

**THE INFLUENCE OF RELIEF FOOD ON SOCIO ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES: A CASE STUDY OF SERICHO
DIVISION OF GARBA TULLA DISTRICT, KENYA**

BY

KYALO KATHENGU

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DECLARATION

This Research Project Report is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other University.

Sign  _____

Date 10-04-2010

KYALO KATHENGU

REG. NO. L50/72650/09

This Research Project Report has been submitted for examination with my approval as a University supervisor

Sign  _____

Date 10th -04-2010

DR. MBWESA JOYCE

SENIOR LECTURER

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

DEDICATION

This Research project is dedicated to my Mother the late Esther Mulekye Kathengu who sacrificed a lot to ensure that I acquired education despite her being denied an opportunity to attend school. Her determination to educate her children remains an inspiration to those who knew her.

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ACRONYMS/ ABBREVIATIONS

ASAL-	Arid and semi arid lands
CHD-	Center for Humanitarian Dialogue
HPG-	Humanitarian Policy Group
GMEC-	Garissa Extra Mural centre
IDP-	Internally displaced person
NGO-	Nongovernmental Organization
ODI-	Overseas development institute
UNEP-	United Nations environmental program
UNHCR-	United nations high commissioner for refugees
UNICEF-	United Nations international Children's fund
UK -	United Kingdom
RCCM-	Red Cross Crescent movement
TLU-	Tropical Livestock Units
USA-	United States of America

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate the influence of relief food dependency on the socio-economic development of the local communities in Sericho Division of Garba Tulla District in Eastern Province. The sample size consisted of three aid agencies directors, one district officer, five chiefs and one hundred and twenty households' heads. The respondents were sampled from Sericho division of Garba Tulla District. Purposive, Stratified and simple random sampling methods of sampling were applied to pick the required sample size for the study from the targeted population.

Data was collected by use of two instruments. These included interview schedules for relief aid agencies and district officers and questionnaires for chiefs and local house hold heads. The instruments were used to collect data concerning the relief food dependency and its influence on the socio-economic development of households among local communities. The data collected was analyzed by use of frequency tables and percentages. The researcher presented the analyzed data by use of tables.

The study established that among the factors influencing relief food dependency, extreme poverty and extended drought were the main factors attracting 25% response each from respondents. It also established that, the main impact of relief food dependency was lowering of grain prices and poor business for the local farmers and improvement of trade for livestock farmers with 25% response from aid agency officers, 16.67% from local chiefs and 24.10 % from household heads. Pastoralism emerged as the main alternative economic activity recording 38-42 % response from all respondents. Infrastructural facilities present which measure development included schools, polytechnic/ colleges, health services, water resources and sports which all the respondents concurred that were in poor condition and needed improvement. The researcher recommends that, politics whether global, regional or national should reflect a genuine desire to break relief food dependency cycle. Measures of intervention should aim at improving welfare of recipient as well as building their coping capacity. Governments and donors agencies should make efforts to improve pastoralism as the main alternative economic activity.

In conclusion, dependency on relief food supplies need to be reduced and more development focused approach employed if it is to be a useful avenue of building disaster stricken peoples initiatives.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

There is a protracted relief food situation in some parts of North Eastern Kenya. A history of receiving relief food supplies assistance is superimposed over the situation of deteriorating livelihood. A strong undercurrent discussion on dependency on a relief food in this region is a moral dilemma facing aid donor agencies involved in providing relief food to North eastern pastoralists.

The state of some of the inhabitants is characterized by the loss of coping capabilities, inability to lift out of situations of deep poverty and dependence on food aid accompanied by the situation of destitution observed in other parts of the horn of Africa (Dean, 2004). Certain assumptions and meanings have been however in usage with the discourse of humanitarian aid where dependency has been seen as being responsible for creating relief risks hence dependency mentality or syndrome in which people expect continuous assistance. This undermines initiative at individual level and community level (Fireman, 2001).

According to Chambers (2003), relief undermines local economies, creating a conforming need for assistance and trapping people into ongoing or chronic food dependency on outside assistance. This dependency on external assistance is one of the features of extreme poverty associated with a sense of shame and defeat. This could be dependency of government at local or national levels, or aid agencies for relief sources. There has been a long running debate in the western social policing about welfare food dependency. This has been an intensively political debate, with the right wing attacking

the food welfare dependency and arguing that the provision of long term welfare creates dependency and the left wing challenging the view of the poor that implies and arguing for the maintenance and extension of food supplies and welfare policies. Most recently, these clear lines have become blurred in places like United Kingdom, with a third wing rhetoric focusing on rights and responsibilities of citizens (Dean, 2004).

Behind this debate on food supplies and welfare dependency lays a history of attitudes towards the poor. One common feature of food supplies dependency is to stigmatize those groups that are labeled as dependants. In the United States for instance, a particular target who have been single mothers, often described as food dependence mothers (Fireman, 2001)

Aboriginal communities in Australia have been a particular focus of debates around relief food supplies and it is certainly true that a large proportion of Aboriginal people rely on relief food supplies and other welfare payments for their basic income, (41%) of its indigenous households have no resident wage earner (Dellit, 2004) . This has affected the school attendance and education attainment for their children. But as Dellit (2004) argues, debates on relief food supplies tend to blame indigenous people for the process of marginalization that are beyond their control and reflect paternalistic and patronizing attitudes.

Chambers, (2003) argues that a belief in the idle poor is common in many cultures and sometimes has its antecedents in racial ideologies of colonialism, and the view of native as improvident, lazy and fantastic. Dean (2004), writing about relief food supplies in U K notes that there is a tendency across political spectrum to fetishize dependency on relief food. This relief food dependency is something that evokes negative feelings. Oxfam,

(2005) argues that food supplies aid is a trade issue and that new disciplines reflects the availability of surpluses, the desire of exporters to expand market involvement of special interests from food aid programmes. Country level aid dependency can also be seen in terms of debt burden of developing countries. Greater debt relief is essential in order to allow countries to meet Millennium Development Goals (Action Aid, 2004).

Development aid in the world's poorest countries, particularly in Africa, make up a high percentage both of national incomes and of the government budgets and this study focuses on whether relief food supplies dependency inhibits or encourages Socio Economic development or reduction of poverty. A fear of creating dependency is sometimes used by aid agencies as a justification for scaling back relief entitlements in terms of coverage, the amount of aid provided and the timescale of provision. (Karim, 2006).

The 2006 review of operation lifeline Sudan for instance, noted that the agencies had frequently justified reducing rations on the grounds that it would stimulate communities to re establish production and income generating activities. Rather than enabling war affected communities to rebuild their lives, this strategy had the effect of making people more vulnerable to being forced into exploitative working conditions and reducing their access to food supplies and increasing their exposure to violence. It is concluded that, the idea that the reduction of food supplies would reduce aid dependency and encourage income generating activities is deeply flawed (Apthorne, 2006).

A review of united humanitarian consequences on humanitarian action in Algeria found that reduction in relief food aid supplies have tended to reinforce the reliance of the

displaced on exploitative labor contracts. Trying to reduce food aid supplies therefore runs the risk of furthering other more negative forms of dependence (Duffied, 2003).

According to World food Program, (2003), in the long conflicts such as in Somalia and Southern Sudan, it is often unclear that the risks faced by people in their struggle to survive change over time. Dependency discourses in these contexts represent a way of justifying a strategic shift from the provision of food relief aid to more developmental approaches. A review of consequences of humanitarian assistance in Sudan found that attempts to introduce more developmental approaches were part related to a fear of creating dependency and premised around attempts to promote self sufficiency. But the report failed to recognize the political roots of the displaced and the real nature of their inability to become self sufficient, then political and social marginalization, impoverishment and exclusion.

Duffied (2003), contends that in the republic of Congo, in a study on relief dependency, non governmental organizations were very concerned about food aid dependency and its effects on economic development. The study found out that humanitarian actors were engaged in what the report argued was premature developmentalism.

Food relief supplies and other forms of aids has often been seen as the most visible, if not the only form of international engagement in long running crises such as those in Uganda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (Macraw, 2001). In these contexts, there is tendency to criticize food relief supplies for failing to improve the situation and enable a movement towards recovery development (Barret and Carter, 2002).

Relief food supplies dependency is an important issue for the Kenyan government. The dominant sentiments in Kenya are that relief is not sustainable, has not reduced risks. The National policy for sustainable development of arid and semi- arid lands (ASAL) highlights relief food dependency as a key concern. The negative consequences of emergency relief are everywhere to be seen. Local producers cannot compete with free food, local service providers go out of business and short term thinking removes incentives for dealing with the underlying problems (Isiolo District Development Plan, 2008).

