

Exploring the Interplay Between Multiagency Security Challenges and Economic Security in Lamu County, Kenya

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ABSTRACT

The article underscored challenges arising from multi agency security approach and economic security in Lamu County-Kenya. The specific objective of the study was to assess the efficacy of multi-agency security strategies adopted in enhancing economic security in Lamu County, Kenya. Various literatures were reviewed in a funnel shape from the global, continental, regional, national and then to area of study. The study was guided by system theory. It adopted descriptive research design since it was a mixed research approach. Purposive and snowballing sampling technique was utilized to reach respondents. Additionally, fishers formula was embraced to derive the sample size of 384 respondents since the target population was more than 10, 000 people from Lamu County, which has a total population of 143,920 persons according to Kenya 2019 census report. The data was analyzed by use of triangulation method of analysis whereby, content analysis, thematic analysis and verbatim quotations were used. The research article found out that lack of coordination and communication among security agencies significantly hampers multi-agency efforts to enhance economic security in Lamu County. Additionally, it emerged that, fragmented initiatives and resource limitations impede swift responses to evolving threats. Moreover, the research article concludes that; socio-political intolerance disrupts collaboration, fosters divided loyalties, and politicizes security efforts, undermining community trust and the impartiality of security measures. Therefore, the research article recommends that; in order to promote inclusivity and impartiality in security policies, ensuring measures are seen as fair and non-partisan, continuous training programs are essential for updating skills, particularly in technological and collaborative aspects of security.

Keywords: Communication, Coordination, Economic, Multi-Agency, Security

I. INTRODUCTION

A global perspective on multi-agency security techniques underscores their importance in safeguarding economic stability. The United States provides a prominent example, where multi-agency approaches have been extensively institutionalized. Agencies like the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) exemplify collaboration efforts that focus on critical infrastructure protection, financial crime prevention, and mitigation of risks threatening economic prosperity (Atkinson, 2019). The DHS collaborates with agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Department of Justice (DOJ), as well as the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN, 2016) within the Department of Treasury, to counter threats like terrorism, cybercrime, and money laundering, all of which can significantly destabilize economic security (Bond & Gittel, 2010).

Expanding the view to a continental scope, multi-agency cooperation is also prevalent in the European Union (EU). The EU's Europol is a central multi-agency framework dedicated to facilitating data exchange, threat analysis, and joint security initiatives among member countries (Scherrer & Schneider, 2020). Europol partners with financial authorities to combat cross-border money laundering and cybercrime, protecting the economic stability of EU member states (Maldonado, 2021). Such collaborative efforts illustrate how multi-agency strategies are pivotal in a supranational setting where the economic security of one state can affect the broader region.

Regionally, African countries are increasingly adopting multi-agency security frameworks to tackle diverse economic security challenges. For instance, Kenya has implemented joint task forces comprising police, intelligence, and anti-corruption agencies to mitigate financial crimes and enhance border security (Njuguna, 2020). Through

coordinated actions, these multi-agency teams aim to curb tax evasion, counterfeiting, and corruption, which are key threats to Kenya's economic security (Wamuyu & Ombati, 2022).

In sum, multi-agency security approaches, though varying in effectiveness depending on the nature and quality of collaboration, provide a versatile framework to address complex security concerns impacting economic stability across different levels. Enhanced inter-agency cooperation enables better resource sharing, operational synergy, and a proactive response to threats, thereby reinforcing economic security (Atkinson, 2019; Bond & Gittel, 2010; Maldonado, 2021).

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Lamu County's multiagency security approach, involving stakeholders like the National Land Commission, Ministry of Interior, National Police Service, and local communities, aims to safeguard economic stability through coordinated infrastructure protection and risk mitigation. However, the ongoing economic instability highlights significant challenges in this approach. Land grabs, gender-based violence, and property damage associated with infrastructure projects, such as the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor, underscore the vulnerability of economic security. Additionally, recurring terrorism incidents and security breaches expose the limitations of current strategies, despite curfews and security reinforcements. Conflicting actions among agencies further hinder economic development, and issues like family breakdowns and drug abuse make residents susceptible to radicalization. Overreliance on enforcement rather than community engagement may be insufficient for sustained stability. Thus, this study critically examines the effectiveness of Lamu County's multiagency security approach in fostering economic security, addressing both structural and operational gaps.

