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Coordinated Multi-Agencies Patrols and Border Security along the Kenya-Somalia Border in Wajir County

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Abstract

Securing their borders has become a concern for all countries globally. This is because unsecure borders pose a serious threat both to national and international security of states. For instance, the porous Kenya-Somali border continues to pose a serious threat to the security and development of Kenya as a country. This study therefore sought to examine how coordinated multi-agencies patrols affects border security along the Kenya-Somalia border. It adopted a descriptive survey research design that used both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Stratified and simple random and purposive sampling techniques were used to collect data for the study. The tools utilized to get data were, questionnaires and interview schedule. Both qualitative and quantitative data were triangulated to provide robust illustrations of the key findings. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and presented as percentages, pie charts, and bar graphs. Qualitative data on the other hand was analyzed thematically and presented as quoted verbatim. The study found that joint coordinated

patrols, joint intelligence gathering, sharing and analysis and sharing of resources among the various multi-agency teams played a crucial role in border security management. The study concluded that, the Kenya Police Service, the Kenya Defense Forces (KDF), and local administrative bodies have made significant stride in enhancing border security along Kenya-Somali border in Wajir County. The study recommended that, as far as the issue of joint multi-agency patrols are concerned, there is need to increase human resource and provide the necessary gears for effective multi-agency patrols. For further research, the study had restricted itself to the multi-agency's cooperation and border security along the Kenya-Somalia border in Wajir County. However, a number of similarities in the multi-agencies' cooperation was noticed, mostly through literatures. It would be prudent, to stretch out this research to other regions, to determine the applicability of these findings for the whole of the country Kenya.

Keywords: Multi-Agencies, Multi-agency's Cooperation, Multi-agency's Coordination, Border Security, Patrols

1. Introduction

Border security management is paramount for the security of any state (Payan, 2016) ^[29]. Effective border security measures are essential not only for controlling the movement of goods and people across national boundaries but also for preventing illegal activities such as smuggling, trafficking, and terrorism. A well-managed border security system helps maintain law and order, protects national sovereignty, and safeguards the safety and well-being of citizens. Therefore, investments in border security infrastructure, technologies, and personnel training among others are critical for enhancing national security and addressing transnational threats in today's interconnected world. Coordinated Multi-Agencies Patrols and Border Security Along the Kenya-Somalia Border in Wajir County.

Due to emerging security challenges however, borders remain vulnerable to terrorist groups and transnational criminal organizations who engage in illegal small arms and light weapons (SALW) trafficking, ammunition and explosives, drugs, contraband, and human trafficking among others across various porous land borders (Bossong & Carrapico, 2016) ^[5]. Lack of effective coordinated multi-agencies patrols undermines governments' efforts to stem terrorism and control cross-border organized crime thus putting at risk the peace and security of the state (Maroa, 2013) ^[23]. Weak border controls can facilitate the movement of terrorists, criminals, and illicit goods across borders, making it difficult for authorities to track and apprehend

perpetrators. This can lead to increased incidents of violence, instability, and insecurity within the country. Coordinated multi-agencies patrols is therefore key in sealing border security gaps exploited by transnational organized crime groups. According to Kämppe, Tyni, and Rajamäki (2014) ^[14], multi-agencies border security cooperation among other things centers on coordinated processes and procedures, development and sharing of common facilities, joint patrols, and establishment of One-Stop Border Post (OSBP) controls to secure borderlands. This involves harmonizing and streamlining processes and procedures among different security agencies involved in border management. It ensures that there is consistency and efficiency in how borders are monitored and controlled.

Considering the unique challenges posed by porous borders, multi-agency border security cooperation between both intra-agency and inter-agency security agencies, including cross-border communities, is essential in ensuring border security success. This highlights the importance of leveraging diverse expertise and resources for a coordinated response to security challenges. A multidimensional coordinated approach to border security management is fundamental to addressing the countless border security threats and challenges (Winstead, 2021) ^[36]. This approach ensures that various facets of border security are comprehensively managed, preventing vulnerabilities from being exploited. In particular, the unending security threats and challenges posed by Al-Shabaab and the flow of illicit drugs such as shashamane and contraband goods along the Kenyan borders highlight the need and the importance of multi-agency cooperation along the borders (Kasura, 2021) ^[15]. This cooperation is crucial for pooling resources and intelligence to effectively counter these persistent threats.