Reduction of relief food dependency is a key objective. A shift from emergency relief to disaster risk reduction in drought affected areas is envisioned in the draft National Disaster Management policy. Official rhetoric emphasizes disaster risk reduction as a way of moving out of what is perceived as increasing dependence on food aid other sort of humanitarian interventions (Bradbury, 2003)

The first recorded distribution of relief assistance in Kenya occurred in Turkana in 1934. Food relief supplies in colonial Turkana consisted of transport subsidies for commercial imports of cereals to distribute to people living near towns and payments in kind to workers on public projects as in locust eradication campaigns. The scale of colonial intervention was typically small and coverage was low (Hugg, 2005).

According to Bush (2004), North Eastern Kenya is a large dry land region inhabited chiefly by pastoralist people. Livestock herds are noted for having high resilience to shock. The extreme poverty levels have been a prominent feature of pastoralist communities. As early as a 1980s, following a complex emergency in the region, one

expert argued that poverty and relief aid dependence were becoming a permanent condition for many herders.

Relief food supplies is typically framed as a drought crisis, where the situation becomes more chronic and complex with large areas of north eastern Kenya being harmed by armed violence linked to livestock raiding and banditry. Political instability, Animal disease epidemic, human disease and pests' invasions have affected the region in recent years (Bush, 2004).

According to Broche-Due (2004), the state of pastoralists in north eastern Kenya is characterized by the loss of coping capabilities and a concern that pastoralists are increasingly dependant on relief food assistance for their livelihood. The major concern of this study is the viability and sustainability of current relief food supplies of the pastoralists systems, with emphasis on the local communities of Sericho Division in Garba Julla District which is not an exemption to the livelihood challenges facing other inhabitants of drought and war stricken areas

Sericho division of Garba Julla District is inhabited by the Borana Community whose main economic activity is pastoralism. The division covers an area of 5939km². The area is characterized by harsh climatic conditions and classified under the Arid and Semi Arid lands (ASAL).

According to UNEP, (2000), Rainfall in the region is sporadic and poorly distributed. Successive rainfall failure and prolonged drought has led to dwindling of livestock numbers thus affecting the main source of people's livelihood. This has led to a situation where dependency on relief food supplies from the government and other aid agencies is the order of the day. The Government, bilateral donors, International NGOs have

supported victims of drought dependent on food aid. With the dwindling livestock numbers and subsequent disruption of economic mainstay of the local community, the local people have retreated to urban centers in the division where they stay waiting for relief food supplies from the Government. Based on this information, the researcher is prompted to investigate the influence of relief supplies on the socio economic development of local communities in Sericho Division of Garba Tulla District.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

It is argued that once people become accustomed to receiving free commodities, the fear is that they will be less willing to make contributions to community development projects (Bush, 2004). The humanitarian interventions by government and other relief agencies are meant to save people from starvation and malnutrition. However, over dependence on relief food supplies may lead to economic underdevelopment and social degradation of the local community. Whereas the provision of relief food is based on very noble intentions, if not looked at from a sustainable livelihood support system, it could result in abandonment of economic activities by the local people. (UNEP, 2000).

Possible consequences of abandoning income generating activities for relief food supplies are bound to arise consequently having negative effects on people. For instance, relief food assistance is rarely transparent or regular enough to be relied on. This may lead to starvation and of course death due to hunger. The uncertainty surrounding the amount of relief food supplies and timing of food aid deliveries are at times unpredictable (Little, 2004).

Continued provision of relief food risks creating dependency mentality or dependency syndrome. The implication is that relief food supplies undermines initiatives and may create laziness.

The prolonged relief food dependency undermines local economies; in particular, large amounts of food aid can damage local agricultural production. This in turn leads to a continuing need for relief assistance thus creating a vicious cycle and trapping people into chronic dependency (Swift and Timas, 2004). This study therefore intended to investigate the influence of food aid on the recipient's communities' socio economic development with special reference to Sericho division in Garba Julla District.

1.3 The Purpose of the Study

This study intended to determine the influence of relief food supplies on the socio economic development of the local communities in Sericho division and explore ways of reversing the negative effects associated with food aid.

1.4 Objectives of the study

The study was aimed at achieving the following objectives

1. To establish the extent to which political factors influence relief food dependency among local communities in Sericho division.
2. To determine the extent to which relief food dependency impacts on socio economic development of local communities in Sericho division.
3. To establish the extent to which pastoralism is practiced as an alternative economic activity by the local communities in Sericho division.

4. To find out the role of government and aid agencies in minimizing the level of relief food dependency of the local communities in Sericho division.

1.5 Research Questions

The study intended to answer the following questions

1. To what extent do political factors influence relief food dependency among the local communities in Sericho division?
2. To what extent does relief food impact on the socio economic development of the local communities in Sericho division?
3. To What extent is pastoralism practiced as an alternative economic activity by local communities in Sericho division?
4. What role does the government and aid agencies play to minimize relief food dependency of local communities in Sericho division?

1.6 Significance of the study

The findings of this study may be of practical value to aid agencies and donors in helping to enhance self reliance and self dependency approaches to local communities in Sericho division. It is hoped that the study will help in pinpointing the main causes of dependency and how best this relief food supplies dependency can be minimized. The findings of this study may help the government of Kenya and specifically the ministry of planning and national development as well as the ministry of special programmes with ideas and ways especially on the steps that can be taken towards minimizing dependency. It is hoped that

the results of this study will be useful to food relief dependent communities by imparting knowledge, skills and measures for self sufficiency and self dependence.

1.7 Limitations of the study

The area is basically semi arid with harsh climatic condition and poorly developed infrastructure hence accessibility to some areas may be in accessible in good time and most of the area is a rural setting so the results may not apply to all households in urban centers.

1.7.1 Delimitations of the Study

The study focused on local communities who depend on relief supplies in Sericho division. The findings of the study may be generalized to people living in semi arid and arid regions and depending on relief food supplies; however, they can be used by other scholars to generate relevant information about other similar geographical areas.

The study involved local communities from Sericho division and not other divisions in Garba Tulla District.

1.8 Basic Assumptions of the study

The study was based on the following assumptions; the poor/harsh climatic conditions discourage most economic activities that would generate income for the local communities in Sericho division. Relief food supplies therefore become the only source of livelihood. The high poverty levels of the local communities lead to high levels of relief food supplies dependency. The approaches used by the government and relief aid

agencies and donors encourage the households of the local communities to self be reliant and self dependent and all the respondents will cooperate and give honest responses.

1.9 Organization of the study

The study was organized into five chapters. The first chapter consists of the background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objectives, research questions of the study, significance of the study, limitations and delimitations of the study, basic assumptions of the study, organization of the study and the operational definition of significant terms.

Chapter two reviewed literature in line with the four objectives of the study, Theoretical framework and conceptual framework.

Chapter three consists of methodology, that is research design, location of the study, target population, sample size and sampling techniques, data collection instruments, pilot study, validity of instruments, reliability of instruments, data collection procedures, data analysis and ethical issues and considerations.

Chapter four presents data presentation analysis and interpretation while chapter five includes the summary of findings, conclusions, recommendations and suggestions for further studies.

1.10 Operational Definition of Terms

Food Policy—refers to recommendations that are documented pronouncing methods of achieving food security and avoiding starvation and food shortages by producing or distributing agricultural inputs for increased outputs to ensure ability of the citizens to cope with drought conditions.

Economic development—refers to ability to move from a lower level to a higher level in meeting human needs through involvement in income generating activities.

Local communities—refer to the inhabitants of a particular area, who depend on the available livelihood sources in that particular region.

Assessment-refers to a systematic process of investigating the effectiveness of a particular activity in relation to specified objectives aimed at achieving specific standards

Pastoral communities—refers to a group of people living in an area with livestock keeping as their main source of livelihood and have common ethnic characteristics defined by socio cultural belief systems..

Relief food-refers to various food types of assistance given in form of edible substances to assist the local communities by government and aid agencies.

Relief agencies-refers to foreign aid donors who give assistance to the deserving people who include international and local NGOs.

Stakeholders- refers to aid agencies, donors, faith based organization, government and well wishers who give assistance to needy people to enhance their socio economic wellbeing.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviewed literature in line with the objectives of study. It reviewed literature on influence of political factors on relief food dependency, relief food and its impact on socio economic development, alternative economic activities practiced by local communities, role of government and donor agencies in curbing reliance on relief food, theoretical framework and conceptual framework

2.2 Influence of Political factors on Relief food supplies

The current views of poverty in aid policy echoes both European and colonial discourses (Broche-Due, 2002). European discourse on poverty was imported to sub Saharan Africa during colonialism. Some of anthropological evidence suggests that gift giving in pre modern societies did not conform to a narrow bilateral calculus of reciprocity between the giver and the receiver. This unilateral gift giving could cement the solidarity of a small human community from season to season (Timus, 2007).

