

**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS AND THEIR IMPACT IN  
RESOLVING LOCAL CONFLICTS IN KENYA; A CASE STUDY OF  
BARINGO COUNTY**

**BY**

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## DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has not been submitted anywhere for examination in any other university or institute of higher learning.

Signature .....  .....

Date ..... 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017 .....

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

Signature .....  .....

Date ..... 6/12/2017 .....

**Dr. Shazia Chaudry**

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this project to my daughter Ericah Cherop, My mother Ruth Tallam, my siblings Nelson, Judy, Nancy, Stella and Steven and also My late Father Joseph Tongik for his encouragement and support towards education.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to sincerely thank my supervisor Dr. Shazia Chaudry for her time, guidance and support throughout this research. My in depth gratitude goes to anonymous reviewers for comments on earlier drafts, whose advisory services in the early stages of researching content helped shape its outcome.

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## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

<b>NGOs</b>	<b>Non-governmental Organisations</b>
<b>A S A L</b>	<b>Arid and Semi- Arid Land</b>
<b>CFC</b>	<b>Coalition for Peace</b>
<b>I N G O S</b>	<b>International Non-governmental Organisations</b>
<b>IOM</b>	<b>International Organisation of Migration</b>
<b>NGOS</b>	<b>Non-governmental Organisations</b>
<b>R E L M A</b>	<b>Regional Land Management</b>
<b>SNV</b>	<b>Sweden and Netherlands Development</b>
<b>TJRC</b>	<b>Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commision</b>
<b>UN</b>	<b>United Nations</b>
<b>USAID</b>	<b>United States Agency in Integrated Development</b>
<b>UNDP</b>	<b>United nation Development Programme</b>
<b>UNHCR</b>	<b>United Nation High Commission of Human Rights</b>

## **ABSTRACT**

Despite some efforts by the government, corporate bodies, civil society, national universities commission etc to reduce situations of conflict in North region part of Kenya and particularly Baringo County, peace is still elusive in the region causing humanitarian injustices and negative consequential impact to sustainable development. This research project therefore aims at an indept description of NGO roles resolution in conflict and peace building and proflering a way forward to reduce conflict situations through NGOs interventions. Content analysis was adopted, using the both primary and secondary sources of collecting data. NGOs are an aspect of civil society, without government representation, embarking in conflict reduction, welfare scheme, empowerment and employment. Among the recommendations are: government recognition and support of NGOs; NGOs increased and effective performance and government/NGOs partnership in peace and conflict issues.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

The emergence of the Non-governmental organizations (NGO) took place during the period of the cold war. The NGOs have been on the increase due to its roles in humanitarian assistance, peace-making and peace building globally. The states have delegated the roles to International Non-governmental organization to NGOs that have developmental, humanitarian, human rights, education and conflict resolution Orientation. This has been made possible by the fact that these NGOs have the capacity to prevent conflicts and compliment the efforts of conflict management. The NGOs interests on conflict issues are constituted by the civic nature both at the local and the international level focusing on the root cause of conflict globally<sup>1</sup>.

In the world today, there has been a increased frequency of conflicts at varied levels and scales. Therefore, the need for peace building and conflict resolution has become imperative and urgent unlike before. Due to the complexity of such conflicts the role of many governments has been controversial and limited. This has led to increasing insecurity and suffering of the local population.

John McDonald and Louis Diamond in anlysing the actors in conflict management have identified nine actors. They all have specific role to help in negotiations between the conflicting parties, raise the levels of education, provide research and training facilities, involving in business activities, and provision of funding. In addition, they also include media and communication, faith groups, and influential individuals.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Richmond O.P, Westphalia peace building and the roles of NGOs in conflict resolution: 2001, pg10.

<sup>2</sup> J. Sibi; <http://www.mkgandhi.org/articles/siby.htm> accessed on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

Furthermore, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOS) perform critic role in conflict resolution and helping societies affected with the aftermath of wars. Other similar roles of NGOs range from supporting conflict management initiatives to providing platform for peace making and assisting diverse segments of civil society. It is therefore important for NGOs to invest more of their resources in capacity building activities at different levels.

In Kenya, there are a number of NGOs who work in the conflict affected areas and in most cases assist in conflict resolution. Other than the NGOs, there are also the international governmental organizations that also assist in alleviating suffering and offering humanitarian assistance to the conflict affected arrears such as the USAID, UNDP, for INGOs and Action aid, world vision, Oxfam among others for the NGOs. Some of the noted roles include transport and logistics of humanitarian assistance to the affected arrears, offering medical assistance, relief food, temporary tents for living in case of displacement, employing the locals so as to assist in peace making deals among others.

Baringo County is a region in Rift valley province that borders the counties of West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet, Turkana and Laikipia County. All of the highlighted counties are arid and semi-arid areas. Conflicts in Baringo County have been linked to issues ranging from border disputes between the communities, administration and sharing of natural resources to conflicts over politics in the region. These conflicts have been ongoing for years, and so far many peace-making efforts have failed to restore stability and security in the area.

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

The presence of the non-governmental organizations in Kenya has played a significant role in alleviating suffering in the development and the humanitarian sector. Its importance goes beyond alleviating suffering but also in improving the livelihoods of the locals in the region in various

ways such as acting as a platform in educating the locals on developmental issues and conflict management among others.

Since independence, Baringo County has continued to face conflict and insecurity in the region over resources and banditry attacks within the nomadic communities in the region. As such, the insecurity has affected negatively the development in the region even with the devolution of services from the National Government to the county government.

Several entities both the state and non-state actors have tried several means and efforts in bringing peace in the region through preaching peace, declaring war on illegal fire arms held by the locals through disarmament exercise by the national government , establishing peace committees among other peacemaking initiative. Despite all the peacemaking efforts, insecurity and conflict in the region continues to prevail.

This study therefore evaluates the role played by NGOs in addressing issues of peace and conflict situation in Baringo County. It also seeks to establish the involvement and the facilitation of conflict resolution by the NGOs to the affected individuals in the County without influencing on the political affiliation and cultural believes of the conflicting communities within the county.

### **1.3 Research questions**

- a. How do the NGOs provide a forum for conflicting communities to resolve and manage local conflicts in Kenya?
- b. What mechanisms do the NGO apply is peace building initiative in Kenya?

- c. What challenges do the NGOs face in acquiring peace and security in Kenya generally and in Baringo County specifically?

#### **1.4 Objectives of the study**

Broadly, this study seeks to examine the roles played by the NGOs in conflicts resolution with critical examination of Baringo County. Various literature and studies from different scholars have tried to explaining the issues that have led to continued conflicts with little explaining the role played by the NGOs in addressing the situations. This study therefore aims at addressing following specific objectives;

- a. To analyse the impacts of the NGOs in the addressing conflicts in Kenya.
- b. To examine the peace building initiatives and conflict management mechanisms that various NGOs apply in Kenya.
- c. To identify the successes and the challenges experienced by the NGOs in conflict resolution and management in Kenya generally and in Baringo County specifically.

#### **1.5 Literature review**

A lot has been written by various scholars on the role played by the NGOs in addressing conflicts resolution. This section will attempt to analyses various scholarly view and identify the research gaps.

##### **1.5.1 Nature of Conflicts in Africa**

Conflict is defines as an escalated competition between two or more parties with an aim of gaining advantage over power or in form of power, resources, interest, values or fulfilment of



needs over other party or parties<sup>3</sup>. On the other hand, conflict resolution is defined as conflict resolution is a way in which two or more conflicting parties finds a solution to a disagreement among them. When a dispute arises, the best course of action is negotiation to aid in resolving the disagreement<sup>4</sup>.

Africa is one of the developing continents in the world today. It is rich in natural resources which are one of the main causes of conflict in Africa as a result of the exploitation of the natural resources for the benefits of the few in the society or in a country as a whole. The end of the cold war marked the beginning of violent conflicts which is characterized by crime against humanity and violation of human rights, massive destruction of property among others.

Conflicts in Africa has brought about a lot of negative impacts to the affected states and also across the other states due to the increase in the number of refugees fleeing their own countries, negative impacts to the economy, increase in the number of child soldiers, displacement among other impacts.

In analyzing conflicts in Africa, Romania Malejaqc argues that western perception and description of conflicts in Africa has predominantly concentrated on the economic and socio-political grounds of conflicts. Such approach to understanding Africa's conflicts has been predisposed by the western policies<sup>5</sup>. The author continues to argue that the western viewpoint of conflicts in Africa were labelled as '*barbaric*' and '*irrational*' and therefore paid little focus seek to recognise the fundamental root causes of conflicts in the region.

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<sup>3</sup> John Burton, *conflict resolution as a political system (UN official Diplomacy at work)* London, New York Printers (1991) page 17

<sup>4</sup> *ibid*

<sup>5</sup> A. Browd, A. Barbra; *understanding Africa's contemporary conflicts: origin challenges and peace buiding* .Monograph 173,2010 (xv)

Oscar Mateos in explaining conflicts in Africa emphasized on the importance of understanding the root cause of conflict<sup>6</sup>. He argues that it is important to have a comprehensive approach to armed conflicts. He continues to explain that conflicts in Africa in nature and their root cause have to be subjected to an intense debate<sup>7</sup>.

