2015).

At the 1998 ASEAN Summit in Hanoi, ASEAN heads of state reiterated their calls to strengthen regional capacity to deal with transnational crime in the Hanoi Plan of Action (Small Arms Survey, 2009). This was followed by the adoption of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime in 1999. The plan outlined a regional strategy to prevent, control, and neutralizes transnational crime through such activities as information exchange, co-operation in legal and law enforcement matters, institutional

capacity building, training, and extra-regional co-operation. The first time that ASEAN addressed small arms and light weapons as a distinct topic was in May 2000 at the Jakarta Regional Seminar on Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons, sponsored by the United Nations (UN) Department for Disarmament Affairs, the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, and the Governments of Japan and Indonesia (Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, 2006). All ASEAN member states attended with the exception of Vietnam. ASEAN members supported strengthening law enforcement, intelligence-sharing, and border and customs controls, as well as increasing co-operation and exchange of information for the purpose of addressing small arms and light weapons trafficking within the region (Alley, 2019). Other measures suggested at the meeting included post-conflict disarmament, addressing the ‘root causes’ or underlying conditions that promote the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, and improving national controls on these weapons with a view to preventing their leakage into the illicit market (UN, 2018).

#### **2.4.3.3 ECOWAS Convention on SALWs, their Ammunition and Related Materials**

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) took the lead in devising strategies to control the spread and misuse of small arms and light weapons in Africa (Kurantin et al., 2016). In 2006 member states signed a Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and Other Related Materials. It is a legally binding document that was predated by the ECOWAS Moratorium (Mc Cullum, et.al 2012). It entered into force in September 2009. Highlights of the Convention include the following: A ban on international small arms and light weapons transfers (except those for legitimate self-defense and security needs, or for peace support operations), A ban on

transfers of small arms and light weapons to non-state actors that are not authorized by the importing member state, Procedures for shared information, A stringent regulatory scheme for anyone wishing to possess small arms and light weapons, Strong management standards to ensure the security of weapons stockpiles.

The Convention draws attention to gender perspectives and local manufacture of small arms and light weapons (Mc Cullum, 2016). The Convention led to the creation of the ECOWAS Small Arms Unit, responsible for policy issues related to the Convention. The ECOWAS Small Arms Programme (ECOSAP) was also created in 2006 as five-year capacity-building program based in Mali.

#### **2.4.3.4 The SADC Protocol on Firearms, Ammunition and Related Materials**

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) adopted a protocol to control the flow of small arms and light weapons in the sub-region called the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and other Related Materials. It entered into force in 2004 (Ruto & Halakhe, 2011). The main goal of this Protocol is to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of firearms, ammunition and other related materials, and regulate the import and export of legal small arms and light weapons. Among the Protocol's provisions is the standardization of legislation on private ownership, and harmonized record-keeping of state-owned guns, along with the destruction of surplus state weapons (Mc Cullum, 2016). It also includes regulation of brokers and provisions for marking and record-keeping.

#### **2.4.3.5 The Nairobi Protocol**

In 2004, 11 states signed the Nairobi Protocol, a legally binding document that strengthens the Nairobi Declaration of 2000 and commits signatory states to concrete actions, including mandatory gun registration and a ban on the civilian ownership of military assault rifles (like the AK-47), to deal with the problems caused by small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa regions (Safer World, 2011; Wepundi et al., 2012). It requires these countries to incorporate provisions into their national laws, including the following: A ban on civilian ownership of automatic and semi-automatic rifles, Registration of all guns, Regulation of gun storage and competency testing for prospective owners, Restrictions on the number of guns a person can own, A ban on pawning guns, Uniform minimum standards regulating the Manufacture, Control, Possession, Import, Export, Transit, Transport and Transfer of small arms and light weapons, Standardized marking and Identification of small arms and light weapons, Regulation of security companies, Uniform tough sentencing for unlicensed gun possession. The Protocol is monitored and implemented by a Secretariat known as the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), which works actively with civil society.

#### **2.4.3.6 Kenya's Laws and Regulations on Possession and use of SALWs**

The state has a duty to prevent patterns of illicit ownership and abuse of SALWs by both the citizens and foreign national (Ombaka, 2015). The Kenyan government has various laws and regulations that govern the possession and use of SALWs (KNFP, 2011). The Firearms Act (2012) Chapter 114 section 4A spells out that whoever is in illegal possession and or misuse of firearms is liable for life imprisonment. Section 22 of the same Act also specifies that any licensed owner of firearm who loses and fails to report is



punishable by law while section 26A further spells out punishment for trading in firearms. The Penal Code (2012) Chapter 63 Sections 88 and 89 on the other hand spells out punishment for whoever goes armed in public without lawful occasion.

In order to strengthen the role of the police in the movement or illegal possession of SALWs, the National Police Service Act (2012), Chapter 84 Section 64 gives the police powers to apply for summons, warrants and other legal process that are aimed at stopping or deterring the illegal possession or use of SALWs. Despite the existence of such comprehensive laws and policies on possession and use of firearms as well as outlined punitive measures to deter illegal possession and use, research studies indicate a widespread ownership of illicit firearms especially in the Northern Frontier Counties and thus posing risks of insecurity among the residents. It is on this basis that the study sought to establish the factors that promotes proliferation, how it impact on the security among the Rendille community in Marsabit, as well as the best approaches to mitigate proliferation at the community level.

From the reviewed literature, it was noted that various actors globally such as the United Nations, regional organizations (such as EU, ASEAN, and ECOWAS etc), Government of states, and a wide range of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have initiated efforts to curb the proliferation of SALWs (Amwata, 2019; Alley, 2019; Nyariki & Amwata, 2019; Schilling et al., 2012; Shyaka et al., 2006; Osamba, 2000; Eve, 2017). Their efforts have largely revolved around attempt to check on production, distribution, and use of SALWs. Other initiatives includes keeping track of officially held guns, disarming, demobilizing and reintegration of ex-combatants, including collecting and destroying their weapons (Nyariki & Amwata, 2019). The Kenyan government has

various laws and regulations that govern the possession and use of SALWs such as Firearms Act, Police Act, Explosives Act, Penal Code, Armed Forces Act, Customs and Excise Act, Wildlife Act, Extradition Act, Immigration Act, Administration Police Act, Refugee Act, Prisons Act and Forest Act (Shyaka et al., 2006).

Despite the existence of such comprehensive laws and policies on possession and use of firearms as well as punitive measures to deter illegal possession and use in Kenya, research studies indicate a widespread ownership of illicit firearms especially in the Northern Frontier Counties (Alley, 2019; Nyariki & Amwata, 2019; Osamba, 2000). The establishment of these legislations is devoid of the cultural context of communities that may predispose them to possession and use of SALWs and thus was the need to look at the Rendille community. It is on this basis that the study sought to establish the factors that promotes proliferation, how it impacts on the security among the Rendille community in Marsabit, as well as the mitigative approaches against proliferation at the community level.

## **2.5 Theoretical Framework**

The study was guided by the following theories; open system theory and the relative deprivation theory (RDT).

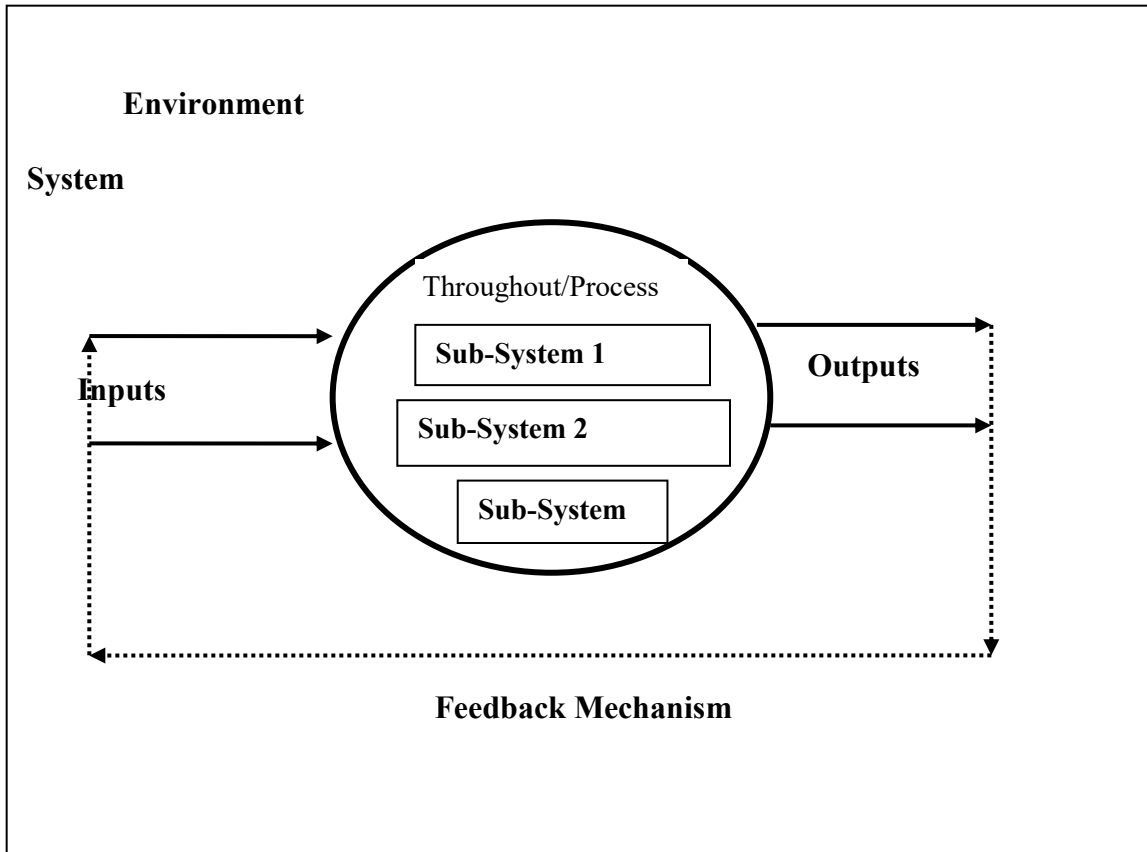
### **2.5.1 Open System Theory**

This theory was propounded by Ludwing Von Bertalanffy in 1962. Open system reflects a belief that governments are unique because of the environment in which they operate. Consequently, it should be streamlined and operationalized to accommodate unique problems and opportunities experienced in the different ecological set up.

Open system theory is based on the assumption/tenet that just like living organisms; governments of states have similar characteristics (Hanna, 1997). When the various interrelated parts for instance of a government are synchronized together, it makes up a system. The system is made up of sub- units referred to as sub- systems (ministries and departments). An open system depends on its external environment for inputs (peoples' needs) that are often transformed during throughput/process (e.g. enactment of legislations) to produce the outputs (government policies, projects etc) that are exchanged in the environment (e.g. the county or national level). A system is a collection of independent but interrelated elements or components organized in a meaningful way to accomplish an overall goal. The function of both the system and subsystem are to process material, energy and/ or information (inputs) into products or outcome for use within or outside the system (the environment).

Inputs include peoples' needs, raw materials, energy and resources processed to produce outputs aimed at addressing the peoples' demand. Throughput refers to the processes used by the system to convert raw materials or energy (inputs) from the environment into products or services (output) that are usable by either the system itself or the environment. Outputs are the products or services which come from the systems throughout/process. Example includes provision of health services, provision of security, by the concerned arm of government or state department or ministry. Feedback refers to information about some aspects of data or energy processing that can be used to evaluate and monitor the system and to guide it to a more effective performance; it is a corrective mechanism that allows the system to adjust itself (Hayajneh, 2007). Feedback provides a means by which the system establishes equilibrium with the environmental demands.

When the output doesn't meet environmental demands, then the outputs are redirected back into the system information as inputs (Analoui & Antwi, 2007).



**Figure 2.1: General Model of an Open System.**

**Source: Hanna (1997)**

In the context of this study, the government constitutes the System and the various ministries and departments, legislative houses and the judiciary are the Sub-systems. The concerned arm of government (such as the legislature or the executive) may give directives or legislation such as on possession of fire arms (as an output) which must be complied by the citizens within the state (e.g. at the county or national level). To address insecurity for instance among the pastoralist communities, a collective inter-ethnic negotiations and input must be sought in order to allow enactment of legislation that is

fair to all parties (citizens' participation). If the government develops a security policy that only targets a segment of the population e.g. in providing security, the other segment may feel threatened and thus resort to armament as a deterrent measure leading to proliferation of SALWs. As a corrective mechanism, the government must therefore guarantee support to all groups and actively engage them in various policy making processes. As a theory however, it does not explain how security policies are made, the stakeholders involved and the considerations for every policy.

While this theory was adopted to illustrate how mitigative measures against proliferation of SALWs can be done through intercommunity consensus effort ratified by the government into a policy, the Relative Deprivation Theory (RDT) was adopted on complementarity basis. The RDT was adopted to demonstrate how one's group efforts to deny the other their most valued source of living can lead to proliferation of SALWs and subsequently leading to violent conflict which usually affect every aspect of human life.

### **2.5.2 The Relative Deprivation Theory**

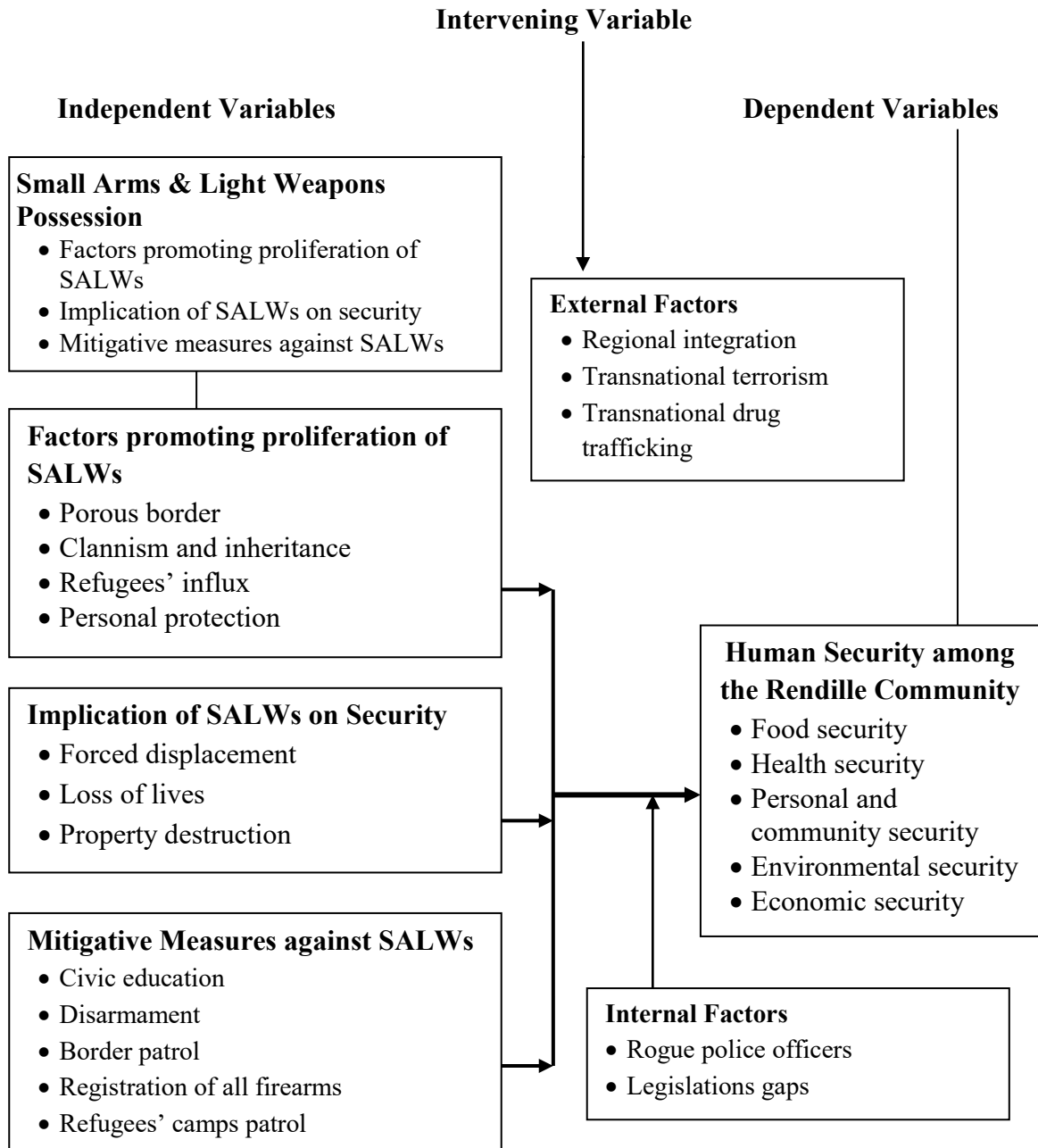
Relative Deprivation Theory (RDT) was propounded by Samuel Stouffer in 1949. Relative deprivation theory mainly sees conflict as arising from the denial (deprivation) of the satisfaction of certain human needs in the society. The theory looks at the needs of two individuals or groups relative to each other. The denial (deprivation) of these needs by other groups such as an ethnic group or an individual can lead to conflict between the two groups or individuals. Any attempt by one group or individual to prevent another group from satisfying these needs will result in strong resistance from that group through violence. Human needs are non-negotiable and cannot be compromised and therefore their deprivation leads to conflict (1949).

