

THE INFLUENCE OF CROSS-BORDER SECURITY ON COMMUNITY SAFETY IN KARAMOJA REGION, UGANDA

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL
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DECLARATION

I, UMWALI EDITH, do hereby declare that this research report has not been submitted for any academic award to any institution.

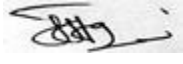
Signed

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Date: 07/05/2026

APPROVAL

This is to certify that this research report was done under my supervision as the academic supervisor, and is ready for submission for examination.

Signed: 

Date: 07/05/2026

Mr. Tabalanga Jonathan

Academic Supervisor

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my family members who supported me emotionally, logistically and physically throughout the entire process of conducting this research.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I do express my acknowledgement and gratitude to a number of people who have in different ways contributed to the completion of this work. First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Tabalanga Jonathan, my supervisor for their unwavering guidance, constructive commitment and generally for successfully seeing through this work. Accordingly, I feel indebted to all the various groups of people who provided me with support, proof read and edited this dissertation as well as providing constructive comments which immensely improved the dissertation. In a special way, I also wish to express my gratitude to Kaabong, Moroto, and Amudat District Local Governments for granting me the permission to conduct the study in the district, and all the respondents who participated in this study, your valuable support and information as respondents made this study successful. Thanks to all my friends at Uganda Christian University who have been more than a friend to me. Their company at UCU and during the time of doing Bachelors together has been immense. Lastly, I ask for forgiveness of all those who have been with me over the course of the years and whose names I may not have mentioned.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CVI	Content Validity Index
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
LDU	Local Defense Unit
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
RSCT	Regional Security Complex Theory
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UPDF	Uganda People's Defence Forces

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to establish the influence of cross-border security on community safety in Karamoja Region, Uganda. The objectives of the study were; to assess the nature and extent of cross-border security threats in the Karamoja region, including cattle rustling, arms trafficking, and inter-community conflicts; to examine the socio-economic influence of cross-border insecurity on livelihoods, trade, and development in the Karamoja region; to analyze the role of state and non-state actors (e.g., government agencies, security forces, local communities, and NGOs) in managing cross-border security issues. The study used descriptive cross-sectional design and quantitative approach was adopted. The study population were local community members (pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, traders, and youth living in border districts such as Kaabong, Moroto, and Amudat, Local Government officials (District leaders, sub-county chiefs, and local council representatives) and Security personnel. A sample of 222 respondents was used; the respondents were selected using simple random sampling technique. Questionnaire was used for data collection. Data was analysed using SPSS. The study finding shows that cattle rustling is a common security threat in Karamoja region community. The finding also shows that illegal arms trafficking contributes to insecurity in the Karamoja region. The study result indicated that cross-border insecurity negatively affects household livelihoods in my community. The study finding further shows that most of the respondents 97(43.7%) agreed that government agencies play an active role in addressing cross-border security threats. The study concluded that; Cross-border insecurity in Karamoja is multidimensional, involving both transnational criminal activities and local structural challenges. It also has profound socio-economic consequences for communities in the Karamoja region and that government agencies and security forces play a central role in enforcing law and order, reducing cross-border crime, and safeguarding territorial integrity. The study recommends that; strengthening cross-border security cooperation, promoting community participation in security efforts, supporting livelihood diversification and poverty reduction and institutionalizing cross-border cooperation.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Africa's porous borders and diverse populations create unique security challenges requiring cross-border cooperation. These initiatives impact economic development, political stability, and social well-being across the continent. Cross-border security initiatives reduce transnational crime (Adelani & Onoja, 2025). Africa's unmonitored borders enable activities like human trafficking, drug smuggling, and arms proliferation. Information exchange, patrols in coordination, and common law could interfere with these networks of criminals. Effective collaboration in controlling the borders in East Africa has significantly reduced illegal wildlife trafficking (Kriegler, 2024; Simataa et al., 2024). Terrorists use porous borders to transport their people and equipment. The Multinational Joint Task Force fighting Boko Haram, composed of Nigerian, Niger, Chad, and Cameroon troops, has successfully limited the movement of the terrorists' members across borders.

During the pre-colonial era in Uganda, cross-border cattle raids were synonymous with prosperity and survival (Mkutu, 2008). But, after independence, when commercial cattle raiding and increased availability of small arms due to conflict in neighboring areas occurred, cross-border raids became violent confrontations (Bevan, 2008). Karamoja area in eastern Uganda has been characterized by constant insecurity because of pastoralists' nomadic lifestyle, resource disputes, and poor governance (Sana & Oloo, 2019).

This area is surrounded by Kenya and South Sudan. The Karamoja Cluster comprises the Turkana in Kenya, the Toposa in South Sudan, and the Nyangatom in Ethiopia. These communities have similar ethnic backgrounds and pastoralist traditions but engage in disputes for grazing, water, and livestock. Although Uganda's disarmament initiatives since the 2000s have considerably diminished gun-related violence, poor control at borders and lack of coordination among the neighboring regions have caused insecurity, which negatively impacts the region's economic development (Stites & Akabwai, 2012).

Cross-border security entails managing and controlling the movement, transactions, and relations between neighboring states across their borders to promote safety, stability, and cooperation (Abdallah et al., 2024). In the case of Karamoja, cross-border security encompasses issues such as cattle rustling, illicit arms trade, human and goods trafficking, and inter-ethnic conflict, all of which transcend national borders (Arasio & Stites, 2022)

The Karamoja region is one of the most marginalized and underdeveloped areas in Uganda, faced with chronic poverty, food insecurity, and limited access to basic social services. According to the Ugandan government, cross-border insecurity has been a major contributing factor to these problems since it has negatively impacted trading routes, discouraged investments, and caused displacement. Community-level peace dialogues and joint security patrols have been successful at a local level, although their success varies due to institutional weakness, limited resources, and political conflicts between states. In this regard, there is a need for an understanding of the effects of cross-border security dynamics on the socioeconomic development of Karamoja. The theories guiding this research are the Regional Security Complex Theory (RSCT) by Buzan & Wæver (2003), which argues that security problems of one country are interrelated with those of neighboring countries. The RSCT explains that for Karamoja, security problems in Uganda are directly linked to Kenya and South Sudan because of cross-border ethnic relations and resource sharing. The second theory that guides this research is the Human Security Theory by UNDP (1994), which expands the meaning of security from territorial protection to economic, food, health, environment, and political security.

1.2 Statement of the Problem An efficient border security system ensures community safety, protects livelihoods, and facilitates socio-economic development in borderlands such as Karamoja. However, as of now, Karamoja still faces many security challenges at the border, such as the porous nature of Uganda, Kenya, and South Sudan borders, leading to the movement of illegal arms, cattle rustling, and criminals. Although the government, security forces, NGOs, and local communities have implemented interventions such as disarmament exercises, joint patrols, and peacebuilding initiatives, insecurity and its socio-economic effects persist,

suggesting gaps in understanding the nature of the threats, their impacts, and the effectiveness of current management approaches (Wamalwa et al., 2023).

Different scholars have looked at cross border security issues such as Sana and Oloo (2019), looked at the Evolving Character of the Nation State in a Transnationalist Pastoralists in Turkana and Karamojong; Sandven (2021) focused on legitimacy of border control: power and accountability in contemporary practice. However, none of the studies focused on the influence of cross-border security on community safety in Karamoja Region, Uganda which this study seeks to address.

Therefore, there was a need for a systematic study to assess the nature and extent of cross-border threats in the Karamoja region, examine the socio-economic influence of cross-border insecurity on livelihoods, trade, and development, and analyse the role of state and non-state actors in managing cross-border security issues. By generating empirical evidence on these aspects, the study identified existing challenges, inform policy decisions, and provide recommendations that can strengthen cross-border security strategies and improve community safety in the Karamoja region.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

This study established the influence of cross-border security on community safety in Karamoja Region, Uganda.