As conflicts continue to prevail across the world, the dominant discursive hegemony continue to derive the western explanation and understanding of the causes of conflicts in Africa. Individual and society portrayal of conflict is both endemic and permanent. The western ideology of understanding conflict in Africa may not work due to the differences in interest, incompatible religion and social believes, competing individuals and the group goals.

From the reviews on the causes of conflict, it does not explain clearly on ethnic conflict. It gives a general view of the causes of conflicts based on the western ideology which may also not explain the causes of conflicts in Africa.

### **1.5.2 Conflicts in Kenya**

Conflicts in Kenya are based on the ethnic community one is affiliated with. This is closely related to the issues of land, borders and historical injustices. Other than the perceived causes of conflicts, religion has been also analysed as another cause of conflict in Kenya. Radicalization which normally target the unemployed youth is always administered through religion.

Baringo County in which the study hopes to evaluate the role played by the NGOs in conflict resolution has experienced conflicts for the longest time. Some of the contributing causes of conflicts in the region include; cattle rustling, ethnocentrism, proliferation of illicit arms,

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<sup>6</sup> *ibid.* xv

<sup>7</sup> *ibid.* xv

diminishing in the traditional arms, competition over and the access to the natural resources, political incitement, high poverty level and youth idleness.<sup>8</sup> To date, conflicts in Baringo County are still ongoing and the insecurity within the communities mostly living in the arid and semi-arid areas of the County continues unabated.

### **1.5.3 Conflict Management**

Some scholars have argued that it is impossible to complete conflict resolution but something needs to be done to ensure lasting peace by managing the conflict. Hugh Miall argues that conflict management theorists see violent conflicts as an ineradicable consequence of the difference in values and interest within and between the conflicting communities. He continues to argue that resolving such conflict is unrealistic and that the best way is to manage and to reduce them. However, other theorists believe that it is possible to eliminate conflicts. This therefore means that conflict management is a stage in the handling of conflict which could be followed by late stages of conflict resolution<sup>9</sup>.

John McGarry and Brendan O'Leary argue that conflict management can be divided into two main sections; Conflict management and Conflict termination. This distinction is based on the idea that the former is handling the consequences of differences between adversaries, whereas the latter is concerned with terminating them.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> R Pkayla et al, *conflict in Northern Kenya: A focus on internally displaced conflicts within Northern Kenya*.(2003), pg 10

<sup>9</sup> Miall. H, *Conflict transformation: A Multi-dimensional Task*, Bergh of Research center for constructive conflict management. (2004)

<sup>10</sup> John M and Brendan O.L , *the Politics of Antagonism: Understanding Northern Ireland*, London: Athlone Press (1993) page 4

Rahim M,A argued that conflict management is the effort of keeping conflict from getting worse. He continues to explain that it involves the use of skills to control and contain the intensity of conflict and its effects through negotiation and intervention using institutional measures as well as other means such as diplomacy<sup>11</sup>.

Burton argues that the primary causes of conflicts are rooted in the institutional arrangement of the society. He depicts that attaining comprehensive resolution of conflict necessitates making significant changes in the socio-economic or political structures that reorganise the society in more inclusive manner. This will only be possible through bringing fundamental adjustments as the equity in the distribution of wealth in the society which is a difficult thing to do and that may require decades to accomplish the task.

Burton therefore argues that fully resolving conflicts can be a long and difficult process hence conflicts should only be managed well. From this perspective, the goal of conflict management is to mediate in the ways that make the ongoing conflict more advantageous and least destructive to all actors<sup>12</sup>. This approach will provide an opportunity for conflict management, however, it does not necessarily suggest the avoidance, decline or end of conflict but it comprises planning effective measures to lessen the impacts of conflict. In addition, this will enhance positive roles of conflict in order to improve the societal conditions.<sup>13</sup>

#### **1.5.4 The role played by NGOs in conflict Resolution**

The presence of the NGOs in conflict zones is hardly a new phenomenon. Their presence is critical based on the roles they play in humanitarian assistance and alleviating suffering to the

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<sup>11</sup> Rahim, M.A. *Managing Conflicts in Organizations*, Westport, CT: Praeger (2000).

<sup>12</sup> Burton J, *Conflict Resolution and prevention* , St Martin Press, New York (1990).

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

civilians. Today, NGOs play variety of roles in conflict prevention and resolution, which include monitoring of conflicts and providing early warning measures of emerging violence. They also serve important role in opening dialogue between combative parties; playing an intermediating role; consolidation of local institutions for resolving conflict; supporting the rule of law and the democratic development in countries impacted by violent conflict.

After the end of the Cold war period, the conflicts have taken a new shift from the interstate conflicts to intra-state conflicts based on ethnic or religious divides, mostly driven by the desire of unmet basic needs. Especially since the onset of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, a number of NGOs have broad diplomatic mandates whereby they partner with the government agencies and the international institutions for conflict resolution. In doing so these organisations deal with variety of activities from peace-making to reconstruction of war torn societies. The NGOs have played additional critical role in the quest of building strong platform for the global civil society that has strong voice against dictatorship and for democratic rights of the oppressed.

The NGOs have assisted in managing conflicts by assisting with a wide-ranging fact finding task by engaging in negotiation with the stakeholder parties involved in conflicts. They have also played roles in planning approaches to reduce the intensity of conflicts and stimulate action by the ruling groups and international organizations to cool down tense situations. For instance, NGOs played broad mediatory roles in many civil conflicts such as in Burundi, Northern Uganda, South Sudan, and Rwanda<sup>14</sup>.

Although the NGOs have constantly been seeking significant recognition in conflict resolution, the future of NGOs to effectively contain and manage conflicts remains unclear. This is due to

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/176/31296.html> accessed on 25th November 2017

various reasons; for instance inter-linkages between the governments and the NGOs or international agencies are fundamentally awkward. Secondly, the NGOs are usually the strong critics of the government policies and as monitors they provide detailed analysis of the conflict situations, which makes their relations uneasy.

In addition, the functional relationship between the NGOs and national government is highly reliant on the evolving situation of specific crisis. National policy makers turn to NGOs for help when such need arises, otherwise they do not take any such step that would institutionalize these ties. The institution capability of NGOs focused on conflict intervention and post conflict reconstruction remains inadequate and least effective. To increase this capacity, the international partners will have to make direct financial contributions to the NGOs engaged in conflict prevention, which will have major impact on transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies<sup>15</sup>.

### **1.5.5 Conflict Resolution and peace building in Kenya**

Conflict resolution is a technique in which two or more incompatible groups look for an amicable solution to their dispute. Negotiation is the most favourable way of action taken by the parties in resolving the dispute. On the other hand, peace building is a process in which the conflicting parties seek to establish a lasting peace and tries to prevent the recurrence of conflict by addressing the root cause and the effects of conflict through reconciliation, institutional building and political as well as economic transformation within the conflicting parties.

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<sup>15</sup> ibid

Philip Mwaniki provides in depth analysis on mediation and explains that mediation requires an analysis on the situations of the protracted conflicts<sup>16</sup>. He continues to elucidate that for lasting peace, it is imperative to review methods and approaches to conflict resolution as all conflicts are peculiar. He further argues that due to regional socio-economic and political dynamics, the mediator must closely coordinate with the actors and the stake holders in peace building process<sup>17</sup>.

Defere Wordaf links conflict resolution and the Sustainable development goals (SDGs). He argues that with conflicts globally, SDGs may not be achieved. He continues to explain that there is need for developing an imperative and effective measure that can help in conflict resolution, prevention and management that will enable the peace building initiative work effectively<sup>18</sup>. Wordaf continue to explain that there is need to address the growing poverty rate since it leads to high crime rate and the vice versa<sup>19</sup>.

Likewise, the youth plays an important role in peace building process. This is because they are directly and indirectly affected by conflicts. Most youths in Africa are unemployed and this makes them easily exploited by the political and the ruling elites. There is, therefore substantial need to enhance civic duties and respect for human rights, which can be attained through education. This ultimately will be effective to deal the destructive role of political entrepreneurs and social exploiters have on the youth in Africa.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> P. Mwaniki, *mediation and peace building through regional arms control and disarmament diplomacy: Monograph 173*,2010.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> D. Wordaf, *Violent conflict: key obstacle for Sub-Saharan Africa in achieving millennium development goals*,2010.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

Conflict resolution can be achieved through the satisfaction of basic needs for both the conflicting parties. The parties' aims to eliminate their rivals so as to enable them have a comfortable access of resources hence satisfying their needs. In this case, this study acknowledges the role played by the NGOs in humanitarian assistance and their role in reducing the instances of conflicts.

Conflicts in Baringo County have been associated with the fight for the scarce natural resource and the availability of the illegal arms. The study therefore hopes to establish the role the NGO has played in the management of the resources and the economic activities. It also hopes to evaluate the mechanism appropriate in mitigating the conflicts.