1.2 Research Objectives

This study was guided by one objective which was to assess the efficacy of multi-agency security strategies adopted in enhancing economic security in Lamu County, Kenya.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Review

This research article adopted systems theory and realism theory. This is because, Realism Theory explains the competitive, self-interested actions of security agencies in Lamu, prioritizing state security amidst regional threats. Systems Theory complements this by highlighting the interdependence between security and economic sectors, showing how each agency's actions impact others within an interconnected framework. Together, they provide a balanced perspective on challenges and cooperative needs in multiagency efforts, crucial for both security and economic stability in Lamu County:

2.1.1 Realism Theory

Realism Theory, introduced by Hans Morgenthau in 1948, helps analyze the self-interested, competitive actions of actors within an anarchic system, making it essential for studying security dynamics in Lamu County (Morgenthau, 1948). Realism posits that security agencies prioritize survival, power, and national interest, often leading to competition over cooperation (Schweller, 1996). In Lamu's multiagency security context, this theory explains why agencies struggle to collaborate despite shared goals (Mearsheimer, 2001). Realism emphasizes the pursuit of security and control, highlighting interagency rivalries and jurisdictional conflicts (Waltz, 1979). Moreover, it underscores the importance of economic security to support broader stability in Lamu, where economic challenges are compounded by security issues (Gilpin, 1981). Applying Realism Theory reveals the need for strategic policies fostering cooperation between agencies to achieve sustainable stability and economic resilience in the region.

2.1.2 Systems Theory

Systems Theory, developed by Ludwig von Bertalanffy in 1936, has significantly contributed to understanding complex interactions within the multiagency security landscape in Lamu County, Kenya. The theory emphasizes the interdependence of various parts within a whole system, where changes in one element impact others (von Bertalanffy, 1936). In this context, Systems Theory has been instrumental in examining how diverse security agencies and economic sectors interrelate to influence overall security and economic stability in Lamu (Checkland, 1981). Its strengths lie in its holistic approach, integrating economic, social, and security aspects into a single framework (Bertalanffy, 1968). This comprehensive view has provided insights into how security measures impact economic activities, highlighting the need for coordinated agency efforts (Jackson & Keys, 1984). By encouraging inter-agency collaboration and acknowledging economic security as part of the security matrix, Systems Theory has helped reveal

underlying challenges and fostered more effective, collective responses, ultimately enhancing stability in Lamu County (Meadows, 2008).

2.2 Empirical Review

The use of a multiagency approach to enhance economic security is increasingly recognized as a necessary strategy in addressing the multifaceted challenges facing economies worldwide. This approach involves the collaboration of various stakeholders, including government entities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector actors, in a coordinated effort to address economic vulnerabilities. However, the application of multiagency strategies also brings forth various challenges and opportunities that must be critically assessed.

At the global level, China's implementation of multiagency strategies in economic security provides a compelling case study. The work of Liu *et al.* (2021) examines how China's government has mobilized multiple agencies to enhance economic resilience and security in response to internal and external pressures. The authors highlight the strategic integration of economic, social, and environmental policies through multiagency coordination, arguing that this approach has led to increased economic stability. However, Liu *et al.* (2021) primarily emphasize the top-down implementation of these strategies without sufficiently addressing the potential barriers posed by bureaucratic inertia and lack of grassroots participation.

In the continental context, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) offers an illustrative example of both the challenges and opportunities associated with multiagency approaches to economic security. The research conducted by Makasi and Tshibanda (2020) highlights the complexities of coordinating various governmental and non-governmental agencies in a country marked by significant economic instability and conflict. Their findings indicate that while multiagency strategies can facilitate improved resource allocation and collaborative efforts in addressing economic insecurity, challenges such as corruption, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of inter-agency communication hinder their effectiveness. Furthermore, Makasi and Tshibanda (2020) do not sufficiently explore the role of local communities in these processes, which limits the applicability of their findings to regions like Lamu, where local participation is critical. This gap emphasizes the need for further research on how to incorporate local perspectives and needs into multiagency strategies, thereby enhancing their efficacy in promoting economic security.

