

**ANALYSIS OF THE FACTORS BEHIND THE PERSISTENT CATTLE RUSTLING
IN KARAMOJA SUB-REGION IN RELATION TO DWINDLING DEVELOPMENT:
A CASE STUDY OF APEITOLIM SUB COUNTY NAPAK DISTRICT KARAMOJA
SUB-REGION**

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**UGANDA CHRISTIAN
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APPROVAL

I am grateful to God, the Almighty for the help he has always given for this piece of work to come to its completion and that, it has been found worth submitting by my supervisor

Signature:.....

REV. PROF. ANDREW DAVID OMONA

Date:.....10/12/2024.....

DECLARATION

I with my knowledge declare to all the readers and assessors of this work that, the contents in this booklet is a result of my effort and there is no any copy of it that has been submitted to any institution of learning.

Signature: 

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Date: 10th/12/2024

DEDICATION

I am pleased to dedicate this work to my supervisor, Rev. Prof. Andrew David Omona for every guidance given to the completion of this work, my family members, friends and partners at crosslinks organization for the enormous holistic support rendered.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I do thank God for enabling me to finish what he started for me and I thank my supervisor, Rev. Prof. Andrew David Omona for his guidance that I believe is one of enhancing factors that have contributed to the completion of this work.

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed at analyzing the factors behind the persistent cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region. It looked at; the causes of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region, the effects of cattle rustling on the people of Karamoja Sub-region and the effectiveness of the measures the government uses to address the problem of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region. As a way of obtaining data from the local people on the study topic, the questionnaire was designed with probing questions on the study topic. It was found out that the causes of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region are; uncontrolled flow of small firearms, high value put on cattle, high bride wealth, search for power and fame, enmity among the major tribes within Karamoja Sub-region. Furthermore 70% of the respondents when interviewed attributed the persistent cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region to high level of illiteracy among the Karamojongs and influence from the witch doctors that encourages the Karamojong young men to go for raiding with a claim that their pronouncements and charms make them successful and protected in case of any resistance. On the effects of cattle rustling on the people of Karamoja Sub-region, high death rate, poverty, displacement of settlements and development hindrance were found to be the effects of cattle rustling on the people of Karamoja Sub-region. The study also carried out an assessment on the effectiveness of the measures the government uses in addressing the problem of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region and as a result, 34% of the targeted respondents said the measures that the government uses in addressing the problem of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region are not effective at all, 52% said they were partially effective while 14% said the measures were effective.

CHAPTER ONE

THE PROBLEM AND ITS SETTING

1.1. Introduction

This chapter consists; the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, objectives of the study, research questions, scope of the study which include; geographical, content and time scope, significance of the study and definition of terms.

This study is primarily meant to explicitly inform the people of Karamoja about the causes of cattle rustling in Karamoja region, its effects on the people of Karamoja Sub-region and assessment of the measures the government has put in place to address the problem of cattle rustling in Karamoja region and also provide the possible remedies to cattle rustling for the realization of social economic and spiritual development in Apeitolim Sub County.

1.2. Background of the study

Cattle rustling is an act of stealing or grabbing someone's or some people's cattle using harmful weapons. Cattle rustling is always planned and organized for by individuals with the aim of doing it.

According to analytical research study by the institute for security studies (ISS), cattle rustling has been advanced from being a cultural practice among the pastoralists' communities where the warriors did small-scale stock theft as a way of balancing wealth and power to organized crime committed by international networks.¹ The international networks have illegally made small arms and light weapons (SALW) available in the communities of the pastoralists. By so doing, warriors are able to buy them and use for raiding themselves.

¹ <https://issafrica.org/iss-today/cattle-rustling-from-cultural-practice-to-deadly-organised-crime>

Kennedy Mkutu in his research says, “More than 640 million small arms and 16 billion rounds of ammunitions circulate the globe yearly.”² This is alarming if in just a year, such an enormous number of harmful weapons is made available to the globe. This therefore calls for an attention on it.

According to the to the finding by the Institute for security studies, the inhuman practice of cattle rustling affects regions; Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, North Africa, South Africa and West Africa.³ As a result of the availability of the small arms and light weapons (SALW) among the pastoralists’ communities, cattle rustling has kept on intensifying each time.

The institute for security studies (ISS) shows that cattle rustling in 2017 and 2018 was characterized by high-intensity conflicts that left dozens killed or maimed, and negatively affected human security and development in the region. In West Pokot and Elgeyo- Marakwet counties in Kenya, 30 people were killed during the first five Months of 2019. In Uganda, authorities recovered 400 herds of cattle stolen by Turkana rustlers from Kenya. In South Sudan, 42 people were killed and 78 were wounded and more than 100 herds of cattle were stolen in Bieh state after the armed Murle tribesmen attacked cattle keepers.⁴

Many people have a prejudice that Karamoja has always been a region characterized with cattle rustling since its genesis. But it is not so, there was a cattle rustling-free Karamoja.

Violent and intensive cattle rustling started in 1979 when the Matheniko clan got access to the cache of weapons in Moroto main barracks after Idi Amin was overthrown, the soldiers ran and left the barracks unguarded. The Matheniko got strengths of attacking other Karamojong clans such as the Bokora where many many people ran to the neighbouring places such as Teso

² Kennedy Mkutu (2008), Guns and Governance in the rift Valley- Pastoralist conflict and small arms, Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

³ <https://issafrica.org>

⁴ <https://enactafrica.org>

region for their lives. The Matheniko clan continued to be a threat to other Karamojong clans for they raided many herds of cattle. And by doing so, they claimed to be powerful and superior to other clans in the region who had just spears which were locally made.