### **1.6 Hypothesis**

This study set to test the following hypothesis

- a. The NGOs play an important role in the fight conflicts in Kenya generally and in Baringo specifically.
- b. The NGOs do not play any significant role in the resolution and management of local conflicts in Baringo County, Kenya.

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

The NGOs have played a notable role in conflict resolution in Kenya. Some of the roles include; humanitarian assistance, peace building within the locals, funding development projects that will help the locals earn a living through alternative source of income, carrying out research and collecting data that can be used by relevant bodies in coming up with policies and frameworks that will assist in managing conflict not only in Kenya and also globally.



The study focuses on Baringo County due to its continued banditry attacks with the other ethnic communities within the county and the other neighboring counties. Conflicts has impacted negatively on the activities in the county such as the closure of learning centers, hospitals, socio-economical activities, displacement of communities and the lively hood in the region.

The various studies and debates that has been done on the continued conflicts in Baringo County has highlighted some factors that has contributed to the continued conflicts in the region such as the scarcity of natural resource i.e water and pastures for the nomadic communities, unfair distribution of resource by the National government, food insecurity hence high dependency on relief food, proliferation of small arms and light weapons and traditional cultures and practices has contributed to the continued conflicts and insecurity making it a leeway for the NGOs to facilitate conflict management and developmental activities in Baringo county.

The purpose of this study therefore is to contribute to not only existing information but to add knowledge valuable to policy makers so as to assist in making sound and objective decision hence tangible policies. It also seeks to explain the impacts and the challenges faced by the NGOs in the addressing conflict situations and the management of conflicts in Kenya.

The study is important tool that will assist the policy makers both in the county and the National government in making decisions on how to manage conflicts and also in responding to early signs of conflicts. Insecurity affects developments in the region since it scare away investors who champions improved infrastructure for their smooth operation in the region. The study therefore will assist in addressing on the various development activities that will assist also in improving the living standards of the individuals.

Lastly, the study is also important for future researchers and academicians who would wish to conduct further researcher on the same field of study.

### **1.8 Theoretical Framework**

The NGOs have played an important role in conflict resolution in Kenya today. The theory that can be used in explaining the role of the NGOs is the Liberalism theory in international relations.

Liberalism theory explains that in conflict management, the NGOs have the state sovereignty as an international community has become more interdependent. The inability of a state to address the emerging issues of interdependence has given rise to the effectiveness of the NGOs.

Keohane and Nye argue that in conflict management, there is need to differentiate between the interests<sup>21</sup>. There are various ways of addressing interest based conflicts. They continue to explain that a state will have more emphasis on conflicts associated with political issues and where military security dominates as compared to the economic and social affairs interest.

Various NGOs advocates for the need of the citizen to voice out their concerns; the more issues that surfaces and demand attention, the more the NGOs form to facilitate the citizen concern. NGOs addresses the citizen concerns that fall outside the scope of the state, the organizations take on the issues and challenge the state authority in the process.

The Liberal school of thought also advocates for cooperation between both the state and the non-state actors. This also makes the theory useful in explaining the role of NGOs. It also helps in addressing the issues of human rights and alleviating suffering.

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<sup>21</sup> R. Keohane, J. Nye; power and interdependence: world politics in transition. Boston Little Brown and company(1989)pg 23

## **1.9 Methodology**

The study intends to provide a detailed account of the role played by the NGOs in conflict resolution in Kenya; a case study of Baringo County. The study explores the roles played the NGOs in conflict resolution and also to highlight the challenges they experience in peace making initiatives.

The study therefore seeks intends to use both primary and secondary data. On Primary data, the study intends to use the available data from the previous studies done on the role of NGO in conflict resolution in Baringo County.

The study also intends at use secondary data in filling in the research gaps. On the secondary data, the study intends to have structured questionnaires to be filled by the locals in the region. The target population is the arid and the semi-arid areas of Baringo County which is habited by the pastoralist communities of Baringo south Constituency, Baringo North and Tiaty constituency. The reason for using structured questionnaires is that the questions are designed in a way that the researcher will be able to collect more information over a short period of time.

The other tool used in this study is the use of Interview or focused group discussion with the experts from both the county government and the NGOs working in the region. The main reason for using interviews and Discussion is that it will enable the researcher get a detailed and inform researcher from the experts in the desired population.

The research methodology will also take the account of qualitative approach of data collection; this involves the representation of data collected from the field in numeric representation. This will assist in finding an accurate feedback based on the sampled data from the field.

The study also intends to use of the existing academic literature from academic books and journals. It will also give an account of opinions from the newspapers and any other existing Literature that intends to help in understanding the roles played by the NGOs.

It also looks to emanates data from existing publication and reports from various government and institutions. Additionally, media publications such as print newspaper articles or internet sources are also utilized. The facts, opinions and argument presented in the literature are drawn together to form a coherent argument regarding the role played by the NGOs in conflicts resolution in Baringo county.

#### **1.10 Scope and Limitations**

The study focuses on the roles of NGOs in Baringo County. The study is based on the reason that the Baringo is one of that Counties which is prone to conflict due to limited natural resource in the conflicts from the other nomadic communities in the neighboring counties.

With the time limits, the data collection my not cover the entire highlighted constituencies of Tiaty, Baringo north and South. The other limitation is on the continued conflicts experienced in the region, one might need security personnel in order to get in to the desired location of the research. The region is characterized with poor road terrains hence some of the regions may not be accessible.

## **1.11 Chapter Outline**

The chapters of the study are outlined as follows;

**Chapter one:** consists of the introduction to the research topic, the statement of the problem, the objectives of the study, literature review, theoretical framework, justification of the study hypothesis and the methodology

**Chapter two:** critically analyses the impacts of the NGOs in conflict resolution in Kenya.

**Chapter Three:** seek to identify the successes and the challenges experienced by the NGOs in Baringo County.

**Chapter four:** The chapter presents the data analysis and the interpretation of the findings.

**Chapter Five:** Conclusion and recommendations. Summarizes the findings of the data and presents the conclusion of the study. It also provides some recommendations for the policy makers and the future research on the topic

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **THE ROLE OF NGO'S IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN KENYA**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter seeks to analyse the various factors influencing variety of conflicts in Kenya. The chapter also highlights the various mechanisms employed by the NGOs in trying to address the conflicts and ensuring a lasting peace within the ethnic communities and also across the national borders.

Conflicts are common occurrence in the world today and mainly affects areas which are characterised with scarce natural resource. The characteristics and consequences of conflicts mostly in the developing countries are now receiving much attention due to its impacts of mainly the destructions of property and the loss of lives.

In Kenya today, cattle rustling and related conflicts has received much attention since 1994 to date.<sup>22</sup> One of the major incident was the Baragoi Massacre that led to mass deaths and several injuries of Kenyan soldiers in November 2012<sup>23</sup>.

There has been several efforts by both the Kenyan government and the non-governmental entities in trying to unravel the possible causes and the various means of managing the cattle rustling related conflicts in Kenya today but it has proven futile due to several factors that have influenced the cattle rustling related activities.

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<sup>22</sup> <http://www.iournalcra.com/sites/default/files/10985.pdf> accessed on 20th July 2017

<sup>23</sup> Ibid

## 2.2 Overview of global conflicts

The world has transformed rapidly since the last decade, especially since the end of the cold war era. The old global political system is gone and has been replaced with the emergence of new international system as different actors of international relations have emerged at varied levels. Thus, there has been significant shift in the pattern of interactions although it is not easy to detect that there are specific variations between the old and the new system.<sup>24</sup>

The list of prospective changes taken place recently include the end of bipolar international system, an emerging trend in the democratization process, rapid globalization of societies led by fast information transfer, harmonisation of global security policy by the inter-governmental or regional organizations. Furthermore, new system has led to reckless expression of entitlements to rights grounded on cultural identities. Additionally, the concept of sovereignty has been redefined that imposes new responsibilities on state actors towards their citizens as well as on the world community<sup>25</sup>.

Other significant changes are the transformations in transnational crimes around the world include the shape of organized violence and the ways in which governments and other actors try to contain the limits of such acts. These actions have led to noteworthy decrease in the rate of death toll of inter-state wars since the 1990s<sup>26</sup>. Over the recent years, however, subnational ethnic and religion based conflicts have strikingly increased and the first post-cold war decade was marked with fatal lower-intensity battles to make bloodiest since the advent of nuclear weapons.

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<sup>24</sup> <http://www.nap.edu/read/9897/chapter/2> accessed on 26th October 2017

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Wallenstien P, M Sollenberg: *The end of international war? Armed conflict 1989-1995*, Journal of peace Research 1996,33. P. 357.

Thus, a possibly radical transformation in world politics has been the redefinition of international conflicts. As previously, most conflicts revolved around violent skirmishes between powerful states acting through their proxies but fighting outside its own borders. On the contrary, contemporary conflicts which are mostly intra-state in nature, endanger global peace and stability, although there is only one state involved in such conflicts. These conflicts involve the abuse of universal norms like self-determination and the respect of basic human rights. In addition, intra-state conflicts also pose threats to democratic governance and unified international actions as well as at times the humanitarian action specifically aimed to settle or resolve.

