

EFFECTIVENESS OF NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE MECHANISMS IN CONFLICT MANAGEMENT IN GARISSA AND BARINGO COUNTIES, KENYA

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Abstract: Over the years Garissa County in Kenya has experienced increased religious and ethnic conflicts. Research conducted indicate that increased radicalization of the youth and attacks by Al-Shabaab in the county has compounded the conflict situation. In Baringo County ethnic conflict has escalated radicalization of the youth resulting to increased conflicts. The Kenya National Police Service has a mandate to maintain law and order hence the focus on conflict management and radicalization in the two counties. The purpose of this study is to access the effectiveness of Kenya National Police Service's strategies and mechanisms in managing conflict in Garissa and Baringo counties in the context of radicalization. The study adopts integrated research design composed of descriptive and correlational dispositions. The target population of the study was 697 Village Elders, 415 Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs, 55 County Muslim clergies, 100 Police Reservists, 48 County Police Commanders, 65 Christian clergies, 8 Anti-Terrorist Police Unit Operational Commanders and 6 National Crime Research Center field managers. Purposive and simple random sampling techniques were used to sample the study respondents. Questionnaires, interviews and Focus Group Discussions were used to collect data. Qualitative data was analyzed based on study objectives. The study findings revealed that radicalization in both counties led to violent conflicts influencing the police to use violent approaches.

Study findings also inform policy on National Police strategies unique to each county due to the uniqueness of the forms of radicalization. The study also inform policy on government's provision of adequate personnel and equipment for conflict management in the two counties. Finally, the study adds knowledge on the influence of radicalization on crime management in the two counties.

Keywords: Mechanisms, Conflict, Counter Radicalization, Conflict Management, Reconciliation.

1. INTRODUCTION

This article examines the effectiveness of the National Police Mechanisms in conflict management in the context of radicalization. The study was conducted in Garissa and Baringo Counties which are some of the 47 counties in Kenya IEBC (2012). The study was conducted in the two counties due to their vulnerability in radicalization. The study on the effectiveness of National Police Mechanisms in radicalization and conflict management was critical because the two counties are widely known for most terrorist activities (Botha, (2014) and castle rustling. Achuka (2016) and Kangogo(2017) points out that Baringo and Garissa are also known for gross common criminal threats,

2. METHODOLOGY

The study adopts an integrated research design composed of descriptive and correlational dispositions for the effectiveness of the mechanisms utilized by National Police Service in conflict management in Baringo and Garissa counties. The quantitative approach is useful as most logical while qualitative approach is more exhaustive for inclusive data collection and analysis, Neuman (2003).

The population targeted by the study includes the entire grownup (18 years plus) populations of the two counties, respectively. The study targets an adult population, for according to Lavrakas (2008), the target population should comprise an entire set of units of equally survey able potentials and for which the survey data are used to make inferences. In the current research context, it is primarily the adult population that is survey able; it can provide a sample capable of prudently addressing questions related to conflict management.

This study adapts Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), sampling formula which states a sample size of 10% of the population should be considered adequate for descriptive study.

With sample size determined, simple random sampling was used to get 10% sample from each of these respondents: village elders and local chiefs, county Muslim clergy, police reservists heads, police county commanders, catholic clergy and protestant clergy. In total 151 respondents were sampled.

The instruments of data collection included the questionnaires, interview schedules and Focus Group Discussions.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The six mechanisms used by the National Police Service in conflict management in Garissa and Baringo Counties are;

3.1 Nyumba Kumi Initiative and Conflict Management

Table 1.1.1 Nyumba Kumi Initiative in Garissa and Baringo Counties

Population	Garissa (f)				%		Baringo (f)					%
	SA	A	N	D	SD	%	SA	A	N	D	SD	
Villager Elders	18	6	0	3	4	(84%:16%)	15	6	0	7	5	(64%:36%)
Muslim Clergy	1	2	0	2	0	(80%:20%)	1	0	0	0	0	(0%:100%)
Chiefs & Assistance Chiefs	12	3	0	3	0	(94%:6%)	15	3	0	2	1	(70%:40%)
Police Reservist Heads	2	2	0	0	1	(71%:29%)	2	2	0	1	0	(18%:82%)
County Police Commanders	1	1	0	0	0	(100%:0%)	1	0	0	1	0	(0%:100%)
Christian Clergy	2	0	0	0	0	(100%:0%)	1	1	0	1	1	(75%:25%)

