

.Research Article

Socio Economic Environment Influencing Inter Clan Conflicts in the Somali Community in Wajir North Sub County Kenya

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Abstract:

Inter-clan conflicts in Wajir North Sub-County have been recurring since the pre-colonial period between members of the Degodia and Ajuran Clan. The problem of inter-clan conflicts for between Degodia and Ajuran Clan within Wajir North Sub-County has not been fully solved despite various interventions and strategies. The conflicts have had devastating social, political as well as economic implications. Thus, this study aimed at investigating the socio-economic environment influencing inter-clan conflicts in the Somali community living in the Somali Community in Wajir North Sub-County, Kenya. The study was based on two theories which are Social Conflict Theory by Karl Max (1818-1883) and Human Needs Theory by John Burton (1932 to date). Descriptive and historical research designs were used. The study sampled 492 respondents who included 400 household heads, 25 assistant chiefs, 16 police officers, 20 business entities, 4 NGOs, 15 Village Elders and 12 youth leaders in peace committees. Questionnaires, Focus Group Discussion, observation checklists and interviews were used in data collection. The study employed both probabilistic and non-probabilistic sampling methods to attain the targeted sample size. Quantitative was collected using questionnaires. On the other hand, interviews, FGD and observation were used in gathering qualitative data. Quantitative data was analyzed using SPSS and MS Excel version 20 in order to obtain descriptive statistics to aid in easy analysis. Thematic techniques were employed in analyzing qualitative data. Quantitative data was presented using tables, graphs, and charts while verbatim narratives were used in presenting qualitative data. The study findings are of significant use in policy and academic decision making. The study findings have both policy and academic implications to the communities, local leaders and the National and County governments in addressing inter-clan conflicts between communities living in Wajir North Sub-County. The study concludes that socio-economic factors influence the recurrence of inter-clan conflicts in Wajir North Sub-County Kenya. The study recommends continuous public campaigns and public awareness to fight inter-clan conflicts. Also, there should be fair distribution of resources in Wajir North Sub-county so that all the communities can benefit equally.

Methodology:

This chapter covers the research design, the study area, unit of analysis, study population, population sample and sample size, sampling methods and procedures, data collection tools, data analysis, Assumptions of the study, Ethical Considerations,

relevant to the study and chapter summary.

Research Design:

The study employed the descriptive research design and Historical research design. This design gave way to incorporating all the descriptions of the socio-

economic factors influencing inter-clan conflicts in Somali Community of Wajir North Sub-County in Wajir County, Kenya. It captured experiences, opinions and attitudes of respondents in the study area. This design is the planned scheme for the correct measurement and analysis of the data, at the end of its collection (Kothari, 2004). This design was relevant for collecting information by questionnaires and observation Interviews, FGDS on socio-economic factors influencing inter-clan conflicts in Somali Community of Wajir North Sub-County in Wajir County, Kenya. On the historical research design, this method was used to collect and analyze data or information from the past so as to enable the researcher learn about earlier roles of inter-clan conflicts and hence be able to connect to the current situation in the area under study (Magenta and Magenta 2003).

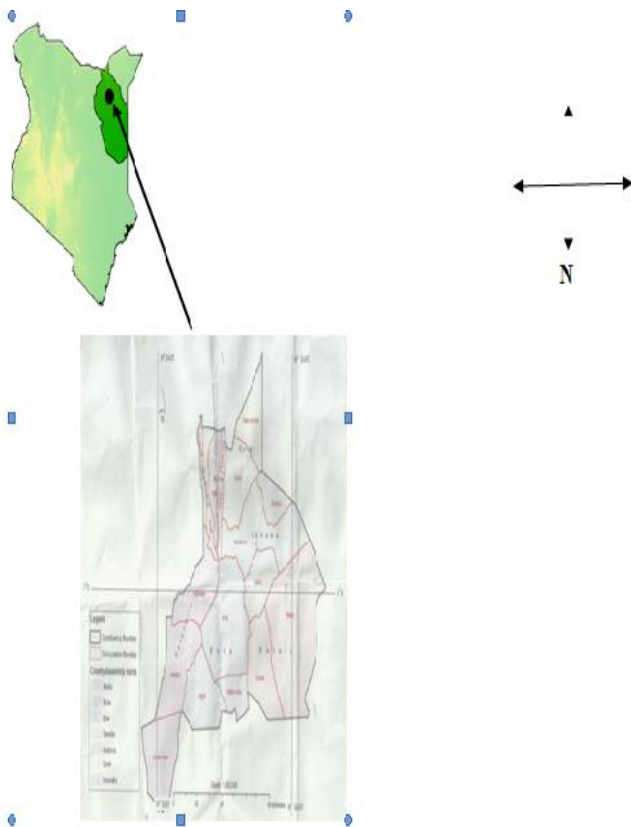


Figure 3.1 Map Showing Wajir North Sub – County Of Wajir County In Kenya
Source : (KNBS 2009)

Study Area:

The study was carried out within Wajir North Sub-

County Wajir County. The area is approximately 8,303.80 square Kilometers. It is approximately 850kilometers North East of Nairobi. Wajir County borders Madera county to the North, Garissa County to the South, Isiolo County to the West, Marsabit County, to the North West and Somalia Republic to the East. The County is partitioned into four (4) Sub-counties namely, Wajir East, Wajir South, Wajir West and Wajir North which is the area under study. The county is sparsely populated based on the geographical location, historical and political backgrounds. Wajir North has a population of 135,505 (Population Census, 2009). It experiences low rainfall throughout the year. It has low agricultural productivity. The general populace practice pastoralist and nomadic way of life poverty measures 84% Wajir CIDP (2013-2016). There is extreme poor nutrition rating 72% food (Wajir CIDP 2013-2016). There is also high rate of unemployment especially the youth standing at 63% Wajir CIDP (2013-2017). There are also low literacy levels because of effect of social cultural background.