The international conflict management therefore applies traditional means of conflict resolution such as traditional diplomacy, the use of military and economic influence such as use of force of threats and even economic sanction. The other way of conflict resolution involved the formation of coalitions and alliances by the states in a particular region or sub-region to help in mitigating conflicts in the region. A good example is the formation of NATO, which has been substantially effective in providing security to the member states. Other no-coercive measures include diplomatic boycott or cutting down of foreign aid<sup>27</sup>.

### **2.3 Nature of Conflicts in Africa**

With the continued impacts of globalization in the international scene among the major powers and the emerging powers, Africa endures the suffering from mass bloodshed due to variety of conflicts and civil wars. The toll of these conflicts is immense in terms of war damage to economic productivity, sustainability of scarce natural resources which in such situations are diverted to armaments and military organizations, and the subsequent instability, human

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<sup>27</sup> <http://www.nap.edu/read/9897/chapter/2> accessed on 26th October 2017



displacement and destruction of property. At the same time, the African countries have begun to focus their attention to these problems and are trying innovative ways to resolve their differences by non-violence means. The outcomes of these attempts have implications for the future of the continent with respect to human rights, principles of democracy and economic development.

William Zartman argues that conflicts are resolved with the involvement of negotiators who use their peculiar expertise, skills and knowledge as means of managing and resolving conflicts. However, in a number of cases within Africa, internal efforts at conflict management have been least effective or efficient<sup>28</sup>. The critical questions are therefore, to realize the complex nature of conflicts in Africa; recognise key problems in conflict resolution at regional level, and especially with the involvement of external actors who may have their own stakes.

#### **2.4 The overview of conflicts in Kenya**

Conflict is a process through which one party perceives that its interests are being opposed or negatively affected by another party.<sup>29</sup>The impacts of conflicts globally has increased hence drawing a lot of concern from both the governmental and non-governmental entities globally and so is in Kenya. Although Kenya has always been considered as a peaceful country in the region due to its active role in peace keeping mission across East Africa, a closer scrutiny reveals that an unprecedented wave of internal and cross border conflicts happen in Kenya.

Kenya is a multi-Ethnic state and each ethnic group has different ethnic values and that these groups have a strong attachment to its ethnic community. The difference in values creates an avenue for competition with each other to gain access and control over the available scarce.

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<sup>28</sup> Zartman W: Traditional cures for modern conflicts: African conflict 'medicine' Boulder, Lynne, Rienner Publishers ed 2000 page 3.

<sup>29</sup> Wall, JA., Jr., & Callister R.R (1995) Conflicts and its Management. Journal of Management pg 517

These conflicts manifest itself through political issues, economic injustices, religious and ideological based, land titling issues and, exploitation of natural resources among others.

Pastoralist communities in Kenya have continued to involve itself in cattle rustling related conflicts. The driving reason is the access to grassing fields and the water point that has led to various conflicts in the areas. Other issues related to the cattle rustling related conflicts include the contested land borders and the availability of the illegal arms.

## **2.5 Factors influencing cattle Rustling related conflicts**

Cattle raiding is one of the most common factors of conflicts in Kenya. This is often viewed in the context of culture, droughts and other climate changes as well as resource based conflicts. Increasingly, it has much more to do with organized crimes due to the proliferation of small arms, growing demand of meat, and politically instigated violence.

With the increase in the number of cattle rustling related conflicts in Kenya today, there has been a number of issues that has contributed to the continued unending conflicts not only in Kenya but also the neighbouring countries. Below are the details of some of the key factors that have contributed to the continued conflict cycles;

### **2.5.1 Proliferation of Illegal arms**

This refers to the availability of Small arms and light weapons in the market and the illicit transfer of such weapons across the borders or within a locality. Proliferation on the other hand describes the growth of the illicit arms in the market. Cattle related conflicts in Kenya have continued to attract not only the concern of the government but also the NGOs in the country. There has been a noted concern on the availability of illegal arms with the pastoral communities.

The proliferation of illegal arms has aided in pushing the cattle rustling activities into higher heights. The availability of the arms has made it possible for the pastoralist help in protecting their own ethnic communities and also in stealing livestock from the neighbouring communities.

The illegal arms find its way to Kenya through the porous borders of the neighbouring countries. The arms are believed to be obtained from Uganda, South Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia. The political instability from the neighbouring countries such as South Sudan has made has contributed to the availability of illegals arms in Kenya. In Kenya it is estimated that about 650000 illicit arms are in circulation.<sup>30</sup> The arms are mainly with the pastoralist communities in the North Rift, North Eastern and Upper Eastern. The marginalization of the pastoral communities in Kenya has also contributed to the increase in the number of the acquired illegal arms.

### **2.5.2 Weak Governance**

According to UNESCO, Governance refers to structures and the processes that are designed by the government to ensure accountability, transparency, responsiveness, rule of Law, stability, equity and inclusiveness, empowerment and broad-based participation<sup>31</sup>.

Governance therefore is about the manner in which the government participate in public affairs to its citizens in respect to culture and institutional environment.

The inability of the government to guarantee adequate security and safety to its citizens is one of the major causes of conflicts in Kenya today.

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<sup>30</sup> <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2000198259/report> accessed on 23rd July 2017

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.unesco.org/> concepts of governance accessed on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2017

The pastoralist communities are mainly found in the marginalized areas. The areas are in most cases underdeveloped and have recorded the lowest access to basic services such as education, health, poor infrastructure and access to the markets. With the weak governance, the communities therefore arm themselves citing neglects by the government.

Land is one of the scarce natural resource and in most cases the most contested in Kenya today. The inter-ethnic conflict arise due to the competition for grazing fields more so the pastoralist communities, watering points and the border points. The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in a workshop held in Baringo County in May 2016 argued that the Non-compliance with Land rights and poor governance, Land injustices are key unresolved challenges that has continued conflicts over land in Kenya today especially in population whose population is predominantly rural and depends on pastoralism as their main source of Livelihood and that raising awareness on the Land governance and encouraging dialogue with the concerned actors will help in solving Land related conflicts<sup>32</sup>. The erosion of traditional governance structures has lead to a power vacuum that is increasingly filled by the political leaders and other power brokers who grasps the opportunity to negotiate boundaries and access to Land

### **2.5.3 Social and Cultural Values**

The cattle rustling related activities and conflicts in Kenya among the pastoralist communities is a phenomenon that stretches back to many centuries. It is however not practiced as a commercial but cultural activity by the youth. Cattle rustling also have been viewed to be redistributive and it is believed to be the only way to replenish herds after a long drought leading to the loss of the livestock or to pay for the bride price.

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<sup>32</sup> Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung- *Land Rights as a conflict facto-Workshop in Baringo County, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

As a way of managing conflicts within the conflicting parties, livestock was used in place of currency, celebration and also in performing a traditional ritual involved in the resolving the conflict. In addition, Livestock was considered as a source of wealth among the pastoralist communities and therefore the importance of the community attachment to Livestock. Wealth bestowed prestige and influence on an individual was also measured in terms of livestock one possessed among the pastoralist. For young men who have no assets, cattle rustling was the most important activity since it will help them start the process of accumulating livestock hence amassing his wealth.

#### **2.5.4 Business Trade associated with stolen Livestock and arms**

These are mostly arms dealers and livestock traders. They often supply weapons to livestock, traders' bandits and even mercenaries. They see this as a form of investment and take profit from the direct participants in the conflict. In Goldsmith's study, weapon traders also are the ones marketing raided livestock. He also noted that the political transformation in Somalia after 1991 generated a change of *shifto*' banditry towards financed and well-connected trade barons who recruits from retired army personnel; and school leavers to form a new class of professional and sophisticated highwaymen.

Together with mercenaries (group of hired fighters), commercial and political aids are increasingly, organized around wage labour. Mercenaries and guns are used by other clans or groups to counter raids or help such groups acquire pasture and grazing territory for them. In recent times nomadic pastoralists are defended or spear headed by hired groups well-armed to enable them graze and water livestock in hostile territories.

### 2.5.5 Political Leaders and Warlords

Political leaders such as Members of Parliament (MPs) and party leaders and councillors can be facilitators of a conflict especially by their acts of commissions and omissions<sup>33</sup>. They can also directly promote conflict by certain propaganda or while competing for political leadership like in general elections and party elections<sup>34</sup>.

Politicians and warlords can sponsor raids as a way of raising fund for political campaigns or to maintain political leverage over their opponents in order to win power easily. They often support raids and conflicts with other clans as a way of enhancing their reputations. However the practices had distinctly remained a feature in Somalia

more than in Kenya due to central authority's control over politicians in the latter case

### 2.6 Mechanisms employed by NGOs in conflict resolution in Kenya

Conflict resolution is a process by which two or more parties engage in a disagreement, dispute of debate reach an agreement in resolving the issue. Conflicts are usually managed directly by the society involved. There are also cases through which a third party is involved.