Regionally, Tanzania provides a valuable case study on the opportunities and challenges of multiagency strategies in economic security. The study by Nyanje *et al.* (2021) examines Tanzania's efforts to enhance food security through multiagency collaboration, particularly in rural areas vulnerable to climate change. The authors argue that multiagency approaches can lead to improved coordination among different stakeholders, resulting in better resource distribution and increased resilience among vulnerable populations. However, Nyanje *et al.* (2021) highlight significant challenges, including bureaucratic delays and inadequate communication among agencies, which often impede the implementation of coordinated strategies.

At the national level, Kenya has made substantial strides in employing multiagency approaches to bolster economic security, particularly through the implementation of Vision 2030. The work of Mwenda (2022) investigates the Kenyan government's efforts to coordinate various agencies to combat poverty and unemployment, emphasizing the importance of a collaborative framework in enhancing economic resilience. While Mwenda (2022) provides valuable insights into the successes of Kenya's multiagency strategies, the study does not adequately address the challenges encountered in implementing these strategies at the local level. Issues such as resource allocation, inter-agency rivalry, and the need for capacity building among local stakeholders remain underexplored.

Focusing specifically on Lamu, the application of multiagency approaches presents both challenges and opportunities unique to the region. Abdi (2023) discusses the economic vulnerabilities faced by Lamu, including high unemployment rates, poverty, and the impacts of climate change on local livelihoods. Abdi emphasizes the potential for a multiagency approach to enhance economic security through collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, and local communities. However, the study highlights significant challenges, including bureaucratic inefficiencies and the lack of coordination among different agencies, which can undermine the effectiveness of such initiatives. Abdi's work raises important questions about the operational mechanisms needed for successful multiagency coordination in Lamu, identifying a gap in the literature regarding best practices for stakeholder engagement and resource allocation in the local context. It's on this basis that the research article underscored challenges and opportunities arising from multiagency security approach and economic security in Lamu county-Kenya.

III. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Study area

The study was conducted in Lamu County, a strategic coastal region of Kenya with a rich cultural heritage, significant economic potential through the LAPSET project, and ongoing security challenges. Its unique intersection

of multiagency security operations and economic development issues made it an ideal setting for analyzing this interplay.

3.2 Research Design

In this study, a descriptive research design was adopted. It was chosen for its ability to accurately depict participants without influencing their responses. This design is well-suited for examining the relationship between multiagency approaches and economic security in Lamu County, Kenya. The study employed a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods to capitalize on the strengths of each approach and mitigate their respective weaknesses (Williams, 2014).

3.3 Target Population

The study target population was 143,920 people from Lamu County (KNBS, 2019). Therefore, in this target population, the study focused on officers from multi agencies that deal with human security elements. Using Fisher's formula for sample size determination, the sampled size was 384 respondents. Out of 384, only 305 responded during the interviews. The data was further supplemented by respondents reached through use of purposive and snowballing purposive sampling.

3.4 Data Analysis

Data was analyzed by use of themes and based on content. It was presented thematically, by use of charts and also bar-graphs. Tools of data collection included questionnaires, oral interviews and focus group discussions.

IV. FINDINGS & DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Response Rate

In this section, the chapter explored the wide landscape of challenges stemming from the Multiagency Security Approach and its impact on economic security, with a focus on Lamu County. Through a comprehensive analysis of various factors, including dearth of coordination and communication, corruption, socio-political intolerance, and dearth of capacity and training needs. The study aimed to provide discussions into the complexities faced by security agencies and the economic landscape.

4.1.1 Challenges Facing Multiagency Security Approach and Economic Security

Challenges are abound to occur in every organization and so is multiagency security approach (MSA) in enhancing economic security in Lamu County. Therefore, the study sought to evaluate challenges facing MSA in enhancing economic security in Lamu County. Out of 305 respondents, 30 (9.836%) stated that dearth of coordination and communication was a challenge, 43(14.10%) reasoned that resource allocation and budget constraints was a challenge, 31(10.16%) stated that interagency competition was a challenge, 52(17.05%) averred that duplication of roles was a challenge. Further, 28(9.18%) argued that legal and jurisdictional complexities were a challenge, 25(8.20%) said that mistrust and suspicion was a challenge facing MSA, 37(12.13%) stated that dearth of capacity and training needs was a challenge and 24(7.86%) reasoned that socio-political intolerance was a challenge and finally 35(11.48%) stated that corruption and bad governance was a challenge facing MSA. The results are illustrated in figure 6.1