Study Population:

Elders and the chiefs from selected locations. The overall study population was 492. The study population comprised household heads from selected households among the Degodia and Ajuran Clan since they are the majority in Wajir County and also the conflicts are most prevalent among them compared to other Clan (Lewis 1982), youth in peace committees from the communities, National Police Service from police stations in the study area

Business Entities from the Shopping centers and towns, Non-Governmental Organization officers, village The target population is as stipulated below in Table 3.1 and the overall sample size was 492.

Table 3.1 showing target population from study population

Sampling category (Respondents)	Target population (Fischer's et al formula)
House hold heads	10,220 (135,505 study population)
Key Informants	
-Police officers from National Police Service (NPS)	160
-Assistant Chiefs	
-Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs)	25
-Business Entities	8
Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)	
-Youth leaders in peace committee 120	50
-Village Elders	
Total	10,783

Sampling Strategy:

The research utilized both non probability and probability sampling procedures. Non-probability comprised of convenient sampling, purposive sampling while probability captured proportionate stratified random sampling.

Data Collection Methods And Instruments:

This study utilized both primary and secondary data.

Primary Data:

Questionnaires:

This is the most reliable tool of collecting data used by the researchers. The researcher, therefore, used this instrument in collecting data from the field of study. It enabled the researcher to gather suitable and reliable information from the area under study for the reason that the target population was exposed to the questions in the questionnaire forms without alteration of any kind, and this avoided biasness even

if given to different groups of respondents. In the final analysis, this gave the researcher complete and detailed information on the subject under study. The questionnaire data collecting tool gave in depth information about the socio-economic factors influencing inter clan conflicts in the Somali community within a targeted area of study. The household heads were the targeted group and the most reliable respondents.

Interview Schedules:

Various scholars and researchers prefer this method as it simply involves preparing questions that the interviewee will be subjected to answer during the interview. The advantage of it is that there is a direct contact between the interviewer and the interviewee (Mutai, 2000).The interview schedules covered all the objectives of the study. All questions were answered precisely for key informants.

Focus Group Discussion Guides:

This instrument was used to collect data from village elders and youth leaders. These discussions were held within the county especially within Wajir North Sub-County, Wajir County. They brought their representative from various groups in the target population .Magenta and Magenta (2003) argument, 10% of the target population gave a sample size of twelve (12) which was represented the sample size of youth leaders in peace committee in the study area. The FGD guide in focused on the objectives and gave opinions which formed the basics of the study. These groups were constituted based on similar characteristics such as age, sex and socio-economic status of respondents in the Focus Group Discussion. The researcher categorized members in groups of 8-12 according to Mugenda and Mugenda (2005) members, which comprises of men and women who were Homogenous. These groups were given opportunity to discuss on their own the subject under study freely without any fear. The different groups were allocated a classroom or were seated under a tree. The opinions, reactions, experiences were shared amongst each category of the four groups. The end results of the discussion were taken into account by the researcher who used them during data analysis on the topic under study. In this case, the village elders

Table 3.2: Summary Of Study Population, Sampling And Data Collection Methods:

and the youth leaders in Peace Committee were the

	Total population in Sub-county (size)	Method of sample size determination	Sample size	Sampling method	Method of data collection
Respondents Household heads	135,505	Fischer's et al. formula	400	-Purposive Sampling -Proportionate random sampling	Questionnaires
Key Informants					
Assistant Chiefs	25	100%	25	Census	Interviews
Police officers from National Police Service (NPS)	160	10%	16	-Convenience -Purposive -Simple Random sampling	Interviews
Business entities	200	10%	20	-Convenience -Stratified sampling -Simple Random Sampling	Interviews
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO'S)	8	50%	4	- Purposive -Convenience -Simple Random Sampling	Interviews
Focus Group Discussion (FGD)					
Village elders	50	30%	15	-Simple Random Sampling (SRS) -Random technique	FGDs
Youth Leaders in Peace Committee	120	10%	12	-Purposive -Convenience -Simple-Random Sampling	FGDs
TOTAL	136,068 Overall population study		492 Overall sample size		

respondent to these focus group discussions. influencing inter-clan conflicts in Somali Community of Wajir North Sub-County, in Wajir

Observation Checklists:

The researcher used observation checklist as tool of collecting data to observe patterns and trends of used non participant observation method with an objective of identifying socio-economic factors

Secondary Data:

This data was either published or non-published. These are the work of other people who have conclusively collected and analyzed data and ready for reference by researchers researching in the same field of study (Kothari 2004). In this case, the researcher read and reviewed the documents including journal articles, books, previous master oral theses, doctoral theses and data from government offices with a view of obtaining related literature on the subject under study.

5.1 Results and Discussions

Inter-clan conflicts are a global phenomenon. In Europe, especially in United Kingdom, people have been engaging in inter-clan conflicts resulting into death, displacements and destruction of property. In Asia, Russia, (Chechnya) Northern Ireland, Iran and Iraq, Israel, Afghanistan, Bangladesh ethnic conflicts are quite rampant. These inter-clan conflicts have occurred for a long time without being managed effectively (Garr, 1993).

In Africa, widespread inter-clan conflicts are being experienced especially in the era of post-independence. Conflicts existed in Uganda, Rwanda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Sierra-Leone, Liberia (Wachira,1997). These have resulted into devastating effects among them, deaths. In the last fifteen years, millions of African civilians have been violated because of inter-clan conflicts and some have lost their lives through ethnic conflicts which are characterized by proliferation of small arms (Amnesty International, 2009).

In Kenya, inter-clan conflicts continue to be experienced. In the wake of General Elections of 1992, 1997 and 2007, conflicts were experienced. It took the perspective of being ethnically orchestrated. Kalinin's and Kikuyu in Rift Valley fought over political reasons which went along with political affiliations. It was also because of the historical injustices which brought land to limelight, hence, being over resources. The land was taken by force by British Colony and given to white settlers in Nakuru, Njoro, Uasin Gishu, Kiambu, Narok, and Molo without their acceptance. The land clashes therefore erupting in most areas of Kenya in the wake of Multi-Partism in 1992, 1997 and 2007 demonstrated the anger of those living in abject poverty. Since most communities are actually frustrated by the government in dealing with problems like corruption, uneven distribution of resources and others by unemployment, they result to ethnic violence against their neighbors of time immemorial. This is because of poor governance since independence (Oyugi, 2002).

