THE KENYA RED CROSS HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION

A CASE STUDY OF THARAKA DISTRICTS, KENYA

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DECLARATION

I declare that this research project is my original work and has not been submitted for examination in any other University or Institution.

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Signature …………………………….Date…………..

This research project has been submitted for examination with my approval as supervisor.

Mr. Francis Kanja   Signature………………………………

Date……………..

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

DRR   Disaster Risk Reduction

GOK   Government of Kenya

ICRC   International Committee of the Red Cross

IDP   Internally Displaced Persons

IFRC   International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

IRCRCM   International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

KRCS   Kenya Red Cross Society

MDGS   Millennium Developments Goals

MOH   Ministry of Health

NC   National Council

NEC   National Executive Committee

OVC   Orphans and Vulnerable Children

RC   Regional Councils

PHAST   Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation

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ABSTRACT

For several years, the different communities within Tharaka Districts have had to face a myriad of challenges that have left them weak and impoverished. These challenges have been both natural and man-made. They include; inter community warfare, land clashes/conflict over scarce natural resources, population growth, hunger and famine. In understanding these major issues, the region is unique as it is occupied by different ethnic communities/clans; these are the Tharaka, Imenti, Tigania and Igembe sub tribes which make up the larger Meru tribe and the Akamba people. It is important to note that each of the Ameru sub tribe has different tribal and clan systems and rituals that are not common in the other sub-tribes.

Research methodology refers to procedures and techniques that help the researcher to accurately carry out a study without bias. It involves description of research design, targeted population, and the area of study, sampling designs, description of research instruments and data collection and analysis procedures. All the data derived from answers to questionnaires, interview schedules and focus group discussions were analyzed descriptively and presented in a narrative form.

Characteristics of contemporary conflicts include the deliberate targeting of civilians, large scale population displacement, grave violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, the targeting of international humanitarian personnel, and restrictions on humanitarian access to civilians hence it is the obligation of the state and non-state actors to provide an environment in which humanitarian organizations can effectively and safely deliver humanitarian assistance to populations in need.

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<center>**CHAPTER ONE**</center>

THE KENYA RED CROSS HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION IN THARAKA DISTRICTS

1.0 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

For several years, the different *communities* within Tharaka Districts have had to face a myriad of challenges that have left them weak and impoverished. These challenges have been both natural and man-made. They include; inter community warfare, land clashes/conflict over scarce natural resources, population growth, hunger and famine. In understanding these major issues, the region is unique as it is occupied by different ethnic communities/clans; these are the Tharaka, Imenti, Tigania and Igembe sub tribes which make up the larger Meru tribe and the Akamba people. It is important to note that each of the Ameru sub tribe has different tribal and clan systems and rituals that are not common in the other sub-tribes.

Conflict is majorly between the Tharaka and the Tigania community. The two communities are predominantly agricultural in nature engaging in mixed farming, and combine goat and cattle herding with crop cultivation for subsistence and commercial use. The dominant grain crops in Tharaka are drought-resistant sorghum and millet. A majority of households also grow legumes, including green grams and cowpeas both of which perform well in the prevailing semi-arid conditions. Maize is widely grown in the wetter midland zone. Miraa (Khat) is the main commercial crop for the people of Tigania. To both communities land is their source of

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livelihood, heritage and pride. It has thus become the major source of conflict between the two communities.

Tharaka North with its headquarters at Gatunga and Tharaka South with its headquarters at Marimanti districts are two of the many districts of Kenya located in Eastern Province. In this paper Tharaka Districts will refer to the two hence the district has an area of 1570 km² and a population of 175,905 (2009 census). In 1998, it was split from the Tharaka-Nithi Districts , itself formerly part of the larger Meru District. Tharaka Districts is the home of the Ameru (Meru) tribe, which is related to other Bantu tribes living around the Mount Kenya region: the Kikuyu and the Embu people. The Ameru are generally called "Bantu" people who have been native to the Mt. Kenya area for many, years — well before colonization of Kenya by Britain in the 19th Century.

The Districts lies in the marginal low, hilly and sandy lands of the former large Meru Districts. Most parts of the districts are sandy and stony. The predominant hills in Tharaka are Kinjege and Ntugi both of which have a fair forest cover. The district experiences a bimodal rainfall pattern with annual rainfall averaging between 500 – 800mm per year. Crop failure is a frequent occurrence and explains why less area is put under cultivation. Generally rains in the districts are erratic.

The Tharaka districtss are surrounded by several other districtss namely Tigania East, Igembe south, Meru central, Tigania west and few others. In almost all the boundaries of these districtss there are land disputes with some of them going back more than 30 years as the population there has never been issued with land titles since independence thus leaving the strong influential persons – such as politicians and the rich to take advantage of the masses. More conflicts have

been recently brought by the naming of new districtss by the government yet others have been created for both political and economic gains. Tharaka districts now forms part of the Tharaka-Nithi County.

These disputes have in many instances brought deaths and injuries of human life, disruption of economic activities to the locals, disruption of social life, enemity between clans and sometimes with members of the same clan especially where betrayal is sensed, and displacement of persons and families etc. In all this instances, it is the human development that has been dealt with heavy blow because people are denied their fundamental human rights.

Drought is a recurring challenge to the livelihoods of those living in Tharaka Districts. This region has been marginal to the economic and political life of Kenya from the colonial period until the present day.

Although several taskforces have been formed by the government in order to look into the causes of conflict in the region, none of them have bore any fruits hence the need for the Kenya Red Cross Society to step in and help alleviate human suffering.

This research embarks on the critical evaluation of the humanitarian role of the KRCS which has managed to intervene in the region where government attempts to restore peace and order has bared no fruits. The IRCRCM through the KRCS has initiated successful humanitarian interventions in Tharaka during disasters leading to reduced loss of human life and restoration of sustainable livelihood. The major disasters addressed have been drought and clashes. This has been through programs initiated such as the cash for work program.

Secondly, It is the duty of any government in the world to offer security amongst other basic services that are necessary for human existence and development, in the case of Tharaka, the

Kenyan government has failed to protect its people, whether the challenge is natural such as drought and hunger in the semi arid area or man made characterized by inter and intra clan disputes tension over land and other scarce resources like water leading to armed conflict.

1.2 Problem statement

In its interventions in Tharaka, KRCS has faced some challenges, for instance sustainability has been a major issue of concern, its cash for work project lasted for only 3 weeks hence not enough time to maintain and support the community.

Also, KRCS humanitarian intervention has not been able to assist as many people as it would have wished as a majority of the people live in an arid, conflict prone region, for instance, it's cash for work project was only able to assist 300 beneficiaries in a single location whereas vast areas of the districts are in dire need of intervention.

1.3 Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study was to examine the KRCS humanitarian intervention to the people of Tharaka Districts. It seeks to find out the various humanitarian interventions the people from the districts enjoy from the organization, the reason as to why the intervention is important and the effect of the intervention offered by the organization in the development of the districts. This is to help evaluate the importance of the organization within the region.