Source: Field Data (2018)

Findings revealed that majority 24(84%) against 7(16%) among village elders respondents agreed that Nyumba Kumi initiative has been effective in conflict management in Garissa county, Majority 3(80%) against 2(20%) among Muslim clergy agreed that Nyumba Kumi initiative has been effective in managing conflict in Garissa county. Majority 15(94%) against 3(6%) among chiefs and assistant chiefs agreed Nyumba Kumi initiative has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Majority 4(71%) against 1(29%) amongst the police reservists respondents agreed that Nyumba Kumi initiative has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Majority 5(100%) majority 2(100%). Majority 2(100%): county commanders and Christian clergy respectively agreed that Nyumba Kumi initiative has been effective in managing conflict in the county.

In Baringo county Findings revealed that majority 21(64%) against 12(36%) among village elders respondents agreed that Nyumba Kumi initiative has been effective in conflict management in Garissa county, Majority 3(80%) against 2(20%) among Muslim clergy agreed that Nyumba Kumi initiative has been effective in managing conflict in Garissa county. Majority 18(71%) against 3(21%) among chiefs and assistant chiefs agreed Nyumba Kumi initiative in the county. Majority 4(71%) against 1(29%) amongst the police reservists respondents agreed that Nyumba Kumi initiative has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Majority 5(100%) majority 2(100%). Majority 2(100%): county commanders and Christian clergy respectively agreed that Nyumba Kumi initiative has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Based on these findings it was concluded that Nyumba Kumi initiative has been effective in conflict management in both Garissa and Baringo County.

3.2 Community Policing and Conflict Management in Garissa and Baringo Counties

Table 1.2.1 Community Policing and Conflict Management in Garissa and Baringo Counties

Population	Garissa (f)						Baringo (f)					
	SA	A	N	D	SD	%	SA	A	N	D	SD	%
Villager Elders	15	6	0	1	6	(68% : 32)	17	8	0	5	3	(76%:24%)
Muslim Clergy	3	1	0	0	1	(80%:20%)	1	0	0	0	0	(100%:0%)
Chiefs & Assistance Chiefs	10	5	0	2	1	(83%: 17%)	9	5	0	1	6	(67%:33%)
Police Reservist Heads	2	2	0	1	0	(80%:20%)	3	1	0	1	0	(80%:20%)
County Police Commanders	2	0	0	0	0	(100%: 0%)	1	1	0	0	0	(100%:0%)
Christian Clergy	1	0	1	0	0	(100%:0%)	2	1	0	0	1	(75%: 25%)

Source: Field Data (2018)

Findings revealed that majority 21(68%) against 7(32%) among village elders respondents agreed that Community policing initiative has been effective in conflict management in Garissa county, Majority 3(80%) against 2(20%) among Muslim clergy agreed that Community policing initiative has been effective in managing conflict in Garissa county. Majority 15(80%) against 3(20%) among chiefs and assistant chiefs agreed Community policing initiative has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Majority 4(80%) against 1(20%) amongst the police reservists respondents agreed that Community Policing initiative has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Majority 5(100%) majority 2(100%). Majority 2(100%): county commanders and Christian clergy respectively agreed that Community policing initiative has been effective in managing conflict in the county.

In Baringo county Findings revealed that majority 15(76%) against 8(24%) among village elders respondents agreed that Community policing initiative has been effective in conflict management in the county. Majority 14(67%) against 7(33%) among chiefs and assistant chiefs agreed that Community policing initiative has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Majority 4(80%) against 1(20%) amongst the police reservists respondents agreed that Community policing initiative has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Majority 5(100%) majority 2(100%). Majority 2(100%): county commanders and Muslim clergy respectively agreed that Community policing initiative has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Majority 3(75%) against 1(25%) agreed that Community initiative has been effective in conflict management in the county.