The various needs such as subsistence, identity, freedom, security, participation and affection are fundamental to all people and cannot be denied. Thus, to provide access to one and deny access to another is comparable to complete denial and could make people to resort to violence (Azar & Burton, 1986). A group that has been denied access for instance to power or a resource such as land that they claim legitimacy will find a way to defend that need. The group compares that need relative to another group and could resort to violence in order to satisfy their quest (need) for that power or resource. The ethnic conflict may arise from expression of deprivation of basic needs for identity, recognition, security, power (chieftaincy) and resource (land). These issues make that need uncompromising and non-negotiable. Both groups compare that need relative to each other and this makes the resolution of the conflict somewhat difficult.

In the context of this study, the theory helps to demonstrate how deprivation of resources such as water and grazing land, as well as the need to protect livestock may contribute to armament (with SALWs) as a way to deter potential cattle rustling from other communities. If the target community feels insecure or have ancestral claim to land, acquisition of weapons. This theory helps in understanding the various determinants that contribute to proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille community in Marsabit County and thus be able to provide mitigative measures. It was thus adopted to complement the Open System Theory.

## **2.6 Conceptual Framework**

The conceptual framework shown in Figure 2.2 was developed to illustrate how community security is shaped by small arms and light weapons possession. In addition, it also highlights on the various intervening variable (internal and external factors) in relation to the study.



**Figure 2.2: Conceptual Framework**

Figure 2.2 above shows that human security revolves around factors contributing to proliferation of SALWs, the implication of SALWs as well as the mitigative measures to address proliferation of the weapons. The premise of this study was that the aspects

related to possession of SALWs affects security among the Rendille community in Marsabit County, Kenya.

In this study, factors promoting proliferation of SALWs such as porous border, crime, clannism, refugees' influx, personal protection; implication of SALWs on security including forced, displacement, loss of lives, property destruction, high school dropout and the various mitigative measures against SALWs including civic education, disarmament, border patrol, registration of all firearms and refugees' camps patrol, do affect security among Rendille community in Marsabit County. In relation to intervening variable, internal factors included rogue police officers, legislations gaps on SALWs, while external factors were regional integration, transnational terrorism and transnational drug trafficking



## CHAPTER THREE

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses on the research study design, target population, sample size and sampling procedure, methods of data collection, validity and reliability of research instruments, data analysis procedure and ethical consideration.

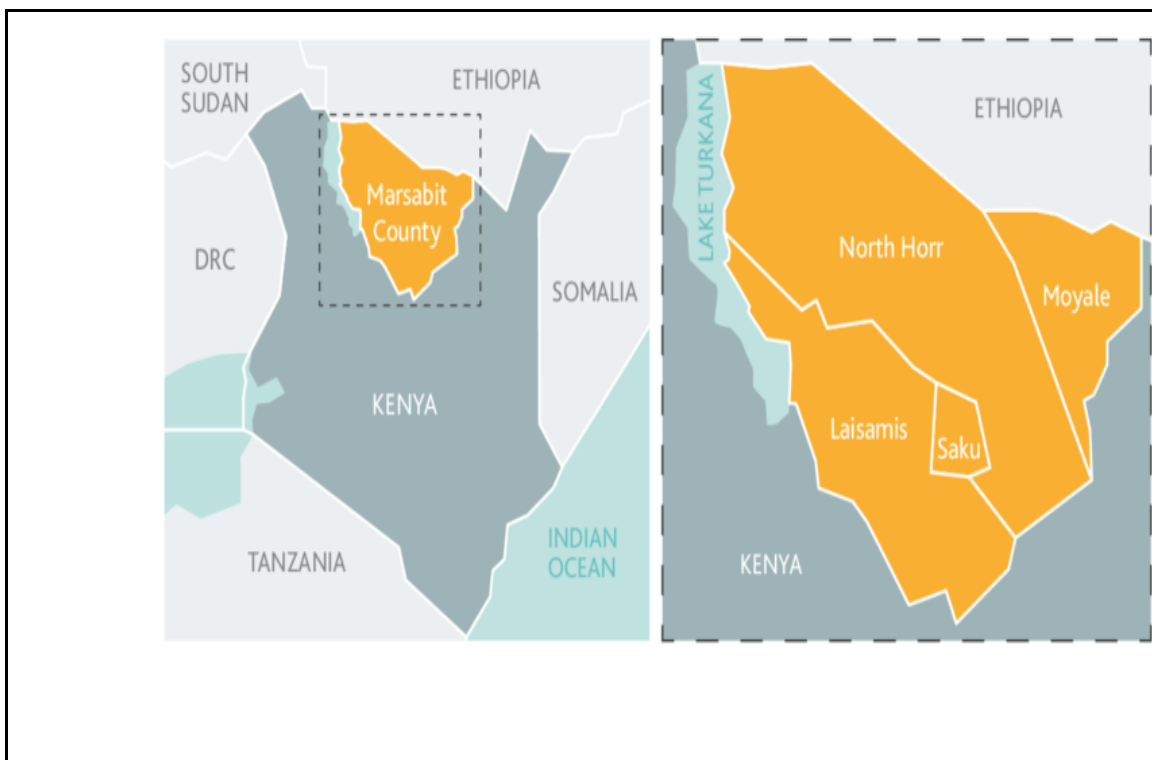
#### 3.2 Study Area

Marsabit County is located in the extreme part of Northern Kenya and has a total area of 70,961.2 sq. km with its county headquarters as Marsabit. It is the largest of Kenya's 47 counties and has an international boundary with Ethiopia to the north, borders Turkana County to the west, Samburu County to the south and Wajir and Isiolo counties to the east. It lies between latitude 02° 45' North and 04° 27' North and longitude 37° 57' East and 39° 21' East. According to the 2019 census, the county has a total population of 459,785 of which 243,548 are males, 216,219 females and 18 intersex persons. There are 77,495 household with an average household size of 5.8 persons per household and a population density 6 people per square kilometer.

It is part of the approximately 80% of the country's landmass classified as Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) where the primary livelihood is either pastoralism (81%) or agro-pastoralism (16%) while other sources (e.g. formal employment, casual waged labor, petty trade) constitute 3%. The County generally comprises of low plains between 530-760m above sea level and occasionally interrupted by mountain ranges Ndoto Mountains, Mt. Nyiru, Mt. Marsabit and Mt. Kulal. The Chalbi desert- a saline lake bed

lying 435-500m above sea level is a true desert and the lowest land surface in the county. The temporal and spatial variation of rainfall is bimodal in distribution with the lowest part receiving less than 200mm of rainfall per annum while Mt. Marsabit at much higher elevation (1707m).

Administratively, the County has 4 Sub-Counties, 20 county assembly wards and 16 divisions. The four constituencies/sub-counties are Moyale Constituency, North Horr Constituency, Saku Constituency and Laisamis Constituency as indicated in the Figure 3.1. This study was concentrated in Leisamis and Saku constituencies because they are inhabited by the Rendille community.



### Map of Marsabit County

Source: <http://marsabit.go.ke>

The ethnic groups that predominantly live in Marsabit County includes; Borana, Burji, Dassenech, Gabbra, Rendille and El Molo. Minority ethnic communities (who are

dorminant in other neighbouring counties) includes; Garre, Samburu, Sakuye, Turkana, and Waata. In addition, a small number of Konso, who primarily reside in Ethiopia, also live in Marsabit. The plurality of Marsabit's inhabitants belongs to the Borana ethnic group, together with the second- and third-largest communities, the Gabbra and Rendille, who constitute a significant majority of the population. The ethnic groups' contemporary political importance is largely the function of their size, although the Burji—a relatively wealthy community concentrated on the central Mount Marsabit—arguably punch above their weight and have joined the Borana, Gabbra, and Rendille as the fourth most influential force in the county's ethnic politics. The other communities are often coopted into alliances led by politicians representing the larger groups.

These various communities are largely dependent on pastoralism where they herd cattle, sheep, goats, donkeys and camels which provide them with milk, meat, hides and skins as well as means of transporting heavy loads (mainly donkeys and camels). Livestock keeping is also considered as a source of prestige (with much cultural attachment) and wealth. As noted by GOK (2019), up to 95% of ASAL households in the Northern Frontier Counties (Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, Mandera and Wajir) derive their livelihood from the livestock sub-sector. Owing to centrality of pastoral farming among the residents of these counties, cattle rustling and conflict over grazing land and water has been prevalent. While there are government laws and regulation regarding possession and use of firearms, these counties have been documented among high risk areas on proliferation of illicit SALWs. This study sought to interrogate the influence of SALWs possession on security among the Rendille community in Marsabit County, Kenya.

### **3.3 Research Design**

This study adopted a descriptive survey research design. According to Kothari (2007), a descriptive survey is a method of obtaining information through responses that a sample of individuals gives to a research question and thus provides a snapshot of how things are at a specific time. This method is often used to systematically solicit factual information needed for informed decision making. According to Creswell (2003), descriptive surveys are concerned with gathering information about prevailing situations for the purpose of description and interpretation. Survey research design is an efficient method of collecting descriptive data regarding the characteristics of the population, current behavior and changing trends and needs. It also provides a way of gathering information from relatively large cases by adopting the use of samples (Kothari, 2007).

Although descriptive survey research design may present the possibility for subjectivity attributed to lack of confidentiality, the researcher overcame it through seeking of consent, assuring confidentiality and maintaining anonymity for any response received from the respondents. Based on these reasons, therefore, survey research design was adopted in the study.

### **3.4 Target Population**

According to Oso and Onen (2005), target population refers to the total number of subjects of interest to the researcher. The researcher targeted 477 individuals drawn specifically from Leisamis and Saku Sub-Counties inhabited by Rendille community including state officers at the county level as indicated in Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1 Target Population**

<b>Target Population</b>	<b>Cohorts</b>	<b>Targeted No.</b>
Rendille	Community elders ( <i>Nyumba Kumi</i> , clan elders and village elder)	100
Government officers	County Commissioner (CC)	1
	Deputy County Commissioners (DCC)	2
	Assistant County Commissioner(s) (ACC)	5
	Chiefs	63
	Assistant Chiefs	127
	Office of County Police Commander or representative	12
	Office of the County Director Criminal Investigation	17
	Police Officers (Anti-Stock Theft Unit)	100
Non-Governmental Organization	Field Officers	150
<b>Total</b>		<b>477</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2020

### **3.5 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure**

Subsequent sections discuss on sample size determination and sampling procedure for the study.

#### **3.5.1 Sample Size**

In Social Science research, the general rule is to use the largest sample as possible because the main interest is learn more about the population from which the sample is drawn (Kline, 1980). However, the sample size can be determined by the nature and characteristics of the target population. In this research, the study targeted 477 persons from which a sample size of 150 respondents was drawn as per Orodho (2004) and Mugenda and Mugenda, (2003), who noted that an appropriate sample size for a large population should range from 10% to 30%. Further, if the target population is below

5,000 then the recommended sample size should be at least 30% of the population. The study therefore used a sample of 30% of the targeted cohorts except the County Commissioner (CC), Deputy County Commissioners (DCC) and Assistant County Commissioner(s) (ACC) who were purposively sampled as indicated in Table 3.2.

**Table 3.2 Sample Size**

<b>Target Population</b>	<b>Cohorts</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Samples size</b>
Rendille Community	Community Elders ( <i>Nyumba Kumi</i> , clan elders and village elder)	100	30% of 100=30
Government Officers from Ministry of Interior and National Coordination	County Commissioner (CC)	1	Purposive = 1
	Deputy County Commissioners (DCC)	2	Purposive =2
	Assistant County Commissioner(s) (ACC)	5	Purposive =5
	Chiefs	63	30% of 63 =19
	Assistant Chiefs	127	30% of 127 =39
	Office of County Police Commander or representative	12	30% of 12 =4
	Office of the County Director Criminal Investigation	17	30% of 17 =5
	Police Officers (Anti-Stock Theft Unit)	100	30% of 100 = 30
Non-Governmental Organizations	Field Officers	150	30% of 150 =45
<b>Total</b>		<b>477</b>	<b>150</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2020

### **3.5.2 Sampling Procedure**

The researcher purposively considered 2 sub-counties (Leisamis and Saku) in Marsabit County occupied by members of the Rendille Community. A stratified sampling was used in grouping all the target population into cohorts such as the Community Elders (*Nyumba*

*Kumi*, clan elders and village elder), Government Officers (County Commissioner (CC), Deputy County Commissioners (DCC), Assistant County Commissioner(s) (ACC), Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, Office of County Police Commander or representative, Office of the County Director Criminal Investigation, Police officers and Non-Governmental Organizations (Field Officers). Based on the sample size from each of the cohorts, a simple random sampling was used in selecting the respondents to participate in the study while County Commissioner (CC), Deputy County Commissioners and Assistant County Commissioner(s) (ACC) were purposively sampled. Further, a purposive sampling was adopted in identifying key informants and those to participate in the Focused Group Discussion (FGD).

### **3.6 Methods of Data Collection**

The researcher adopted the use of questionnaires, interview schedules and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) in soliciting primary data. Secondary data obtained through document analysis has also been used to supplement the primary data collected.

#### **3.6.1. Questionnaires**

The questionnaire for this study was designed to seek information from the various respondents such as Government officers, Elder of Rendille community and field officers of NGOs (Appendix II). Questionnaires were preferred because it allows collection of data from a large number of respondents while saving on the time in the field. This instrument also helps to ensure consistency in the sequence and nature of the items given to the respondents and therefore, enhancing the reliability and validity of the study (Kothari, 2007). The questionnaires comprised of both open and closed ended items.

### **3.6.2 Key Informant Interview Schedules**

According to Kothari (2007), Interview schedule is a written list of questions open or closed, prepared for use by an interviewer in a person to person interaction. It is a qualitative in-depth interview with people or person who holds critical information regarding a given phenomenon. This research tool was used to solicit first-hand information in the study area on issues related to the objectives of the study. It involved face to face interview between the researcher and key informants using open ended interview questions (Appendix III).

The study involved use of interview schedules/guides to collect primary information from 12 key informants with critical information regarding the research variables and included 2 local political leaders, 1 County Commissioner, 2 Deputy County Commissioners (DCC), 1 County Director of Criminal Investigation, 1 Head of the Anti-Stock Theft Unit, 3 County Directors of mainstream NGOs operating in the County and 2 representatives of business community. Such key informants had in-depth understanding on the substantive issues under study because of their professional experience and direct involvement in handling fire arms and conflict related activities in the County and across the country.

### **3.6.3 Focus Group Discussion**

A Focus Group Discussion involves gathering people from similar backgrounds or experiences together to discuss a specific topic of interest (Nachmias and Frankfort, 1996). It is a form of qualitative research where questions are asked about their perceptions, attitudes, beliefs, opinion or ideas on a substantive issue of concern under research. In a Focus Group Discussion, participants are free to talk with other group



members; unlike other research methods it encourages discussions with other participants. It generally involves group interviewing in which a small group of usually 5 to 10 people discusses critical issues and is led by a moderator (Appendix IV).

In this study, FGDs were conducted using interview guide in order to generate qualitative data unique to the target groups and involved two Focus Group Discussions. These categories of FGDs were selected local community elders and local administrative leaders (chiefs and sub-chiefs). The responses received through FGDs were integrated towards understanding the substantive issues of the research.

#### **3.6.4 Secondary Sources of Data**

The researcher incorporated secondary information obtained through a review of books, research reports and journals. Secondary data provides a general framework through which a study can be operationalized and such data is often used to supplement the primary data collected from the various respondents (Kothari, 2007).