1.4 Specific Objectives

- i. To assess the nature and extent of cross-border security threats in the Karamoja region, including cattle rustling, arms trafficking, and inter-community conflicts.
- ii. To examine the socio-economic influence of cross-border insecurity on livelihoods, trade, and development in the Karamoja region.
- iii. To analyze the role of state and non-state actors (e.g., government agencies, security forces, local communities, and NGOs) in managing cross-border security issues.

1.5 Research Questions

- i. What are the main cross-border security threats affecting the Karamoja region?
- ii. How does cross-border insecurity influence the socio-economic development and livelihoods of communities in Karamoja?
- iii. What roles do state and non-state actors play in managing cross-border security in the Karamoja region?

1.6 Scope of the Study

1.6.1 Geographical scope

Geographically, the study focused on selected border districts within the Karamoja sub-region that is; Kaabong, Moroto, and Amudat.

1.6.2 Content scope

This study focused on examining the influence of cross-border security issues across Kenya (Turkana County) on the social, economic, and political dimensions of development within the Karamoja region of northeastern Uganda. The study specifically covered; the nature of cross-border security threats, socio-economic impacts and the roles of key stakeholders.

1.6.3 Time scope

The study covered a period from 2010 to 2024, which captures both recent cross-border security interventions and ongoing peacebuilding programs within the Karamoja region.

1.7 Justification of the study

Karamoja region in northeastern Uganda shares porous borders with Kenya and South Sudan, making it vulnerable to cross-border security challenges like cattle raiding, small arms proliferation, illicit trafficking and inter-community conflict. Wamalwa et al. (2023) indicated that past incursions and arms flow across the region have undermined the ability of Uganda's national defence forces to secure territorial integrity. Likewise, pastoral-market performance in the Karamoja-Turkana cross-

border area found that 71% of respondents believed that resource-based conflicts reduce livestock production and market performance in pastoral areas.

Given this context, there is a gap in comprehensive empirical research linking cross-border security dynamics with socio-economic development, livelihoods, and regional peace in Karamoja. While peace-dialogue efforts and cross-border initiatives are underway (e.g., led by IGAD) their effectiveness remains unclear, especially regarding how they shape the development of Karamoja's border communities. This study therefore addressed a pressing security-development nexus in a region that has been persistently marginalised and under-researched.

1.8 Significance

The findings of this study may be valuable to different stakeholders and for several reasons:

Policy makers and security agencies: The study will provide empirical evidence about how cross-border security threats (such as cattle raids, illicit arms, resource-based conflict) impact the Karamoja region. This may inform more effective security policy design, border management strategies, and regional cooperation frameworks.

Development practitioners and donors: Understanding the link between cross-border insecurity and socio-economic outcomes (livelihoods, markets, trade, infrastructure) may help development partners prioritise interventions in Karamoja. For instance, improved market access and trade corridors rely on a stable security environment.

Local communities: This research will brighten how security dynamics are experienced by front-line border communities (pastoralists, agro-pastoralists), and what strategies they view as effective. This voice can facilitate community-based solutions, which could encourage inclusion in peace-making and sharing resources.

Research community: This paper will help to enrich the existing body of literature regarding the security-development nexus within borderlands in particular, and in relation to East Africa in particular.

Regional integration and cooperation across borders: In highlighting the factors that facilitate and inhibit the success of cross-border security cooperation, this research could prove useful to the regional organizations (e.g., IGAD) and individual countries

to improve mechanisms of resource sharing, early warning, and infrastructure connectivity.

1.9 Conceptual Framework

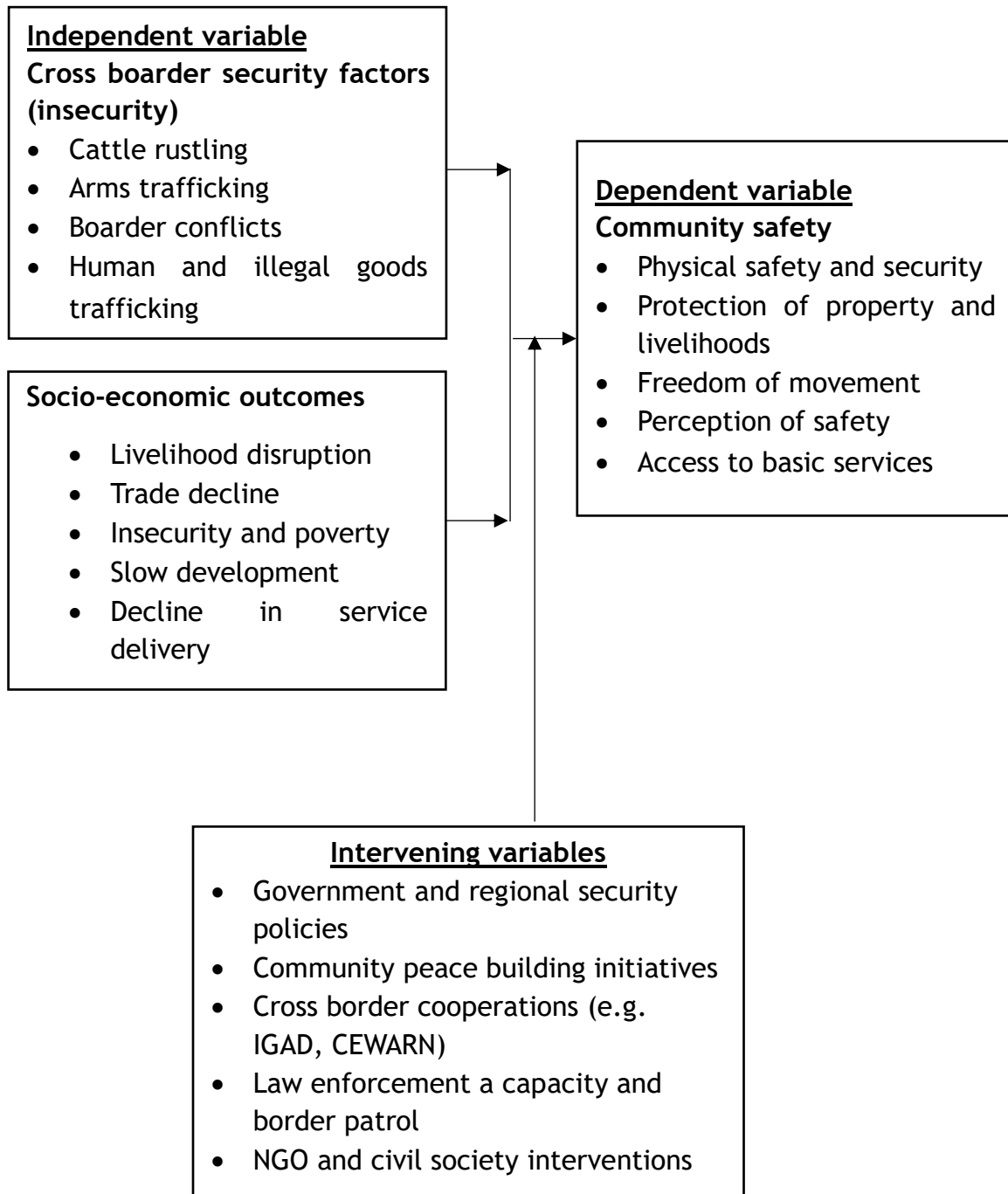


Figure 1. 1: Conceptual framework showing the link between cross-border security and community safety in Karamoja Region

Cross-border security factors negatively impact the socio-economic wellbeing of Karamoja communities. The severity of these impacts is shaped by how effective government policies, local peace initiatives, and regional cooperation efforts are in

mitigating insecurity. Strong interventions lead to improved stability and development; weak interventions allow insecurity to persist.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The purpose of this study was linked to the influence of cross-border security on community safety. Therefore, the literature was reviewed based on study objectives. The literature was got from books, journals, newspapers, websites, dissertations, articles, and reports. Different search engines are used; Google Scholar, PubMed, BASE (Bielefeld Academic Search Engine), and subject-specific databases like ERIC (education) and JSTOR (humanities, social sciences, and sciences). The literature is presented as follows:

2.2 Main cross-border security threats affecting the bordering districts

Border districts, often characterized by porous boundaries, shared ecosystems, and interwoven communities, face unique security threats that extend beyond traditional national security concerns. These threats, originating from and impacting both sides of the border, demand collaborative and multifaceted approaches to effectively mitigate their impact (Muchwa, 2023).