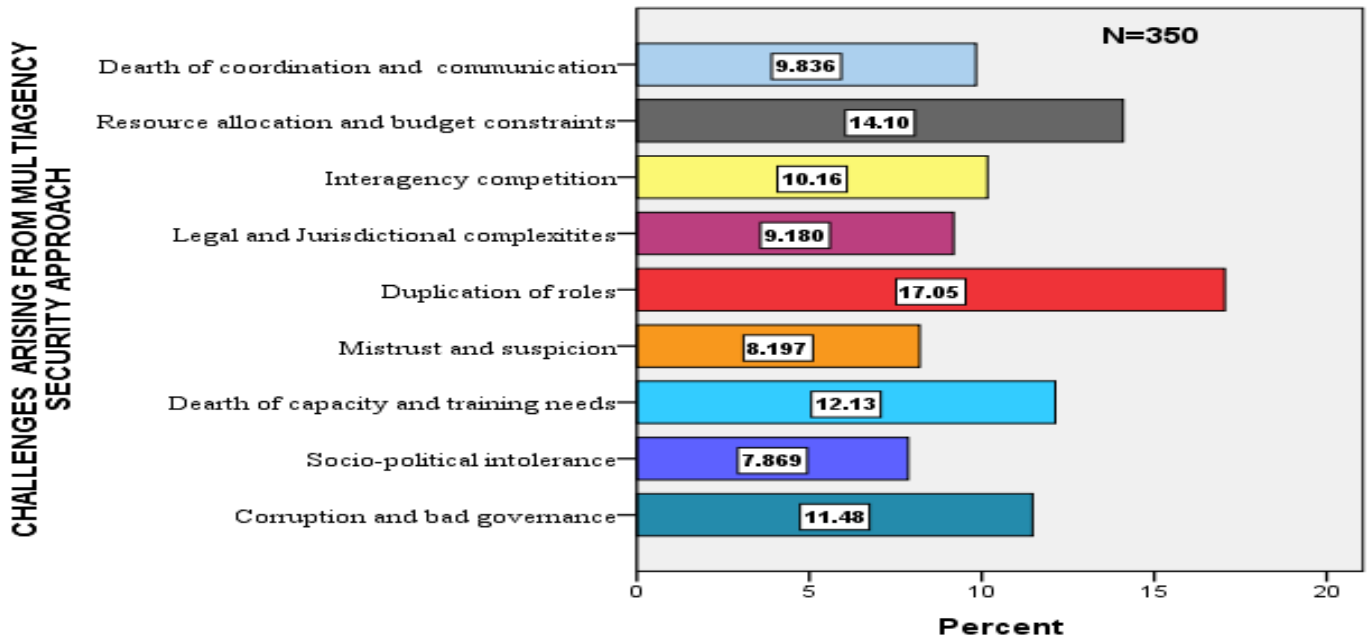


Figure 1
Challenges Arising from Multiagency Security Approaches

From the analysis above, findings derived from responses of 305 participants highlighted various challenges that impacted the effectiveness of the multiagency security approach. Concerning the dearth of Coordination and Communication (9.836%), respondents asserted that the lack of effective coordination and communication among the involved agencies posed a significant challenge. This often led to fragmented efforts, misalignment of objectives, and a failure to harness synergies among different security entities within Lamu County.

Regarding resource allocation and budget constraints (14.10%), participants reasoned that scarce resources and budget limitations emerged as major obstacles. Inadequate funding hindered the acquisition of necessary equipment, training programs, and the implementation of proactive measures, thereby limiting the overall impact of the multiagency security approach on economic security within Lamu County.

Furthermore, respondents highlighted interagency Competition (10.16%) as another significant challenge. They affirmed that the presence of competition among various security agencies led to a lack of collaboration and information-sharing. This competitive environment impeded the seamless integration of efforts needed for comprehensive economic security strategies in Lamu County.

It thus emerged to the research that, these challenges underscored the pressing need for enhanced coordination, increased resource allocation, and improved collaboration among security agencies operating within Lamu County. Addressing these issues could optimize the effectiveness of the multiagency security approach and contribute to robust economic security within the region.