#### **3.7 Validity and Reliability of Research Instruments**

Validity of research instruments is the accuracy and meaningfulness of the inferences based on the research results while reliability refers to the degree to which a research instruments yields consistent results after repeated trials (Kothari, 2007 and Mugenda and Mugenda, 1999). Validity was determined using content validity whereby components of the questionnaires were checked to ensure clarity of words and accuracy of the statements in relations to the specific research question. In addition, the research instruments were given to the senior lecturers in the Department of Social Studies to evaluate the items and give their expert input regarding remodeling of the items. This is in tandem with Kothari

(2003), that reliability of research instruments can be determined by using a panel of experts to critically evaluate how well they meet the required standards and represent the variables under study (also Nachmias and Frankfort, 1996). Their suggestions were used by the researcher to improve and modify the items in the research instruments.

### **3.8 Pilot Survey**

To ensure reliability of research instruments, a pre-test of the questionnaires and interview schedules were conducted in Turkana County, in which 30 questionnaires were administered in 2 and local leaders such as the chiefs and community leaders (village elders) were interviewed to allow a pre-test of the research instruments. This enabled the researcher to modify the research instrument to adequately address every aspect required for every research objective.

### **3.9 Data Analysis**

Data analysis entails separation of data into consistent parts or element separately or in relation to the whole (Oso & Onen, 2005). This study adopted both qualitative and quantitative analysis techniques (convergent parallel mixed method). Qualitative approach was adopted in describing the respondents' view on small arms and light weapons and community security, and the main sources of such information were largely the FGDs and the key informant interviews. The qualitative data from the open ended questions and further probing were classified into various themes on the basis of their central focus for the purpose of analysis and presentation.

Quantitative data analysis involved the organization and analysis of quantitative data collected from the closed ended question. It involved the use of Statistical Package of

Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 21 in deriving statistical descriptions and interpretations and the findings were presented using frequency tables, percentages, pie charts and graphs. In this study, the data gathered from the field were also corroborated with available secondary data for the purpose of interpretation and presentation.

### **3.10 Ethical Considerations**

The researcher provided an introductory letter explaining to the respondents that the research was solely for academic purpose and that their informed consent to participate in the study was being sought. Additionally, all the respondents were assured of anonymity and confidentiality in all the information given since no respondent was required to write his/her name, identification number or any other information that may reveal their identity on the questionnaire. The respondents were also assured that the information given was for academic research only cannot be used for any other purpose whatsoever. Lastly, the research also sought authorization permit from the National Commission of Science Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) to carry out the research in Marsabit County-Kenya.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

#### 4.1. Introduction

This chapter presents the analyses and interpretation of findings of the research objectives such as; (i) To determine the factors that contributes to the proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille community in Marsabit County, (ii) To assess the implication of SALWs possession on security among the Rendille community in Marsabit County and (iii) To determine the approaches to minimize proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille community in Marsabit County. First, the response rate and the demographic characteristics of the respondents in terms of their gender, age, marital status, level of education, occupation, income levels, religion and respondents' ethnic extraction are presented below.

#### 4.2. Response Rate

The researcher administered a total of 150 questionnaires to all the sampled respondents and the response rate was as indicated in table 4.1.

**Table 4.1 Response Rate**

<b>Response Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Duly filled and returned	135	90
Inadequately filed or not returned at all	15	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Author, 2020

From the table above, a total number of 135 (90%) respondents were able to adequately fill and return their questionnaires while 15(10%) respondents could not return their questionnaires or returned but inadequately filled and thus could not be relied upon in the study. As noted by Mugenda and Mugenda (2008) and Best and Kahn (2006), a response rate of 50 percent is considered adequate, 60 percent is good and above 70 percent is rated as very good. Given that the response rate for this study was 90%, it was thus considered as satisfactory and adequate for the purpose of making generalization regarding the objectives of the study.

#### **4.3: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

This section discusses the demographic characteristics of the respondents in terms of their gender, age, marital status, level of education and religion, and Table 4.2 below provides a summary of the findings.

**Table 4.2 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Variable</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
Sex	Male	92	68
	Female	43	32
Age in Years	18-35	18	13
	36-53	57	42
	54-71	48	36
	72 and above	12	9
Marital Status	Single	8	6
	Married	115	85
	Widowed	12	9
Level of Education Completed	Primary	16	12
	Secondary	36	27
	Diploma	28	21
	Bachelor's Degree	53	39
	Post-Graduate Degree	2	1
Religious denomination	Catholics	13	10
	Protestant	25	19
	Islam	91	67
	Others	6	5

**Source:** Author, 2020

Analysis of the findings in Table 4.2 indicates that 92 (68%) of the respondents were male while 43(32%) were female. The study noted that 18(13%) respondents were of age bracket 18-35 years, 57(42%) were of age bracket 36-53 years, 48(36%) were of age 54-71 years while those above 72 years were 12(9%) respondents. As indicated, from the findings, 105(78%) of the respondents were aged between 35-71 years implying the great responsibility they have in relation to various societal responsibilities. The study also established that 8(6%) respondents were single, 115(85%) respondents were married while 12(9%) of the respondents were widowed. This finding is congruent with the age of the respondents where all the respondents were above 18 years and are constitutionally endowed to marriage.

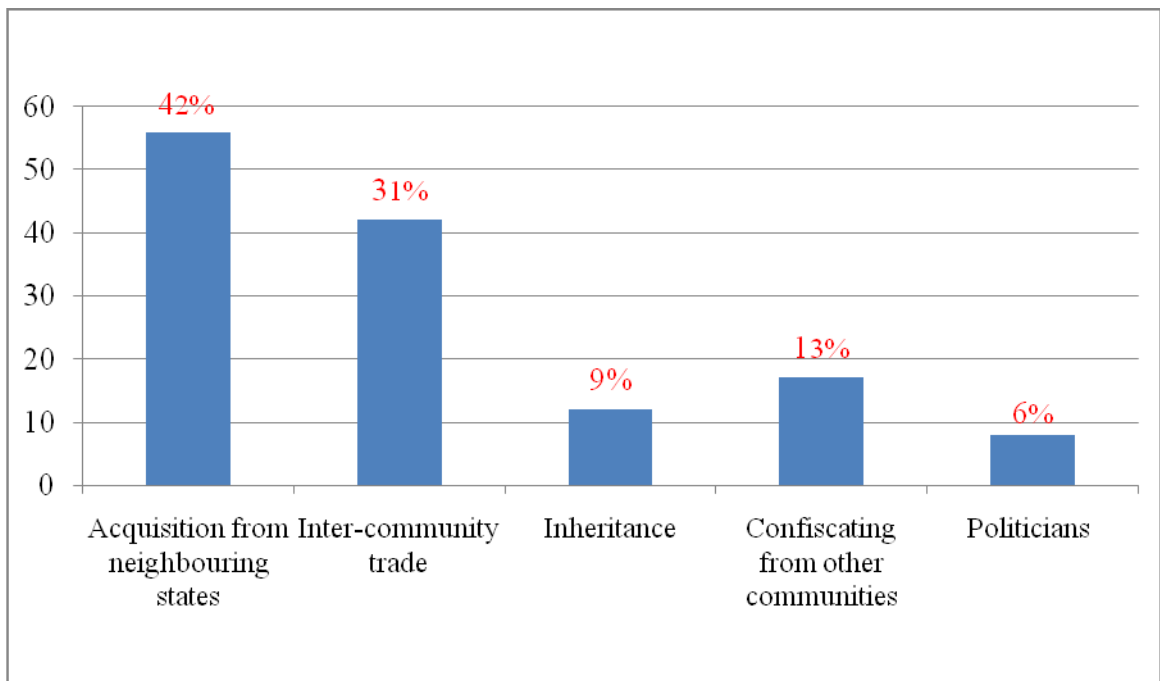
In relation to education, 16(12%) respondents only completed Primary school level of education, 36(27%) completed Secondary school education, 28(21%) had Diploma level of education, 53(39%) had a Bachelors Degree and only 2(1%) respondents had attained a Post-Graduate Degree. Regarding religious denomination, 13(10%) of the respondents subscribed to Catholicism, 25(19%) were protestants, 91(67%) were Muslims while 6(5%) subscribed to other religions (such as Hindu or Traditional African Religion) or had no religion at all (Pagans). This finding was in line with GOK (2019) report that indicated most of the Northern Frontier Communities subscribed to Islam as their Religious denomination. Generally, these findings represents a population that is largely Muslims; made of adults in their prime age with knowledge on community history; generally semi-skilled given the level of education; but in stable family relationships.

#### 4.4 Factors that Contribute to the Proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille Community in Marsabit County, Kenya

The first objective of the study was to interrogate the factors contributing to proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille in Marsabit County. In order to clearly understand these factors, the researcher first sought to assess the prevalent sources of SALWs and the nature of SALWs under proliferation and the findings are as indicated in subsequent sections

##### 4.4.1 Sources and Nature of SALWs among the Rendille in Marsabit County

When the researcher sought to find out the sources of SALWs and the findings were as indicated in Figure 4.1



**Figure 4.1: Sources of SALWs among the Rendille in Marsabit County**

**Source:** Author, 2020

The findings as indicated in Figure 4.1, shows that 56(42%) respondents cited that SALWs are sourced from the neighbouring countries, 42(31%) attributed it to

intercommunity trade, 12(9%) cited that they are confiscated from neighboring communities while 8(6%) respondents noted that politicians supply weapons for them.

It was evident that most of the SALWs possessed and used by Rendille community are sourced from the neighbouring countries and this was largely attributed to their nomadic pastoral life involving cross-border movement in search of pasture and water. An interview with a Key Informant noted that;

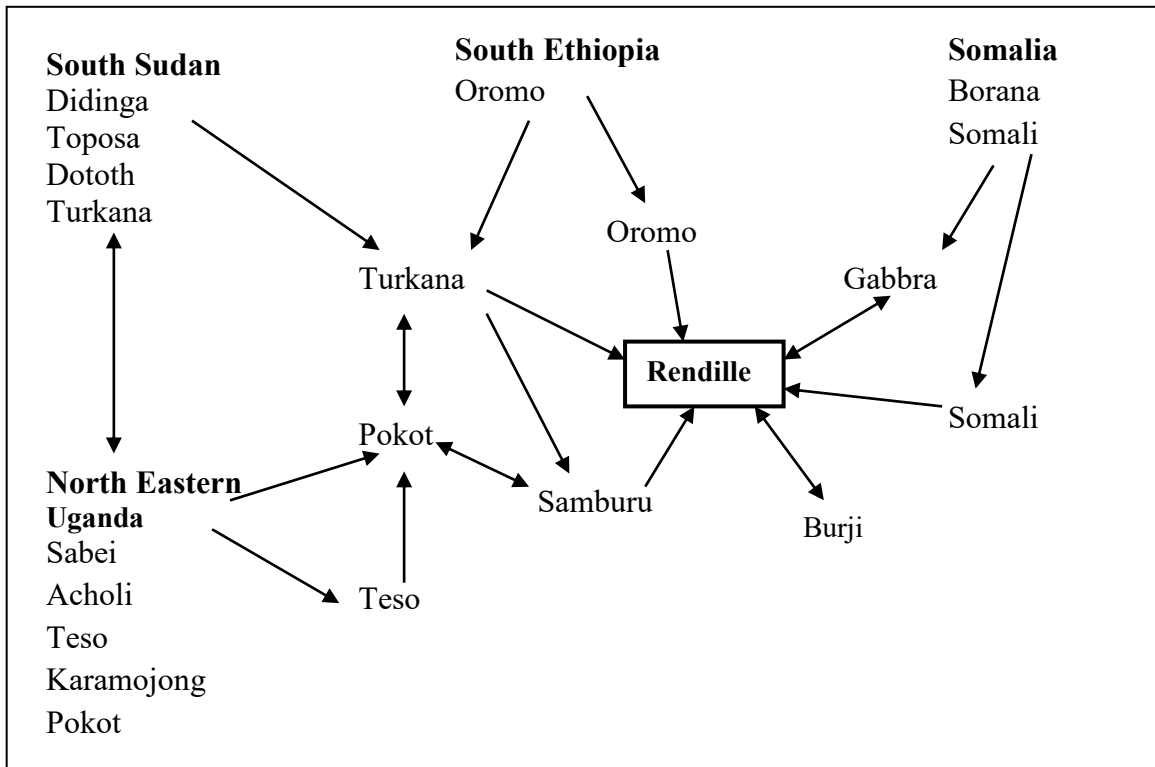
*Some of the weapons owned illegally in the County and the Northern region in general are smuggled from our neighbouring countries having conflicts. We are making every effort to arrest all the traffickers in order to boost security in the region... (Key Informant (KI); Male Aged, 52 years)*

Based on the response from the FGD, it was noted that most of SALWs among the Rendille Community are largely smuggled from the neighbouring countries experiencing conflicts such as South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda. This finding affirms a study by Sabala (2013) that proliferation of SALWs in the Horn of Africa is attributed to porous border where citizens can easily move freely beyond their states boundary without much restriction.

It was further established that communities in the Northern Frontier Counties engage in intercommunity arms trade as a source of income. The study for instance, revealed that the Oromo Community who are a cross border community living in Kenya and South Ethiopia are able to source weapons from the troubled Southern Ethiopia (from Oromo Liberation Front) and smuggled for sale in Kenya. Further interrogation with county security officers noted that conflicts in the neighbouring states creates a hub for SALWs where cross-border communities in Kenya such as Pokot and Turkana (Kenya-Uganda border), Turkana and Oromo (Kenya-Ethiopia Border) and Somalia (Kenya-Somalia



border), are able to cheaply source the weapons and sell to communities in demand of such weapons in the Northern part of Kenya. Based on different FGDs with various community elders, local business men, senior security officers (identity withheld), a construct model of arms traffic flow from the neighbouring states and inter-community arms trade was developed as indicated in the Figure 4.2.



**Figure 4.2 Construct Model of Arms Traffic Flow to the Rendille community**

**Source:** Author, 2020

During Focused Group Discussion with community elders, it emerged that some of the weapons possessed and used are inherited and are thus passed down to the next generation/passed down the family tree. One of the elders acknowledged receiving a fire arm from his late father but has since then surrendered it when the government announced amnesty for those in possession of illegal fire arms. He quipped that;

*Elders at their deathbed who have few livestock like cows, sheep, goats, camels and donkeys often gift a gun to one of the sons as a blessing that one day, the gun will bring him more livestock. I was one of them but surrendered it to the government when amnesty was given... (FGD; Male Participant, Aged, 68 years)*

Apparent from the FGD was the fact that such weapons inherited from the elderly are handed down the family tree/down the generation with “a blessing” that it will bring more livestock during raids. It thus emerged that such pronouncement often serve as a precursor to cattle rustling in pursuit of the said “blessing” related to the gun, and such firearms are often safeguarded/hiden and never surrendered even during a forceful disarmament exercise done by government forces, and thus perhaps explain the cyclic use of fire arms even after a disarmament exercise has been concluded.

The study also noted that Rendille community is able to get SALWs whenever raids against neighbouring communities such as Borana, Samburu and Turkana occur. As noted by Schilling et al., (2012), most pastoralist communities arms themselves as a deterrent measure. It was noted that during certain season when the community want to restock their livestock (through cattle rustling), traditional elders gives their blessing and charms to overcome the ‘enemy’. During successful raids, community raiders (mostly experienced young) often confiscate fire arms from the homesteads of the other communities as well as from their fighters in possession of such arms. Weapons from those killed from the other communities are confiscated by Rendille *Morans* and given to young upcoming raiders for training and use in subsequent raids. This aspect of obtaining SALWs is a replica of the 2012 Baragoi Police Massacre where up to 42 police officers on a duty to recover stolen livestock from the Pokot bandits were ambushed and killed at Suguta Valley and their fire arms were stolen by the said bandits (Sabala, 2013).