There are various contemporary approach that can be employed in resolving conflict. This include;

**Administrative approach;** This type of approach involves a third party. In most cases, the third party is impartial and makes a decision in the dispute. The process of the administrative approach

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<sup>33</sup> Fratkon E. (1994). Resurgence of Inter pastoralists warfare in Kenya. Conference Paper on Resurgent Ethnic Conflict and Tribalism in Africa. Atlanta USA

<sup>34</sup> Amisi B. K. (1997) Conflict in Riftvalley and Western Kenya. USAID Conference Paper on Conflict Resolution in the area. Horn of Africa June

of conflict resolution can be either in public or private, the guiding feature is the occurrence of the conflict if it was in public or private.

**The Judicial approach;** As the name suggests, this is a process through which an institution which is socially recognized has an authority in the dispute. For this case the mechanism is shifted from private to the public domain where by it will involve some court procedures where judgment is made by a neutral and an impartial judge. The Judge then makes a decision based on the case law, the legal statute and the society values. The outcome is usually a win-lose. The Third party is Socially Sanctioned to make decision that is binding and enforceable<sup>35</sup>.

**Peace building and negotiations.** This type of conflict resolution is common in Africa as well as in the other regions of the globe. These involves having negotiations in the presence of the mediator who is a third party. A mediator can be an organisation, an institution or a well-respected individual. On the other hand, peace building is a procedure of making certain that a country or a society creates appropriate conditions for lasting peace and security. Such conditions can be created when a country is already in the state of being peaceful. In such a situation, the conditions are created in order to prevent conflicts from erupting and therefore peace is sustained<sup>36</sup>. Under such a situation, the process of peace building begins with the transition period. The process of implementing various aspects of the peace agreement becomes the beginning of the process of peace building.

## **2.7 The impacts of cattle rustling conflicts**

Cattle rustling activities has impacted in the livelihoods of not only the warring communities but the country at Large. The bandits have threatened the security not only for the civilians but also

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<sup>35</sup> Dinnen , S. Restorative Justice In the Pacific Islands: Canberra Pandanus Books. Ed 2003 pg 117

<sup>36</sup> Burton, J. conflict resolution and prevention. New York, St Martins (1990)

for the security personnel. The cattle rustling conflicts have impacted on the economic, social and the political developments in the country as explained below.

### **2.7.1 The economic impacts**

The pastoral communities in Kenya are found in the marginalised regions and in most cases experienced the continued drought hence contributing to high poverty level. The regions are also marginalized by most of the government functions hence under developed.

In most of the pastoral communities, livestock is viewed as a currency therefore when all the livestock is raided and the bread winner is killed, those left behind are left with abject poverty and are also exposed to food insecurity. The increase in poverty is attributed to the significant loss of animals because of cattle rustling and drought. This scenario explains the high number of people in the pastoral communities depending on food aid.

Whenever there is insecurity, there will be minimal economic activity. The prevailing insecurity in the regions mainly with the pastoral communities in Kenya makes it hard to implement the projects both by the county and the National government<sup>37</sup>. The insecurity has created a high cost of doing business in the region due to security related activities, reducing the productivity of businesses and compromising an entry of investments in the region<sup>38</sup>.

### **2.7.2 Political Impacts**

Cattle rustling activity also causes political instability as it is manifested in some countries. Bad politics has also been blamed for the spread of the cattle rustling activities among the pastoral

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<sup>37</sup> Titus Kaprom, 2015. Effects of cattle rustling on economic development: A case of Masol Location, West Pokot county. Unpublished thesis, University of Nairobi.

<sup>38</sup> Regional Report on the nexus between illicit SALW proliferation and cattle rustling in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda, accessed <http://recsasec.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07cattle-rustling-pdf.pdf>



communities. Most of these political leaders are normally anointed by their respective leaders and as a result the communities that they represent follow and obey what their leaders tell them faithfully<sup>39</sup>. Some political leaders abuse the hallowed position they occupy in their communities to mislead their people or incite other communities thereby increasing tension among different communities<sup>40</sup>. Cattle rustling in Kenya has been used by the political leaders to influence the political rivalry mainly for their political and business interest in the region. For example in Northern Kenya, ethnic mobilization is used in the distribution of resources and the influence of elections and the election outcome<sup>41</sup>.

### **2.7.3 Social Impact**

The increased cattle rustling activities has had an adverse impacts on human development in the region. The raids have not only lead to massive destruction of property but also loss of lives, deterioration of the health situation of the citizens due to malnutrition and the derailment. In some cases children are locked out of schools due to the migration to safer grounds or in make shift camps as they await for the restoration of peace. As a result, a number of students end up dropping out of school hence increase in the number of the illiterate individuals among the pastoral communities.

There is also the issue of massive displacement of people due to fear of raids and attacks by the armed raiders. For example in Kenya between January 2012 and 2014, about 580 people were

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<sup>39</sup>Moran No Moran, *The changing face of cattle-Rustling in Kenya*- Kenya Human Rights commission 2010, page 28

<sup>40</sup> ibid

<sup>41</sup> Clemens Greiner, *Guns, Land, and votes: cattle Rustling and the Politics of Boundary Making in Northern Kenya*, African Affairs 112,447 (2013) 216-237

killed in cattle rustling related conflicts<sup>42</sup>. The increase in the number of raids amongst the pastoralist communities in Kenya remains a distinctive decision by the Kenyan government. The government should focus on the development projects in the region other than diverting to the stable regions hence reducing the number of casualties and the cattle rustling related raids.

## **2.8 Conclusion**

From the above highlighted factors that have led to the continued conflicts in Kenya, all the factors have been linked to underdevelopment within the locality. Most of the locals are unable to get access to the basic services making them feel left out due to marginalization hence resulting to conflict. It is therefore important for the government to pump more resources to the marginalized areas so as to engineer productivity in the region

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<sup>42</sup> Intergrated Regional Information Network (IRIN), 2014. Cattle raiding and politics of business in Kenya. IRIN. Available at <http://www.irinnews.org/report/99846/cattle-rustling-and-politics-business-kenya> accessed on 28th August 2017

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **THE SUCESSCES AND THE CHALLENGES FACED BY NGOs IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN BARINGO COUNTY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

The world has witnessed an increasing attention on the role played by the NGOs and the civil society from the post-cold war era to date. During this period, the peace building ambitions has shifted from negotiations between the warring parties to preventing future conflicts through the transformation of societies and the conflicting communities for the case of ethnic conflicts. From the new shift therefore in the approach of conflict resolution, the civil society and the NGOs has been seen to be representing the groups that have been marginalized in conflict and or those that had not taken up arms.<sup>43</sup>

In addition, it was also assumed that the NGOs could play an important role as the ears and the eyes of the international community, monitoring human rights violations, advocating for the disadvantaged groups and also to help in providing the early warning signs of conflicts. The other notable role played by NGOs is building the building the bridges between the warring communities and promoting dialogue and also reconciling individuals and communities.

The presence of NGOs in Kenya has been of a benefit to the community. However, in there has been a notable challenge that hinders the organizations in achieving its mandate in the long run not only in Baringo County but also in Kenya at large. The following are some of the challenges experienced by the organizations in addressing conflict related issues.

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<sup>43</sup> Cousens, E, Kumar, C, and Wermester, K. 2001. Peacebuilding as politics: Cultivating Peace in Fragile Societies, Boulder: Lynne Rienner pg 12

### **3.2 Humanitarian Role of NGOs**

During conflicts in most of the conflict prone areas, the humanitarian crisis has led to the worsening of the situations due to the continued suffering of the non-combatants. The satisfaction of needs helps in conflict management. The basic needs are inadequate in some areas of Baringo County due to the harsh climatic conditions experienced in the region. The NGOs present in the County has played a major role in alleviating suffering through giving relief foods to the affected communities, providing tents for shelter, the provision of medical help among other humanitarian assistance. The frustration of not satisfying basic needs always leads to aggression and subsequent conflicts in the region.

Whenever there are conflicts, a lot of basic needs services are disrupted. In bid to help in addressing the immediate needs, the NGOs helps in airlifting food, clean water, health care supplies and sanitation equipments since in most cases, the affected communities are stationed in one place. For example in Baringo county during the recent conflicts, the Kenya Red Cross, among other local NGOs played a key role in the humanitarian activities in the region to the communities at the make shift camps in schools such as the Mukutani and Lobi primary school in Baringo South.

### **3.3 Natural resource management**

One of the major factors that have led to the continued conflicts related to pastoral communities is conflict over resources. The conflicts within the county and also with the neighbouring counties have been on the rise due to the limited resources and the fact that the county is Arid and Semi-Arid land<sup>44</sup>. The inhabitants of the region are pastoralists and in most cases depend on the livestock for their livelihood. They rely on the access to pasture and water for the survival of their livestock.

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<sup>44</sup> Pkalya Ruto. *Conflict in northern Kenya*. Kenya Paulines publication 2003 page 10.