One of the most persistent and pervasive threats is transnational crime. Border districts, due to their geographical location and often limited resources, become attractive havens for criminal networks engaged in various illicit activities (Paarlberg, 2022). These include smuggling of goods like weapons, narcotics, and counterfeit products, posing a significant risk to public health, economic stability, and national security. The flow of illegal firearms across borders, for instance, fuels violence in bordering communities, while the smuggling of narcotics contributes to addiction and related social problems. Combating transnational crime requires sophisticated intelligence gathering, coordinated law enforcement efforts across borders, and collaborative judicial processes (Haight, 2025; Prasetyo, 2024; Tobón et al., 2021).

Another significant threat arises from irregular migration and human trafficking. Economic disparities and political instability in neighboring countries often lead to the movement of people seeking better opportunities or refuge. While migration can be a positive force, it can also be exploited by human traffickers who prey on

vulnerable individuals, forcing them into situations that may include being used for forced labor and sexually exploited among other forms of exploitation. Border districts are more prone to such forms of exploitation since they serve as transportation routes. The measures necessary for addressing this threat include tightening border control, helping victims of trafficking and dealing with the root cause of migration which includes poverty and conflicts (Aragaw et al., 2025). The degradation of the environment is another important cross-border security challenge. Natural resources shared across national borders are common sources of conflict in border regions. Such resources include rivers, forests and wildlife parks. Poor management of shared natural resources leads to exploitation, environmental degradation, and ultimately conflicts. For example, deforestation activities in one country may contribute to soil erosion and floods in the neighboring nation, affecting agricultural productivity. Thus, the need for sustainable management of shared natural resources, conducting joint environmental assessments, and cross-border collaboration in conservation efforts (Kurylo, 2024). Additionally, disease transmission represents an important health security threat at borders. Cross-border movement of individuals and commodities is responsible for the fast spread of infectious diseases in the absence of health care facilities and disease surveillance systems. Border districts are highly exposed to such threats (Marou et al., 2024; Sami & Chun, 2024). The COVID-19 pandemic illustrated the destructive effects of cross-border disease transmission in the absence of adequate public health infrastructure and surveillance (Filip et al., 2022; Saif-Ur-Rahman et al., 2025).

Weak security systems, porous borders and illegal small arms proliferation negatively impact the development process by causing cattle rustling that limits personal development. Conflicts in the Karamoja district of Uganda that borders Sudan, Kenya, and Ethiopia were caused by cattle rustling among pastoralist communities who consider it a traditional method of accumulating wealth (Igwe, 2023). Extremist Muslims have intensified cattle rustling and formed jihad groups related to Al-Quida and Islamic State groups responsible for cattle raids worth millions of dollars to fund insurgency in West Africa and the Sahel region. The phenomenon of armed bandit cattle rustling has been reported across the Lake Chad basin in Nigeria, specifically in Zamfara State, which affects the livestock market in Borno State. Madagascar

serves as a case study through its occurrence of cattle raiding among Zebu. Political instability caused by the involvement of modern weapons and professional criminals are common among these cross-border insecurities in the region. For measures to control cattle rustling, more attention should be given to pastoralism's contributions to the economy, protection of pastoralist livelihoods, and collaboration between regions against transnational crime (Ahmadu, 2019; Igwe, 2023). Conclusion Therefore, cross-border security threats to the bordering districts are very complex and require comprehensive solutions. Solving this problem involves moving from a national security approach where one only considers issues within the sovereign territory of states to more cooperation-oriented strategies.

2.3 Effects of cross-border insecurity on the socio-economic development and livelihoods of communities

Cross-border insecurity, which is a challenge faced by many communities worldwide, is a serious threat to socioeconomic development and livelihoods of those living near international borders (Onota et al., 2024). Complex challenges such as armed conflicts, transnational crime, and poor management of cross-border areas create a condition of instability, hindering development initiatives (Kipkios Ng & Tanui, 2025). There is the need to discuss how cross-border insecurity negatively impacts these important aspects of social life.

One of the first adverse consequences associated with cross-border insecurity is the disruption of economic activity. The economies that depend significantly on cross-border economic cooperation experience huge problems related to the volatility of the international border (Cantens & Raballand, 2017). Movement restrictions, smuggling, and establishment of illegal checkpoints result in higher transaction costs and lower access to markets, negatively affecting profits (UNODC, 2024). Farmers who sell their produce abroad lose access to foreign markets because of insecurity at the international border, leading to loss of income. These negative effects can trigger a chain reaction causing poverty and food insecurity due to unemployment (Herrera et al., 2021). Furthermore, Insecurity also discourages investments in infrastructure and essential social services. Fears of attacks, looting, and destruction of property deter investors from putting money in projects and initiatives that could benefit people living close to the border (Srikaanth et al., 2024). Failure to invest means that the area lacks adequate infrastructure such as roads, schools, and medical facilities, which have a direct impact on the quality of

life of the inhabitants. Lack of fundamental services such as drinking water, sanitation, and access to hospitals makes the problem worse by affecting human resource development and economic growth in the long run (Straub et al., 2025). Communities along insecure borders usually find themselves abandoning their traditional livelihood sources due to displacement, conflicts, or the collapse of the local economy. Farmers may have no choice but to leave their farms behind and seek safety in other places. Pastoralists may not have the option of grazing their livestock or selling their meat in towns because of the insecurity (Osman & Abebe, 2023). Artisans might not have any work or source of income since they depend on consumers in the local markets to purchase their crafts. Thus, the inability to practice their livelihoods affects their ability to make a living after the crisis ends and rebuild their lives. Lastly, insecurity causes social division, weakens cohesion, and undermines community well-being. Mistrust fueled by the continuous threat of violence, crime, and lawlessness creates tension within families and among members of society (Löhr et al., 2021). The displacement of people causes additional strain to the available resources, creating tension between the host population and internally displaced persons (IDPs) (Osman & Abebe, 2023). The stress created by the constant state of insecurity is also likely to create more psychological disorders among the inhabitants (Wessells & Kostelny, 2022). They might resort to abusing alcohol, drugs, and even engaging in domestic violence due to the high level of stress.

Conclusion In summary, insecurity across international borders poses a significant challenge to the socioeconomic development of the affected areas.

. Its impact extends beyond immediate economic losses, hindering long-term investment, disrupting social cohesion, and eroding human capital.

2.4 The role state and non-state actors play in managing cross-border security

Cross-border security refers to the protection of the nation's territory and population from external threats from beyond the borders of state entities in the contemporary connected world (Talebian et al., 2021). Managing cross-border security entails an elaborate strategy that involves state actors and an increasing number of non-state actors. It is important to understand the interrelated roles played by these actors

when developing and implementing security measures (Shabir & Fatima, 2024). Traditionally, the state has been regarded as the primary source of security, with its legitimate monopoly on the means of force and the duty to protect its nationals. State actors involved in managing cross-border security include border patrol services, customs, intelligence agencies, and military units. Some of their tasks include enforcing immigration policies, controlling the smuggling of persons and goods, preventing terrorism and transnational crimes, and safeguarding territorial integrity (Sandven, 2021).