In North Eastern region, the Degodia and Ajuran have been in conflict, prompting researchers to examine the factors causing these conflicts, its effects to the society as well as the mechanisms and strategies suitable to manage ethnic

conflicts(Horowitz, 1985). The problem of inter-clan conflicts for instance between Degodia and Ajuran clan within Wajir North Sub-County therefore has not been fully solved despite various interventions and strategies (Schlee,1998). This problem dates back to pre-Colonial period between 1920 and 1940 which was a period of consolidation by the colonialists. The region was seemingly neglected from the rest of Kenya and treated as NFD(Schlep 1998).This aspect has affected development progress and other economic activities in the county. The Degodia and Ajuran conflicts are largely on control of resources, pasture, boundary disputes and water which form the background of conflicts. This is well grounded on the fact that the clashes which erupted between 1992 and 1993 between the two Clan were because of political-economic issues contributed by multiparty democracy which was about control of resources within the area under study (Dekha Ibrahim, 1997).

On June 2nd 2015, the inter-clan conflict between Degodia and Ajuran within Wajir North sub-county especially along the border areas of Elda's and Wajir North sub-county left 15 people killed, 9 injured and 3,560 households displaced (Kenya Red Cross Society- KRCS 2015). The most recent conflicts were experienced on 23rd July, 2015 which resulted to five people being killed and 8 others injured especially in Lakole South/North Location and Bashiri North and South Location within Wajir North Sub-county (Kenya Red Cross Society- KRCS 2015). On the same note, in Bashiri North Sub-location on 24th July, 2015, seventy nine (79) houses were set ablaze destroying property worth millions of shillings. Revenge was carried out by Degodia on Saturday 25th July in Lakole sub-location leading to many houses being reduced to ashes. Following these attacks, the area was quite inaccessible due to high levels of tensions between the two ethnic communities. The KRCS, the National Government and the County Government attempted to penetrate the area with an aim of providing the victims with humanitarian assistance but all was in vain (KRCS, 2015).

The Kenya Inter Agency Rapid Assessment- KIRA (2014) reported that the inter-ethnic clashes between Degodia and Garre communities along the border areas of Madera and Wajir began on May 13, 2014. There have therefore been repeated attacks in Guyana sub-location, Turban location at the border of two

counties resulting in many people being killed between May and June 2014. This had a spillover effect in the entire Wajir County, especially in Wajir North sub-county (Kenya Inter Agency Rapid Assessment- KIRA 2014). The ethnic conflicts between Degodia and Ajuran who are local inhabitants of Wajir County especially in Wajir North has done more harm than good to the residents of both communities. Locations like Bojigaras, El Kutulo, Bur mayo, Barjanai, Dunto and Gunana among others were actually affected by the conflicts. These locations are within Tarbaj Location, Wajir North sub-county. Many residents were displaced to either Mandera County or other neighboring counties like Marsabit (KIRA, 2014 and KRCS, 2015).

Mworia and Ndiku (2012) point out that these communities in Northern Kenya co-existed peacefully since their migration and settlement. They have engaged in trade activities, intermarried and even shared many socio-cultural festivals. These authors further state that in the recent past, they have engaged in inter-clan and even inter-ethnic conflicts especially the ethnic communities of Degodia and Ajuran in Wajir County. The ethnic conflicts have prevented the residents from realizing their economic, social and political potentiality and subjected them to conditions of hopelessness. There are other authors who have written on conflicts in Wajir County. Ondiege (2012) wrote on the Effectiveness of Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Mechanism, Bishar (2015) on Factors Influencing Conflicts in Northern Kenya among other authors.

Other researchers in the field of conflict who have carried out studies are Huho (2012) who carried out a study on conflict resolution among the pastoral communities in North-Rift in West Pokot County. However he did not address the root causes and socio-economic factors influencing the management of this phenomenon. Hassan (2012) did a study on inter-clan conflicts between Garreh and Murrule in Mandera County. However did not again address the socio economic factors influencing inter-clan conflicts and the management of the same. Hussein

(2014) again carried out research on the same Madera County on the same Clan of Garreh and Murrule in the period between 2004 and 2009. However, did not critically investigate the socio economic factors influencing inter-clan conflicts within the study area.

The clearest thing from the above researchers is that they did not go in detail to establish the root causes of conflict as well as the socio-economic factors influencing inter-clan conflicts. This is applicable to researchers in Wajir County who did not examine the socio-economic factors influencing inter-clan conflicts among the Somali communities in Wajir North, Wajir County- Kenya. This study closed the gap. The recurrent inter-clan conflicts are also a concern despite the many efforts and many strategies, intervention, efforts and many studies by other researchers. The implication is that the rampancy and frequency of inter-clan conflicts are very high. Social media such as radios, newspapers carry the headlines of the inter-Clan conflicts and has become a thorn in the flesh in the study area. This has informed the study and hence a motivating factor to carry out this research study. This study examined the factors that influence effective inter-clan conflicts among the Somali communities in the study area.

This study presents results and discussions on the socio-economic challenges influencing inter-clan conflicts among the Somali communities in Wajir North Sub-County. The paper discusses the; socio-economic causes/concerns of the conflicts, Government Handling of the Conflicts and Indigenous Mechanisms of Promoting Peace in Wajir North Sub-County.

5.2 Socio-Economic Causes of Conflicts in Wajir North Sub-County

The study sought to examine the socio-economic causes of conflicts in Wajir North Sub-County.

The result are indicated in Table 5.1

Table 5.1: Socio-Economic Causes of Conflicts in Wajir North Sub-County:

Cause of Conflict	Rank order/ cumulative percent age	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know	Total (N)
Competition of resources	74% (1)	152(38%)	144(36%)	76(18%)	32(8%)	(0%)	400(100%)
Land and boundary issues	73% (2)	140(35%)	152(38%)	72(18%)	32(8%)	4(1%)	400(100%)
Bad cultural practices	61% (3)	136(34%)	108(27%)	84(21%)	72(18%)	(0%)	400(100%)
Unemployment	57% (4)	104(26%)	124(31%)	84(21%)	56(14%)	32(8%)	400(100%)
Political leadership/incitement	55% (5)	108(27%)	112(28%)	64(16%)	60(15%)	56(14%)	400(100%)
Ethnic /inter-clan mistrust	45% (6)	96(24%)	84(21%)	104(26%)	76(19%)	40(10%)	400(100%)
Poverty	43% (7)	76(19%)	96(24%)	128(32%)	64(16%)	36(9%)	400(100%)
Historical injustices	40% (8)	76(19%)	84(21%)	100(25%)	108(27%)	32(8%)	400(100%)
Weak criminal justice system	30% (9)	64(16%)	56(14%)	132(33%)	124(31%)	24(6%)	400(100%)

5.2.1 Competition over resources

The findings in the table postulate that 152 (38%) of the participants support that the conflict in Wajir North Sub-County among Ajurans and Degodia is escalating due to the struggle of the resources among the members of those two Clan. It also found that among the participants 76 (18%) of them did not think competition of the resources could cause conflict and therefore they disagreed. The issues of competition of the resources in Wajir North Sub-County are well-known phenomenon among the residences since none of them answered in the questionnaire that he does not know the answer.

In an FGD forum with nyumbakumi leaders in Wajir North Sub-County, the respondents stated that most of the criminal cases they often deal with are about theft. This indicates that people are struggling to obtain the minimal resources in the area by force. They also added that cases of Ajuran and Degodia communities invading other territories to graze their livestock are rampant in recent past. One of the leaders of Nyumba Kumi initiative reinstated the findings on the table by claiming that;

Resources are always limited especially considering the factors that there is a large number of animals in this area. Among the resources which the communities tend to compete against each other include pastures, land, water and food. All these resources are the means of survival for the residence of Wajir. During the time of drought the mentioned resources tend to decrease, and during this time most of the animals die. Such situations increase the likelihood of some members of either Ajurans or Degodia to risk by trying to intrude the territory of each other with an intention of getting their resources by force. This form of conduct triggers the likelihood of conflict occurring among the two Clan due to resources competition. (Source FGD with village elders, December, 2018).

The study clearly points out that the struggle of the resources is an aspect which needs to be looked at from different perspectives. According to the study, the struggle of the resources tends to occur mostly during the time of drought when those resources are minimal. This point suggests that the struggle for the resources has become part of the tradition among Ajurans and Degodia communities since it occurs often. Schilling, Olio, &Schiffrin (2012), found that the scarcity of the resources in Wajir North Sub-County trigger conflict regularly. This is because the communities have to struggle to survive with only little resources available which confirm the theory of Social Conflict Theory developed by Karl Max (1818-1883).

5.2.2 Land And Boundary Issues:

Land and boundary issue was mentioned to be the major reason as to why conflict occurs often in Wajir North Sub-County. This statement was supported in enormous way as indicated in the table 4.1. 140 (35%) of the participants associated the conflict in Wajir North Sub-County to the land and boundary

issue. They agreed that the Ajuran and Degodia conflict is based on the issue to do with land and boundaries. A contradictory statement was offered by 72 (18%) of the participants who disagreed with the statement that land and boundary issues is the cause of conflict in Wajir North Sub-County. The responses of 4 (1%) of the participants was that they do not know how conflict could have been caused by land and conflict issues.

In a FGD held in a village called War Dirsame, the villagers stated that there is lot of land and boundary conflict in the area. The conflict occurs annually but the war may escalate during time of drought. When there is prolonged drought there is little water and pastures for the animals to eat. The villagers said that Ajuran and Degodia communities intrude into each other's territories especially when they are searching for the water and pastures for their animals. The chief who was in attendance for the FGD confirmed the result on the table as far as the boundaries and land issue is concerned. He pointed out that:

Boundaries never existed before the establishment of colonial rule in Kenya. The colonial masters established the boundaries to divide the Kenyans with an intention of restricting their movement and creating the land for the white settlers. The fertile land in areas such as central province and some of part of rift valley were offered to the settlers to practice farming. The boundaries signified the ownership of the land by the individuals. After the independence the African communities inherited the land and still maintained the boundaries. In Wajir the land is mainly owned communally. The Ajuran and Degodia Clan do not allow intrusion within their territories by any stranger. This fact indicates that Ajuran community will not allow a person from Degodia to intrude their territory; similarly Degodia will prohibit any intrusion of the Ajuran members. The conflict occurs when any person from the two communities defy these norms. The intrusion creates speculations and hence animosity, and conflicts which hinder the efforts of establishing peace in Wajir. (Source: FGD with village Elders, 2018).

Paton (2000) established that land ownership is crucial among the Ajurans and the Degodia since it

indicates how wealthy an individual is. The boundaries of the communities land are guarded by young men who ensure no intruder enters into their territory. In case where a member from another community is found grazing in another community's land the cattle may be confiscated by the owners of the land with support from his community. The person whose cattle have been confiscated may organize a group which will help him to get back his cattle by force. This scenario automatically spark conflict among the communities involved (Paton, 2000). Other researchers have also found that land among the Ajurans and Degodia community is vital for their survival; for instance, Oyugi (2002) found that both Degodia and Ajurans invade territories of each other communities aiming at adjusting their boundaries. Such action brings about the conflict (Oyugi, 2002). The newly obtained land is used by the elders to settle the landless members of the community.

5.2.3 Bad Cultural Practices:

Most of the participants mentioned culture as one of the cause of conflict in Wajir North Sub-County. In this study, 136 (34%) of the participants agreed that bad culture has been the epicenter of the conflict between the Ajuran and Degodia. The respondents who stated otherwise were 84 (21%). This group of individual disagreed that bad culture causes conflict in Wajir North Sub-County in any way. None of the participants answered that they do not know in the questionnaire. The religious leaders from different religions in Wajir North Sub-County felt that bad culture which has been inherited from previous generation has been the origin of conflict in Wajir North Sub-County. They stated that among the toxic cultures include cattle raiding. According to them, cattle raiding have continued being the main cause of hatred among the Ajuran and Degodia Clan. Commercialization of marriage institution has also been mentioned to be the cause of conflict. This is because the parents exploit young men as they pay for the dowry during marriage.