However few years later, there was illegal importation of guns from Sudan through Kotido in North Karamoja. The Jie clan brought them to the Bokora clan where they exchanged them with cows which ranged from five to three cows per gun depending on its type.

This escalated the practice of cattle rustling in the region up to now thus leading to the loss of many lives, destruction of property, displacement of people, and poverty although the government is trying what it can do to respond to the situation. This made the Karamojongs to start the practice of living in settlement systems known as *Manyatas* which are surrounded with thorny fence for security.

Cattle rustlers became a problem not only to their fellow pastoralists in the region, they also extended their inhuman practice to the neighbouring region Teso and to attacking and killing the travellers on roads. Extension of this evil practice made the directly affected people to cry out to the government for intervention. In response, the government of Uganda under the leadership of His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni launched the first disarmament in 2001. In 2010, there was relative peace realized in the region but latter on the problem of cattle rustling resumed and intensified and it is affecting every aspect of human life in the region; economically, socially as well as spiritually. And one of the places suffering from severe cattle rustling is Apeitolim Sub County where some residents have started stealing from within. The new humanitarian organization in its remarks concerning the situation of cattle rustling confirms the complexity of it for it says, “Now trouble has returned. The first warning sign was a spate of theft by petty criminals known as ‘Lonetia’ that began more than a decade ago.

Initially, cows started being taken just one or two at a time but soon the local rivalries escalated into tit-for tat raids.”⁵

1.3. 1.3 Statement of the problem

Cattle rustling has been a devastating problem in Karamoja region for quite a long period of time because each clan in Karamoja region has kept on revenging whenever it is attacked.

Cattle rustling is being practiced by different major clans within Karamoja region which include; the Bokora in Napak district, the Matheniko in Moroto district, the Pian in Nakapiripirit and Nabilatuk districts in South Karamoja, the Pokot in Amudat district in South East Karamoja, the Jie in Kotido district in North Karamoja, the Dodoth in North Karamoja as well.

These Karamojong major clans mainly raid herds of cattle since they can be made to move a long distance within Karamoja region.

The direct practitioners of cattle rustling are the Karamojong warriors who have not gone to school and some who dropped out of school in Primary level without any long lasting educational transformation. They organize raids in quite large numbers of about one hundred to two hundred warriors in different clans with consultations from the traditional overseers who claim to be in possession of a special knowledge and ability to foresee and interpret the unseen things in the future by casting lots, locally known as akilamilam ngamuk.

The raiders are given special herbs locally known as ngaokei that are believed to be having magical power to protect them from danger and make them successful in whichever attacks. Besides, they are also given special soil to smear on their bodies and also given instructions on how to move, spy and who to spy and how to spy and finally how to attack the kraals of the

⁵ <https://thenewhumanitarian.org>

intended clans. They move when they are heavily armed with guns for attacking and clubs for driving the plundered cattle.

Cattle rustling has persisted in the region because each clan believes in revenging when attacked although the Government has intervened by peacefully and forcefully disarming the Karamojong warriors and recruiting some of them into army forces and extending Education services in Karamoja region by building more schools and introducing Alternative Basic Education for Karamoja (ABEK) with an aim of transforming them.

Cattle rustling has brought insecurity in the region thus making some of the inhabitants to flee from the region to either other regions or countries such as Kenya making them unable to cultivate their gardens leading to no social, economic and spiritual development. For instance inhabitants of Apeitolim Sub County were displaced in 1998 during the insurgency leaving the fertile land desolate and battle field instead. There was loss of property and lives which has continued upto even now;

It was just of resent in 2006 when people the Karamojongs came and resettled in the area because of the peace between the Bokora and the Jie clans that was realized as a result of the forceful heavy disarmament that the government of Uganda carried out in Karamoja region from 2001 to 2008. This also attracted the attention of many Iteso people who had the problem of shortage of land in their places. They came and bought land in Apeitolim sub county.

However the problem of cattle rustling continues and it is escalating even when the government is deploying the army in different parts of Karamoja.

This has made me always to ponder and yearning to; find out the causes of cattle rustling in Karamoja region, understand why the problem of cattle rustling is persisting in the region even when the government is employing measures such as; conducting peaceful and forceful

disarmament, recruiting Karamojong warriors into the army as Local Defense Unit (LDUs), increasing accessibility to Education services by building more schools and introducing Alternative Basic Education for Karamoja (ABEK) by assessing their effectiveness in combating and eradicating cattle rustling in the region and to find out some of the possible remedies to the problem of cattle rustling in Karamoja region so that social, economic and spiritual development can be realized in Apeitolim Sub County.

1.4. Purpose of the study

To establish the causes of cattle rustling in Karamoja, analyze the effects of cattle rustling on the people of Karamoja sub-region and assess the effectiveness of the measures used by the government in addressing cattle rustling in Karamoja sub-region.

1.5. Objectives of the study

To establish the causes of cattle rustling in Karamoja sub-region

To analyze the effects of cattle rustling on the people of Karamoja sub-region

To assess the effectiveness of the measures used by the government in addressing cattle rustling in Karamoja sub-region

1.6. Research Questions

What are the causes of cattle rustling in Karamoja sub-region?

What are the effects of cattle rustling on the people of Karamoja sub-region?

What is the effectiveness of the measures used by the government in addressing cattle rustling in Karamoja sub-region?