In European countries, especially in United Kingdom dependency debates tend to blame indigenous households for processes of marginalization that are beyond their control and reflect paternalistic and patronizing attitudes. Attempts to put the blame for above on receiving relief food assistance is often taken as evidence that too much food assistance is being provided. This leads to some people exploiting what relief aid is to offer as fully as they can as part of their livelihood strategies (Chambers, 2003).

Relief food supplies and dependency in developing countries especially in the African continent is seen as a result of unequal power relationships between the rich developed capitalist countries and the poor developing ones (Cole, 2003). However, concerns about how international relationships are implicated in poverty process live in debates around globalization (Dean, 2004).

Political conflicts especially in food producing areas have also tended to reduce farming activity even long after the conflict has been resolved. Insecurity in the neighboring countries plays a key role in food supplies during drought periods in Kenya, (Swift and Timus, 2006).

Poverty in Kenya today and the implications for food security is evident in that, the poor constitute slightly more than half of the population of Kenya. The poor are defined as those who cannot afford basic food and non-food items. The poor, including the urban poor, poor pastoralists, poor in drought prone zones, resource poor households have been described as the most vulnerable to relief food dependence because they have a low purchasing power (Hugg, 2005).

Northern Eastern and Eastern areas of Kenya are characterized by local conflicts and this restricts the movement of vulnerable communities towards better grazing areas and water consequently, leading to loss of their animals hence need for relief food assistance Mohamed, (2003)

Livestock raiding (cattle rustling) affects food security in the pastoral districts of Rift valley, Eastern and North Eastern provinces. The severity of the raids is exacerbated by increased availability of weapons supplied from neighboring countries in times of turmoil. Insecurity itself impedes the marketing of livestock as movement of animals to

markets becomes risky. Prices in livestock therefore decline while prices of cereals and other foodstuffs appreciate. As a result, the pastoralists terms of trade declines and their purchasing power is eroded (Reen, 2004).

2.3 Relief Food and its Impact on Socio- Economic Development

In most developed world, a feature of social welfare food dependency occurs. In the United States, for instance, relief food beneficiaries labeled as dependants, there is a culture of stigmatizing especially among the single mothers, often described as welfare mothers (Fireman, 2004).

In the U.S, relief food assistance is believed and defined as a feature of the need for humanitarian action during crisis which represents extreme levels of vulnerability and risk. To them the shocks undermine the ability of the local people to meet their subsistence needs as part of their regular livelihoods consequently forcing them to depend on some form of aid assistance (CASA consulting, 2003).

Having to rely on external food supplies assistance can undermine fundamental desires for independence and autonomy. Dean, (2004) observes this in his studies in Australia however, he notes that relief food assistance can be used by the poor people themselves to describe poverty.

According to Fireman (2004), attempts to develop people's initiatives require some degree of freedom as well as having their needs for health, food and shelter fulfilled. The concern of the researcher is less about whether the people in desperate need should be given food assistance but whether the way in which they are assisted respects basic needs

autonomy and enables them to exercise their capacity for future self reliance and self dependency in food supplies.

Oxfarm (2003) in his studies in central Africa argues that food aid is a trade issue, and that new disciplines on food aid should be part of negotiations at the world Trade Organization. To him, food aid reflects the availability of surpluses, the desire of exporters to expand markets and the involvement of special interests seeking benefits from food aid programs.

A fear of creating dependency is sometimes used by aid agencies as a justification for scaling back relief food entitlements in terms of coverage, the amount of food aid provided and the time scale of provision. The 1996 time scale review of Operation Lifeline Sudan, for example, the donor agencies frequently reduced rations on the grounds that it would stimulate communities to re-establish production and income generating activities (Apthorne, 1996)

According to Dullied (2000), it justifies a strategic shift from provision of relief food to more developmental approaches. A review of the consequences of humanitarian assistance in Somalia found that relief food is as necessary when conflicts makes populations vulnerable, but because relief food is free to beneficiaries, it could not be seen as creating disincentives and undermining the functioning of markets making people dependent.

Relief food assistance undermines initiative and may increase laziness (Blackwell, 2003)

According to United Nations Environmental Programme report (2000) drought has had serious social and economic implication and the areas most affected are the arid and semi arid lands which are predominantly occupied by pastoralists. These areas support 50% of

countries livestock and also host 75% of the countries wildlife which forms the basis of the Tourism industry in Kenya. A large number of livestock and wildlife deaths have been reported. The same report further confirm that despite the fact that Kenya is prone to cyclic droughts, some part of Kenya especially the drier Northern areas face drought every year and mostly rely on relief food from government and donor agencies. This over reliance in food aid could lead to total breakdown of community's production systems and economic underdevelopment.

The grim picture of the severe social economic effect of the drought that affected Kenya in 2000 is captured in the following statement. The drought has almost crippled the economic sector. The gross domestic product (G.D.P) growth rate decreased from 1.4% in 1999 to 0.7% for same period in 2000 month on month inflation rose from 7.6% to 9.8% from August 1999 to August 2000 and the exchange rate of Kenya shilling against the US Dollar to an all time low of Ksh79 /1 US dollar. The report further adds, by September 2000, the number of people threatened by situation reached about 4.7 million or 16% of the population. In the health sector the malnutrition rate accelerated at an alarming rate.

Pastoralists are extremely exposed to acute food insecurity when drought decimates their herds. Where the main economic activity is pastoralism the drought caused a large number of livestock deaths forcing people to abandon pastoralism to rely on relief food. High animal mortality rates have been recorded , the UNEP report 2000 confirms that, in North and North Eastern parts of Kenya livestock loss of between 20 – 85% have been reported.

Field work in the interior part of Garba Tulla District shows that food distributions have a noticeable marked effect by lowering grain prices (Crisp, 2004).

According to Narayan, (2005) gender is another factor contributing to need for relief food dependency. He notes that female headed households ranked as 'very poor' was higher than that of male headed households as contrasted to the large proportion of male headed households. United Nations, (2008), observed that gender disparities systematically disadvantaged women with regard to overall economic status as well as access to basic services. Women have been considered as one of the food insecure vulnerable groups, (Kenya Food Security steering group, 2000)

It has also been shown that Aids has adverse effects on agriculture including loss of skilled and unskilled labor supply, decline in labor productivity and loss of remittance income due to Aids.

According to Ellis, (2000) loss of harvested crop such as post harvest losses due to factors such as unexpected natural circumstances like heavy rains, poor harvest management and insects. These factors affect the amount of household on-farm foods and therefore affect household food security.

2.4 Alternative Economic Activities practiced by local communities.

A more recent study in the republic of Congo, it was found that attempts to introduce more developmental approaches in the part related to fear of creating dependency and premised around attempts at self sufficiency (Barret and Carter, 2006). But the report failed to recognize the political roots of vulnerability or the reasons for economic exploitation of the poor and the real nature of their inability to become self sufficient,

their political and social marginalization, impoverishment and exclusion (Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, 2006). The decline of food per capita production in Africa was uneven among major areas. According to Maphosa (1994) during the period between early 1980 to early 1990 food production per capita showed an increasing trend in the North West and Central Africa at the rate of 1.1 and 0.9 percent annually respectively. The gains in food production in North, West and Central Africa were not enough to offset the overall decline of per capita food production in Africa. According to Salih (1994a), food production per capita in East and Southern Africa has been declining at an alarming rate of 1.6% annually during the early 1980's and early 1990's. The declining trend of per capita food production is shared by all countries except Uganda and Mauritius in East and Southern Africa.

Salih and Affan (1986) argue that there has been a decline in cereal production in Africa and consequently, the deterioration in food security. He further observes that, there has been marked shift in the composition and consumption from traditional grains (primarily maize millet and sorghum) to non traditional grains (mainly imported rice and wheat) in African diet during the last decade. The substitution trend of domestic coarse grains by non traditional grains has serious short term and long term implications on food security in Africa.

The substitution is occurring most rapidly in countries where rice and wheat production area either costly or infeasible or both. The preceding analysis indicates that the rising demands for these products are met by commercial imports and or food aid. However, under the prevailing state of affairs, the two instruments are counter to the long term solution of food insecurity in Africa.

The substitution of domestic traditional grain by imported grain is occurring in some of the poorest countries of the world, countries with low and declining incomes coupled with severe foreign exchange constraints. These countries simply can not afford the rising food imports.

In Kenya, the reliability of relief food varies from context to context and there is a limit to how much it is sensible to generalize. In some, relief food assistance has become a fairly regular annual event; peoples understanding of expectations about relief food assistance are likely to be very different from those in places where relief is a rare event (Little, 2004).

According to Burret and Maxwell, (2005), relief food assistance is rarely transparent or regular enough to be relied upon. The uncertainty surrounding the amount and timing of food aid deliveries has beneficiaries especially residents of Eastern province not to depend on it.