Furthermore, it emerged to the research that, regarding duplication of roles (17.05%), respondents reasoned that the overlapping of responsibilities among different agencies led to inefficiencies, redundancy, and confusion within Lamu County. This challenge underscored the importance of clear delineation of tasks and responsibilities to optimize the contributions of each agency towards economic security.

Additionally, respondents (9.18%) identified legal and jurisdictional complexities as significant hurdles. Navigating legal frameworks introduced complexities and potential conflicts, delaying decision-making processes within Lamu County. Mistrust among agencies also hindered effective collaboration, as noted by 8.20% of the respondents. A lack of trust resulted in reluctance to share critical information, hindering collective efforts required for enhancing economic security in Lamu County.

Moreover, the study revealed challenges related to capacity and training needs was at (12.13%). Insufficient capacity and training were identified as obstacles to the multiagency security approach. Adequate training is crucial to ensuring that security personnel in Lamu County possess the necessary skills and knowledge to respond effectively to emerging threats.

Socio-political intolerance (7.86%) posed another challenge to the multiagency security approach in Lamu County. Political differences and social divisions impeded collaborative efforts, affecting the overall effectiveness of the security strategy. Moreover, corruption and poor governance practices were highlighted as significant issues, with 11.48% of respondents arguing that such factors undermined the integrity of security operations within Lamu County.

Therefore, the study concluded that, addressing these challenges is essential for optimizing the effectiveness of the multiagency security approach in Lamu County. Moreover, clear delineation of roles, resolution of legal complexities, fostering trust among agencies, enhancing capacity and training, addressing socio-political intolerance, and combating corruption and governance issues are vital steps towards bolstering economic security within the region..

4.1.2 Dearth of Coordination and Communication

In Lamu County, (9.836%) of the respondents emphasized the dearth of coordination and communication among involved agencies, citing it as a significant challenge. This lack of effective coordination and communication could result in fragmented efforts, misalignment of objectives, and a failure to harness synergies among different security entities. These findings align with Mwaniki's (2019) study, which examined the coordination of structure-related activities in countering violent terrorism and extremism in Africa, with a focus on Kenya. Mwaniki highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts in countering violent extremism and terrorism, recommending a shift from state-driven strategies to multi-stakeholder approaches to better engage marginalized communities.

Furthermore, Sheridan and Corps (2022) explored how coordination structures reduce vulnerability towards violent extremism, offering insights into the effectiveness of multi-stakeholder approaches. Conducted in the Tillabéri region of Niger, their research examined the influence of programs like the USAID-funded Preventing Violent Extremism Actions via Higher Social Cohesion Efforts (PEACE) program. The projects implemented in this program aimed to strengthen social cohesion across various divisions through infrastructure rehabilitation, dialogue and mediation initiatives, livelihoods support, natural resource management, and cultural events.

These studies underscore the importance of coordinated efforts and multi-stakeholder approaches in addressing security challenges, including violent extremism, in Lamu County. By enhancing coordination and communication among security agencies and engaging a diverse range of stakeholders, Lamu County can better mitigate security threats and promote economic stability and growth within the region. In support of the foregoing, one of the respondents argued that:

“Resource allocation and budget constraints play a pivotal role in shaping the effectiveness of multiagency security approaches aimed at enhancing economic security. The interplay between available resources and the demands of security initiatives can significantly influence the success of strategies. Multiagency security approaches often require a holistic and comprehensive strategy that encompasses various aspects of economic security. However, budget constraints may limit the funding available for these extensive strategies. As a result, agencies may need to prioritize initiatives, potentially leaving certain sectors vulnerable to economic threats. Personnel and training costs constitute a significant portion of security budgets. Ensuring that security personnel are adequately trained and equipped to handle evolving threats is crucial. However, budget constraints may limit the number of personnel that can be recruited and the extent of training programs. This can impact the overall effectiveness of security measures” (Interview with CSO official, 14/12/2023).