There are some NGOs that have assisted the communities in the region in the management of the resources in order to ensure the continued survival of the livestock in the region. Some of these organizations include SIDA which has assisted in the inauguration of the Land management unit under RELMA which its role is to help communities in soil conservation and agro forestry programmes<sup>45</sup>.

The construction of boreholes in East Pokot by the World vision has also assisted in the conflict managing conflicts in the region due to minimal interaction by the conflicting communities due to the availability of water in the region.<sup>46</sup> The availability of water has also enabled the residence to divert from the livestock rearing to planting of cash crops as also a way of fight food insecurity in the region.

### **3.4 Public Awareness**

The patterns of conflicts in Baringo are complex. There are many factors contributing to the risk of violent conflict involving the pastoralists who have become mutually reinforcing some conflicts within the pastoralist communities, such as raiding and cattle rustling have a long history to some extent become an aspect of traditional pastoralist culture.

The major causes of conflicts among the pastoralist communities within the county include but not limited to proliferation of illicit arms, inadequate policies and state security arrangements, the diminishing role of traditional governance system, competition over access and control of natural resources, political incitements, ethnocentrism, increasing levels of poverty, unemployment of the youth in the region among others<sup>47</sup>.

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<sup>45</sup> Kithinji M, Will C. *Famers Initiatives In Land and Husbandry*, (W.C.K. Mutunga, Ed.)Nairobi Kenya RELMA/SIDA,ICRAF 2003.

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.wvi.org/kenya/article/long-term-water-solution-east-pokot> accessed on 31st october 2017

<sup>47</sup> Terry Mwaniki: *Peace Building and Conflict Management: A case study of North Rift Region Kenya*. (2007) Paulines Publication Africa. Pg 6

Conflicts in the region has led to loss of life, property, displacement of large segments of communities, disruption of social-economic activities and livelihoods, increased hatred between communities in the Locality, environmental degradation and threats to water catchment areas.

These has led to loss of human life, property, displacement of large Segments of the communities, disruption of social-economic activities and livelihoods, Increased hatred between communities, environmental degradation and threat to water Catchment areas. The negative impacts of conflicts in the region has led to the communities depend on the NGOs for humanitarian assistance to alleviate suffering. This has therefore enabled the NGOs to adopt different public awareness campaigns to with the aim of preaching peace and encouraging peaceful coexistence among different communities in the region.

The methods of creating public awareness campaigns include the use of media especially the vernacular stations with coverage in the region, organizing for public barazas, annual cultural activity organized by the local organizations with the Baringo County government and organizing for peace caravan across the constituencies and the neighbouring counties. A good example is the peace caravan organized by Winds of change a local NGO with the Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) across the county with the climax being the peace race at Chemolingot in Tiaty constituency. The aim of the event was to advocate for peace and the importance of living together in harmony<sup>48</sup>.

Through the media, the public is made aware of conflicts and its impacts on the affected societies. The role of media has a constant source of controversy in the past and viewed to be creating tension. The media today is used in authoritarian movements and violent conflict. According to scholars, the media has both been a friend and an adversary to peace making

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<sup>48</sup> <http://www.nation.co.ke/counties/baringo/Peace-caravans-begin-to-bear-fruits-in-North-Rift/3444812-3014802-tii195z/index.html> accessed on 1st November 2017

process. In its much appreciated role, it can foster human security and there is also an evidence that media can potentially fuel existing tensions, leading to violence and conflicts. Simultaneously, media can also be used to foster peace and conflict management. This can be done through its support for peaceful communications between the warring factions. Media as such can highlight avenues that would lead to peaceful agreements and tolerant behaviour in a given society. However, the media can also be a weapon of violence that broadcasts subjective information and manipulates societies or groups in conflict with contentious beliefs and destructive acts<sup>49</sup>.

The media should therefore propagate pluralistic through public participation on matters related to conflict resolution mechanism through discussions and having educative forums, acting as a watch dog, support human rights and civil society functions, advocate for realistic media coverage and reporting, The media should not only play roles in creating awareness and public information campaigns but also to deliver general information and support civic education in different sectors.

In Baringo County, the communities are taken through sessions of awareness, creation and sensitization on matters pertaining to conflict and illicit arms. The Inter-community dialogue, peace meetings, exposure tours and compensations schemes including trauma healing sessions are also held by NGOs in the region. The NGOs also ensure that the communities are compliant with the already existing conflict resolution policies and the also help in establishing other policies that suits the nature of the conflict in the region. The NGOs in the county have taken a lead in sensitizing the community on securing citizens' rights such as right to education, access to health services and private property.

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<sup>49</sup> <http://www.gewaltueberwinden.org/de/news-events/nachrichten/dov-news-english/article/5732/the-role-of-the-mass-medi.html> accessed on 1st November 2017

The NGOs have helped communities in initiating other development projects as a way of alternative livelihoods other than the cattle rustling activities such as introduction of peace education in Schools and religious organizations in the region, the introduction of agriculture as an alternative source of income other than depending on Livestock among others. The public awareness forums have yielded positive results hence leading to a decrease in violent conflicts.

### **3.5 Acting as Mediators in conflict Resolution**

Mediation is one of the most commonly used method for conflict resolution process in which an impartial mediator supports the parties through practical and constructive dialogue. It is based on negotiations of issues in order to reach a commonly approved solution. In conflict resolutions, the NGOs have played a crucial role in mediation. Mediation can be achieved through diplomacy. There are two main types of diplomacy used for peace making; Track one and Track two. Track one diplomacy is described to be an official duty by the government officials and it's done by the governments whereby the key purpose is to translate the communication and interaction between the governments. On the other hand, Track Two diplomacy is unofficial interactions and intervention of non-state actors.

Track one Diplomacy is very limited as its focus is to the narrower world of politicians while track two makes its impact felt on the entirety of what it describes as identity groups like communities that share common grounds on ethnic, regional, national, and socio-economic differences. Track two diplomacy seeks to help individuals involved to change their way of thinking.

The relevance of track two diplomacy is evident due to change in nature of conflicts and the role played by the NGOs in conflict resolution. Increasingly conflict is the out- come of internal strife in which the government is just one actor among several. In these circumstances, it makes less



sense to make deal with the government because other actors, such as local leaders or rebel groups may decide to continue fighting. In a context where other actors than the state play a crucial role in conflict, proponent of tract two Diplomacy envisage a larger of the methods of peace making. It is perceived that NGOs are in good position to act as Track two peace workers. Since, NGOs are often deal with local communication. With their relations with the local community, the NGOs are in good condition to play a role in early warning and human rights monitoring in the region.

Despite playing a crucial role in conflict resolution, most NGOs face a major challenge in peace-making as they strive to achieve and even to maintain balance, handedness and to avoid acting as an advocate for parties in conflict. The other challenge the NGO face is dealing with intense emotion of people directly engaged in conflict.

### **3.6 Lack of development funds**

A number of NGOs are donor funded and others are charity organizations. In most cases, they find it difficult in finding a sufficient and appropriate continues funding that helps in the continued running of the conflict related programs in the county. The other issue of concern also is that in most cases, the donors always have the perception that there cartel of individuals that controls the access to donor funds. With that regard, they tend to reduce the funds making the organization unable to achieve its objectives in conflict resolution.

The other issue is that most NGOs have limited resource mobilization skills, in most cases, they tend to focus on the international donors leaving the local donors who might also be of more help and also the fact that most international donors might have some conditions attached to the funds hence making it unable for the organizations to achieve them.

The other challenge that affects the NGOs towards receiving donor funds is that most of the organizations have high tendency of depending on donors and that they shift interventions to match the donor priority this therefore leads to many organization unable to achieve its long term project due to the lack of funds and organizational sustainability.

### **3.7 Overlapping of issues.**

Baringo county is characterized by both arid and semi-arid climatic conditions. There are several concerns that needs to be addressed by various organizations in the region such as eradication of poverty, food security, female genital mutilation (FGM), conflicts, women empowerment among others. With this regards, little has been done to help in addressing conflicts in the region. For example the NGOs like World Vision and Action Aid have been phenomenal in running several projects in Baringo County such as issues to deal with food security and female empowerment. Other NGOs such as Catholic Diocese of Nakuru through the Catholic relief has also played a role in addressing several issues such as food programs in collaboration with the county government and other stake holders. With this regards, little has been done towards conflict resolution and ensuring a lasting peace within the ethnic communities and the neighbouring counties.

### **3.8 The security of the Staff Working for the NGOs**

The safety of the individuals working for the organizations remains the biggest concern for the organization working in the conflict prone zones in Kenya. One of the main reasons is that in most cases, Bandits at the North Rift region are always armed; this makes it difficult for the NGOs working in the region to intervene whenever there is conflict unless when their security is assured. For example the recent banditry attacks in Baringo county lead to the Kenya Red Cross

to suspend its operations in the region citing insecurity to its entire staff. Kenya Red Cross Secretary General Abass Gullet said that the decision was arrive at following a confrontation with the residents that led to the looting of relief food and harassment of its staff and volunteers at Kampi Samaki in Baringo County<sup>50</sup>.