A study carried out in Garba Tulla District by Mohamed (2003), found out that people could rely on relief food assistance but some women likened it to an opportunity.. in the sense that, it is something unexpected and helpful but which otherwise cannot be counted on. Consequently, people should try to look for ways and means of earning their living. They argued that relief food assistance is insufficient in amount to be depended upon exclusively and therefore they have to look for other economic activities for their upkeep. Continued provision of relief food risks creating dependency mentality or dependency syndrome.

People remain imaginative, resourceful and industrious in the contexts of prolonged relief aid delivery. In North eastern Province, it was noted that some women customarily

undertake survival activities such as burning charcoal and collecting and selling bundles of firewood . described as one way in which relief food assistance improved their socio economic lives (Hoeing, 2004).

The idea of relief assistance as a substitute for people's engagement in other livelihood and income generating activities presumes the existence of work options. However, it is lack of such options that in part characterize in some parts of eastern Kenya and necessitates support. Relief assistance does not affect people's involvement in other work activities. Several people continue with their normal activities because relief food rations are usually inadequate (Cunny and Hill, 2009).

In Sericho division of Garba Tulla District in eastern Province, the local people derive most of their livelihood from livestock keeping which are then sold or bartered for important cereals. In this situation, food aid that brings down prices for cereals may benefit them in terms of trade. Food distributions can contribute to more favorable terms of trade for livestock keepers by causing a decrease (improvement) in the cereal/meat price ratio. Food aid can provide the incentive for pastoralists to hold onto animals and thereby contribute to the livelihood recovery process after emergency.

There are however, a growing number of pastoralists who engage in petty trade in cereals as part of diversified livelihood and may thus be negatively affected by distribution of food aid. If disincentive effects from food aid are occurring, it may make sense to examine the appropriateness of food in and consider shifting to other forms of assistance, for example cash based approaches (Harvey, 2005).

Farmers in marginal agricultural areas such as Eastern and Nyanza provinces, households employ charcoal burning, relief food, sand harvesting, petty trade, and consumption of raw mangoes and the reduction of number of meals per day (Food steering group, 2000)

According to Reen (2004), the food economy model which requires economic zoning need to be based on property, defined and understood in various ways among different socio-economic groups. Crisp, (2004) on the other hand documents the key socio-economic groups of Kenya as pastoralists, subsistence farmers, and urban poor.

Pastoralism is the primary economic activity in all of the divisions included in the most chronically vulnerable ten percent of all the divisions in Kenya. The number of animals owned by the pastoral households is the key factor determining relative vulnerability via the Tropical livestock units (TLUs). When extensive drought strikes or animals diseases, many animals die and others are weakened hence very low prices, this in turn necessitates food supply assistance Hugg, (2005)

Subsistence farmers, defined as farmers who consume more of their production than they sell, are considered to be the most vulnerable residents after pastoralists. In Kenya administrative divisions analysis indicates that when rainfall fails, such farmers hardly get any food for personal consumption or sell to purchase other basic goods hence reliance of relief food supplies for their upkeep. (Dellit, 2004)

According to Mohamed, (2003), models used to assess vulnerability do not attempt to capture urban vulnerability as it differs from rural vulnerability, where climatic conditions and market accessibility are critical. In urban areas, vulnerability is more closely linked to income opportunities, the price of food and other basic commodities. Most available data on

urban areas concentrates on measuring poverty, which is not directly equivalent to vulnerability to food insecurity or famine.

However, for Kenya, the 1992 welfare monitoring survey indicated that the urban populations are less likely to be poor.

All the evidence about how people survive during crisis points to the fact that dependency syndrome is an unhelpful myth and relief food does not necessarily undermine initiative or make people lazy. Based on varying perceptions and beliefs, the researcher was compelled to investigate the influence of relief food supplies on the socio economic development of local people in Sericho division of Garba Tulla District, Eastern Province.

2.5 The Role of Government and Donor Agencies in Minimizing Relief food dependency.

Various food policies have been adopted in Africa to address the issue of food insecurity. According to Salih (1994a) frequently employed policies include domestically produced food staples at low procurement prices in order to keep domestic food prices artificially low so as to benefit the consumer. Although policy implications are at variance strong empirical evidence from majority of these countries suggest that these policies have started to achieve their designated goals and in some instances they destabilize food production. Hussein and Farugee (1994) agree that remunerative producer prices encourage food production in Africa.

Remedial measures have been put in place in several countries to protect the entitlement of vulnerable groups through direct cash support as experienced in Botswana, Cape Verde and recently Sudan (Osmani 1988:74). Food aid resources also have been

transferred into commodity wage in particular in countries where food aid represents a substantial portion of international resource flow such as employment projects in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Niger, Malawi Mozambique and Zambia (Salih 1994a :16). However, these programmes are of a short term nature and it is not clear whether food aid will ensure adequate availability of food during long series of droughts in Africa.

Africa has been urged to turn to drought tolerant crop produced and consumed locally to address the persistent food insecurity problems. Crops such as Cassava and Millet would have much greater short to medium -run beneficial impact on food security than non traditional grains particularly during the hungry season. Salih and Affan (1986) supports the idea of growing drought resistance crops by asserting that cassava millet and sorghum cover about 100 million hectares in nearly 40 countries across Africa and are mostly used in subsistence farming because traditional grains require few production skills or inputs, are complementary to cash crops and produce reasonable yields under adverse conditions. He further notes that, per capita cassava production increased at an annual average rate of 0.8% in Africa between the late 1970s and early 1990's while cereals production had a negative per capita growth rate of 0.7% during the same period. Indeed Cassava was the only traditional grain (compared with maize and Yam) to grow concomitantly with population growth during the last three (3) decades.

Salih (1994) roots for technological improvement in production of important food staples so as to further reduce the import of non traditional grains in the medium run in particularly to countries facing foreign exchange difficulties and increased regional and International Corporation in food research as a way to close the widening food gap.

A strong anti food aid discourse runs through both government and developmental agency circles, in part centered on the idea that it has a strong disincentive effects and creates dependency. But there are many factors underlying the chronic and persistent poverty of a large proportion of the population. Since food aid has been the most visible form of aid response to chronic food insecurity over the last decade, it serves as an easy scapegoat for the wider failures of development policy attempts at poverty alleviation (Dean, 2004).

In Kenya specifically, the government dependency concerns centre on the possible negative effects of food aid, and there is a strong anti food sentiments among government officials. The draft National Policy for Sustainable development of arid and semi arid lands highlights dependency as a key concern "the negative consequences of emergency relief food are everywhere to be seen: local producers go out of business and short thinking removes incentives for dealing with underlying problems" (Isiolo District Development Plan, 2008).

The official rhetoric emphasize disaster risk reduction as a way of moving out of what is perceived as increasing dependence on food aid and other sorts of humanitarian aid (Swift and Timas, 2004)

In the last few years, Kenya has been subjected to unending series of drought which has turned some communities especially pastoralists to permanent recipients of relief food supplies for survival. The government in partnership with several donors provided relief fund to contain the situation (UNEP 2000:21) Furthermore, countries like Kenya that are more and more dependant on relief food have seen their development assistance decline by 50% by the last decade.

The main environmental factor behind food insecurity in the country is deficient rainfall they receive. For instance a study by Kigutta, (2005), shows that even in high potential areas of Rift valley uni-modal rainfall pattern subjects' households to food insecurity during certain months of the year.

Drought is seen as main cause of food insecurity in Kenya. Save the children fund (SCF UK, 2007) classified majority of marginal agricultural areas as well as the pastoral areas as highly risky environments by virtue of the high negative seasonal deviation. The impact of drought or low rainfall in food crop production in Kenya is aggravated by the fact that food production in Kenya is rain fed (Mbithi, 2007). Drought also leads to high mortality as well as poor body condition of livestock and therefore low livestock prices. These factors erode purchasing power of households, which directly affects their food security hence need for relief food assistance.

Government and external donors prefer to focus on high potential areas that enhance economic growth (UNEP 2000:76).

The government has had a specific food policy only since 1981, before then it was hoped that the goal of food self-sufficiency would be met through the pursuance of broader policies on agriculture as it was assumed that agricultural growth would directly translate into food self-sufficiency at the national and household levels. Kenya's food policy since independence has therefore been centered on improving the supply of basic foodstuff mainly grain crops (Harvey, 2001)

According to Mohamed, (2004) a number of factors lead to food insecurity in the country hence need for relief food supplies. Among them are the policy failures in areas of agricultural pricing, marketing of both inputs and output, distribution and extension services

that introduced inefficiencies and lowered agricultural production and the ability to cope with drought conditions. Poor policy implementation record by the government has lowered the incentives to produce by farmers.