1.7. Scope Of The Study

This consists; Geographical, content and time scope

1.7.1. Geographical Scope

The researcher conducted his research in Apeitolim Sub County, Bokora County, Napak District, Karamoja Region.

1.7.2. Content Scope

The researcher investigated and analyzed the cause of cattle rustling in Karamoja Region, assessed the effectiveness of the measures the government uses to eradicate cattle rustling in Karamoja region and came up with the helpful and practical remedies to the problem.

1.7.3. Time Scope

The researcher commenced his research in May, 2023 after finishing his research proposal in March 2023. He collected data on his topic of study and compiled it during holiday of his last semester which started on April 18th, 2023.

1.8. Significance of the Study

This research informs the Karamojong people of the causes of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region, the effects of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-Region. This helps the Karamojong people to see the fate cattle rustling has brought to the land. It also points out the weaknesses of the measures the government uses to eradicate cattle rustling in Karamoja region provide the helpful practical remedies. This possibly helps especially the security personnel to deal with the cattle rustling situation effectively thus leading to the realization of peace and eventually social, economic and spiritual development of Apeitolim Sub county.

1.9. Expected challenges during the cause of the study (Limitation of the study)

The researcher encountered with the challenges of; untruthfulness from some of his respondents, he had to incur added costs on printing more questionnaires and gave to those he trusted to be reliable, insecurity risks as he travelled in search for information about his topic of study from the locals in Apeitolim Sub County, high transport costs since the researcher had to cover approximately 130kms to access the public libraries in Moroto district for information about his topic of study, some respondents needed some money for them to answer the questionnaires or interviewed since it was the tendency of many Karamojong people since the non-governmental organizations do give them money after every gathering.

1.10. Definition of terms

Cattle rustling: This is an intended and planned act of either stealing or grubbing cattle of other people by warriors.

Disarmament: This is an act of removing guns from someone by either peaceful or forceful means.

Warriors: Are people who live by fighting to get their livelihood

Dwindling development: This is the unstable growth and expansion of either someone or something.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher looked at, reviewed and even quoted what other people have written about his topic of study in books articles and he also used internet as one of his sources.

2.2 The Causes of cattle rustling among the pastoralists

The problem of cattle rustling exists among the pastoralists' communities such as the Maasai, the Turkana, the Pokot in Kenya, the Karamojongs in Uganda, and also some communities that rear cattle in South Sudan. In those communities cattle is seen as everything for the wellbeing of people. This value attached in cattle makes the pastoralists to always yearn for livestock and some of them do not care how they get them in that they do not mind whether they will kill, injure or leave the owners of the cattle in poverty. Sandra and her colleagues say, "Raiding is a maladaptive cultural institution in which the value of cattle is put above that of human beings."⁶With this mindset, the pastoralists do not care how much they claim lives of people and even some times how they themselves can lose lives in the process of raiding.

In Kenya, it is understood that cattle rustling is facilitated with the introduction the guns that have been made available for even warriors. "Cattle raiding however, continued. After independence, it regained importance and intensified with the spread of modern firearms from the mid-1970s onwards."⁷ This analysis suggests that much as cattle rustling existed in Kenya before the introduction of the modern firearms, it was minimal since the weapons then were not sophisticated like the current ones that have made cattle rustling to escalate in Kenya and perhaps in some East African countries with nomads. Duncan E. Omondi Guma also says, 'cattle rustling is facilitated

⁶ <https://doi.org> (Feb 3rd, 2013)

⁷ <https://doi.org> (Feb 3rd, 2013)

by an increasing proliferation of weapons according to a study by ENACT transnational organized crime researchers at the institute of security studies.”⁸

It is also found out that commercialization of cattle rustling is one of the factors causing and intensifying the act of cattle rustling among the pastoralists. Research has found that there are some individuals who involve in wide cattle trade who connive with the warriors, the cattle rustlers so that they buy from them cheaply. “Cross-border criminal networks use advanced logistics and market information to continue their illicit activities.”⁹ Unlike before this kind of commercialization of cattle rustling, cattle rustlers could raid, accumulate wealth and stop but now, it is from theft to money that no one has ever gotten satisfied with. This therefore means if this is not paid attention to, then cattle rustling will always grow from bad to worse among the pastoralists’ communities.

Unsatisfied corrupt government officials are also contributing factors to the continuous cattle rustling among the pastoralists communities in East Africa in that, they connive with the cattle rustlers. To some they provide with bullets, while to others guns. Some of them move with the warriors to raid. Others accepts bribes from the transporters of the raided cattle whenever they intercept them. Duncan in his article says, “Cattle lords recruit and arm rural warriors to steal cattle for sale to abattoirs in towns or cross into neighboring countries where they sell the cattle.”¹⁰

Absence of the law specifically on cattle rustling in some East African countries make the directly affected communities vulnerable to cattle rustlers since they have no law that protects them. And

⁸ <https://reliefweb.int/organization/iss> (feb 28th, 2020)

⁹ <https://reliefweb.int/organization/iss> (feb 28th, 2020)

¹⁰ <https://reliefweb.int/organization/iss> (feb 28th, 2020)

this is the very concern Duncan is raising in his article, “the absence of anti-stock theft units in some of the countries makes communities vulnerable to armed rustlers.”¹¹

Samuel Waje Kunhiyop when examining the causes of Ethnic and religious conflicts in his book, African Christian Ethics realizes that such conflicts are caused by people struggling over certain resources for he writes, “ethnic identity will become salient. This is due to competition over scarce resources.”¹² Besides, Samuel Waje Kunhiyop further writes that, “In many African societies,

competition for power and wealth involves groups that are divided on cultural or religious lines.”

