

**CATTLE RUSTLING AND INSECURITY: A CASE STUDY OF BARINGO COUNTY,  
KENYA**

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## DECLARATION

### Student Declaration

This research project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other University

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**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2023**

### Supervisor Declaration

This research project has been submitted for examination with approval by me as the University Supervisor (s)

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Signature: 

**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2023**

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Lastly, I find it challenging to put into words the depth of my gratitude. I humbly offer my prayers, seeking that the Almighty showers each and every one of you with abundant blessings and divine grace.

## **DEDICATION**

I wholeheartedly dedicate this work to my beloved sons, Lawrence and Willy, as well as to my entire family. You are the unwavering pillar upon which I lean, providing me with the strength and support to pursue my aspirations.

## ABSTRACT

Cattle rustling has been identified as a major cause of insecurity in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) regions of Kenya. In order to address this issue, the government has taken several measures, such as establishing security agencies like the Anti-Stock Theft Unit and police reservists. However, despite these efforts, cattle rustling continues to persist, resulting in loss of human lives, property, and hindering development. This study aimed to assess the effectiveness of the strategies implemented by the Government of Kenya to combat cattle rustling and its associated insecurity. Guided by the Social Cubism Theory, the study was conducted in Baringo County, Kenya. A descriptive research design was employed, targeting law enforcement agencies and local residents of Baringo County. Quantitative data was collected through questionnaires, while qualitative data was gathered using interview guides. The collected data was analysed using descriptive statistics with the help of SPSS, as well as thematic analysis. The findings of the study revealed that culture plays a significant role in fuelling cattle rustling, which in turn contributes to insecurity. Some of the most favored strategies implemented by the government include disarmament of citizens and the deployment of enforcement officers. However, the involvement of local communities in these efforts yielded inconclusive results, as only a simple majority agreed that locals were actively engaged. The study also highlighted that the presence of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in the hands of civilians perpetuates cattle rustling. Additionally, the deployment of law enforcement agencies was found to be ineffective, as was the strategy of branding to curb cattle rustling. Community-led strategies, such as meetings between elders of warring communities and the formation of peace committees, have not yielded convincing results, as cattle rustling remains prevalent. There are various challenges in curbing cattle rustling, including the lack of political support, inaccessible geographical terrain, harsh climatic conditions, ill-equipped and under-resourced security agencies, uncooperative communities, and language barriers with security agencies. Based on the study's findings, several recommendations are proposed. These include the implementation of Livestock Movement Regulation, utilizing traditional dispute resolution mechanisms to address rustling, revitalizing and enhancing the Nyumba Kumi security framework, signing the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Protocol on Transhumance, implementing a development framework to tackle underdevelopment and marginalization, and reviving the Mifugo 2021 Protocol to manage transnational rustling.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS**

<b>ACC</b>	Assistant County Commissioner
<b>AP</b>	Administration Police
<b>ASTU</b>	Anti-Stock Theft Unit
<b>ASTU</b>	Anti-Stock Theft Unit
<b>CC</b>	County Commissioner
<b>DCC</b>	Deputy County Commissioner
<b>EA</b>	East Africa
<b>EAPCCO</b>	Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization
<b>GSU</b>	General Service Unit
<b>GSU</b>	General Service Unit
<b>HOA</b>	Horn of Africa
<b>HRW</b>	Human Rights Watch
<b>ICPALD</b>	Intergovernmental Authority on Development Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development
<b>ISSAT</b>	International Security Sector Advisory Team
<b>KDF</b>	Kenya Defense Forces
<b>KHRC</b>	Kenya Human Rights Commission
<b>KNBS</b>	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
<b>KPC</b>	Kenya Parliamentary Committee
<b>NCCK</b>	National Council of Churches of Kenya
<b>NGAO</b>	National Government Administrative Officers
<b>PREMAP</b>	Pastoralist Resource Management and Advocacy Programme
<b>PWH&amp;E</b>	Pastoralist Women for Health and Education
<b>RDU</b>	Rapid Deployment Unit
<b>RECSA</b>	Regional Centre on Small Arms
<b>SALW</b>	Small Arms and Light Weapons
<b>USA</b>	United States of America

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

The global phenomenon of cattle rustling manifests on various scales and dimensions across the globe (Okoli and Okpaleke, 2014). According to Aucoin et al. (2017) cattle rustling has increasingly become violent and transnational in nature. To fight this insecurity problem, a more coordinated regional response is needed. In the United States (U.S.) cattle rustling is prominent in the states of Texas and Oklahoma. Brown (2018) indicates that in Australia cattle rustling is prevalent with 1717 cattle and 8095 sheep stolen between January and May of 2017. In 2018, 2,650 cattle and 15,076 sheep were stolen between January and October. This indicates an increase in cattle rustling. Townsend (2018) alludes to the fact that good prices of cattle and the high demand for meat contribute to this practice. In Europe the practice has greatly reduced particularly in Britain and Ireland. However, the figures emerging from Israel show the practice is on an increasing pattern (Haaretz, 2015).

In Africa, cattle rustling has grown in scale and its accompanying violence. The practice is increasingly being linked to criminal networks and terrorist groups who have commercialized the practice (Aucoin *et al.*, 2017). In Nigeria's Borno state cattle rustling has been linked to among other groups, the Boko Haram. Mahmood et al (2017) shows that in Madagascar, cattle rustling is prevalent and motivated by high rates of unemployment, poverty and environmental pressures. Gumba et al (2018) shows that in South Sudan, illegal small arms fuel cattle rustling and constant cycles of conflict and violence. Insecurity is the absence of safety due to violence, deaths, conflicts, loss of property, and injuries associated with cattle rustling. Steinberg (2019) argues it is the unauthorized and illegal abstraction of livestock for sale, slaughter, or use in various other ways.

In Kenya's ASAL regions, cattle rustling is a source of conflict, poverty and insecurities for pastoral communities (Intergovernmental Authority on Development Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development) (ICPALD) (2017). Among the pastoral communities of West Pokot, cattle rustling is aggravated by competition for access to resources like pasture and water. This escalates conflict, insecurity and poverty (Kaprom, 2013). The Regional Centre on Small

Arms, identifies North Eastern and North Rift parts of Kenya, where Baringo falls as some of the areas worst affected by cattle rustling (RECSA, 2018). In North Eastern, some of the pastoral communities include the Rendille, Samburu and Somali while in North Rift some of the communities are the Turkana and Pokot. Aucoin and Mahmood (2017), state that Baringo County has witnessed many cases of cattle rustling leading to deaths of people and stealing of thousands of cattle. The Kenya Police (2015) notes that in 56 raids, an excess of 24 people lost their lives and 25,000 livestock stolen in cattle rustling.

Langat (2016) argues that this is because in May 2015, there were 75 people reported dead over a period of just four days among the semi-nomadic communities on Samburu and Turkana. The acts of cattle rustling are fueled by the availability of modern weapons and support for the vice by community leaders and politicians who want to displace those who are against them as supported by the research carried out by the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) in 2010 (Langat, 2016). In 2012, the Kenya National Police lost 42 police officers and 50 firearms to cattle rustlers in Baringo County. Baringo remains one of the most affected Counties by cattle rustling due to illegal firearms (Matara, 2016).

Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) (2017) observed that the Kenyan Government has effected a host of strategies in the effort to curb cattle rustling including: disarmament, redeployment, policing, cattle branding in the affected areas. In policing, more law enforcement personnel from the different security agencies are stationed in the hot spots and potential rustling areas. Mkawale (2014) indicates that at least 100 police reservists were deployed in every affected county including Baringo. In disarmament, guns owned by local communities are wiped to create a gun free environment. Despite this disarmament, there has been an increase of illegal arms in the hands of civilians, thus sustaining cattle rustling (Kaprom, 2013). In cattle branding a unique official permanent mark is made on livestock. Branding conforms to the community's culture and is a useful mechanism in recovering lost livestock and affirming the real owner (Agamerica, 2017). The adoption of cattle branding by the Government of Kenya has not reduced cattle rustling as it continues to persist (Gumba, 2018). The strategies put in place by the government to curb cattle rustling, have so far failed to contain the menace (Mkawale, 2014). It is from this background that this study investigated cattle rustling and insecurity in Baringo County.

## **1.2 Statement of the Research Problem**

There are several sources of insecurity in the ASAL regions of Kenya with cattle rustling been flagged as one of the major sources of insecurity (County Government of Baringo, 2018). As an endemic security challenge, cattle rustling is prevalent in areas such as Marsabit and Samburu where the Government of Kenya continues to tackle the vice. This vice has dire effects and the Kenya Police (2015) reports show it has caused the death of 24 people and theft of 25,000 cattle in 56 cattle raids recorded. Further figures from the National Crime and Research Center indicate cattle rustling was in 2018 one of the major crimes in the country as stock theft was prevalent in the ASAL region in the country especially Samburu, Marsabit and Turkana (NCRC, 2018). The National Police Service (NPS) annual report of 2020 indicated that there was an increase in cattle rustling between 2017 and 2020. The figures from 2020 show 28 people were killed and 58 injured due to cattle rustling. The factors purported to cause cattle rustling include but not limited to: availability and access to fire-arms; cultural practices; and struggle for resources. Such losses have led to development of strategies by the government to fight this vice and among them are government policing, government disarmament exercises and branding of cattle. Mkutu (2006) further acknowledges that strategies such as vigilantes, Anti Stock Theft Units (ASTU) officers, and police reservists have been put in place.

Despite the deployment of security forces in the affected areas, cattle rustling continues to persist particularly in the ASAL regions of the country (Korir, 2018). This is evident from the continued loss of human lives and stagnated development due to this vice. For instance, 580 people died out of cases of cattle rustling in the ASAL areas of Kenya specifically, North Eastern and North Rift areas (RECSA, 2018). Kushner and Langat (2017) report that law enforcement agents have also fallen victims to cattle rustlers, case in point is the case in Samburu County in 2012 and 2018 where several security officers lost their lives during a shoot-out by livestock thieves. In addition, the chief of police in Laikipia County was shot and wounded by cattle rustlers in 2017 (Matara, 2018). Between 2021 and 2023 cattle rustling has been on an increasing trajectory in Kenya. As of 2022 statistics, there were 279 deaths from cattle rustling. 32 police officers were killed in Northern Kenya (Institute for Security Studies, 2022).

Therefore, despite this glaring insecurity situation to the communities and law enforcement agencies in Baringo County, few scholars have written on the nexus between cattle rustling and

insecurity in Baringo. Existing reports are majorly anecdotal and concentrate on the general effects of cattle rustling. Scholars such as Kaimba et al., (2011) wrote on the effects of cattle rustling and household characteristics on migration decisions and herd size amongst pastoralists in Baringo, Kenya; Kaprom (2013) wrote on the effects of cattle rustling on economic development in west Pokot County; and Cheserek *et al*, (2012) wrote on the causes of cattle rustling among pastoral communities in Kenya. There is however, a dearth of literature on the efficacy of the strategies put in place by the Government of Kenya in order to curb cattle rustling and its accompanying insecurity. This study therefore, addressed this issue.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

1. What are the underlying causes and motivations for cattle rustling in Baringo County, Kenya?
2. How does the prevalence of cattle rustling contribute to the overall level of insecurity in Baringo County, Kenya?
3. What are the various strategies employed by authorities to mitigate and prevent cattle rustling in Baringo County, Kenya?
4. What are the challenges encountered by the Government of Kenya in its endeavor to curb cattle rustling in Baringo County, Kenya?

### **1.4 Research Objective**

To assess the impact of cattle rustling on insecurity in Baringo County, Kenya

#### **1.4.1 Specific Objectives**

1. To find out the underlying causes and motivations for cattle rustling in Baringo County, Kenya.
2. To what extent does the prevalence of cattle rustling contribute to the overall level of insecurity in Baringo County, Kenya.

3. To analyse the various strategies employed by authorities to mitigate and prevent cattle rustling in Baringo County, Kenya.

4. To identify the challenges encountered by the Government of Kenya in its endeavor to curb cattle rustling in Baringo County, Kenya.

## **1.5 Justification of the study**

### **1.5.1 Academic Justification**

This study aimed to investigate the correlation between cattle rustling and insecurity in Baringo County, thus contributing to the existing scholarly discourse on the subject matter in Kenya. Scholars have studied various aspects and context of cattle rustling in Kenya. Kaprom (2013), Emuria (2016) and Triche (2014) conducted studies in Turkana; Gumba and Alusala (2018) studied the case of Laikipia; Khisa, Were and Amuta (2016) conducted their study in Marsabit County; Mohamud (2014) studied the case of Mandera County and Langat (2016) who studied the case in Baringo focused on the causes thus leaving out other insecurity issues as well as applicable remedies in modern day Kenya. Further some of the studies including Mkawale (2014) and Cheserek et al., (2012) need to be brought into the current context as currently, there have been new developments since these studies were conducted. Therefore, this study expands the knowledge by updating the current literature as well as bringing in new dynamics.

By exploring the specific dynamics of the Baringo case, this research expands the boundaries of knowledge and establishes a valuable reference point for future scholars and students interested in studying similar issues.

### **1.5.2 Policy Justification**

The findings of this study provide valuable insights for policymakers regarding the interconnection between cattle rustling and insecurity in Baringo County. It sheds light on the effectiveness of the current strategies implemented by the Government and highlights the challenges encountered in addressing this insecurity issue. An understanding of this is crucial in adjusting and or developing comprehensive mechanisms and strategies that not only aim to curb cattle rustling but also effectively tackle the consequent insecurity arising from rustling activities in Baringo County and other similar contexts.



## 1.6 Scope and limitation of study

The study was conducted in Baringo County due to the significant levels of insecurity experienced in various sub-locations. While there may be multiple factors contributing to this insecurity, the study primarily focused on the role of cattle rustling in exacerbating the issue.

The researcher encountered several limitations during the study, including challenges in accessing law enforcement agents for interviews on matters of insecurity. Additionally, it was difficult to engage reformed cattle rustlers who were reluctant to participate in the study. To address these concerns, the researcher obtained a research permit to assure law enforcement agents that the study was government-approved and conducted for academic purposes. Furthermore, respondents were assured of confidentiality and anonymity to protect their identities.

## 1.7 Definition and Operationalization of Key Concepts

**Cattle rustling** Cattle rustling refers to theft of cattle from a community by another using firearms causing damage of property and death to the people, (Cheserek, Omondi and Odeyo, 2012). East Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) (2008) defines cattle rustling as stealing or planning, organizing, attempting, aiding or abetting the stealing of livestock by any person from one country or community to another. The theft is accompanied by dangerous weapons and violence. This study adopted the definition by EAPCCO.

**Insecurity:** insecurity is characterized by lack of safety and protection from violence and theft. The illegal act of cattle rustling causes insecurity through loss of livestock, violence and intimidation, displacement and disruption of livelihoods and lives (Waweru and Onyango, 2020). Beland (2005) states that insecurity is “*the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection*”. This study adopted Waweru and Onyango (2020) to define insecurity.

**Government strategies on cattle rustling-** in this study, strategies meant plans/frameworks which the government has adopted to fight the theft of livestock, which include but not limited to disarmament, cattle branding, Government policing etc.