One of religious leaders who were among the individuals who participated in FGD had the following to say about bad culture practiced in Wajir North Sub-County;

Some of the cultures are stigmatizing the progress of Wajir North Sub-County since they cause the conflict among the members of the communities. The Degodia and Ajuran are always involved in cattle raiding among each other. This behavior has been generally accepted as the part of the culture. This form of the culture is bedeviling the progress of the two communities as they are always involved in war. Other factors witnessed in the modern society as far as the matter to do with marriage is concerned are expensive payment of dowry. The young members of the society are left without option apart from involving themselves in cattle raiding to get enough cattle to pay dowry. This is an indication of how culture has taken central part of the conflict which has been in Wajir North Sub-County. (Source: Field Data December, 2018).

has nothing to do with unemployment. Considering this factor, the number of those who disagreed were 84(21%) and a total of 56(14%) strongly disagreed. Among the total number of the respondents 32(8%) were undecided since they were not sure of how unemployment relate to the conflict in Wajir North Sub-County.

The findings in the table 4.2 were confirmed during the FGDs by the youths who are the most affected group by unemployment. The youths said during the time of interview that most of them have remained unemployed because they do not have money to bribe human resources managers so that they can be offered employment. Some of them said that they have the required skills and documents, but it has been difficult for them to secure jobs. According to them, unemployment has made them susceptible to criminal activities such as cattle raiding which has become their means of survival. The youth leader on his part had the following to say;

In most cases, conflict in Wajir North Sub-County occurs mostly between the Degodia and Ajuran communities as the members from both side struggles for few job opportunities. When one of the clan feels that their rival has been favored, they may attack them due to bitterness. This conduct ends up sparking inter-clan conflicts. For example, there has been an increase on the rate at which conflict is occurring in the area since the government begun to establish various projects in the area. This is because the Clan tend to assume that members from another clan should not be given a chance to work in areas where project has been established while the members of the local community remain unemployed. According to Degodia and Ajuran, the employment in an area should be offered only to the clan where it has been established. (Source: Field Data December, 2018).

A research conducted by the United States High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) (1997) found that most of the bad cultural practices has led to evacuation of the people from their homes. This made it necessary for establishment of refugee camps especially in Daadab and Dagahley in Carissa County. The Degodia and Ajurans are internally displaced persons within Wajir County, Wajir North Sub-County, Kenya and are housed in schools and hospitals where humanitarian assistance is given to them by NGOs. The organization also stressed that it has been difficult to settle the communities displaced especially the Degodia and the Ajuran in same locality due to hatred which exist among them. This fact points out that it is becoming expensive to settle the communities involved in war (UNHCR, 1997). Another research conducted by Mwakiru (2006) realized that Degodia and Ajurans are still practicing their cultures which tend to differ. The differences in the cultures of the two communities are one of the main reasons which are making it difficult for the two communities to co-exist peacefully.

5.2.4 Unemployment:

According to the findings in Table 4.2, it is clear that unemployment is one of the main causes of conflict in Wajir North Sub-County. The respondents who agreed that unemployment is one of root causes of conflict in Wajir North Sub-County were 104 (26%) while 124(31%) of the respondents strongly agreed with this idea. There are some respondents who felt that conflict which occurs in Wajir North Sub-County

A police who participated in an FGD had a different opinion from that of the youth leader. The police based his argument on the record they have been keeping concerning conflicts in Wajir North Sub-County. Majority of the residents of Wajir North Sub-County are pastoralists, and only few of them depend on the employment as a means of survival. The Degodia and Ajuran communities have no time to focus on employment, and instead they concentrates

on taking care of their livestock. This implies that unemployment cannot be the root cause of conflict. The investors and the government have been employing people from other parts of Kenya to work in projects which are being established in Wajir North Sub-County. The government and the investors decided to obtain the employees outside Wajir North Sub-County after realizing that Degodia and Ajuran Clan are not willing to offer labor, but conflict. According to a study conducted by KAS (2011), unemployment is one of the most prevalent situations in Wajir North Sub-County. Due to this factor, the youths have decided to involve themselves in some illegal activities as their means of survival (KAS, 2011). The findings of KAS (2011) was in consistence with that of Kaprom (2013) who noted that in cattle raiding elders have been playing a role of organizing the youths as they prepare for cattle raiding mission among and Ajuran community (Kaprom, 2013). The Degodia and Ajuran communities have made cattle raiding an economic activity in the area, and hence, abandoned seeking employment.

5.2.5 Political Leadership/Incitement

Political leaders have been trying to bring peace and stability in the Wajir North Sub County, but in some cases it has been realized that they play role in castigating the conflict in the area. Table 4.1 which indicates the answer obtained through the questionnaires from Wajir North Sub-County residence indicates that 108 (27%) of the participants believes that politicians have been playing a key role in the conflict which has been taking place in Wajir North Sub-County. Additionally, 64 (16%) of the participants disagreed that political leadership has been the cause of conflicts, and 56 (14%) claimed that they do not know the role of political leadership in the conflicts occurring in Wajir North Sub-County. In a FGD held at Danaba which included former political leaders and the residences, it was confirmed that, political leadership has been bedeviling the peace establishment in North Wajir Sub County. According to the information, the politicians have been politicizing the conflicts between the Degodia and the Ajurans to gain the political millage. This is because they want to be considered as the political heroes among their followers. This conduct has made it impossible for different stakeholders to establish

peace in the area. It was during this FGD when one of the area assistant chief stated the following; It has been impossible to keep peace in the area because politics have been undermining the whole process. There are politicians who are gaining a lot of wealth through the instability in the area. One way through which they benefit is by selling basic commodities to the residents that have been displaced from their home and they are living in refugee camps. They see conflict as a booming business to them. In other circumstances, during the time of campaigns, politicians use the conflict between the Degodia and Ajurans to gain recognition as the peace crusaders, yet they have been castigating the violence in the area. (Source Field Data December, 2018)

According to Grosby (1994) and Horowitz, (1985) peace in North Wajir Sub County has become a benefit to the politicians while the society suffers. They have been claiming that they are protecting their communities by encouraging them to revenge in a situation where they have been attacked by another community. The Degodia and Ajurans have suffered a lot due to politics while animosity among them is escalating due to involvement of the politicians in the process.

5.2.6 Ethnic and Inter-clan Mistrust

The results on the Table 5.1 reveal that 96 (24%) of the respondents believe that ethnic mistrust is the main cause of conflict while 128 (32%) of the respondents had a contrary opinion. There were also some participants who did not know how ethnic mistrust has impacted the peaceful coexistence of Degodia and Ajuran communities. In addition, 40 (10%) of the participants claimed that they are not aware of any conflict which has ever occurred due to ethnic mistrust among the Degodia and Ajuran communities.

The findings on the table supported with the statement made by one of the Degodia elder during the time of interview. The elder has been in forefront in addressing the issues curtailing peace among the Degodia and Ajuran communities. The elders, during FGD, claimed that conflict between Degodia and Ajuran has existed for many decades and it may be difficult to bring it to the end not unless appropriate measures are used to approach it. Due to cattle rustling which is part of the culture of both communities has brought mistrust among them. The

ethnic mistrust causes each community to conduct cattle raiding against each other since the two communities cannot trust each other. The mistrust has also increased the level of suspicion within all Somali communities. This postulates that when for instance, when a person from Ajuran community is seen in the area dominated by Degodia community, he is considered to be a spy. This form of mistrust causes the Degodia community to attack the innocent member of Ajuran. On the other hand, the Ajuran community may respond to the conduct of Degodia by attacking them. During an interview by CBO official, one of the former MCA stated that;

Ethnic mistrust has no much impact on the occurrences of the conflict in Wajir. The causes of conflict in Wajir are wide and can be looked at from different perspectives. The trust among the communities is indicated by the action of some elders from both communities who are working together to unite the Ajurans and Degodias. They trust each other and believe that each individual will play his part of uniting the community members. The economic activities which are conducted between Degodia and Ajuran communities by some members are indication that trust exist among them. (Source: Field Data December, 2018)

The findings made during the interview by CBO officials agreed with the assertions made by Weirs (1985). He noted that there are a lot of daily activities which are harmoniously conducted among the Ajuran and Degodia communities. This fact indicates that conflict which occurs regularly is as results of questionable conducts of few individual members who castigate the war among them Degodia and Ajuran Clan in Wajir North Sub-County. One of such conducts includes cattle rustling which has been mentioned to be part of the culture of the communities residing in Wajir North Sub-County (Weirsma, 1985). According to Walter (2002), the conflict between the Degodia and Ajuran existed before establishment of colonial rule in Kenya. This culture of war have been internalized and made component of their daily lives and therefore, the issue of ethnic mistrust does not exist Walter (2002). These mistrusts are caused by the underlying issues of land, pasture, water, boundary issues which have not been resolved.

5.2.7 Poverty:

The data on the table 4.1 indicates that 76 (19%) of the respondents believe that conflict is caused by poverty, 128 (32%) respondents disagreed while 36 (9%) of the respondents did not know the response to the question. Considering the fact that the conflict in Wajir North Sub-County mainly occur between two communities, study established that poverty causes conflict in rare cases. During the FGD which was conducted in Wajir North Sub-County Social Hall, villagers said that most of the members of Degodia and Ajuran communities are wealthy as indicated by the number of livestock most of them own. The epitome of conflict has been inadequate natural resources such as pasture for the animals, water, land and greed among the villagers. During the same FGD, one of the investors confirmed the data indicated on the table 4.1 as he had the following to say about poverty;

Poverty causes conflict in most cases. The two communities have cultural attachment to the livestock of which determine the economic status of an individual. The poor individuals within Degodia and Ajuran communities are involved in cattle raiding from other individuals who are considered to be wealthy. Cattle raiding are done mostly by poor members of the society as they want to be considered to be rich by gaining a huge number of livestock. The elders in those communities are the epitome of the conflict caused by poverty since they are involved directly in organizing cattle raiding. They advise the youths on how to do it successfully. Cattle raiding activities are considered to be the most effective and easy ways of becoming wealthy; hence making it hereditary from generation to generation. When

The statement of the investor supports the studies of Mutai (2000) who argues that poverty is the main cause of conflict in Wajir North Sub-County. It was also noted that poverty has been brought about by the cultural practices of the Somali community in Wajir North Sub-County and the occasional conflict in the area which affect economic activities (Mutai, 2000). The studies of Walker and Omar (2002) was contradictory to that of Mutai (2000), they found that economic status which determine the level of poverty is the driving force behind every conflict which tend to occur in Wajir North Sub-County (Walker and

Omar, 2002). The disputing findings indicate that the Somalia communities hold different opinions about the cause of conflict since most of them did not agree that conflict occurs as a result of poverty.

5.2.8 Historical Injustices:

Among the four hundred participants, 76 (19%) agreed that historical injustice causes conflict among the Ajuran and Degodia in Wajir North Sub-County. 100 (25%) of the participants opted to disagree that the historical injustice is a cause of conflict. 32 (8%) stated that they do not know the answer. This data indicates that majority of the participants disagree that historical injustice is a cause of conflict among the Ajuran and Degodia Clan.

These findings were confirmed during FGD conducted at Quondam which involved the elders from Ajuran and Degodia communities. Most of the elders agreed that there are no historic injustices which exist among the two Clan. The elders also claimed that the conflict between the two Clan is caused by limited natural resources. According to them, the natural resources have become minimal due to climate changes and increase in the number of livestock in Wajir North Sub-County.