¹³ The pastoralists are divided according to their regions or tribes and they regard each ethnic group an enemy. It is therefore in this grounds they raid themselves. Billy Graham in his analysis on enemies writes, “An enemy is anyone who may show hostility or ill will toward us, or seek to harm us.”¹⁴ With the minds of seeing others as enemies, they continue to inflict pain on each other.

Besides the introduction of small and light guns to the pastoral communities, there is control over them.

According to the study carried out in 2016 to investigate the risks associated with armed violence, it was found that, 34,512 armed crimes occurred in Uganda, 26,041 cases were recorded in Burundi, Kenya saw 12,877 cases, and Tanzania 9,646.¹⁵

¹¹ <https://reliefweb.int/organization/iss> (feb 28th, 2020)

¹² “Ethnic identity will become more salient. This is due to competition over scarce resources.”(African Christian Ethics, pg110; 2019 by Samuel Waje Kunhiyop

¹³ In many African societies, competition for power and wealth involves groups that are divided on cultural or religious lines. (African Christian Ethics, pg110; 2019 by Samuel Waje Kunhiyop)

¹⁴ An enemy is anyone who may show hostility or ill will toward us, or seek to harm us. (Christian Worker’s Handbook, pg85; World wide Publications, USA, 2000)

¹⁵ <https://www.stmson.org> (2022), Preventing atrocities among pastoral communities

2.3 The effects of cattle rustling among the pastoralists.

Cattle rustling has led to the death of many people in the countries where it is practiced especially in rural communities. This affects both the local people and the security personnel whom the government send to intervene in the cattle rustling situations by protecting the lives of people and their property from the perpetrators.

Research shows that, 30 people were killed during the first five Months of 2019 in west Pokot and Elgeyo-Marakwet counties in Kenya¹⁶

In South Sudan, 42 people were killed and 78 wounded in Biel state after armed murle tribesmen attacked cattle keepers, stealing more than 100 herds of cattle at the beginning of 2019. In December, gunmen stole 400 cattle and killed 11 herdsman and wounded 7 others in Jonglei state.¹⁷

Due to the rampant killing of people among the pastoralist communities, there is a problem of depopulation. As a result, some places are left desolate which most times act as the hiding places for cattle rustlers.

Cattle rustling has contributed to poverty in the pastoralist's communities. This is because the energetic people are the ones that are mostly targeted by the rustlers and yet work is normally done by the young energetic people. Besides, many people do lose their oxen which they use for ploughing their gardens to the cattle rustlers thus having nothing to use for cultivating their fields.

Cattle rustling has also led to the displacement of some people in the directly affected areas for fear of being killed or injured by the cattle rustlers.

¹⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/organization/iss> (feb 28th, 2020)

¹⁷ <https://reliefweb.int/organization/iss> (feb 28th, 2020)

2.4 The effectiveness of the measures used by the government in addressing cattle rustling among the pastoralists.

Amidst the rampant cattle rustling among the pastoralists' communities, the government is not quite. It has always tried to intervene. However, the measures it has taken do not effective and reliable to end the problem of cattle rustling.

The government has conducted disarmament exercise in pastoralist communities as a way of addressing the problem of cattle rustling several times. For instance according to the analytical report by <https://www.enactafrica.org>, the president of the Republic of Uganda currently announced and infected disarmament in April 2022 where they recovered 148 guns in North Eastern Uganda region, the government of Kenya announced and infected disarmament in May 2022 and recovered 200 guns but does not put the problem of cattle rustling to an end. The problem has continued to be in existence. This is because the initiatives focuses on the guns available in the hands of warriors but does not look at the points of accesses through which the cattle rustlers acquire guns. The reality is unless the points of access through which the rustlers acquire guns are established and measures are taken to address it, the disarmament exercise will continue to be conducted over and over again as rustlers continue to acquire guns. Disarmament will therefore be a waste of time, money and energy.

The government in addition has put in place the reorganization of the anti-stock theft unit (ASTU) as a measure to address the problem of cattle rustling among the pastoralists' communities. It is however not effective in a way that it has not brought to an end the issue of cattle rustling among the pastoral communities in the countries where the measure has been put in place such as Uganda. Cattle rustling is still a life threatening issue, the lives of security personnel are in danger since some have already lost their lives in attempts to protect cattle from being raided in barracks. There is need to get the measures that can take away guns from the hands of warriors since it is from

guns they get courage to attack and raid if cattle rustling is to be dealt with and brought to zero among the pastoralists' communities. But as long as the warriors continue to in possession of guns, cattle rustling will still continue to be a threat among the pastoralists. Kennedy Mkutu writes, "In North East Africa and the rift valley, the flow of arms has been particularly heavy and has led to escalation of banditry, cattle rustling, raiding and ethnic conflict."¹⁸

2.5 Synthesis of the review

Free compulsory education, soldiers-warrior peaceful dialogues, identifying all the witch doctors, arresting and penalizing them and disarmament of the mind are the significant points according to the responses from the targeted respondents. 84% of the respondents said if the government is to bring cattle rustling to an end, it should introduce free compulsory education in Karamoja whereby all the Karamojng children from 6 to 12 years will be forcefully taken to school for transformation of the mind and heart that will lead to the disarmament of the mind. Education is seen as the effective disarmament master that will eradicate cattle rustling problem in Karamoja Sub-region if it is given due attention.