Globally, coordinated multi-agencies patrols to border security has been adopted by many countries to combat border security threats such as terrorism, cybercrime, and organized crime. According to Kibusia (2020) ^[16], the multiagency approach to security has been gaining prominence globally due to its ability to accurately identify and define specific security threats and problems. The effectiveness of multi-agencies border security cooperation is a result of the incorporation of multidirectional strategies and viewpoints generated by relevant security agencies compared to the single security agent approach (Kimonye, 2022) ^[18]. This collaborative framework allows for a more comprehensive assessment of risks, better utilization of resources, and enhanced responsiveness to evolving security threats that transcend national boundaries. By pooling expertise and resources, multi-agency cooperation fosters a more robust and adaptive security environment, crucial for tackling complex challenges like organized crime, terrorism, and illegal trafficking effectively.

At the global level, this is reflected in various initiatives and strategies across different regions of the world such as the EU border control policy that is centered on the Schengen Borders Code, which sets out the rules and procedures for external border crossings, entry requirements, and internal border checks (Yakouchyk & Schmid, 2016) ^[37]. This regulatory framework is pivotal in managing border security across Europe, ensuring consistency and efficacy in handling migration and security challenges. Reviewed scholarly works suggest that multi-agencies cooperation plays a crucial role in border security. For instance, Herbert (2022) ^[12] in a study in the European Union revealed that

there has been significant intensification of cross-border police cooperation and the shift from global control to localized management of the border region following heightened border challenges such as organized crime and the illegal flow of immigrants. This emphasizes the need for localized strategies that adapt to the unique security dynamics of each border region. King (2018) ^[19] also underscored the significance of EU-level action and joint working through the concept of integrated border management between the security agencies to counter cross-border threats, transnational threats, and illegal migration. Such integrated approaches highlight the importance of coordination across different levels of governance to effectively manage complex border security challenges.

In the US-Mexico Border, Luna-Reyes *et al.* (2017) ^[22] in a study on the cross-border security infrastructure and systems revealed that cooperation between police and the military through intelligence sharing has been instrumental in combating border and trans-border threats such as drug trafficking, terrorism, human smuggling and violence. Similarly, a 2015 report of the U.S. Senate, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs in an investigation on the impact of the U.S.-Mexico Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST) established in 2005 by the Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which is a collaboration between various cross-border security agencies, revealed that it has helped combat drug trafficking, human smuggling, and terrorism (Smith, 2015) ^[34]. This study however only paid attention to police-military cooperation between the USA and Mexico. The intended study however will only focus on Kenya and take into consideration all those agencies involved in border security not only the military and the police.

In Africa, the notion of multiagency coordination in border security continues to gain momentum as an effective approach to combat cross-border crimes such as terrorism, arms smuggling, and irregular migration (Pilgram, 2022) ^[30]. Compounded by globalization and burgeoning terrorism, securing borderlands in Africa has become more challenging hence underscoring the need for multi-agencies cooperation (Cantens, 2021) ^[7]. Several factors contribute to the complexity of border security in Africa like, terrorist groups and criminal networks operate across porous borders, exploiting gaps in security infrastructure and governance. Also, smuggling of drugs, weapons, and humans is prevalent, facilitated by weak border controls and corruption. The establishment of joint multi-agencies border security cooperation in most countries has also been driven by the need to bring together and streamline individual agencies' resources for effective border security management (Bolt, 2019) ^[4]. This approach ensures that various agencies can leverage their unique strengths and expertise, leading to a more comprehensive and coordinated response to border security challenges.

Reviewed studies in the Region on coordinated multi-agencies patrols highlight the importance of multi-agencies cooperation in addressing border security challenges. For instance, Bistrina (2019) in his study emphasizes the need for regional information exchange networks and cooperation to combat illegal migration and cross-border crime. Similarly, Waddington (2013) ^[35] asserts that partnerships and alliances among cross-border security agencies are vital for combating transnational crime and terrorism in West

Africa. Folami and Naylor (2017)^[11] in an evaluation study on the effect of cross-border police cooperation on crime in the Benin-Nigeria border underscore the significance of cross-border police cooperation in addressing the challenges of transnational crime in the global era. The study argues that cross-border police cooperation is crucial for preventing and detecting crime, apprehending criminals, and gathering evidence. The above study though very informative it was narrow in scope in that it only paid attention to cross border police cooperation without including others agencies as well. Another study by Shayanowako (2013)^[32] argues for the establishment of multi-agencies border security cooperation in Zimbabwe to combat endemic cross-border crimes such as smuggling, human trafficking, drug trafficking, and wildlife poaching. In the South Africa-Lesotho border, cross-border multi-agencies cooperation is anchored on the multilateral operations under the Southern Africa Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPPCO), bilateral operations at border checkpoints, and information sharing between crime intelligence centers (Duncan, 2022)^[9]. Referring to “Operation Rachel” established in 2004, Duncan argues that cross-border police cooperation which is a joint initiative between the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) has been effective in combating border and trans-border crimes such as stock theft, drug trafficking, vehicle theft and illegal immigration along the South Africa-Lesotho borders. In Kenya, coordinated multi-agencies patrols entails an amalgamation of various government agencies such as the Border Patrol Police Unit, Kenya Defense Forces, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Revenue Authority, Immigration officials, National Government Administration Officers (NGAO), and Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) and cross border communities. The strength of collaboration and coordination among the multi-agencies determines the effectiveness of border security approaches in addressing border-related security challenges (Mwijaa, 2020)^[27].

Coordinated multi-agencies patrols is crucial for border security, particularly along the Kenya-Somalia border in Wajir County (Masengo, 2019)^[25]. The border region faces threats from cross-border terrorism, smuggling, and the movement of illicit goods and weapons. The Kenyan government has recognized the significance of collaboration between agencies to ensure effective border management and counter these security challenges and as such, the government has implemented various measures to enhance multi-agencies cooperation for border security (Sitienei, 2019)^[33]. The establishment of joint operation centers, such as the Regional Border Security Control Unit (RBSCU), has facilitated coordination and information sharing among agencies involved in border security. Recognizing the vital role of coordinated multi-agencies patrols in addressing border security threats, the government of Kenya set out various legislative frameworks such as the Security Laws Amendment Act of 2014, the National Counter Terrorism Centre, and the Joint Security Operations Centre. These legal and institutional frameworks are established to guide, regulate, and enhance the efficiency of the multi-agency teams.

In addition, the Kenyan government has invested in infrastructure development along the border, including the construction of border posts and surveillance systems. These efforts aim to improve border control and facilitate the

smooth flow of legitimate trade while preventing illegal activities. Agencies such as the Kenya Defense Forces (KDF), National Police Service (NPS), Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Kenya Coast Guard Service (KCGS), and National Intelligence Service (NIS) collaborate closely to ensure effective border security operations. Through joint patrols, intelligence sharing, and coordinated response mechanisms, these agencies work together to detect and deter threats, apprehend criminals, and maintain peace and stability along the border.

The problem therefore emanates from the fact that despite the various institutional, operational, and legislative efforts to secure her boarders, Kenya continues to face security threats and challenges along her boarder with Somali such as the flow of illicit goods, smuggling of Small and Light Weapon, illegal immigrants and drugs among others. This therefore invites the question as to whether; the various initiatives and efforts have been able to improve boarder security, specifically in Wajir County. Hence, it is from this foregoing that this study sought to assess the nexus between coordinated multi-agencies patrols and border security in Wajir County in Kenya.

2. Materials and methods

This study adopted a descriptive survey research design using both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The descriptive survey approach was deemed to be the most appropriate for this study because it allowed the researcher to answer the *how*, *what*, *when*, and *where* questions of the research problem (Cuneen & Tobar, 2017)^[8]. Quantitative data was generated from officers of the lower cadres from the multi-agency teams using semi-structured questionnaires. Qualitative data on the other hand sought from selected senior officers from the different multi-agency teams using interview schedules.

The locale of the study was Wajir County. Wajir County is situated in the former North Eastern Province of Kenya. It borders Ethiopia to the North and Somalia to the East. Within Kenya, Wajir County borders Mandera County to the North East, Isiolo County to the West, Marsabit County to the North West and Garissa County to the South. According to the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census, Wajir County has an estimated 781,263 people and covers an area of 56,773.1Km² with a population density of 14 people per square kilometer. Wajir County has eight sub-counties, 30 wards, 28 divisions, 128 locations, and 159 sub-locations.

Wajir County was chosen as the research site because despite its unique border security challenges which include terrorism, cross-border crime, resource-based conflict, and environmental degradation most studies have always focused on other border points such as Mandera and Garissa. The county also hosts many refugees from Somalia, who live in camps in rural and urban areas and are therefore likely to be a security threat. Owing to these border security challenges and the multi-agency deployed in the county, it served as an ideal study locale for assessing the impact of multi-agency cooperation in enhancing border security.

The target population denoted a whole set of elements from which a researcher gathers data and seeks to generalize (Pandey & Pandey, 2021)^[28]. The population of the study consisted of officers drawn from the Border Patrol Police Unit, Kenya Defense Forces, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Revenue Authority, Customs and Immigration, National Government Administration Officers (NGAO).

The study adopted both probability and non-probability sampling techniques. For probability, the researcher adopted stratified and simple random sampling techniques. Strata was created from the various multi-agency's teams and from within the individual units. The researcher proceeded to conduct simple random sampling from the strata. For the non-probability sampling technique, the researcher adopted purposive sampling technique whereby individuals were selected based on their ability to provide in-depth information on the subject matter.

Sample size determination implied a process of choosing the correct number of elements or people from a larger group to use in a sample (Rahman *et al.* 2022) ^[31]. Scholars such as Burmeister & Aitken (2012) ^[6]; Martínez-Mesa *et al.* (2014) ^[24]; and Andrade (2020) ^[1] indicate that a sample of between 10-30% of the total population is considered representative. This assertion was used to determine the appropriate sample of Border Patrol Unit Officers, KDF officers, KWS officers, KRA officials, Customs and Immigration officials, and NGAO officials (Chiefs, County and Sub-County Administrators). Specifically, 20% of the sample will be selected through simple random from among the various multi-agencies teams for generating quantitative data while such number of participants as deemed necessary by the researcher was selected purposively from senior officers to generate qualitative data as shown in the Table 1 below.

Table 1: Distribution of Sample Size

Type of Respondents	Population	Sample Size	Sampling Technique
County administrator	1	1	Purposive
Sub-County administrators	8	4	Purposive
Chiefs	15	6	Purposive
Junior BPU Officers	300	60	Simple Random
Senior BPU officers	10	4	Purposive
Junior KDF Officers	100	20	Simple Random
Senior KDF Officers	8	3	Purposive
KWS Officers	120	24	Simple random
Junior KRA officers	50	10	Simple Random
Senior KRA Officers	6	3	Purposive
Customs and Immigration officials	50	10	Simple Random
Senior Immigration Officers	5	2	Purposive
Total	683	147	

Data collection instruments refer to tools or approaches that are used to gather or capture information during the research process (Kielhofner & Coster, 2017) ^[17]. The study used questionnaires and interview guides as instruments of data collection. The study used structured Likert Scale-questionnaires to collect quantitative data. According to Artino *et al.* (2014), Likert-scaled structured questionnaires are appropriate because they ensured there is consistency in the questions asked and the data generated are easy to analyze. In support, Fife-Schaw (2020) ^[10] affirms that structured questionnaires are easy to administer and take

less time for the respondents to answer. Questionnaires were administered to junior officers selected from the various multi-agency's teams as shown below in Table 2.

Table 2: Questionnaire Respondents

Type of Respondents	Population	Sample Size
Junior BPU Officers	300	60
Junior KDF Officers	100	20
KWS Officers	120	24
Junior KRA officers	50	10
Customs and Immigration officials	50	10
Total	620	124

According to Kallio *et al.*, (2016) ^[13], an interview schedule refers to a list containing a set of structured and predetermined questions to act as a guide to the researcher during the interviewer. The interview schedule was used to collect in-depth data from senior officers from the various multi-agency's teams as shown below in Table 3.

Table 3: Interviews schedules Respondents

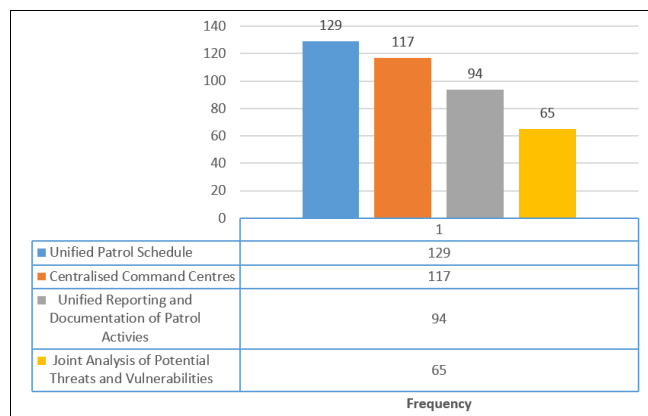
Type of Respondents	Population	Sample Size
County administrator	1	1
Sub-County administrators	8	4
Chiefs	15	6
Senior BPU officers	10	4
Senior KDF Officers	8	3
Senior KRA Officers	6	3
Senior Immigration Officers	5	2
Total	53	23

The researcher explained to the participants the procedures of the research including the risks and benefits of the research as well as the voluntary nature of research participation honestly and transparently. The study obtained informal consent from each respondent by requesting him or her to fill out the questionnaire willingly. Informal consent was sought by asking the respondents about their willingness to participate in filling out the questionnaire. To ensure that the confidentiality and anonymity of the participants are upheld, the researcher excluded the name section from the questionnaire. All the information provided by the respondents was treated with a lot of confidentiality. The researcher also explained the purpose of the research to the participants (without stating the central research question) which is intended for academic reasons only.

3. Results and discussion

To establish how coordinated multi-agencies patrols affects border security along the Kenya-Somalia border in Wajir County, the participants were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the statements by ticking (✓) or putting a mark (✗) in the boxes provided in the questionnaire. The findings are displayed below:

How Coordinated Multi-Agencies Patrols Affects Border Security Along the Kenya-Somalia border in Wajir County.



Source: Field Data (2024)

As is shown in the bar graphs above, most of respondents $n=129$ (94.9%), were of the view that unified patrol schedule played a key role in coordinating multi-agency patrol teams. This was followed by centralized patrol command centers at $n=117$ (86%), at the third position was unified reporting and documentation of patrol activities at $n=94$ (69%), and lastly, joint analysis of potential threats during and after patrols represented by $n=65$ (47.8%). The findings are further analysed under specific themes as presented below.

From the study findings, it is evident that unified patrols by multi-agency teams play a critical role in enhancing boarder security in Wajir County. The respondents from various formations underscored the importance of unified patrols as opposed to each agency patrolling on their own. Among other things, they mentioned that joint patrols help them benefit from the expertise of each formation since each formation has a different initial training background. These findings resonate with Lee *et al* (2019)^[20] who did a study in Singapore and found out that unified multi-agency patrols play acritical role in enhancing boarder security through the injection of synergy of the various stake holders. Similar views were expressed by Minnar (2022)^[26] who observed that joint patrols among the various multi-agency teams help in building rapport and boosting morale of the security officers thereby translating to enhanced boarder security.

During face-to-face interviews, one of the local chiefs had this to say...

"The presence of coordinated patrols in Wajir County has been a game-changer for us locals. It's not just about seeing more security vehicles; it's about feeling safer in our own communities. When we see the Kenya Defence Forces and police working together, it reassures us that the government is serious about protecting us from the threats we face, like smuggling and terrorism. This has definitely boosted our trust in law enforcement. We feel more comfortable reporting suspicious activities because we know they'll act on it promptly. This partnership has really made a difference in how we perceive our safety here." (Interviewee 2/06/2024)

A senior police commander added that...

"Beyond just security, these joint patrols have played a key role in creating a very healthy working relationship among the various security formations."

Initially different security agencies would conduct their own patrols without proper coordination which did not auger well for securing the boarder" (Interviewee 3/06/2024)

From the above quotes, it can be inferred that the presence of coordinated patrols along the Kenya-Somalia border in Wajir County has played a crucial role in cultivating a healthy working relationship and diffusing tensions among the various security agencies. In these border regions, where security concerns are often heightened due to proximity to volatile areas, the increased joint patrols have provided a visible sign of government commitment to protecting local populations. Borrowing from the systems theory that was used to ground the study it can be inferred that the different security sectors are like different parts of an organism that need to work in harmony for the benefit of the complete whole. By conducting the joint patrols the various stake holders are able to effectively combine their efforts for the benefit of the entire state.

This proactive approach has not only deterred criminal activities but also instilled a sense of security among residents, enabling them to go about their daily lives with reduced fear and uncertainty. Furthermore, the symbiotic relationship fostered by coordinated patrols has contributed to broader societal benefits beyond immediate security concerns. As cooperation deepens, communities in Wajir County are feeling more interested in supporting law enforcement efforts and participating in initiatives aimed at enhancing community resilience.

Centralized patrol command center is a critical aspect of effective patrol, focusing on broadening the scope and reach of security measures to ensure comprehensive protection against threats. This ensures that border patrols are coordinated from one source. By having one patrol command station. As pointed out by Adler *et al* (2018)^[2] centralized patrol command center ensures efficiency and prudent coordination of patrols. The advantage of this is that, multi-agency patrol teams can properly delineate the specific boarder points that require special focus as they conduct the patrols.

In the words of a senior KDF officer...

"Having a centralized patrol command center has been very instrumental for us since coordinating the patrols from a centralized point enables us to know which team is taking which patrol route and also helps us in monitoring and guiding patrols seamlessly". Initially each security organ would sometimes organize their own patrols which brought a lot of confusion because sometimes it would be realized that different agencies have taken the same patrol route." (Interview 4/06/2024)

The above observations underscore the importance of having one command center for coordinating patrols. As pointed out by the officer, it is easier to organize, monitor and even give directions when patrols are coordinated from one point. This review resonates with Lee *et al* (2019)^[20] who emphasized the importance of coordinated patrols.

Additionally, the benefits of centralized patrol have extended beyond immediate threat management to include long-term stability and community confidence. Maintaining a visible and consistent multi-agency, patrols has

contributed to a sense of safety among local residents, which is crucial for fostering a stable socio-economic environment. This visibility has helped build trust within the community and encouraged cooperation with security forces, which is essential for effective intelligence gathering and collaborative efforts to address local security concerns. The presence of robust security patrols has also supported development initiatives by creating a safer environment for economic activities and community growth.

Overall, coordinated patrols in Wajir County has proven to be a cornerstone of effective border security management. By expanding the scope and reach of security measures, agencies have been able to address the region's diverse threats more comprehensively, improve operational efficiency, and build stronger relationships with local communities.

Most of the patrols improve intelligence-sharing and operational coordination among agencies. By reporting and documenting of patrol activities, they enhance situational awareness and response capabilities, enabling faster and more effective reactions to documented or reported security threats. This approach not only deters potential perpetrators but also intercepts illicit activities such as arms trafficking and drug smuggling before they can pose serious threats to national security.