Lastly, the study established that firearms among the Rendille community are also attributed to supply by political leaders. First, it emerged that in a County where political allegiance is driven far more by ethnicity than ideology, communities competed against each other for representation. During an FGD with community elders, they noted that a tribe's local dominance could swing a local election, and in some areas smaller communities formed alliances such as the Rendille, Gabra and Burji (REGABU), established to counter the dominant Borana in Marsabit. It emerged that local political leaders supplied weapons to their ardent loyal voters as a means of exerting control over their opponents. Secondly, a Key Informant noted that;

*There has been a growing demand for meat in most Kenyan urban areas especially in Nairobi city. We noted that this demand for meat has necessitated armament where local criminal network led by Business men and politicians supply weapons to Morans to engage in cattle raids... (Key Informant; Aged 46 Years)*

Evident from the response was that commercialized cattle rustling by local criminal network (involving some businessmen and local politicians) was contributing to armament of young Rendille *Morans* as a means of serving their economic interests. This confirms the 2010 Kenya National Human Rights Commission (KNHR) study that observed that “the meat-loving urbanites Kenyans are the unsuspecting accomplices of unscrupulous businessmen involved in cattle rustling in the Kenyan Northern Frontier”.

An interview with the head of anti-stock theft unit, and records from the County Director of Criminal Investigation noted that firearms prevalent among the Rendille community included; The G3 (*Gewehr 3*), *AvtomatKalashnikova* (AK-47), different sorts of pistols and rounds of ammunitions. As noted by Ndawana and Ghuliku (2018) proliferation of such weapons are attributed to the fact that they are widely available, low in cost, light in

weight, simple to use, durable, highly portable and can easily be concealed yet extremely lethal. The plate 4.1 indicates firearms prevalent among the Rendille community in Marsabit County, Kenya.

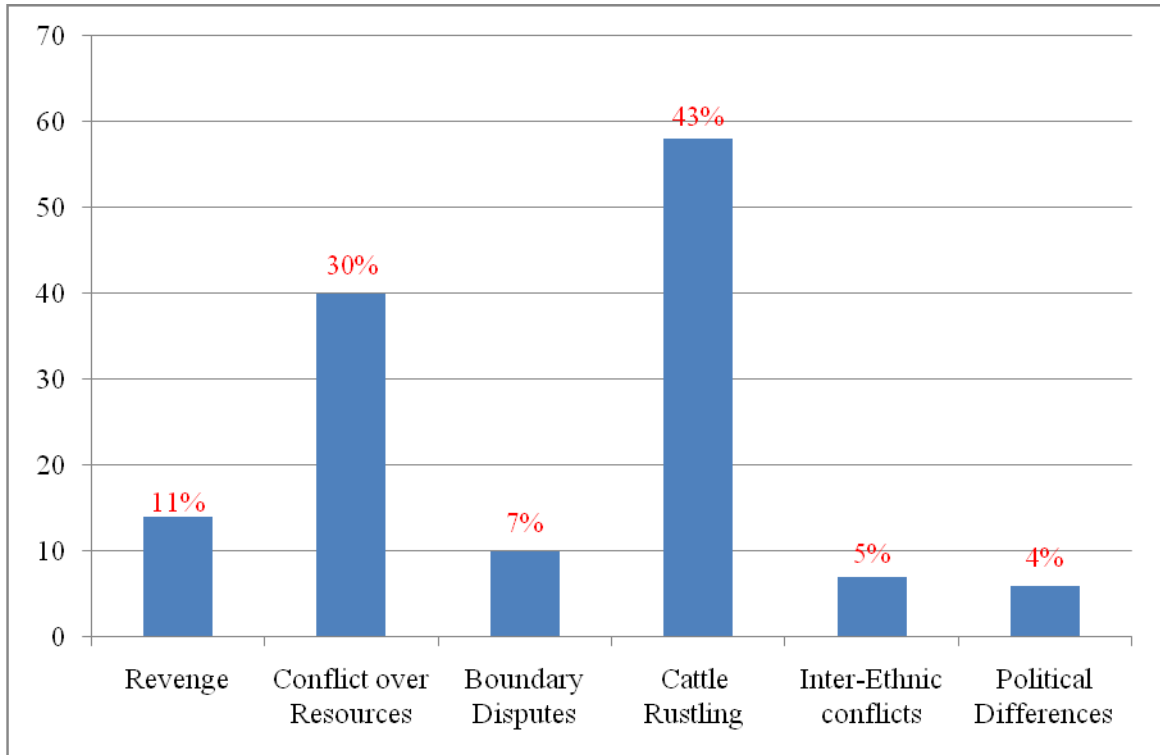


**Source:** American Firearms Association, 2020

**Plate 4.1** Common Illegal Firearms among the Rendille Community in Marsabit County

#### **4.4.2 Factors Contributing to Proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille in Marsabit County**

The study sought to establish the major factors contributing to proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille in Marsabit County and the findings were as indicated in Figure 4.3.



**Figure 4.3 Factors Contributing To Proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille in Marsabit County**

**Source:** Author, 2020

As indicated in Figure 4.3, the readiness for revenge attacks was raised by 14(11%) respondents as a factors contributing to proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille in Marsabit County, 40(30%) attributed it to conflict over resource and 10(7%) respondents cited boundary disputes. Additionally, 58(43%) attributed proliferation of SALWs to cattle rustling, 7(5%) cited inter-ethnic conflicts while 6(4.4%) of the respondents cited political differences.

From the findings, it emerged that the greatest factor contributing to proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille in Marsabit County was cattle rustling. Rendille community

is one of the pastoralist communities in Kenya whose livelihood revolves around livestock keeping (rearing of cattle, sheep, goats, donkeys and camels). Apart from livestock being the source of basic needs such as milk, meat, hides and skins, it is also considered as a source of prestige and wealth. Based on this background, the community acquires firearms as a means of protecting their lifeblood resources from their neighbouring communities (such as Borana, Samburu and Turkana) who equally have strong attachment to livestock as a source of livelihood. This study affirms the Relative Deprivation Theory adopted in the study that where two or more groups are in pursuit of certain human needs, conflict is likely to occur if one of group perceive attempt to deny them such needs. However, before such conflicts occurs, the competing groups often develops offensive and counter-offensive strategies which under this study, manifests itself in the form of acquisition (proliferation) of SALWs by the Rendille community.

In addition, the Rendille community believes in continuous stocking of livestock based on the view that large number of livestock is associated with wealth and prestige. Focused Group Discussion with community elder revealed the centrality of owning large herds. One elder quipped that;

*Traditionally, the community believed that all livestock were given to them by Wakh (God) as a blessing and whenever they go out to other communities (cattle rustling) to increase their stock, they are just bringing back what they had loaned them (other communities)... (FGD, Male, 72 Years)*

It was apparent from the FGD that according to the Rendille community, all livestock belong to them and handed down to them by *Wakh* (Pre-Abrahamic deity) as custodians, and cattle rustling is thus considered a means of getting back what belongs to them as a means of restocking. This finding conforms to Manasseh et.al, (2012) that religious and cultural attachment to livestock by pastoralist communities in Kenya entrenches perennial

cattle rustling. FGDs with local administrative leaders noted that cattle rustling had also turned into a lucrative business venture with local business entrepreneurs and politicians getting involved. It was noted that subsequent to improvement of infrastructure such as roads in the county, well coordinated cattle raids had been witnessed with such roads being used in transportation of stolen livestock to most urban cities in Kenya where demand for meat is high.

The study also noted that conflict over resources such as water and pasture significantly contributed to proliferation of SALWs, as cited by 40(30%) of the respondents. It was established that Rendille community largely inhabited a vast arid and semi arid part of Marsabit County from Merille River and Serolivi in the South to Loyangalani in the North, from Marsabit and Merti in the East to Lontolio in the West where according to Kenya Metrological Department Statistics, it experiences an annual average of 20.1° Celsius and 500mm of rainfall. The inadequate rainfall and high temperature makes water and pasture, the second most valued resource after livestock among the Rendille community. An interview with a key informant drawn from a local NGO, noted that;

*The members of the Rendille community have armed neighbours such as the Borana and Turkana who are equally in need of grazing land and water. During droughts, these communities moves around looking for these resources and extremely violent conflicts have been witnessed in the past such as between the Rendille and Borana... (Key Informant, Female, Aged 46 years)*

Evident from the response was that harsh climatic conditions often leads to scarcity of pasture and water across the County and other communities such as the Borana, Samburu and Turkana who are also nomadic pastoralist are forced to look for the same resources. The Rendille community is thus forced to acquire firearms in anticipation of any confrontation with already armed communities. Based on the centrality of livestock

among the Rendille community as a source of wealth, prestige and food (such as milk and meat), armament become the only choice for a favourable offensive or counter offensive attack should their water points and grazing land are encroached by other communities. In such a volatile environment characterized by the struggle for survival and relative deprivation among hostile communities, inter-community 'arms race' is witnessed in an effort to outcompete each other.

An interview with a Key Informant from an NGO, noted that perceptions of the control and management of resources in the county have contributed significantly to conflict. The informant noted that some Non-Governmental development projects and humanitarian interventions such as borehole drilling for water and vaccination of livestock are sometimes misconstrued by the dominant Borana community to favour Rendille Gabra, Burji (REGABU) in their implementation and thus aggravating the tensions. Based on this perceived favoritism, the Rendille with close allies (Gabra & Burji) who are predominantly wealthy but minorities in numbers have partnered in acquisition of firearms as a deterrence and defensive mechanism against any perceived threat from the Borana community and thus contributing to proliferation of SALWs. Conflict over resources among the Rendille therefore, transcend beyond pasture and water points for livestock, to development project such as water points initiated by NGOs and veterinary services and other county development projects.

The study also indicated that perceived threat from other neighboring communities' has led to Rendille's readiness for revenge and thus contributing to proliferation of SALWs in Marsabit County. As noted by Alley (2019), Kenya's frontier communities have historically lacked effective state security services. This has served to drive tensions into



open violence as it has allowed communities to ‘manage’ their own security, including by taking advantage of readily accessible light weapons and resorting to violence. In this context, the Rendille community has also opted to ‘manage’ their own security through acquisition of firearms. During an FGD with community elders, one of them noted that;

*As a community, we have been left under the mercies of our neighbours who are always armed. We initially thought that the county government will help but so far, nothing has been forthcoming...* (FGD, Male, Aged 67 years)

Evident from his response was that the Rendille community had resorted to armament as a deterrent and a counter offensive strategy. Armament was perceived by the community as strategy of retaliation/revenge should the government security forces fails to protect them and their livestock from hostile neighbours. It also emerged that despite promulgation of a new constitution that seeks to enhance equitability in resource sharing, it was established that such an objective is yet to be achieved among the different communities in Marsabit County. The feeling of marginalization by certain communities becomes a recipe for inter-ethnic animosity which heightens tension among them.

Inter-ethnic conflicts that are prevalent in the County as cited by 7(5%) respondents have contributed to the Rendille community reorganizing themselves on a counter-offensive strategy. FGDs with the local community elders revealed that Marsabit County shares a long and porous border with the Oromia of Ethiopia who largely supplies SALWs to the Borana, Dasneetch and Gabra. As these ethnic communities straddle the two countries and migrate in search of water and pasture, ethnic conflicts with their neighbours including the Rendille usually emerge. Such conflicts often escalate even as every ethnic community develops alliances as a counter offensive strategy. The prevalent inter-ethnic conflicts among various pastoralist communities in the county predispose the Rendille to

acquire fire arms and to develop alliances with other ethnic groups such as the Gabra, Burji, and Garre. It was further noted that even where there are no direct ethnic clashes between communities, continued insecurity due to absence of government security force predisposes community to armament.

The study also established that contestation over grazing and administrative boundaries in Marsabit County leads to conflict and Rendille community has been a victim. It was noted that the Rendille community have had several confrontation with the dominant Borana community on grazing lands especially during dry seasons. Inter-community boundary dispute in relation to grazing land have contributed to armament by the Rendille community as a defensive strategy against Borana invasion and violation of grazing boundaries. Further interrogation also noted that Rendille often maintain alliance with minority Gabra community to contain Borana encroachment to their grazing lands.

Subsequent to promulgation of the 2010 Constitution, administrative boundaries are still being established, contested, and negotiated. FGDs with local administrative officers (chiefs and sub-chiefs) noted that a widespread perception amongst Borana people is that the Rendille, Gabra and Burji are continually in pursuit of political influence, and land has become central to and accelerated conflict between the two communities. It was observed that land especially in relation to community boundaries has ignited tension between the communities and the Rendille community had resorted to armament as defense strategy against any possible attacks. A key informant noted that;

*All the communities in Marsabit County are pastoralists and land is a key resource because it serves as a grazing ground. New boundaries set by IEBC, has been viewed by the Rendille community as an attempt to restrict the area under their control and thus raising tension among communities... (KI, Male 58 years)*

The study also established that political differences among the various communities had contributed to Rendille armament for fear of political conflicts. An interview with prominent local Rendille political leader and FGDs with community elders revealed that traditionally (before the year 2010), in what is now Marsabit County, Marsabit North was mainly inhabited by the Borana and Gabra communities, and Marsabit South occupied by the Rendille community was established. Consequently, violence broke out between different ethnic alliances, operating according to the old rules of territorial invasion and theft of livestock. Following pressure from local political leaders, Marsabit North was further subdivided into North Horr and Saku constituencies, reflecting Gabra and Borana interests respectively. However, rather than reducing the conflict between the two communities, the division increased tensions and conflict between the two.

Subsequent to promulgation of the 2010 constitution, ethno-political alliances and balance of power in the county has greatly been witnessed. For instance, the Gabra, Burji, and Rendille communities have formed a political alliance named REGABU in order to take county and national level political positions from the majority Borana, whose numerical dominance meant they are widely expected to capture most of the available seats. In amidst alliance and counter-alliance formation, inter-community suspicion often leads to armament where political leaders incite and sometimes encourage members of their communities to protect what 'rightly' belongs to them. A review of 2013 election in the county revealed that from the REGABU alliance, the governorship went to the Gabra community, the deputy governorship to the Burji, the senator position to the Rendille, and the women's representative to the Garre community. The Gare community (a minority

Somali clan) won the county women’s representative seat and two wards in Moyale while only Saku and Moyale parliamentary seats went to the Boranas.

#### **4.5 Implication of SALWs use on Human Security among the Rendille Community in Marsabit County, Kenya**

In relation to the second objective of the study, the study sought to assess the implication of SALWs use on security among the Rendille community in Marsabit County, Kenya. The research first sought to establish the prevalent form of insecurity related to possession and use of SALWs, then the implication of SALWs on security among the Rendille community in Marsabit County.

##### **4.5.1 Form of Insecurity Related to use of SALWs among the Rendille Community in Marsabit County, Kenya**

The research sought to interrogate the prevalent form of insecurity associated with possession and use of SALWs among the Rendille community, and the data is presented in Table 4.3.

**Table 4.3 Prevalent Form of Insecurity Associated with Possession and use of SALWs among the Rendille Community**

<b>Prevalent Form of Insecurity/Crime</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Highway/Roadside Banditry	37	28
Cattle Rustling/Stock theft	84	62
Inter-Community Attacks	8	6
Electoral Violence	6	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Author, 2020

In relation to prevalent forms of insecurity related to use of SALWs among the Rendille community (as indicated in table 4.3), it was established that 37(28%) respondents cited highway/roadside banditry, 84(62%) attributed it to cattle rustling, 8(6%) cited inter-community attacks while 6(4%) cited electoral violence.

From the data, cattle rustling/livestock theft emerged as the most prevalent form of insecurity. It was noted that other than the Rendille, other neighbouring communities such as the Borana, Gabbra, Oromo, Turkana, Samburu, Burreji, Garre among others were nomadic pastoral communities whose lifeblood is entirely dependent on livestock as a source. Livestock is considered among them as source of wealth and prestige and a person's socio-economic status is traditionally based on the size of herd that one has. FGDs with local community elders and local administration officers revealed that community stocking of livestock for certain cultural functions such as marriage, sacrifices to *Wakh* (local deity) and community status contributed to Rendille community engaging in cattle raiding from other communities such as the Borana and the Samburu. Evidence from the Police Occurrence Book (POB) at the County level revealed that most cattle raids/stock theft are often executed by well armed Rendille *Morans* (Refer Appendix I)

Further probing with Key Informants from the Ministry of Interior and National Coordination established that increasing demand for meat in most Kenyan cities had contributed to local livestock syndicates where local politicians and businessmen collude with Rendille youth to raid other neighbouring communities for livestock (especially cattle and goats) that are sold for instance in towns such as Mandera, Moyale and Nairobi. Based on this background, it was concluded that owing to the circle of commercialized cattle rustling

among the pastoralist communities within and outside the county, the Rendille were equally susceptible to raids and thus the effort to protect their livestock from bandits.