Nyangito, (2007) notes that the National policy documents such as sessional paper number 1 of 1986 on Economic Management for Renewed Growth and paper number 2 of 1994 on food [policy emphasized self-sufficiency in maize, beans, rice, vegetables, milk, beef and most products with little emphasize on traditional crops such as millet and cassava. The general decline in agricultural production has led to reduced food availability and decreased income which makes the country more vulnerable to food insecurity hence relief food supplies

2.6 Theoretical Framework

The study reviewed the development theory by Hajer, (1995). According to this theory, relief food dependency is the anti thesis of development approaches that aim at empowerment, participation and sustainability. The term dependency is often used in the context of debates around the problematic idea of some sort of transaction between relief food supplies, dependency and transition between relief and development, with relief being seen as intrinsically undesirable because it creates dependency. A specific concern is raised in the context of development theory, is that relief food supplies interventions undermines on going socio economic developmental programmes (Drysek, 2007).

In relation to this study, once people have become accustomed to receiving free commodities in form of food supplies, the fear is that they will be less willing to make contributions to community development projects without being paid and this negatively

affects the socio economic development of local communities. Relief food supplies dependency within a wider literature around livelihoods, social protection and coping strategies stresses the point that people affected by emergencies are not passive recipients for survival and recovery. Relief food assistance therefore is better seen as one of a range of options that people may be able to draw upon in their struggle to deal with crisis and meet their socio economic needs.

2.7 Conceptual Framework

A number of factors are responsible for relief food dependency. These include political, Economic, Social and donor related. Prolonged drought leads to drought thus famine, which is a sign of poverty. The pastoralists lose a lot of their animals through death, low prices from the sale of the weak animals resulting in low purchasing power. This calls for both governments and aid agencies interventions to meet the needs of the local communities through relief food supplies and other basic needs like shelter, clothing, and education. In essence this is believed to undermine the socioeconomic development programmes of the local people.

Independent Variables

Moderating Variable

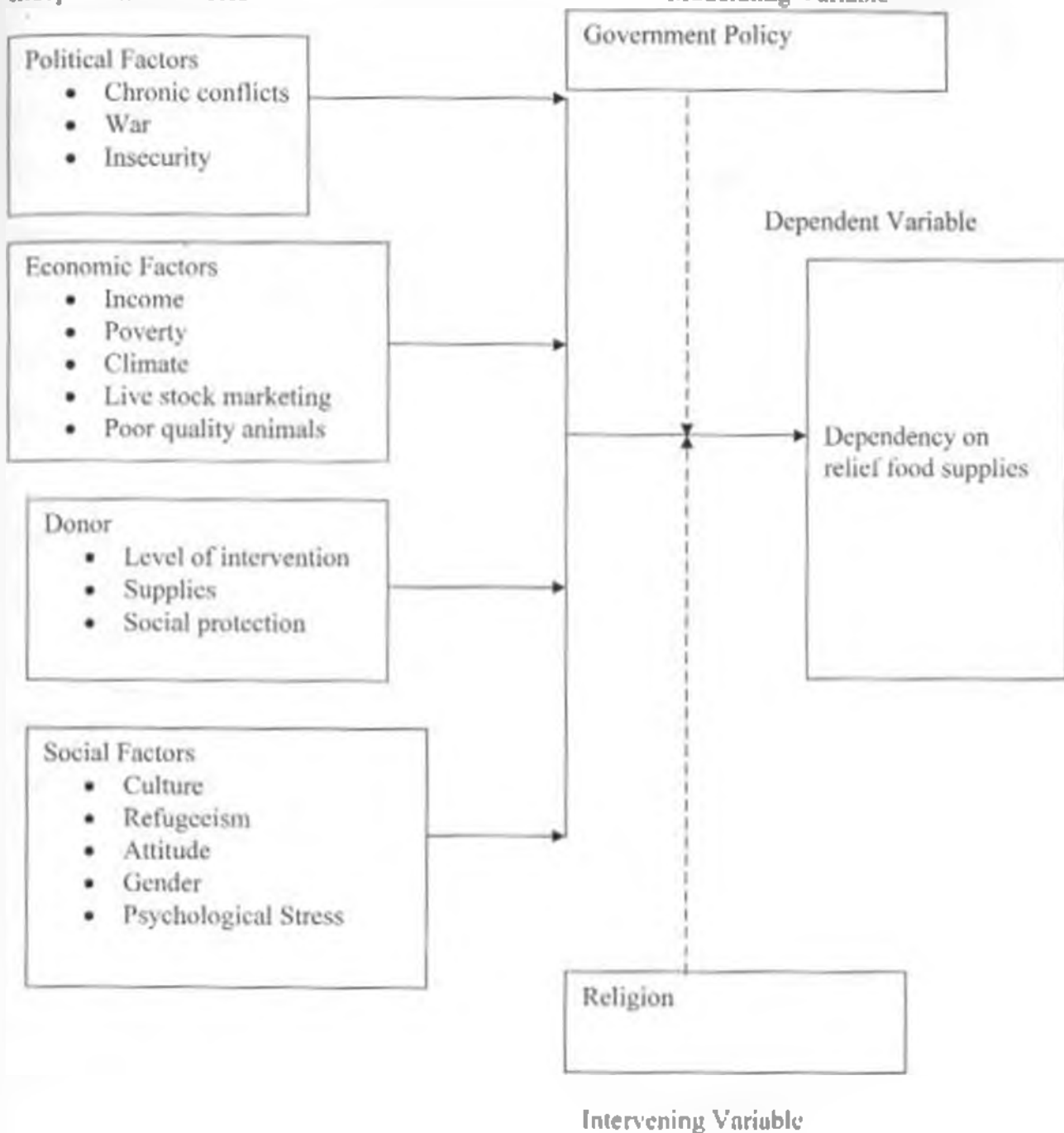


Figure 1: Relief food supplies and dependency cycle

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the research methodology and design employed in the study. In doing so, the following areas are discussed: research design, location of the study, target population, sample size and sampling techniques, data collection instruments, pilot study, validity of instruments, reliability of instruments, data collection procedures, data analysis and Ethical issues and considerations.

3.2 Research Design.

The study used a descriptive survey design where both qualitative and quantitative approaches were employed. The descriptive survey was used to collect information on proximate effects of relief food supplies on socio economic development of local communities. Best and Kahn, (1993) postulates that descriptive survey is the most appropriate design in the behavioral sciences as it seeks to find out factors associated with occurrence of certain events and conditions of behavior. It enables the researcher to collect in depth information including sensitive and personalized experiences concerning the issue being investigated. The descriptive survey design allowed the researcher to study variables as they exist. For this study, the researcher was not able to manipulate such variables as relief supplies and socioeconomic development of the local people.

Kerlinger (2003) and Mouldy (2003) concurs that the survey design is used to gather data from large population at a particular point in time with the intention of describing the

nature of the current situation. Orodho (2004) says that descriptive survey design, despite being used for exploratory and preliminary studies, allows the researcher to summarize and interpret information for the purpose of clarifying the issue under study.

3.3 Location of the Study

This study was carried out in Sericho division, Garba Tulla District Eastern Province. This area was purposely selected. The choice of this area was based on the fact that it was within reach by the researcher and has large number of households who purely depend on relief food assistance.

3.4 Target Population

This study targeted three relief aid agencies, one District officer, five Chiefs and one hundred and twenty Household heads in the division. Sericho division has twenty locations and seventy two villages and six hundred households (Isiolo District Development Plan, 2008). The relief agencies and government officers at the division headquarters were targeted because they are involved in distribution of relief aid. The household heads are recipients of relief aid and are the sources of livelihood for their families.

3.5 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

The study population consisted of twenty percent (20%) of household's heads which was selected. Wiersma (2005) observed that due to limitation in time, funds and energy, a study could be carried out from a carefully selected sample to represent the entire

population. Gay (2002) postulated that at least twenty percent (20%) of the population is good representation which works well even today.

The sampling unit was Sericho Division, which was purposely selected based on convenience of the researcher in terms of time allocation, available funds and other logistics. From the selected division, respondents were selected using stratified sampling method whereby, within the stratum, simple random sampling was used to select participants. The sample was drawn from a locale rich in variety of respondents from both rural and urban origin, Muslim in religion, different socio economic and common cultural respect which therefore are envisaged to provide adequate varied socio economic developmental challenges resulting from continuous relief aid assistance to households.

To select the representative sample of six hundred household heads, the villages were grouped according to locations.

From the stratum, simple random sampling was used to select five locations to participate in the study. Within the selected locations, simple random sampling was used to select the household heads and other persons to participate in the study.

Table 1: Research study number of respondents

Respondents	Number of respondents
Aid agencies representatives	3
District officers	1
Chiefs	5
Household heads	120
Total	129

The study consisted of a sample of 129 respondents. These included three aid agencies representatives, one district officer, five chiefs and one hundred and twenty household heads. The researcher sampled five different locations which were randomly selected

3.6 Data Collection Instruments

The researcher used interview schedules and questionnaires to obtain data from the respondents.

3.6.1 Interview Schedule

One interview schedule was developed (Appendix 2). This allowed the researcher to make follow up of the respondents answers, to obtain more information on and clarify vague statements. The researcher hence, used this method to seek clarification to some of the responses pertaining to influence of relief food on socio economic development of local communities. The researcher also sought information on possible ways and means

of improving the socio economic lives of the households. The interview schedule allowed room for interpretation of statements to a language that the respondents could understand.

3.6.2 Questionnaire

One questionnaire was developed (Appendix 3) for Chiefs and household heads, the questionnaires had both open ended and closed questions. The respondents were offered a set of answers that closely represented their view to choose from. In closed ended questions, the like type of scale was used in rating, which aided in reducing subjectivity and made it possible to quantitatively analyze the data. The open ended questions allowed respondents to communicate their views without being forced to fit within the pre-conceived answers. Orodho (2004) contents that the questionnaire is a suitable method, indeed, the easiest and the cheapest way of data collection. It has both the ability to collect a large amount of information in a reasonable quick span of time. Kathori (2004), observes that, a questionnaire is free of bias of the interviewer, the respondents have adequate time to give well thought answers and that, respondents who are not easily approachable can also be reached conveniently. Therefore, the questionnaire was used obtain information concerning the socio economic lives of households in Sericho Division.

3.7 Pilot Study

The data collection instruments were piloted on a small representative sample identical to, but not including the group that was studied in the actual study. It involved five

household heads, one chief, one aid agency representative and one government officer. These respondents were not included in the actual research sample size.

Table 2: Pilot study --Number of respondents

Respondents	Target No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Aid Agencies	1	100
Chiefs	1	100
Household heads	5	100
District Officers	1	100

Interview schedules were conducted for the Aid Agencies officers and the District officers, while the Chief and the household heads were given questionnaires and were allowed one week to respond to the questions. The researcher collected the data from the field and analyzed it by use of frequency tables. Results from the pilot study indicated that, political instability, extended drought and extreme poverty led to relief food dependency in equal measure. All the respondents concurred that relief food supplies undermined self initiative and self dependency and also lowered the prices of farm produce. The households engaged in alternative income generating activities such as pastoralism, small scale trade, subsistence farming, collecting and selling of firewood. The respondents noted that both the government and Donor agencies were involved in capacity building to strengthen coping strategies so as to derive better alternative income generating activities.

3.7.1 Validity of the instruments

The instruments were subjected to an analysis by the researcher, he assessed the relevance of the content used in the instruments, developed and made structured changes for the purpose of improvement before embarking on the actual data collection exercise. This enabled the researcher to have a firsthand experience in administration of the instruments. Orodho (2004) contends that validity concerns the accuracy with which the instrument generated measures what it is supposed to measure.

The test retest of the instruments was important because of the following considerations: Vague questions were refined in the sense that the respondents could help the researcher to rephrase the questions to convey the same meaning to all subjects. This enhanced the validity of the instruments, the deficiencies in pre-testing, for example, unclear instructions insufficient space to write responses, clustered questions and wrong phrasing of questions were detected, and then the questions reconstructed by incorporating the changes.

Pre-determined criteria of evaluation was used to ensure validity of the study by piloting the instruments on a small representative sample identical to but not included in the study. The instruments were found to cover the required content and simple language used in constructing them valid or good enough to be used in the actual data collection. The researcher took every precaution to make sure that the instrument used to collect data adequately answered all the research questions and achieved the objectives of the study.

3.7.2 Reliability of Instruments.

A pilot study was done to ensure that the items consistently measured the variables in the study and produce reliable results, hence, ensured that the instruments yielded the same results on repeated trials. Mugenda and Mugenda (1999), contends that the test retest procedure helps to ascertain that the instruments of collecting data are free from any pitfalls and mistakes that would have surfaced in the main data collection process if the pre-testing of the instruments had not been done. To determine the reliability of the study, the instruments were also piloted on a small representative sample identical to, but not included in the group that was involved in the actual study. The researcher administered interview schedules on the Aid agencies officer and the district officer while questionnaires were given to chief and household heads and allowed a period of one week to respond to the questions. The data collected from the field was analyzed using frequency tables and percentages and conclusions were drawn from the presented data and relationships between variables established.

3.8 Data Collection Procedures

The researcher visited the area to familiarize himself with the administration especially for use of interview schedules. Ethical issues and considerations were put in place by the researcher to ensure that all respondents participated with informed consent.

The researcher visited the administration area to familiarize himself with Aid agencies staff as well as District officers because of the interview schedules before the actual data collection in order make respondents feel free and open to issues. The researcher administered the interview schedules for relief aid agencies representatives and

government officers on different days based upon the time schedule. The questionnaires for chiefs and household heads were given to the respondents and were allowed periods of two weeks to respond to the questions after which the researcher collected the questionnaires back.

3.9 Data Analysis

The researcher collected data from the field and analyzed it by use of frequency tables and percentages. The researcher presented the analyzed data by use of tables which included the responses for all the targeted respondents. Conclusions were drawn from the presented data and the relationship between variables was established.

3.10 Ethical Issues and Considerations

The researcher took every precaution to ensure ethical issues were observed. The respondents were given freedom to answer questions without force or coercion. Total confidentiality was ensured and instructions given at the introduction of every questionnaire.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher presents the data analysis, results and discussion of the research findings based on other studies discussed in the literature review. This chapter unfolds in the following ways. Relief Aid Agencies related variables, chief related variables and household heads related variables. This study was set to investigate the influence of relief food supplies on socio-economic development of local communities.

The data analysis is based on two ways namely: The research objectives that were meant to be achieved and the research questions that guided the study: The study aimed at achieving the following objectives, to establish the extent to which political factors influence relief food dependency among local communities in Sericho division, to determine the extent to which relief food dependency impacts on the socio economic development of the local communities in Sericho division, to establish the extent to which pastoralism is practiced as an alternative Economic activity by the local communities in Sericho division and finally, establish the role of Government and donor agencies in minimizing the level of relief food dependency of the local communities in Sericho division.

4.2 Distribution of respondents by gender

The following table presents distribution of respondents who participated in the study by gender.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents by gender

Respondents	Male		Female	
	No. of respondents	Percentage	No. of respondents	Percentage
Relief Aid Agencies officer	3	3.42	2	4.76
Chiefs	5	5.68	0	0.00
Household heads	80	90.90	40	95.24
Total	88	100.00	42	100.00

Results from table 3 indicate that 90.90 percent of all the respondents were male households' heads, 5.68 percent were chiefs and 3.42percent were relief aid agency officers. There were no female chiefs and only two relief agency officers who participated and the proportion of male household heads to female household heads were 75 percent to 25 percent respectively.

4.2.1 Distribution of respondents by age

The following table presents the distribution of respondents who participated in the study by age.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents by age

Age	Relief Aid Agencies		Chiefs		Households heads	
20-25	0		0	0.00	8	
26-30	0		0	0.00	12	10.00
31-35	1	25.00	0	0.00	17	14.67
36-40	1	25.00	2	40.00	22	18.33
41-45	2	50.00	2	40.00	20	16.67
Over 46	0		1	20.00	41	34.17
TOTAL	4	100.00	5	100.00	120	100.00

Out of the aid agency officers who participated, fifty percent were aged between 41-45 and 31-41 years respectively. Most of the chiefs were aged between 36-40 and 41-45 years who recorded 40 percent and only 20 percent were aged over 46 years. Majority of the household heads were over 46 years old, that is, 34.17 percent. There were only 10 percent of the participants who were between 20-25 years of age.

4.2.2 Households relying on relief food in Sericho division

The following table presents the number of households depending on relief food in Sericho division according to locations.

Table 5: Number of households relying on relief food

Location	No. of household	Percentage
Modogashe	342	14.62
Eldera	440	18.80
Bandana	534	43.38
Iresaboru	438	18.72
Ilawaye	486	20.78
Total	2340	100.00

Results from this table indicate that one location (Bandana) had the highest number of households' that depend on relief food 43.38 percent, while the rest four had between 14-20 percent households.

4.2.3 Factors influencing relief food dependency

Research Question one

To what extent do political factors influence relief food dependency among the local communities in Sericho division?

The following table presents responses to factors that influence relief food dependency in Sericho division.

Table 6: Responses to factors influencing relief food dependency.