1.4 Research Objectives

The study was conducted to:

I.   To identify the cause of conflict in Tharaka districts.

II.   To analyze the role of KRCS in provision of humanitarian services and restoration of peace in Tharaka districts.

III. Determine the humanitarian intervention performed by the organization in Tharaka districts.

IV. Assess the incidences of humanitarian intervention in Tharaka districts.

V. Determine the factors that contribute to humanitarian intervention in Tharaka districts.

VI. Determine the incidences humanitarian intervention in Tharaka districts.

VII. Determine the category of humanitarian intervention in Tharaka districts.

1.5 Research Hypotheses

The study was based on the hypotheses that were stated as follows:

H_1: There is significant relationship between humanitarian intervention and people's way of life.

H_2: There is significant relationship between humanitarian intervention and the development of the region.

H_3: There is significant relationship between humanitarian intervention and farming in Tharaka districts.

H_4: There is significant relationship between humanitarian intervention and the provision of social amenities.

H_5: There is significant relationship between humanitarian intervention and education in Tharaka districts.

H_6: There is significant relationship between humanitarian intervention and promotion of peace in Tharaka districts.

H$_7$: There is significant relationship between humanitarian intervention and employment in Tharaka districts.

1.6 The significance of the Study

It is significant that the study would be conducted to establish the role the KRCS plays in provision of humanitarian services and restoration of sustainable livelihoods to the most vulnerable in the society in Tharaka districts a semi-arid marginalized region and also to establish the causes of conflict in the region.

1.7 Scope and Limitations of the Study

The study was conducted among the residents of Tharaka districts. This is because the researcher was able to assess the region during his attachment period and due to time factor, financial implications and other logistics he was not able to assess other parts of the country where humanitarian interventions have taken place. One limitation of this study was the unwillingness of some respondents to give information freely for fear of being victimized due conflicting nature of the communities. The researcher however assured them that the information they gave would not be used against them and that the questionnaire they filled would be anonymous. Officer from KRCS – Meru branch were assured that the information they provided would be held confidential and would not be disclosed to the authorities.

1.8 Theoretical Framework for the Study

Several explanations have been provided as to what causes conflict at different levels. However, there exists a theory that explains contemporary conflict and assists to situate it in the social and international context. This work mainly used Edward Azar's (1990) theory of Protracted Social Conflict (PSC) as explained by Ramsbotham, (2005: 14). This is because it assists to explain the

social roots of conflicts and failure of governance at the local level which then causes prolonged and violent conflicts. Edward Azar, offered one of the first analytical attempts to comprehensively analyze and explain the protracted nature of intra-state conflicts (Ramsbotham, 2005:15).

Influenced by the persistent conflicts in his native Lebanon and countries like Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Northern Ireland, Israel, Ethiopia, Sudan and Nigeria, Azar developed a framework for the analysis of such conflicts which he called Protracted Social Conflict (PSC) and defined it as: "the prolonged and often violent struggle by communal groups for such basic needs as security, recognition and acceptance, fair access to political institutions and economic participation (Azar, 1990:12). Azar argued that the denial of basic human needs to a large portion of the population initiated instances of protracted social violence. There are four pre-conditions that are isolated by Azar as predominant sources of PSC. These are: communal content, deprivation of human needs, governance and the state's role, and international linkages (Azar 1990:12).

Communal content according to Azar (1990) in PSC situations is communal identity based on race, religion, and ethnic group or cultural ties which is very important because these identities are then used to solicit basic needs. In many multi-ethnic societies, states emerge which are dominated by a single communal group. This communal group or coalition of groups ignores the needs of other communal groups, thereby straining the social fabric and eventually breeding fragmentation and protracted social conflict (Azar, 1990:7). He also cited the, "disarticulation between the state and society as a whole", as a source of violence within society.

This pre-condition also involves the reliance that many people have on their social groups, because of government in areas that experience PSC are often unable, incapable or unwilling to provide basic human necessities to the population, individuals turn to social groups for stability.

The resultant disconnection of society and the state can be linked to the colonial legacy, which "artificially imposed European ideas of territorial statehood" onto a multitude of community groups. This results in the domination of certain identity groups over others. The dominant group isolates itself from the needs of other groups, leading to an even bigger separation between groups even within an ethnicity (Azar 1990: 7-8). Deprivation of needs as a second pre-condition contends that all individuals aim at fulfilling their needs through their collective identity group. Needs deprivation therefore, leads to increased grievances, which individuals express collectively.

Azar distinguishes between different forms of needs such as political access needs, security needs and acceptance needs. Political access needs have to do with the effective participation of individuals in political, economic, and decision- making institutions, while security needs refer to the material needs for physical security, nutrition and housing, and acceptance needs point to the need for "distinctive identity" and its social recognition.

Azar's concept of human needs denotes the idea of inequalities, which means that the dominant social group "satisfies" its political access, security and acceptance needs at the expense of the needs of social (excluded) groups. As a result, the social groups that are dissatisfied are frustrated and feel (more and more) marginalized and excluded from the social, economic and political participation (Azar 1990:7-8)

Governance and state' role is a third argument where Azar states; "With governments being "endowed with the authority to govern and use force where necessary to regulate society, to protect citizens, and to provide collective goods," (Ramsbotham, 2005:84-87), Azar cited governance and the state's role as the critical factor in the satisfaction or frustrations of individual and identity groups.

Azar (1990:11) states that most states which experience protracted social conflict tend to be characterized by incompetent, parochial, fragile, and authoritarian governments that fail to satisfy basic human needs. It is said that governments, expected to be unbiased and impartial, tend to be dominated by the leading identity groups or those that have been able to monopolize power within a country or territorial entity. Azar argues that: whereas in Western liberal theory, the state is an aggregate of individuals entrusted to govern effectively and to act as an impartial arbiter of conflicts among the constituent parts; treating all members of the political community as legally equal citizens, this is not empirically what happens in most parts of the world, particularly in never and less stable states where political authority tend to be monopolized by the dominant identity group or a coalition of hegemonic groups which use the state to maximize their interests at the expense of others.

The monopolizing of power by dominant individuals and groups and the limiting of access to other groups precipitates a "crisis of legitimacy" so that "regime type and the level of legitimacy" come to be seen as "important linkage" variables between needs and PSC (Azar 1990:11-12).

Azar notes how PSCs tend to be concentrated in developing countries "which are typically characterized by rapid population growth and limited resource base" and also have restricted

"political capacity" often linked to a colonial legacy of weak participatory institutions, a hierarchical tradition of imposed bureaucratic rule from metropolitan centres, and inherited instruments of political repression:

"In most protracted social conflict-laden countries, political capacity is limited by a rigid or fragile authority structure which prevents the state from responding to and meeting the needs of various constituents." This creates a "crisis of legitimacy" in the governance of these countries.

The last argument put forward by Azar is the international linkages which involves, "political-economic relations of economic dependency within the international economic system, and the network of political- military linkages constituting regional and global patterns of clientele and cross-border interests. Modern states, particularly weaker ones, like those often involved in protracted social conflict, tend to be more influenced by outside connections both economically and politically within the wider global community.

The formation of domestic social and political institutions and their impact on the role of the state are greatly influenced by the pattern of linkage within the international system (Azar, 1990: 11). For instance, many states are dependent on an external supply of armaments. PSC theory suggests that several of the current conflicts around the world and especially in underdeveloped parts of the world are characterized by a blurred demarcation between internal and external sources and actors. Moreover, there are multiple causal factors and dynamics, reflected in changing goals, actors and targets. Finally these conflicts do not show a clear starting and terminating points (Azar, 1990:6).

Given the fact that Tharaka and Tigania community exhibits this kind of conflict, Azar's PSC theory is relevant here. The PSC is different from Kenneth Waltz (1959) theory which gives the

differences between system, state and the individual. Azar's PSC theory is relevant to this study since the related literature reviewed shows that Tharaka and Tigania community suffer from changes in ecological conditions that exacerbate raids, livelihoods, cultural nature of raids to commercialization, the intensity and frequency of conflict due to raiding, impact of small arms on the conflict, the failure of peace building modalities to curb the menace, poor governance and the impact of politics on the conflict which has ended up prolonging and sustaining it.

Critics to Azar's PSC

Reinmann (2000:36-37) used a gender analysis approach to critique Azar's PSC theory. She used the three fold understanding of gender analysis as; Social construction, Social change and Historical variability to critique Azar's theory. Reiman states that in terms of Social construction, Azar has a rather static & fixed idea of identity and human needs. His (Azar's) notion of identity remains unable to theorize the social construction of identity including shifting and multiple identities like masculinities and femininities and their connection with violence in most PSC.

Also Azar's idea of a historical and universal understanding of human needs makes it difficult to discuss historical variability and social change. Moreover, in line Azar's overall gender- neutral if not gender-blind discourse, all the four clusters have to take the public-private split for granted and as natural and given. Azar's four clusters neglect the underlying gender-specific if not gender clusters of PSC such as increasing domestic violence, gender-specific needs, grievances and gender related interests, the changing division of labour and the changing and multiple notions of femininity and masculinity during the course of a PSC.

Reiman explains that these four features make Azar's model of PSC rather unconducive to theorize about gender (2000:37). But Reiman while critiquing Azar's PSC picked some positive

aspects of the theory and argues for it. For example she notes that the gender analysis showed how Azar's work offers some promising gender-sensitive entry-point to conflict analysis and conflict resolution. She also argues that Azar puts centre stage the very multiplicity of conflict sources, actors and issues to explain the very complexity of agents and sources of PSCs. This is similar to using gender as an analytical category. Azar aims at unpacking & opening up given social structures by opening analytical space to discuss social change and historical variability.

Azar also puts centre-stage open and hidden power inequalities and power asymmetries and explicitly addresses the link of needs dissatisfaction and hierarchical power structures. This makes Azar's four clusters rather conducive to theorize about gender as hierarchical, hidden power structure. Azar prioritized the underlying concerns of the conflict parties involved such as needs, grievances, fears and identity. Azar did this by unpacking state-centric and state-based approaches to conflict management. Azar also stresses throughout his work the necessity of a historical approach in any conflict analysis to understand and explain the conflict's multiple factors, agents and process.

Given the fact that the cross border of Tharaka and Tigania community exhibits the kind of Azar's PSC conflict, this theory is relevant to this study. This relevance is evident in the related literature reviewed which showed how Tharaka and Tigania community suffer from changes in ecological conditions that exacerbate raids, changes in livelihoods, change in cultural nature of raids to commercialization, change in the intensity and frequency of conflict due to raiding patterns, impact of proliferation of small arms on the conflict, the failure of peace building modalities to curb the menace, governance issues and the impact of the changes in politics on the conflict which has ended up prolonging and sustaining it.

The data collected in the field also showed the relationship between the theory (PSC) and the causes and consequences of the conflict under study throughout time. Azar (1990:12) explains that the prolonged and often violent struggle by communal groups for such basic needs as security, recognition and acceptance, fair access to political institutions and economic participation led to agitation by the affected groups. This explanation resonates with why the Tharaka and the Tigania community fight each other as was reported by respondents on both sides.

The findings showed the communal content where the Tharaka and the Tigania communities relied on their warriors for protection and identity of their communities from external aggression, to meet their security needs. The two communities recognized their warriors as championing their rights, fighting for their recognition, thereby filling the vacuum left by the government. The two communities also recognized that exacerbating violence as brave and ready to defend the community. Such individuals were held high in the community and sometimes elected during the general elections to represent the electorate in the county government and the National assembly. Thus fulfilling their political recognition needs. The PSC therefore was relevant to this study.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 PROFILE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Until the mid-19th century, there was no well-organized humanitarian organization and well-coordinated army nursing systems for casualties, no safe and protected institutions to accommodate and treat those who were wounded on the battlefield, and also those affected by other man made or natural disasters. Therefore the need for protection and humanitarian intervention for the victims of war and other disasters that affects humanity became central in global diplomacy. This was backed up by the historical event where by in June 1859, a Swiss businessman - Henry Dunant traveled to Italy to meet French emperor Napoleon III, and upon his arrival in the small town of Solferino on June 24, he witnessed the Battle of Solferino, an engagement in the Austro-Sardinian War. (Brown, 1988: 5)

In a single day, about 40,000 soldiers on both sides died and some were left wounded on the field. Henry Dunant was shocked by the terrible aftermath of the battle, the suffering of the wounded soldiers, and the near-total lack of medical attendance and basic care. He completely abandoned the original intent of his trip and for several days he devoted himself to helping with the treatment and care for the wounded. He succeeded in organizing an overwhelming level of relief intervention by motivating the local population to aid without discrimination.

In 1862 Dunant published a book entitled 'A Memory of Solferino'' where he explicitly advocated the formation of national voluntary relief organizations to help nurse wounded soldiers in the case of war ,and pointed the way to the future Geneva Conventions. In addition, he called for the development of international treaties to guarantee the protection of neutral medics and field hospitals for soldiers wounded on the battlefield. This gave rise to the formation of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (IRCRCM), International Humanitarian Law and Geneva Conventions to protect and provide humanitarian aids to the victims of war and other disasters.

The Red Cross was born in 1863 when five Geneva men, including Dunant, set up the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded, later to become the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In 1864, the first Geneva Convention "for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field" was adopted. (ICRC, 2002). The convention contained ten articles, establishing for the first time legally binding rules guaranteeing neutrality and protection for wounded soldiers, civilian populations, prisoners of war, field medical personnel, and specific humanitarian institutions in an armed conflict. Furthermore, the convention defined two specific requirements for recognition of a National Relief Society by the ICRC. The National Society must be recognized by its own national government as a relief society according to the convention, and the national government of the respective country must be a state party to the Geneva Convention.

The signatory governments to the four Geneva Convention of 1949 and their Additional Protocols (1977, 2005) have given ICRC a mandate to protect the victims of international and internal armed conflicts. Such victims include war wounded, prisoners, refugees, civilians, and other non-combatants.