States utilize various resources in meeting these objectives, including the construction of border infrastructure, deployment of surveillance mechanisms, collecting intelligence, and cooperating internationally through mutual agreements and accords. A state's efficiency in managing its border security can reflect its ability to govern (Moore et al., 2023).

The complexity of modern cross-border threats requires non-state actors to be involved in the process. While operating independent of the government, non-state actors make significant contributions towards managing cross-border security. For instance, international organizations such as the United Nations and World Customs Organization offer collaboration opportunities, information exchange, and international guidelines for border management (Almakky, 2023). These organizations provide technical support and training programs to assist states in tackling specific security concerns.

In addition, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) contribute significantly to cross-border security. Humanitarian organizations often work on the frontlines of conflict zones and refugee crises, providing aid which includes offering help to those individuals who have been rendered vulnerable and forced out of their homes as a result of cross-border instability (Yusuf et al., 2024). Research institutions offer important analysis on new security threats which may influence decision-making and strategy implementation. Private security firms provide important expertise and services in such domains as risk management, training, and security technologies (Dunn & Wenger, 2020).

Moreover, local communities in border regions are usually the first to respond to cross-border events. Being very familiar with their surrounding environment and social conditions, they represent a valuable source of information which could greatly help in the process of introducing security measures in cross-border regions (Imboywa et al., 2022). Also, community-based activities in cross-border areas can help improve cross-border relations and promote social cohesiveness and cooperation (Nyamari, 2024).

However, the role of the state in relation to non-state actors may sometimes become a cause for concern. On one side, states might be wary about letting any external organizations interfere in certain matters related to cross-border security such as intelligence or law enforcement (Regus et al., 2024). On the other side, NGOs could encounter difficulties in their mission due to either political or organizational reasons. Effective cross-border security management needs to establish clear lines of communication, build trust and determine respective roles and duties (Kanteler & Bakouros, 2024).

To conclude, it can be said that cross-border security management needs to involve not only governmental efforts but also various non-state actors. While being primarily responsible for their citizens' safety and welfare, states require assistance from various non-state actors which possess specific qualities which could significantly improve their work. The role of international organizations, NGOs, research institutions, private sector, and local communities in addressing issues of cross-border security is becoming more and more significant.

. Fostering effective partnerships and promoting mutual understanding between state and non-state actors is essential for navigating the challenges of cross-border security currently.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter covers; research design, area of study, population and sampling techniques, procedure of data collection, data collection methods, data collection instruments, quality control, data processing and analysis and ethical considerations and anticipated methodological constraints.

3.2 Research design

The study used descriptive cross-sectional design since data was collected from different individuals at a particular point. This design was used because it systematically covered a big number of respondents quickly while generating factual and accurate information. The study applied quantitative method of data collection. This helped to obtain objective, numerical data that was analysed and generalization of findings to larger populations was done.

3.3 Area of study

The research was carried out in the Karamoja region in northeastern Uganda, which shares borders with Kenya and South Sudan. Covering approximately 27,900 square kilometers, the region consists of nine districts: Kaabong, Karenga, Kotido, Abim, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Napak, Amudat, and Nabilatuk, with its administrative center located in Moroto Municipality. According to UBOS (2020), Karamoja is home to a population exceeding 1.2 million people, the majority of whom are pastoralists and agro-pastoralists who rely on livestock keeping and small-scale farming for their livelihoods. The area is characterized by semi-arid plains and savannah grasslands, with unpredictable annual rainfall ranging between 500 and 800 mm, and frequent droughts that contribute to competition over limited resources.. The terrain is mainly flat with hills like Mount Moroto, Mount Kadam, and Mount Napak. The climate affects mobility patterns and cross-border interactions. Karamoja's economy centers on livestock, farming, and informal cross-border trade, though insecurity and conflict have disrupted activities. The region faces limited infrastructure and

poor services (Ministry for Karamoja Affairs, 2019). Its location and porous boundaries with Kenya and South Sudan enable both peaceful exchanges and violent raids (Mkutu, 2019). This study specifically focused on the Kenya boarder.

The study area was selected because it represents a unique case of persistent cross-border insecurity within Uganda, with direct implications for national and regional peace, security, and development. The region's historical experiences with cattle rustling, small arms proliferation, and border instability provide a rich context for analyzing how cross-border dynamics influence local livelihoods and security outcomes

3.4 Population and sampling techniques

3.4.1 Study pupation

The study population comprised of the people and organizations that are directly or indirectly affected by or involved in cross-border security activities within the Karamoja region and its neighboring cross-border areas in Kenya (Turkana County) such as; local community members (pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, traders, and youth living in border districts such as Kaabong, Moroto, and Amudat, who are directly affected by cross-border insecurity, cattle rustling, and trade disruptions), Local Government officials (District leaders, sub-county chiefs, and local council representatives involved in peacebuilding, security coordination, and community development programs), security agencies (Personnel from UPDF, Uganda Police Force, and LDUs engaged in maintaining peace and controlling cross-border crime), representatives from NGOs and CBOs such as Mercy Corps, Caritas Kotido, and the Karamoja Cluster Initiative working on peacebuilding, livelihoods, and cross-border cooperation) and regional and policy actors (officials from intergovernmental organizations such as IGAD). The target population was 500 respondents.

3.4.2 Sample size determination

The sample size was determined using the Yamani Taro, (1967) formula. It states that the desired sample size is a fraction of the target population and the maximum acceptable margin of error (also known as the sampling error) and it was expressed mathematically using the following formula:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where;

n is the required sample size

N is the total number of the population (500)

e is the level of precision

$e = 0.05$

Therefore;

$$n = \frac{500}{1 + 500(0.05)^2} = 222.22$$

$n = 222$

The sample size will be 222 respondents. The researcher will get 74 respondents from each district of the three districts.

3.4.3 Sampling techniques

Simple random sampling was used and is a technique in which every member of the population has an equal chance of being selected using a random sampling procedure. This method requires minimal knowledge of the population. It was used because minimizes the likelihood of research biases such as sample bias and selection bias (Thomas, 2022). It was used in selection of study respondents who consents to take part in the study. This was done by randomly selecting the respondents who consents to participate in the study becomes a respondent until when the required sample was attained.

3.5 Variables and indicators

The independent variable of this study was cross-boarder security factors conceptualised in terms of; cattle rustling, arm trafficking and border conflicts. The dependent variable is socio-economic outcomes of insecurity conceptualised as; livelihood disruption, trade decline, insecurity and poverty, slow development and decline in service delivery.

3.6 Procedure for data collection

An introductory letter was obtained from Uganda Christian University upon approval of research proposal. Written permission was also obtained from Kaabong, Moroto, and Amudat district to allow the researcher to conduct study in the sub region. After the researcher contacted respective respondents to distribute questionnaires. After which they agreed upon the time to collect.

3.7 Data collection instruments

A structured questionnaire was used to gather information from study participants. The questionnaire comprised of four sections. The 1st section collected information about the respondents' general information, the 2nd section collected data on first study objective, the 3rd section collected data on second objective and the 4th section collect data on the third objective. Before administering questionnaires to respondents, the instrument pre-tested on 21 respondents (7 respondents from each of the three district) who were not considered in the final data collection exercise and after ascertaining the validity and reliability of the instrument, then the researcher proceeded to administer questionnaire, and after the filled questionnaires were collected by the researcher upon the agreed time with the respondent. For the respondents who did not know how to read and write (especially community members), the researcher got a translator to translate for them in the local language that they understand well.

3.8 Quality control

3.8.1 Validity

The validity of questionnaire was achieved through content validity. Content validity was used to ascertain if the test covers all aspects of the construct. This was possible through Content Validity Index (CVI).

$$CVI = \frac{\text{Number of relevant items as regarded}}{\text{Total number of items}}$$

If $CVI \geq 0.7$, then the instrument was regarded valid (Shi et al., 2012).