One chairman of the elders in Wajir North Sub-County confirmed the following;

The historic injustices have nothing to do with conflict between Ajuran and Degodia. The conflict between the communities can be traced back to the days of migration of different communities to Kenya. Conflict in North Wajir Sub County is hereditary aspect since it has been passed through different generation. There is no community which can claim that it is involved in conflict due to historical injustice because both Degodia and Ajuran have been suffering equally due to the conflict in the area. This indicates that the issue of historic injustice does not exist among the Ajurans and Degodia. (Source: Field Data December, 2018)

Different intellectuals have aired their views concerning the conflict among Degodias and Ajurans. One of such intellectuals includes Bowman Personal Statement(2010) who claimed that conflict in Wajir North Sub- County can be traced from the time of migration. They also confirmed that both Clan have attacked each other equally. According to the statement, conflict in Wajir North Sub-County has

been worsened by the fact that weapons are made readily available to the residence which intensifies the conflict. The statement seems to be in line with what was stated by the elders during the FGD.

5.2.9 Weak Criminal Justice System:

Looking keenly at the table 4.1, it is clearly indicated that 64 (16%) of the participants agreed that weak criminal justice is the cause of conflict in Wajir North Sub-County. Their argument was opposed by 132 (33%) of the participants who disagreed that weak criminal justice is the cause of conflict in Wajir North Sub-County. Most of the participants disagree with the idea that weak criminal justice causes inter-clan conflicts. Again, most of the residence in Wajir North Sub-County may not be aware of criminal justice because 24 (6%) of the participants claimed they do not know the answer. The response from head master in one of the local primary school seems to conquer with the finding on the table. The head master categorically stated that;

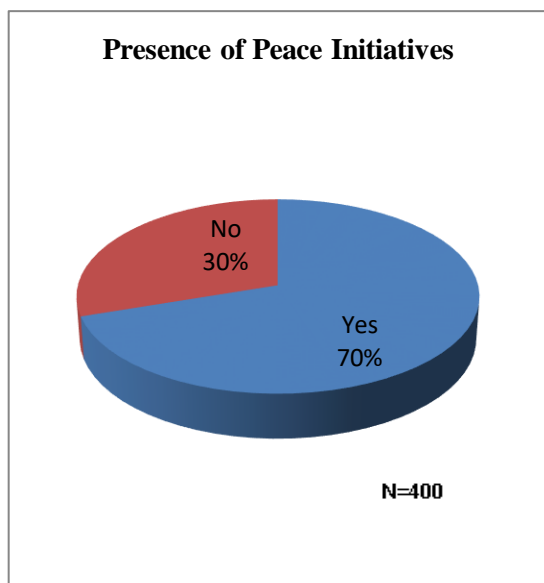
The level of criminal cases is rampant in Wajir North Sub-County due to weak Kenyan criminal justice system. The members of Ajuran and Degodia Clan have identified the weakness in this system and therefore aware that nothing will be done to them even if they create commotion amongst themselves. The weakness in criminal justice system has created the urge of the Degodia and Ajuran members to revenge any injustice done to them. For instance, in a case where there have been cattle raiding or intrusion of territory for pasture or water in one of the two communities the members will prefer to revenge instead of reporting the issue to the police. The community will prefer taking action because they tend to believe that there will be no justice since justice delayed is justice denied. (Source: Field Data December, 2018).

The claim by the principle was strongly opposed by the head of security in Wajir North Sub-County. The officer said that they have established mechanism which ensures that once the inter-clan conflict erupt, culprits are brought to book and arraigned before the court of law. Another mechanism is identifying stolen livestock by putting different tags among the Ajuran and Degodia livestock for easy identification. The police use this as evidence in the court once they recover stolen cattle to ensure there is justice and the

cattle are returned to the owners. The officer also stated that they have been encouraging the members from each community to remain vigilant and ensure none of their member has been involved in stock theft so that frequent inter-conflicts are avoided.

5.3.0 Availability Of Peace Initiatives In The Wajir North Sub-County Kenya:

The study sought to establish the availability of peace initiatives in Wajir North Sub-County. Respondents were asked to indicate if they were aware of any peace initiatives in the study area. The results are given in Figure 5.2



Source: Field Data (2018)

The results indicated that out of the 400 respondents, 280(70%) indicate that they know there were peace initiatives in the study area while 120(30%) indicated that there were no peace initiatives in the area. The respondents further indicated that the peace initiatives that were available in the area included sporting activities that were organized by various Civil Society Organizations to unite the communities; they also indicated inter-community dialogue meetings that were organized by the faith based organizations and through public brazes that were held at the chief’s camps. The respondents also mentioned Peace Caravans that were often common in the area especially during election periods and which were targeting the youths to maintain peace in the area. During FGDs with Youth Leaders, the respondents also mentioned the use of social media platforms such

as Face book and WhatsApp to reach out to youths in the area to maintain peace. The Wajir Youth for Peace is one of the major platforms for peace that was mentioned as having a Face book page that has been used to preach peace and unity in the study area. The respondents also mentioned that the District Peace Committee (DPCs) as a way that has been used to reach out to members of different communities and ensure that there is peace in the study area.

The findings were supported by findings from key informant interviews where the respondents mentioned several peace initiatives that they knew were present in the area of study. Sub-county Administrative Chiefs stated that they held barazas every week in their offices to talk to the local communities about the importance of living peacefully with their neighbors. The deputy county commissioner from Wajir North Sub-County stated that he often attended peace meetings organized by local administration in the study area as well as those organized by the National Cohesion and Integration commission to bring and maintain peace among members of all communities from the area.

The NGOs including Red Cross and World Vision all stated that they supported various peace initiatives in the area. These two NGOs provided humanitarian support to people displaced by the conflict and also supported activities that were aimed at restoration of peace in the study area through workshops, dialogues and conferences. CBOs like Wajir Youth for Peace, Somali Elders Development Group and Pastoralists Peace Bunge as well as Faith Based Organizations including Muslims Peace Initiative and Councilj5kb;yl of Churches of Kenya (NCKK) indicated that they were involved in activities that were aimed at fostering peace in the study area. The findings from FGDs also indicated that there were several peace initiatives in the study area. Participants in all the FGDs agreed that activities including sports, peace caravans and meetings, public barazas had been used to encourage peaceful coexistence among members of various communities in the study area.