The IRCRCM has widened its scope of operation from a global perspective to local state perspective whereby states in the international systems are guided by international instruments and obligations in order to meet the common good of humanity through National Societies. This has led to the establishment of local mechanisms to serve the interests of humanity at the local state system under the guidelines of international treaties and conventions. This is the case with the Kenya Red Cross Society, the local institution that serves to fulfill the mandate of the ICRC and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) from the Kenyan perspective. Notably, the quest for global governance has led to the establishment of instruments that seek local solutions to global problems affecting humanity and it is through global governance, organizations such as the IRCRCM have continued to highlight the centrality of peace in the world today and have even entrenched mechanisms to foster the posterity of humanity. The IRCRCM has in this perspective continued to serve as the leading non-state actor in humanitarian intervention.

The Chapter identifies the KRCS international, regional and local obligations that guide the operations of National Societies during their operations highlighting on the structure and programs of the KRCS as a National Society.

2.2 History

KRCS is a humanitarian relief organization created through an Act of Parliament, Cap 256 of the Laws of Kenya of 21st December 1965. Previously, the Society existed as a branch of the British Red Cross between 1939 and 1965. As a voluntary organization, the Society operates through a network of eight regions and 64 branches spread throughout the country.

Currently, the Society has about 70,000 members/volunteers who assist in implementing activities at the Headquarters and Branch Levels. Membership to the Society is open to everyone without any discrimination based on race, sex, religion, class, political opinion or nationality. The Society, which gained recognition by the ICRC in 1966, is also a member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies since 1967, the largest humanitarian movement represented in 189 countries worldwide.

The KRCS is officially recognized by the Kenyan government as the national organization that executes humanitarian intervention activities in the Kenyan territory. Guided by the principles of the IRCRCM, the KRCS was founded to extent the mandate of the ICRC and IFRC in Kenya.

The KRCS is mandated to execute international humanitarian activities. Article 3 of the Kenya Red Cross Act (2009) points on the objectives of the KRCS, these include among others; '...to act in the case of armed conflict [in protecting] war victims, to contribute to the improvement of health, the prevention of disease, and mitigation of suffering, to organize, within the scope of the national plan, emergency relief services for the victims of disasters, to educate the population on how to prepare for and respond to disasters,…[and] to promote the fundamental principles of the IRCRCM in order to develop humanitarian ideals amongst all nations'(KRCS, 2009: Article 3).

2.3 Vision

The KRCS vision is to be the leading humanitarian organization in Kenya, self-sustaining, delivering excellent quality service of preventing and alleviating human suffering to the most vulnerable in the community.

2.4 Mission

The KRCS mission is to build capacity and respond with vigor, compassion and empathy to those affected by disaster and at risk, in the most effective and efficient manner.

2.5 The Kenya Red Cross Society: Structures of Administration

The structure of the KRCS is well entrenched in the Constitution of the National Society with article 10 of the constitution pointing out that the National Council (NC) is the supreme organ of the society (KRCS, 2009: Article 10), The NC comprises of the Governor, the 1st and 2nd Deputy Governors and a Treasurer who are appointed by the National Assembly. It is also composed of four representatives from each regions of the National Society.

The NC which is the supreme authority of the KRCS exercises power on behalf of the Society in line with Article 13 of the KRCS constitution. The NC is mandated 'to establish the mission and policies of the Society, to approve the Annual Reports of the Chairperson of the National Executive Committee (NEC), the Secretary General, and the Treasurer, to approve the Income and Expenditure Accounts and the Auditors Report, to approve Annual levies and memberships, and to conduct other businesses in line with the general governance of the KRCS.

Besides the National Council, the KRCS is also administered through Regions and Branches. Article 27 of the Constitution defines that the NEC may consider establishing Regions when the NEC deems it necessary. The NEC may delegate duties to the Regional Council which consists of four members from each Branch that that falls within that specific Region.

The Regional Councils (RC) is mandated to perform many functions among them the approval of Annual Reports of the Chairman of the Regional Committee, the Regional Coordinator and the Regional Treasurer. The RC further approves the Income and Expenditure Accounts under the

guidance of the Regional Committees. The Regional Committees are responsible for receiving reports from the Regional Secretary on the work of all the branches within the Region.

In addition, the KRCS is further structured through Branch Committees whose main function is to ensure that all the operations and activities of the KRCS are extended throughout Kenya. The Branch committees are responsible for the initiation of projects in their branches within the Principles of the IRCRCM. The Branch committees are further initiated through Youth Committees which are constituted with the approval of the Branch Committee. The Youth Committees represent youth groups that are established for purposes of ensuring and promoting KRCS among the youth.

2.6 The Kenya Red Cross Society: Processes and Programs

The KRCS processes and programs are guided by the principles and conventions of the ICRC and the IFRC

2.6.1 Disaster Preparedness and Response Program

Man-made and natural disasters have increased globally, almost exponentially, over the past 20 years. The intensity and the unpredictability of hazards have been negatively related to climate change and the degradation of ecosystems. Disasters wipe away gains in poverty reduction that take much time, energy and resources to achieve and threaten the achievement of the MDGs. In the pursuit of reducing vulnerabilities to risks, the Government (GoK) in collaboration with KRCS, faith based organizations and other humanitarian organizations, have devised ways of addressing disasters. The Kenya Disaster Management Policy will now encompass preparedness on the part of the GoK, communities and other stakeholders in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities. The policy aims to establish and strengthen Disaster Management institutions,

partnerships, networking and main streaming DRR in the development process so as to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable groups to cope with potential disasters. It was for such reasons that KRCS increased its focus on DRR through programs, with community based approaches, with the beneficiaries becoming central in vulnerability risk assessment and action planning for the follow up actions. Several DRR projects were, thus, implemented.

2.6.2 Health and Social Service Program

The Health and Social Services Department aims at developing an integrated and strengthened Community based health programming, focusing on partnerships, networking, advocacy, disease prevention, Care and support. The end result of the department is to contribute to the reduction morbidity and mortality resulting from Communicable and Non Communicable diseases among the vulnerable populations. This is a key contribution to the attainment of MDGs 4, 5, and 6. The Department has adopted the Primary Health Care approach to programming and works through the Community strategy tenets, which ensures holistic and integrated approach to addressing the health needs of the community while empowering the communities to be the custodian of their own health for sustainability. The interventions implemented are anchored and contribute to the National Health Sector Strategic Plan and other disease specific National Strategies, Policies and guidelines. These include Kenya National AIDS strategic Plan, National Malaria Strategy, Child Survival and Development strategy, National Reproductive Health Strategy, National OVC strategy.

2.6.3 Water and Sanitation Program

The Department's main objectives include improvement of access to safe water and sanitation through construction/rehabilitation of sustainable water systems to serve the vulnerable communities in target areas using village level technologies; improvement of lives of the

vulnerable communities through provision of sustainable water and sanitation systems in Mandera, Wajir, Moyale, Marsabit, Samburu, Isiolo, Makueni, Kitui, Mwingi, Kajiado, Tana River, Lamu and Kilifi. Whenever and wherever disasters occur in Kenya, the Department is involved in saving and improving lives of disaster affected and vulnerable groups with water and sanitation facilities.