3.8.2 Reliability

The reliability of the questionnaire was established based on results from pretest study on 21 respondents who did not consider in the final data collection exercise. The pretested result was entered into SPSS Version 27 and a reliability analysis was run. If Cronbach's Alpha coefficient was $0.845 > 0.7$, then the instrument was regarded reliable. Otherwise, if it was less than 0.7 the instrument would be revised.

3.9 Strategy for data processing and analysis

In this analysis a sequence of data collection and preparation was conducted, and this included (checking for any error and coding). Data was then entered in SPSS

version 27.0. Descriptive statistics was used to quantitatively analyse data. The result was presented in form of tables, graphs and charts.

3.10 Ethical considerations

Obtaining approval to carry out study from Uganda Christian University and Kaabong, Moroto, and Amudat district shall be mandatory, which was granted through written feedback upon completing proposal writing process and defense. Before distribution of questionnaire, the researcher obtained consent from potential respondents, fostering a positive and open relationship while promoting honest answers.

The researcher ensured that respondents participate voluntarily. The respondents were free to choose to take part in the study or not rather than being coerced after the study purpose had been clearly explained to the respondent.

The researcher ensured that respondents are adequately protected so that neither the readers nor the researcher could discern what was reported from what had been provided.

The researcher also assured respondents that the study was solely for academic purposes, such that they could feel secure when providing information without any repercussions. The privacy of their information would also be protected, and they were informed from the start that they could remain anonymous and were not required to disclose any personal details.

The researcher ensured that the scholars whose pieces of work were used were duly acknowledged by citing them in the work and in the reference list as well.

3.11 Methodological constraints

Since only three districts bordering Kenya in Karamoja sub region was considered for the study, it makes it hard to generalize the information to cater for all the bordering districts in different regions in Uganda.

Only considering one research approach (quantitative approach) may not be robust enough in gathering information that can be adequate for generalization of the impact of cross-border security on the Karamoja region.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter covered: presentation, analysis and interpretation of results. Frequency tables, percentages, pie chart and bar graph were used for data presentation. Data was presented and interpreted objective by objective.

4.2 General Information of the Respondents

This section covered sex, age range, education level, marital status and respondents' longevity in the area. The results were presented as follows;

4.2.1 Distribution of respondents by sex, age range, education level and marital status

Respondents of different sex, age range, education level and marital status participated in the study, the findings were presented as follows.

Table 4. 1: Distribution of respondents by sex, age range, education level and marital status

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Sex (n=222)	Male	92	41.4
	Female	130	58.6
Age range in years (n=222)	Below 20 years	23	10.4
	20 - 30 years	40	18
	31 - 40 years	29	13.1
	41- 50 years	80	36
	51 years and above	50	22.5
Education level (n=222)	Non formal	70	31.5
	Primary	102	45.9
	Secondary	18	8.1
	Certificate	22	9.9
	Diploma	10	4.5
Marital status (n=222)	Single	24	10.8
	Married	138	62.2
	Divorced/separated	56	25.2
	Widow/widower	4	1.8

Source: Primary Data, 2026

Table 4.1 shows that above half 130(58.6%) of the respondents were female and the rest were male. This implies that the dominance of female respondents indicated that women were more available, more affected by cross-border insecurity and were willing to participate in discussions related to community safety. Their higher representation enhances the understanding of how cross-border security dynamics affect households, family stability, food security, and social cohesion, since women typically play central roles in caregiving and community support systems.

The study result also shows that most of the respondents 80(36%) were between 41- 50 years of age and minority 23(10.4%) were below 20 years of age. Most of the

respondents, 102(45.9%) had attained primary education and minority 10(4.5%) had attained diploma level of education. Lastly, the study finding shows that majority 138(62.2%) were married and minority 4(1.8%) were widow/widower. Married individuals are more likely to be concerned about the safety and stability of their households, including the protection of spouses, children, livestock, and property. Their perceptions of cross-border security were strongly influenced by concerns about family welfare, livelihood sustainability, and long-term community stability.

4.2.2 Distribution of respondents by longevity in the area

Respondents with different period of stay in the area participated in the study, the findings were presented in Figure 4.1.

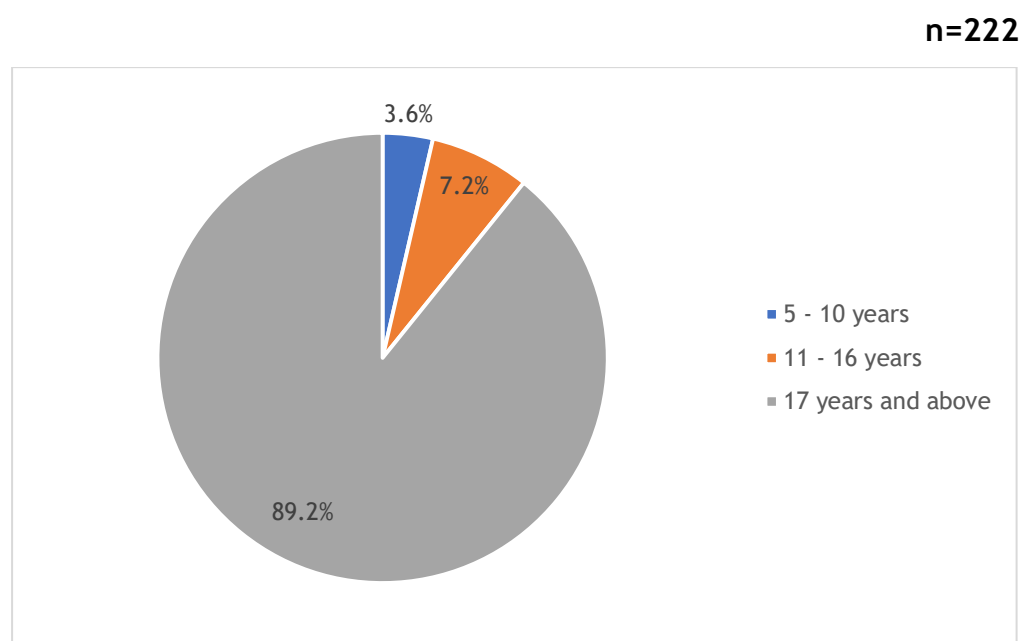


Figure 4. 1: Distribution of respondents by longevity in the area

Source: Primary Data, 2026

The study finding in Figure 4.1 shows that majority of the respondents 198(89.2%) had stayed in their current area for 17 years and above and the minority 8(3.6%) had stayed between 5 to 10 years in their current. This implies that the study respondents were more knowledgeable about the study problem because of their longevity in the area.

4.2.3 Distribution of respondents by role in the community

Respondents with different role in the community participated in the study, the findings were presented in Figure 4.2.