Further, another respondent interrogated by the research added to the views of the preceding responder by stating that:

“The deployment of advanced technologies, such as surveillance systems, intelligence gathering tools, and communication networks, requires substantial investment. Budget constraints may restrict the acquisition and maintenance of these technological assets, hindering the capabilities of security agencies to monitor and respond to economic security risks. Resource allocation involves striking a balance between preventive measures and response capabilities. Preventive measures, such as intelligence gathering and early warning systems, require ongoing investment, while adequate resources are also needed for prompt responses to emerging threats. Budget constraints may force agencies to prioritize one aspect over the other, potentially leaving gaps in the overall security strategy” (Interview with CSO official in Bahari, on14/12/2023).

It therefore emerged to the research that, in Lamu County, the efficacy of multiagency security approaches relied heavily on seamless collaboration and information sharing among different agencies. However, limited resources posed significant challenges in establishing and maintaining effective collaboration mechanisms. Agencies encountered difficulties aligning their priorities, sharing intelligence, and coordinating joint operations due to resource constraints. These challenges inhibited the ability to respond promptly and effectively to security threats, undermining efforts to ensure economic stability within the county. A focused group discussion informed the study that:

“Budget constraints were a persistent concern, triggering a delicate balance between investing in security measures and directing funds towards economic development initiatives in Lamu. While investments in security were deemed essential for economic stability, the economic impact of allocating resources to security had to be carefully weighed. This trade-off often led to difficult decisions regarding resource allocation, potentially impacting both security outcomes and economic growth within the county” (FGD of a CSO in Bahari, on 13/8/2023).

Moreover, it emerged to the research that, economic security threats in Lamu were dynamic and constantly evolving, necessitating the continuous adaptation of security measures. However, budget constraints limited the agility of security agencies to respond swiftly to emerging threats. This lack of adaptability left economic sectors vulnerable to new and evolving risks, potentially jeopardizing the overall economic security of the county.

Realism theory and systems theory have been utilized to address the challenges and opportunities arising from the dearth of coordination and communication within multiagency security approaches for enhancing economic security. Realism theory highlights the significance of power dynamics and self-interest among security agencies. The findings reflect the realist perspective by emphasizing the importance of effective coordination and communication to overcome fragmented efforts and misalignment of objectives. Realism underscores the need for agencies to prioritize their interests while recognizing the interdependence of their actions in achieving common goals.

On the other hand, systems theory emphasizes the interconnectedness and interdependence of components within a system. The findings align with systems theory by illustrating how effective coordination and communication are essential for the smooth functioning of multiagency security approaches. Systems theory underscores the need for seamless collaboration and information sharing among agencies to address complex security challenges holistically. Both theories underscore the critical role of coordination and communication in multiagency security approaches, offering insights into overcoming challenges and leveraging opportunities to enhance economic security effectively.

4.1.3 Corruption and Bad Governance

In Lamu, oral interviews were conducted to delve into the impact of corruption and bad governance on security operations. The study revealed that 11.48% of respondents affirmed that corrupt practices undermined the integrity of security operations. This finding resonated with research conducted in the USA by Taylor (2017), who evaluated the fight against corruption by US policymakers. Taylor's study focused on capacity and transparency as key elements in combating corruption. While the USA had sufficient capacity to combat corruption, the study highlighted the need for policymakers to strengthen policies to effectively address corruption in public institutions. However, Taylor's study did not explore multi-agency approaches employed in combating corruption, nor did it examine the link between corruption and insecurity, which was the focus of the current study conducted in Lamu County.

Moreover, the study in Lamu County sought to contextualize the findings within the Kenyan setting, emphasizing the importance of understanding local dynamics in addressing corruption-related security challenges. By focusing on Lamu County, the study provided insights into how corruption undermines security operations at the local level, where vulnerabilities may differ from those in more centralized settings. This localized perspective added depth to our understanding of the refined relationship between corruption and security, offering valuable lessons for policymakers and practitioners working in similar contexts.

Additionally, the study's findings underscored the significance of multi-agency approaches in combating corruption and enhancing security in Lamu County. Unlike Taylor's research, which primarily focused on capacity-building and transparency measures, the Lamu study highlighted the collaborative efforts of various agencies in addressing corruption-related security threats. This emphasis on multi-agency approaches acknowledged the complexity of corruption issues and the need for coordinated responses across different sectors and institutions. By examining the interplay between corruption and insecurity, the study in Lamu County shed light on the broader implications of corruption for public safety and stability.