Through the use of the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) methodology, the Society has managed to initiate trainings on water and sanitation (KRCS, 2009b: 44). The Water and Sanitation program also provides emergency water and sanitation facilities to needy populations which are disaster-stricken. The Society also partners with other actors especially the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the corporate sector in the implementation of their water and sanitation projects. Through the Flood Response Interventions, the program sets out water purification and treatment plants in order to ensure access to safe and clean water

2.6.4 Organizational Development

The Organizational Development (OD) Department provides an enabling structure for effective and efficient program service delivery. It focuses on increasing the capacity and performance of the regional and branch structures to enable them handle internal and external functioning and strategic relationships. The programmatic areas of the OD include: Institutional Development, Youth Development, Volunteer Management, Governance, Dissemination, Decentralization and Community Development.

2.7 The Kenya Red Cross Society: Funding

The KRCS funding is prescribed in Article(s) 4 and 42 of the KRCS constitution. Article 4 lays the limits and the objects of financial resources of the Society. Guided by the Fundamental

Principles of the IRCRCM, the KRCS '[may] acquire, own, alienate and administer any property as may be defined fit by the [NEC] [...] accept unrestricted contribution and intervention in any form from individuals, Public Authorities and private bodies, [and to] accept as agent or trustee, funds or property in trust'.

Article 42 further sets out the management and control of funds and property of the Society. In line with Article 42(a), 'all funds and property for the time held by the [KRCS] including the funds and property held by the Regional and Branch Committees shall be subjected to the control of the [NEC]'. The Constitution further obliges the NEC not to engage into any financial engagements without the consent of the Finance Committee as per Article 42 (b) of the Constitution (KRCS, 2009: Article 42).

The Constitution further notes that the Annual Budget of the Society must be drawn by the Secretary General in consultation with the Treasurer and must be subjected to the NEC through the Finance Committee for Approval. Through the Regional and Branch Committees, the Regions and Branches respectively hold the responsibility of preparing Annual Plans and Budgets. In order to enhance accountability and transparency, the accounts of each year are audited at the close of each financial year. Further, any investments by the KRCS must be made within the Frameworks of the ICRC and the IFRRCM Fundamental Principles and must be approved by the Finance Committee and the NEC.

In general the administration of the KRCS Finances is done by the Finance Committee whose members are appointed by the NEC with the Treasurer of the Society giving advice on all financial concerns especially on the Society's budget among other Annual Accounts. In order to further accountability and transparency in the Society, members and employees of the Society

are not allowed to take part in any public activity with the aim of raising funds for the Society without the consent of the NEC or the Branch Committee. This is in line with Article 50 of the Constitution

With donor fatigue and the humanitarian industry getting more competitive leading to a shrinking aid basket, KRCS has ventured into business in order to establish economic sustainability to support humanitarian work. The ventures include the establishment of the Red Court chain of hotels and the emergency Medical Service (E-Plus).

Kenya Red Cross Society has been a consistent and effective partner to the Government in responding to and preparing for disasters. The Society has been present at most natural and man-made disasters, providing relief supplies and counseling services. The Society works closely with the Ministry of State for Special Programs in responding and mitigating the effects of disasters. KRCS collaborates with the Government in national disaster management in areas afflicted by drought, floods and other emergencies. KRCS plays a critical role in national disaster management policies and strategies. It also plays an advisory role at policy making and implementation of policies on disaster management.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

A research methodology refers to procedures and techniques that help the researcher to accurately carry out a study without bias. It involves description of research design, targeted population, and the area of study, sampling designs, description of research instruments and data collection and analysis procedures. All the data derived from answers to questionnaires, interview schedules and focus group discussions were analyzed descriptively and presented in a narrative form.

3.2 Research Design

Thyer (1993) states that a traditional research design is a blue print or detailed plan for how a research study is to be completed, operationalizing variables so they can be measured, selecting a sample of interest to study, collecting data to be used as a basis for testing hypothesis and analyzing the results. A research design therefore is a procedural plan that is adopted by the researcher to answer questions validly, objectively, accurately and economically.

The study used a cross-sectional study design. This study design was suitable for this study because it aimed at finding out the prevalence and changes of conflict between the Tharaka and the Tigania communities, by taking a cross-section of the population. The researcher did this by taking a cross-sectional of both the study population and the time of investigation. The cross-section of the population was chosen from Chiefs, KRCS officials and the residents of Tharaka districts.

Interview guides were used to gather data from a cross-section of youth leaders, men, women, chiefs and businessmen. Focus group discussions were also carried out to gather more information from a cross-section of groups of women, men and the youth. This formed the primary data for this study.

Government documents obtained from police stations, hospitals and Census materials from statistics officers provided the secondary data that was needed to enhance this research. Secondary data was obtained from scholarly work from published books, unpublished theses, periodicals, seminar papers and dissertations which were mainly sourced from the National Library. Data analysis and interpretations were done qualitatively.

3.3 Categories of Analysis

The researcher organized data by categorizing and labeling it in groups of questionnaires for Chiefs, KRCS officials and interview guides for youth leaders, women and men leaders, businessmen and focus group discussions for clusters of men, women and the youth. The labeled and grouped data was coded with answers for specific questions. The data was analyzed using descriptive narratives and illustrations presented in form of tables and graphs.

3.4 Site of study

The study was carried out in Tharaka districts.

3.5 Study population

The study area was Tharaka districtss falls in the Eastern part of Kenya and covers an area of $1569.5km^{2}$ with 175,905 people as per the 2009 population census of Kenya (Rep. of Kenya, 2010). The study targeted all people in the community as long as they could understand the questions provided in the questionnaire.

3.6 Sample Size and Sample Techniques

This is a definite plan to obtain a representative sample from the whole population. It refers to the technique or procedure the researcher will adopt in selecting items for the sample.

According to Kothari (2004), sampling involves selecting elements of a population having similar features to the underlying population as a representative of the total population so as to make certain observations of the elements and make conclusions regarding the entire population.

3.6.1 Sample Size

Mugenda and Mugenda (1999) argue that the main factor that the researcher should conceder in determining a sample size is homogeneity of the population from which the sample size is to be drawn together with the need to keep it manageable. Therefore this study's sample size was determined from a finite population formula (Reid and Boore 1999) as follows

$n = N/1 + N (e)^2$

Where: n=sample size

N=target population size

E=acceptable level of error taking alpha as 0.05

By substitution in the formulae;

$n = 175,905 / \{1 + 175,905 (0.05)^2\}$

$n = 399$

3.6.2 Sampling Techniques

The study will employ simple random sampling method which will help identify and select the participants from residents within the districts. A purposive sampling technique will be used to get responses from the whole districts. This is to ensure that all important data will be captured. The aim for this kind of sampling is to get the required representative sample and ensure that each member of target population had equal chances of being included in the sample.

3.7 Research Instruments

The study used two different questionnaires to collect data. A residents' questionnaire and officials' questionnaire were formulated. The advantage of the questionnaire was that it allowed uniformity for all respondents. It was also less expensive and less time consuming. Jack R. Fraenkel and Norman E. Wallen (2008) observed that a questionnaire offers considerable advantages in the administration: it presents an even stimulus potential to large numbers of people simultaneously and provides the investigation with an easy accumulation of data. The authors maintain that questionnaires give respondents freedom to express their views or opinion and also to make suggestions. It is also anonymous. In this study, the questionnaire was found effective because researching on conflict was not easy as the respondents feared to be identified and arrested by the authorities in cases where they were asked if they have ever been involved in inter-clan/inter-community conflicts. Anonymity helped to produce more candid answers than it was possible in an interview.