The study also observed that highway /road banditry was increasingly prevalent as noted by 37(28%) respondents in the study area. It was noted that such a crime is often conducted by individuals in possession of firearms as opposed to cattle rustling often done by a large group of fighters. An interview with a senior security officer from DCIO noted that;

*Unlike cattle rustling bandits who moves in large numbers, most of the highway/road bandits are individuals who are desperate to meet their needs through illegal means. They largely target businessmen transporting goods to their business premises or Lorries transporting cattle for sale... (Key Informant, Male, Aged 51 years)*

Evident from the response was that the business community was unsafe in transporting their goods such as business stock or cattle for sale in other parts of the county or enroute to cities like Nairobi. It was noted from the police records (Occurrence Book) that most of the road banditry involves the use of firearms such as the G3 and AK47 Assault rifle. This confirms the study by Ndawana & Ghuliku, (2018) that the prevalence in the use of such assault rifles is attributed to their light weight and portability can be concealed, yet extremely lethal.

The study further noted that inter-community attack was a significant form of insecurity in the study area as cited by 8(6%) respondents. As noted by Key Informants, inter-community attacks could be triggered by factors such as competition over grazing land and pastures during dry season, revenge attacks due to theft of livestock as well as abduction and murder of members of a particular community. Further interrogation with the community elders quipped that instances of intra-community (clan disputes) fights as

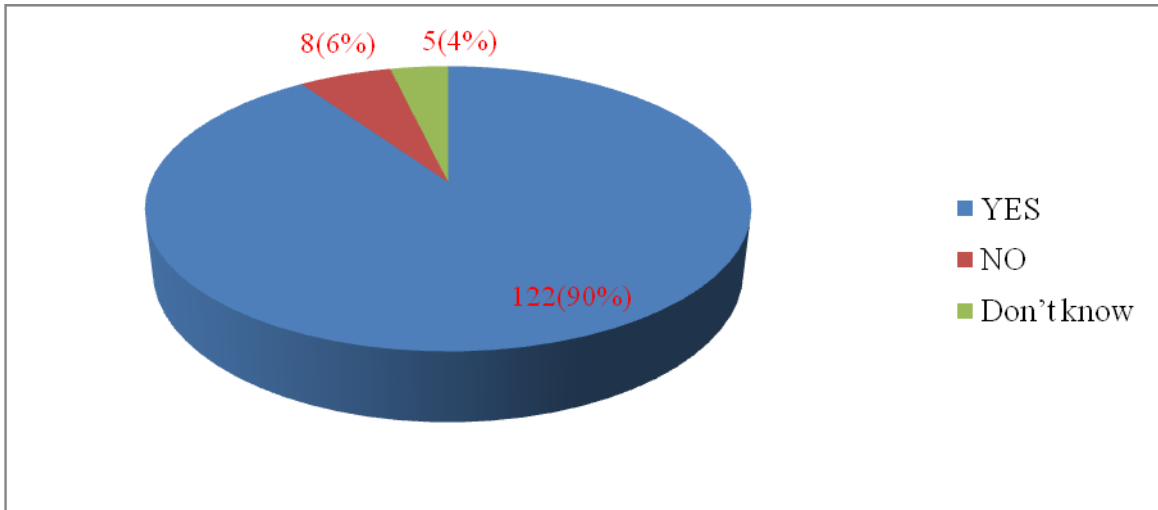
well as territorial disputes were also predictors of conflict. As also cited by 6(4%) respondents, electoral violence especially during electioneering period significantly contribute to insecurity. As tension increases between or among communities due to their preferred ethnic candidates for the county and national positions, alliance formation and counter-formation are often witnessed which heightens insecurity as candidates incite their supporters to violence.

#### **4.5.2 Implication of SALWs use on Human Security among the Rendille Community in Marsabit County, Kenya**

In relation to the Implication of SALWs use on Security among the Rendille Community in Marsabit County, Kenya, the researcher focused on various aspects of human security. As noted by Samiul (2015), human security broadly focuses on all dimensions of human life including economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political needs. This study only focused on food security, community and personal security, environmental security, health security and economic security.

##### **4.5.2.1 Implication of SALWs use on Food Security among the Rendille Community**

The research sought to find out respondents' view on how possession and use of SALWs affected food security, and their responses were as indicated in Figure 4.4



**Figure 4.4 Respondents' View Whether Possession and use of SALWs Affected Food Security**

**Source:** Author, 2020

From the data as indicated in figure 4.4, it was found out that 122(90%) respondents strongly agreed (YES) that possession and use of SALWs affected food security, 8(6%) said I did not (NO) while 5(4%) noted that they didn't know if it affected food security.

The study noted from those who agreed that possession and use of SALWs affect food security that, firstly, since most pastoralist communities mostly rely on livestock products such as milk and meat, the use of such weapons for instance through cattle rustling deprives family of access to their daily food provision. FGDs with local Rendille community elders noted that cattle rustling as outcome of use of firearms had contributed to poverty among various household where families were unable to feed their children, with increasing cases of child malnutrition. This finding affirms GOK (2017) *Smart Survey Report*, that poverty rate stands at 83.2% within the county. Owing to overreliance



on livestock as source of food, cattle rustling which had been observed as the most prevalent form of insecurity among the Rendille, significantly contributes to unpredictability in access to food (mainly milk and meat).

An interview with Key Informant from the NGO observed that insecurity attributed to possession and use of SALWs had affected distribution of relief food to the vulnerable members of the Rendille community. He quipped that;

*Lorries transporting relief food especially during dry seasons have often been ambushed by road bandits and all the food stuff looted. Most of the Humanitarian agencies have been forced to seek security support from the armed forces... (KI, Male, 51 years)*

Evident from the response was that efforts to supply humanitarian assistance during outbreak of famine associated with drought have been affected road banditry. A review of Police Occurrence Book established that most road banditry often involve use of assault rifles such as G3 and AK47. It was thus evident that SALWs possession and use affect food supply and by extension food security.

It was also noted that sedentary Rendille farmers living around Merille River and Serolivi in the South to Loyangalani as well as those living around Merti occasionally have their crops destroyed by livestock from the Samburu community or the Somali from Wajir County. FGD with local administration posit that during dry season, well armed Samburu *Morans* from Samburu County often cross the border to Marsabit wrecking havoc as they look for pastures and water for their livestock. Being a cross border community (living in Marsabit and Samburu counties), security officers often finds it challenging to control their movement. Destruction of crops often contributes to poor crop production, increase cost of farm produce and thus food insecurity among the Rendille community.

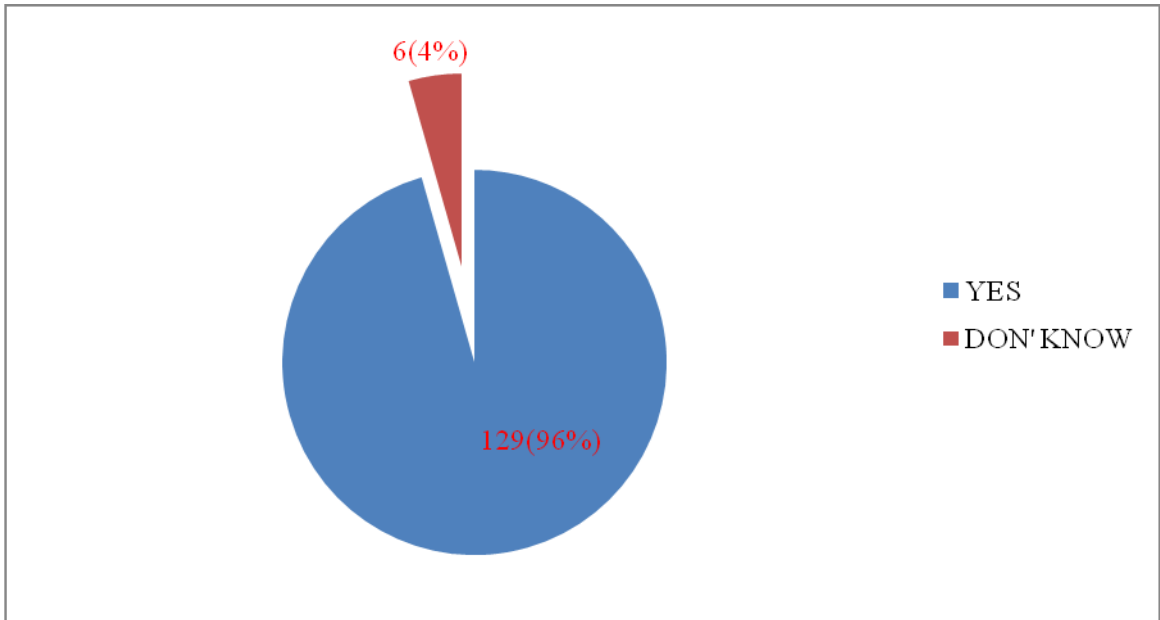
An interview with a Key Informant operating a grain shop (selling maize, wheat, rice, beans, lentils etc) in Laisamis town noted that the cost of doing business within the county was extremely high occasioned by long distance to the county headquarter (Marsabit town) to obtain business permit, and worse is the rampant road banditry against lorries transporting business stock from Isiolo or Meru. Consequently, the prices of various food commodities are high to cater for transport cost and security. He noted that;

*You have to travel to Nairobi to get stock at better prices despite the high cost of transport. Security is okay from Nairobi to Isiolo, but as you head to Leisamis, you need security support from the police or have your own 'Machines' together with your crew in the lorry... (KI, Male, 58 Years)*

It was established that the high food prices in the study area was exacerbated by insecurity related to road banditry. Further, it was noted that possession of illegal firearms especially by business operators was attributed to road banditry and thus; 'insecurity begets insecurity' and proliferation of SALWs.

#### **4.5.2.2 Implication of SALWs use on Community and Personal Security among the Rendille Community**

The research also sought to interrogate respondents' view on the implication of SALWs use on community and personal security among the Rendille Community and the findings were as indicated in Figure 4.5



**Figure 4.5 Implication of SALWs use on Community and Personal Security among the Rendille Community**

**Source:** Author, 2020

From the data as indicated in figure 4.5, 129(96%) respondents strongly agreed that possession and use of SALWs do have an impact on community and personal security, while only 6(4%) didn't know.

The study established that the use of SALWs among the Rendille community had contributed to several deaths. It was observed that confrontation with neighbouring armed communities such as the Borana and Samburu had contributed to loss of lives on both sides of the communities. FGD with the local administration noted whenever the Samburu *Morans* invades the Rendille, fierce fighting often occurs resulting to loss of lives and injuries on both the fighters as well as on the livestock. Additionally, local community elders noted that the use of SALWs had significantly led to increasing

number of disabilities resulting from injuries sustained during the fights. One of the local community elders quipped that;

*Some of the Rendille young men who went for cattle raiding in Samburu County in 2017 have never returned to date. Nobody knows whether they were arrested by the police, killed or captured by the Samburu, and their families have been in agony since then... (FGD, Male, 67 years)*

It was evident from the response during the FGD that the use of SALWs by the Rendille, against other communities such as the Samburu and Borana had also contributed to social disorganization of families where family members (*Morans*) disappear without a trace. It was also noted that teenage girls during such raids are sometimes abducted by the bandits for marriage. It was also raised by local administration that fierce retaliatory fights between the Rendille and other communities occasionally results in human displacement. Displacement of community members often affects other aspects of life such as schooling among primary school children and this explain poor performance as well as high dropout cases among children in both primary and secondary schools in Marsabit County. An interview with Key Informant from an NGO observed that primary schools are often used as temporary shelters during such fight as displaced persons have nowhere to go. She quipped that;

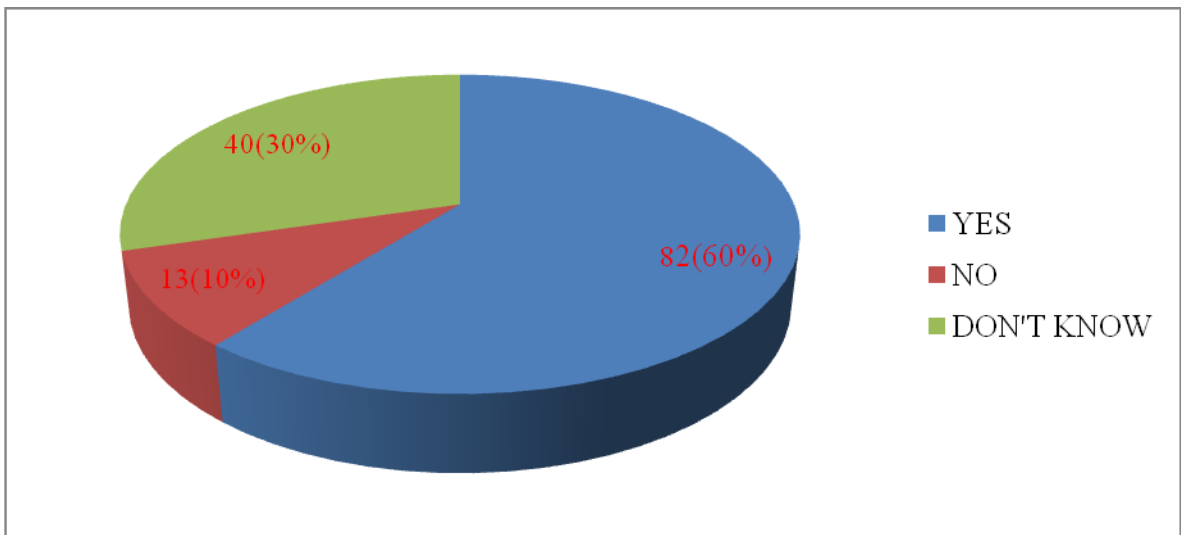
*Whenever the Rendille attacks the Borana or the Samburu (cattle raid), retaliatory attacks have always led to human displacement and destruction of property especially homesteads as most Rendille lives in groups sometimes based on clan(s)... KI, Female, Aged 48 years*

It was evident that the use of SALWs by Rendille during confrontational attacks with other communities has also lead to destruction of property where homesteads are burnt down and the community members forced to take cover in schools. The social

organization of families and community are often interrupted even as people resort to settle in less prone conflict areas.

#### 4.5.2.3 Implication of SALWs use on Environmental Security among the Rendille Community

Regarding the implication of SALWs use on environmental security, the researcher sought to find out the respondents' view and the findings were as indicated in Figure 4.6



**Figure 4.6 Implication of SALWs use on Environmental Security**

**Source:** Author, 2020

The findings as indicated in Figure 4.6 showed that 82(60%) respondents agreed that the use of SALWs among the Rendille community had impact on environmental security, 13(10%) said it did not have any impact while 40(30%) noted that they were not aware/sure if it had any implication.

Marsabit County is largely arid and semi arid land (ASAL) with scattered vegetation in most parts of the region and environmental conservation is thus necessary. From the study, it was observed that whenever there is an outbreak of inter-communal conflicts, members of the Rendille community are forced to flee with their thousands of livestock to safer areas. Local administration leaders noted that such mass movement of livestock and people often contributes to land degradation especially through soil erosion. Vegetation is often destroyed as animals move leaving the ground bare and susceptible to serious land denudation.