3.3 Arrests as a mechanism to manage Conflicts in Garissa and Baringo Counties

Table 1.3.1 Arrests as a mechanism to manage Conflicts in Garissa and Baringo Counties

Population	Garissa (f)						Baringo (f)					
	SA	A	N	D	SD	%	SA	A	N	D	SD	%
Villager Elders	10	11	0	6	4	(68%:32%)	16	8	0	4	5	(73%:27%)
Muslim Clergy	1	3	0	0	1	(80%:20%)	1	0	0	0	0	(100%:0%)
Chiefs & Assistance Chiefs	12	3	0	2	1	(83%:17%)	8	6	0	1	1	(67%:33%)
Police Reservist Heads	2	2	0	1	0	(80%:20%)	3	1	0	1	0	(80%:20%)
County Police Commanders	2	0	0	0	0	(100%:0%)	1	1	0	0	0	(100%:0%)
Christian Clergy	1	0	1	0	0	(100%:0%)	2	1	0	0	1	(75%: 25%)

Source: Field Data (2018)

Findings revealed that majority 21(68%) against 10(32%) among village elders respondents agreed that arresting culprits has been effective in conflict management in Garissa county. Majority 4(80%) against 1(20%) among Muslim clergy

agreed that arresting culprits has been effective in managing conflict in Garissa county. Majority 15(83%) against 3(17%) among chiefs and assistant chiefs agreed arresting culprits has been effective in managing conflicts in Garissa county. Majority 4(80%) against 1(20%) amongst the police reservists respondents agreed that arresting culprits has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Majority 5(100%) majority 2(100%). Majority 2(100%): county commanders and Christian clergy respectively agreed that arresting culprits has been effective in managing conflict in the county.

In Baringo county findings revealed that majority 24(73%) against 9(27%) among village elders respondents agreed that arresting culprits has been effective in conflict management in Baringo county. Majority 14(67%) against 7(33%) among chiefs and assistant chiefs agreed that arresting culprits has been effective in managing conflict in Baringo county. Majority 4(80%) against 1(20%) amongst the police reservists respondents agreed that arresting has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Majority 5(100%) majority 2(100%). Majority 2(100%): County commanders and Muslim clergy respectively agreed that arresting culprits has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Majority 3 (75%) against 1(25%) Christian clergy agreed that arresting has been effective in conflict management in Baringo County.

3.4 Peaceful conflict resolution forums in conflict management in Garissa and Baringo Counties.

Table 1.4.1 Peaceful conflict resolution forums in conflict management in Garissa and Baringo Counties.

Population	Garissa (f)						%	Baringo (f)						%
	SA	A	N	D	SD	%		SA	A	N	D	SD	%	
Villager Elders	17	10	0	3	1	(87%:13%)	15	3	0	7	8	(55%:45%)		
Muslim Clergy	4	0	0	0	1	(80%:20%)	0	0	0	1	0	(0%:100%)		
Chiefs & Assistance Chiefs	12	5	0	0	1	(94%:6%)	9	6	0	0	1	(71%:29%)		
Police Reservist Heads	2	2	0	1	0	(80%:20%)	2	2	0	1	0	(80%:20%)		
County Police Commanders	2	0	0	0	0	(100%:0%)	1	0	0	1	0	(100%:0%)		
Christian Clergy	1	0	1	0	0	(100%:0%)	2	1	0	0	1	(75%:25%)		

Source: Field Data (2018)

Findings revealed that majority 27(87%) against 14(13%) among village elders respondents agreed that peaceful conflict resolution has been effective in conflict management in Garissa county. Majority 4(80%) against 1(20%) among Muslim clergy agreed that peaceful conflict resolution in managing conflict in Garissa county. Majority 17(94%) against 1(6%) among chiefs and assistant chiefs agreed that peaceful conflict resolution has been effective in managing conflicts in Garissa county. Majority 4(80%) against 1(20%) amongst the police reservists respondents agreed that peaceful conflict resolution has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Majority 5(100%) majority 2(100%). Majority 2(100%): county commanders and Christian clergy respectively agreed that peaceful conflict resolution has been effective in managing conflict in the county.

In Baringo county Findings revealed that majority 18(55%) against 15(27%) among village elders respondents agreed that peaceful conflict resolution has been effective in conflict management in Baringo county. Majority 15(71%) against 1(21%) among chiefs and assistant chiefs agreed that peaceful conflict resolution has been effective in managing conflict in Baringo county. Majority 4(80%) against 1(20%) amongst the police reservists respondents agreed that peaceful conflict resolution has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Majority 5(100%) majority and 2(100%) County commanders and Muslim clergy respectively agreed that peaceful conflict resolution has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Majority (75%) against 1(25%) Christian clergy agreed that peaceful conflict resolution has been effective in conflict management in Baringo county.