5.3.1Peace Initiatives By Government And The Civil Society In Wajir North Sub-County:

The peace initiatives in Wajir North Sub-County were categorized in terms of peace initiatives by state actors and initiatives by non-state actors. Peace initiatives by state actors included activities by

various government officials and agencies in the study area to foster peace. These state actors included the police service, local administration, Political leaders (MCAs) and Deputy county commissioner. Non State actors included NGOs such as Red Cross and World Vision, CBOs including Wajir Youth Forum, Wajir Elders Development Group and Pastoralists Peace Forum, National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK), and Muslim Associations.

5.3.2 Approaches Used By Government/State Actors To Prevent Conflicts In Wajir North Sub-County:

During the study, respondents were asked to indicate initiatives used by the government in dealing with the conflict in the study area that fostered peace. The results were as indicated in Table 5.2.

Figure 5.1: Existing Peace Initiatives By Government/State Actors In Wajir North Sub-County.

Initiative	Frequency	Percentage	Rank order/level of Effectiveness
Police/security personnel	216	54%	1
Community Policing	80	20%	2
Use of local administrators	72	18%	3
Use of Judiciary/Courts	32	8%	4
Total	400	100%	4

Source: Field Data (2018)

The results from 400 respondents indicated that the approaches used included community policing 80(20%), use of local administration 72(18%), use of

security personnel/police 216 (54%) and use of judiciary/courts 32(8%).

5.3.3 Community Policing

Community policing which was supported by 80 (20%), of the respondents (Table 5.2) in this study included various efforts by the police to work with local communities from Wajir North Sub-County to ensure durable peace in the study area. Interviews from both Administration police and regular police units theft police unit indicated that they had been involved in working with members of the community through village elders to get members of the public to report suspected livestock rustlers and suspicious activities in the community that could compromise peace in the area so that the police would easily take action within the required time. The police however indicated that they did not get the kind of cooperation they had expected from members of the community, which explains why majority of the respondents did not favor community policing as a peace initiative by the government.

5.3.4 Local Administration

The local administration 72(18%) as supported by the respondents (Table 5.2) through the offices of Chiefs, Deputy county commissioner and local political leaders (MCAs) frequently intervene in disputes as mediators. They have played a pivotal role in addressing inter-clan conflicts through enhancement of security and facilitation of the operation of government peace initiatives.

Interviews with the government officials established their roles to include coordination with various peace building initiatives, for instance, the District peace committees chaired by the Deputy County Commissioners in which they meet once on weekly; enforcement of peace agreements; resettlement and livelihood reconstruction of the affected communities. In addition, they facilitate forms of engagement between marginalized communities/groups and the government which has enhanced government's responsiveness to these communities as well as strengthened local peace building capacities.

The study further revealed that the administrators are trained on various conflict resolution skills, risk reduction strategies, resource mobilization and utilization, administration and security roles through

seminars and workshops majorly organized by the government. The local administration disseminates such skills to their community members through public barazas. They also play a major role in training the security personnel on the basics of dispute resolution through meetings held at least once a month in their various works stations.

5.3.5 Security Personnel/ Police:

Security personnel as supported by 216 (54%) of respondents (Table 5.2) in this study included the National police service with officers drawn mainly from the Administration police and the regular police units. Police posts have been set up in areas perceived to be vulnerable to conflicts especially along the borders in conflict. The police officers are mandated to respond to local crime and disputes, for instance livestock rustling and land disputes within the area. An interview by the regular police officers revealed that they are specifically mandated to prevent incidences of livestock rustling in the area by patrolling borders and ensuring that people do not move with livestock across the common borders and in the event that this happens the officers should help with tracing and recovery of stolen livestock and facilitate safe return to the owners as well as apprehending those behind these crimes.

The study further revealed that the regular police officers were mostly deployed in places where there were rampant cases of livestock theft and erupting inter-clan conflict especially along the borders to make sure that they execute their mandate effectively. The Administration police officers often provided reinforcement to the regular police officers during incidences of livestock rustling and also helped in sealing off the border areas in the event that there was tension between the Clan to prevent either clan from attacking the other.

5.3.6 Judiciary /Courts

The courts are key to conflict management in the area as supported by 32(8 %) of the respondents in Table 5.2. The Judiciary is the official state body to deal with disputes as indicated by the laws of Kenya and the constitution of Kenya (2010). The courts work closely with the police to ensure that people who have been involved in perpetrating conflicts are punished according to the law. The courts have also been key in solving land disputes in the area by

delivering justice to aggrieved parties under the law. Courts by their very nature are highly formal. Conflict perpetrators arrested are sometimes taken to the court as noted from the interviews with the security personnel officials. One respondent pointed out during the FGDs that;

On several occasions, the police do not take conflict perpetrators especially livestock rustlers to court; they are always arrested and then set free after a few days thereby making them have the courage to continue propagating violence. The police appear to be collaborating with these livestock rustlers (FGDs with village Elders. Source: Field Data December, 2018).

Responses from FGDs also indicated less preference to the court which was viewed as costly and time consuming blaming corruption and ineffectiveness in the official law; Participants in the FGDs noted that inter-clan conflict incidences reported to the police hardly ever reached the courts. Additionally the costs of travelling and the costs of filing a case at court was viewed by the respondents as high in comparison to the income levels of the people, making it almost impossible for many to seek redress before a court for their grievances.

5.4 Recommendations:

The study recommends that the National and County Governments should formulate policies especially land policies that aim at addressing socio-economic factors that contribute to inter-clan conflicts especially competition for resources with an objective of avoiding the recurrence of the same.

5.5 Conclusion:

In line with the socio-economic environment influencing inter-clan conflicts, the study concludes that inter-clan conflict in Wajir North Sub-county, Wajir County have been contributed by competition over scarce resources, land and boundary issues, bad cultural practices, unemployment, political leadership and incitement, ethnic and clan mistrust, poverty, historical injustices and weak criminal justice system. True is applicable when these causes are arranged in order of ranking starting from the highest to cause.

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