A senior BPU officer explained that...

"Reporting and documenting of activities observed during patrol represent a crucial step forward in managing boarder security. Through documentation of things observed during patrols, the teams are able to plan for their next strategy on how counter boarder threats such as threats arms trafficking and drug smuggling. This unified approach is crucial in maintaining the safety and security of our communities." (Interview 6/06/2024).

By fostering unified reporting and documentation among various agencies, they have created a robust network that strengthens boarder security. This synergy has allowed for a more comprehensive understanding of potential threats and vulnerabilities, thereby bolstering security. As Li (2017)^[21] observed, a multi-agency reporting and documentation improves the efficiency of service provision. Through these joint efforts, law enforcement agencies have been effective in dismantling illicit networks and disrupting their operations, safeguarding communities and upholding national security.

From the study, it was established that joint analysis of potential threats and vulnerabilities before, during and after patrols played a key role in managing boarder security along Kenya- Somali boarder in Wajir County. Both the respondents and participants pointed out that through joint patrols, they are able to identify potential threats and vulnerabilities. For instance in emerged that during patrols, the multi-agency teams are able to detect IEDs, illegal pathways, or intercept contrabands among others.

As observed by Kirimi, Kinyanjui and Ngari (2022), patrols play a very integral role in identifying potential threats and vulnerabilities. These threats and vulnerabilities can then be carefully analysed and help inform intervention mechanisms for ensuring boarder security.

During a face-to-face interview, a senior officer from NIS observed that....

"During joint patrols, security personnel pay attention to every available details such as illegal entry routes, possibility of IEDs and suspicious individuals among others. The observed activities are the jointly analyzed to help come up with appropriate strategies to enhanced security along the border." (Interviewee 7/06/2024).

From the above remark it is evident that joint analyses of potential threats and vulnerabilities is imperative for securing the Kenya- Somali border. Wajir County which has historically been plagued by issues such as insurgency, smuggling, and cross-border conflict, requires serious analysis of potential threats and vulnerabilities during patrols.

Research results indicated that, inter-agency rivalries and turf wars have significantly impacted security operations. Conflicts between the Kenya Police Service, the Kenya Defense Forces (KDF), and local administrative bodies have led to a fragmented approach to border security, with each agency vying for control over limited resources. This competition has caused operational inefficiencies, including duplicated efforts and missed opportunities for coordinated multi-agencies patrols, resulting in ineffective responses to threats such as smuggling and terrorism.

The study also found that, enhanced operational coverage has allowed security agencies to better monitor and address potential threats such as smuggling and insurgency. Increased coordinated multi-agencies patrols have led to more effective responses and greater operational efficiency. This comprehensive strategy not only helps manage immediate threats but also fosters long-term stability and community trust, contributing to a safer environment that supports local development and enhances overall security management in the region.

The study found out that, coordinated multi-agencies patrols, a robust network has been established that significantly strengthens national defenses. This collaboration has improved situational awareness, enabled a comprehensive understanding of threats and vulnerabilities, and facilitated proactive measures to address risks before they escalate. Such coordination has proven crucial in combating crimes like human trafficking and organized crime by ensuring swift, unified responses. The collaborative patrols have also acted as a strong deterrent against illicit activities, including arms trafficking and drug smuggling, by presenting a formidable barrier to criminal elements. Moreover, their adaptability to evolving threats, such as IED attacks and terrorism, through real-time strategy adjustments and technology use, has enhanced their effectiveness in maintaining national security and fostering community resilience.

4. Recommendations

As far as the issue of joint multi-agency patrols are concerned, it is recommended that there is need to increase human resource and provide the necessary gears for effective multi-agency patrols.

5. Further Research

This research had restricted itself to the coordinated multi-agencies patrols and border security along the Kenya-Somalia border in Wajir County. However, a number of similarities in the coordinated multi-agencies patrols were

noticed, mostly through literatures. It would be prudent, to stretch out this research to other regions, to determine the applicability of these findings for the whole of the country Kenya.

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