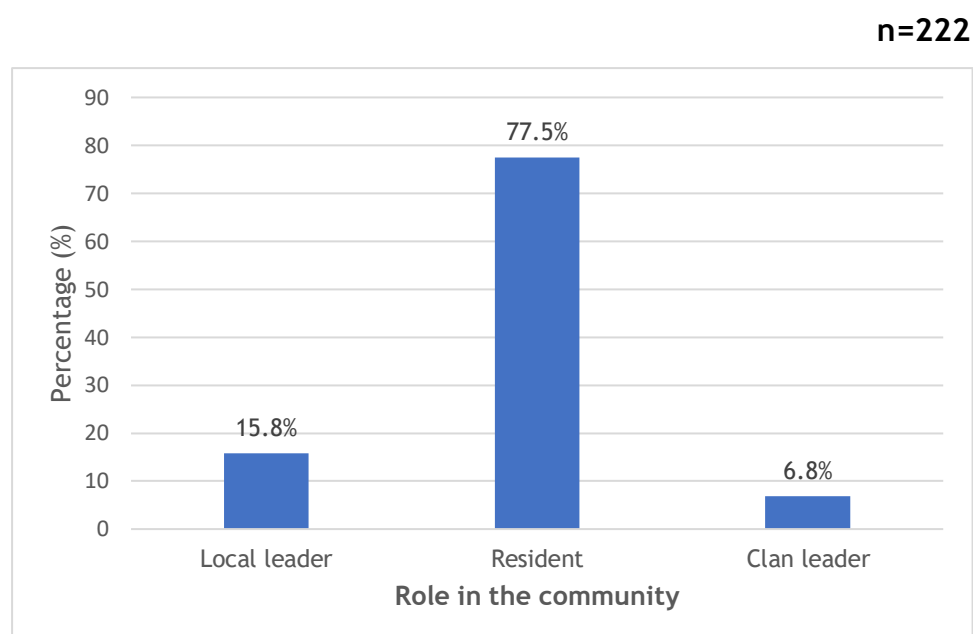


Figure 4. 2: Distribution of respondents by role in the community

Source: Primary Data, 2026

The study finding shows that majority of the respondents 172(77.5%) were residents of their area and the least 15(6.8%) were clan leaders.

4.3 Cross-border security threats in Karamoja Region

The first objective of the study was to assess the nature and extent of cross-border security threats in the Karamoja region, including cattle rustling, arms trafficking, and inter-community conflicts. The findings were presented as follows:

Table 4. 2: Cross-border security threats in Karamoja Region

Statement	SA	A	NS	D	SD
Cattle rustling is a common security threat in my community (n=222)	150 (67.6%)	64 (28.8%)		06 (2.7%)	02 (0.9%)
Illegal arms trafficking contributes to insecurity in the Karamoja region (n= 222)	107 (48.2%)	66 (29.7%)	08 (3.6%)	25 (11.3%)	16 (7.2%)
Inter-community conflicts frequently occur due to cross-border issues (n=222)	16 (7.2%)	49 (22.1%)	06 (2.7%)	131 (59%)	20 (9%)
Cross-border movements make it difficult to control crime in this region (n= 222)	80 (36%)	92 (41.4%)	04 (1.8%)	38 (17.1%)	08 (3.6%)
Cross-border threats have increased in recent years (n=222)	22 (9.9%)	19 (8.6%)	02 (0.9%)	129 (58%)	50 (22.5%)

Source: *Primary Data, 2026*

The study finding in Table 4.2 shows that majority of the respondents 150(67.6%) strongly agreed that cattle rustling is a common security threat in their community, 64(28.8%) agreed as opposed to 6(2.7%) who disagreed and 2(0.9%) who strongly disagreed. Thus, cattle rustling is a common security threat in Karamoja region community. This means that there is a near-unanimous perception among community members that cattle rustling remains a prevalent and serious security challenge in the Karamoja region. This implies that community safety and stability significantly is undermined due to cattle rustling.

Regarding illegal arms trafficking contributes to insecurity in the Karamoja region, most of the respondents 107(48.2%) strongly agreed, 66(29.7%) agreed and 08(3.6%) were not sure while 25(11.3%) disagreed and 16(7.2%) strongly disagreed. The finding shows that illegal arms trafficking contributes to insecurity in the Karamoja region. This implies that the presence and circulation of illegal firearms increase the intensity and lethality of conflicts, making communities feel unsafe and vulnerable.

The study result also shows that majority of the respondents 131(59%) disagreed that inter-community conflicts frequently occur due to cross-border issues, 20(9%) strongly disagreed and 06(2.7%) were not sure. On the other hand, 49(22%) of the respondents agreed and 16(7.2%) strongly agreed. This means that even though cross-border insecurity (cattle rustling, illegal arms trafficking), among others, may occur, it is not considered as one of the main causes of recurring inter-community disputes. Rather, conflicts arise due to other factors like competition for grazing areas, political differences, culture clashes, and limited resources within communities.

Regarding whether cross-border movement makes it difficult to control crime in this region, the results indicate that out of the total participants, 92(41.4%) agree, 80(36%) strongly agree, while four (1.8%) did not have an idea, in contrast to 38(17.1%) disagreeing and eight (3.6%) strongly disagreeing.

From the above study findings, it is clear that cross-border movements make it difficult to control crime in this region. What this means is that due to porous borders and constant cross-border movements of people, livestock, and goods, it becomes easy for criminal offenders to escape justice through fleeing to neighboring districts or countries.

Lastly, regarding cross-border threats having increased in recent years, majority of the respondents 129(58%) disagreed, 50(22.5%) strongly disagreed and 09(0.9%) were not sure, compared to 22(9.9%) who strongly agreed and 19(8.6%) who agreed. This implies that that existing security interventions such as cross-border cooperation, disarmament efforts, enhanced patrols, and peacebuilding initiatives had a positive impact in reducing or containing threats.

4.4 Effect of cross-border insecurity on the socio-economic development and livelihoods of communities in Karamoja Region

The first objective of the study was to examine the socio-economic influence of cross-border insecurity on livelihoods, trade, and development in the Karamoja region. The findings were presented as follows:

Table 4. 3: Effect of cross-border insecurity on the socio-economic development and livelihoods of communities in Karamoja Region

Statement	SA	A	NS	D	SD
Cross-border insecurity negatively affects household livelihoods in my community (n=222)	100 (45%)	107 (48.2%)		06 (2.7%)	09 (4%)
Insecurity has reduced trade activities across borders (n= 222)	29 (13.1%)	60 (28.3%)	03 (1.4%)	100 (45%)	30 (13.5%)
Cross-border conflicts have slowed development projects in this region (n=222)	70 (31.5%)	127 (57.2%)	04 (1.8%)	15 (6.8%)	06 (2.7%)
Fear of insecurity limits people's movement for economic activities (n= 222)	59 (26.6%)	60 (27%)	06 (2.7%)	70 (31.5%)	27 (12.1%)
Cross-border insecurity contributes to poverty in the Karamoja region (n=222)	120 (54.1%)	40 (18%)	02 (0.9%)	60 (27%)	

Source: *Primary Data, 2026*

The study result indicated that most of the respondents 107(48.2%) agreed that cross-border insecurity negatively affects household livelihoods in my community, 100(45%) strongly agreed as opposed to 09(4%) who strongly disagreed and 06(2.7%)

who disagreed. The study finding showed that cross-border insecurity negatively affects household livelihoods in my community. This implies that cross-border insecurity significantly disrupts the main sources of livelihood in the Karamoja region, particularly livestock keeping, trade, and small-scale agriculture. Frequent insecurity may lead to loss of cattle through raids, restricted access to grazing land and water points, limited market access, displacement of families, and destruction of property

On insecurity having reduced trade activities across borders, most of the respondents 100(45%) disagreed and 30(20%) strongly disagreed while 3(1.4%) were not sure and as opposed to 60(28.3%) who agreed and 29(13.1%) who strongly agreed. The study indicated that insecurity have not reduced trade activities across borders. This implies that security improvements and strengthened border management measures have helped stabilize trade flows.

Concerning cross-border conflicts have slowed development projects in this region, majority of the respondents 127(57.2%) agreed and 70(31.5%) strongly agreed while 4(1.8%) were not sure. However, 15(6.8%) of the respondents disagreed and 06(2.7%) strongly disagreed. The study result shows that cross-border conflicts have slowed development projects in this region. This implies that cross-border conflicts in the Karamoja region have tangible negative effects on economic growth and infrastructure development. Conflicts disrupt construction projects, delay delivery of services, hinder investment, and discourage both public and private sector initiatives.