Factors influencing relief food dependency	Aid agency officers		Chiefs		Household heads	
	No. of responses	Percentage	No. of responses	Percentage	No. of responses	Percentage
1. Political factors	4	25.0	5	25.00	65	17.57
2. Extreme poverty	4	25.0	5	25.00	80	21.62
3. Extended drought	4	25.0	4	20.00	100	27.70
4. Marginalization	2	12.50	2	10.00	54	14.46
5. Female headed families	2	12.50	2	10.00	54	14.46
6. Relief food availability	0	0.00	1	5.00	26	7.03
TOTAL	16	100.00	20	100.00	370	100.00

Results on factors influencing relief food supplies indicate that political instability, extreme poverty and extended drought contributed greatly with 25 percent response for each. Other factors included marginalization, female headed families and availability of relief food itself. These results resemble the findings by Mohamed, (2004) in his study in Garissa District on relationship between relief dependency and economic development, who noted that political conflicts especially insecurity in the neighboring producing areas tended to reduce farming activities, drought and poverty contributed to the need for dependency on relief food supplies. However, Swift and Timus (2006), identified factors on agricultural pricing, marketing and distribution of extension services lowered agricultural production and the ability to cope with drought conditions consequence leading to need for relief food supplies.

4.2.4 Impact of relief food on socio economic development.

Research Question Two

To what extent does relief food impact on socio economic development of the local communities in Sericho division?

The table below presents responses to how relief food impacts on Socio Economic development of the local communities.

Table 7: Responses on impact of relief food dependency on Socio Economic development.

Impacts	Aids Agency officers		Chiefs		Household heads	
	Responses	percentage	Responses	percentage	Responses	percentage
1 Leads to Stigma/shame	1	6.25	2	12.50	68	16.19
2 Laziness undermines initiative	2	12.50	3	10.00	22	5.24
3 Creates relief mentality/syndrome	3	18.75	3	10.00	74	17.63
4 Diversion from livelihood strategies	2	12.50	2	12.50	65	15.48
5 Lowers grain prices/poor business for local producers	4	25.00	5	16.67	104	24.76
6 Improves trade for livestock farmers	4	25.00	5	16.67	97	23.10
TOTAL	16	100.00	30	100.00	420	100.00

Results from the table 7 indicates that lowering of grain prices and poor business for local farmers and improvement of trade for livestock farmer as the main impact of relief food supplies. These had 25 percent response from relief Aid Agency officers, 16.67 percent from local chiefs and 23.10 percent for household heads. Other impacts include creation of relief dependency mentality/syndrome which had 18.75 percent response from aid agency officers and 17.63 percent for household heads. Diversion from livelihood strategies and stigma/shame ranked third with 15-16 percent response from the household heads themselves.

According to Hugg (2005), continued provision of relief food risks creating dependency mentality or dependency syndrome, undermines initiative and may create laziness. These effects are somehow similar to the findings for this study. However, Blackwell (2003) found that people under famine stricken situations remain imaginative, resourceful and industrious in the context of prolonged relief policy and attempt at poverty alleviation.

Crisps, (2004), observed that food aid brings down prices for cereals thus benefiting trade in terms of livestock keepers. Food aid provides incentive for pastoralists thus contributing to the livelihood recovery process.

4.2.5 Alternative Economic Activities practiced by local communities.

Research Question Three.

To what extent is pastoralism practiced as an alternative economic activity in Sericho division?

The Table below presents responses to alternative economic activities practiced by local communities in Sericho division.

Table 8: Responses to Alternative economic activities

Alternative Economic activities	Aid agency officers		Chiefs		Household heads	
	No. of responses	Percentage	No. of responses	Percentage	No. of responses	Percentage
1. Pastoralism	4	40	5	41.68	100	38.46
2. Subsistence farming	2	20	3	25.00	48	18.46
3. Collecting and selling fire wood	2	20	2	16.66	52	20.00
1. Small scale business	2	20	2	16.66	60	23.08
TOTAL	16	100.00	20	100.00	370	100.00

Results from Table 8 indicate that the local communities engage in alternative economic activities such as pastoralism which is their major activity. This recorded between 38-42 percent from all respondents. Other activities include subsistence farming, small scale businesses and collecting and selling bundles of fuel wood.

Harvey, (2005) in his study among the pastoralist communities of Eastern and North Eastern Kenya found out that there is a growing number of pastoralists who engage in petty trade in cereals as part of diversified livelihood. Dellit, (2004), noted that some pastoralists engage in small scale subsistence farming which they use for personal consumption or sell to purchase other basic goods.

4.2.6 Measures to curb relief food dependency

Research question four.

What role does government and donor agencies play to curb relief food supplies dependency in Sericho Division?

Most of the Aid Agency officers at United Nations and other organizations are studying the linkages between relief interventions and development strategies. Efforts are being made to make relief development resources both fiscal and human, be more nationally distributed so that transitions from chaos to stability are more timely and seamless.

There is also a growing focus on better utilization of local capacities. NGOs have pledged to strengthen and work more closely with potential local counterparts in the formulation of policy throughout the international humanitarian relief system. The sectoral and technical capacity building aiming at creation of initiative and resourcefulness and developmental issues have been put in place. Respondents concurred that both the government and agencies were involved in capacity building to strengthen coping strategies of the affected communities.

4.2.7 Available Infrastructural Facilities

The Table below presents responses to available infrastructural facilities which are indicators of development in Sericho division.

Table 9: Responses to available infrastructural facilities

Facilities	Aid agency officers		Chiefs		Household heads	
	No. of responses	Percentage	No. of responses	Percentage	No. of responses	Percentage
1. Schools	4	33.34	3	21.43	12	6.63
2. Colleges/polytechnics	1	8.33	2	14.28	18	10.00
3. Water sources	2	16.67	3	21.43	66	34.67
4. Health facilities	3	25.00	3	21.33	44	22.44
5. Maintained roads	1	8.33	1	7.14	20	11.11
6. Sports fields	1	8.33	2	14.29	30	15.15
TOTAL.	12	100.00	14	100.00	180	100.00

Results from table 9 show that among the available infrastructural facilities that measure the levels of development include schools that had the highest response from all participants, that is, 33.34 percent from aid agency officers, and 21.43 percent from chiefs. Other facilities include polytechnic/colleges, health services, water resources and sports. However, the respondents indicated that all the facilities were in poor conditions and needed improvement and regular maintenance.

Swift and Timus.(2004), noted that food aid has possible negative effects in that, it affects development of infrastructural facilities as the main focus became averting of hunger and provision of medical care. Local producers go out of business and the short thinking brought by relief food supplies removes incentives for dealing with underlying problems. This hinders other types of development issues.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents four issues. These are: summary of all relevant research findings, conclusions, recommendations of the study and suggestions for further studies. This research intended to investigate the influence of relief food supplies on the socio-economic lives of local communities. The study was carried out in Sericho Division., Garba Lulla District in Eastern province. The relief Aid Agency officers, chiefs and household heads were involved in the study. Purposive, stratified and random methods of sampling were employed to arrive at respondents of the study. Five locations were involved where household heads were randomly selected.

For the purpose of data collection, interview schedules were used. The researcher visited the Aid Agencies and administered the interview schedules. The researcher availed the questionnaires to the chiefs and household heads and allowed them a period of two weeks to allow them adequately answer all the questions after which they were collected for data analysis. The researcher analyzed the data by use of frequency tables and percentages with a view of achieving the research objectives and answering the research questions.

5.2 Summary of the Findings

The study revealed that: Most of the household heads were male (75 percent) and only 25 percent were female and all the chiefs were males an indication of gender imbalance in the leadership roles. Extended drought that led to extreme poverty and political instability

contributed greatly to relief food supplies dependency. This had over 20 percent response from the respondents. Other factors included marginalization and single female headed families associated with gender. Relief food supplies led to laziness, undermining of initiative among the local communities lowered the prices for grains hence leading to poor business for local producers, while in contrast improving trade for livestock farmers. These recorded 25 percent response compared to other effects such as creation of relief mentality syndrome, diversion from daily livelihood strategies, shame and stigma which had less than 10 percent response. The local communities' socio-economic activities such as pastoralism had almost 80 percent response from all respondents as an alternative activity. Other activities include small scale business and collecting and selling of bundle of firewood to people living in small towns. The governments and donor agencies were involved in capacity building to curb relief food dependency. Infrastructural facilities such as schools/polytechnics, health service centres, clean water sources and good roads were far in between and in poor conditions. During emergencies such as drought, wars and political instabilities, people cope by seeking shelter with extended families, parents send their children to live with relatives in safer, more productive areas.

In an atmosphere of frequent raiding by armed factions, farmers reduce production and diversify storage techniques. Women living in displaced camps for extended periods convert relief grain to alcohol to generate income. Pastoralists, who lose the bulk of cattle during endemic shocks, mostly turn to immigrant labour as coping mechanism to replace their earlier livelihoods, a process known as adoption. Therefore, disaster-affected communities demonstrate the clearest examples of how emergency responses are related to livelihood strategies or in current parlance, how relief and development are linked.