In Lamu, separate focus group discussions (FGDs) were held to assess capacity building in combating corruption from the perspective of various Kenyan institutions. Drawing parallels, Brzezinka *et al.*, (2018) examined capacity building in combating corruption among emerging and developing countries, including Poland. Their analysis revealed that:

“Weak capacity building among anti-corruption institutions contributed to increased corruption levels. Furthermore, the technical capacity of personnel significantly influences the fight against corruption in emerging and developing countries” (FGD of household heads in Faza on 3/9/2023).

Similarly, the study in Lamu County assessed technical capacity, particularly focusing on personnel training within Kenyan institutions tasked with combating corruption. However, the study in Poland did not explore the link between corruption and insecurity or discuss multi-agency approaches to addressing corruption, which were key considerations in the Lamu County study.

Realism theory and systems theory have been employed to address challenges and opportunities arising from corruption and bad governance within multiagency security approaches for enhancing economic security. Realism theory emphasizes the power dynamics and self-interest among security agencies, highlighting how corrupt practices undermine the integrity of security operations. The findings resonate with realist perspectives by emphasizing the need to strengthen policies and capacity building efforts to effectively combat corruption and improve governance within institutions.

Systems theory underscores the interconnectedness of components within a system, reflecting how weak institutional capacity and lack of technical expertise contribute to corruption. The study examined various anti-corruption institutions and their effectiveness, revealing the importance of institutional independence, resource allocation, and collaboration capacities in combating corruption and ensuring economic security. Both theories offer insights into the complex dynamics of corruption and governance challenges, providing a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of these issues within multiagency security approaches.

4.1.4 Socio-Political Intolerance

It was established by the research that, approximately 7.86% of respondents highlighted how political differences and social divisions impeded collaborative efforts, thereby affecting the overall effectiveness of the security strategy. Through oral interviews and focus group discussions conducted in Lamu County, it was found that socio-political intolerance posed a significant challenge to the Multiagency security approach.

The researcher found that socio-political intolerance can significantly affect the effectiveness of a multiagency security approach by introducing challenges that hinder collaboration and compromise the overall goal of ensuring security. In Lamu County, where diverse societal and political groups coexist, socio-political intolerance often leads to strained relationships and inhibits the crucial collaboration and information-sharing required for effective security measures. Based on this finding, a responder asserted that:

“Moreover, the lack of collaboration stemming from intolerance can foster divided loyalties among security personnel belonging to different political or social groups. This division may lead to conflicts of interest and a lack of cohesion within the multiagency framework, ultimately compromising security operations” (Oral interview a KDF officer in Kiunga, on 22/8/2023).

Furthermore, from the response above, it was established by the study that, socio-political intolerance may result in the selective application of security measures, favoring certain groups over others and undermining principles of fairness and equality. This bias erodes public trust and may exacerbate tensions within the community, hindering effective multiagency security efforts.

The researcher also observed that intolerance can contribute to the politicization of security agencies, where actions become influenced by political considerations rather than objective security needs. This compromises neutrality and professionalism, essential elements for an effective multiagency security approach. To ascertain this, an FGD conducted by the study affirmed that:

“In Lamu County, multiagency security efforts rely heavily on the trust and cooperation of the community. However, socio-political intolerance erodes this trust, as communities may perceive security measures as politically motivated rather than genuinely aimed at ensuring their safety. Without community trust, it becomes challenging to gather intelligence and engage in community-oriented policing, further undermining security efforts” (FGD with former youth extremist in Manda, on 13/9/2023).

Additionally, the study found out that, intolerance may give rise to resistance and opposition from segments of the population that feel marginalized or unfairly targeted. This opposition can manifest as non-compliance with security measures, public protests, or acts of civil disobedience, impeding the smooth implementation of security initiatives in Lamu County. One of the Key Informants argued that:

“Developing effective security policies requires a consensus that transcends socio-political divides. Intolerance can impede the policy-making process, leading to the formulation of divisive or biased policies that do not address the security needs of the entire population. Inconsistencies in policy may hinder the coherence of multiagency security efforts” (Interview with Key Informants, Faza Ward, 15/12/2023).