### **1.8 Hypotheses**

**Alternative Hypothesis (H1):** There is a significant relationship between cattle rustling and insecurity in Baringo County, Kenya.

**Null Hypothesis (H0):** The government's intervention in addressing cattle rustling does not affect the overall security situation in Baringo County, Kenya.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This section reviews the literature on cattle rustling globally, continentally and nationally. Further it reviews literature on the strategies as well as the challenges experienced by government in curbing cattle rustling and finally on the theoretical framework

#### **2.1 Cattle Rustling and Insecurity Globally**

Cattle rustling is a global phenomenon that manifest on various scales and dimensions across nations, having been committed as the first crime to attract a restorative justice sentence mentioned in the Bible (Okoli & Okpaleke, 2014). Cattle rustling' has evolved from a cultural or survival practice to a widespread and criminal activity as per the International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT) (2019). Towers (2012) observed that cattle rustling is a global problem as it affects countries all over the world. Aucoin *et al* (2017) points out that cattle rustling has increasingly become violent and transnational in nature and requires more coordinated regional responses. In the United States of America, the most affected states are Texas and Oklahoma.

Towers (2012) states that over 1000 cases of cattle rustling in Texas and Oklahoma, were reported and tackled out in the year 2011 and that the numbers that are likely to grow. The Toronto Sun (2012) in Canada reports that over 6,000 cattle are stolen yearly and it is believed that the thieves are after the cattle for selling and as heist. Kent (2010) posits that as everything is improving in the United States of America, from technology connecting urban areas and rural and the art of cattle rustling is also growing and majorly in Nebraska State. He further says that cattle rustling is on the increase because of the profit value which has been attached with cattle and the ready market where there is no inspection during selling and buying. Neglecting of rules of branding cattle in Nebraska the United States (U.S) gives a leeway to the thieves who take advantage of it.

In Australia between January and May, 2017, 1717 cattle and 8095 sheep were stolen, Brown, (2018) and between January and October 2018, 2,650 cattle and 15,076 sheep were stolen as per the statistics of livestock police, Townsend (2018) showing an increase in the cattle theft cases. The reason behind the theft is the good prices of cattle and the high demand for meat. In Europe

the practice is old and dying but was practiced in Britain and Ireland. The case is however, different in Israel as noted by Haaretz (2015) where the practice continues to date particularly for commercial purposes.

Burkart and Diaz (2019) give an overview of some of the cattle rustling activities in Colombia. Cattle rustling became a practice after closure of a processing plant which gave rise to clandestine processing that fuels cattle rustling. However, Law 1994 of 2018 that increased penalties on the practice led to reduction of rustling activities. Tovar (2020) further gives a context of cattle rustling in Colombia and shows that cattle rustling is a common crime and violent event that has caused insecurity and relocation of populations.

Jones (2021) notes that Brazil launched a massive operation to tame cattle rustling in the southeastern state of Rio Grande do Sul where criminal organisations have engaged in cattle rustling. The criminal organisations engage in cattle rustling and sell the same 2,600 kilometers in the northern state of Tocantins. Ranchers have thus been affected losing property to criminals. The practice of cattle rustling has become complex and sophisticated as criminal groups work towards stealing livestock. The emerging new dynamic of interstate cattle rustling veers of the intra-state level cattle rustling that has always been reported in Brazil.

According to Ford (2021) cattle rustling has become a common source of insecurity along the Uruguay-Brazil border. Livestock and horses have been stolen in Brazil and shipped across the border into Uruguay. These livestock are rebranded to erase their source of origin. In Uruguay, complains in the year of 2020 numbered 1,200 cases of cattle rustling which was an increase from the previous 2019. As one of the largest exporters of beef, the country has historically categorized cattle rustling as a second rate criminal offence. However, the increasing trends and increased insecurity have forced some change. The country has created a unit to address this as well as putting in place technological, security and legislative proposals. Apart from drones and patrols, Uruguay has applied branding. The northern regions of Artigas and Salto which neighbor Brazil and Argentina are involved in the practice which has become an organized criminal matter.

According to Rizzi (2008) cattle rustling is one of the major insecurity problems in Argentina's Pampas's plains. As a leading exporter of beef, the lax environments and scale of landholdings has made cattle rustling an easy crime for criminals. Jones (2020) documents cattle rustling in Argentina and shows that DNA testing is a credible method of curbing the deeply entrenched crime of cattle rustling in Santa Fe. The new technology of DNA testing has become a new way to fight cattle rustling and this method is credible for preventing and also proving rustling activities. In the state of Santa Fe, cattle rustling has become a daily activity reported locally by the media. The crime has brought about insecurity and criminal groups conducting this activity herd the stolen cattle in new locations and also slaughter the cattle and resell the meat.

According to Otis (2019) Venezuela has experienced high magnitude cattle rustling due to an economic crisis. The sinking of the currency as well as the hyperinflation in the country have encouraged criminal gangs to engage in cattle rustling. At the border with Colombia, Venezuela has experienced lawlessness and insecurity includes stealing and trading of livestock. These are smuggled across border from the ranches where they are stolen. This crime has made the Colombia-Venezuela border a dangerous area where cattle rustling crimes lead in the insecurity.

### **2.1.2 Cattle Rustling and Insecurity in Africa**

Cattle rustling in recent years in Africa has grown both in scale and violence. It is increasingly being linked to a criminal network of terrorist groups which use it as a source of income (Aucoin *et al.*, 2017). In January 2016 Nigeria Borno state, 200 000 heads of cattle had been stolen by bandits as the chairman of a local cattle association, Nigeria gestated in his estimate, although he pointed out that not all could be linked to Boko Haram, a terrorist organized group in Nigeria. On the other hand, Mahmood et al (2017) says that Cattle rustling in Africa is increasingly linked to terrorist groups like Boko Haram as a source of income in running their terrorist activities. Gumba and Alusala (2018) wrote that presence of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW) has increased in Africa. This has been caused by endemic armed conflicts making cattle rustling, which was before a customary practice, more violent, and harmful. According to Olaniyan et al (2016) cattle rustling one of the main local security concerns within Nigeria. The northern area of Nigeria is mostly afflicted. Bashir (2014), states that between October 2013 and March 2014 about 7,000 cattle were stolen from commercial livestock farms and traditional herders in Northern Nigeria.

Further literature by James (2023) shows that cattle rustling is a major internal security concern in Nigeria especially in the northern region which is the epicenter. For instance in Niger state, terrorist related groups and bandits have terrorized communities and conducted massive cattle rustling. In Katsina state, the situation is the same as with cattle rustling becoming a cancerous source of insecurity. In the East, West and South regions of Nigeria where pastoralism is practiced, cattle rustling and banditry are common. The new dynamic shows that cattle rustling in Nigeria is no longer a livelihood associated practice but a high crime and commercial enterprise. Other dynamics show it is associated with farmer-herder's conflicts, ethno-religious issues and political mechanization. The expansive ungoverned spaces in Kaduna, Zamfara, Katsina, Niger, Sokoto and Kebbi states have encouraged and fueled cattle rustling. Environment related causes have also led to cattle rustling activities in the middle belt region of Nigeria. This practice has had a huge effect on security in the affected regions.

Madagascar, being one of the countries in Africa, is also affected by the menace of cattle rustling according to Mahmood et al (2017). The Madagascan army gave a statistical report that 161 people lost their lives in clashes involving the army and cattle rustlers over the year and several cattle stolen. Cattle rustling in Madagascar is motivated by high rates of unemployment, poverty and environmental pressures according to the International Security Sector Advisory Team. In South Sudan, according to Gumba et al (2018) the illegal small arms in the hands of civilians has increased above 3.2 million from the onset of violence in December 2013. This makes the situation worse as far as cattle rustling is concerned. The constant cycles of conflict and violence ensures cattle rustling is tied to trade in illegal small arms.

In Uganda, Habati (2013) writes that the continuation of cultural practices such as wearing *leketio* by women encourages cattle raiding. Among the Karamojong of Uganda, warriors who raid are motivated by social mechanisms as those who fail face mockery and shame. According to Mkutu (2006) traditional cattle raiding was cultural but the recent emergence of commercial raiding caused insecurity in the Kenya-Uganda border regions. Several measures have been put in place including vigilantes, Anti Stock Theft Units (ASTU) officers, militia and having police reservists. Manyok (2017) writes on livestock theft and its afflictions on societies in Jonglei state, South Sudan. The study appeals for strategies on several levels. First, the study proposes that equipping local and community elders and leaders; encouraging a norm of peace; inter-tribal

dialogue; advocating for inter-communal marriages; and initiating common games among the afflicted communities is vital at the communal level. Also the findings indicate that it is integral to disarm retired soldiers and reuniting them into the community. Further to this, NGOs can be involved through sponsoring training programs; promoting for peace and reunion and developing alert mechanism tracks the regions with conflicts. Prioritizing these plans is crucial in mitigating cattle rustling in the area.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) (2013) writes on abuses against civilians in South Sudan. The study notes that the rationale regarding the change towards livestock theft have become complex as communities involved in the practice have resulted to doing extreme actions in order to acquire herds of cattle. This shows that communities are now enriching themselves at a cost of blameless lives of women and children. The study also notes that there is a shift in dispute resolution and strategies towards solving the cattle rustling menace. Currently traditional leaders have been rendered powerless as the government has taken over the prevention and solving cattle rustling menace. Arms of government are making decisions based solely on the constitution and have left out traditional institutions and customs of the communities. However, it is notable that this modern method has not achieved much among the communities.

Mayik (2020) studied cattle rustling in South Sudan and shows that among the Dinka, Nuer and Murle of Jonglei state, cattle rustling and child abduction have been fuelled by SALW and the need for bride wealth. This practice has increased insecurity with death rates, poverty, displacement and loss of property being the most common signs of the high insecurity. Initially the practices of cattle rustling and child abductions were cultural but the rise of political upheavals and militarization of conflicts have changed the dynamics of these practices. The state of Jonglei has experienced further negative consequences such as negative effects on social cohesion, instability and negative economic development. To curb the practice the author shows that there is need for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in these three communities of South Sudan.

Jibat, Berisso and Adeto (2023) inter-community conflicts in Ethiopia especially among the Oromo and Gumuz was fuelled by cattle raiding and looting between these two communities. The practice has led to widespread insecurity as displacement, death and loss of property have accompanied the cattle rustling practices between these communities. The similarities in the way

of life between the Gumuz and Oromo is a major source of the cattle rustling. Further to this, illegal small arms, poor governance, ethnicisation of politics. To solve this insecurity crisis, part of the solutions include permanent settlement of claims and developing infrastructures in these communities. Also, reduction of poverty can be a useful means of reducing cattle rustling among these communities.

Humphreys and Mohamed (2002) describe the insecurity situation in Mali and Senegal. In Mali, groups such as civil militia like the Ganda Koy have fought inter-communal conflicts that have involved cattle rustling. In the Mali conflicts, war has been fuelled by many issues but key in this is cattle rustling. Through cattle rustling, stolen herds have been sold and used proceeds used to finance purchase of small arms.

### **2.1.3 Cattle Rustling and Insecurity in Kenya**

In a study by Kaprom (2013) the Pokot is one among the pastoralist communities who are experiencing continued clashes with their neighboring communities such as the Turkana, Ilchamus and Tugen. The reason behind the conflicts is the struggle for pasture and water for livestock which gives a stepping stone for cattle rustling (Mahamud *et al* (2005). In 2017 in Laikipia about 10,000 armed pastoralists conducted a raid and made away with 135,000 heads of cattle (Gumba and Alusala, 2018). In the same year, security forces in Kenya intervened and killed cattle during a gunfight with pastoralists. The Anti-Stock Theft Unit (ASTU) reported that about 580 people died between January 2012 and January 2014 due to cattle rustling.

Langat (2016) posits that due to the semi-arid and fragile eco-system of northern Kenya, only pastoralism can effectively be practiced. In the larger County of Baringo, mostly the land is rocky and arid, and non-arable which explains the reason why most of the Pokot and Tugen who live in the region have primarily been livestock farmers. Nomadic communities currently live in one place while they let men go in search of pasture and water. Wasara (2002) writes on rivalry and status of security in the Horn of Africa and opines that communities around the region have benefited from the sneaking of modern arms and armed themselves in preparation for cattle theft. Country experiences in Sudan, Kenya and Uganda indicate that cattle rustlers and bandits capitalize on the ongoing civil wars and also interstate wars in order to acquire modern assault rifles and use them in the cattle rustling activities. Cattle rustling between communities has poured into the region and across state boundaries. Rustling events have become militarized



rallying campaigns across state boundaries. Rustlers in the region have created insecurity as the transnational business of rustling continues to plague these countries in the Horn of Africa. Some of the measures taken by these states is designing and conducting counter insurgency.

Khisa, Were and Amuta (2016) argue that cattle rustling is a major source of insecurity and conflicts in Samburu and Marsabit Counties of Kenya. Rustling has new trends that heavily impact the socio-economic development in these two counties. First there is increased frequency of raids, there is a rise of gangs due to commercialization of livestock and livestock products, and there is also a political motive to rustling. The authors recommend awareness creation and sensitization, legislation for small arms, establishing alternative sources of livelihood and infrastructure development. In another study by Leparie et al. (2021) showed that cattle rustling has been persistent and causes socio-economic and security threats. Some of the measures applied by the government remain ineffective for instance animal tracking, disarmament, intelligence gathering, naming & shaming, and community policing.

According to Triche (2014) livestock raiding is a source of conflict among pastoral communities. The Turkana and Pokot pastoral communities are just one of the many communities involved. Cattle rustling in these communities have been driven by resource access, proliferation of small arms and profiteering. The author proposes the empowerment of local communities through multi-ethnic coalitions, promoting broad based interest groups, and cultural events which can bring about peace. Another study touching on Turkana was conducted by Emuria (2016) studied cattle rustling and education and found that cattle rustling has been on the rise in Turkana County. Cattle rustling has brought about a disruption on everyday life routines. One negative impact is on attendance of primary education due to the dire insecurity. Areas prone to cattle raids have shown a tendency of desertion as pupils especially the boy-child drop out, fail to attend or perform poorly in high numbers.

NCCCK (2001) reports conflicts over scarce resources influences cattle raids. The environmental insecurity brought caused by drought, unreliable rainfall, reducing water resources, and shrinking pasture fields have increased competition among pastoral communities. This has led to death of cattle and the consequent restocking activities mainly through cattle raids. According to Mc. Peak and Doss (2006) state that the emergence of commercialized cattle rustling has fuelled raiding as businesspersons, politicians, and community members push for economic reasons and

financial theft alongside other pastoral societies. This interferes with pastoral livelihoods and security as pastoral communities increase arms to guarantee protection from raiding parties. Threats emanating from increased human death and livestock losses has also influenced pastoral migration and herd size and in the process interfered with their asset and livelihood.

#### **2.1.4 Strategies and Challenges in Curbing Cattle Rustling Globally**

Different strategies have been laid down by different states in curbing cattle rustling and major among them is deployment of government security agencies. Guadamor and Martinez (2017) noted that in the Philippines, cattle rustling stems from the presence of weapons, poverty and breakdown of governance. Also, political incitement is a major cause. The government formulated the Anti-cattle rustling law for purposes of taming cattle rustling and restoring order. The government resulted to disseminating information and coordinating law enforcement agencies to implement this law. This strategy was successful as fewer cases of cattle rustling were reported. Further, there were fewer cases of citizens violating this law as citizens became aware of the consequences.