Formal education will brick the wrong informal education that is normally given to children in the Kraals, traditional dances where children are taught how to shoot on target, raid, how to raid and who to raid. This is done by training young male children to shoot tinny trees, storytelling and singing in traditional dances where the adult express how and where they raided.

18% of the respondents said the government should aim at disarming the minds of the Karamojong warriors besides disarming physically. This can be done through conducting dialogue meetings, sensitization on the danger of cattle rustling where the communities can be made to see how much

¹⁸ Mkutu, K. (2008). *Guns and governmence in the rift valley- Pastoralist Conflict and small arms*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

it has lost by raiding; number of people killed and murdered as result of cattle rustling, cattle that have been lost and how development has been hindered in the region.

6% said the witch doctors should be identified, arrested and punished by the law since they are the ones influencing the young men to carry out raids since they are believed to be possessing unique knowledge and power than other human beings. If the witch doctors are made to face the law, they will fear to be consulted.

2.6 New Knowledge created by the study (gaps to be bridged)

This study introduces new techniques of disarming the Karamojong people besides making them to either willingly or forcefully return the guns to the government. This study with the information got the respondents informs the government to employ the disarmament of the mind and free compulsory education so as to transform the people and put an end to cattle rustling in the region.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter entails; research plan, sampling methods/techniques and sample size, sources of data which is primary and secondary sources respectively, research instruments, data collection procedure and data processing and analysis.

3.2 Research Plan (Research Design)

Here the researcher used questionnaire and observation methods for obtaining the information required in the study and then used tables for analyzing and presenting them.

3.3 Population, sampling methods/techniques and sample size

The researcher targeted fifty (50) people to be his respondents whereby 15 were elders, 10 were youths, 10 were the local political leaders, 5 were security personnel and 10 were religious leaders.

The researcher put the above information on the table to categorize it.

3.4 The Table showing the number and the categories of intended respondents

3.4.1 Table 1

CATEGORY	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE (%)
Youths	10	20
Elders	15	30
Local Political Leaders	10	20
Security Personnel	5	10
Religious Leaders	10	20
TOTAL	50	100

3.5 Sources of Data (Primary and Secondary)

The researcher basically found his information of study from his own observation and he also consulted literature written by other scholars in books and internet that was related to his topic of

study. This made him to read books, newspapers and even some articles on social media that talked on his topic of study.

3.6 Research Instruments

The researcher prepared the questionnaire and distributed to the informed individuals about the cattle rustling situation in Karamoja Region whether Karamojongs or non but has taken at least ten years and above in Karamoja constantly and knew how to read and write. He also interviewed those who did not know how to read and write but with knowledge about the cattle rustling situation.

He also conducted interviews using the questionnaire with some resourceful individuals especially elders who were very much experienced about the problem of cattle rustling in Karamoja Region yet unable to read and write. He focused so much on the people that lived in Apeitolim Sub County.

Besides giving questionnaires to some locals and interviewing them, the researcher took time to observe how the situation was in Karamoja Sub region.

He infected the process of data collection in April, 2023 using the approved questionnaire in Apeitolim, Karamoja, analyzed and presented data in table form.

3.7 Validation of Research instruments

The researcher ensured that the data collected from the respondents is authentic so as to ascertain the validity of the instruments used.

3.8 Data Collection Procedure

After the distribution of questionnaires to the sited local people interviewing and observing the place on cattle rustling he collected data easily which became of great importance to the topic of study thus benefiting many Karamojongs and some security people in Karamoja for effective

dealing with insecurity issues in the region, resulting in to the achievement of the intended goal of eradicating insecurity and bringing development in Apeitolim Sub County and some other parts of Karamoja sub region.

3.9 Data Processing and Analysis

The researcher collected all the data, analyzed it using both qualitative and quantitative.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION/INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter aims at presenting the findings got from various respondents during data collection.

4.2 The causes of cattle rustling in karamoja sub-region

4.2.1 Table2 shows the responses of the respondents to the causes of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region

CAUSE	Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Uncontrolled flow of small firearms	16(32%)	34(68%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
High value put on cattle	3(6%)	47(94%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
High bride wealth	15(30%)	9(18%)	15(30%)	11(22%)
Search for power and fame	22(44%)	6(12%)	18(36%)	4(8%)
Enmity among the major clans within the region	10(20%)	38(76%)	2(4%)	0(0%)

68% of the respondents had strong conviction that uncontrolled flow of small firearms causes cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-Region, 32% partially agreed while none of them either disagreed or even strongly disagreed that the uncontrolled flow of small firearms causes cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-Region. This is the second in percentage which implies uncontrolled flow of small firearms is indeed one of the major causes of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-Region. Although the problem of cattle rustling began quite many years back, the rustlers used weak weapons such as bow and arrows, spears and shields, locally made guns known as 'ngamatidae' to carry out their illicit act. That time cattle theft was minimal. With time, especially in 1979 when president Iddi Amin was overthrown whereby the soldiers abandoned the umbra in Moroto, the Matheniko got

access into it and got guns as even the New Humanitarian Organization reports, “in 1979, after the collapse of Idi Amin’s regime, soldiers abandoned the barracks in Moroto leaving its unguarded cache of weapons to spill across the region” , they started raiding other clans within Karamoja Sub-Region especially; the Bokora, the Jie, and the Pian but as time went by, other clans also acquired guns and fought back equally. This was as a result of small firearms circulating in the globe. Kennedy Mkutu in his research says, “more than 640 million small arms and 16 billion rounds of ammunitions circulate the globe yearly.” By so doing, the rustlers advanced their act of rustling cattle and its effects were horrible since they were using complicated weapons.