3.8 Pilot Study

Before commencing on the study, a pre-testing of the questionnaires was conducted. The aim of pre-testing assisted in determining accuracy, clarity and suitability of the research instruments and to check their validity and reliability. The pilot study was conducted at Gatunga location.

The location was not part of the final study. From the location, 15 people were chosen, using simple random sampling. The chief from the location responded to the chiefs' questionnaire.

The statistical analysis of the raw data was done. The test and re-test reliability procedure to test the consistency of the responses to the two questionnaires was done. This was accomplished by comparing the same sample population for piloting after administering the same questionnaires to the same respondents and in the same location after two weeks. The two weeks were considered to avoid the replication of the same answers by the respondents. The two weeks interval also helped to adjust the questionnaires appropriately.

3.9 Validation and the Reliability of the Instruments

Validity shows whether the items measure what they were designed to measure (Borg and Gall, 1989). After the first stage of collecting data, the researcher visited the same location and administered the same questionnaires to the same selected sample. Scores from the first stage were then correlated with scores from the second stage. In order to reflect the reliability of the whole instrument, correlation was done using Pearson product-moment correlation to establish the consistency of the instruments. A correlation coefficient (r) of 0.73 was obtained, indicating that there was a strong relationship between responses of the first and the second stage scores. The results obtained from the two similar samples showed reliability of the questionnaires and therefore the instrument could be used for the final study. Mugenda and Mugenda (1999) define reliability as a measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results or data after repeated trial. The pre-testing helped in assessing the clarity of the questionnaire items. Those items which were found to be inadequate were modified to improve the quality of the research instrument, thus increasing its reliability.

3.10 Data Collection Procedures

The researcher got permission from the local authority to collect data from the districts. A permit was issued to allow the data collection process within the districts.

3.11 Data Analysis Techniques

Once data was obtained from the field, it was then coded and analysis was aided by computer using a statistical software SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) programme for windows. It was then summarised using bar graphs and pie charts for all items. In presenting data, central measures of tendency were used to discuss the findings.

1.12 Data management and ethical consideration

The researcher ensured the privacy of the participants in data collection, presentation and reporting by ensuring confidentiality, and no names are mentioned in the final report. All the respondents in this study were given an incentive to cover for the period they were engaged in answering questions.

They were also allowed to leave if they felt so. The researcher was present throughout the interviews and prepared the interviewees psychologically and made them feel at ease in the process of the interview by explaining the purpose of the study, that everybody's opinion mattered and that all answers were going to be treated with respect and confidentiality. No participant was forced to give an answer or none was compelled to explain further a situation if they felt uncomfortable. Answers obtained were all voluntary and treated with respect.

The different opinions expressed by different participants were treated with respect. All participants were requested to speak, one at a time, when chosen and to respect each other's

opinion. The participants were also told the researcher was not going to mention names in the

final report for confidential reasons.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 THE REPORT OF THE FINDINGS

The research objectives were to find out causes of conflicts in Tharaka and how the KRCS has intervened in the region to alleviate human suffering. The chapter basically outlines the findings of the research.

Characteristics of contemporary conflicts include the deliberate targeting of civilians, large scale population displacement, grave violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, the targeting of international humanitarian personnel, and restrictions on humanitarian access to civilians hence it is the obligation of the state and non-state actors to provide an environment in which humanitarian organizations can effectively and safely deliver humanitarian assistance to populations in need.

The Tharaka-Tigania conflict dates back to Kenya's independence period and has basis in the demarcation of district boundaries and land adjudication system. The two communities have always had rivalries and social context which did not result in major casualties in terms of both loss of lives and property. However, with the individualization of land tenure and boundary demarcations, conflicts between the two communities took a more complicated turn. The conflicts become more violent and destructive resulting to massive loss of lives, displacements and destruction of properties

Before analyzing the role of KRCS in provision of humanitarian services in Tharaka, I will look at the root causes of conflict in the region.

4.1 Causes of Conflicts

4.1.1 Migration and Conflict/ bad weather

When there is drought, there is no water, pasture and food for people, there is a substantial migration to the hills – Meru highlands, where there is more vegetation and water sources. There are also migration flows from neighbouring districts, especially Mwingi. Cattle herders from this district migrate with their livestock to the lowlands of Tharaka-Nithi and laborers migrate to the irrigated lands in search of farming work. The presence of migrant pastoralists often triggers conflicts between them and the local populations over use of water and grazing land. There are also conflicts between cattle herders and farmers, as livestock invade farms and deplete water sources. During these period schools, hospitals, trade, transport and other forms of development are disrupted.

4.1.2 Land dispute and boundary issue

Land is increasingly becoming a source of conflicts in Sub-Saharan Africa, where land access had traditionally been characterized as relatively egalitarian. It has been shown that local land conflicts can erupt into large-scale civil strife and political movements (Andre and Platteau, 1998; Fred-mensah, 1999; Daudelin, 2002).

The Tharaka districts are surrounded by several other districts namely Tigania East, Igembe south, Meru central, Tigania west, Tigania west, and few others. In almost all the boundaries of these districts there are land disputes which some of them go back more than 30 years. Some others have been recently brought by the naming of new districts by the government yet others have being for both political and economic gains.

In most cases the land in contention has no title deeds and this had caused violent clashes as different parties from the sub tribes both claim ownership.

The problem in areas such as Meru North/Tharaka escalated after the creation of new administrative districts and constituency boundaries. The new boundaries describe ethnic boundaries; hence a minority population of either ethnic group is inevitably found in the 'wrong' district. Regardless of legal ownership of the land that such minority groups occupy, the majority ethnic group intermittently moves to 'evict' them. Border conflicts often turn into massacres, particularly because of retaliation and revenge attacks

4.1.3 Unequal distribution of resources

Since it was split from the large Meru District in 1992, Tharaka, is a constituency in development limbo.

The Tharaka constituency MP, Alex Mburi Muiru Muthengi says his constituency is a forgotten region, there are hardly any passable roads. "This area has been forgotten, in fact it was only this year (2008) that the rural electrification program reached Tharaka," Other districts in Meru which are considered to be high potential areas have enjoyed government support in terms of infrastructure and security.

The Tharaka people have always felt marginalized and discriminated against in the mainstream development agenda. They perceive the Tigania people who are from the mainstream larger Meru tribe were more favoured. It is often argued that the Tharaka people are not part of the Meru sub-tribes as they do not have common origins and dialect. In this regard, the Tigania people look down upon them.

This marginalization has made the people of Tharaka feel that they have to take arms and defend themselves since their feel neglected by their government.

4.1.4 Poverty

Poverty is one of the underlying causes of conflict and also one of its consequences. The tharaka people struggle to survive on a fragile ecosystem, which is ravaged by drought, poverty, insecurity and seemingly endless conflict over resources.