It was further noted that human displacement attributed to use of SALWs by the warring communities including the Rendille, weakens County and Green Movements' efforts to undertake land reclamation through afforestation program. Key Informant from the Green Movements (NGOs advocating for environmental conservation) noted that;

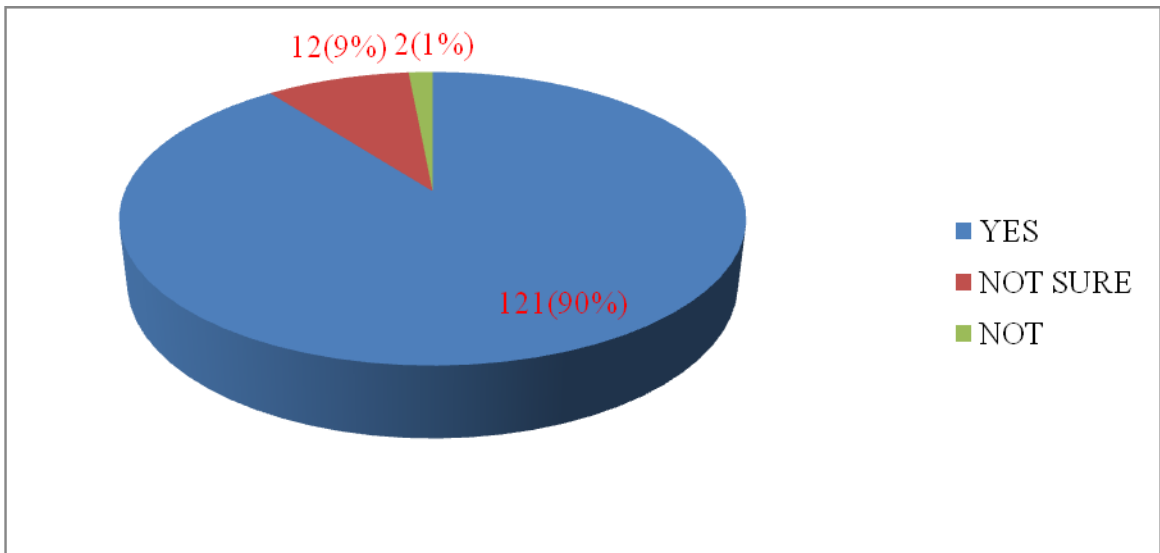
*Our efforts and that of the County government to increase vegetation cover through tree planting has often been affected by movement of animals in hundreds of thousand even as communities flees from inter-communal clashes... (KI, Female, 38 years)*

From the response, it was apparent that there were both county government and various Green Movements effort to improve vegetation cover, but the use of SALWs causing human displacement and migration with thousands of livestock significantly hampers their effort.

#### **4.5.2.4 Implication of SALWs Use on Health Security among the Rendille Community**

As outlined in the Fourth Schedule of the 2010 Constitution, health services is largely a devolved function and includes but not limited to maintenance of county health facilities,

promotion of primary health care, veterinary services and refuse removal, refuse dumps and solid waste disposal. The researcher sought to interrogate the respondents' view whether SALWs use affects health security among the Rendille Community in Marsabit County and the data were as indicated in Figure 4.7.



**Figure 4.7 Respondent Views on the Implication of SALWs Use on Health Security among the Rendille Community**

**Source:** Author, 2020

From the data as indicated in Figure 4.7 indicated that 121(90%) respondents strongly agreed that SALWs use had implications on health security, 12(9%) were not sure while 2(1%) noted that it did not have any implication.

The study noted that the respondents who had agreed that use of SALWs had implication on health security cited the inability to access maternal and child care services such as immunization and thus contributing to mortality rate. This finding affirms GOK (2017) *Smart Survey Report*, that infant/child mortality rate in the county was high and was

attributed to inability to access the health care services. Immunization programme meant to benefit infants had been disrupted as mothers could not regularly take their children for clinics. In addition, complications and deaths related to child birth were on the rise due to lack of medical assistance as most mother could only get such help from untrained traditional birth attendants. Key Informant from UNICEF operating in Laisamis expressed frustration that the use of SALWs among the Rendille had instilled fear among County field officers providing local medical support and thus denying the local access to medical access.

An interview with local administration leaders noted that inter-community conflicts involving the Rendille had affected the establishment of medical facilities at the grassroots level because of insecurity. He quipped that;

*Fear of ambush by the bandits especially by the medical personnel from the County has constrained the establishment of medical facilities in this area. Everybody feels so insecure.....(KI, Male, 52 years)*

Consequently, the locals were unable to access medical services because of the vastness of the county, remoteness of communities and long distances to any nearby medical facilities. The administrators noted that overcrowding as locals (mostly women children and the old) take refuge in facilities such as schools or medical facilities and especially during inter-communal conflict significantly contributed in the spread of communicable diseases and challenges related to human waste disposal. This was attributable to pressure on the limited facilities such as classrooms space and pit latrines which cannot gather for hundreds of internally displaced locals.

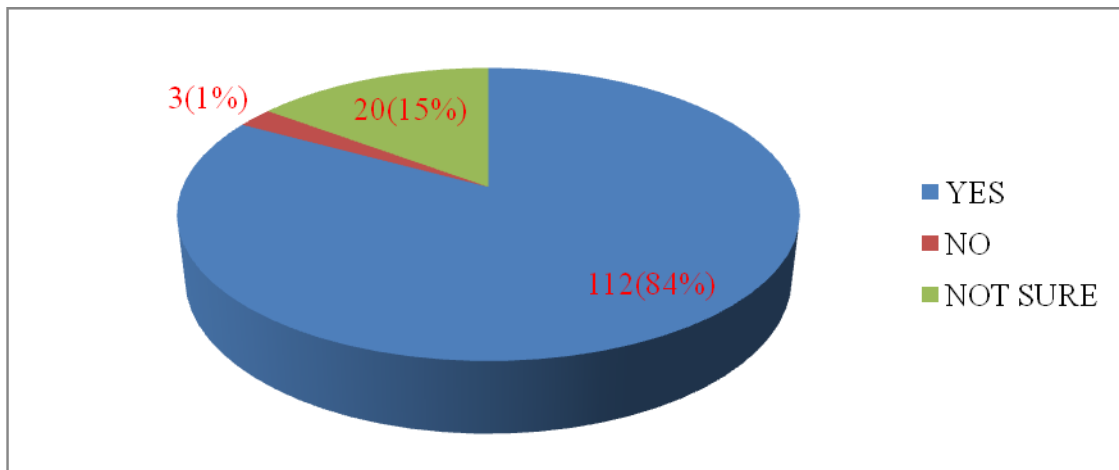
The study further noted that movement with thousands of cattle when inter-communal conflicts involving the Rendille occurs, make it difficult for the county field officers to



provide veterinary services in control of diseases such as Foot and Mouth disease, East Coast Fever and Swine Fever. Such diseases as noted by Sharamo (2014) significantly leads to death of several livestock and thus inflicting losses to the Rendille community.

#### 4.5.2.5 Implication of SALWs Use on Economic Security among the Rendille Community

As noted by GOK (2017) *Smart Survey Report*, over 85% of the Rendille community purely relies on pastoralism while 8 % relies on agro-pastoralism. The main source of income in the pastoral livelihood Zone inhabited by the Rendille is from the sale of livestock and livestock products, which accounts for about 85% of all county Income while in the Agro-pastoral livelihood Zone, livestock and food crop production account for 50% of all income. The researcher sought to interrogate the respondents' view whether the use of SALWs among the Rendille had any implication on economic security and the findings were as indicated in Figure 4.8



**Figure 4.8 Respondents' View Whether the Use of SALWs among the Rendille had any Implication on Economic Security**

Source: Author, 2020

As indicated in Figure 4.8, it was noted that 112(84%) respondents strongly agreed that the use of SALWs among the Rendille, had implication of economic security, 20(15%) were not sure while 3(1%) cited that it did not have any implication.

The study established that possession and use of firearms among the Rendille negatively affected the sale of livestock and livestock products such as milk, meat and hides which was a significant source of income to both the Rendille community as well as the County government (from taxes imposed at the livestock market yard). An interview with local political leader noted that other than the capitation that the County government receives from the national treasury, county revenue collected from the sale of livestock which accounted up to 85% of all county Income was continuously fluctuating. By extension, other services that the county government was to provide were getting affected due to the failure to meet the projected county revenue collection. An FGD with the local community leaders noted that some of the agro-pastoral Rendille could not sell the farm produce such as pawpaw, Melons, onions, bananas since displacement and the movement of animals emerging from inter-communal conflicts would lead to destruction of their farms or the crops rotting in the farms due to failure to harvest.

An interview with Key Informant noted that the cost of running a business was always high because of road banditry, poor transport as the county cannot maintain road infrastructure due to vastness of the county and insecurity. Additionally, widespread use of SALWs had discouraged investors because of insecurity. A senior security officer (identity withheld) in an interview noted that;

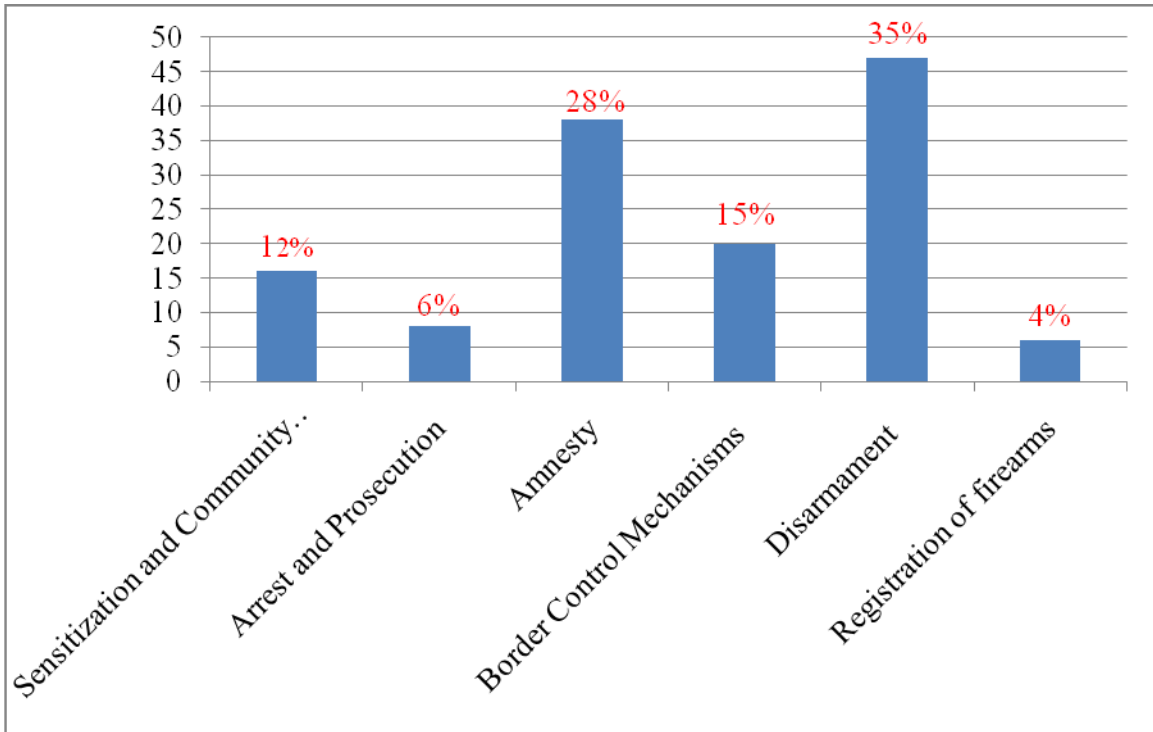
*While most people are suffering from use of firearms for instance in cattle rustling and inter-communal conflict, there are local criminal syndicate comprising of business operators and politicians who are largely benefiting*

*through commercialized raids, arms sale and political mileage... (KI, Male, 52 years)*

While most of the Rendille community members were negatively affected by use of SALWs for instance during cattle rustling and inter-community conflicts, it emerged that some business operators and political leaders were reaping a lot of economic benefits out of the conflict. It was noted that the local criminal enterprise were either engaged in incitement for political mileage or involved in the sale of arms through proxies. This finding confirms the *Devil's theory of War* as propounded by Charles Beard in 1969 that the various socio-economic and political crisis are sometimes not a natural occurrences but orchestrated by evil men for their individual or group interests.

#### **4.6 Approaches to Minimize Proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille Community in Marsabit County, Kenya**

In relation to the third research objective, the study sought to determine the approaches to minimize proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille community in Marsabit County, and the findings were as indicated in Figure 4.9



**Figure 4.9 Approaches to Minimize Proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille Community**

**Source:** Author, 2020

From the findings as indicated in Figure 4.9, 16(12%) respondents cited the need for sensitization and community policing, 8(6%) noted the need to arrest and prosecute those in possession of illegal SALWs, while 38(28.1%) respondents cited amnesty. Border control mechanisms was raised by 20(15%) respondents, 47(35%) cited the need for disarmament, while 6(4%) respondents were in support of registration of all firearms in the hands of the Rendille community.

#### **4.6.1 Community Sensitization and Community Policing Strategy**

As a strategy to minimize proliferation of illegal SALWs, 16(12%) respondents cited this strategy. FGDs with the local community elders noted that sensitization on the illegality

of possession and use of SALWs had never been done. In Kenya, there are comprehensive laws regarding possession and use of firearms such as the Firearms Act sections 4A, 22 and 26A, Penal Code Section 88 and 89, the National police service Act Chapter 84 section 64 as well as several international treaties against proliferation of SALWs. It was established that majority of the Rendille community members were ignorant of such legislations and treaties, yet would still seek to acquire firearms unless their community security was guaranteed by the national security forces. An interview with senior security officer at the county noted that;

*We have always endeavored to raise awareness campaigns on illegality of firearms possession and use through public barazas but the County is so vast and communities are sometimes on the move. This has been challenging to reach out to most of the community members.... (KI, Male, 54 years)*

From the response, it was apparent that efforts were underway on community sensitization but was often hampered by the vastness of the county, nomadic life (movement from place to place) as well as suspicion among the locals. The Key Informant noted that suspicion by the local Rendille community members was a setback on community policing since community trust was paramount. As noted by Sabala, (2013), sensitization of the community on regulations regarding use of firearms is a critical step in addressing proliferation of SALWs. They noted that sensitization enables the security enforcement officers to win community trust and consequently to partner with the community through community policy. This was however, lacking among the Rendille community in Marsabit County and thus the need to emphasize on it in the fight against illicit SALWs.

#### 4.6.2 Arrest and Prosecution of Illegal Firearms Holders

From the study, 8(6%) respondents emphasized on the need to arrest and prosecute all illegal firearms holders as a deterrence measure. The draft National Policy on SALWs prepared by the KNFP provides for illegal firearms possession to be treated as a crime and Article 4(3) of the Firearms Act prescribe a penalty of between seven and 15 years' imprisonment for illegal firearm and/or ammunition possession (Miller et.al 2016). An interview with a key informant from the local NGO noted that such a strategy may be difficult to implement among the Rendille as most community members maintain secrecy on possession of firearms. Records from the office of the DCIO however indicated that a number of illegal firearms holders who were mostly arrested during road banditry had been arrested and successfully prosecuted, and this was based on a tip-off from a member of the public that some young men were hiding in a nearby bush with guns. He quipped;

*Through a member of the public, we were able to arrest 3 road bandits who were preparing to ambush road users and rob them of their belonging. We are encouraging the public to participate in this fight against illegal possession of firearms and in the fight against crime... (KI, Male, 52years)*

FGD with the local administration noted that in an environment where most of the neighbouring communities are equally in possession of firearms, vast and remote nature of the county and characterized by nomadic life, it was always a challenge for law enforcement officers to make any arrest. This proved as a challenge in the implementation of the comprehensive domestic laws and policies such as Firearms Act, Penal Code and the National Police Service Act against proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille in Marsabit County. It was however found out that to make success of the strategy, community policing must first be operationalized and thus be able to make arrests of illegal firearms holders.

#### **4.6.3 Granting Amnesty to Illegal Holders of SALWs among the Rendille**

Granting amnesty was cited by 38(28%) respondents as a strategy to mitigate proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille in Marsabit County. Derived from the Greek word *amnestia*, which means to overlook, amnesty is a lawful strategy that destroys the past deeds by lifting the likelihood of discipline for the individual responsible for the misdeeds. In this study, FGDs with the local community as well as local administration officer noted that the strategy had been very successful as it allowed the Rendille community members to voluntarily surrender the illegally owned firearms. One of the local community elders noted;

*Most of the community members often willing to voluntarily surrender their firearms to authorities especially when inter-community conflicts have subsided...*  
(FGD, Male 66 years)

It was apparent from the FGD, that members of the Rendille community were willing to voluntarily surrender their weapons especially when there is adequate security in their locale. Evident was the need to boost security to the Rendille by establishing several police posts, which will consequently reduces cases of cattle rustling and community armament. As noted by Alley (2019), amnesty has yielded fruits in reducing proliferation of SALWs in Eritrea and Nigeria especially when the government security forces steps in to provide adequate security to communities that had been feeling threatened by hostile neighbours. In Nigeria for instance, the programme was initiated by President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua in 2009, and was to operate within a time frame of August 6 to October 4, 2009 (60 days). The amnesty programme was very successful and resulted in the demobilization of 30,000 militants, 2,760 guns of different forms, 287,445 rounds of ammunition, 18 gun boats, 763 explosives and 1,090 dynamites caps were recovered. In this study, it was evident from the respondents that amnesty was the best mitigative

approach against proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille community as long as their security was guaranteed by the government security forces.

#### **4.6.4 Well Established Border Control Mechanisms**

As a strategy to mitigate proliferation of SALWs, it was cited by 20(15%) respondents in the study. The challenge of border porosity is a shared regional concern and as noted by this study, SALWs trafficking occur around Kenyan borderlands and with the neighbouring countries being sources of arms in Kenya. As noted in Figure 4.2(A Construct Model of Arms Traffic Flow to the Rendille community), Trans-national identities and nomadic nature of borderland communities such as the pokot, Teso (to Kenya-Uganda), Turkana (to Kenya-South Sudan), Gabbra, Oromo (Kenya-Ethiopia), Somali and Gabbra (to Somalia) have often contributed in arms traffic flow to Kenya from troubled neighbouring states.

FGD with the local community elders noted that all the firearms generally in the Northern Frontier Counties were sourced outside the country and any effort to address SALWs proliferation must start with sealing all the border point and arms traffic routes. One of the elders noted that;

*While it's a challenge to address the issue of trans-border communities, we need to have all entry routes sealed to stop smuggling then the government can give amnesty to people in possession of firearms. We believe all communities can peacefully live together despite their nomadic life... (FGD, Male, 64years)*

It was apparent from the response that smuggling of SALWs was attributed to porous border. By having well establishment border control mechanisms to stop smuggling of SALWs in the region, it will allow other strategies such as amnesty to be adopted as community security will be better managed. Local administrators expressed optimism



that it was possible for the Kenya security agencies such as by Kenya Defense Forces to monitor and manage Kenyan borders as was already the case with the Kenyan-Somalia case where a fence stretching for up to 700 Kilometers was under construction. Although it is costly to have comprehensive border control mechanisms, they are needed in order to combat organized cross-border crime and small arms trafficking, among other crimes. Such efforts however, would have to contend with the transnational identities of groups along the frontiers. The fact that some community members' kinship ties know no borders means such groups would always have connections to multiple countries.

#### **4.6.5 Comprehensive and Joint Disarmament Exercise**

As a strategy to address proliferation of SAWLs, it was widely supported by 47(35%) respondents as the most effective approach. Disarmament focuses on reducing, controlling, and eliminating weapons of all kinds in order to undermine militarism and prevent armed conflict and armed violence. It was noted that unlike past disarmament exercise that largely adopted the use of force to retrieve weapons from the community members, the respondents emphasized on a joint effort combining support from the NGOs, Civil Society Groups, the Media, the military and the citizens as key stake holders. An interview with local community elders noted that;

*People are afraid of forceful disarmament but we wish the government to adopt a more human approach where community members are treated as equal stakeholders just like the NGOs and other players and should not target Rendille alone but all the communities in the region. After all, it the community members who know where the weapons are found... (FGD, Male, 69 years)*

It was established that past disarmament exercises (such as *Operesheni Dumisha Amani*) for instance in Wajir and Mandera targeted specific community which left them vulnerable susceptible to attacks from the neighbours who were still having firearms and

insecurity increased rather than decreasing. Key Informant from local NGO noted that cases of human rights abuse had previously been witnessed when aggressive disarmament exercise was conducted against the Borana. In relation to disarmament of the Rendille, the Informant noted that it was imperative to underscore the fact that mere arms recovery should not be the aim of disarmament operations. Instead, there should be attendant gains in a reduction of supply and demand factors feeding arms proliferation—including, but not limited to, boosting security in affected areas. An interview with local political leaders noted that;

*Aggressive disarmament against Rendille must be avoid and instead target the entire Northern pastoral communities. All stakeholders should be involved and must involve managing border movement to stop further supply of firearms from neighbouring countries. The government should also provide maximum security to every community and avoid marginalization... (KI, Male, 56years)*

While discouraging forceful/aggressive disarmament, the informant (representing local political leaders) emphasized on active stakeholders involvement before the exercise, and the exercise should target all the pastoral communities in the Northern Frontier Counties as opposed to targeting a specific community. He noted that targeted disarmament leaves the community vulnerable to attacks from the neighbouring armed communities. Additionally, emphasis was also put on the need to seal the Kenyan border to stop inflow traffic of arms from the neighbouring states and the government of the republic of Kenya must first guarantee security to all communities including the Rendille. It was thus evident in this study that with proper border controls, stakeholders involvement and guarantee of community security, disarmament is also a key strategy towards mitigating proliferation of SALWs.

#### 4.6.6 Registration of All Firearms in the Hands of the Rendille Community

This strategy was cited by 6(4%) respondents as a mitigative approach towards minimizing proliferation of SALWs. It was established through FGD and Key Informant that most of the local community elders and political leaders were in support of the strategy based on the argument that other communities were already armed. They observed that as a deterrence measure, the community can have their firearms registered for the purpose of accountability on its use. However, if the government disarm all the communities in the Northern Frontier Counties and provide adequate security, then the communities can subsequently surrender all their arms. Interview with a Key Informant (local political leaders) noted that;

*The government should engage the Rendille as part of disarmament stakeholder then provide security to all communities in the region. Before that, the locals can be asked to register their firearms with government for accountability on its use...*  
(KI, Male, 56 years)

It was evident from the response that the precursor for such a strategy was insecurity in the region which if adequately addressed, then no community should be in possession of firearms. This strategy of firearms registration with the locals be successful in countries such as USA, Switzerland, Norway and Panama. An interview with senior security officer from DCIO noted that;

*We have regulations regarding lawful possession of firearms in Kenya such as the Firearms Act sections 4A, 22 and 26A, Penal Code Section 88 and 89, the National police service Act Chapter 84 section 64 as well as several international treaties and which must be adhered to in order to enhance security to all citizens. Unless they are revised, such laws must strictly be followed...* (KI, Male, 52years)

While expressing a dissenting view regarding registration of firearms to Rendille in such a highly volatile environment, the Key Informant emphasized on the need to uphold existing laws on possession and use of firearms as set out in various legislations. It was

noted that to have the strategy actualized, legislation can be revised and before such is done, the objective will be to provide security to all communities including the Rendille.

#### **4.6.7 Other Pragmatic Community Approaches**

Various Focused Group Discussions with the local administration leaders noted that the Civil Society Organizations such as the NGOs, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBO) were influential and could be engaged in persuading the locals to lay down their arms. The study for instance observed that World Vision (K) which is an international NGO operating in Marsabit County had been working with the Rendille community in efforts to provide education, water and sanitation, relief food and even engaging in irrigation farming. Through such efforts, sedentary life as opposed to nomadic pastoralism can help in minimizing proliferation of SALW. Other CSOs such as FBOs can serve as means of reaching out to the Rendille community to sensitize them on the implication of possession and use of SALWs.

The local community elders also cited inter-community cultural exchange programmes which can be adopted in order to diffuse tension that exists among the pastoralist communities for instance between the Borana and the Rendille. One elder noted that;

*Through inter-community activities such as camel racing and cultural festivals, communities will learn to appreciate each other and eliminate tensions between them. Building confidence in each other is a step towards a peaceful resolution of differences as opposed to armament as a defense strategy... (FGD, Male, 69years)*

It was evident that inter-communal activities such as camel racing and cultural festival could be adopted as avenues of diffusion inter-communal tensions and which help to build trust. This was a strategy that was also lauded by the local administration and county security agencies. A senior security officer from the County cited the case of

annual Tecla Lorupe Peace Race Marathon (10 Kilometres) in West Pokot County which annually brought the warriors, local community leaders, county political leaders and children from Pokot, Samburu and Marakwet communities together. First held in 2003, the event had significantly contributed in building mutual trust and reduction of cattle rustling among the three communities since the start of the event in 2003.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary of the major findings of the study, conclusion and recommendations.

#### 5.2 Summary of Findings

The study sought to interrogate the influence of small arms and light weapons possession on security among the Rendille community of Marsabit County, Kenya and was guided by the following objectives; To determine the factors that contributes to the proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille community in Marsabit County, to assess the implication of SALWs possession on security among the Rendille community in Marsabit County and to determine the approaches to minimize proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille community in Marsabit County.

The study was guided by the Open System Theory propounded by von Bertalanffy in (1962) and Relative Deprivation Theory (RDT) propounded by Samuel Stoufferin 1949. The research was conducted between March, 2019 and March, 2020 using a descriptive survey research design. The study targeted 477 people drawn from the Rendille Community, Ministry of Interior and National Coordination and Non-Governmental Organizations and from which a sample size of 150 respondents participated in the study. Questionnaires, interview schedules and Focused Group were used in collection of primary data which was incorporated with already existing secondary data.

Convergent parallel mixed method (combined qualitative and quantitative method) of data analysis was used in analysis and presentation of the findings, and with a response rate of 90% (135 respondents), the following subsequent sub-sections presents a summary of major findings of the objectives of the study.

### **5.2.1 Factors that Contributes to Proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille community in Marsabit County, Kenya**

First, the findings indicated that SALWs are sourced from the neighbouring countries, intercommunity trade, confiscated from neighboring communities, politicians and businessmen supply weapons for them. Secondly, the study also noted that the factors contributing to proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille community included the readiness for cattle rustling in the region, conflict over resources, revenge attacks (counter-offensive strategy), boundary disputes, inter-ethnic conflicts and political differences among the various ethnic groups living in county.

Based on the findings, the study was able to ascertain that most of the SALW by the Rendille community are sourced through Trans-national border trade (neighbouring countries), intercommunity trade, confiscating from neighboring communities while others supplied by local politicians. In addition, major factors contributing to proliferation of small arms and light weapons among the Rendille community to include the readiness for revenge attacks (counter-offensive strategy), conflict over resources, boundary disputes, cattle rustling, inter-ethnic conflicts, and political differences among the various ethnic groups living in the County.

### **5.2.2 The Implication of SALWs Possession on Security among the Rendille Community in Marsabit County, Kenya**

The study first sought to identify the most prevalent insecurity related to possession of SALWs among the Rendille community and it was established that cattle rustling, highway/roadside banditry, inter community attacks and electoral violence were the most prevalent forms. Secondly, the study focused on the implication of SALWs possession in relation to food security, community and personal security, environmental security, health security and economic security. From the findings, it was found out that the negative implication on food security included depriving pastoral families of access to their daily food access such as milk and meat (e.g. cattle stolen through cattle rustling), affected distribution of relief food to the vulnerable members of the Rendille community for instance by Humanitarian Agencies or government, destruction of crops during movement and leading to poor crop production, and increased cost of farm produce affecting affordability by locals.

Regarding community and personal security, the use of SALWs among the Rendille community had contributed to several deaths and serious injuries leading to disabilities, social disorganization of families where family members (*Morans*) disappear without a trace, displacement of community members often affects other aspects of life such as schooling among primary and secondary school children, as well as destruction of property where homesteads are burnt down and the community members forced to take cover in schools

In relation to the impacts of SALWs among the Rendille community on environmental security, the study noted that mass movement of livestock and people often contributes to



land degradation especially through soil erosion, vegetation is often destroyed as animals move leaving the ground bare and susceptible to serious land denudation, and efforts to undertake land reclamation through afforestation program is greatly affected given the background that the County is largely ASAL.

Regarding use of SALWs on health security, the study established that the use of SALWs contributed to inability to access maternal and child care services and thus leading to mortality rate, birth complications and deaths among mothers attributed to inability to access medical assistance/help, affected the establishment of medical facilities at the grassroots level because of insecurity, overcrowding as locals (mostly women children and the old) take refuge in facilities such as schools or medical facilities leading to spread of communicable diseases and challenges related to human waste disposal.

Lastly, with regard to SALWs possession and economic security, the study established that possession and use of firearms affected the sale of livestock and livestock products which are a significant source of income to both the Rendille community as well as the County government, inability to sell farm produce as members of the Rendille are displaced during fighting and the cost of running a business was high because of road banditry and poor road infrastructure. While most of the Rendille community members were negatively affected by use of SALWs, it emerged that some business operators and political leaders were reaping a lot of economic benefits through commercialized cattle rustling, political mileage through incitement as well as sale of arms through proxies.

Based on the finding, this study established that, with prevalent crimes such as highway/roadside banditry, cattle rustling, inter-community attacks and electoral violence

associated with use of small arms and light weapons, various aspects of human security were greatly affected including food security, community and personal security, environmental security, health security and economic security had been negatively affected in the study area.

### **5.2.3 Approaches to Control Proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille Community in Marsabit County, Kenya**

As approaches aimed at controlling proliferation of SALWs the findings noted on the need for sensitization and community policing, arrest and prosecute those in possession of illegal SALWs, as well as granting of amnesty. Other measures cited included border control mechanisms, the need for disarmament, as well as support of registration of all firearms in the hands of the Rendille community. On sensitization and community policing, the study noted that it had not been done on the illegality of possession and use of SALWs, and in line with the Firearms Act sections 4A, 22 and 26A, Penal Code Section 88 and 89, the National police service Act Chapter 84 section 64 as well as international treaties against proliferation of SALWs. It was thus necessary to do so and earn community trust, the community policing can be effective.

Regarding arrest and Prosecution of Illegal Firearms Holders, it was noted that community policing and sensitization must first be operationalized. There must also be a guarantee of security to the Rendille community. Granting amnesty was cited as the most effective way to mitigate proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille in Marsabit County and which should be accompanied by well established border control mechanisms and joint and comprehensive disarmament of all the communities in the Northern Frontier

Counties. The study further noted that inter-communal activities such as cultural festivals and camel racing were also strategies to be considered.

Based on the findings of the study, it was noted that addressing SALWs required a multi-faceted approach such as community sensitization and community policing, arrest and prosecution of illegal holders of firearms, amnesty, proper border control mechanisms, disarmament and registration of all illegal firearms holders were cited as strategies to mitigate proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Effective implementation of these approaches will significantly reduce proliferation of SALWs as well as related negative impacts among the Rendille community.

### **5.3 Conclusion**

The research study sought to interrogate the influence of SALWs possession on security among the Rendille in Marsabit County, Kenya, with a specific focus on the factors contributing to proliferation of SALWs, the implication of use of SALWs on security and the mitigative measures to reduce proliferation of SALWs. The major conclusions of this study are presented by examining the outcome of each research question in the order they were stated (in Chapter One).

Based on the findings, first, it can be concluded that with major sources of SALWs being neighbouring states, intercommunity trade, confiscation from neighboring communities and politicians and businessmen, the readiness for revenge attacks (counter-offensive strategy), conflict over resources, boundary disputes, cattle rustling in the region, inter-ethnic conflicts and political differences among the various ethnic groups living in Marsabit County have significantly contributed to the proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille community.

Secondly, with crimes such as highway/roadside banditry, cattle rustling, inter-community attacks and electoral violence being prevalent in the study area, food security, community and personal security, environmental security, health security and economic security have greatly been negatively affected. Thirdly, in order to enhance community security in the study area, sensitization and community policing, arrest and prosecution of illegal SALWs holders, amnesty, well established border control mechanisms, joint and comprehensive disarmament as well as registration of all firearms in the hands of the Rendille community must be effected and operationalized.

## **5.4 Recommendations**

The subsequent sections highlights on the policy recommendations and recommended areas for future research.

### **5.4.1 Policy Recommendations**

The research study sought to interrogate the influence of SALWs possession on security among the Rendille in Marsabit County, Kenya. Recommendations made here are derived from the key findings of this research and includes the following;

The government should recruit, equip and deploy adequate security personnel to Marsabit County and by extension, the entire Northern Frontier Counties in order to provide the requisite security and secure the porous borders from arms traffic flow. In partnership with the county government, the national security agencies should establish a partnership framework to help guide and coordinate efforts to monitor, control and reduce the proliferation of SALWs in the region.

The national government in partnership with the Northern Frontier Counties should establish a broad based monitoring, reporting and cooperation framework for early

warning and early response integrating the members of the public through initiatives such as community policing and *Nyumba Kumi* initiatives. Further there is need to engage community leaders in curbing illicit arms trafficking through the identification of gun runners, trafficking routes and gun markets.

Improving terms and conditions of law enforcers, properly equipping them in terms of intelligence gathering and all response capabilities will significantly contribute in dealing with illegal arms. This can involve improving road infrastructure in Marsabit County to open up the entire region in terms of economic activities and also enhance border control mechanisms.

With the help of the County Government of Marsabit, the national government can identify development projects that provide an alternative source of income to the pastoralist communities. Alternative income generating projects especially to the youth will help curb cattle rustling which has been a key factor contributing to proliferation of SALWs in the region.