94% of the respondents strongly agreed that high value put on cattle causes cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-Region, 6% had partial agreement on high value put on cattle as a cause of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-Region, (6%) agreed while none of the respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that high value put on cattle causes cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-Region. This is a cause of cattle rustling whereby many respondents (94%) had strong conviction that cattle rustling is truly caused by the high value put on cattle. It should be noted that with the exception of few Karamojong elites, the majority of them regard cattle as the ultimate source of all that one requires for a complete livelihood, Mr. Lokong as reported by the New Humanitarian Organization says, “the cow is our bank.” This is true for even other communities in Africa where cattle are kept. Sandra and her colleagues say, “raiding is a maladaptive cultural institution in which the value of cattle is put above that of human beings.” It is from this mindset that cattle rustlers do not mind about the problems they cause to the societies after raiding cattle, not only do they care less about the effect of their raiding to the owners of the cattle, they also care less about their own lives, that is why they keep on raiding even when they are being killed.

18% of the respondents had strong conviction that high bride price causes cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-Region, 30% partially agreed while 30% and 22% respectively disagreed and strongly disagreed that high bride price causes cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-Region. According to the response of the people as analyzed, it can be seen that although high bride price was of the major driving forces that could make men go raiding, in this era, it is not the case but is about getting money that is even abused most of the times; the young men use it for drinking, making friends and many more others

12% of the respondents strongly agreed that searching for power and fame causes cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-Region, 44% partially agreed. On contrary, 36% and 8% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that search for power and fame causes cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-Region. Although it was true in the early karamoja that one's strengths and fame was chiefly dependent on how much wealth he has amassed and how he amassed it, the statistics show that in this new era, power and fame is no longer the main issue of the young men going for raids but search for money. Institute for security studies says, "Cattle rustling has been advanced from being a cultural practice among the pastoralist communities where the warriors did small-scale stock theft as a way of balancing wealth and power to organized crimes committed by international networks."¹⁹ In this analysis, it is found out that raiding has been advanced from being just cultural to criminal in a sense business has been integrated with this act.

76% of the respondents strongly agreed that enmity among the major clans within the region causes cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-Region, 20%, partially agreed. But (8%) of the respondents disagreed that enmity among the major clans within the region causes cattle rustling in Karamoja

¹⁹ <https://issafrica.org>

Sub-Region and none of them strongly objected it. According to the information obtained from the field of research, enmity among the major clans within Karamoja stands to be one of the facilitators of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-Region. It should be noted that cattle rustling in Karamoja is as a result of negativity among the major clans within the region although they are all karamojongs, each clan regards the others enemies and therefore plans and does harm to them. New Humanitarian Organization reports that, “armed rustlers raided Lokong’s communal kraal or cattle enclosure in Northerneastern Uganda’s Kaabong district in late November and stole nearly 1000 cows.”²⁰ Many raids of such kinds have been registered in Karamoja Sub-Region. This raiding and stealing of cattle within the region is due to the negative minds that perceives other clans as enemies, I am sure if the Karamojongs did not have this kind of mind, there would be no stealing and raiding of fellow Karamojongs within the region.

²⁰ Newhumanitarian.org

4.3 Effects of cattle rustling on the people of Karamoja sub-region

4.3.1 Table 3 shows the responses of the respondents on the effects of cattle rustling on the people of Karamoja Sub-region

EFFECT	Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
High death rate	5(10%)	45(90)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Poverty among the people	4(8%)	46(92%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Displacement of settlements	4(8%)	46(92%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Hinders development	16(32%)	34(68%)	0(0%)	0(0%)

90% of the respondents strongly agreed that cattle rustling has led to high death rate in Karamoja Sub-Region, 10% partially agreed. None of the respondents had an objection. This immense percentage implies that cattle rustling has surely led to the death of many people in the region of Karamoja. According to the findings in the table above, it is explicit that cattle rustling has led to high death rate in the region.

It must be noted that although Karamoja is a region with very few cases of deadly diseases, but cattle rustling has always stood to be a disastrous cancer that has claimed very many lives in the region, leaving thousands of children as helpless orphans, many women as widows and therefore heads of families since their husbands are dead.

Horrendously New Humanitarian Organization reports, "...in the last two years the raiders have returned, killing hundreds of people and stealing the cattle that are their livelihood."²¹ Still via the New Humanitarian Organization, Mr. Michael Longole, the police spokesman for Karamoja Sub-Region reports that, "Since November 2020, about 150 people have been killed by the cattle raiders." It has also been noticed that although the cattle raiders have continued killing people, they are also being killed by the army for he says, "a further 73 raiders have been killed by the security forces."

²¹ thenewhumanitarian.org

Furthermore the government press release in September and Karamoja Development Forum findings between 2019 and July 2021, 400 deaths and 600 deaths have been recorded respectively.

The report by the New Humanitarian Organization is explicitly showing that cattle rustling has led to the massive loss of lives in Karamoja Sub-Region. This is evidenced in the analysis of the organization, “Armed rustlers raided Lokong’s communal kraal or cattle enclosure in Northeastern Uganda’s Kaabong district in late November and stole nearly 1000 cows.”²² This is alarming to those whose cows are raided since the lives of Karamojong chiefly depend on cattle for livelihood. Lokong says, “the cow is our bank.” Just as people get money from the bank that enhance every aspect of the livelihood except spiritual, a cow in Karamoja enhances every aspect of human life except spiritual.