Regarding fear of insecurity limits people's movement for economic activities, most of the respondents 60(27%) agreed and 59(26.6%) strongly agreed while 6(2.7%) were not sure as opposed to 70(31.5%) who disagreed and 27(12.1%) who strongly disagreed. This implies that fear of insecurity does affect economic participation for many individuals in the Karamoja region, particularly in cross-border areas prone to cattle rustling, armed conflict, or illicit activities. Limited movement reduce trade, restrict access to markets, constrain labor availability, and affect the overall flow of goods and services, thereby negatively impacting household incomes and community livelihoods.

Lastly, the study result shows that majority of the respondents 120(54.1%) strongly agreed that cross-border insecurity contributes to poverty in the Karamoja region and 40(18%) agreed while 02(0.9%) were not sure compared to 60(27%) who disagreed. This implies that cross-border insecurity has a direct and profound impact on economic well-being. Insecurity disrupts livelihoods by causing loss of livestock through raids, limiting access to markets, restricting movement for trade and employment, and damaging property and infrastructure. These disruptions lower household incomes, restrict opportunities for economic advancement, and increase the vulnerability of communities that are already marginalized.

4.5 The role state and non-state actors play in managing cross-border security in Karamoja Region

The third objective of the study analyzed the role of state and non-state actors (e.g., government agencies, security forces, local communities, and NGOs) in managing cross-border security issues. The findings were presented as follows:

Table 4. 4: The role state and non-state actors play in managing cross-border security in Karamoja Region

Statement	SA	A	NS	D	SD
Government agencies play an active role in addressing cross-border security threats (n=222)	90 (40.5%)	97 (43.7%)	05 (2.3%)	30 (13.5%)	
Security forces (e.g., UPDF, Police) have helped reduce cross-border crime (n= 222)	105 (47.3%)	102 (45.9%)		15 (6.8%)	
Local communities participate in efforts to prevent cross-border insecurity (n=222)	73 (32.9%)	68 (30.6%)		55 (24.8%)	26 (11.7%)
NGOs and community organizations contribute to peacebuilding and conflict resolution (n= 222)	89 (40.1%)	67 (30.2%)		47 (21.2%)	19 (8.6%)
Cooperation among government, security forces, communities, and NGOs has improved security in the Karamoja region (n=222)	101 (45.5%)	98 (44.1%)		23 (10.4%)	

Source: *Primary Data, 2026*

Table 4.4 shows that most of the respondents 97(43.7%) agreed that government agencies play an active role in addressing cross-border security threats and 90(40.5%) strongly agreed while 5(2.3%) were not sure as opposed to 30(13.5%) who disagreed. The study indicated that government agencies play an active role in addressing cross-border security threats. This implies that government agencies are recognized as key actors in promoting security and mitigating cross-border threats in the Karamoja region. Their interventions such as border patrols, intelligence operations, disarmament programs, and collaboration with local leaders—are likely

contributing to the reduction of insecurity, including cattle rustling, illegal arms trafficking, and other forms of cross-border crime.

Concerning security forces (e.g., UPDF, Police) having helped reduce cross-border crime, most of the respondents 105(47.3%) strongly agreed and 102(45.9%) agreed while 15(6.8%) disagreed. The study finding shows that security forces (e.g., UPDF, Police) have helped reduce cross-border crime. This means that the presence and functions of security forces have contributed in improving the safety of the community. The operations conducted by them such as patrolling border areas, handling cattle raid, confiscating illicit arms, and maintaining law and order have been viewed to be quite efficient in dealing with cross-border criminals.

Concerning the local communities participate in efforts to prevent cross-border insecurity, the majority of the respondents 73(32.9%) strongly agreed while 68(30.6%) agreed and only 55(24.8%) disagreed and 26(11.7%) strongly disagreed. This means that the local communities take part in prevention of cross-border insecurity. It therefore means that the local communities are important in ensuring the safety in the Karamoja area. Participation of the local communities may involve such things as crime reporting, cooperating with security personnel, community policing, mediation of conflicts, and peace building efforts. Such participation has improved early warning systems, fostered a relationship between the authorities and residents, and made interventions be contextual.

With regard to the NGOs and community organizations contribute to peace building and conflict resolution, most of the respondents 89(40.1%) strongly agreed while 67(30.2%) agreed and only 47(21.2%) disagreed and 19(8.6%) strongly disagreed. This indicated that the NGOs and community organizations contribute to peace building and conflict resolution. It means that NGOs and community based organizations are key players in dealing with cross-border insecurity. Such organizations may engage in activities like facilitation of dialogues among conflicting communities, provision of conflict resolution training, disarmament campaigns, promotion of social cohesiveness, and sensitization against violent conflict management

In addition, regarding the cooperation between the government, security forces, community, and NGOs has enhanced the security of the Karamoja area, most respondents, 101(45.5%), strongly agreed and 98(44.1%) agreed as opposed to 23(10.4%), who disagreed. In this case, it is evident that the coordination among the various stakeholders plays an important role in enhancing security issues. Through coordinated efforts by the various stakeholders, they will be able to exchange information, allocate resources, and develop effective strategies that will help to eliminate cross-border insecurity issues.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the discussion, conclusions, and recommendations are drawn from the study results presented in chapter four.

5.2 Discussion of Results

The discussion is based on the findings from chapter four and is supported by empirical evidence from chapter two. The results are discussed according to each study objective as follows:

5.2.1 Cross-border security threats in Karamoja Region

The study findings confirm that cross-border security threats continue to pose a major challenge to community safety in the Karamoja region. Livestock raiding was identified as the most common threat, with respondents largely agreeing that it disrupts stability and livelihoods. This is consistent with existing literature, which describes cattle rustling in border areas as both a traditional practice and an increasingly organized criminal activity enabled by porous borders and weak security systems (Igwe, 2023; Ahmadu, 2019). The continued occurrence of livestock raids shows how cross-border insecurity directly impacts household income, food security, and social cohesion.

The study also found that illegal arms trafficking plays a significant role in worsening insecurity by increasing the severity and intensity of conflicts. This supports earlier research indicating that transnational criminal networks take advantage of weak border controls to traffic small arms and other illicit goods, thereby fueling violence and instability (Paarlberg, 2022; Haight, 2025). In addition, respondents noted that cross-border movements make crime control more difficult, which aligns with literature highlighting the challenges of porous borders and limited coordination in cross-border law enforcement (Tobón et al., 2021).

However, the study revealed that inter-community conflicts are not mainly caused by cross-border factors. Instead, they are largely driven by internal issues such as competition for grazing land, water shortages, and socio-political tensions within communities. literature indicating that while cross-border interactions exacerbate

insecurity, the challenges emanating from local structures continue to play a crucial role in provoking conflicts in pastoral and border areas (Muchwa, 2023; Kinyili, 2021). As such, the efforts to improve insecurity within Karamoja should target both cross-border and internal factors.

In general, both the findings and literature indicate that cross-border insecurity has multiple dimensions and, consequently, requires a multipronged strategy to address it. While the interventions aimed at enhancing security and curbing insecurity, such as disarmament and patrolling of borders, seem to play a significant role in improving security, it will be difficult to ensure the sustainability of peace and development without cooperation between nations and proper law enforcement, socio-economic development, and participation of communities. In sum, a collaborative approach is key to addressing the issue of cross-border insecurity in Karamoja.

5.2.2 Effects of cross-border insecurity on socio-economic development and livelihoods of communities in Karamoja Region

The study reveals that cross-border insecurity poses a major challenge to socio-economic development and livelihoods in Karamoja region. The vast majority of participants noted that insecurity negatively impacts livelihoods in terms of livestock herding, trade, and small-scale agriculture. Indeed, the literature confirms that cross-border insecurity negatively impacts economic activities and reduces the accessibility of markets for border communities (Onota et al., 2024; Herrera et al., 2021). Given that livestock is the mainstay for livelihoods of people in Karamoja, any form of insecurity that involves cattle raids or prevents access to grazing land poses a serious threat to livelihoods in the area.