3.5 Kenya National Police Service partnering with religious groups to create awareness on the evils of conflict in Baringo and Garissa Counties

Table 1.5.1 Kenya National Police Service partnering with religious groups to create awareness on the evils of conflict in Baringo and Garissa Counties

Population	Garissa (f)					%	Baringo (f)					%
	SA	A	N	D	SD		SA	A	N	D	SD	
Villager Elders	13	9	7	0	2	(68%:32%)	16	6	0	5	6	(67%:33%)
Muslim Clergy	3	1	0	0	1	(80%:20%)	0	0	0	1	0	(0%:100%)
Chiefs & Assistance Chiefs	11	5	0	1	1	(94%:6%)	9	1	0	1	1	(90%:10%)
Police Reservist Heads	2	1	0	1	1	(71%:29%)	2	2	0	1	0	(80%:20%)
County Police Commanders	1	1	0	0	0	(100%:0%)	1	1	0	0	0	(100%:0%)
Christian Clergy	1	1	0	0	0	(100%:0%)	3	0	0	0	1	(75%:25%)

Source: Field Data (2018)

Findings revealed that majority 22(68%) against 9(32%) among village elders respondents agreed that Government Partnership with Religious Groups has been effective in conflict management in Garissa county. Majority 4(80%) against 1(20%) among Muslim clergy agreed that Government partnership with religious groups has been effective in managing conflict in Garissa county. Majority 16(94%) against 2(6%) among chiefs and assistant chiefs agreed that Government Partnership with Religious Groups has been effective in managing conflicts in Garissa county. Majority 3(71%) against 2(29%) amongst the police reservists respondents agreed that Government Partnership with Religious Groups has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Majority 5(100%) majority 2(100%). Majority 2(100%): County commanders and Christian clergy respectively agreed that Government Partnership with Religious Groups has been effective in managing conflict in the county.

In Baringo county findings revealed that majority 22(67%) against 11(33%) among village elders respondents agreed that Government Partnership with Religious Groups has been effective in conflict management in Baringo county. Majority 15(62%) against 6(38%) among chiefs and assistant chiefs agreed that Government Partnership with Religious Groups has been effective in managing conflict in Baringo county. Majority 4(80%) against 1(20%) amongst the police reservists respondents agreed that Government Partnership with Religious Groups has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Majority 5(100%) majority and 2(100%) County commanders and Muslim clergy respectively agreed that Government Partnership with Religious Groups has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Majority 3(75%) against 1(25 Christian clergy agreed that has Government Partnership with Religious Groups have been effective in conflict management in Baringo county.

3.6 National cohesion and integration commission in Kenya has helped management of conflict in Baringo and Garissa Counties.

Table 1.6.1 National cohesion and integration commission in Kenya has helped management of conflict in Baringo and Garissa Counties.

Population	Garissa (f)					%	Baringo (f)					%
	SA	A	N	D	SD		SA	A	N	D	SD	
Villager Elders	15	1	0	4	2	(81%:19%)	14	5	0	6	8	(58%:42%)
Muslim Clergy	4	0	0	0	1	(80%:20%)	0	1	0	0	0	(100%:0%)
Chiefs & Assistance Chiefs	7	10	0	0	1	(94%:6%)	6	12	0	3	0	(86%:14%)
Police Reservist Heads	1	3	0	1	0	(80%:20%)	2	1	0	1	1	(60%:40%)
County Police Commanders	1	1	0	0	0	(100%:0%)	1	0	0	1	0	(100%:0%)
Christian Clergy	1	0	1	0	0	(100%:0%)	3	0	0	0	1	(75%:25%)

Source: Field Data (2018)

Findings revealed that majority 25(81%) against 6(19%) among village elders respondents agreed that National Cohesion and Integration Commission has been effective in conflict management in Garissa county. Majority 4(80%) against 1(20%) among Muslim clergy agreed that National Cohesion and Integration Commission been effective in managing conflict in Garissa county. Majority 17(94%) against 1(6%) among chiefs and assistant chiefs agreed that National Cohesion and Integration Commission has been effective in managing Government Partnership with Religious Groups conflicts in Garissa county. Majority 4(80%) against 1(20%) amongst the police reservists respondents agreed that National Cohesion and Integration Commission has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Majority 2(100%) majority 2(100%). Majority 2(100%): County Commanders and Christian clergy respectively agreed that National Cohesion and Integration Commission has been effective in managing conflict in the county.