92% of the respondents strongly agreed that cattle rustling has brought poverty to the people of Karamoja Sub-Region, 8% partially agreed on the matter. None of the respondents objected the fact that cattle rustling has brought to the region.

92% of the respondents strongly agreed that cattle rustling has led to the displacement of settlements in Karamoja Sub-Region, 8% had partial agreement that cattle rustling has led to the displacement of settlements in the region. And none of the respondents disagreed.

Many settlements in Karamoja have been displaced in different times due to cattle cattlings that has always caused insecurity and fear among the people; Apeitolim was displaced in 1998 due to the insurgency until 2006 when relative peace was restored as a result of the 2005 and 2006 forceful disarmament. Recently the settlements in Nabwal Sub-County were displaced in April 2023 due to insecurity and fear caused by cattle rustling. This made the settlers there to miss cultivation and also lost their cattle and some stored food to the cattle rustlers and some stubborn people who took the advantage of the situation to loot other people.

68% of the respondents strongly agreed that cattle rustling has hindered development in Karamoja Sub-Region, 32% had partial agreement on the same matter that cattle rustling hinders development. And none of the respondents objected it in any way. Following the fact that the livelihood of the Karamojong people is chiefly dependent on the rearing of cattle and cultivation,

²² thenewhumanitarian.org/news-feature/2022/1/26/Uganda-karamoja-cattle-rustling-militarised-violence-returns

the displacements of settlements and stealing of cattle that was brought about by the cattle rustling which made the growing of crops and the rearing of cattle difficult has resulted into poverty and hindered development in the region both economically and spiritually since many people who could have brought development felt insecure to travel and work in Karamoja.

4.5 THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MEASURES THE GOVERNMENT USES TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF CATTLE RUSTLING IN KARAMOJA SUB- REGION

Out of the 50 proposed respondents to answer the questionnaires, 14% of the respondents said the measures the government uses to address cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-Region are effective, 52% said they are partially effective while 34% of the respondents said they are not effective at all.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter consists of; conclusion and recommendations which aim at presenting the analysis of the researcher on the findings and the possible remedies believed to be helpful in addressing the problem under study respectively.

5.2 CONCLUSION

The study was primarily meant to establish the factors behind the persistent cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region in relation to its dwindling development. The findings were got basing on the three questions as below;

5.2.1 The Causes of Cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region

According to the findings, uncontrolled flow of small firearms, high value put on cattle, high bride wealth, search for power and fame, enmity among the major clans within the region, high level of illiteracy among many Karamojongs and influence of the witch doctors were found to be the causes of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region.

5.2.2 5.1.2 The Effects of Cattle rustling on the people of Karamoja Sub-region

According to the findings obtained from the respondents, high death rate, poverty among the people, displacement of settlements and hindrance to development were found to be the effects of cattle rustling on the people of Karamoja Sub-region.

5.2.3 5.1.3 The Effectiveness of the measures the government uses to address the problem of Cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region

According to the analysis on the effectiveness of the measures the government uses to address the problem of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region, it implies that the government needs to employ peaceful means such as having peaceful soldiers-warriors dialogues of disarming the warriors in Karamoja Sub-region and disarmament of the mind not only the hands. This is explicit following the findings obtained from the field whereby 34% of the respondents said the measures the government uses to address the problem of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region were not effective at all, 52% said they were partially effective while 14% said they were effective.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the findings on the causes of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region, the effects of cattle rustling on the people of Karamoja Sub-region and the effectiveness of the measures the government uses to address the problem of cattle rustling, some actions have been recommended to be of help in combating the problem of cattle rustling that has persisted in Karamoja Sub-region.

5.3.1 The Causes of Cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region

Following the findings that reveal that uncontrolled flow of small firearms, high value put on cattle, high bride wealth, search for power and fame, influence of witchdoctors and high level of illiteracy among many Karamojongs, I recommend that the government comes up with practical restricting laws that prohibit any Ugandan civilian from buying a gun from the neighbouring countries such as South Sudan where many respondents say is where the Jie warriors in Kotido, Northern Karamoja go to purchase guns for monopolizing and terrorizing other clans within Karamoja region.

The government through the local security detectives should arrest, charge and punish all the witch doctors that have kept on instigating cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region.

The government of Uganda should introduce compulsory education in Karamoja Sub-region to address the problem of high illiteracy among the people of Karamoja that the findings have shown that it is one of the leading causes of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region. With this initiative, all the Karamojong children 6 years to 12 years should by law go to school for the transformation of their minds and entire lives. Any family that is found with children from 6 to 12 years either at home or in the kraal should be arrested, charged and punished. This should be done with the help of the local security personnel and other offices that are handling the wellbeing of children. Education is the right master that will disarm the Karamojongs properly and effectively than just disarming them physically that leaves them with guns on their minds and hearts.

There should be talk-shows on F.M radio stations on the value of humanity more than anything God has ever created. Such talk-shows should be integrated with the Bible so that those who tend to devalue people at the expense of cattle will be taught. This is because the Bible is so much rich in facts about the value of human beings over the rest of creation. The Psalmist by the Holy Spirit

acknowledges the fact that he is the wonderful creation of God for he says, “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...”²³ Human beings are created in the likeness of God unlike other creatures, for God during creation said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...”²⁴ Therefore any attempt to destroy or inflict pain on people in any way is to harm the image of God that God fearfully made to glorify and work together with Him. It is also inflicting pain on God the creator of people. People should be treated as sacred beings of God where God finds pleasure. After creating human beings, “God saw all that he had made and it was very good.”²⁵

The government in collaboration with the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should converge especially the two clans; the Jie in Kotido and the Bokora in Napak districts in the vast fertile vacant land between Kotido and Napak districts for settlement. This may bring oneness among people of different clans as they share their belongings together and also intermarry whereby they will see themselves as in-laws other than seeing each other as enemies. This initiative is practically working between the Bokora and the Pian clans who have settled in Nabwal between the Bokora and the Pian clans that was made possible through the effort of CLIDE which is a Christian faith-based non-governmental organization. It is also working with the Bokora and Matheniko who have extended settlements between Moroto and Napak districts.