Furthermore, cross-border conflicts in the region seem to slow down development projects. Literature has argued that insecurity discourages investments and halts development in terms of infrastructure like roads, educational facilities, and health care facilities (Srikaanth et al., 2024; Straub et al., 2025). When development projects are not completed in time or abandoned, people remain trapped in poverty and underdevelopment. Therefore,

insecurity not only affects immediate livelihoods but also undermines long-term socio-economic growth.

In addition to immediate threats, insecurity poses an obstacle to socio-economic development. Although the responses collected by this study do not indicate significant impacts of insecurity on cross-border trade, literature indicates that volatile borders lead to increased transaction costs, limit mobility, and decrease profitability (Cantens & Raballand, 2017; UNODC, 2024). Resilience of trade to border insecurity can be explained by various factors such as enhanced security measures and adaptive behavior of traders. Nonetheless, one finding from the data analysis is that fear of insecurity discourages people from moving around in order to pursue economic activities. Mobility constraints have an indirect effect on household income through limitations in accessing markets, jobs, and resources.

Finally, the study proved that insecurity leads to poverty in the region, confirming the findings by other scholars who emphasize that displacement of residents, loss of assets, and disruption of livelihoods result in poor economic development and weakened social cohesion (Osman & Abebe, 2023; Löhr et al., 2021). Combined impacts of loss of livelihoods, stagnated development, mobility problems, and insecurity make border regions even more marginalized.

5.2.3 State and Non-State Actors in Cross-Border Security Management in the Karamoja Region

Study results show that both state and non-state actors have an essential role in managing cross-border security in the Karamoja region. Residents strongly believe in the effectiveness of government actions to address cross-border security risks, which aligns with literature stating that the state remains the primary actor responsible for public security (Sandven, 2021; Moore et al., 2023). In Karamoja, the state carries out interventions such as border patrols, disarmament of cattle rustlers, and collaboration with local leaders to combat cattle rustling, illegal arms trafficking, and other transnational crimes.

Likewise, the observation that security organizations such as the UPDF and police have played a major role in reducing cross-border crime validates the view held by scholars that military and law enforcement organizations are significant tools used by the state to enforce territorial integrity and maintain peace (Talebian et al., 2021). The visible and effective performance of these security agencies appears to increase public confidence and help reduce crime. These findings align with literature indicating that strong border security apparatuses reflect state capacity and governance effectiveness.

In addition to state entities, the importance of non-state actors such as NGOs, community-based organizations, and local communities cannot be ignored. Literature highlights that non-state actors play crucial roles in providing humanitarian aid, facilitating peacebuilding, and engaging communities (Yusuf et al., 2024; Almakky, 2023). In Karamoja, NGOs contribute by fostering dialogue, offering conflict resolution training, and strengthening social cohesion, complementing state security interventions. Furthermore, local communities act as frontline actors in early warning systems, intelligence sharing, and mediation processes (Imboywa et al., 2022; Nyamari, 2024).

Finally, the study emphasizes that cooperation among government agencies, security forces, NGOs, and communities has improved security outcomes. This supports literature stressing the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration in addressing cross-border threats (Shabir & Fatima, 2024; Kanteler & Bakouros, 2024). Coordinated action enhances intelligence sharing, resource pooling, and integrated responses to diverse threats, including transnational crime and armed violence. However, literature also notes potential tensions between state and non-state actors, underscoring the need for trust-building, clear role definitions, and sustained communication to ensure effective partnerships.

5.3 Conclusion

It was noted that:

Cross-border insecurity in the Karamoja region is multidimensional, involving both criminal activities and structural challenges.

Such insecurity has significant socio-economic impacts, including disruption of household livelihoods, hindrance of development projects, restricted economic mobility, and persistent poverty.

Government institutions and security forces play a crucial role in maintaining law and order, combating cross-border crime, and safeguarding territorial integrity. At the same time, NGOs, community groups, and local residents contribute significantly to peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and early warning systems.

5.4 Recommendations

The study made the following recommendations:

Government bodies should enhance intelligence sharing, conduct joint patrols, and coordinate operations with neighboring districts and countries to combat cattle rustling and illegal arms trafficking.

Local communities should actively participate in early warning systems, community policing, and peacebuilding initiatives to strengthen collaboration with security agencies.

Development programs should be established to provide alternative income-generating opportunities, reducing dependence on livestock and minimizing vulnerability to cattle rustling.

Regional agreements and joint operations with neighboring districts and countries should be strengthened to collectively address transnational threats.

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APPENDIX: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR RESPONDENTS

Dear respondent,

My name is UMWALI EDITH, a student of Uganda Christian University carrying out study on the influence of cross-border security on community safety in Karamoja Region, Uganda, as a requirement for the award of a Bachelor's Degree of Governance and International Relations of Uganda Christian University.

As a respondent, your opinions are very important to this study. Your involvement is voluntary, and you may withdraw at any time without any consequences. The information you provide will be anonymous and will be kept confidential and used solely for academic purposes. By participating, you will contribute to the study. If you agree to participate, please indicate your consent by signing below.

Respondents' signature

Researcher's Name: Umwali Edith

Please respond by ticking or where necessary make brief statements

SECTION A: GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE RESPONDENT

1. Please indicate your sex

- a) Male ☐ b) Female ☐

2. What is your age range in years (optional)

- a) Below 20 years ☐ b) 20-30 ☐ c) 31 - 40 ☐
d) 41- 50 ☐ e) 51 years and Above ☐

3. Please indicate your educational level?

- a) None formal ☐ b) Primary ☐ c) Secondary ☐
d) Certificate ☐ e) Diploma ☐ f) Degree ☐
g) Post graduate diploma ☐ h) Masters ☐
i) others (please specify)

4. Marital status (Optional)

- a) Single ☐ b) Married ☐ c) Divorced/Separated ☐
d) Widow/Widower ☐

5. For how long have you been in this area?

- a) Less than 5 years ☐ b) 5-10 years ☐ c) 11 - 16 years ☐
d) 17 years and above ☐

6. What is your role in the community?

- a) Local leader ☐ b) Resident ☐
c) Clan leader ☐
d) Others (please specify).....

SECTION B: CROSS-BORDER SECURITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IN KARAMOJA REGION

Using the key given, choose or tick the statement that represents your opinion about cross-border security and community safety in Karamoja Region

5 - Strongly Agree, 4 - Agree, 3 - Not sure, 2 -Disagree and 1 - Strongly Disagree

B1	Cross-border security threats	5	4	3	2	1
B101	Cattle rustling is a common security threat in my community.					
B102	Illegal arms trafficking contributes to insecurity in the Karamoja region.					
B103	Inter-community conflicts frequently occur due to cross-border issues.					
B104	Cross-border movements make it difficult to control crime in this region.					
B105	Cross-border threats have increased in recent years.					
B2	Effect of cross-border insecurity on the socio-economic development and livelihoods of communities	5	4	3	2	1
B201	Cross-border insecurity negatively affects household livelihoods in my community.					
B202	Insecurity has reduced trade activities across borders.					
B203	Cross-border conflicts have slowed development projects in this region.					
B204	Fear of insecurity limits people's movement for economic activities.					
B205	Cross-border insecurity contributes to poverty in the Karamoja region.					

B3	The role state and non-state actors play in managing cross-border security	5	4	3	2	1
B301	Government agencies play an active role in addressing cross-border security threats.					
B302	Security forces (e.g., UPDF, Police) have helped reduce cross-border crime.					
B303	Local communities participate in efforts to prevent cross-border insecurity.					
B304	NGOs and community organizations contribute to peacebuilding and conflict resolution.					
B305	Cooperation among government, security forces, communities, and NGOs has improved security in the Karamoja region.					

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME