Int. j. adv. multidisc. res. stud. 2025; 5(4):599-611

Received: 01-06-2025
Accepted: 11-07-2025

International Journal of Advanced Multidisciplinary Research and Studies

ISSN: 2583-049X

The Various Forms of Existing Inter-Agencies Coordination Mechanisms for Addressing Armed Banditry in the Isiolo-Meru Border Region, Kenya

[1] Simon Kireru, [2] Dr. Mutonyi Gerald Peter
[1] Masters Student, Department of Security, Diplomacy and Peace Studies, Kenya
[2] Lecturer, Department of Security, Diplomacy and Peace Studies, Kenya

DOI: https://doi.org/10.62225/2583049X.2025.5.4.4651
Corresponding Author: **Dr. Mutonyi Gerald Peter**

Abstract
Inter-agency coordination in countering armed banditry involves collaborative efforts among multiple security agencies to combat threats. It is for this reason that various agencies are on the border of Isiolo and Meru counties, Kenya to countering armed banditry. Despite this occurrence, limited studies have researched on the various forms of existing inter-agencies coordination mechanisms for addressing armed banditry in the Isiolo-Meru border region, Kenya, and that is what this study sort to study investigate. It used a cross-sectional survey design, focusing on the security officers from various agencies, local county government officials and NGAO officers, elders and the leaders of CBOs and residents as the target population. A multistage sampling technique was applied, starting by clustering of sections within the study range. Clustering of the county into constituencies and wards was by purposive sampling. Stratified sampling was applied to get the respondents in various clusters. A questionnaire and an interview guide were the research instruments. Qualitative data was analyzed thematically, quantitative data was examined using descriptive statistics: percentages, averages and pie charts. The study found five forms of inter-agencies coordination mechanisms: multi-agencies joint security operations, specialized rapid police and military units, encouraging locals to participate in nyumba kumi, youth rehabilitation programs for ex-bandits and at-risk youth, working with humanitarian organizations to support affected communities. It found that joint operations, rapid response units, community involvement, youth programs, and partnerships with humanitarian agencies effectively address armed banditry in the Isiolo-Meru border region. The study concluded that effective inter-agency coordination depends on strong structures, clear command, and efficient communication among security agencies. The study recommended creating a Unified Command Center to improve intelligence sharing, coordination, and response to banditry.

Keywords: Inter-agency Coordination, Armed Banditry, Security Agencies, Intelligence Sharing, Joint Operations, Community Involvement, Unified Command Center, Communication Systems

1. Introduction

Armed banditry is a pervasive form of violent criminal activity that, has become a significant security challenge in many regions, particularly in rural and border areas. It is characterized by the use of firearms to carry them out and, often targeting either vulnerable people or communities. According to Okoli and Ugwu (2019) [30], armed banditry, is a form of organized criminal activity involving the use of firearms to commit acts of violence, theft, or intimidation, often targeting communities in rural or border regions where law enforcement presence is minimal. Similarly, Mkutu (2021) [23] defines it as, the practice of engaging in armed raids or attacks, typically motivated by economic gain or resource competition and perpetuated by groups or individuals operating in areas with limited state control or governance. It is prevalent in areas with weak state presence, such as rural or border regions, where limited law enforcement and socio-economic vulnerabilities create an enabling environment for criminal activities.

This phenomenon disrupts socio-economic activities, threatening human security and undermining governance structures (Okoli & Ugwu, 2019) [30]. The impacts of armed banditry extend beyond immediate violence, creating ripple effects that destabilize entire communities. It is often fueled by factors such as poverty, weak law enforcement and the competition over scarce resources like pasture and water in arid and semi-arid regions (Mkutu, 2021) [23]. These underlying drivers create a cycle

of vulnerability that fosters conditions for armed banditry to thrive. Poverty pushes individuals, particularly young men, into criminal activities as a means of survival, while weak law enforcement creates a sense of impunity, allowing perpetrators to operate without fear of accountability. Moreover, the scarcity of critical resources like water and pasture intensifies conflicts among communities, transforming disputes into violent confrontations often exploited by organized criminal groups.

Additionally, the proliferation of small arms and unregulated cross-border trade networks exacerbates its persistence (UNODC, 2020) [36]. The widespread availability of illicit firearms not only emboldens criminal groups but also increases the lethality and frequency of armed banditry incidents. According to Adamu and Ben (2022) [1], addressing armed banditry requires inter-agencies coordination, including community engagement, improved law enforcement and the sustainable livelihood programs to tackle its socio-economic drivers.

The inter-agencies coordination refers to the collaborative efforts between different agencies and organizations to tackle complex issues that require collective action. According to Smith *et al*., (2019) [33] inter-agencies coordination, the process of ensuring effective collaboration and cooperation among various agencies and stakeholders to achieve a common goal, particularly in complex and multidimensional issues. Similarly, Garcia and Patel (2021) [8] define it as, a structured mechanism that facilitates the integration of efforts across multiple agencies to address interlinked issues, ensuring efficient use of resources and unified actions. In addressing armed banditry, this coordination becomes essential as it brings together various stakeholders with complementary roles to form a unified response.

This coordination involves bringing together government agencies, security forces, and non-governmental organizations to form a unified response by leveraging their complementary roles. In addressing armed banditry, inter-agencies coordination facilitates joint planning and implementation of strategies, enhancing the effectiveness of interventions. Various stakeholders play critical roles in sharing intelligence, pooling resources, and ensuring a coordinated response to counter banditry effectively (Garcia & Patel, 2021) [8]. In regions affected by armed banditry, partnerships between various entities are vital to rebuilding trust, improving public safety, and ensuring sustainable solutions to the socio-economic drivers of banditry. By working together, these agencies can better address the structural causes of armed banditry while ensuring that their responses are timelier and more effective, reducing the operational space for criminal groups.

In the Americas, interagency coordination in countering armed banditry has been instrumental in addressing transnational organized crime. According to García (2022) [7] in El Salvador, initiatives like the Joint Group Cuscatlán (GCC) and Naval Task Force Trident exemplified the effectiveness of technological enabled multi-agency collaboration. These groups combine the resources of the police, military, and other governmental agencies to disrupt criminal networks, with significant support from the United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM). The use of such technology, intelligence networks, and cross-border cooperation in Kenya, particularly in the volatile border regions of Isiolo and Meru, had remained underexplored. Unlike regions such as El Salvador where inter-agency coordination in countering armed banditry has been strengthened through the use of latest technologies, intelligence-sharing and various joint task forces, such integrated and technologically enabled approaches remain underexplored in the context like along the Isiolo-Meru border in Kenya, presenting a gap that was explored in the findings.

Inter-agency coordination in countering armed banditry has become increasingly important in several African nations, particularly Mali and Nigeria. Armed groups in northern and central Mali, particularly those linked to jihadist organizations, have been a persistent threat to the state and its citizens (Kone, 2021) [18]. These groups frequently operate across borders, making coordination between Mali's security forces and those of neighboring countries, such as Niger and Burkina Faso, essential. In response, the Malian government, in partnership with international bodies like the United Nations (MINUSMA) and the French-led Operation Barkhane, has sought to improve intelligence-sharing and joint military operations. Despite the challenges, inter-agency coordination efforts have led to some successes in disrupting terrorist activities and curbing banditry in the central regions of Mali. Nonetheless, the effectiveness of these efforts remains hampered by limited resources, political instability, and the difficulties in managing such large-scale operations across vast desert territories (Baudouin, 2022) [3]. While inter-agency coordination has proven essential in Mali, the various forms of existing inter-agencies coordination mechanisms for addressing armed banditry in the Isiolo-Meru border region, Kenya have not been adequately explored. This gap points to the need for more targeted studies on how inter-agency coordination in the context of Isiolo and Meru can be enhanced to address the unique dynamics of borderland violence.