Poverty has also resulted to illiteracy, ignorance and unemployment. This has resulted to the residents depending on agriculture in a semi arid region as the only means of income thus making them desperate and ready to use any means to protect their only source of livelihood.

Large illiterate communities are difficult to communicate with, to fight epidemics, to introduce modern technologies or to engage in gainful employment or business. Other people have had to be hired to work in remote areas of Tharaka and this in itself has led to some form of discrimination and marginalization leading to inter-community tension. They are easily manipulated by politicians, elders, traditional and religious leaders.

4.2 Kenya Red Cross Response to Humanitarian Needs in Tharaka district

The Government response in Tharaka district has been slow and ineffectual. The government has tried to provide a minimal amount of the relief in times of drought and setting of commissions to help settle the dispute both of which have not been adequate to respond to the humanitarian needs of the people on the ground. The government response on the ground has tended to be unwieldy and disjointed.

The humanitarian needs on the ground have made the Kenya Red Cross Society to come in and ameliorate the living conditions of the people. This also due to the fact that the International Red

Cross and Red Crescent Movement admittedly enjoy an advantage in issues of response to humanitarian emergencies.

4.2.1 Breaking the Barriers: Ways the Kenya Red Cross Society as intervened in Tharaka district

The KRCS Meru branch is the branch that serves the larger Meru region including Tharaka, it has thousands of volunteers of which about 1000 are active and trained in first aid and other disaster response mechanisms. In Tharaka, the branch has 100 active members who regularly update the branch about the situation on the ground from their Tharaka office, the office has been supplied with emergency medical supplies and transportation means – bicycles and one motor bike. Logistically, emergency supplies as well as land cruisers and an ambulance are on standby from the Meru branch and have been available in times of conflict or drought.

4.2.2 Dissemination

Kenya Red Cross Society has a dissemination program which aims to inform the general public about International Humanitarian Law and the activities of the Movement. In Tharaka, KRCS intensified dissemination activities in the affected areas so that the beneficiaries and other players in the community get information on the mode of operation of the KRCS, as well as information on the Movement. This has made the community more receptive to the Society and the work being carried out and it can noted that the locals seem to trust the organization more than the government. The dissemination process has also escalated the issues affecting the region and are today covered by the media. The value of dissemination cannot be overstated.

4.2.3 Water and sanitation

Each time there is fighting between the two communities, hundreds of families flee their homes and KRCS sets up camps mostly in local primary schools. In December 2008, after fighting erupted with each community claiming Katithine market, 10,000 people fled the area and KRCS

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settled them in an IDP camp where KRCS constructed toilets and bathroom, installed bladder tanks for water storage, sourced and coordination for water trucking, conducted hygiene promotion training sessions and distributed chlorination tablets.

4.2.4 Human Capital and Organizational Development

In terms of the humanitarian capacity to respond disasters in the region, KRCS has been able to coordinate the activities of it many volunteers in the larger Meru region who have been called upon to offer assistance. In august 2011, 20 volunteers participated in food distribution in the region in a drought period. In 2009 several volunteers assisted thousands of IDPs after armed conflict. Some 100 volunteers have been recruited from the region and trained in first aid and a KRCS office established in the area in partnership with the local community.

4.2.5 Disaster Preparedness and Response

KRCS has played a critical role in assisting IDPs, administration of First Aid, transportation of injured people to hospitals and food distribution in times of drought.

On 29 October 2009, 500 people were displaced, 3 injured, 50 houses and a school torched when fresh clashes emerged between the two clans living in Tigania and Tharaka. The Kenya Red Cross Society was on site responding to the needs of the displaced and was able to seek shelter for them as they camped at a community school.

In august 2011, KRCS distributed food to the region as it was badly hit by the drought that had affected the horn of Africa.

4.2.6 Intervention through KRCS projects

Cash for work project

The cash for work project was kick started by the KRCS on august 2011 in Ntoroni location in Tharaka whereby 300 beneficiaries with each sub unit producing 10 people who had been identified by the people from that sub unit as requiring the most in need of assistance. The beneficiaries would be paid to work on their farms where they would build gabions, terraces, river bank protection and tree planting. This engaged the conflicting communities physically as well as economically and contributed to development in the area though it lasted for a mere 3 weeks. There is hope that the project will cover a wider area in the near future.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 SUMMARY

For several years, the different communities within Tharaka Districts have had to face a myriad of challenges that have left them weak and impoverished. These challenges have been both natural and man-made. They include; inter community warfare, land clashes/conflict over scarce natural resources, population growth, hunger and famine. In understanding these major issues, the region is unique as it is occupied by different ethnic communities/clans; these are the Tharaka, Imenti, Tigania and Igembe sub tribes which make up the larger Meru tribe and the Akamba people. It is important to note that each of the Ameru sub tribe has different tribal and clan systems and rituals that are not common in the other sub-tribes. Research methodology refers to procedures and techniques that help the researcher to accurately carry out a study without bias. It involves description of research design, targeted population, and the area of study, sampling designs, description of research instruments and data collection and analysis procedures. All the data derived from answers to questionnaires, interview schedules and focus group discussions were analyzed descriptively and presented in a narrative form. Characteristics of contemporary conflicts include the deliberate targeting of civilians, large scale population displacement, grave violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, the targeting of international humanitarian personnel, and restrictions on humanitarian access to civilians hence it is the obligation of the state and non-state actors to provide an environment in which humanitarian organizations can effectively and safely deliver humanitarian assistance to populations in need.

5.2 CONCLUSION

The Tharaka-Tigania conflict dates back to Kenya's independence period and has basis in the demarcation of district boundaries and land adjudication system.

The two communities have always had rivalries and social context. The people have strong attachment to their communities, espousing fundamentally different values, and in competition with each other for access to, or control over resources, hence creating acrimony and divisions. These conflicts are mainly manifested as political, economic, environmental, exploitation of natural resources and land clashes.

In recent years this has resulted in major casualties in terms of both loss of lives and property mainly due to the individualization of land tenure and boundary demarcations. The region has thus continued to be divided on the basis of ethnic, clan, socio-cultural, regional, political and economic lines.

The lack of adequate support by the government of Kenya to the Citizens when myriads of disasters have occurred in the region has led the KRCS taking a lead in the provision of humanitarian services in the region. Due to globalization and communication networks, KRCS has been able to mobilize resources worldwide other National Societies, ICRC and IFRC to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable in the Society. The KRCS has been instrumental in complimenting the Government efforts in provision of humanitarian services. KRCS has provided relief to those affected by catastrophe or disasters, improved health systems, prevented diseases and reduced human suffering during peace and war time.

Further, KRCS propagate the ideals of the humanitarian principles in order to enhance unity and common good among all human beings and all nations. Therefore, National Societies act as auxiliaries to the public authorities of their own countries in the humanitarian fields and provide range of services including disaster relief, health and social programs through the support of ICRC, IFRC and sister National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Crystal Societies.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The district is well endowed with several permanent and seasonal water sources most of which flow from the Meru highlands, these include the following rivers: Kathita, Mutonga, Kithinu, Ura, Thingithu, Thanantu, Thangatha, Kuuru and the Tana. The district also has considerable ground water resources, springs and streams, earth and sand dams, rain water and rock catchments. With appropriate technology, credit facilities aided by the government and NGOs such as the KRCS, such waters can be used to support irrigated agriculture in food crops and horticulture (which is suited to the hot weather in the district). Crop farming using drought resistant crops and Commercial production of medicinal plants such as Aloe Vera should be encouraged. Fish farming can also be supported.

The Tharaka traditionally are an agro-pastoralist community and with appropriate infrastructure, the district has the capacity for value addition of its livestock. And the impact would be to support a viable and sustainable livelihood option based on a product that is easily available in the district and beyond – livestock. A primary target for value added livestock products would be markets in other parts of Kenya and beyond. A key requirement for the communities to reap benefits from value addition is to have the necessary social and financial capital which can be supplied by NGOs. This value addition can be through cross breeding of cattle especially cows. There's also emerging livestock rearing such a poultry, snakes, crocodiles, chameleons etc

Expansion of cash for work programs by the KRCS where communities are paid to construct terraces, gabions, river bank protection and tree planting on their farms. KRCS commenced the project in August 2011 and lasted for only 3 weeks covering Ntoroni location, the project can be expanded to cover more areas and last even longer as it engages people physically as well as economically. It also contributes to development in the area.

There ought to be massive campaigns to encourage uptake of formal education. This will change the cultural attachment to agro-pastoralism as the only source of wealth; it may also lead to better farming practices. Illiteracy should also be addressed through adult education.

There is urgent need to address the issue of boundary demarcations as the newly created ones have clearly resulted to more bloodshed. This time, it should be done in wide consultation with the local people. Furthermore, title deeds should be awarded to the rightful land owners – after wide consultations with the locals.

The government should provide balanced security i.e. police stations should be evenly distributed. This is among the recommendations that are nearly being implemented as Internal Security Minister George Saitoti promised to consult with Police Commissioner Mathew Iteere and his Administration Police counterpart Kinuthia Mbugua over trouble spots that need more police officers. He vowed to provide citizens with security to ensure no more lives are lost due to tribal conflicts and said that General Service Unit personnel had already been deployed in the area to restore security. He promised this after the opening of a police station in Tharaka North District in December 2011.

Perpetrators of conflict should be prosecuted for the atrocities they have committed; this will help to deter further crimes committed during conflicts. It will also ensure justice is served as the Tharaka people feel that the Tigania are favored by the government and that their criminal actions go unpunished.

Development initiatives by the government ought to be distributed fairly theses include provision of basic needs and improvement of infrastructure. Some regions should not be marginalized and completely forsaken by the government.

Inter-community dialogues, peace meetings, exposure tours and compensation schemes for property lost should be initiated. Women and the youth should be also included in such initiatives to ensure their cooperation, as in most cases, it is only the elders who are allowed to attend such meetings.

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APPENDIX I

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE

Questionnaire Instructions: Please answer the entire question as provided using a tick (√) where applicable or give an explanation where needed.

SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. Gender:

     Male ( )   Female ( )

2. Age bracket:

  30 – 35 years ( )   36 – 40 years ( )   41 – 50 years ( )

  51 – 55 years ( )   56 and above ( )

3. a) Name of your organization_____

b) Tick appropriately, what are you?

    i) Chief ( )

    ii) KRCS Officer ( )

4. Name of location/branch_____

5. Duration of service in the district:

    1 – 5 years ( )   6 – 10 years ( )   11 and above years ( )

6. State whether you are a local or not:

    Yes ( )   No ( )

SECTION II: DYNAMICS AND TRENDS CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTENANCE OF THE PROTRACTED VIOLENT ETHNIC CONFLICT BETWEEN THE THARAKA AND THE NEIGHBOURING ETHNIC COMMUNITIES.

7. List any possible dynamics and trends (factors) sustaining conflict in your area.

_____

8. Explain how these factors have sustained the conflict in the area

9. When do you experience raids in your area?

10. What do you think triggers these raids?

11. Why do you think so?

SECTION III: THE ROLE OF LOCAL ACTORS IN SUSTAINING THE VIOLENT ETHNIC CONFLICT BETWEEN THARAKA AND OTHER ETHNIC COMMUNITIES.

12. a) List any local actors who are involved in the conflict.

_____

_____

b) How are involved?

c) What motivates these actors to take part in supporting the conflict to continue?

SECTION IV: WHY INTERVENTIONS BY GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT PRODUCED THE DESIRED RESULTS.

13. a) Explain how the government of Kenya is responding (interventions) to the protracted ethnic conflict between the Tharaka and other ethnic communities?

b) Do you think these interventions have worked to reduce the conflict?

c) Why do you think so?

d) Suggest ways in which these interventions can produce desired results.

e) As an organization what interventions have you put in place to resolve this conflict?

f) Have the interventions been effective?

g) Why do you think so?

_____

h) What should be done?

i) What interventions has the KRCS undertaken in the area?

14. Which other areas apart from conflict interventions do KRCS has been actively involved in helping the people within the district?

15) Name various projects initiated by KRCS in the area?

APPENDIX II

STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS|FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF THE INTERVIEWED

1. Gender:

    Male ( )   Female ( )

2. What is your age bracket?

    30-35years ( )   36-40years ( )   41-50years ( )

    51-55years ( )   56 and above ( )

3. Tick as applicable. Which one are you?

    a. Villager elder ( )

    b. Village headmen ( )

    c. Women elder ( )

    d. Youth leader ( )

    e. Businessman ( )

    f. Cluster of men ( )   Women ( )   Youth ( )

4. What is the name of your area of jurisdiction?

5. For how long have you been a representative or led the people of this area?

       1-5 years ( )   6-10years ( )   11 and above years ( )

SECTION II: DYNAMICS AND TRENDS CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTENANCE OF THE PROTRACTED VIOLENT ETHNIC CONFLICT IN THE AREA.

6. List any possible factors sustaining conflict in your area.

_____

_____

7. Explain how these factors have sustained the conflict in your area?

8. When do you experience raids in your area?

9) What do you think triggers these raids?

10) Why do you think so?

SECTION III: THE ROLE OF LOCAL ACTORS IN SUSTAINING THE VIOLENT ETHNIC

CONFLICT IN THE AREA.

11. a). List any local actors who are involved in the conflict.

_____

_____

b) How are they involved?

_____

_____

c) What motivates these actors to take part in supporting the conflict to continue?

SECTION IV: WHY INTERVENTIONS BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES HAVE NOT PRODUCED

THE DESIRED RESULTS.

12. a) Explain how the government of Kenya is responding (interventions) to the conflict?

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b) As a representative of your people do you think these interventions have worked to reduce the conflict?

c) Why do you think so?

_____

_____

d) Suggest ways in which these interventions can be achieved.

_____

_____

13.a) Name some of the NGOs working in your area to procure peace.

b) How is this ethnic conflict affecting their peace work?

c) What interventions have they put in place to mitigate this conflict?

d) Have these interventions yielded the expected results?

e) Why do you think so?

f) What do you think should be done?

g) What interventions does KRCS take to ensure sustainable peace in the area?

h) What projects do you think KRCS has been involved in to ensure there is sustainable development in the area?