#### **5.4.2 Recommended Areas for Future Research**

Drawing from the findings of this study, a number of issues are recommended for further research. The pursuit of these issues may facilitate better and more effective intervention strategies in addressing proliferation of SALWs in Kenya and other parts of the world. Suggested areas are on; the implication of primordial social linkages among the Transnational border communities in proliferation of small arms and light weapons. The focus should be on how blood ties, clanism, extended family relation, ancestry creates networks that allow movement of SALWs across borders. Lastly further studies can also

be done on the role of refugees' influx from the Horn of African states on arms traffic flow to the Northern Frontier region of Kenya.

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## APPENDICES

**Appendix 1:** Sampled Cases of Stock Theft and Highway/Road Banditry Reports (from Police OB) Involving Rendille Community in Marsabit County, Kenya

**DATE 17/6/2019**

### **Stock Theft Recovery**

MOHAMMED SALAD ALI a Somali male aged 50 years telephone Number 0720307514 accompanied by local chief NOORGOS location Mr. Rashid Salad Mohammed Tel. 07274xx218, assistant chief of GarseKoftu sub-location Mr, Ahmed BisharaHusseain Tel. 071027xx10 and one elder by the name of Omar Aden Bale Tel. 0728094008.

They were from Wajir County and they were complaining that on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at SAPARUWAHI areas within Marsabit County Map Reference AK 500540 about 50kms west of Laisamis police station unknown people believed to be from Rendille Community armed with Rifles, stole thirty two camels valued at two (2) million shillings.

**1/8/2019**

### **Stock Theft Recovery**

Kenya police and Kenya Police reserves all under the command of the OCPD assisted by his OCS Laisamis left Laisamis police station on 29/7/2019 and managed to recover 38 cattle alive and one dead at Marti Leparea, Noonkeer area within Samburu east sub-county after fierce exchange of fire with the raiders. The security team tracked the raiders for three consecutive days from Logologo division, Laisamis of Marsabit south sub-county before catching up with the rustles. The team extended Ammos. The recovered animals were escorted to Laisamis police station to be returned to the owners.

**14/8/2019**

### **Stock theft**

Mr. Lengin Lekalaille of mobile Phone 0711xx7849 and Lepakiyo Nturi both Rendille male adults reported that on 14/8/2019 at Merille market within Marsabit county, Marsabit south sub-county Map Ref. AK 270610 west of the police station. They claimed that they were attacked while guarding twenty (20) camels after they purchased them in the open market at Merille by two armed men with rifles suspected to be Samburu morans who stole Eight (8) camels valued at four hundred thousand shillings (400,000) and drove them towards Kamatonyi location direction which neighbours Samburu County.

A team comprising of General duty, GSU stationed at Merille and assisted by rangers dispatched to pursue the same.

**19/8/2019**

**Recovery of stock**

OCS Isiolo and incharge Merille police post have been informed that the six stolen camels at Kom area of Laisamis police station in Marsabit south sub-county were recovered after a shootout by GSU based at Merille and rangers on 18/8/2019 within Kamatonyi area of Laisamis police station. No injury on the security side. The camels were escorted to Sereolupa by GSU Merille and OCS Sereolupi in company of the owner Mr. Salah Hussein of Tel. 07114xx699 and Mr. Mihame Mohammed of Tel. 070xx61160.

**21/9/2019**

**Stolen Stock**

Mr. Noor Abdi a Somali adule tel. 07234xx455 Chief Griftu location of Wajir west and Omar GendiAbdi Somali male adult No. 071xx16246 owner of the stolen stock that on 20/9/2019 unknown number of raiders stole Ten (10) camels at Sabar-wawa are of Marti Isiolo county. The herders tracked and managed to recover three (3) camels and the footmarks led them to Koya area of Marsabit south sub-county and dominated by the Rendille community.

**21/9/2019**

**Attempted Stock Theft**

Mr. Rashid Salat Mohammed a Somali adult Tel. No. 97274xx218 chief Noorgowa location of Wajir west reported that on 21/9/2019 his herdsmen were attacked by eight (8) rustlers (morans) within Koya grazing fields in Koya location of Marsabit south sub-county. A shootout ensued and one Somali herdsman namely Hussein Khalif was shot to the left arm. The rustlers who were believed to be Rendilles were overpowered and disappeared in the bush. Nothing was stolen.

**29/10/2019**

**Stock Theft Report**

Mr. Galgocho Korima a Rendille male adult and a resident of Trigamo sub-location, Koya location of Laisamis Marsabit south sub-county of Tel. no. 07468xx487 map reference AK 436760 about 10kms east of the station reported that on 28/10/2019 his son namely Liuchulwa Korima a Rendille male adult aged 17 years was herding his 40 heads of camels valued at Ksh 300,000/= went missing with the said camels. Efforts was made by the locals to trace the said herder and the camels bore no fruits as they intercepted the camels footmarks and found six (6) people foot marks showing the camels were being driven by six raiders towards Wajir west direction. Combine team of Kenya police service, GSU, Rangers and DCI under the command of OCS Laisamis traced the herder and camels. They found the body of the herder lying dead in a pool of blood with deep cuts on the neck at Trigamo grazing field. The rustlers were from Somali from Wajir west sub-county.

**30/12/2019**

**Stock Theft**

At Logologo location in Marsabit south sub-county of map reference AK 390616 at about 52kms north of Laisamis police station. Mr. Lesupuko Lekopir a Rendille male adult aged 46 years and resides at Hulahula location reported that his one cow valued at Ksh 30,000/= was stolen in the grazing field. The officers followed and arrested one Mr. Lkipelian Lekhoyan a Rendille aged 30 years with a rifle AK47 in his possession. The cow was recovered.

**30/3/2020**

**Road Banditry /Attempted Robbery**

Mr. Hassan Ibrahim Mohammed of BeiRahisi store Korr location Marsabit south sub-county of Tel. No. 07228xx442 that on 30/3/2020 he was driving a motor vehicle registration No. KBZ 871V Mistubishi lorry from Namarei to Korr after selling shop goods and upon reaching Debosslaga map reference AK 390616 about 65kms west of Laisamis police station he was attacked by two morans armed with G3 rifles who fired at him hitting his lorry radiator and windscreen. He drove off and stopped after several kilometers away.

**16/3/2020**

**Highway Banditry attack/stock theft report**

On 16/3/2020 at Laisamis police station Mr. Hirbo Ali reported that he was driving a motor vehicle registration number KCH 102K Mistubishi lorry from Moyale to Nairobi with 26 heads of cattle. On reaching Moile area map reference AK 340760 about 16 kms south of Laisamis police station which is in Marsabit south sub-county, he was attacked by about eight (8) men armed with rifles and fired at him and punctured the front tyres of the lorry forcing him to stop. They robbed him of Eleven (11) heads of cattle valued at Ksh440,000/= .The bandits who were Rendilles fled towards Losidan general direction which is in Marsabit south sub-county.

**28/3/2020**

**Shooting incidence/highway banditry**

A report was made at Laisamis police station by AbdubaJida Borana male adult aged 45 years and a driver of a motor vehicle registration number KCE 183A Mistubishi Fuso ferrying (19) camels from Moyale to Nairobi when they reached Malgis area map reference AK 340760 20kms north of Laisamis police station, they were attacked by six (6) gunmen. Two in military smoke jackets and armed with G3 rifles. All the attackers had worn Rendille shukas. The thugs offloaded 15 camels from the motor vehicle. Police officers got the information and pursued them. Shooting ensued between the police and the thugs/robbers.

**30/4/2020**

**Recovery of Stolen Livestock**

A multi-agency security team comprising of Kenya police service, GSU, RDU assisted by the Rangers and Logologo chief managed to recover 15 heads of cattle at Soriadi area along malgis river map reference AK 290616 about 10 kilometers west of Laisamis police station after a brief exchange of fire with the raiders. The theft had been reported at Shurr police post. They were sported to be Rendille morans.

**Appendix II: Introductory Letter**

**Dear Respondent,**

I am a Master of Arts Student in Public Policy and Administration at Maasai Mara University carrying out a study on “*The Influence of Small Arms and Light Weapons Possession on Security among the Rendille Community in Marsabit County, Kenya*”. This research is purely academic and your contribution is highly appreciated. I kindly request you to answer the questions below to the best of your knowledge and be assured that information given will be handled confidentially and for the purpose of this study only. *(Please circle or tick the appropriate answer.*

I agree to participate in this study.....date.....

Thanks for accepting to participate in this study.

Thank you in advance

**Mr. Issac Meme**

**MA Student, Maasai Mara University**



### Appendix III: Questionnaire

#### SECTION A: Demographic Characteristics

1. Sub County/Constituency .....
2. Please indicate your Gender      Male       Female       Unisex
3. Indicate your age bracket? 18-35 yrs  36-53 yrs  54-71 yrs  Above 72yrs
4. Your marital status;    Single     Married     Widow/ Widower   
    Separated/Divorced
5. Highest level of education completed; Primary     Secondary     Diploma   
    Bachelor's Degree     Post Graduate Degree     None
6. What is your religious denomination?    Catholic     Protestant     Islam   
    Hindu     Sikh     Others (**Specify**).....

#### SECTION B: Factors that Contributes to the Proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille Community in Marsabit County

7. a) How are members of the Rendille community able to get firearms for use?

Source Of Firearms Among the Rendille Community	Responses
Neighbouring countries,	YES [ ]    NO [ ]
Intercommunity trade	YES [ ]    NO [ ]
Confiscated from neighboring communities	YES [ ]    NO [ ]
Politicians supply weapons	YES [ ]    NO [ ]
Inheritance	YES [ ]    NO [ ]

Give your general comment regarding your answers in 7(a) above

.....

.....

.....  
 .....  
 b) Which are the prevalent types of SALWs used by the Rendille community?  
 .....  
 .....

c) Give your response on whether the factors listed have influence proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille Community in Marsabit County.

<b>Factor Reinforcing Proliferation of SALWs</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Revenge/ Counter Offensive Strategy	<b>YES</b> [ ]	<b>NO</b> [ ]
Conflict over Resource	<b>YES</b> [ ]	<b>NO</b> [ ]
Boundary Disputes	<b>YES</b> [ ]	<b>NO</b> [ ]
Cattle Rustling	<b>YES</b> [ ]	<b>NO</b> [ ]
Inter-Ethnic Conflicts	<b>YES</b> [ ]	<b>NO</b> [ ]
Inter-Ethnic Political Differences	<b>YES</b> [ ]	<b>NO</b> [ ]

Give your general comment regarding your answers in 7(c) above  
 .....  
 .....

**SECTION C: Implication of SALWs use on Security among the Rendille Community in Marsabit County**

8 a) Rate the prevalence of the listed forms of insecurity related to possession and use of SALWs among the Rendille Community

<b>Prevalent Forms of Insecurity Related to Possession and use of SALWs</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Prevalent Form of Insecurity/Crime	<b>YES</b> [ ]	<b>NO</b> [ ]
Highway/Roadside Banditry	<b>YES</b> [ ]	<b>NO</b> [ ]
Cattle Rustling/Stock theft	<b>YES</b> [ ]	<b>NO</b> [ ]

Inter-Community Attacks	YES [ ]	NO [ ]
Electoral Violence	YES [ ]	NO [ ]

Give your general comment regarding your answers in 8(a) above

.....

.....

.....

.....

**9 a)** Based on your assessment, has possession and use of SALWs affected food security among the Rendille community?

Yes  No  Don't Know

**b)** If **YES** in 9(a) above, specify how food security has been affected by use of SALWs

.....

.....

.....

**10 a)** Based on your assessment has possession and use of SALWs affected Community and Personal Security among the Rendille community?

Yes  No  Don't Know

**b)** If **YES** in 10(a) above, specify how Community and Personal Security has been affected by use of SALWs.

.....

.....

.....

**11 a)** Based on your assessment has possession and use of SALWs affected Environmental Security among the Rendille community?

Yes  No  Don't Know

**b)** If **YES** in 11(a) above, specify how Environmental Security has been affected by use of SALWs.

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
**12 a)** Based on your assessment has possession and use of SALWs affected Health Security among the Rendille community?

Yes  No  Don't Know

**b)** If **YES** in 12(a) above, specify how Health Security has been affected by use of SALWs.

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

**13 a)** Based on your assessment has possession and use of SALWs affected Economic Security among the Rendille community?

Yes  No  Don't Know

**b)** If **YES** in 13(a) above, specify how Economic Security has been affected by use of SALWs.

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

**SECTION D: Approaches to Minimize Proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille Community in Marsabit County**

**14 a)** Based on your assessment, rate the best mitigative approach to address proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille Community.

Mitigative Approach to Address Proliferation of SALWs	Responses
Sensitization and Community Policing	<b>YES</b> [ ] <b>NO</b> [ ]
Arrest and Prosecute those in Possession of Illegal SALWs	<b>YES</b> [ ] <b>NO</b> [ ]
Amnesty	<b>YES</b> [ ] <b>NO</b> [ ]
Enhancing Border Control Mechanisms	<b>YES</b> [ ] <b>NO</b> [ ]

Comprehensive Disarmament	<b>YES</b> [ ]	<b>NO</b> [ ]
Registration of all Firearms	<b>YES</b> [ ]	<b>NO</b> [ ]
Other Approaches: <b>(Specify)</b> ..... .....		

Give your general comment regarding your answers in 14 (a) above

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

## **Appendix IV: Interview Schedule**

### **A. Local Political Leaders**

- a) Which area of jurisdiction do you represent?
- b) How many years have you been in politics?
- c) How have the Rendille community been able to source firearms for themselves?
- d) What are some of implications of SALWs on
  - i) Food security
  - ii) Environmental security
  - iii) Personal and community security
  - iv) Economic security
  - v) Health security
- e) What do you think are measures to address proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille and as the Northern Frontier Counties

### **B. County Commissioner & Deputy County Commissioners (Dcc),**

- a) Based on your experience, how do Rendille get SALWs
- b) Which are the prevalent types of firearms possessed and used?
- c) Which are the regulations that govern possession and use of SALWs in Kenya?
- d) Based on your assessment, why has there been noncompliance to regulations on SALWs in the county?
- e) What impact do SALWs have on security in the county?
- f) What are your expert views on the mitigative measures against SALWs proliferation in the region?

**C. County Director of Criminal Investigation & Head of the Anti-Stock Theft Unit**

- a) Based on your experience, how do Rendille get SALWs
- b) Which are the prevalent types of firearms possessed and used by the Rendille?
- c) What factors often contribute to proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille?
- d) Which are the prevalent forms of insecurity associated with the use of SALWs among the Rendille in the county?
- e) How have you been able to mitigate proliferation of SALWs in the region?

**C. County Directors of mainstream NGOs operating in the County**

- a) What are your activities in support of the community?
- b) Based on your assessment, what are the best mitigative approaches to address proliferation of SALWs

**E. Representatives of Business Community**

- a) What is the nature of your business in the area?
- b) Based on your view, what is the state of security in the county?
- c) What is your view in relation to the business community involvement in proliferation of SALWs?
- d) How has possession and use of SALWs impacted on economic security in the county?
- e) What are your views on mitigative approaches against SALWs proliferation among the Rendille community?


## **Appendix V: Focus Group Discussion Interview Guide**


### **FGDs for Local Administrators and Local Community Elders**

- a) For how long have you served as a community leader?
- b) What value does the community accord to livestock as pastoralist community?
- c) What are the common community beliefs regarding armament?
- d) Where do the members of the community get firearms?
- e) What factors reinforces proliferation of SALWs among the community members?
- f) In your assessment, how has possession and use of SALWs impacted on;
  - i) Food security
  - ii) Environmental security
  - iii) Personal and community security
  - iv) Economic security
  - v) Health security
- g) What do you think are the best mitigative strategies to minimize proliferation of SALWs among the Rendille and in the Northern Frontier Counties in general?



## Appendix VI: Research Permit


  
REPUBLIC OF KENYA

  
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR  
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Ref No: 714855

Date of Issue: 16 May 2020

**RESEARCH LICENSE**




This is to Certify that Mr. Isaac M. Meme of Maasai Mara University, has been licensed to conduct research in Marsabit on the topic: **INFLUENCE OF POSSESSION OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS ON SECURITY IN MARSABIT COUNTY; CASE OF THE RENDILLE COMMUNITY** for the period ending : 16 May 2021.

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