In Madagascar, Aucoin and Mahmood (2017) show that pastoralism targeting the zebu cattle increased due to political instability and economic hardships. Raids took a dangerous direction as modern weapons infiltrated and criminal groups became increasingly professional. To solve this escalation, the army was at the center of the strategy. A five-month pacification campaign conducted by the army, targeted rogue zones that had little government presence. This pacification campaign reduced the impunity under which cattle rustlers were operating in within Madagascar.

Knighton (2010) found out that the army who are given the mandate of dealing with cattle rustling in the affected areas did not manage to control it or return the ones that were stolen. The bandits seem to be smarter than the uniformed police or they are in cooperation with them. This is also supported by the International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT) in Geneva where they stated that cases of cattle rustling continue to take place even in the presence of law enforcement because they are in partnerships and abet the crime being committed and in some instances the retired or former police officers are used in leading the raiding teams.

### **2.1.5 Strategies and Challenges in Curbing Cattle Rustling in Africa and in Eastern Africa**

Dieng et al. (2017) studied the internet solutions for preventing cattle rustling in Africa. The study asserts that the Internet of Things can be a critical solution in cattle rustling as it can allow threat detection and prevent it by also pinpointing cattle behavior which is different from the environment in Europe where this strategy has been in use. The main challenge is the availability of internet and knowledge of existence of such advanced technological systems. The study found out that the internet of things as integrated technological systems involves several technologies which communicate and collect data. The paper shows that technology, both hardware and software, is a critical solution as it can solve cattle rustling through modeling the environment, rustlers, farmers and animal conduct to avoid the place and time of cattle rustling. Therefore, the study proposes the use of a Lora technology in livestock management which is algorithm enabled to predict and stop cattle rustling.

ISSAT (2018) reports on cattle rustling and insecurity in Africa and state that the practice is on the rise together with its associated direct and indirect effects such as death and destruction. This has created the need for security sector reforms to address this crime. Proposals in the study include creation of a communal self-defense group in order to protect communities from raids. Further to these local partnerships between police and the community is critical in order to solve the cattle rustling menace. Community policing as a strategy has been successful at reacting to emergencies and also recovering stolen livestock. Lastly, peace committees which are multi-stakeholder form an important basis for solving cattle rustling.

Aliyu and Azeez (2016) write on understanding cattle rustling in Northern Nigeria. The study indicates that cattle theft has increased the security challenges in the state as syndicates and heavily armed groups seek to control the trade. The rustling scourge led to government interventions which included formation of a Task group on livestock theft and related Crime in Nigerian Police Force. The taskforce was responsible for patrolling, intelligence gathering, investigating and prosecuting cases. Further to the above, other strategies in place include the embedding of security agents amongst herders; tightening boundaries to avoid trans-border inflow of livestock thieves; and executing computer microchips in the animals. The microchips have helped in not only tracking but also monitoring movements and preventing stealing of animals by armed bandits.

Tonah (2000) studied state policies, local prejudices and cattle rustling in Ghana and Burkina Faso. The article examines policies the Ghanaian government put in place to regulate cattle rustling but ended up increasing the practice among the Kassena and Fulbe communities. The cross border cattle rustling taking place between the two countries has further complicated the measures put in place to tackle the menace. The government in Ghana adopted a series of measures including police and military operations that involved driving away herdsmen from across the border back to their territory meaning they could not access the water points and grazing lands located inside Ghana. However, this particular measure has not been able to achieve much as the affected communities have continued to call for punitive measures that would be lethal for the recalcitrant raiders.

Odhiambo (2012) studied conflicts in pastoral communities. He shows that large-scale cattle rustling among pastoral communities cause destitution. This has caused adaptive measures such as increasing commercialization of pastoralism which encompasses rearing few animals and selling for profit. This pattern has been observed in Isiolo initiated by Pastoralist Women for Health and Education (PWH&E) and Pastoralist Resource Management and Advocacy Programme (PREMAP). The Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) (2008) on the protocol of combating and eradicating cattle rustling in Eastern Africa stated a number of rules and agreements on livestock identification systems and record keeping and among them is branding. They came into agreement that State Parties should establish systems that guarantee livestock branding and permanent marking using regulated mechanisms where the nation, state or even tribe that animals originate from form part of their identity.

Bii (2013) opines that insecurity is a factor of the availability of SALW. This has further increased cattle rustling, banditry and civilian attacks. Along the Northern Kenya-Uganda border, insecurity has become a norm as communities' conflict and raids each other. In 2007 Ugandan soldiers allegedly attacked by Pokot bandits who crossed from Kenya. In October, 2012 the Ugandan government deployed about 5000 armed soldiers in an area called Kanyerus in order to crush on bandits and also clean up the unauthorized arms. This followed a Pokot cattle raid in which the Pokot crossed into Uganda.

According to Mganda (2013) the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation (TLPF) used several strategies to address cattle raids. The foundation has four programmes for mitigating cattle

rustling conflicts in the Horn of Africa and especially the boundary of Kenya and Uganda. The plans involve environment active peace, education for peace, and peace building & conflict management programme, and enterprise and livelihoods. The foundation further allows reformed warriors to give up arms and get involved in sports. These sports activities have additional value as the different warring communities are brought together to attain understanding and tolerance. The TLPF involves various stakeholders including women, warriors, NGOs in the area, and various government agencies.

### **2.1.6 Strategies and Challenges of Curbing Cattle Rustling in Kenya**

Mkawale (2014) reported that the Kenyan parliamentary committee on National Security and Administration in parliament which was led by a Member of Parliament for Tiaty constituency, Asman Kamama in 2017 proposed that counties affected by cattle rustling should be allowed to employ 100 police reservist to help in curbing cattle rustling. The committee noted that the bandits were smart than the regular police on the ground hence cattle rustling continue thrive. It was noted that the efficiency of the regular police was very low in that they are unable to solve the riddle of cattle rustling. The other strategy is disarmament of citizens by the government. According to Langat (2016) the government destroyed not less than 5,250 guns realized over nine years ago. However, disarmament efforts have yielded little progress.

Cattle branding is another strategy used in curbing cattle rustling. Gumba (2018) states that Kenya and Tanzania are some of the countries which have adopted the strategy of branding cattle in curbing cattle rustling. He states that the strategy is good in local countries but when it crosses borders it becomes useless. Kenya is one of the most hit countries with the vice of cattle rustling and it has emerged that when the raiders steal the cattle, they drive them across the borders and sometimes with the help of wealth businessmen, politicians and the law enforcement officers. The Kenya government has enacted an act of parliament, the branding stock Act Cap 357 laws of Kenya which allows cattle owners to brand their cattle so that they can be identified easily and incase of theft they can be recovered.

Mohamud (2014) examined the role of Faith Based Organisations (Mosque) in preventing cattle rustling in Mandera, North Eastern Kenya. The climatic conditions of the area coupled with infiltration of SALW have led to increase of criminal activities especially cattle rustling. The study found out cattle rustling has also been caused by factors ranging from socio-cultural, agro-

ecological, economic and political considerations. The Mosque through Sharia has instituted strategies to curb cattle rustling. This informs the need to protect human rights, property and punish crimes. The study found out mosques as institutions have instituted strategies such as initiating peace caravans, preaching against the vice, and initiating dialogue with stakeholders and taking part in peace agreements and healing processes.

Deployment of more police officers in the areas affected by cattle rustlers is one of the strategies which the Kenyan government has laid down. The police are helping in fishing out the rustlers and posing a deterrence movement which is bearing more fruits in the fight against cattle rustling. The deployment of more security apparatus in the region is bearing a lot of fruits (Kenya Human rights commission, 2010). However, Manyara (2017) points out that the political good will is not felt hence the slow implementation of the strategy thus low efficiency.

The Guardian (2017) pointed out cattle rustling in Kenya has increasingly been felt due to availability of sophisticated weapons in the hands of civilians. This is as a result of smuggling of the weapons through the porous borders hence creating a weak link for cattle rustling. The government has set a strategy of disarmament of civilians in the affected areas as one of the ways of dealing with this menace. The question at hand is, how efficient this strategy has been? In November, 2017, the government put into fire about 5,000 firearms which were disarmed from civilians, who are believed to be bandits and other law offenders. By the year 2011, 530,000 and 680,000 small arms were argued to be in the hands of civilians alone. This shows effectiveness of this strategy is very weak owing to the small percentage of firearms which have been recovered from the hands of civilians and those still with them, thus the continuity of rustling.

The Kenya Human Rights Commission (2010), points out that the heavily armed civilians and bandits are more than the security systems in place have posed a big challenge in fighting cattle rustling by the government. They further said that, the number of bandits is much bigger than the security officers in the area. It also provides that, the bandits understand the terrain of their area so well as compared to the security officers deployed in the area hence has many tactics of hiding and firing at the security officers overpowering them easily. This can be supported by the death of about 42 police officers in Suguta valley, Samburu during an operation against cattle rustlers.

According to Langat (2016) the government is facing challenges in dealing with rustling. Many pastoral communities take cattle rustling as a culture; therefore having many cattle is a sign of wealth hence continued theft. The issue of tradition and culture has a hand in cattle rustling which slows down the fight of cattle rustling in these areas. The author found out that the weapons like guns are readily available and at the disposal of the community. He points out that a gun goes for about Kshs. 80,000. This poses a challenge to the government in the fight against cattle rustling in that there are many guns at the hands of civilians and bandits. He says that as one grows in the pastoralist's area, he/she is taught how to handle and use a gun hence has the knowledge of different weapons.

Cheserek et al., (2012) argues that Kenya's government has deployed General Service Unit (GSU); Anti Stock Theft Unit (ASTU); Administrative Police and Regular Police. These security agencies are responsible for providing security to the people and their property. This strategy however, is affected by the fact that officers lack coordination and the officers are less armed compared to cattle rustlers. Further to this, the government also organized occasional security operations in the North Rift aimed at confiscating illegal arms from citizens. However, these operations have failed because residents are intimidated in the process. The government has also used tactics of declaring amnesty to those willing to surrender guns, while using threats and ultimatums to others.

Kenya has a range of programs policy, and legal frameworks that address cattle rustling. For instance, the Penal Code criminalizes cattle rustling and gives a prison sentence of up to seven years for such an offence. It also criminalizes possession of stolen property (Law Reform Commission, 2018). The National Livestock Policy of 2008 promotes sustainable and profitable livestock production. It contains measures to address cattle rustling through establishing community-based and led security initiatives (Republic of Kenya, 2008). The Livestock Marketing Act of 2011 on the other hand, regulates sale and movement of livestock. In this Act livestock traders must have a license and selling of stolen livestock is prohibited (Republic of Kenya, 2008). Lastly, there is the Community Livestock Production and Marketing Project between the Kenyan government and the World Bank. This project aims to improve livestock production and marketing in cattle rustling affected areas. It also has measures to enhance security and promote peace building effort in these areas (Republic of Kenya, 2016).

There is also the National Drought Management Authority Act of 2016 that has measures to address cattle rustling in the drought affected regions in Kenya (Republic of Kenya, 2016). Kenya has also enacted the Branding of Stock Act of 1959 which has been severally amended. It provide for branding of livestock to identify and tracing stolen livestock. It also gives penalties for cattle rustling.

## **2.2 Theoretical Framework**

This section comprehensively discusses the theory used in this study.

### **2.2.1 Theory of Social Cubism**

The theory of Social Cubism, designed to analyse conflicts comprehensively, explains the issue of cattle rustling among communities. In its analysis, social cubism advocates for the use of multiple perspectives, different times, different circumstances and different settings under which the factors interact and shape outcomes. The factors interrelate in dynamically different ways in multiple and changing circumstances. Previously used to explain ethno-territorial conflicts, the Social Cubism theory has been extensively applied to diagnose and explain conflicts in different societies (Byrne et al., 2002). Its application has traversed international conflicts and is now applied in intra-state, community and even organisation conflicts. According to its main proponents, Sean Byrne and Neal Carter, the Social Cubism theory, which uses an image of the Rubic's cube, recognizes that there are six interrelated forces that shape conflicts. The factors include history, demography, religion, politics, economics and psycho-cultural factors. These factors are assigned to each side of a Rubic's cube. The cube is dynamic and in constant motion which signifies interaction among the factors (Byrne et al., 2002).

In the Rubic's cube, each side is simultaneously in contact and in relation with the four other sides. But parts of the side move and make other parts of the cube to move therefore influencing their relations. This is the case with the factors which may move and catalyse other factors and also sub-factors to move and relate differently. Interplay of the social factors is in relation to the situation, location, circumstance, participants and conflict. The cube shows the dynamism of the factors and it is a living framework that is in constant motion (Byrne, Carter and Senehi, 2001).

Cattle rustling, as a security issue, has many layers and levels that originate from various sources and manifest in several contexts. Using the proposed factors in the Social cubic theory, cattle rustling can be explained. First, in the historical background, cattle rustling can be explained



from a human existence point. Historical factors and events explain how and why communities in the Kerio Valley and Baringo areas where cattle rustling is common. The group dynamics and inter-relations can be captured and explained by this theory. Power relations among cattle rustling communities are explained under this factor. The historical grazing routes and lands have led to rustling activities among these communities as herd replenishing takes place. The second side is Religion and this factor may explain cattle rustling and violence under the traditional religious and spiritual notions held by the cattle rustling communities in Baringo. Mythological beliefs in the religious contexts explain why cattle rustling among the communities take place and the many other contexts in the process. This may include spiritual interconnections with the ancestry, rituals, offerings and blessings associated with cattle raids. Therefore, the religious factor supports and justifies cattle rustling among the communities (McKay, 2001).

In the psychocultural factor, culture has an important role in cattle rustling. The way cattle rustling is perceived, its cultural importance, and ways of addressing its effects are looked at using a cultural lens. Rustling takes place to mark graduating to adulthood (moranism); and it is used to gather cattle for paying bride price. Also, interventions among the community are also designed culturally by elders. The fourth factor is the political factor which recognizes the importance of political institutions and leadership in sanctioning cattle rustling and addressing the same. There is also a political issue regarding boundaries among communities which explain how territorial issues among the Baringo communities leads to cattle rustling. In addition, political differences among communities also explain why cattle rustling take place and its associated insecurities (McKay, 2001).

The fifth factor, demographics, the theory notes that understanding the composition of the communities is important. The minority and majority communities and how they control resources and influence is at the center of explaining cattle rustling. The last factor touches on economic factors where economic differences among communities explain the practice of cattle rustling. In this factor the commercialization of cattle rustling explains why communities conduct cattle rustling. The resources available to a community dictate when and why cattle rustling occur. The commercial dimension show cattle rustling has become a livelihood for some and income earning activity (McKay, 2001).