Many NGOs document incidences of staff that have been threatened or killed since this will help the concerned government institutions in ensuring security and neutrality of the organizations working in the conflict prone areas. It also helps the government in balancing imminent danger with urgent and short term needs for the affected locals.

### **3.9 Developmental Approach**

Chapter two explains on the factors that leads to cattle rustling related conflicts and under development was one of the main factor that contributes to conflicts. Most NGOs in the regions are experiencing some challenges in coming up with the developmental approach. Generally, the NGOs emphasise on the ‘hardware’ approach to development. This means that their focus on development is through projects that are for building infrastructure and provision of similar services. On the other hand, they can also employ the ‘software’ approach that comprises human development by empowering the local communities and the indigenous institutions to manage their particular affairs. The organization seems to be unaware of the changes in the roles by the government, the changing Aid paradigm and also they tend to focus on the effectiveness of the rights based rather than the approach.

Most of the developmental projects are managed by the NGOs themselves and this makes it difficult for the sustainability and the ownership of the projects by the communities. Other communities have the dependency of creating interventions and are not inclined in doing things

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<sup>50</sup> <http://www.nation.co.ke/election2017/agend/Red-cross-pulls-out-of-Baringo-county/3797778-3828912-orm3b9z/index.html> accessed on 20th September 2017

for themselves. This therefore makes it difficult for the NGOs to keep programmes relevant to the changing situations and the culture of giving handouts to the locals.

### **3.10 Conclusion**

The NGOs are doing more peace building activities than any government agencies. In many areas around the world and in Kenya particularly, they have long term presence that is affiliated with the intractable conflicts. The NGOs are in an excellent position to engage in a wide variety of peace building activities. The process of providing humanitarian aid, engage the community in economic empowerment and capacity building with the adversary in a variety of joint activities in accordance with the NGO goal in efforts to reduce conflict.

Despite the big role played by the NGOs in conflict resolution, there is need for the for the organizations to incorporate government agencies in conflict resolution mechanism in order to ensure a lasting solution towards conflict resolution. There is also the need to increase more women oriented development activities due to the role the women play in the society. The NGOs can use women empowerment to ensure a lasting peace.

Conflict and peace building exist only in Literature. Most opinions accept that conflict involves disagreement, friction and misunderstanding. Peace building therefore actions to create and sustain peace in all its ramifications available.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the data and demographic information on the roles played by the NGOs in conflict resolution mechanisms in Baringo County. A number of NGOs in the county focused much on the natural resources available in the region and the possible ways of managing by using educative forums and also creating public awareness between the conflicting communities and also educating them on the alternative ways of economic development in the region.

#### **4.2 Demographic information**

The study target population involves 200 respondents as presented in the table below

*Table 4.1. The Gender of the respondents*

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	110	55%
Female	90	45%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100%</b>

From the table 1, it shows that 55% of the population responded to the represent the number of male while the remaining 45% represented the population of the female interviewed.

*Table 4.2 The age of the respondents*

Age	Frequency	Percentage
16-25	80	40%
26-35	74	37%
36-45	36	18%
45 and above	10	5%
Total	200	100

The table above indicates that a bigger number of the respondents are within the youth bracket at 40% and that of the age bracket of (26-35) which still falls under the youth age bracket. From the study, the bigger percentage represents an age group of the youth that can be used to engage in peace building activities and also in the maintaining of peace in the region.

The table also shows that the youth in this study is the target group that can help the NGOs in conflict resolution awareness and the peace building initiatives by the various organizations in the region. The age group bracket of (36-45) and 45 and above constitute of 18% and 5% respectively.

### 4.3 The level of education

The study also investigated on the level of education of each of the respondent as represented on the table below

*Table 4.3 The level of education*

Level of Education	Frequency	Percentage
Informal	33	16.5%
Primary	61	30.5%
Secondary	76	38%
Higher	30	15%
Total	200	100

The table above shows that the majority of the respondents had primary and secondary education as presented on the above table. The number shows that a number of the respondents are literate hence able to understand the need for peaceful coexistence with the neighboring communities. From the findings the respondents with the higher number of primary , secondary and the higher education is represented by the age bracket between (16 -35) age group.

The findings further show that those with the informal education are respondents from the age group 40 and above who the study found out to be the illiterate and the semi-literate.

#### 4.4 The Length of stay the respondents have been in Baringo County.

The study also investigated on the duration in which the respondents have been in Baringo County as represented in the table 4.4 below.

*Table 4.4, the length of stay the respondents have been in Baringo County*

<b>Period of years</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 5 years	29	14.5%
5-10 years	61	30.5%
More than 10 years	110	55%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4.4 shows that 55% of the respondents have stayed in Baringo County for more than ten years. The number shows that a bigger percentage of the respondents have been in the location for long and that the group understands the various factors that have led to the continued conflicts in the region. It also shows that the respondents understands the dynamics of conflict and can help the various organizations in coming up with conflict resolution mechanisms that can be employed in the region. The table further explain that a smaller number of respondents have been in the location for a shorter time.



#### 4.5 The source of Income

The study investigated on the source of income of the respondents as presented in the table 4.5

*Table 4.5 The source of Income*

Source of Income	Frequency	Percentage
Employed	59	29.5%
Unemployed	78	39%
Self-employed	63	31.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4.5 indicates that a bigger population in the region represent unemployed individual at 39%. The number represents the youth age bracket of 16-35 years. The self-employed also represented a bigger number of the respondents. Further investigation also noted that the self-employed are the livestock farmers. What the respondents did for a living determines the prevalence of the conflicts in the region and the possible ways on how to solve them. Conflicts arise as a result of unmet basic needs such as food; this therefore mans that stable livelihood and fair distribution of natural resources may be instrumental in conflict resolution.

#### 4.6 The role of NGOs and their influence in conflict resolution

A number of NGOs in Baringo County offers humanitarian assistance to the locals in times of conflicts. The respondents involved in the study acknowledge to have interacted with various NGOs in the region and that a number of them involve themselves in a number of activities

geared towards conflict resolution and peace building. The respondents responded on the roles played by the NGOs as shown in the table 4.6.

*Table 4.6 humanitarian assistance such as food, clothing and shelter (tents) in times of conflicts*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>percentage</b>
Yes	135	67.5%
No	65	32.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4.6 indicates that a majority of the respondents acknowledges that the presence of NGOs in their locality has been of beneficial in terms of humanitarian assistance such as the provision of basic needs during the times of calamity in the region. The provision of these humanitarian basic needs is vital in conflict prone areas in Baringo County. In many cases during conflicts crisis, the victims are left without food clothing and shelter. As a result, the respondents have observed the role played by NGOs in their locality.

#### **4.7 Provision of Medical assistance**

Other the humanitarian assistance, the NGOs has also played a bigger role in the provision of the medical assistance as shown in the table 4.7.

*Table 4.7 provision of medical assistance*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>percentage</b>
Yes	143	71.5%
No	57	28.5%

<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>
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Medical facilities are important both during conflict or peace. Table 4.7 indicates that 71.5% of the respondents have benefited from the medical assistance offered by the NGOs. The NGOs provide medical facilities during conflicts when call upon. In times of conflicts, the NGOs are always called upon to help in providing medical facilities at the camps as a result of congestion that if not contained it might lead to the outbreak of diseases within the locality.

Despite a number of the respondents acknowledging that NGOs plays a crucial role in the provision of medical assistance, 28.5% of the respondents believe that most of the NGOs have outlined missions and visions and in most cases, they are guided by the organization missions. This therefore means that not all NGOs in the region offer medical assistance in times of conflicts.

#### **4.8 Provision of Basic Education**

*Table 4.8 provision of Basic Education*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>percentage</b>
Yes	150	75%
No	50	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4.8 shows that 75% of the respondents acknowledges the role played by the NGOs in the locality. The NGOs provide basic education directly and indirectly. The assistance the localities receive from the NGOs include the funding of the school feeding programs, learning materials, building of schools learning units and sponsoring the needy students.

On the other hand, 50% of the respondents refuted the assertion that NGOs provide basic education in their Localities. The NGOs in the concerned areas are never involved in the provision of basic education. ❖

#### **4.9 The resettlement of conflict affected persons**

The table below shows the respondents response on the role played by NGOs in resettling

**Table 4.9**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>percentage</b>
Yes	120	60%
No	80	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4.9 shows that 60% of respondents in the locality have received assistance from the NGOs on resettlement while about 40% have not. This therefore indicates that the NGOs have played part in the resettlement of displaced individuals.

#### **4.10 Construction of Dams**

The NGOs have assisted in the constructions of Dams to ensure there is enough water in the locality. Considering that water is a natural resource, its construction will help in reducing the interaction of ethnic communities within the locality hence reducing the chances of conflicts.

The table 4.10 indicates the number of dams that has been constructed by the NGOs in the

County.