Parents should also be taught the primary intention of raising up children especially girls as a way of preparing them for independency not as assets for gaining wealth. Many parents see girls in their families as income-generating assets thus making them to always overcharge their in-laws during marriage. Young men who may want to marry yet do not have cattle for marriage are forced to go for cattle rustling in search for cattle for marriage.

5.3.2 The Effects of Cattle rustling on the people of Karamoja Sub-region

Following the destructive effects of cattle rustling; high death rate, displacement of settlements, for instance many people abandoned their homes in Apeitolim Sub-county, Nabwal parish due to

²³ Psalm 139:14

²⁴ Genesis 1:26

²⁵ Genesis 1:31

intensive insecurity in the area, hinders development, and poverty among the people Karamoja Sub-region, I do recommend that the Karamojong people willingly accept peace and expose all the armed warriors that brings development and preserves lives rather than cattle rustling that destroys life and hinders development of any kind.

5.3.3 The Effectiveness of the measures the government uses to address the problem of Cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region

The government of Uganda through the security forces particularly the UPDF in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) should focus on disarming the minds of the Karamojong warriors by initiating forceful but free education for all the Karamojong children especially boys for the transformation of their minds and hearts. Once the mind and heart of a person are disarmed through education, a person cannot think of possessing and using a gun. There should be a serious campaign against parents who do not want to take their children to school. And there should be a penalty for those who are found keeping their children either at home or in the kraals during school days.

The government through local government leaders should unite with religious leaders in conducting peace talks in the villages, radio stations and kraals and the first priority should be to prominent traditional leaders indigenously called *Ngikatukok* that the local people listen to whenever they make an address or express concern. The prominent traditional leaders will spread transformation to the young people thus resulting into massive transformation in the land.

The government of Uganda should have a memorandum of understanding with the government of the neighbouring countries such as Kenya, South Sudan whenever it plans to disarm the Karamojong warriors to see to it that the armed civilians in such countries are either disarmed or prohibited from entering Uganda with guns so that they cannot bring guns to Uganda that makes it easy for the Karamojong warriors to access guns. Unless Uganda creates restrictions on the countries that sell guns to her citizens, its government will keep on doing disarmament in Karamoja time and again and the action will be like that of someone who deliberately keeps on scooping water that comes from the leaking roof instead of addressing the whole on the roof through which water leaks into his house. This will be deliberate misuse of public funds, time and energy. It also communicates unfairness to the citizens in Karamoja Sub-region

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Apendix I: QUESITIONNNAIRE

Dear my beloved respondent, I am Longok Samuel, registration number **M21B09/030**, doing a Bachelor of Divinity Programme at Uganda Christian University. I am carrying out a research project on the topic, '*The factors behind the persistent cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region in relationship to its dwindling development*'. I am doing this in Apeitolim Sub County.

You are kindly requested to answer the questions designed to generate information about the topic under study anonymously (**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO WRITE YOUR NAME ANY WHERE ON THIS QUESTIONNAIRE**)

Your honest answers will enhance this research to meet its target.

A) THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF RESPONDENTS

You are required to tick in the box against the category to which you belong

Youth

Elder

Local Political Leader

Security Personnel

Religious Leader

B) THE CAUSES OF CATTLE RUSTLING IN KARAMOJA SUB-REGION

1 a) What are the causes of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region?

The table below shows some of the causes of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region. You are required to tick against each cause basing on your conviction; agree, strongly agree, disagree and strongly disagree.

CAUSE	Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Uncontrolled flow of small firearms				
High value put on cattle				
High bride wealth				
Search for power and fame				

Enmity among the major clans within the region				
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b) Apart from the causes in the table above, what else do you see to be the causes of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region?

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C) THE EFFECTS OF CATTLE RUSTLING ON THE PEOPLE OF KARAMOJA

2 a) What are the effects of cattle rustling on the people of Karamoja Sub-region?

The table below shows some of the effects of cattle rustling on the people of Karamoja Sub-region. You are required to tick against each effect basing on your conviction; agree, strongly agree, disagree or strongly disagree.

EFFECT	Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
High death rate				
Poverty among the people				
Displacement of settlement				
Hinders development				

b) Apart from the effects in the table above, what other effects do you know?

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D) THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MEASURES THE GOVERNMENT USES TO ADDRESS CATTLE RUSTLING IN KARAMOJA

3 a) Looking at the problem of cattle rustling which has persisted for many years in Karamoja, do you think the measures the government is using in addressing cattle rustling in Karamoja are effective?

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b) If yes, how effective are they in addressing the problem of cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region?

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c) What do you think the government should do so as to make its measures in addressing cattle rustling issue effective?

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d) Apart from disarming the Karamojong warriors and deploying security personnel in communities and Kraals to protect people and their property from cattle rustlers, which other measures do you think are effective and reliable in addressing cattle rustling in Karamoja Sub-region so as to realize a cattle rustling-free Karamoja Sub-region?

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