Similarly, in Kenya, inter-agency coordination has been vital in dealing with banditry in the northern regions. The Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), the National Police Service (NPS) and the other security agencies regularly collaborate to curb armed banditry, particularly in the pastoralist regions, where competition over land and resources fuels the violence (Mwangi, 2020) [28]. Mwangi (2020) [28] continues to reiterate that, these agencies have faced challenges in coordination, often due to logistical constraints and insufficient intelligence-sharing mechanisms. However, recent government efforts to streamline these operations, particularly through joint task forces and regional coordination hubs, are showing promise. These strategies aimed not only to reduce banditry but also to tackle the root reasons, for instance poverty, unemployment and the growing divide between the pastoral communities and the state (Wanyoike, 2021) [37]. While Kenya's efforts in inter-agency coordination to combat armed banditry in pastoral regions are documented, there was limited research on how the various forms of existing inter-agencies coordination mechanisms address armed banditry at the border regions of Isiolo and Meru counties.

2. Materials and methods

The study adopted a cross-sectional survey design, which involved collecting data from different respondents at a single point in time to make inferences about the target population. With it, there was a stronger likelihood for participation of respondents. It also helped to gather

objective information that was used for generalization to a larger population. It also helped to gather diverse information on the security awareness programs due to the diversity of the respondents' experiences. Diversity of the information gathered enriched the data of the study.

The locale of the study was the Isiolo-Meru border region. It is located in the central part of Kenya, and being a strategic and significant area due to its proximity to both administrative and security boundaries. Isiolo County is located in the northeastern region of Kenya, bordered by Samburu to the west, Garissa to the southeast, and Meru to the south. It is a gateway to northeastern Kenya and plays a vital role in the security and economic linkages between central Kenya and the northeastern regions. Meru County is situated to the south of Isiolo, bordered by the Isiolo County to the north, Tharaka Nithi to the west, and Kitui to the southeast. The county is part of the larger Mt. Kenya region, known for its agricultural activities and highland areas. The border area between Isiolo and Meru counties is politically significant as it consists of various ethnic communities with different cultural, economic, and political interests, such as the Borana, Meru, and other pastoralist groups. This area has also been subject to inter-ethnic conflicts, particularly due to competition over resources like water and grazing land.

The target population for this study comprised security officers from various agencies, including the NPS, who were directly involved in countering armed banditry along the Isiolo-Meru border. It also included local county government officials and National Government Administrative Officers (NGAO) officers who were responsible for security management. These officers, including Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs, Sub County, County and Regional Commissioners who were often the first point of contact between the government and the local community, making them instrumental in implementing government policies and programs. Additionally, community leaders, including elders, and leaders of community-based organizations (CBOs), were targeted. Residents of the affected areas, particularly those frequently impacted by armed banditry, formed part of the population, alongside representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in peacebuilding and security efforts. The population was selected because it comprises key stakeholders directly involved in or affected by inter-agency coordination efforts to counter armed banditry. Community leaders and CBO leaders offer local insights and grassroots perspectives; residents provide firsthand experiences of the impact of banditry; while representatives from NGOs contribute valuable knowledge on peacebuilding, security initiatives, and inter-agency collaboration in the region. Their combined perspectives are crucial for understanding the effectiveness and challenges of coordination mechanisms along the Isiolo-Meru border

The researcher used multistage sampling to get the sample size and identify the respondents. Multistage sampling divided the large population into stages that made the sampling process more practical, and used simple random sampling and a combination of stratified sampling or cluster sampling (Theresa & McBurney, 2012) [34].

First, 2 constituencies were purposively sampled out of the five constituencies that are on that border (that is 40 of the total county constituencies). Gay & Diehl, (1992) [9] recommended 20% of an n compared to the general N. In Meru County, the constituencies bordering Isiolo County that experience armed banditry included Buuri, Igembe North, and parts of Igembe Central. These regions had reported frequent incidents of livestock theft, violent conflicts, and insecurity driven by disputes over grazing land and water resources (Mutethia, 2023) [26]. This made them appropriate samples as they were rich in the information needed to address the objectives.

In Isiolo County, constituencies bordering Meru County and experiencing armed banditry included Isiolo North and Isiolo South. These areas face challenges related to resource conflicts, livestock theft, and disputes over grazing lands, contributing to insecurity along the border with Meru County (Mugo, 2017) [25]. The proximity of these constituencies to Meru County intensifies the cross-border dynamics of armed banditry. The two constituencies were Igembe North and Isiolo South. This made them appropriate samples as they were rich in the information needed to address the objectives. By the researcher increasing to 40%, it enhanced the statistical power of the sample size (Martin & Bateson, 1986) [22].

Second, 1 county ward which was Antambui ward was purposively sampled from the 5 wards in Igembe North constituency which were; Amwathi ward, Naathu ward, A/kiongo ward, Antambui ward and Ntunene ward. That was 20% of the total wards sampled. Gay & Diehl, (1992) [9] recommended 20% of an n compared to the general N. Then also 1 county ward which was Garbatulla Ward was purposively sampled from the 3 wards in Isiolo South Constituency which were, Garbatulla Ward, Sericho Ward and Kinna Ward. That was 33.3% of the total wards sampled. Gay & Diehl, (1992) [9] recommended 20% of an n compared to the general N.

Third, clustering was used to group the target population into five homogenous groups: NPS, County Government officers, NGAO Officers, leaders of CBOs and Residents (elders, and residents). Clustering involved arranging a set of objects in such a way that objects in the same group (called a cluster) were more similar to each other than to those in other groups (clusters) (Kriegel, Kröger, & Zimek 2012) [20].

1. 2 Gazetted officers, 2 County government officers, 2 NGAO officers (Sub County, County & Regional Commissioners), 2 NGAO officers (Chiefs & Assistant Chiefs) and 2 Leaders of CBOs were purposively sampled as our respondent. Gay & Diehl, (1992) [9] recommend 20% of an n compared to the general N.
2. 3 Commissioned officers and 36 Police officers under the rank of an inspector, were randomly sampled. Gay & Diehl, (1992) [9] recommend 20% of an n compared to the general N.
3. 27 Residents (elders) and 306 Residents (non-elders) populace for each 6th member was systematic random sampled to be a participant. to Crossman (2017) [5] as a sampling method systematic random sampling is a form where sample participants from a study population get to chosen according to a random starting position to be labelled as an Nth number.

The distribution of the sample size was as shown in table below.

Table 1: Sampling and Sample Sizes

Population Cluster	Target Population	Sample Size
Gazetted officers	3	2
Commissioned officers	7	3
Police officers under the rank of an inspector	82	36
County government officers	4	2
NGAO officers (Sub County, County & Regional Commissioners)	4	2
NGAO officers (Chiefs & Assistant Chiefs)	8	4
Leaders of CBOs	5	2
Residents (elders)	<100000	27
Residents (non-elders)	<100000	306
Total	**<100000**	**384**

For an estimated population of more than 100,000 individuals, a sample size of approximately 384 participants is appropriate (Krejcie & Morgan, 1970) [19] (See appendix III).

2.1 Research Instruments

The mixed methods approach was used in this study, with questionnaires collecting quantitative data, whereas one-on-one interviews gathered qualitative data.

2.1.1 Questionnaire (Appendix I)**:** Questionnaires were administered utilizing both 'closed-ended' questions (questions that mainly had rating scales) and 'open-ended' questions (where respondents were given an opportunity to write their opinions and feelings about the response). Research questions guided the construction of the questionnaire so that all areas were addressed. The questionnaires were administered with the help of research assistants. Respondents were more truthful while responding to the questionnaires regarding controversial issues due to the anonymity of responses. Respondents were allowed to complete the questionnaires themselves.

2.1.2 Interview Guide (Appendix II)**:** Interview guides were utilized during the direct interaction between the researcher and the participants to collect in-depth and detailed responses.

These interviews followed a structured format guided by an interview schedule to ensure consistency across participants. Open-ended questions were employed to allow participants to express their views, experiences, and opinions comprehensively, and facilitated a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

The research questions guided the development of the interview guide to ensure alignment with the study objectives. The interviews were conducted in a conducive environment to encourage open and honest responses. The research assistants were trained to assist in conducting the interviews to maintain uniformity and professionalism. These One-on-one scheduled interviews were particularly useful when it was necessary to explore sensitive topics such as informants in the community, as they provided a platform for participants to clarify and elaborate on their responses in a confidential setting.

This was carried out on a random sample of 25 respondents: NPS, county government, chiefs, assistant chiefs, elders and residents of Garissa County. It was not part of the study population but with similar characteristics as the sampled population. The results from the pilot study helped the researcher to refine and tune the tools by correcting ambiguities, misinterpretation and irritating language.

The study was informed by data sourced from primary sources: the communities along the border where armed banditry exists, and those charged with the duties of countering armed banditry.

Questionnaires: Amongst the junior NPS and county government officers and assistant chiefs, questionnaires were administered to them by research assistants, who were present as they filled. The research assistants administered to the residents of the affected areas and they were present as the questionnaires were being filled.

Interviews were recorded: One-on-one interviews were scheduled through a phone call and by visiting the respondent and booked appointments. They were Gazetted officers 2, Commissioned officers 3, County government officers 2, NGAO officers (Sub County, County & Regional Commissioners) 2, NGAO officers (Chiefs & Assistant Chiefs) 4, Leaders of CBOs 2 and Residents (elders) 5. While taking notes during the interview, audio recording was done, that assisted in clarifying on some details on what was missed out in the course of the interview. While recording the interviews, the researcher placed two phones on the table between him and the interviewee and tapped record. Close attention was given to ensure that the quality of the recording was excellent. The quality of the recording was tested by the researcher in the interview room a few minutes to the interview.

Quantitative data collected from the field regarding inter-agency coordination efforts in countering armed banditry along the border of Isiolo and Meru counties, Kenya, was coded and entered into the Microsoft Excel for analysis. Descriptive statistics were employed to summarize patterns in the agency collaboration, resource utilization, and the frequency of banditry incidents. Measures of central tendency such as the average (used to calculate mean response scores), the median (to determine the middle point in perception scales), and the mode (to identify the most frequently selected responses) were used to assess trends in collaboration effectiveness.

Frequency counts were generated to understand how often the specific responses and incidents occurred, especially concerning joint patrols, intelligence sharing, and operational challenges. Percentages and proportions helped to compare agency performances and public perceptions by showing how the response rates varied across the study population.

To aid interpretation, Excel's charting tools were used to create bar charts, pie charts, and line graphs, which visually represented the relationship between inter-agency collaboration and the outcomes of anti-banditry operations. This visualization made it easier to interpret how collaboration mechanisms impacted the control of armed banditry along the Isiolo–Meru border.

Qualitative data collected through the key informant interviews with some security officers, some local administrators, and some community members were analyzed thematically. Responses were first written out and then carefully reviewed to identify recurring ideas and patterns related to inter-agency coordination efforts, such as the joint operations, communication flow, command structure and resource sharing.

Using a coding framework, major themes such as information sharing, logistical collaboration, inter-agency conflicts and community engagement were identified and grouped. These themes were analyzed to understand the

perceptions of collaboration effectiveness and to highlight the operational strengths and weaknesses of the current anti-banditry strategies.

Insights derived from the qualitative data were triangulated with the quantitative findings to enhance the credibility of the results. Representative quotes were extracted and presented to support key arguments, giving voice to the experiences of those directly involved in or affected by inter-agency efforts to curb armed banditry along the Isiolo–Meru border.

3. Results and discussion

The researcher dispersed 364 questionnaires, and intended to have 20 interview guides to the five clusters: NPS, County Government officers, NGAO Officers, leaders of CBOs and Residents. A total of 337 questionnaires were completed and returned, while 27 were discarded due to incomplete information, resulting in a 92.6% response rate of the total questionnaires distributed. Additionally, 17 interview guides were completed and returned, reflecting a 94% response rate of the targeted sample for that instrument. In total, 354 responses were obtained out of 364 sampled participants, equating to a 97.3% response rate. This exceeds the recommended adequacy range of 33% to 66%, as suggested by Hagaman and Wutich (2017) [10]. Furthermore, Baguley (2004) [2] noted that, the increasing the sample size enhances statistical power. The response rate of the various clusters of respondents of relationship between inter-agencies coordination and countering armed banditry along the border of Isiolo and Meru counties. The research participants are illustrated below (Fig 1).

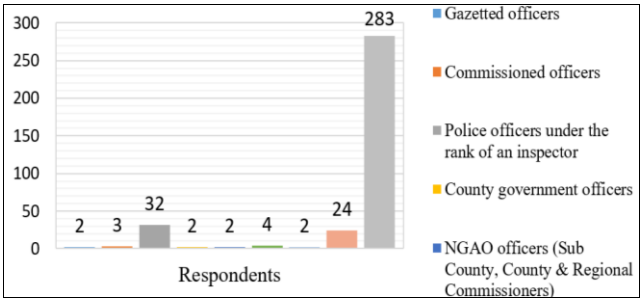

Fig 1: Respondents' Response Rates

The Gazetted officers had a total of 2 responses, which formed 100% of the entire targeted sample population. The Commissioned officers had a total of 3 responses, which formed 100% of the entire targeted sample population. The Police officers under the level of an inspector had a total of 32 response, which constituted 88.9% of the total targeted sample population. The NGAO officers (Sub County, County & Regional Commissioners) had a total of 2 responses, which formed 100% of the entire targeted sample population. The NGAO officers (Chiefs & Assistant Chiefs) had a total of 4 responses, which formed 100% of the entire targeted sample population. The Leaders of CBOs had a total of 2 responses, which formed 100% of the entire targeted sample population. The Residents (elders) village elders had a total of 24 responses, which constituted 88.9% of the total targeted sample population. The Residents (non-elders) had a total of 283 responses, which constituted 92.5% of the total targeted sample population. Therefore, 354 respondents out of 364 respondents participated in this study, which was 97.3%. This meets Gay & Diehl, (1992) [9] requirement that recommends for 20% of a sample size (n) relative to the overall population (N).

The study also aimed to identify the socio-demographic profiles of the participants. Understanding these attributes was essential, as they are recognized to affect the respondents' perceptions and attitudes (Robertson & Watts, 2016) [31]. Accordingly, the socio-demographic variables assessed included age, gender and the educational attainment.

3.1 Respondents' Sex

Respondents were instructed to specify their sex by inserting a mark close to the applicable choice given (male or female). The answers are as shown below (Fig 2).

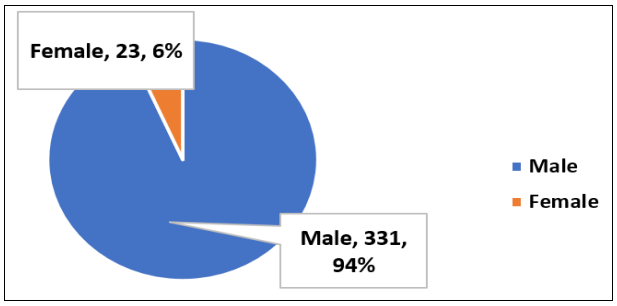

Fig 2: Sex for the Respondents in General

Table 2: Respondents' Sex in each Cluster

Respondents	Male	Female
Gazetted officers	2	0
Commissioned officers	3	0
Police officers under the rank of an inspector	25	7
County government officers	1	1
NGAO officers (Sub County, County & Regional Commissioners)	2	0
NGAO officers (Chiefs & Assistant Chiefs)	4	0
Leaders of CBOs	1	1
Residents (elders)	19	5
Residents (non-elders)	266	17

Fig 2 shows the gender distribution of the respondents, with 23 (6%) females and 331 (94%) males. This indicates that, the majority of the participants willing to engage in this study were male; however, gender balance was observed, highlighting that, women also play a significant role in security matters within the country and are eager to seize opportunities in the sector. These findings align with the security study by Dvojmoč (2016) [6], where 80% of the respondents were male and 20% female. Similarly, Mutonyi, Sirera, and Mwai (2020) [27], in their research on the commercialized and national security in Nairobi City County, reported that most the participants were male (283, 74.9%) compared to females (91, 25.1%).

In Table 2 above, the respondent's distribution is captured per cluster. In the case of the Gazetted officers' respondents, it was distributed as 0 (0%) female respondents and 2 (100%) males. For the Commissioned officers, it was 0 (0%) female respondents and 3 (100%) male respondents. As for Police officers under the rank of an inspector respondents, it was distributed as 7 (21.9%) female respondent and 25 (79.1%) males. For the County government officers, it was 1 (50%) female respondent and 1 (50%) male respondent. In the case of the NGAO officers (Sub County, County & Regional Commissioners) respondents, it was distributed as

0 (0%) female respondents and 2 (100%) males.
For the NGAO officers (Chiefs & Assistant Chiefs), it was 0 (0%) female respondent and 4 (100%) male respondents. As for the Leaders of CBOs respondents, it was distributed as 1 (50%) female respondent and 1 (50%) male. As for the resident (elders) it was 5 (20.8%) female respondent and 19 (79.2%) male respondents. And lastly, for the Residents (non-elders) respondents, it was distributed as 17 (6%) female respondent and 266 (94%) male respondents. The picture below (Fig 3) is the researcher and some of the respondents, showing the prevalent of the male respondents especially in the interior of the county.

Fig 3: Mostly male Participants

The ratio of male to female amongst the security related clusters of respondents, was influenced by the fact that more males are in the state security agencies than the female. This could be because, the society tends to give more male the opportunity to be in security related jobs than the female. Okebiro and Mutonyi (2022) [29], in their research on the private security firms and crime detection and prevention, emphasized that the security organizations and systems have traditionally been dominated by men. The assumption is not different along the border of Isiolo and Meru counties as the security agencies space is still male dominated.
These findings, however, challenge prevailing views in countries such as Israel, South Korea, and North Korea, where mandatory military service applies to all genders. As a result, these societies have adopted a security-oriented mindset regardless of gender. It is, therefore, reasonable to assert that conflict and security remain male-dominated fields, leading to heightened male interest and greater involvement.

3.2 Respondents' Age

Respondents were requested to show their ages by putting a mark next to the applicable choice offered. The information was captured in the below (Fig 4).

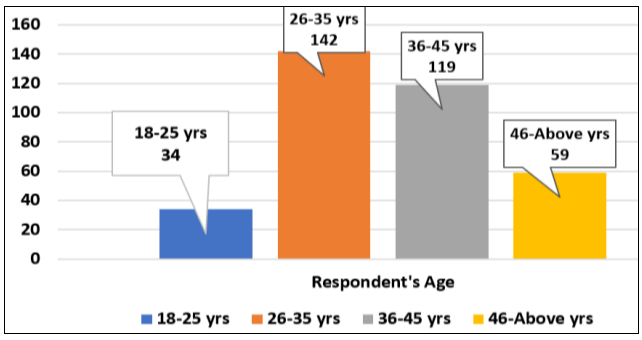

Fig 4: Age for the Respondents

According to the findings, the 26–35 years age group was the largest, comprising 142 respondents (40.1%). The second largest group was the 36–45 years category, with 119 respondents (33.6%). The 46 years and above group accounted for 59 respondents (16.7%). The smallest segment of the sample was the 18–25 years age group, with 34 respondents (9.6%). The significant proportion of young adults aged 26-35 was likely due to their high level of activity and energy within society. They are constantly engaged in work, either to support their families or fulfill their employment responsibilities. This exposes them to numerous opportunities to interact with various inter-agency coordination activities and increases the likelihood of encountering incidents of armed banditry. Additionally, most respondents in this age group have completed their college education and are either seeking employment, working in entry-level positions, or running their own businesses. As a result, they are more likely to be found outdoors and available for interviews. The results contradict the security study carried out by Kimani, Okemwa and Masiga (2021) [17] revealed that, the majority of the participants (50%) were the young individuals aged between 19 and 28 years. The second largest group (27.9%) consisted of people aged 29 to 38 years. This variation can be attributed to the fact that, the cattle rustling among the North Rift communities is closely linked to initiation rites, making those aged 19 to 28 more susceptible to involvement compared to other age groups. Whereas armed banditry along the border of Isiolo and Meru counties, is engaged in by a certain age group that has passes the initiation phase and is inclined to earn a living through activities that are lucrative.

3.3 Respondents' Levels of Education

Respondents were instructed to specify their level of education by inserting a mark where the applicable selection was given. The data is captured in below (Fig 5).

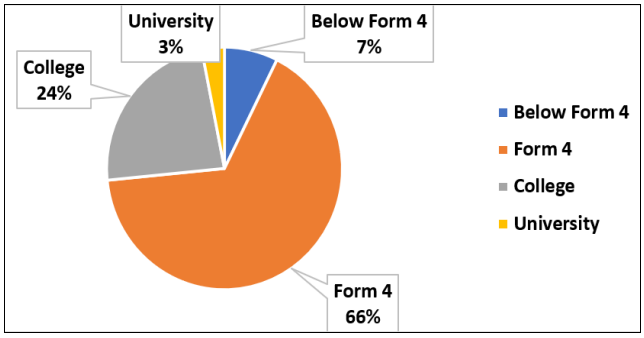

Fig 5: Education Demographic Data of the Respondents

In terms of education, 26 (7%) of the respondents had been below the form 4 level of education, but 234 (66%) had their highest level of education at form 4. Those who had gone to a college after their form 4 education were 83 (24%). Lastly, those who had been to the university were 11 (3%). It is a pointer that most of the respondents had an ability of good mastery of the questions that were being put to them due to their educational exposure. The results echo McKinsey in his survey is quoted by Hieronimus (2015) [13] as stating that, most individuals have a belief that, their studies after secondary school, enhanced their chances to be employed. Therefore, secondary education is the threshold level required for entry into acquiring a decent life. In most

countries, the basic education requirement is the secondary school certificate. Therefore, it was not startling that majority had secondary education.

Objectives for the Study

After presenting and examining the demographic characteristics of the participants, this section concentrates on the presentation and analysis of the primary research objectives. It is worth recalling that the study had four objectives.

Various Forms of Existing Inter-Agencies Coordination Mechanisms for Addressing Armed Banditry in Isiolo-Meru Border Region, Kenya

This section provides analyzed and interpreted data concerning the first objective. Addressing armed banditry requires a collaborative approach among various security agencies to ensure a comprehensive response to security challenges. Understanding the existing inter-agency coordination mechanisms is essential in evaluating their role in managing security operations. Therefore, this study examined the various forms of inter-agency coordination mechanisms for addressing armed banditry in the Isiolo-Meru border region. To establish these mechanisms, participants were asked to identify the inter-agency coordination approaches that have been implemented to address armed banditry in the region. The findings are displayed below (Fig 6):

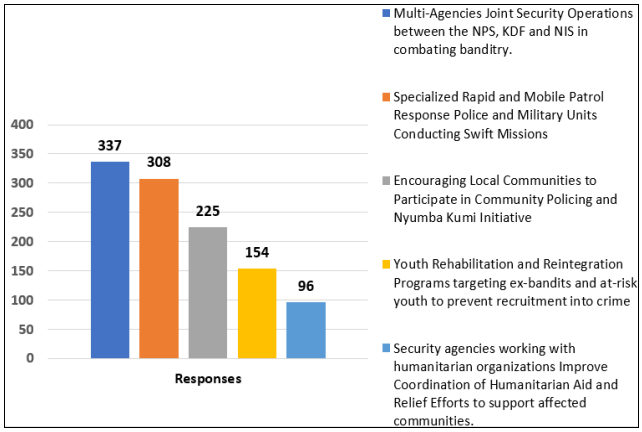

Fig 6: Various Forms of Existing Inter-Agencies Coordination Mechanisms for Addressing Armed Banditry in Isiolo-Meru Border Region, Kenya

As indicated in the findings, most participants mentioned that Multi-Agencies Joint Security Operations were the most effective coordination mechanism in armed combating banditry, represented by 337 (95.20%). This was followed in the second position by Specialized Rapid and Mobile Patrol Response Police and Military Units, which were cited as crucial in conducting swift missions, represented by 308 (87.01%).

In the third position, participants highlighted the importance of Encouraging Local Communities to take part in Community Policing and the Nyumba Kumi Initiative, represented by 225 (63.56%). This was followed by the Youth Rehabilitation and the Reintegration Programs, which aim to prevent the recruitment into banditry, represented by 154 (43.50%).

Lastly, Security Agencies Working with Humanitarian Organizations for Aid and Relief Efforts was mentioned as a coordination mechanism, though with relatively lower recognition, represented by 96 (27.12%). These findings are elaborated in the subsequent sections.

a. Multi-Agencies Joint Security Operations between the NPS, KDF, and NIS in armed combating banditry

This section presents information in relation to the most mentioned form of existing inter-agencies coordination mechanisms for addressing armed banditry in the Isiolo-Meru border region, Kenya. Multi-Agencies Joint Security Operations play a crucial role in enhancing coordinated responses to security threats posed by armed banditry. These operations bring together various security actors to facilitate intelligence sharing, strategic deployment, and synchronized actions aimed at suppressing criminal activities. Through such collaboration, security efforts become more effective in mitigating armed banditry-related incidents and maintaining stability in the region. A regional Commissioner interviewed explained.

> *"We undertake joint security operations through the close collaboration among agencies, that allows for real-time intelligence sharing and swift action against armed banditry. Additionally, our coordination forums at regional and national levels have enabled us to streamline strategies, allocate resources effectively, and assess emerging security challenges. We also work closely with county governments, which provide essential support in policy formulation and logistical resources, strengthening our fight against armed banditry"*

An Elder Resident respondent had this to say…

> *"We have seen a significant change since security agencies started working together more closely. In the past, information would take too long to reach the authorities, but now, our chiefs and local administrators work directly with security teams, ensuring that intelligence on planned attacks is acted upon swiftly. This has enhanced trust between the various security forces and residents is essential for combating armed banditry"*

The Regional Commissioner's remarks highlighted the significance of joint security operations and intelligence sharing in enhancing the effectiveness of inter-agency coordination in combating armed banditry. By working together, the Administration Police Service (APS), the Kenya Police Service (KPS), the Regional and County Security Committees, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), the Kenya Defense Forces (KDF) and the Community Policing Units have been able to quickly respond to threats, minimizing the chances of the bandits executing successful attacks. Real-time intelligence sharing being part of it, has played a crucial role in preventing attacks before they happen, as the agencies have severally swiftly analyzed and acted on gathered information. The ability to communicate and share resources across the different agencies has ensured that no single unit has been overwhelmed, making security responses more strategic and effective. The regional and national coordination forums have also provided an essential platform for the security agencies where they have streamlined strategies, ensuring that the security operations remain proactive rather than reactive.

The Commissioner also highlighted the role of the county governments in supporting the security efforts, emphasizing their contribution in the policy formulation and the logistical resource allocation. The county governments have played a critical role in ensuring that security operations are well-supported by providing funding, facilitating infrastructure development, and coordinating local security initiatives. According to Ibrahim and Wario (2022) [14], through such support, joint security teams can be able to sustain prolonged operations, deploy officers effectively, and enhance mobility in bandit-prone areas. Without the involvement of county governments, security agencies would be struggling with inadequate resources, which could hinder their ability to sustain their efforts against armed banditry. The structured collaboration between county authorities and security agencies has contributed to a more organized and resource-backed approach in combating insecurity along the Isiolo-Meru border.

On the other hand, the elder resident's statement emphasized the improved efficiency of intelligence gathering and response mechanisms in combating armed banditry. In the past, delays in reporting criminal activities to authorities allowed bandits to escape before action could be taken. However, with the increased involvement of chiefs and local administrators, intelligence now reaches security teams in a timelier manner, allowing for swift responses. This collaboration has not only improved the effectiveness of security operations but also fostered a sense of trust between security agencies and the local communities. The ability of residents to rely on local leaders as a bridge between them and security officers has strengthened community-based security efforts, ensuring that information flow is no longer hindered by fear or bureaucracy.

Additionally, the Elder Resident pointed out that trust between security agencies and the community has improved, which is essential in fighting armed banditry. Previously, a lack of coordination and engagement between security forces and residents often led to miscommunication, fear, and reluctance to report criminal activities. With the improved coordination, residents now feel that their concerns are taken seriously and that, the security teams are actively working to protect them. As show in Fig 7 below as the researcher convincing the residents to gain their trust to participate.

Fig 7: The Researcher Convincing the Residents to Gain their Trust Just to Participate

Henigson (2020) [11] had also argued that, trust-building initiatives, such as community meetings, joint patrols, and conflict resolution forums, can play a key role in bridging the gap between security forces and the people they serve. The closer relationship between security agencies and the local population has resulted in better cooperation, increased information-sharing, and stronger community-led security efforts.

In conclusion, both respondents emphasized that multi-agency security operations have significantly improved the fight against armed banditry. The Regional Commissioner highlighted the importance of intelligence sharing, coordination forums, and county government support, while the Elder Resident focused on the strengthened relationship between local leaders, security forces, and the community. These perspectives illustrated how security efforts have evolved from disjointed operations to a more coordinated and inclusive approach. Moving forward, maintaining strong inter-agency collaboration, enhancing intelligence networks, and reinforcing trust with the community will be crucial in achieving long-term stability and security in the Isiolo-Meru border region.

b. Specialized Rapid and Mobile Patrol Response Police and Military Units Conducting Swift Missions

This section presents information in relation to the second most mentioned form of existing inter-agencies coordination mechanism for addressing armed banditry in the Isiolo-Meru border region, Kenya. Specialized rapid and mobile patrol response police and military units play a crucial role in enhancing security by conducting swift missions in volatile areas. These units are trained to respond quickly to intelligence reports, engage in high-risk operations, and pursue armed bandits across vast and remote terrains. Their mobility and ability to deploy rapidly allow them to neutralize threats before they escalate, thereby reducing the frequency and severity of attacks. Additionally, their presence deters criminal activities, reassures local communities, and strengthens the overall effectiveness of security coordination in the region. In the words of a Police officers under the rank of an inspector respondent…

> *"Our rapid response teams act on real-time information to prevent attacks before they happen. Securing porous borders has been a priority, with increased patrols and cooperation between county and national security teams. On major highways, we have intensified security checks and roadblocks to disrupt bandit movements and intercept stolen livestock. Specialized anti-banditry units, such as the Anti-Stock Theft Unit, have been instrumental in dismantling cattle rustling networks, making it harder for criminals to operate"*

The police officer's statement highlighted the critical role of rapid response teams in preventing banditry attacks through real-time rapid response teams' action. According to Lemieux (2024) [21], by leveraging intelligence fusion centers, security agencies can be able to quickly analyze threats and coordinate timely interventions. This proactive approach has ensured that potential attacks were intercepted before they escalated, minimizing casualties and losses. Intelligence-driven operations also enabled security teams to target high-risk areas, deploying specialized units to disrupt

criminal networks and enhance overall security in the Isiolo-Meru border region.

The officer also underscored the importance of securing porous borders, which were often exploited by bandits for movement and smuggling stolen livestock. Increased patrols along these borders, in collaboration with county and national security teams, has therefore enhanced surveillance and deterred several acts of armed bandtry. Coordination between local and national authorities allowed for better resource allocation and operational efficiency, ensuring that security gaps were addressed effectively. This collaboration strengthened regional security efforts by preventing bandits from crossing into other areas undetected. Highway security and roadblocks has also played a significant role in disrupting armed bandit movements and intercepting what they steal. In contrast, Ifeanyichukwu, *et al*. (2023) [15] had argued, that many of roadblocks were for pecuniary interests not really for security of life and property of the zone. And that the same, deteriorates public confidence among the police organization and officers. But this study has found out that, by setting up checkpoints along major transport routes, security officers have been able to monitor suspicious activities, recover stolen goods, and prevent the trafficking of illegal weapons. These roadblocks have served as deterrents, making it more challenging for criminals to transport stolen properties across counties. Additionally, the presence of heightened security measures reassured travelers and traders, fostering economic activities in areas previously affected by insecurity.

The officer further highlighted the role of specialized anti-banditry units, particularly the Anti-Stock Theft Unit (ASTU), in combating cattle rustling syndicates. These specialized units are trained to handle livestock-related crimes and are equipped with the necessary tools to track and recover stolen animals. By dismantling organized cattle rustling networks, these units weakened the financial lifeline of armed bandit groups, making it increasingly difficult for them to sustain operations. Their targeted approach has helped to reduce livestock theft incidents and is helping to restore confidence among the pastoralist and non-pastoralist communities.

In summary, the integration of Mobile Border Security Initiatives, Intensified Highway Security and Roadblocks and specialized anti-banditry units have significantly enhanced efforts to combat armed banditry. The officer's statement reinforced the importance of sustained coordination among security agencies to ensure long-term stability in the Isiolo-Meru border area.

c. Encouraging Local Communities to Actively Participate in Community Policing and Nyumba Kumi Initiative

This section presents information in relation to the third most mentioned form of existing inter-agencies coordination mechanism for addressing armed banditry in the Isiolo-Meru border region, Kenya. Encouraging local communities to actively participate in community policing and the Nyumba Kumi Initiative has played a crucial role in enhancing security efforts. Through these grassroots approaches, residents collaborate with security agencies and thereby foster a culture of collective responsibility in crime prevention. The involvement of community members has helped bridge the gap between law enforcement and the public, leading to timely interventions against armed banditry. A Verbatim from a Commissioned Officer Interviewed was that…

> *"We have seen great progress through the active involvement of local communities in community policing and the Nyumba Kumi Initiative. Residents have become more willing to share intelligence and report suspicious activities, which has significantly improved response time in countering armed banditry. Additionally, cross-county security committees have strengthened coordination between Isiolo and Meru, allowing officials to strategize and implement security measures effectively. Our collaboration with local leaders and religious figures in inter-county peace committees has also played a vital role in resolving conflicts before they escalate"*

A Resident (Non-Elder) Interviewed respondent had this view…

> *"Community policing has made us feel more involved in securing our villages. Before, people feared speaking up, but now we report any unusual activity without hesitation because we know it helps prevent banditry attacks. Chiefs and village elders have been instrumental in strengthening encouraging local residents to participate and be part of the nyumba kumi initiative. Also, the protection of witnesses and informants has given us more confidence to provide crucial information without fear of retaliation from the criminals"*

The involvement of local communities in security initiatives, as highlighted by the commissioned officer, has played a crucial role in addressing armed banditry in the Isiolo-Meru border region. The Nyumba Kumi Initiative and community policing programs have empowered residents to actively participate in crime prevention by reporting suspicious activities. This collaboration between residents and security agencies has enhanced intelligence gathering, enabling law enforcement officers to respond swiftly to emerging threats. The willingness of the community to engage in these initiatives has demonstrated a growing sense of ownership in ensuring their own safety.

The establishment of cross-county security committees further have reinforced coordination between Isiolo and Meru counties. As stated by the commissioned officer, these committees facilitated regular meetings between security officials and the local residents, allowing for joint strategizing and implementation of effective measures. Through these platforms, the various stakeholders have worked together to monitor and address security challenges that have spilled over the administrative boundaries. The structured approach to encourage local communities to actively participate in community policing and nyumba kumi initiatives, has helped to bridge gaps in communication and strengthened overall security operations in the region.

The contributions of local leaders and religious figures in peacebuilding have also been instrumental in mitigating conflicts before they escalated into full-blown banditry. The inter-county peace committees have provided platforms through community policing and nyumba kumi, for dialogue between rival groups, fostering reconciliation and reducing tensions. As noted by the commissioned officer, these

efforts have played a critical role in preventing disputes from escalating into violence.

Modise, *et al* (2023) [24] had also argued that, to avert social conflicts, the police undertake Community Policing programs this entail optimizing problem mapping, increasing public knowledge of the importance of upholding security and order. By encouraging local communities to actively participate in community policing and nyumba kumi initiatives that are inclined to conflict resolution, security agencies have gained local support, making it easier to implement long-term peace strategies.

The resident respondent emphasized the impact of grassroots security structures, particularly the role of chiefs and village elders in encouraging local communities to actively participate in nyumba kumi initiatives. Furthermore, Hidayatullah *et al*. (2023) [12] argued that, community policing requires more than just law enforcement, but entails building trust, fostering open communication, and actively involving community members in the co-creation of safety solutions. The involvement of these community leaders strengthens intelligence-sharing mechanisms, ensuring that law enforcement officers received timely information about potential threats. With the increased confidence of residents in reporting crime, security agencies have been able to act proactively, preventing attacks before they occurred. This shift in attitude has demonstrated a transformation in community participation, with residents taking an active role in safeguarding their localities.

Lastly, the strengthening of witness protection programs also developed as a key aspect in developing community policing. The resident respondent noted that fear of retaliation had previously discouraged people from reporting crime, but improved protection measures have allowed informants to come forward without fear. This development has increased the flow of valuable intelligence to security agencies, enabling them to dismantle banditry networks more effectively. The overall collaboration between communities and law enforcement through local communities actively participating in community policing and nyumba kumi initiatives have significantly contributed to improving security in the Isiolo-Meru border region.

d. Youth Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programs Targeting Ex-Bandits and At-Risk Youth to Prevent Recruitment into Crime

This section presents information in relation to the fourth most mentioned form of existing inter-agencies coordination mechanism for addressing armed banditry in the Isiolo-Meru border region, Kenya. Youth rehabilitation and reintegration programs targeting ex-bandits and at-risk youth has played a crucial role in preventing recruitment into crime by offering alternative pathways to a stable livelihood. These programs, implemented through coordinated efforts between security agencies, local governments, and community organizations, have focused on providing economic empowerment opportunities. By addressing the root causes of banditry, such as poverty and lack of education, these initiatives have aimed to reintegrate former offenders into society while deterring vulnerable youth from engaging in armed banditry. A Leader of a Community-Based Organization interviewed had this to say…

> *"Our organization has been working closely with security agencies and local leaders to rehabilitate young people who were once involved in banditry. Through economic empowerment programs, we have provided vocational training and small business support to help them build sustainable livelihoods. Additionally, disarmament and amnesty initiatives have encouraged many to voluntarily surrender illegal firearms, allowing them to reintegrate into the community and pursue a more stable future. These efforts have given at-risk youth an alternative to crime, reducing the cycle of violence in our region"*

The respondent highlighted the critical role of youth rehabilitation and reintegration programs in addressing armed banditry. These initiatives have focused on guiding ex-bandits and at-risk youth towards a lawful and productive lifestyle. By collaborating with security agencies and local leaders, community-based organizations (CBOs) have helped young people transition from a life of crime to one of economic stability. The rehabilitation programs have provided psychosocial support and counseling, addressing the trauma and social factors that had pushed many youths into armed banditry. According to Truphena (2019) [35] such an approach ensures that former criminals were not only disarmed but also empowered to make positive contributions to their society.

Economic empowerment programs emerged as a crucial component of these rehabilitation efforts. Many young people had been drawn into armed banditry due to a lack of economic opportunities, making it essential to provide alternative means of livelihood. Through vocational training, small finance support, and skills labor development initiatives, ex-bandits and at-risk youth have been equipped with practical skills to start small businesses and some to even secure employment. These programs have helped to reduce dependency on crime for survival and fostered self-sufficiency among the participants, ultimately reducing the appeal of banditry.

Disarmament and amnesty programs have also played a vital role in reintegration efforts. By encouraging ex-bandits to surrender illegal firearms without fear of prosecution, security agencies and CBOs have successfully removed many weapons from distribution. This has not only reduced the frequency of armed confrontations but also signaled a shift toward non-violent conflict resolution. According to International Crisis Group (2020) [16], the reintegration of former bandits into the community can further strengthened peace initiatives, as those who once contributed to insecurity have become advocates for stability and progress. And this can represent a better chance for halting the spread of violence and achieving a measure of stability in a region.

Furthermore, the engagement of community leaders and local authorities in these programs have helped to facilitate trust between the rehabilitated youth and the broader society. Chiefs, elders, and religious leaders have provided mentorship and social support to ensure that reformed individuals were accepted back into their communities. This involvement has prevented the relapse into criminal activities and reinforced the idea that sustainable peace required a collective effort. By integrating ex-bandits into structured social and economic systems, the risk of reoffending has been significantly minimized.

Ultimately, the success of these initiatives has underscored the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach in tackling armed banditry. The collaboration between security

agencies, CBOs, and local leaders has ensured that rehabilitation efforts are comprehensive and sustainable. Investing in youth empowerment and reintegration has not only improved security in the Isiolo-Meru border region but also promoted long-term socio-economic development. By addressing the root causes of these armed crimes, these programs are offering a lasting solution to the cycle of violence and instability.

e. Security Agencies Working with Humanitarian Organizations to Improve Coordination of Humanitarian Aid and Relief Efforts to Support Affected Communities

This section presents information in relation to the least mentioned form of existing inter-agencies coordination mechanism for addressing armed banditry in the Isiolo-Meru border region, Kenya. Security agencies have worked closely with humanitarian organizations to enhance the coordination of aid and relief efforts in communities affected by banditry-related violence. This collaboration has facilitated the safe delivery of essential supplies such as food, medical aid, and shelter to displaced populations while ensuring that humanitarian workers operate in secure environments. Additionally, joint efforts between security forces and relief agencies have enabled a timely response to emerging conflicts. By integrating security and humanitarian operations, this coordination mechanism has played a crucial role in stabilizing vulnerable communities and fostering resilience in areas frequently affected by banditry. A leader of a CBO had this to say…

> *"As a community-based organization, we have seen firsthand the impact of improved coordination between security agencies and humanitarian groups. With security teams ensuring safe access to affected areas, relief organizations can effectively deliver food, medical aid, and shelter to displaced families. This partnership has strengthened our ability to support vulnerable communities, especially in times of crisis, by ensuring that assistance reaches those who need it most without unnecessary delays"* (RESP7/02/2025)

A County Commissioner respondent by saying…

> *"Our collaboration with humanitarian organizations has greatly enhanced service delivery in banditry-prone areas. Through structured public-private partnerships, we have mobilized support from NGOs, civil society groups, and private entities to fund and implement key security and relief initiatives. These efforts not only have provided immediate aid to affected populations but also contributed to the long-term resilience of the communities by addressing the root causes of armed banditry in these communities"* (RESP8/02/2025)

The collaboration between security agencies and humanitarian organizations has played a crucial role in mitigating the impact of armed banditry on affected communities. As highlighted by the leader of a community-based organization (CBO), security teams have ensured safe access to volatile areas, allowing humanitarian groups to deliver essential aid. This partnership has been instrumental in providing food, medical care, and shelter to displaced families, ensuring that those affected by violence receive timely assistance. Without such coordination, many vulnerable populations would remain without critical support, aggravating their suffering and displacement.

The County Commissioner's remarks further emphasized the structured nature of these collaborations, particularly through public-private partnerships. By working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society groups, and private entities, security agencies have helped them to secure funding and resources to implement security and relief initiatives. Shehu and Abba (2020) [32] had also alluded that, such partnerships can not only facilitate immediate humanitarian responses but also enable the development of sustainable interventions aimed at addressing the root causes of vulnerabilities. Such initiatives have included rebuilding infrastructures like stalls, supporting local businesses by procuring their merchandise, and promoting economic stability in banditry-prone areas.

Beyond immediate relief efforts, the coordination between security agencies and humanitarian organizations have strengthened long-term community resilience. Programs that focus on rebuilding livelihoods and providing education to displaced individuals have contributed to reducing reliance on humanitarian aid. The involvement of both government and non-government actors have ensured that affected populations are not only protected but also empowered to recover and rebuild their lives. This multi-sectoral approach has been vital in fostering stability and reducing the socio-economic drivers of armed banditry.

Moreover, the engagement of humanitarian organizations in security efforts has enhanced trust between communities and law enforcement agencies. In the past, some communities like the Somali, viewed security forces with suspicion, fearing retaliation due to past experiences. Studies such as Blind (2019) [4] have suggested that, since humanitarian crises that result from violent conflicts are inherently developmental challenges, they cannot be solved using quick interventions and short-term measures. However, the collaboration between security agencies and aid organizations can improve perceptions by demonstrating that security efforts are not solely focused on enforcement but also on humanitarian assistance. This shift has encouraged more community members to cooperate with security forces, leading to better intelligence-sharing and proactive armed banditry prevention.

In conclusion, the partnership between security agencies and humanitarian organizations has transformed the response to armed banditry in the Isiolo-Meru border region. By ensuring the safe delivery of aid, mobilizing support through public-private partnerships, and fostering long-term community resilience, this collaboration has significantly contributed to restoring stability in affected areas. The continued strengthening of such coordination mechanisms remains essential in addressing both the immediate and long-term challenges posed by banditry, ultimately improving the security and well-being of local populations.

4. Recommendations

Based the conclusions of the study, the study recommended the establishment of a Unified Command Center to enhance real-time intelligence sharing, resource coordination, and strategic planning among security agencies for more efficient and cohesive counter-banditry operations.

5. Further Research

Based on the scope and the findings for this study, the following is the recommendation for future research: This research had restricted itself to the various forms of existing inter-agencies coordination mechanisms for addressing armed banditry in the Isiolo-Meru border region, Kenya. However, a number of similarities in the various forms of existing inter-agencies coordination mechanisms for addressing armed banditry 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.

6. Acknowledgement

I appreciate my mentor Dr. Gerald Mutonyi, of the Department of Security, Diplomacy and Peace Studies, at Kenyatta University for his mentorship. I also acknowledge the whole fraternity of the school of law, arts and social sciences at Kenyatta University for their effort in modelling security studies.