5.3 Recommendations

The main findings of the study indicated that despite the high dependency on relief food supplies, the local communities were in great need of more effective and adequate coping mechanisms, capacity building and relief food aid with socio-economic development. The relief aid agencies, the government and local organizations have a major role to play to build the capacity of local communities to better cope with disasters, to avert and mitigate the disasters. If this noble task is realized in Sericho Division of Garba-Tulla, District, all stakeholders must offer high positive coping mechanisms to the local communities as a measure of helping them face positively the natural and human related disasters with an aim of furthering their socio-economic developments. It would also provide the nation with citizens who are well adopted and adjusted and hopefully help in realizing general national socio-economic development.

Politics are at the centre of relief food dependency debates around the world. Political factors such as war, chronic conflicts and perpetual insecurity are a common denominator in areas where relief food dependency is the order of the day. Politics whether national, regional or global should reflect a genuine desire to end the relief food dependency cycle.

Relief food dependency has serious impact on the socio economic development of the local communities. By lowering the grain prices, it affects the purchasing power of the local producers leading to poverty. Measures of intervention should be aimed at improving the welfare of the recipients as well as discouraging the local people from being hooked to reliance on relief supplies.

Pastoralism is practiced to a large extent as an alternative economic activity. Efforts should be made to strengthen pastoralism, such efforts should include coming up with better terms

of trade for livestock products from frequently drought hit areas, improved marketing strategies and an insurance policy against effects of extended drought. The policy would ensure restocking whenever drought decimates pastoralist herds.

Despite doing some commendable job, the donor agencies have been accused of perpetuating dependency by applying approaches which only ensure that they will be called upon to help when disaster strikes next. The approaches employed by the donor agencies should ensure that the coping capacities of the locals are strengthened and are improved to deal with any future eventualities.

5.4 Conclusion

The best way to help reduce dependency on relief food supplies would be to: Relict and rehabilitation organizations to assist communities to better cope in the face of disaster by capacity building of the communities in disaster situations.

The governments should identify and strengthen ways, in which communities that are vulnerable and weak can avert, mitigate or recover from disaster.

Uses of ways and measures that can prevent the erosion of communities' ability to employ its coping mechanism (capacity damming) strengthen the better aspects of adopted coping mechanism and assist communities to derive better alternatives.

From the findings, it is clear that the dependency of local communities on relief food supplies needs to be reduced and a more development focused approach employed if it is to be a useful avenue of building and developing disaster stricken peoples initiative. It is imperative as a matter of urgency to provide adequate-quality-effective coping mechanisms to communities affected by disasters which would enhance socio-economic development.

The researcher makes the following suggestions for further studies. Investigate factors influencing capacity building and coping mechanism for disaster stricken communities. The relationship between relief food supplies and development. The role of Aid Agencies in the socio-economic lives of marginalized communities. A similar study can be carried out in a different geographical region to investigate the attitude of local communities towards relief food supplies.

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APPENDICES
APPENDIX 1:
Transmittal Letter

Kyalo Kathengu
P. O Box 396
Isiolo
1st May 2010

**To All District Officers, Aid agency Directors, Chiefs, Household heads in
Sericho Division
GARBA TULLA**

Dear Sirs' Madams,

**RE: STUDY ON THE INFLUENCE OF RELIEF FOOD ON SOCIO ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES: A CASE STUDY OF SERICHO
DIVISION OF GARBA TULLA DISTRICT, KENYA**

My name is Kyalo Kathengu. I am a student at the University of Nairobi doing research on the influence of relief food on socio economic development of local communities: a case study of Sericho division of Garba Tulla District, Kenya.

This information will be used by researcher in an ethical manner and you are assured of confidentiality of all information obtained. All the information is for research purposes only.

This is therefore to humbly request for your cooperation.

Thank you.

Signed

Kyalo Kathengu
REG. NO. L50/72650/09

APPENDIX 2

Interview schedules for Aid Agency directors and District officers

Instructions

This study intends to investigate the effects of relief food supplies on the socio economic development of local communities in Sericho division, Garba Tulla District. As an officer involved in relief food supplies your resourcefulness will be very important. The research is being conducted purely for Academic purposes and as such the data collected will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Kindly, respond to the questions as truthfully as possible.

1 a) Gender

b) Designation.....

- c) Age brucket
- | | |
|--------------|-----|
| 25-30 | () |
| 31-35 | () |
| 36-40 | () |
| 41- 45 | () |
| 46-50 | () |
| 51 and above | () |

2 a) What are your educational and professional qualifications? Tick one.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Primary school level | () |
| O-level | () |
| Certificate | () |
| Diploma | () |
| Bachelors degree | () |
| Other (specify) | () |

b) Have you received any other training in relation to your area of work?

1) Yes 11) No

c) If yes specify

3 a) Approximately how many households do you have in this division?

b) What type of food supplies do they get? Tick where applicable.

Maize ()

Peas ()

Rice ()

Wheat flour ()

Biscuits ()

Cooking Oil ()

Beans ()

Others (specify)

4 a) What is the main factor influencing relief food supplies among the local communities? Tick one.

Political instability ()

Extreme poverty ()

Extended drought ()

Marginalization ()

Female headed families ()

Relief food availability ()

b) Which bodies are involved in providing relief food? Tick one.

NGOs ()

Government ()

Faith based organizations ()

Wealthy individuals ()

Others specify ()

c) What benefits do the local people gain from food assistance?

d) What are the disadvantages of relying on relief food assistance?

5a) According to you how does relief food affect socio economic development of the local communities in Sericho division? Tick one.

Leads to Stigma/Shame ()

Laziness/ undermines initiatives ()

Creates relief mentality/ syndrome ()

Diversion from livelihood strategies ()

Lowers grain prices/ poor business for local producers ()

Improves trade to livestock farmers ()

6a) what is the main alternative economic activity practiced by local communities in Sericho division? Tick one.

Pastoralism ()

Subsistence farming ()

Collecting and selling of firewood ()

Small scale business ()

b) What challenges, if any do local people face in engaging in other sources of livelihood?

8a) Do the government and donor agencies play any role in trying to reduce relief food supplies and encourage self dependency?

1) Yes () 11) No ()

b) If yes which measures do they take?

9 a) Are there adequate infrastructural facilities in this region?

1) Yes () 11) No ()

b) If no tick the ones that are not adequate and inaccessible

Schools ()

Colleges ()

Hospitals/Dispensaries ()

Cattle dips ()

Markets ()

Roads ()

Water sources ()

Any other (specify)

10 a) in your own opinion, what suggestions would you give towards reduction of relief supplies dependency?

b) What ways and means do you think could be used to increase self dependency and self initiative?

APPENDIX 3

Questionnaire for chiefs and household heads

Instructions

This study intends to collect data concerning the effects of relief food supplies on the socioeconomic lives of local communities in Sericho division Giurba Tullu district.

As a leader and member of this region, your resourcefulness will be very important.

For confidentiality purposes please do not write your name or that of your village/

location. Please note that, the research is being conducted purely for Academic

purposes and as such the data collected will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Kindly, respond to the questions as truthfully as possible.

1 a) Please indicate your gender (Tick)

1) Male () 11) Female ()

b) Please state your designation (Tick)

1) Chief () 11) Family head ()

d) Indicate your age bracket (Tick)

30-35 ()

36-40 ()

41-50 ()

51-55 ()

56 and above ()

2) Please indicate your educational and professional qualifications? (Tick)

- Primary school education ()
- Secondary school level ()
- Certificate ()
- Diploma ()
- Bachelors ()
- Any other specify

3) What is the main factor influencing relief food supplies? Tick one.

- Political instability ()
- Extreme poverty ()
- Extended drought ()
- Marginalization ()
- Female headed families ()
- Relief food availability ()

4) According to you how does relief food impact on socio economic development of the local communities in Sericho division? Tick one.

- Lends to Stigma/ Shame ()
- Laziness/ undermines initiative ()
- Creates relief mentality/ syndrome ()
- Diversion from livelihood strategies ()
- Lowers grain prices/ poor business to local producers ()
- Improves trade for livestock farmers ()

5) What is the main alternative economic activity practiced by local communities in Sericho division? Tick one.

Pastoralism ()

Subsistence farming ()

Collecting and selling of firewood ()

Small scale business ()

6) Which bodies are involved in supplying relief food? Tick one.

NGO s ()

Government ()

Faith based organizations ()

Wealthy individuals ()

Other (specify) ()

7a) Do the government and donor agencies play any role in trying to reduce relief food and encourage self dependency?

1) Yes () 11) No ()

b) If yes which measures do they take?

8 a) Do you consider the socioeconomic facilities in these area adequate?

1) yes () 11) No ()

b) If No which facilities would you consider to be quite inadequate?

Schools ()

Hospitals/ dispensaries ()

Markets ()

Roads ()

Water sources ()

Mosques /Churches ()

Houses ()

Other (specify)

b) In your own opinion give suggestions on the possible ways of improving the socioeconomic lives of the local communities.