In Baringo county findings revealed that majority 19(58%) against 14(42%) among village elders respondents agreed that National Cohesion and Integration Commission has been effective in conflict management in Baringo county. Majority 18(86%) against 3(14%) among chiefs and assistant chiefs agreed that National Cohesion and Integration Commission has been effective in managing conflict in Baringo county. Majority 3(60%) against 3(40%) amongst the police reservists respondents agreed that National Cohesion and Integration Commission has been effective in managing conflict in the conflict in the county. Majority 1(100%) majority and 2(100%) County commanders and Muslim clergy respectively agreed that National Cohesion and Integration Commission has been effective in managing conflict in the county. Majority 3(75%) against 1(25 Christian clergy agreed that has National Cohesion and Integration Commission has been effective in conflict management in Baringo county.

Based on these findings the researcher concluded that the various mechanisms utilized by the Kenya National Police are quite effective in conflict management in spite of the challenges faced. These findings concur with Rahim, (2002) who argues that conflict management does not necessarily involve avoidance, reduction, or termination of conflict. It involves designing effective strategies to minimize the dysfunctions of conflict and to enhance the constructive functions of conflict in order to improve team and organizational effectiveness.

4. SUMMARY

This article dealt with effectiveness of Kenya National Police Service mechanisms in conflict management in Garissa and Baringo counties in the context of radicalization. The following mechanisms were found to be significantly effective; Nyumba Kumi Initiative, Community Policing, arresting of culprits, peaceful conflict resolution forums and partnership with religious organizations. National Cohesion and Integration Commission was found to be effective in conflict management in both counties as it dealt with the issue of hate speech and peaceful conflict resolutions for the conflicting groups. Although arresting of culprits was found to be effective, respondents from the focus group discussion and interviews pointed out that non-cooperation from the public to reveal the culprits rendered this approach weak in conflict management.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Islamists radicalization influences conflict management a great deal in Garissa County whereas ethnic radicalization influences conflict management a great deal in Baringo County. In both counties violent conflicts are highly experienced leading to loss of life and property by radical groups which has complicated management of conflicts in both counties.

Study findings revealed that the most effective mechanisms utilized by the government to manage violent conflicts is arrests and judging in courts of law, community policing and Nyumba Kumi initiatives, peaceful conflict and resolution forums and partnership which religious organizations. Each of this mechanisms was found to be effective but none could effectively work to respond to the challenges of porous border coverage by security agencies and inadequate specialised equipment in conflict management.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

According to the study, Islamists radicalization is the most prevalent form of radicalization which influences conflict management a great deal, it is therefore recommended that Garissa community should rethink ways of extremist indoctrination and cooperate in handling the religious extremism.

Ethnic radicalization was found to have complicated conflict management in Baringo County leading to loss of life and property. It is recommended that the conflicting communities consider holding peaceful conflict resolution forums not

only during conflicts settlement but also to partner together in other economic activities to eradicate negative cultural beliefs which cause animosity among communities.

Study findings reveals that arrests, charging in the court of law and use of life firearms are used by the police to manage conflicts in both Garissa and Baringo counties, it is therefore recommended that the police should refrain themselves from using violent means to manage conflicts and instead sensitise the community on the need for unity and adoption of peaceful conflict resolution approaches which the study finds to be effective to a great extent.

On inadequate personnel in law enforcement in conflict management in Garrissa and Baringo counties is also a great challenge and so it is recommended that the government should avail all necessary tools and equipment for use by Kenya National Police Service.

It is clear that radicalization experienced in the county of Garissa could be attributed to the instability of the government of the neighboring country Somali. This is also a clear indication that there could be unnoticed recruitment of Kenyan sympathizers across the border which may make conflict management difficult. The government therefore should put in place mechanisms to address the influence of Somalia political instability on radicalization and conflict in Kenya.

It is recommended that the ex-military be deployed as police reservist Nyumba Kumi and community policing Committees so as to actively involve them in conflict management in both Garissa and Baringo counties. There is need to organize frequent conflict resolution forums in which the conflicting bodies are brought together not only address conflict crisis but also to celebrate the gains of various initiatives put in place to manage conflicts. There is need therefore to put more attention and resources to enhance crime management in radicalized prone counties.

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