The Social Cubism theory provides a comprehensive framework for understanding cattle rustling and insecurity in society. It manages to give a perspective of the complex and multifaceted causes and nature of cattle rustling which can be explained in the six dimensions of the theory. However, this theory has been critiqued for ignoring other important factors that may explain social change and social phenomenon. For instance, the place of gender or even climate and environment in explaining the issue of cattle rustling is weak. This does not however in any way mean the Social Cubism theory has not succinctly been able to capture the issue of cattle rustling using the six factors.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This section focuses on the methodology that was applied in this study. It covers among others, research design, the target population, the site description, the sample size and sampling procedure, the methods of data collection, data analysis and the ethical consideration.

#### **3.1 Site Description and Study Area**

The County of Baringo is situated in Rift Valley. The neighboring counties to it are Turkana and Samburu in North, Kericho and Nakuru in South, Laikipia in East and Elgeyo Marakwet and West Pokot Counties in the West (County Government of Baringo, 2018).

It spans on an area of 11,015 sq. km. Part of the main geographical features in this County include: Lakes Bogoria, Baringo and Kamnarok; Kerio valley; and Tugen Hills. The County's climatic conditions range from humid highlands to arid lowlands. The population of the County as per the 2019 census stood at 666,763 and is distributed according to the climatic conditions, topography, land ownership, infrastructure and soil. The main tribes inhabiting the County of Baringo are the Tugen, Pokot and other minor communities like Kikuyu, Nubians, Ilchamus and Turkana (County Government of Baringo, 2018).

Baringo County experiences high insecurity levels and this has been an impediment to development in the region. Cattle rustling is one of the frequent source of insecurity as communities within and without the County engage in cattle rustling for cultural and economic purposes. There are also community conflicts due to pasture and water especially during dry seasons. This practice is exacerbated by cultural practices that include *moranism* which involves learning tribal customs and developing strength related traits. The practice involves training young men in combat. These *morans* are required to involve themselves in activities of rustling in order to get cattle for bride price and to show brevity of their age group. Also harsh climatic conditions such as low rainfall and drought which cause loss of livestock is also a factor as communities raid in order to restock their herds (County Government of Baringo, 2018).

According to the Minority Rights Group International, Kenya (2018), the government of Kenya has treated the Northern parts of the country which is mainly inhabited by pastoralists and nomads as a security prone area. Baringo County experiences high insecurity levels and this has been an impediment to development in the region. Cattle rustling is one of the frequent sources of insecurity as communities within and without the County engage in cattle rustling for cultural and economic purposes. There are also community conflicts due to pasture and water especially in the dry seasons. This practice is exacerbated by cultural practices that include moranism. Climatic conditions such as low rainfall and drought which causes loss of livestock is also a factor as communities raid in order to restock their herds (County Government of Baringo, 2018).

### **3.2 Research Design**

A research design entails selection of components for a study (Phrasisombath, 2009). The research design is important in that it helps in developing a work plan and ensuring the validity and reliability of the study in every step of the research. The study employs a descriptive research design. This design is useful because of its capability to describe the variables subjected in this study which are the strategies laid down by the government and how efficient they have been and are at the moment.

### **3.3 Target Population**

The target population is an entire set of units for which data is collected from for purposes of making inferences (Lavrakas, 2008). Thus, the target population is defined by those units for which the findings of a study are meant to generalize while the information from the key informants will be used to support the findings collected from the target population. The target population of this study will be the residents of Baringo County which is the area of study. Different factors like age, gender, ownership of cattle will be taken into consideration while selecting respondents. The law enforcement agencies will be part of the key informants. Agents including the anti-stock theft police, the regular police, the administration police, the general service unit and the defense forces officers deployed in the area to curb cattle rustling will be involved.

### **3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure**

Sampling is the selection process of a representative portion of the population to make statistical inferences and conclusions from them and to help estimate characteristics of the whole population (Bhat, 2019). Thus, a sample is a representation of the whole population. Mugenda and Mugenda (1999) refer to a sample as a small group or a subset of the population under study.

Borg and Gall, (2003) state that a sample size of 30% of a population is representative enough while Mugenda and Mugenda (2010) opine that 10% - 30% is representative enough for a population of less than 10,000. If the population is more than 10,000 a sample of 384 is representative enough (Mugenda and Mugenda, 1999). Thus the sample size for this study was 384 respondents as Baringo County has a population of approximately 666,763 people spread across 7 sub-counties.

In the first step, the population of each Sub-County was calculated as a proportion of the Baringo County population (as shown in table 1.1). Thereafter, systematic random sampling was used to sample households from all the Sub-Counties for inclusion into the final sample. The 384 respondents were therefore, distributed across the 7 sub-counties in Baringo according to their population quota in the County population. In systematic random sampling, the first household and respondent were selected randomly and the next household was chosen after every third household until the desired number of respondents was achieved from the required sample.

**Table 1: Sample of Population in Baringo County**

<b>Sub-County</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Sample</b>
Marigat	90,955	53
Mogotio	91,101	53
Koibatek	129,535	74
Baringo Central	96,951	56
Baringo North	101,871	59
Tiaty East	73,121	43
East Pokot	79,923	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>666,763</b>	<b>384</b>

Source: *Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Baringo 2019.*

The key informants were purposively selected for inclusion in the study. Their inclusion was informed by the position held in National Government Administration and security agencies in the country. The key informants were selected from the Region, Sub-county and wards for inclusion in the study.

**Table 2: Proposed Respondent List**

Category	Respondent category	Location	Data collection Method
Security personnel	Anti-Stock Theft Unit (ASTU)	Chemolingot Sub-County, Loruk Sub-County	Interview
	Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU)	Chemolingot Sub-County	Interview
	General Service Unit (GSU)	Marigat Sub-County, Bartabwa Sub-County	Interview
	Kenya Defense Forces (KDF)	Marigat Sub-County, Chemolingot Sub-County	Interview
	Administration Police (AP)	Tiaty, Baringo North, Baringo Central	Interview
National Government Administration Officers (NGAO)	County Commissioner (CC)	County Headquarters-Kabarnet	Interview
	Deputy County Commissioners (DCCs)	All Sub-Counties	Interview
	Assistant County Commissioners (ACCs)	All Sub-Counties	Interview
	Chief/Assistant Chiefs	All Locations	Interview
Residence of Baringo County	Affected Residents of Baringo County	Baringo County	Questionnaire
	Perpetrators (Former cattle rustlers)	Baringo County	Questionnaire

*Source: Author (2022).*

### 3.5 Data Collection

Data collection is the process of gathering measurable raw information based on variables of interest which were used in making conclusions on a specific phenomenon of study. There exist

two main types of data collection which are qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection. In this study, a mixed method of data collection was employed; qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative data gives a description of a phenomenon whereas quantitative data is mainly numeric in nature. The qualitative method was used to collect all information which cannot be quantified in numbers while quantitative method will be used to collect data that can be quantified in numbers and can be mathematically be manipulated.

The tools which were used for data collection are questionnaires and interview guides. Questionnaires were subjected to members of households living in Baringo County as per the sampling procedure while the interview schedule was used on experts who are involved in security matters in Baringo County.

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

Data analysis is the process of developing answers to questions through the examination and interpretation of data. Quantitative data was subjected to statistical package of social sciences (SPSS) a program for data analysis. Quantitative data was majorly from the questionnaires and was analysed using descriptive statistics. Qualitative data on the other hand from interviews was analyzed thematically whereby the statements, explanations from key informants were organized according to similar themes based on the study objectives.

Quantitative data was presented in frequency tables, graphs and pie charts. The frequency data was used in organizing the raw data while the graphs and pie charts were useful in comparison of the same data by giving percentages. Qualitative data was presented in narratives by analyzing the statements and explanations.

### **3.7 Validity and Reliability**

A mixed method technique was used in obtaining data with an aim of comparison of the accuracy of data collected using questionnaires and interview guides. The accuracy, appropriateness and clarity of questionnaires were done by carrying out a pilot study in the locality of Baringo. The simplicity and language was also checked through the pilot study. The pilot study helped the researcher review the questions in the questionnaires to match the objectives where need arose.



### **3.8 Ethical Consideration**

The researcher conducted this research for purposes of education and therefore she had an authorization letter from the University of Nairobi, Department of political science, allowing her to carry out the research. Also a permit from a government agency, NACOSTI was applied for and used by the researcher for the academic investigation. The local administration was notified about the research and relevant security arrangements were done to help the researcher collect data. The researcher observed ethical practice such as confidentiality and anonymity. On informed consent, the researcher ensured that the participants in the research study provided informed consent to participate. This included: clearly explaining the purpose of the study, the procedures involved, any potential risks or benefits, and the voluntary nature of participation. The research also obtained written consent from participants to ensure that they understood what the research was all about and that they were willing to be part of the research. The researcher ensured the privacy and security of collected data owing to the sensitive nature of research.

### **3.9 Study Outline**

This study is divided into five chapters.

Chapter One serves as an introduction to the study topic, providing an overview of the research area and outlining the general objectives that the study aims to achieve.

Chapter Two presents a comprehensive review of the relevant literature, delving into existing studies and theories that inform the research. The chapter specifies the theory that this study adopts, grounding the research in a theoretical framework.

Chapter Three outlines the methodology employed for data collection in the study. It describes the research design, data sources, sampling techniques, and data collection instruments utilized to gather the necessary information for analysis.

In Chapter Four, the study presents an in-depth analysis and synthesis of the findings. The chapter includes the interpretation of the results in relation to the research objectives and provides a summary of the key findings.

Lastly, Chapter Five offers a conclusion that summarizes the main points of the study and addresses the research objectives. This chapter also presents recommendations based on the findings, highlighting practical implications and potential areas for further research.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **ANALYSIS AND SYTHESIS OF FINDINGS**

#### **4.0 Introduction**

This chapter focuses on analysis, synthesis, presentation and discussion of the data collected by the researcher. These analysis will be presented in both narratives and using diagrams. The discussion will on the other hand, relate the findings of the data relative to the empirical literature review and also the theoretical framework adopted in the initial chapters.

#### **4.1 Response Rate**

This study targeted 384 respondents from Baringo County as well as a number of administrative and security agents from the County. From this number, the researcher managed to receive back 240 questionnaires. From these 240 questionnaires only 233 questionnaires were usable while 7 questionnaires were not admissible due to their inadequacy. They were either not filled at all or the respondents answered very few questions. From the targeted sample of 384 questionnaires compared to the number of usable questionnaires (233), the response rate was calculated to be 61%. According to social science scholars such as Babbie (1990) this response rate is acceptable and is good for conducting analysis.

The researcher also conducted qualitative key informant interviews. Fifteen (15) key informant interviews were conducted in Baringo County with the County Commissioner (1), Assistant County Commissioners (4), Chiefs (6), OCPD (2), Commander-RDU (1), and also Officer in Charge-ASTU (1). Therefore, a total of 248 respondents were involved in this study.

It is worth mentioning that some hardships were experienced in the data collection process. To begin with a dusk to dawn curfew was put in place in the month of June, 2022 by the National government to tame the insecurity in parts of Baringo County. This limited time as some respondents were only available to meet after close of business in government offices (5:00 p.m.). Secondly, the insecurity levels in the County had risen to alarming levels in recent times, and this has forced the government to stop any forms of gatherings unsanctioned by the security agencies. Other critical activities in the County such as service delivery by public and private entities; have seized as bandits and militia run riot across the County. This paralysis affected the field work as potential respondents were most at times unavailable. Some residents, displaced by

insecurity, had moved to safer areas away from their homes while others were traumatized and reluctant to participate in this study. The poor state of security also inhibited wide travel by the researcher and therefore, data was gathered from accessible sources where security was guaranteed by local security agencies. Another limitation which affected data collection relates to the interviews with security agencies and administrative officers. This group was hard to access due to ongoing security meetings and operations around Baringo County. However, these challenges were navigated and the maximum available data was gathered for this study.

## **4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

This study was interested in understanding the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants. This data is important in understanding the society within which the study was conducted. To a great extent, the socio-demographic information of the respondents will help understand the issues under study. The main socio-demographic data collected included gender, age, education level, and sub-county and division of residence.

### **4.2.1 Gender of Respondents**

Participants of this study were asked to indicate their gender. From the responses, 76.4% of the respondents were male while 23.6% of them were female. However, four of the respondents withheld their gender identities as indicated in the table below. The above findings mean the communities inhabiting Baringo County are largely patriarchal and men are charged with responsibilities of deciding for the family. Also, the men were available to respond to this research compared to women who were mostly involved in chores within homesteads. It was also noted that men are responsible for the livestock and security therefore, they are more responsive to matters of rustling and security compared to women.

**Table 3: Gender of Respondents**

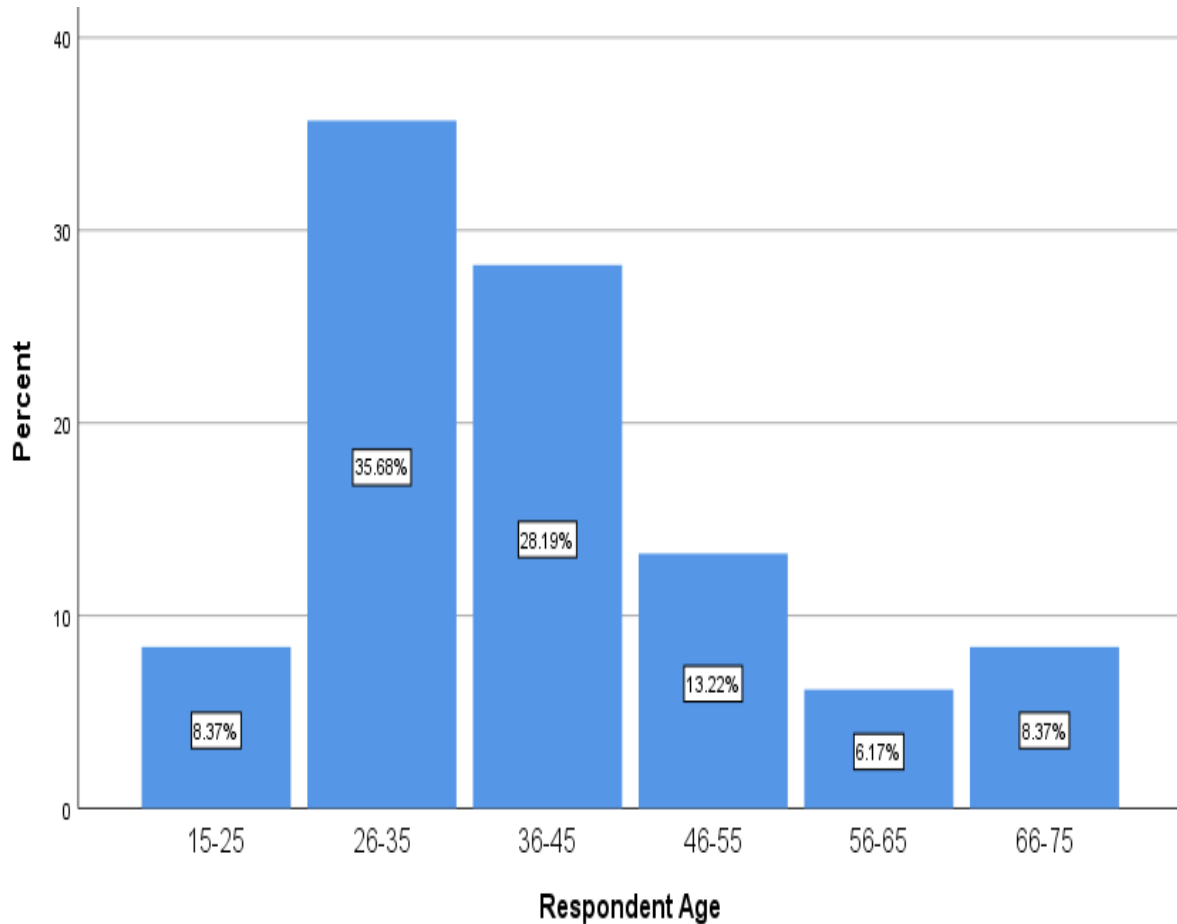
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Male	175	76.4
Female	54	23.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing	4	
Total	233	

(Source: Field Data, 2022)

#### **4.2.2 Age of Respondents**

In terms of the respondents' age, the results indicate that 35.6% of respondents were in the 26-35 age bracket. This was followed by 36-45 age brackets with 28%, 46-55 age bracket with 13%, 15-25 age bracket with 8.37%, 66-75 age bracket with 8.37% and lastly, the 56-65 age bracket with 6.17%. Six of the respondents withheld information on their age. From this data, majority of the participants were in the 26-35 age bracket and also the 36-45 age bracket. This is shown in the bar chart below.

**Figure 1: Ages of Respondents**



(Source: Field Data, 2022)

#### **4.2.3 Respondents Level of Education**

Participants were also asked to indicate their level of education. Findings show that there is a tie in the percentage of participants with college and secondary education. The college and secondary educated participants were the majority with 28%, this was followed by the percentage of respondents with primary education at 21.7%, university educated at 16.5% and lastly, the participants with no formal schooling at 5.2%. It is also evident that 3 individuals withheld information on their level of education. This is indicated in the table below. The above findings are

**Table 4: Respondents' Education Level**

<b>Education Level</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Primary	50	21.7
Secondary	65	28.3
College	65	28.3
University	38	16.5
Not schooled	12	5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing	3	
Total	233	

(Source: Field Data, 2022)

#### **4.2.4 Respondents Sub-County and Division of Residence**

In terms of the participants Sub-County and Division of residence, the findings show that majority of the respondents were from Baringo North-Saimo Soi with 39.9%. This was followed by 19.7% from Baringo North- Bartabwa, Baringo South-Mochongoi with 10.3%, Baringo South-Mukutani with 7.7%, Tiaty East-Mondy with 7.7%, Baringo South-Marigat with 7.7%, Tiaty East-Tangulbei with 2.6%, Tiaty West-Nginyang with 1.7%, and lastly Tiaty West-Kolowa, Tiaty West-Akoret and Tiaty East-Churo all with 0.9% respectively.

**Table 5: Respondents' Sub-County of Residence**

<b>Sub-County and Division</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Tiaty West_Kolowa	2	.9
Baringo South_Marigat	18	7.7
Baringo North_Saimo Soi	93	39.9
Baringo North_Bartabwa	46	19.7
Tiaty West_Nginyang	4	1.7
Tiaty West_Akoret	2	.9
Tiaty East_Mondy	18	7.7
Tiaty East_Churo	2	.9
Tiaty East_Tangulbei	6	2.6
Baringo South_Mukutani	18	7.7
Baringo South_Mochongoi	24	10.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(Source: Field Data, 2022)

### **4.3 Causes and Motivations of Cattle Rustling**

The researcher set out to find out how cattle rustling causes insecurity in Baringo County. Participants were asked to outline the causes of cattle rustling in their localities. From the responses collected through questionnaires, it is evident that cultural beliefs, civilian held Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), illiteracy and resource scarcity are the major causes of cattle rustling. Other responses also indicate political incitement and commercialization of rustling also cause cattle rustling.

First, findings indicate that culture was a dominantly mentioned response as participants highlighted its influence in cattle rustling activities. Culturally, dowry is paid using livestock and therefore, young men of marriage age are forced to raid neighbouring communities and villages to get livestock which they in turn use in dowry and marriage activities. The practice also shows a sign of manhood. Women were also cited as major influencers who play a role in rustling activities. They are culturally involved through song and dances which push the men to bring home dowry. Also, findings show that culture tends to glorify those warriors who die in raids and war while at the same time shame and castigate those who fail to bring home livestock after a raid. These cultural practices tend to not only fuel but trigger cattle rustling in Baringo County.



Findings from the interviews reinforce this view and further note that the prestige attached to having large herds of cattle is still prevalent. This causes men to conduct raids to expand their herd sizes as noted by the views of the Key Informant below:

*Most of the pastoralists still cling on animals as their cultural practice because they believe that when one does not have cattle, he is a 'nobody' so they raid to acquire more cattle so as to be respected in the society. Also young men after initiation, they are supposed to have cattle of their own hence has to raid in order to get recognized (RDU Officer 1, 2022)*

The above findings on culture resonate with some of the previous literatures. For instance, Habati (2013) noted that continued cultural practices encourage cattle raiding. For the Karamojong of Uganda warriors are motivated by social mechanisms to conduct rustling and those who fail face mockery and shame.

Secondly, findings show SALW have been blamed for cattle rustling in Baringo County. The availability of arms among the locals particularly the Pokot, has led to prevalence of cattle rustling. Small arms among the communities in Baringo including the Pokot, Ilchamus, Ogiek, Tugen, Turkana, Endorois and other communities has fuelled an arms race that has brought about insecurity. The prevailing arms race and contests on which community is stronger and courageous continues to trigger and also perpetuate cattle rustling among the communities of Baringo County. This finding is shared by the International Security Sector Advisory Team (2019) which notes that cattle rustling has evolved from a cultural or survival practice and has become a widespread criminal activity. Other scholars including Mc. Peak and Doss (2006) found that emergence of commercialized cattle rustling has fuelled raiding. There has also been an increase in arms to guarantee protection from raiding parties. Lastly, Bii (2013) had indicated that insecurity is a factor of the availability of SALW which has increased cattle rustling, banditry and civilian attacks.

Findings also show that the illiteracy levels of populations in Baringo County causes cattle rustling. Respondents showed that illiteracy could also be tied to culture but it is also evident from the data that young illiterate men who are unoccupied with school activities have time to learn the tactics and engage in cattle rustling. Further to this, interview findings reinforce this argument and show that formal schooling educates and helps individuals shed harmful and

backwards cultural practices such as rustling and FGM. Therefore, illiterate individuals are prone to engaging in practices such as cattle rustling as they have time to engage in rustling which is an easy way to acquire wealth.

Resource scarcity which is a factor of climate change and environmental degradation has been mentioned a cause of cattle rustling. Participants were of the opinion that scarce resources in the pastoral ecosystem tend to lead to loss of livestock. The scarce resources also lead to conflicts and wars as communities compete for the little thriving food and water sources. Death of livestock and the resulting decrease in herds cause and perpetuate restocking activities which amount to cattle rustling. Participants observe that the resource scarce led cattle rustling is majorly experienced during times of drought and famine. Interview data is in harmony with this idea and further notes that droughts and the consequent loss of herds leads to livestock restocking activities which further exacerbate cattle rustling among communities of Baringo.

This finding was also noted by Kaprom (2013) who notes that the Pokot is one among the pastoralist communities who are experiencing continued clashes with their neighboring communities such as the Turkana, Ilchamus and Tugen due to resource scarcity. Also Mahamud *et al* (2005) noted that the conflicts in the struggle for pasture and water for livestock has given a stepping stone to conduct cattle rustling among these communities. Lastly, NCCK (2001) acknowledges resource conflict as an influence of cattle raids. Environmental insecurity brought about by drought, unreliable rainfall, reducing water resources, and shrinking pasture fields leading to increased competition among pastoral communities.

From the findings it was also noted that political incitement and commercialization of rustling were causes of cattle rustling. According to findings political incitement by the local leadership leads to rustling. Local leaders seeking political clout and elective office engineer rustling to ensure populations are displaced and only favorable groups are able to vote. This political incitement is mostly experienced when elections and bi-elections are being conducted. Interview data additionally shows that 'big men' in the community have found livestock trading to be a lucrative enterprise and therefore, they fund cattle rustling to capture and sell other community's livestock. This finding relates to findings of Mkutu (2006) who noted that traditional cattle raiding was cultural but the recent emergence of commercial raiding caused insecurity in the Kenya-Uganda border regions. Also Mc. Peak and Doss (2006) state that commercialized cattle

rustling has fuelled raiding as businesspersons, politicians, and community members push for economic reasons and financial theft. It is also worth noting that ASAL region livestock meat is considered high quality and fetches ready market in the urban areas far from Baringo. As per the respondents, the business men fueling the practice are well known and their illegal activities go unabated. These sentiments are captured in the quote below:

*Cattle rustlers nowadays steal for sale in order to maintain their families and they normally steal for businessmen and middlemen who buy cheaply from the raiders and sell them for meat (OCPD 1, 2022).*

Lastly, the revelations from key informant interviews indicate that other than the above mentioned causes, expansionism is a cause of cattle rustling in Baringo County. Pastoral communities specifically the Pokot believe the land from Baringo North through to Baringo South is historically their land. They therefore engage in cattle raiding and cause insecurity to push other communities out of this area. This expansion also goes hand in hand with the need for grazing fields.

#### **4.4 Cattle Rustling and Insecurity**

Respondents were also asked to give their opinions on how cattle rustling causes insecurity in Baringo County. From the data collected, it is evident cattle rustling is a major form of insecurity that leads to death, loss of property, and forced displacement of populations. From these responses cattle rustling causes insecurity in various ways. In terms of death, participants were of the opinion that the killing of both civilians and security personnel by rustlers is a common occurrence that highlights insecurity in Baringo County. It is also evident that death of rustlers in the process of rustling is a sign of insecurity as it highlights the frequency and magnitude of raids in the County. Rustling has also caused loss of property therefore exacerbating insecurity in the County. Participants were of the opinion that cattle rustling leads to loss of animals which are a sign of wealth and source of livelihood for the community.

In addition, robbery of material items, burning of houses and looting during raids is widespread. This has led to general increase and spread of poverty as communities are becoming poorer due to cattle raids. Lastly, cattle rustling has led for forced migration and generally displacement of the populations in Baringo County. It is from this that participants argue cattle rustling causes

insecurity in the County. This opinion was also widely shared by the interviewees. Sentiments of one interviewee are captured below:

*Raiders attack, they normally make sure they scatter the victims and force them to flee for safety to other areas. The areas which have been deserted due to sporadic attacks are Ngelecha, Arabaal, Sandai and Kapindasum (OCPD 2, 2022).*

As observed in another comment other areas where populations have been displaced include: *Saimo Soi, Mukutani, Arabaal, Tangulbei, Chemoi and Loruk where they people ran to other secure parts of Marigat town and its environs (CC 1, 2022).*

## **4.5 Strategies Implemented by Government of Kenya to combat cattle rustling in Baringo County, Kenya**

### **4.5.1 Government-led Strategies**

Participants in this study were asked if they were aware of any government led strategies for curbing cattle rustling in Baringo County. From the range of strategies outlined in the questionnaire, findings indicates that majority of the participants were aware of disarmament of citizens at 41.9% and deployment of enforcement officers at 38.9% respectively. Another 14.8 % of respondents were of the opinion that they were aware of a combination of two strategies that is disarmament and deployment of enforcement officers while 2.6% were aware of a combination of three strategies that include disarmament, deployment of officers and cattle branding. Lastly, one percent was aware of cattle branding while another one percent were aware of a combination of deployment of officers and cattle branding.

**Table 6: Awareness of Government Strategies to Curb Cattle Rustling**

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Disarmament of citizens	96	41.9
Deployment of enforcement officers	89	38.9
Cattle branding	2	.9
Disarmament/deployment of enforcement officers	34	14.8
Deployment of officers/cattle branding	2	.9
Disarmament/deployment of officers/cattle branding	6	2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing	4	
Total	233	

(Source: Field Data, 2022)

The researcher set to find out if the residence of Baringo County supported the above mentioned government strategies used in curbing cattle rustling. Findings indicate that 67.1% of the participants support these strategies while 21.2% of them do not support these strategies. In addition, 11.7% of the respondents were not sure.

**Table 7: Support for Government Strategies**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Support	155	67.1
Do not support	49	21.2
Not sure	27	11.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing	2	
Total	233	

(Source: Field Data, 2022)

Analysis of interview data on the strategies used by the government shows that there are more strategies applied in curbing cattle rustling. The data reveals that interviewees were of the opinion that security patrols, and joint operations among security agencies, intelligence

collection and sharing; and holding sensitization meetings have been used to curb cattle rustling. The patrols, joint operations and agencies involved include the Anti-Stock Theft Unit (ASTU), Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU), General Service Unit (GSU) and Kenya Defense Forces (KDF). As per the sentiments of the key informants, these strategies have been successful in curbing cattle rustling as the practice has reduced in number. These findings from the key informant interviews diverge from the findings of the questionnaires. This is however, testament to some of the strategies the public is aware off vis a vis internal security strategies that the public may not be aware off.

In relation to the strategies, interviewees were asked to comment on the effectiveness of these strategies in the process of curbing cattle rustling. Majority of the interviewees were positive of the effectiveness of strategies being applied by the government. The dominant opinion favored the strategies saying they have been effective and cattle rustling has greatly reduced. Some of the sentiments are capture in the verbatim quotes below:

*Yes, the strategies have assisted because the rate of raids have gone down unlike the previous times (ACC 1, 2022).*

*Yes, it is effective because it helped in curbing cattle rustling (Chief 4, 2022).*

However, some of the contrary opinion indicated there has not been a decline in the numbers of cattle raids. These sentiments indicated the number has not changed much or in some cases there are fewer raids which cannot be effectively curbed due to challenges such as poor infrastructure and harsh terrain as indicated in the quote below:

*No. it has not been effective because the raids still persist (Chief 1, 2022).*

*Yes, to some extend the strategies have worked well in some areas and others is minimal because of the terrain of the place (ASTU 1, 2022).*

#### **4.5.2 Role of Local Politicians in Cattle Rustling**

In order to understand the role of politicians in cattle rustling activities, participants were asked to indicate whether they were aware of any politicians involved in inciting or supporting cattle rustling in Baringo County. Findings from the questionnaire show that 42.7% of participants were aware while 33.9% of them were not aware. There were also 23.3% of the respondents who were not sure whether they knew or not.

**Table 8: Awareness on Politicians Supporting Cattle Rustling**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Aware	97	42.7
Not aware	77	33.9
Not sure	53	23.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing	6	
Total	233	

(Source: Field Data, 2022)

#### **4.5.3 Government Presence in Curbing Cattle Rustling Activities**

The researcher assessed the governments presence in activities related to curbing cattle rustling. Participants were asked to respond to whether they agree or disagree that the government is taking part in activities around curbing cattle rustling. Analysis of the questionnaires shows that 30.7% agree while 24.2% strongly disagree, 19.9% disagree, 12.1% are neutral and 13% strongly agree. Specifically, we can conclude that 43.7% agree while 44.1% disagree. Therefore, there is an almost equal number of the participants who agree and those who disagree that the government is involved in curbing cattle rustling.

**Table 9: Government is involved in Curbing Cattle Rustling**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Strongly agree	30	13.0
Agree	71	30.7
Neutral	28	12.1
Disagree	46	19.9
Strongly disagree	56	24.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	

(Source: Field Data, 2022)

#### **4.5.4 Involvement of Local Communities in Curbing Cattle Rustling**

The researcher set out to understand if the local communities are involved in activities of curbing cattle rustling in Baringo County. Results from the questionnaires indicate that 30.8% of respondents agree, 11.5% strongly agree, 22.5% disagree, 25.1% strongly disagree and 10.1% are neutral. More specifically, we can conclude that 42% of respondents agree while 48% of respondents disagree. Therefore, a simple majority disagreed compared to those who agreed.

**Table 10: Participation of Local Communities in Curbing Cattle Rustling**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Strongly agree	26	11.5
Agree	70	30.8
Neutral	23	10.1
Disagree	51	22.5
Strongly disagree	57	25.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing	6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	

(Source: Field Data, 2022)



The above finding resonates with reports by Human Rights Watch (2013) which observed that governments are making decisions solely and have left out traditional institutions and customs of the communities. Traditional leaders have been rendered powerless as the government has taken over the prevention and solving cattle rustling menace. This modern method has not achieved much among the communities and this indicates there is continued occurrence of cattle rustling.

#### 4.5.5 Role of SALW in Cattle Rustling

Participants were asked to comment on whether SALW in the hands of civilians fuels cattle rustling. Analysis of the questionnaires indicates that 52.4% of respondents strongly agree, 27.5% agree, 7.9% are neutral, 7% disagree and 5.2% strongly disagreed.

**Table 11: SALW by Civilians Exacerbate Cattle Rustling**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Strongly agree	120	52.4
Agree	63	27.5
Neutral	18	7.9
Disagree	16	7.0
Strongly disagree	12	5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing	4	
Total	233	

(Source: Field Data, 2022)

Respondents were asked to share their opinion on whether Kenya's porous borders are responsible for entry of illegal arms into the country. Analysis of the questionnaires shows that 54.1% of respondents strongly agree and 26.8% agree that porous national borders allow entry of illegal arms into the country. On the other hand, 5.2% disagree and 6.1% strongly disagree. Lastly, 7.8% were neutral. We can therefore conclude that majority of respondents agree that porous borders are to blame for the illegal arms used in cattle rustling in Baringo County. This finding relates to findings of Gumba and Alusala (2018) who noted that the presence of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW) has increased in Africa. This has led to endemic armed

conflicts that have made cattle rustling, a customary practice, to become more violent and harmful.

**Table 12: Porous National Borders Allow Entry of SALW**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Strongly agree	125	54.1
Agree	62	26.8
Neutral	18	7.8
Disagree	12	5.2
Strongly disagree	14	6.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing	2	
Total	233	

(Source: Field Data, 2022)

#### **4.5.6 Community Disarmament in Curbing Cattle Rustling**

Participants were asked if disarmament has been conducted in Baringo County. From the findings, 41.6% of respondents strongly disagree, 25.1% disagree, 13.9% agree, 12.6% were neutral and 6.9% strongly agree.

**Table 13: Disarmament has been conducted in Baringo County**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Strongly agree	16	6.9
Agree	32	13.9
Neutral	29	12.6
Disagree	58	25.1
Strongly disagree	96	41.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing	2	
Total	233	

(Source: Field Data, 2022)

To find out the effectiveness of disarmament, participants were asked if disarmament has reduced cattle rustling and brought about peace in Baringo County. From the respondents, it is

evident that 42.4% of respondents strongly disagree, 24% disagree, 17.5% agree, 9.2% were neutral and 7% strongly agreed.

**Table 14: Disarmament has Reduced Cattle Rustling in Baringo County**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Strongly agree	16	7.0
Agree	40	17.5
Neutral	21	9.2
Disagree	55	24.0
Strongly disagree	97	42.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing	4	
Total	233	

(Source: Field Data, 2022)

Respondents were asked if the arms surrendering agreements have helped in curbing cattle rustling in the County. Findings indicate that 36.3% of the respondents strongly disagree, 25.6% agree, 22.9% disagree, 9.4% strongly agree and 5.8% were neutral as indicated in the table below.

**Table 15: Agreement on Surrendering of Arms has Curbed Cattle Rustling**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Strongly agree	21	9.4
Agree	57	25.6
Neutral	13	5.8
Disagree	51	22.9
Strongly disagree	81	36.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing	10	
Total	233	

(Source: Field Data, 2022)

#### 4.5.7 Effectiveness of Law-enforcement Agencies in Preventing Cattle Rustling

Respondents were asked to rate whether law enforcement agencies adequately work towards preventing cattle rustling in Baringo County. Analysis of questionnaire responses shows that 25.8% of respondents agree, 26.2% strongly disagree, 23.1% disagree, 16.2% strongly agree and 8.7% were neutral. Generally, a simple majority disagree that deployment of law enforcement agencies has been effective in preventing cattle rustling.

**Table 16: Law Enforcement Agencies Effectively Prevent Cattle Rustling**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Strongly agree	37	16.2
Agree	60	26.2
Neutral	20	8.7
Disagree	53	23.1
Strongly disagree	59	25.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing	4	
Total	233	

(Source: Field Data, 2022)

The researcher wanted to understand the effectiveness of deployment of law enforcement officers and how this has deterred cattle rustling. From the responses, 30.6% of respondents strongly disagreed, 28.7% agreed, 15.7% disagreed, 12.5% strongly disagreed and another 12.5% were neutral. In conclusion a simple majority disagree that deployment of law enforcement deters has deterred cattle rustling.

**Table 17: Deployment of Law Enforcement Deters Cattle Rustling**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Strongly agree	27	12.5
Agree	62	28.7
Neutral	27	12.5
Disagree	34	15.7
Strongly disagree	66	30.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing	17	
Total	233	

(Source: Field Data, 2022)

In particular, the researcher asked whether deployment of police officers has prevented cattle rustling in Baringo County. Responses indicate that 32.7% of the residents agree, 19.3% strongly disagree, 17.9% are neutral, 15.2% strongly agree and 14.8% disagree. This concludes that the deployment of police has contributed towards preventing of cattle rustling.

**Table 18: Deploying Police Stops Cattle Rustling**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Strongly agree	34	15.2
Agree	73	32.7
Neutral	40	17.9
Disagree	33	14.8
Strongly disagree	43	19.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing	10	
Total	233	

(Source: Field Data, 2022)

The above findings contradict findings of ISSAT (2018) who documented that cases of cattle rustling continue to take place even in the presence of law enforcement. This is because law enforcement is in partnership with the rustlers and therefore enforcers of law abet the crimes being committed. Further, the ISSAT report shows there are instances where retired or former

police officers have been directly involved in the crime for instance they are used in leading the raiding teams.

#### 4.5.8 Effectiveness of Cattle Branding in Curbing Rustling

In order to understand if branding as a strategy has helped curb cattle rustling, participants were asked if branding has helped in reducing and stopping cattle rustling. From the responses 47.2% strongly disagree, 23.4% disagree, 16% are neutral, 9.5% agree and 3.9% strongly agree as shown in table 1.19 below. This therefore, shows that branding has not been an effective strategy in curbing cattle rustling.

**Table 19: Branding has helped Curb Cattle Rustling**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Strongly agree	9	3.9
Agree	22	9.5
Neutral	37	16.0
Disagree	54	23.4
Strongly disagree	109	47.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing	2	
Total	233	

(Source: Field Data, 2022)

In line with the findings of the current study, EAPCCO (2008) in its Protocol of combating and eradicating cattle rustling within the Eastern Africa region, underlined the importance of branding. This institution recommends a number of rules and agreements on livestock identification systems and record keeping. One of this is branding which it recommended that state parties should establish systems that guarantee livestock branding and permanent marking using regulated mechanisms where the nation, state or even tribe that animals originate from form part of their identity. Contrary to this, Gumba (2018) found that branding cattle for curbing cattle rustling was effective within countries and counties but when ineffective once livestock cross the national.

#### 4.5.9 Effectiveness of Community-led Strategies in Curbing Rustling

Lastly, the participants responded to whether community led strategies have been effective in curbing cattle rustling. From the questionnaire responses, 30.7% of the participants strongly disagree, 27.7% agree, 18.2% disagree, 13.4% strongly agree and 10% were neutral. From this finding, more participants (113) think community led strategies have not been effective. On the other hand, an almost equal number of participants (95) think community strategies have been effective. We can conclude that though the community led strategies have helped curb rustling, they have not achieved a convincing level of effectiveness.

**Table 20: Community Led Strategies are Effective in Curbing Cattle Rustling**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Strongly agree	31	13.4
Agree	64	27.7
Neutral	23	10.0
Disagree	42	18.2
Strongly disagree	71	30.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing	2	
Total	233	

(Source: Field Data, 2022)

From the interview findings, community led efforts that have been used include meetings between elders of the warring communities; and formation of peace committees especially between the Tugen and Pokot who are frequently involved in rustling. The peace committees are comprised of elders from the communities, parties from the warring tribes, local administration and religious leaders. All these actors involved are deemed critical in shaping opinions and are deemed as authorities in the communities. Their authority is derived from either culture and/or the government as it was noted that elders are normally part of the Nyumba Kumi structure. these findings is also partly related to findings of Manyok (2017) who noted that some of the local level strategies such as inter-tribal dialogue; advocating for inter-communal marriages; and

initiating common games are some of the strategies that help afflicted communities in curbing cattle rustling.

#### **4.6 Challenges encountered by the Government of Kenya in its endeavor to curb cattle rustling in Baringo County, Kenya**

The researcher set out to find out some of the challenges faced by the government in curbing cattle rustling. An analysis of the questionnaires shows that there is a myriad of challenges which have continually stifled the strategies or inhibited implementation of the strategies.

First, residents were of the opinion that there is a lack of political goodwill in terms of support for the strategies to curb cattle rustling and bring security in Baringo County. Security has become politicized and has been brought into the political discourse in the County. The political leadership who capitalize on the community for political support has failed to support security strategies instituted against the rustling communities arguing these strategies are oppressive and intrude on the cultural and political rights of the communities. Such lack of political goodwill is also pegged on community support for leaders occupying public office as well as those in office. The political leadership in office fear reprisals and de-campaigning while those interested in public office capitalize on the 'repressive' strategies to campaign and seek political support. As indicated by participants, there is therefore lack of political goodwill as anyone supporting the national government strategies to curb cattle rustling faces 'punishment' from the electorate. It is also worth noting that as pointed out in the initial section of this analysis, it is the same political leadership that have been blamed for inciting and inducing cattle rustling activities. This finding is related to findings of Manyara (2017) who pointed out that the political good will is not felt when it comes to support for increasing police officers as well as other strategies. This is the reason there is slow implementation of the strategy leading to low efficiency.

It was also evident that the local communities are uncooperative and do not support the security agencies in the fight against cattle rustling. Data shows locals have failed to support the national government and its security agencies fighting cattle rustling. These communities are secretive and rarely get involved in strategies being implemented in the County. Locals have also failed to share intelligence with the security agencies. This has rendered strategies such as disarmament and deployment of officers, ineffective. Specifically, the deployment of officers has led to death



of many security agencies who lack adequate local intelligence about the communities and the terrain. Further, disarmament has failed as locals reject losing their arms, which are used in livestock herding and provision of security. This situation was summed by one informant as noted below:

*The officers find it hard to contain the situation because they lack credible information from the residents because they are not willing to give information (ASTU 1, 2022).*

The geographical terrain and climatic conditions of Baringo County are a major challenge faced by the security agencies in implementing curbing strategies. The harsh terrain inhibits and slows recovery missions and has also been a threat to security forces. The deep valleys, mountainous terrain, rock outcrops, high temperatures and poisonous creatures that characterize Baringo are a threat. Tied to the aforementioned environmental and geographical conditions is the lack of transport and communication infrastructure. The road network, transport and communication lines are below average therefore, creating a major challenge when it comes to accessing the hinterland where rustlers dominate. As indicated by some participants, the security network in form of police stations and military camps are not adequately spread therefore leaving a security vacuum that is exploited by rustlers.

Findings also indicate that there is a general lack of resources by the security agencies. This lack of instruments of war, adequate human resource and other equipment limits the implementation and execution of some of the strategies being applied by the government. As indicated in the findings, some cattle rustlers have superior arms which challenge security forces deployed in the County. These illegal arms, brought through cross-border criminal networks, threaten the government security forces who are limited to standards put in place to address internal security matters. Further, the insufficiency and lack of advanced equipment can be seen in the number and quality of automotive that have the capabilities to traverse this expansive and geographically harsh terrain. As pointed out, this remains a challenge in executing strategies by the government on Baringo County. This finding corresponds to findings of the Kenya Human Rights Commission (2010) which showed that armed civilians and bandits are heavily armed compared to the security forces. This has hugely challenged the fight on cattle rustling by the government.

On the other hand, interviews with security agents and public administrators confirm some of the assertions found from questionnaires. Some of the main challenges experienced in curbing cattle rustling include harsh terrain in the region. This terrain is characterized by rugged and hilly surface which present a lot of difficulty to navigate. Second, poor transport and communication infrastructure make it hard to navigate the localities to meet the people as well as respond and track rustlers. There is also unanimity that Baringo County is vast and therefore, effectively covering the whole region remains a challenge especially with the little resources available. Lastly, interviewees mentioned language barrier as a challenge. This challenge was not mentioned by questionnaire respondents but it is evident this challenge mostly affects the security forces and public administration officers. As it was observed a majority of them are not born and bred or do not even live in Baringo except the chiefs. This therefore, presents a challenge in communicating with locals especially when it comes to gathering intelligence and also taking information from locals. This is captured in the below quotes:

*The rate of illiteracy is high hence make the officers to have difficulty in understanding the people who need to be assisted (ACC 2, 2022).*

*Most of the residents don't go to school hence difficult to express themselves in a language that the officers can understand in order to assist them in times of distress call (Chief 3, 2022).*

#### **4.6.1 Mitigation Plans for the Challenges faced while tackling Cattle Rustling**

In order to mitigate against the above mentioned challenges and increase effectiveness of the current curbing strategies; majority of the interviewees were of the opinion that there is need for the government to increase resources in terms of human resource on the ground and also the armory available to the security agencies. Further, introduction of technology for instance drones can be a game changer as this can ease tracking and responding to rustling activities. Other sentiments captured the need to empower the communities through economic programs and education programs particularly on the youth who should be shown diverse livelihood opportunities. Interviewees indicated that improving the transport and communication infrastructure can be a major boost in curbing cattle rustling as this is a major obstacle in security responses and it has been an enabler to rustlers fleeing to remote and inaccessible areas. Lastly,

the need for security operation bases for the different agencies in Baringo should be highlighted. This is captured in the quote below:

*Installing security operation camps like General Service Unit (GSU) at the borders of Mukutani in Baringo South and Chemoi in Baringo North, Anti- Stock Theft Unit (ASTU) in Loruk, and Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU) at Chemolingot areas (CC 1, 2022).*

#### **4.7 Other Important Issues on Cattle Rustling and Insecurity**

Respondents were asked to add any other important issues pertaining to cattle rustling and insecurity in Baringo County. From the responses obtained several key issues stand out in the questionnaires. First, respondents were keen to propose solutions to the root causes of cattle rustling in Baringo County, and secondly, respondents were keen to propose remedies to address the failures and challenges encountered in implementing curbing strategies.

A majority of the respondents were of the opinion that there is need to educate the youth of Baringo County in order to reduce and stop cattle rustling. The levels of illiteracy were a concern and therefore, education will go far in increasing enlightenment and reducing effects of harmful cultural practices that include cattle rustling. This was especially to target the young men below the age of 20 years who become indoctrinated into the culture and are trying to prove their manhood. It is this very age group that is within the age limit locals get married and therefore engage in rustling to get wives. Additionally, this age group can potentially be incited by politicians and business men interested in the proceeds of cattle rustling. Therefore, as indicated in some of the interviews conducted it is through education that enlightened youth have a low possibility in participating in rustling and can make better life decisions. This finding is reinforced by Mganda (2013) who noted that the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation (TLPF) had used several strategies to address cattle raids. Among the four programmes for mitigating cattle rustling, education for peace; and peace building & conflict management programme were important.

Participants in this study also proposed the need for establishing and implementing alternative livelihoods. From both the questionnaires and interviews, it is evident that alternative livelihoods such as farming and commerce were proposed as means of reducing the importance of

pastoralism among the Baringo communities which prioritize this practice. Respondents were of the opinion that alternative livelihoods would diversify the incomes and sources of livelihood and in the process reduce rustling activities. The quote below captures sentiments of one respondent.

*The Government should come up with strategy to look into other alternative means of living other than depending on cattle alone. They can drill boreholes and do irrigation (ACC 2, 2022).*

Another finding shows that respondents value the contribution of development projects towards the improvement of security in the County. Development projects such as transport and communication networks, modern markets that spur urban centers, education centers, irrigation projects and other projects that will modernize the county and alleviate factors enhancing cattle rustling. To this end, we can note that such projects open up the social and economic space therefore, reducing prevalence of rustling.

Participants were also of the idea that the Kenya Police Reservists should be highly utilized within the security apparatus of the County in times of crisis. In this strategy, the reservists who are armed civilians will protect the community as well as their livestock. At the same time, since reservists are skilled, they would respond to rustlers' fire and diffuse the enemy. Findings show that reservists are trusted by the community since they are locals. Also these categories of security officers have knowledge of the local security dynamics and also the terrain which makes them would make them effective in not only responding but predicting insecurity events. This finding is in line with recommendations made by Mkawale (2014) who reported that counties affected by cattle rustling should be allowed to employ police reservist to help in curbing cattle rustling. This was informed by the fact that bandits were smarter than regular police on the ground hence cattle rustling continue thrive. It was noted that the efficiency of the regular police was very low in that they are unable to solve the riddle of cattle rustling.

The study findings also show that participants favor disarmament operations. However, it is noted that the disarmament operations should not only be participatory (involve locals in decision making) but should target all the communities in the County. Sentiments from the respondents show that disarmament operations have targeted specific communities only therefore creating a situation where some communities are left exposed to danger. In addition, this creates

an opportunity for an arms race among the communities in Baringo County. Therefore, the disarmament operations should target all communities and should involve the communities. As noted in the interviews, it is also important to track sources of the SALW and cut off supplies to Baringo and Kenya at large. This is indicated in the quote below:

*The Government should identify arms dealers and syndicates for prosecution, there should be regular peace meetings/caravans between the aggressors (Pokot) and its neighbors who are the victims (CC 1, 2022).*

Lastly, findings indicate that multi-agency security operations should be enhanced in the County. The security operations should ideally bring onboard all the stakeholders but that has not been practice in Baringo County. Therefore, as observed by participants all stakeholders should be involved to guarantee effectiveness of the operations.

#### **4.8 Statistical Analysis and Hypothesis Testing**

The researcher proposed two hypotheses, null and alternative hypotheses which were tested below.

**Null Hypothesis (H<sub>0</sub>):** The government's intervention in addressing cattle rustling negatively affect the overall security situation in Baringo County, Kenya.

To test this hypothesis, the researcher used a chi square as the two variables are categorical variables. In this test the results of the chi-square test (shown in the table below) indicate there is a statistically significant relationship between the two variables.

The Pearson chi-square statistic of 228.117, at 16 degrees of freedom, and a p-value of .000 indicate that there is a significant relationship between increased government mechanisms and reduced cattle rustling. We accept the null hypothesis that increase in government interventions or mechanisms reduces cattle rustling in Baringo County. Further to this, the Cramer's V value in the test was .497 at p-value of .000. This suggests there is a moderate to strong association between increased government intervention and improved overall security situation.

### Chi-Square Test Results

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	228.117 <sup>a</sup>	16	.000
Likelihood Ratio	210.775	16	.000
N of Valid Cases	231		

(Source: Field Data, 2022)

**Alternative Hypothesis (H1):** There is a significant positive relationship between cattle rustling and insecurity in Baringo County, Kenya.

To test this hypothesis the researcher used Spearman's Correlation Coefficient.

From the results shown in the table below, the value .380\*\* is positive. This shows that the variables are positively correlated. In addition, the value is significant at 0.01 level of confidence, meaning the variables have a genuine relationship. The degree of correlation value also shows there is a moderate degree of correlation between these two variables.

From this tests statistic, we therefore accept the alternative hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant positive relationship between cattle rustling and increased insecurity in Baringo County.

### Spearman's rho Results

Spearman's rho	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.380**
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.	.000
	N	229	229
	Correlation Coefficient	.380**	1.000
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.000	.
	N	229	231

(Source: Field Data, 2022)

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter gives a summary of the study findings, conclusions of the study and proposes recommendations to curb cattle rustling in Baringo. In addition, the chapter proposes areas that future research may benefit from.

##### **5.1.1 The Impact of Cattle Rustling on Insecurity in Baringo County, Kenya**

The findings indicate that culture is a dominant cause of cattle rustling. Culturally, livestock are used to pay dowry. Secondly owning cattle and is a sign of manhood and is associated with prestige especially when one has large herds of cattle. These cultural practices have made rustling a thriving practice. The availability of SALW among communities including the Pokot, Ilchamus, Ogiek, Tugen, Turkana, Endorois and other communities has led to prevalence of cattle rustling. Illegal arms among the civilians have fuelled an arms race that has brought about insecurity among the communities. Another cause of cattle rustling is associated with illiteracy levels of populations in Baringo County. Illiteracy combined with retrogressive cultural practices have contributed to little enlightenment as young illiterate men are not occupied with school activities but rather prefer to engage in herding and cattle rustling.

Resource scarcity, a factor of climate change and environmental degradation, is a cause of cattle rustling. Scarce resources in the pastoral ecosystem lead to conflicts and wars over pasture and water sources. Consequent loss of livestock triggers restocking activities which amount to cattle rustling. The commercialization of rustling and political incitement by politicians and big business men causes of cattle rustling. The 'big men' of the communities consider livestock trading lucrative and therefore, they incite and fund cattle rustling activities to fuel the livestock enterprise. Lastly, expansionism of communities especially the Pokot causes cattle rustling and insecurity. This community engages in cattle raiding and cause insecurity to push other communities out of areas of Baringo they consider historically their land.

The study findings show that cattle rustling is a major form of insecurity. It has led to deaths, loss of property, and also forced displacement of populations in the County and region. Rustling has led to the killing of civilians and security personnel by rustlers. Also rustlers have been killed

in the process of cattle rustling. These deaths are a highlight of insecurity in Baringo County. Secondly, cattle rustling has led to loss of property therefore, exacerbating insecurity. The loss of animals is indicative of loss of wealth and loss of livelihood for the communities. The robbery of material items, burning of houses and looting during cattle raids is also a sign of insecurity. Lastly, cattle rustling has led for forced migration and generally displacement of the populations due to the accompanying insecurity associated with rustling activities.

### **5.1.2 Strategies Implemented by Government of Kenya to combat cattle rustling in Baringo County, Kenya**

Some of the government led strategies used in curbing cattle rustling were prominent among the locals. The disarmament of citizens and deployment of enforcement officers were the most prominent and favored. These two strategies were favored individually and were also deemed effective when combined. Another important strategy was cattle branding. Generally, these strategies were used individually and also combined (two or three strategies) for the best results depending on the area of operation. From the perspectives of security agencies and government administration strategies such as security patrols; joint security operations; intelligence collection and sharing; and community sensitization meetings were used to curb cattle rustling. The security patrols and joint operations involved agencies such as the Anti-stock Theft Unit, Rapid Deployment Unit, General Service Unit and Kenya Defense Forces. These strategies were credited for the reduced magnitude and numbers of cattle rustling activities and were therefore deemed effective.

In terms of the involvement of local communities by the government in strategies for curbing cattle rustling, the results were not conclusive. Opinions were polarized and there was a simple majority who disagreed compared to those who agreed.

This research study found that SALW in the hands of civilians fuels cattle rustling. The arms were found to enter the country through Kenya's porous borders and spread to areas such as Baringo County where they are used in rustling. In order to wipe out the illegal SALW, government has conducted disarmament exercises in Baringo County. However, the findings show disarmament has not succeeded in wiping out the illegal arms. Therefore, local opinions show disarmament has not reduced cattle rustling neither has it brought peace in the County of Baringo. In addition, the arms surrendering agreements put in place to allow the locals hand over



illegal arms have not been successful. Therefore, these agreements between local arms holders and government have not yielded positive results.

The role of law enforcement agencies in preventing, deterring and stopping cattle rustling was also put in doubt. Findings show that their effectiveness was not adequate. The deployment of law enforcement agencies was deemed ineffective by a simple majority who disagreed that this strategy has curbed rustling. Security agencies have not wholesomely prevented cattle rustling nor deterred cattle rustling. However, it is noted that the deployment of police within communities has contributed towards preventing cattle rustling.

This study also found that branding as a strategy of curbing cattle rustling has not been effective. This strategy of labeling cattle with visible marks has not deterred or prevented the rustlers from raiding cattle.

Among the community led strategies used in curbing cattle rustling include meetings between elders of the warring communities and the formation of peace committees. The peace committees comprise of majorly elders from the local tribes, the local administration and religious leaders. These two strategies, however ongoing, have not achieved a convincing level of effectiveness as there are sporadic raids that still take place to date.

### **5.1.3 Challenges encountered by the Government of Kenya in its endeavor to curb cattle rustling in Baringo County**

One of the main challenges relates to lack of political goodwill. This is in terms of support for the strategies to curb cattle rustling and bring security in Baringo County. The politicization of security has led to the local political leadership debating and contesting security measures. This has led to lack of proper implementation as leaders fear political support may be affected. Therefore, local leaders do not support security strategies instituted against rustling communities citing the strategies are oppressive and intrude on the cultural and political rights of the community. The fear for reprisals and de-campaigning for those leaders supporting government security strategies is a concern for ruling political leaders. On the other hand, public office seekers capitalize on the 'repressive' security strategies to campaign and seek political support.

The communities in Baringo County are uncooperative and do not support security agencies in the fight against cattle rustling. Communities are secretive and shun some of the strategies being

implemented in the County. In addition, the locals do not share intelligence with the security agencies which renders some strategies such as disarmament and deployment of officers ineffective in the County.

The inaccessible geographical terrain and harsh climatic conditions were found to challenge the implementation of security strategies. This challenge was also tied to the inadequate and lack of transport and communication infrastructure by the security agencies. The road network, transport and communication lines were categorized as below average therefore, creating a major challenge when it comes to accessing the hinterland where rustlers dominate and operate from. In terms of the ill-equipped and under resourced security agencies, there is a deficit of the instruments of war, human resource personnel and other equipment which limits implementation and execution of some of the cattle rustling security strategies. For instance, bandits have been found to be equipped with advanced arms compared to police officers. These arms are proceeds of the cross-border criminal networks that trade in arms. Lastly, language barrier stands out as a major setback that challenges security agencies. This is with regards to information gathering and responding to information needs of the local communities.

In order to address some of the challenges faced by security agencies, findings show that there is need for the government to increase resources in terms of human resource on the ground and also the armory available to the security agencies. Further, introduction of technology for instance drones, can be a game changer as this can ease tracking and responding to rustling activities.

Other important revelations noted in the findings include solutions to the root causes of cattle rustling and also proposals for addressing the challenges encountered in implementing the curbing strategies. First solution was the need to educate the youth. This will reduce and stop cattle rustling as it will increase enlightenment and reduce carrying out of harmful cultural practices that include cattle rustling. Secondly, this research indicates the establishment and implementation of alternative livelihood projects can curb cattle rustling. Alternative livelihoods such as farming and commerce are a means of reducing the importance of pastoralism among communities which prioritize this practice as a livelihood. Another proposal relates to the importance of development projects. Such projects are critical towards improving security in the County. Development projects targeting transport and communication networks, modern markets

that spur urban centers, education centers, and irrigation projects will spur modernity and alleviate root causes and enabling factors that cause cattle rustling.

The role of the Kenya Police Reservists needs to be highlighted. This study found that the KPR should be reintroduced and utilized within the security apparatus of the County. The reservists will be handy as they have knowledge about the communities; understand the local security dynamics (high and low season for rustling) and the terrain; and can communicate in local language as they gather intelligence. This would impact of the security strategies and make them more effective in curbing cattle rustling.

Lastly this study found out that disarmament operations of communities is highly recommended. However, the operations should be participatory as the local communities need to be involved in decision making. The operations should also target all communities involved in cattle rustling as previous disarmament operations targeting few specific communities have left few communities unarmed and at the mercy of other communities.

### **5.3 Conclusions of the Study**

#### **5.3.1 The Causes, Motivations and Impact of Cattle Rustling on Insecurity in Baringo County, Kenya**

The study was also able to locate cattle rustling to six factors. The first factor was the cultural affinity to owning livestock as a sign of wealth, prestige, manhood and as a means to secure access to social institutions such as marriage. The second factor was the availability of SALW among the Pokot, Ilchamus, Ogiek, Tugen, Turkana, Endorois and other ASAL communities. The third factor was illiteracy in Baringo County which has predisposed young illiterate men are not occupied with schooling activities or other opportunities afforded by education to engage in herding and cattle rustling. The fourth factor examined was the resource scarcity brought about by climate change and environmental degradation. The fifth factor was the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries commercialization of rustling and political incitement by politicians and businessmen. The final factor was expansionism of communities particularly the Pokot causing cattle rustling and insecurity. The net effect of this has been insecurity measured in terms of human loss, loss of property, and the forced displacement of populations in the County and region.

### **5.3.2 Strategies Implemented by Government of Kenya to combat cattle rustling in Baringo County, Kenya**

We examined the measures put in place by the national government to address the issue of cattle rustling. We showed that the government employed two major strategies; the disarmament of citizens and secondly, the deployment of law enforcement officers. We also showed how security agencies and the government administration employed strategies such as security patrols and joint security operations by the Anti-Stock Theft Unit, Rapid Deployment Unit, General Service Unit and Kenya Defense Forces, intelligence collection and sharing, and community sensitization meetings to curb cattle rustling. We showed that these strategies were able to reduce the magnitude and numbers of cattle rustling activities and were therefore deemed effective. However, we didn't find conclusive results on whether the government involved the local communities in these anti-rustling strategies.

Secondly, we showed how the proliferation of illicit SALWs in the hands of civilians fuels cattle rustling. This was largely due to porous borders where arms runners exploit to proliferate the illicit small arms. We thus negate the study's hypothesis.

With regards to the role of disarmament in reducing the proliferation of illicit arms, we showed the sentiments of locals who didn't see the same as a panacea for reducing cattle rustling or bringing about peace in the County of Baringo. Additionally, we showed how locals put into doubt the role of law enforcement agencies was inadequate in preventing, deterring and stopping cattle rustling was also put in doubt. Additionally, community led strategies, though ongoing, have not achieved a convincing level of effectiveness as there are sporadic raids that still take place to date.

### **5.3.3 Challenges encountered by the Government of Kenya in its endeavor to curb cattle rustling in Baringo County**

With regard to challenges faced by the Government of Kenya in its efforts to curb cattle rustling in Baringo County, Kenya, we were able to locate them to the lack of political goodwill particularly the lack of support from local political and economic actors, the politicization of security, the lack of proper implementation, the fear for reprisals and de-campaigning for political leaders supporting government security strategies, and the delegitimization of anti-rustling security strategies. Additionally, we were able to locate the same to uncooperative

stances by the local communities, inaccessible geographical terrain and harsh climatic conditions, inadequate and lack of transport and communication infrastructure by the security agencies as well as ill-equipped and under resourced security agencies.

In order to address some of the challenges faced by security agencies, we were able to make the case for the government to increase law enforcement resources and force deployment coupled with the introduction of technology. We also showed the necessity of other measures including educational opportunities in order to enlightenment and reduce carrying out of harmful cultural practices that include cattle rustling, support measures geared towards establishing and implementing alternative livelihood projects as well as enhancing the county and the region's infrastructure.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

Recommendations of this study are segmented into short term, medium term and long term.

##### **Short-Term Measures:**

##### **Collaboration among North Rift Valley Counties:**

In order to address the ongoing insecurity caused by cattle rustling, there is a critical need for collaboration among the affected counties, namely Baringo, Laikipia, West Pokot, and Elgeyo Marakwet. By working together, these counties can coordinate efforts to combat cattle rustling and its associated insecurity. Implementation of the Livestock Movement Regulation, which requires the issuance of livestock passes by chiefs and County Government Livestock Officers, should be prioritized. Additionally, the installation of roadblocks to monitor livestock movement can play a crucial role in curbing rustling. This regulation ensures that the movement of livestock is documented, including the cause, source, and ownership, thereby aiding in the prevention of cattle theft. To maximize effectiveness, it is necessary to enhance and operationalize this regulation specifically in the Kerio Valley region. Further, there should be political goodwill among the leadership in the affected Counties and Constituencies in the region as currently, the

leadership is divided and do not agree on some of the strategies and mechanisms used to fight cattle rustling.

### **Traditional Dispute Resolution Mechanisms:**

Recognizing that cattle rustling is deeply rooted in traditional cultural practices, it is important to leverage traditional dispute resolution mechanisms to address this issue. Pastoral communities should be encouraged to handle cattle rustling through community-led methods that align with their cultural norms. Western forms of policing and judicial systems have limited applicability in addressing this traditional practice. Therefore, promoting the use of traditional cursing rituals and dispute resolution mechanisms can be effective in reducing and condemning cattle rustling. The successful example of the traditional cursing ritual used by the Karamajong community along the Kenya-Uganda border highlights the potential effectiveness of these traditional practices. Embracing and expanding the use of traditional cursing rituals, along with traditional dispute resolution methods, can contribute to peace building efforts and serve as a deterrent for cattle rustling and revenge missions among rustling communities in Baringo.

### **Mid-term measures**

#### **Revitalize and enhance the Nyumba Kumi security framework:**

The *Nyumba Kumi* security framework, as a community policing strategy, should be revitalized in insecurity-prone areas of Baringo County. This approach enables communities to share intelligence and report the presence of small arms and light weapons (SALW) among communities. It also establishes trust and collaboration between the government and the community, addressing the trust deficit that hampers security strategies and intelligence sharing. This initiative should involve security actors such as the Police, Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU), Anti Stock Theft Units (ASTU), and the community, led by elders. Further to this, it should be tweaked to conform to the nomadic nature of pastoral communities. This may involve intervention of elders who sanction movement of pastoral communities. Such elders should be informed on the whereabouts of moving families and presence of outsiders within their areas of

settlement. With this, community policing will enhance information flow and intelligence gathering to combat cattle rustling in Baringo County.

### **Strengthen implementation and enforcement of legal frameworks:**

Despite the existence of numerous legal frameworks and programs targeting cattle rustling and insecurity in Kenya, weak implementation and enforcement contribute to the prevalence of rustling in Baringo. Strengthen the criminalization of cattle rustling and possession of stolen property under the Penal Code by enhancing prison sentences. Enforce the National Livestock Policy by operationalizing community-led security initiatives. Enhance the Livestock Marketing Act by enforcing license requirements for traders. Concretely enforce the National Drought Management Authority Act to address cattle rustling during drought periods. Thoroughly enforce and increase penalties under the Branding of Stock Act.

### **Sign the IGAD Protocol on Transhumance:**

Kenya should sign the proposed Protocol on Transhumance by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). This regional instrument aims to facilitate the free movement of pastoralists while curbing cattle rustling. The protocol guarantees the security of both pastoralists and host communities in each country. It also requires livestock owners to register and obtain certificates detailing information about their herds, facilitating movement and tracking of livestock across the IGAD region. Countries, including Kenya, should heed the calls to become signatories to this protocol and implement disarmament programs in pastoral communities as a prerequisite for signing.

### **Long-term measures**

#### **Development framework for pastoral communities:**

Implement a comprehensive development framework to address the underdevelopment and marginalization of pastoral community zones, including Baringo. Focus on developing transport and communication infrastructure to improve access to security services and essential facilities

like healthcare. Enhance the presence of government offices, both at the county and national levels, to improve service delivery. Strengthen public services such as healthcare, security, water, and education to enhance the quality of life and provide opportunities for pastoral communities to explore various sectors. Collaborate between the national government, county government, civil society organizations (CSOs), and community-based organizations (CBOs) to facilitate quick and impactful interventions.

### **Revive the Mifugo Protocol:**

Revitalize the Mifugo Protocol, also known as the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) Cattle Rustling Protocol, to combat transnational cattle rustling and illegal livestock trade. This protocol focuses on enhancing regional cooperation, harmonizing legislation among member states, and implementing a livestock identification system. Despite being developed in 2008, the protocol has not been widely adopted, with only Uganda among the 13 member states ratifying it. In 2021, 11 East African countries signed the updated Mifugo Protocol, demonstrating renewed commitment to address cattle rustling and strengthen joint strategies against regional insecurity. Establish a mandatory regional legislative framework to effectively tackle insecurity caused by cattle rustling. Implement mechanisms for inter-state cooperation and intelligence sharing on livestock and arms movements among member states.

### **5.5. Suggestions for Future Research**

To further advance the understanding and effectiveness of strategies to combat cattle rustling, future research should focus on the following areas:

Operationalizing community involvement: Investigate ways to enhance the involvement of local communities in the development and implementation of strategies to curb cattle rustling. Specifically, explore how community participation can be effectively operationalized and actualized within frameworks such as *Nyumba Kumi*, which foster collaboration between government security agencies and the community.



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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Respondent

This questionnaire is designed to assist the researcher make an objective analysis of cattle rustling and insecurity in Baringo County, Kenya. This exercise is purely for academic purposes. Your identity will be treated anonymously and your responses will be treated with confidentiality.

Thank you and your cooperation will be highly appreciated.

#### Instructions

Kindly do not write your name anywhere in this questionnaire

Kindly tick in the box

#### SECTION A: Demographic Information

1. What is your Gender?

Male { }

Female { }

Others { }

2. What is your Age?

15-25 { }

26-35 { }

35-45 { }

46-55 { }

56-65 { }

66-75 { }

3. What is your highest level of education?

- Primary { }
- Secondary { }
- College { }
- University { }

4. Which Sub-County and Division do you live in?

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**SECTION B: Causes, Motivations and Impact of Cattle rustling on insecurity in Baringo County, Kenya**

5. What are the causes of cattle rustling in Baringo County?

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6. How has cattle rustling led to insecurity in Baringo? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Which of the following strategies are you aware of that government is using to curb (fight) cattle rustling in Baringo County?

- (a) Disarmament of citizens ( )
- (b) Deployment of enforcement officers ( )
- (c) Cattle branding ( )

8. Do you support the strategies government is using in curbing cattle rustling in Baringo County as shown in 7 above?

- (a) Support ( )
- (b) I don't support ( )
- (c) Not sure ( )

9. Are you aware of politicians aiding and supporting cattle rustling in Baringo County?

- (a) Aware ( )
- (b) Not aware ( )
- (c) Not sure ( )



Tick appropriate response in table below.

Key: 1-Strongly agree 2-Agree 3-Neutral 4-Disagree 5-Strongly disagree

	1	2	3	4	5
The government is taking part in curbing cattle rustling in Baringo County					
Strategies have been set out by the government to curb cattle rustling in Baringo county.					
The local people are involved in curbing cattle rustling in Baringo County					
SALW in the hands of civilians fuel cattle rustling in Baringo county					
Porous national borders allow entry of illegal arms in the country					
Law enforcement agents adequately fight and prevent cattle rustling in Baringo County					
Law enforcement agencies are involved in cattle rustling activities					

**SECTION C: The strategies implemented by the Government and challenges experienced in combating cattle rustling in Baringo County, Kenya**

Key: 1-strongly agree 2-agree 3. neutral 4. Disagree 5. Strongly disagree

	1	2	3	4	5
Disarmament has been carried out in Baringo county					
Disarmament has played a role in reducing rustling and bringing peace in Baringo County					
The arms surrendering agreement between the community members and the government helps in curbing cattle rustling.					
Deployment of law enforcement agents has helped in deterring cattle rustlers					
Deployment of police officers in the localities has helped in preventing cattle rustling					

Branding as a strategy to curb cattle rustling, has been effective in reducing and stopping cattle rustling.					
Community led strategies have been effective in curbing cattle rustling in Baringo County.					

10. What are some of the challenges faced by the government in curbing cattle rustling in Baringo County?

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11. Are there any other important issues pertaining to cattle rustling and insecurity you may wish to add?

## **APPENDIX II: KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW SCHEDULE**

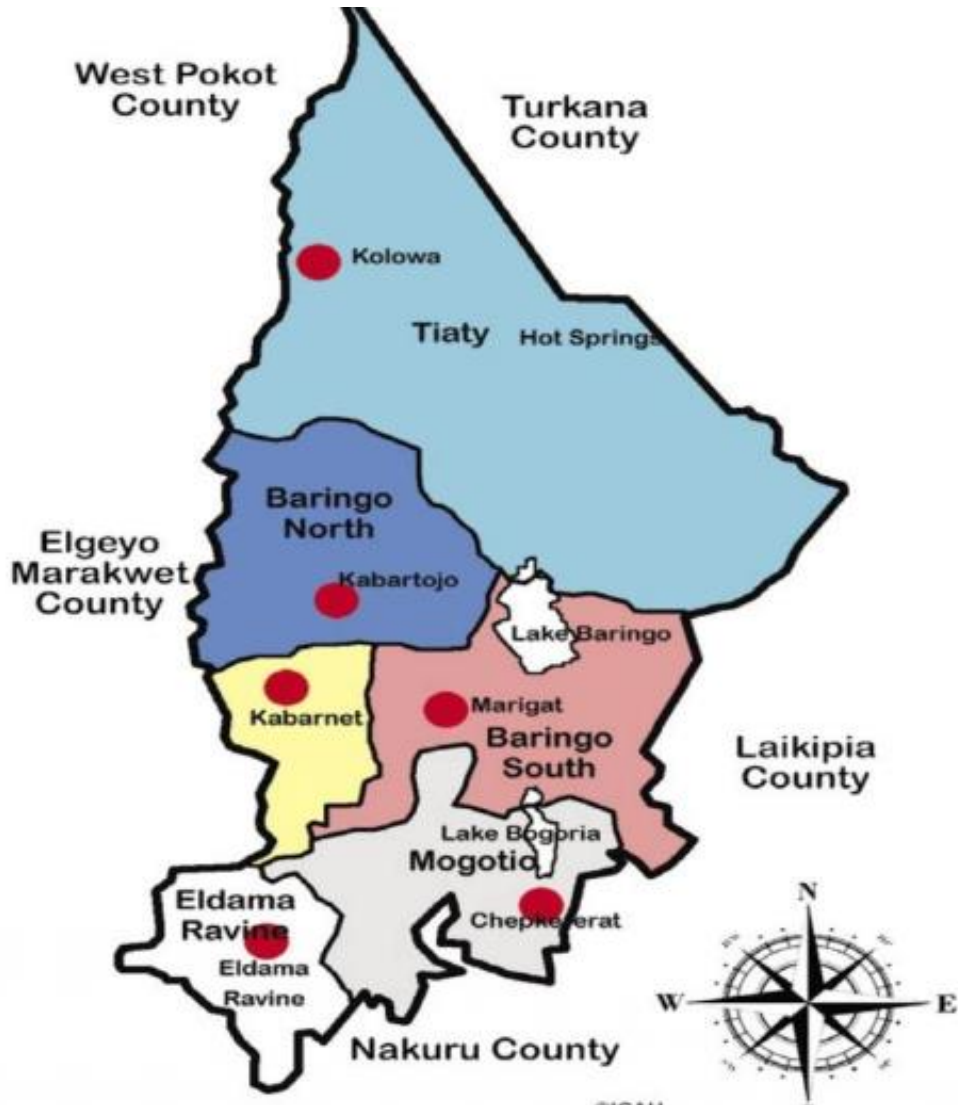
### **Causes, Motivations and Impact of cattle rustling**

1. What are the dynamics of cattle rustling in this area?
2. What are the motivating factors of cattle rustling?
3. How has cattle rustling led to insecurity in Baringo?

### **Mechanisms put in by government to curb cattle rustling and challenges faced**

4. In your opinion, what are the community led efforts in dealing with cattle rustling?
5. In your opinion, have these strategies been effective in curbing cattle rustling in the County? Explain.
6. Has the government managed to reduce the cases of cattle rustling after implementing the strategies?
7. What are the challenges experienced by the government while dealing with cattle rustling issues?
8. What steps has the government taken to mitigate against these challenges?
9. Are there any other important issues pertaining to cattle rustling and insecurity you may wish to add?

### APPENDIX III: Map of Baringo County Sub-Counties



Source: (Baringo County Government, 2016).

#### SUB-COUNTIES

1. Tiaty
2. Baringo central
3. Baringo North
4. Baringo South
5. Eldama Ravine
6. Mogotio

## Map of Baringo County in Kenya



Source: (eLimu, 2015).