7. References

1. Adamu I, Ben A. Armed banditry in the Sahel: Causes and implications for regional security. Journal of Security Studies. 2022: 34(2):150-165. Doi: https://doi.org/10.1080/jss.2022.106754
2. Baguley T. Understanding statistical power in the context of applied research. Applied Ergonomics. 2004; 35:73-80. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15105068
3. Baudouin S. Security and governance challenges in Mali: A cross-border analysis. African Security Review. 2022; 31(2):118-135. Doi: https://doi.org/10.1080/10246029.2022.2022578
4. Blind PK. Humanitarian SDGs: Interlinking the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the Agenda for Humanity. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York, 2019. https://ideas.repec.org/p/une/wpaper/160.html
5. Crossman A. Understanding purposive sampling: An overview of the method and its implications, 2017. https://www.thoughtco.com/purposive-sampling-3026727
6. Dvojmoč M. Competences of Security Guards in Slovenia as Assessed by Users and Security Managers. Journal of Criminal Justice and Security. 2016; 18(4):400-417. Retrieved from: https://www.fvv.um.si/rv/arhiv/2016 4/02_Dvojmoc_rV_2016-4.pdf
7. García Pinzón V. Containing violence in El Salvador: Community organization, transnational networks and state–society relations. Development and Change. 2022; 54(1):192-219. Doi: https://doi.org/10.1111/dech.12748
8. Garcia L, Patel S. Enhancing inter-agency coordination in combating organized crime: Lessons from regional security frameworks. Journal of Security Policy. 2021; 15(3):112-128. Doi: https://doi.org/10.1080/jsp.2021.1649856
9. Gay L, Diehl P. Research Methods for Business and Management. New York: Macmillan, 1992.
10. Hagaman K, Wutich A. How many interviews are enough to identify metathemes in multisited and cross-cultural research? Another perspective on Guest, Bunce, and Johnson's (2006) landmark study. Field Methods. 2017; 29(1):23-41. Doi: https://doi.org/10.1177/1525822X16640447
11. Henigson H. Community engagement in UN peacekeeping operations: A people-centered approach to protecting civilians. International Peace Institute, November 2020. https://www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2011_POC-and-Community-Engagement.pdf
12. Hidayatullah M, Suherman A, Salam A. The role of public relations of Baubau City Police in conveying public information (Indonesian). Innovative: Journal of Social Science Research. 2023; 3(4):3211-3221. Doi: https://doi.org/10.31004/innovative.v3i4.3878
13. Hieronimus S. Education to employment: Getting Europe's youth into work. McKinsey & Company, London, 2015.
14. Ibrahim HA, Wario HA. Understanding the role of community-based organisations in radicalisation and terror-related activities in Nairobi County, Kenya. African Journal of Arts and Social Sciences. 2022; 5(2):162-175. Doi: https://doi.org/10.37284/eajass.5.2.958
15. Ifeanyichukwu O, Mustapha A, Edafe U, Hussaini HA. Security checkpoints and police extortion: A study of road transport corridors in Imo State, Nigeria. Scholars International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice. 2023; 6(10):522;533. Doi: https://doi.org/10.36348/sijlcj.2023.v06i10.002
16. International Crisis Group. Violence in Nigeria's North West: Rolling back the mayhem (Report No. 288 / Africa), May 18, 2020. https://www.crisisgroup.org/sites/default/files/288-violence-in-nigerias-north-west_0.pdf
17. Kimani J, Okemwa P, Masiga C. Gender transformation in cattle rustling and its implications on security management in West Pokot County, Kenya [Doctoral dissertation, Kenyatta University]. Kenyatta University Institutional Repository, 2021. https://ir-library.ku.ac.ke/server/api/core/bitstreams/51715194-b99d-4dee-a79e-0808364ef1c3/content
18. Kone A. The role of international cooperation in countering armed groups in Mali. African Politics Journal. 2021; 23(4):210-226. Doi: https://doi.org/10.1080/21568008.2021.1952023
19. Krejcie R, Morgan W. Determining sample size for research activities. Educational & Psychological Measurement. 1970; 30:607-610. Doi: https://doi.org/10.1177/001316447003000308
20. Kriegel H-P, Kröger P, Schubert E, Zimek A. Outlier detection in arbitrarily oriented subspaces. In 2012 IEEE 12th International Conference on Data Mining, Brussels, Belgium. 2012, 379-388. Doi: https://doi.org/10.1109/ICDM.2012.21
21. Lemieux F. Criminal Intelligence. In Intelligence and State Surveillance in Modern Societies, Emerald Publishing Limited, Leeds, 2024, 65-83. Doi: https://doi.org/10.1108/978-1-83549-097-620242004
22. Martin P, Bateson P. Measuring Behaviour: An Introductory Guide. Cambridge University Press, 2007. Doi: https://doi.org/10.1002/ajpa.13307 40314
23. Mkutu K. Pastoralism and conflicts over resources in East Africa. Nomadic Peoples. 2021; 25(1):45-63. Doi: https://doi.org/10.3197/np.2021.250104

24. Modise JM, Mugambiwa SS, Rakubu KA. Implementing community policing practices to manage conflict resolution in Galeshewe, South Africa. Journal of Infrastructure, Policy and Development. 2024; 8(11):8605. Doi: https://doi.org/10.24294/jipd.v8i11.8605
25. Mugo J. Operation to flush out bandits on Meru-Isiolo border launched. Citizen Digital, August 29, 2017. https://citizen.digital/news/operation-to-flush-out-bandits-on-meru-isiolo-border-launched-174105/
26. Mutethia G. Kindiki declares Meru North security zone in war on stock theft. The Star, May 4, 2023. https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/2023-05-04-kindiki-declares-meru-north-security-zone-in-war-on-stock-theft
27. Mutonyi G, Sirera A, Mwai W. Commercialized security and national security [Doctoral Dissertation, Kenyatta University]. Kenyatta University Institutional Repository, 2021. http://ir-library.ku.ac.ke/handle/123456789/22582
28. Mwangi P. Challenges and strategies in countering armed banditry in northern Kenya. African Security Review. 2020; 29(3):45-60. Doi: https://doi.org/10.1080/10246029.2020.1752735
29. Okebiro JA, Mutonyi G. Private security companies and crime detection and prevention in Nairobi County, Kenya. Reviewed Journal of Social Science & Humanities. 2022; 3(1):49-73. https://www.reviewedjournals.com/index.php/RJSSH/article/view/54/42
30. Okoli AC, Ugwu A. Borderline banditry and regional security challenges in Nigeria. African Security Review. 2019; 28(1):20-35. Doi: https://doi.org/10.1080/10246029.2019.1596055
31. Robertson T, Watts E. The importance of age, sex and place in understanding socioeconomic inequalities in allostatic load: Evidence from the Scottish Health Survey (2008–2011). BMC Public Health. 2016; 16:126. Retrieved from: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4746832/
32. Shehu M, Abba A. Humanitarian crisis and sustainable development: Perspectives and preferences of internally displaced persons in northeastern Nigeria. International Journal of Humanitarian Action. 2020; 5(17). Doi: https://doi.org/10.1186/s41018-020-00084-2
33. Smith J, Brown P, Ahmed R. Inter-agency collaboration in crisis management: Challenges and opportunities. Journal of Public Administration and Governance. 2019; 8(1):45-60. Doi: https://doi.org/10.5296/jpag.v8i1.14231
34. Theresa W, McBurney D. Research Methods (8th ed.). Cengage Learning, Belmont, 2012.
35. Truphena EM. Youth inclusive mechanism for preventing and countering violent extremism in the IGAD region: A case study of Kenya. Ethiopia: ALemu Tesfaye, 2019. Doi: https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.17204.19840
36. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Firearms trafficking in the context of organized crime. UNODC Report, 2020. https://www.unodc.org
37. Wanyoike M. Inter-agency collaboration and security challenges in Kenya's northern frontier. Journal of East African Studies. 2021; 15(1):98-112. Doi: https://doi.org/10.1080/17531055.2021.1883359