*Table 4.10 Number of dams constructed by NGOs*

Number of dams constructed	Frequency	percentage
Below 5	120	60%
5 to 10	50	25%
10 to 15	25	12.5%
15 and above	5	2.5%
Total	200	100

Table 4.10 indicates that the NGOs in the Locality have not constructed several dams in Baringo county. 60% of the respondents are for the opinion that the NGOs have constructed at least above five dams while 2.5% of the respondents are for the opinion that the NGOs have constructed atleast more than 15 dams in the locality. The table indicates that the NGOs there is need for NGOs to seek for more funds to help in the constructions of more dams since it will help in conflict resolution. With the increase in the number of dams means an increase in the alternative source of living since most of the locals within the county will focus on farming and fishing other than relying on livestock.

#### **4.11 Social Forums**

Social forum initiative is important tool of conflict resolution. The table below presents the number of forums held by the NGOs in Baringo County annually.

*Table 4.11 the number of Social forums*

Number	Frequency	Percentage
Once every year	80	40%
Twice per year	64	32%
Three times per year	36	18%
Four times per year	20	10%
Total	200	100

The above table indicate that a number of the respondents have participated in the social forums that has been organized by the NGOs once every year. With the nature of pastoralist communities in the region moving from one place to the other in search for pasture, it makes it difficult for the social events to be organized frequently in the region. The other issue of concern in organization of the social forums is the challenges faced by the organizations on funding. This therefore makes it a challenge for the NGOs to organize for more social events. A good example of the social event is the Tecla Lorupe peace foundation in organizing the sporting event within the warring communities and also within the neighbouring counties.

#### **4.12 Conclusion**

The study found out that the NGOs play an important role in Baringo County in conflict resolution. From the study, we have established that the NGOs appreciate the fact that they have received the humanitarian assistance from the various organizations in times of calamity such as humanitarian assistance in terms of receiving the assistance of the basic needs from the NGOs such as food clothing and shelter.

Natural resource is one of the main causes of cattle rustling related conflicts in Baringo County. From the study, we have established that the NGOs have played a key role in assisting the communities in managing the resources for example water by helping the communities in digging bore holes. The availability of water reduces the competition for watering points hence reducing the chances of conflicts. The study also noted that the digging of boreholes has aided in the alternative source of income through the irrigation due to the availability of water.

The study also noted that the NGOs create an avenue whereby communities interact. This has been achieved through the creation of the social activities that engages not only the communities in Baringo County but also from the neighbouring counties. By so doing, the NGOs have used the avenue to encourage and create good relations with the warring communities in the region. A good example is the Tecla Lorupe peace foundation. The foundation has organized for a sporting event that has brought about communities together by participation. The aim of the event was to create peace and to create a long lasting solution towards peaceful coexistence with the conflicting communities in the region.

The findings therefore show that the NGOs have played a crucial role in conflict resolution in Baringo County. The findings also noted that there is need for support for the NGOs from the county government in order to ensure a lasting solution towards conflict resolution from the county.

## **CHAPTER FIVE 5: SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the summary of the study findings, discussion, conclusion and also recommendations from the study

### **5.2 Summary of the Findings**

The Non-Governmental Organizations plays more and an important role in ensuring a lasting peace than any other government agency globally. In Kenya, they continue to play a crucial role in conflict resolution and ensuring a lasting peace despite various challenges they face when performing its role.

The study established that the NGOs play a crucial role in conflict resolution in Baringo County. Its role ranges from providing basic needs such as food clothing and shelter in case of a calamity to the affected locals. This was attributed by the fact that basic needs are important in every community since it ensures continued survival.

Baringo county is characterized to be one of the counties in Kenya that have continued to experienced ethnic conflicts as a result of cattle rustling within the communities in the county and also the neighboring counties. From the factors that contribute to conflicts, the NGOs have tried in resolving the conflicts by addressing the basic needs such as sponsoring the school feeding programs, learning materials among others school programs in bid to encourage and increase in the number of enrolment in schools within the locality hence improving on the Literacy level within the communities.



The NGOs have also assisted in establish of funding school programs both directly and indirectly such as assisting in building more classrooms and also in sponsoring students from the needy Background . Other than school programs, the NGO have also acted as a platform to educate the locals on the basic development and rights issues. For example land rights and the issues to deal with the natural resources which are most of the contentious issues in the county that has led to conflicts.

The study also noted that the resettlement of affected communities has also aided in the conflict resolution. By the resettlement process, the NGOs have participated in creating peace among the warring communities. They have assisted in creating an avenue where communities would meet and negotiate and also by acting as a third party during the mediations.

The NGO has also played a key role in assisting communities in the management of Natural resources. This has been achieved by the digging of boreholes. Water is a natural resource that most of the pastoralist communities have been fighting for, either control of the watering points or the grazing fields near the watering points. By digging of boreholes, it has helped in reducing conflicts between the warring communities. The digging of boreholes has also aided in the irrigation projects hence alternative source of income other than depending on the livestock keeping. When the natural resource is well managed and the communities are involved in the management strategy, it helps in minimizing conflicts. This is with the reasons that it creates some ownership of the projects to the communities.

The study also established that through engaging the communities in the peace building forums and activities, it helps in creating peace and understanding among the communities, this

therefore can be an avenue in which the NGOs can use in advocating for peace and promoting peaceful coexistence with each other.

### **5.3 Conclusion**

From the study, it is evident that NGOs are doing more in conflict resolution and peace building activities than and governmental organization. In Kenya, the NGOs have shown more commitment towards building peace and to have a long term solutions towards managing conflicts. The NGOs have shown success in engaging the warring communities in peace building activities added to humanitarian aid and the provision of medication during and after conflicts. The NGOs are also positioned to engage with the government of various issue that can bring in a lasting solutions such as the Land rights and also issues to do with human rights and how it can be address.

Other than the humanitarian assistance the NGOs have also played a role towards economic development and also advising the communities on the other alternative sources of income that can help in bringing peace through trading with each other and having a common market where the communities can interact. They have also played a role in carrying acting as a plat form whereby the communities can air their grievances and also help in seeking a lasting solution towards achieving peace.

The study noted that there is need to for the NGOs to incorporate with the community through the churches in the locality and also through using schools to help in creating an understanding to the young minds in school on the importance of peaceful coexistence among different communities within the locality. The study also noted that there is need also for the organizations to engage in women groups more on conflict resolution since they play an important role in a

family unit and this can help in building peace from the grassroots. Even though several NGOs within the county have different projects and strategies on addressing the various issues, all organizations are encouraged to increase contacts with the locals so that they can get the early warning signs of conflicts hence help in controlling the situation before it's too late. The NGOs are also encouraged to increase cooperation between the warring communities.

There is a lot of written information on conflict and peace building activities. Nonetheless, the opinions and the various discussions on conflict and all agree that conflict is as a result of disagreements, friction and misunderstanding between two or more parties. Peace building actions to create a lasting peace in its entire ramification available.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

The study recommends that there is need for the NGOs to improve its performance on conflict resolution by recognizing that peace building is a political undertaking rather than approving it from the development angle. This therefore means that the NGOs should come up with ways of addressing the issue of politics or how they will work with the politicians on the issue to deal with conflict resolution.

The NGOs should also start seeking for funds from the Baringo County government since it helps in the ownership of the projects by the government and also it helps in working with other government institutions that might help towards conflict resolution and peace building activities in the region.

NGOs in the field of conflict resolution in Baringo should work towards realizing the different phases of conflicts and ensuring that each phase is effectively aligned with their peace building

activities. The NGO members should also commit to peace building activities and be honest in discharging its activities.

The study also recommends regular meetings by the church elders, village elders, the government official and the NGOs on peace building and conflict resolution mechanisms.

Lastly the Baringo County government should recognize the importance of NGOs in conflict resolution and peace building activities and therefore should help in funding of research activities on conflict resolution and their significance.

Further studies may also be undertaken to assess the role played by women in conflict resolution focusing on the cattle rustling communities in Kenya.

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## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

I am a student at the University of Nairobi and I am requesting for a few moments of your time to help in answering the below questionnaires, do not indicate your name on the questionnaires. Your response should be based on your experience in the region. Only tick and make comments where required.

### DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Tick what is applicable

#### 1. Gender

Male { }

Female { }

#### 2. Age bracket

16-25 { }

26-35 { }

36-45 { }

45 and above { }

#### 3. The level of Education

No formal education { }

Primary level { }

Secondary level { }

Higher education { }

#### 4. For how long have you stayed in this location?

Less than 5 yrs { }

More than 5 yrs { }

Above 10 yrs { }

5. What do you do for your living?

Employed { }

Unemployed { }

Self employed { }

**SECTION B: The role played by NGO in managing conflicts**

1. The number of NGOs you have interacted with?

2-3 { } 4-5 { } above 5 { }

2. Kindly tick from the table the activities you have benefited from the NGO

ACTIVITY	YES	NO
Provision of Basic needs (food, clothing and Shelter)		
Provision of medical assistance		
Provision of Education assistance		
Resettlement of conflict affected persons		

3. From the activities highlighted above in question 2, do you think it contributed to conflict resolution?

Strongly agree { }

Agree { }

Undecided { }

Disagree { }



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