Further, another respondent interrogated by the study based on this theme went on and averred that:

“Socio-political intolerance may create an environment conducive to the recruitment and exploitation of individuals by extremist groups. When certain communities feel marginalized or persecuted, they may become susceptible to radicalization. This poses a direct threat to the overall security landscape and challenges the effectiveness of multiagency counter-terrorism efforts” (Interview with key informant at Matondoni, Lamu 15/12/2023).

The researcher therefore observed that addressing socio-political intolerance is essential for fostering a conducive environment for successful multiagency security approaches. Building trust, promoting inclusivity, and ensuring that security measures are impartial contribute to the overall resilience and effectiveness of security initiatives.

Realism theory and systems theory have been utilized to address challenges and opportunities arising from socio-political intolerance within multiagency security approaches for enhancing economic security. Realism theory highlights the power dynamics and self-interest among political and social groups, illustrating how socio-political intolerance impedes collaborative efforts. The findings underscore the importance of overcoming political differences and social divisions to strengthen security strategies and ensure collective security. Systems theory emphasizes the interconnectedness of societal components within a security framework, emphasizing how socio-political intolerance disrupts collaboration and undermines trust. The study underscores the need to promote inclusivity, impartiality, and trust-building measures to enhance the resilience and effectiveness of multiagency security approaches. Both theories provide insights into the complex dynamics of socio-political intolerance, offering strategies to address these challenges and foster a conducive environment for successful security initiatives.

4.1.5 Dearth of Capacity and Training Needs

It was established by the study that, approximately 12.13% of respondents identified insufficient capacity and training as key challenges. Additionally, through oral interviews and focus group discussions conducted in Lamu County, it was found that dearth of capacity and training needs posed a significant challenge for the Multiagency Security Approach (MSA). From a focus group discussion conducted by the study, it emerged that:

“The lack of adequate capacity and training within the framework of a multiagency security approach was found to have profound implications for efforts aimed at enhancing economic security. A deficiency in capacity and training hampers the ability of security agencies to respond effectively to emerging threats, which often include dynamic challenges such as cyber threats, terrorism, and organized crime” (FGD with household heads in Mkomani, on 12/8/2023).

Moreover, the study also noted that, economic security in Lamu County is often intertwined with dynamic challenges that exploit technological vulnerabilities. Without continuous training to keep security personnel abreast of technological advances, they may struggle to counter cyber threats effectively or employ advanced tools for economic security. Based on the preceding findings, another respondent gave out his views by adding that:

“Capacity gaps were observed to impede effective interagency coordination in Lamu County. Without adequate training on collaborative approaches and information-sharing protocols, different agencies may struggle to work seamlessly together, leading to fragmented efforts and allowing economic threats to exploit gaps between agencies” (Oral interview a Chief in Lamu, on 22/9/2023).

Furthermore, it was established by the research that, insufficient capacity and training may lead to a perception of incompetence among the public in Lamu County. One of the respondents also added on this by saying that:

“When security agencies appear ill-prepared or under-equipped to address economic security concerns, public confidence is eroded, reducing public trust and undermining efforts to gather information and engage in community-oriented policing” (Oral interview with a Politician in Pate on 10/8/2023).

Additionally, the study was informed by another focus group discussion interrogated by the study that:

“Inadequate capacity and training can result in delayed or ineffective responses to security incidents in Lamu County. Economic security threats often require swift and well-coordinated responses to minimize damage, but without the necessary training, security personnel may struggle to handle incidents efficiently, allowing economic disruptions to escalate” (FGD in Faza on 13/10/2023).

Overall, the findings underscored the critical importance of addressing capacity and training needs within the multiagency security approach in Lamu County to effectively safeguard economic assets and critical infrastructure.

Therefore, based on these findings, the researcher concluded that adequate training is essential for ensuring that security personnel possess the necessary skills and knowledge to respond effectively to emerging threats in Lamu County.

Moreover, realism theory and systems theory have been employed to address challenges and opportunities arising from the dearth of capacity and training needs within multiagency security approaches for enhancing economic security. Realism theory highlights the power dynamics and self-interest among security agencies, illustrating how insufficient capacity and training hinder collaborative efforts. The findings underscore the importance of addressing capacity gaps to strengthen security strategies and ensure effective responses to emerging threats, aligning with realist principles of power and competition.

Systems theory emphasizes the interconnectedness of various components within the security framework, emphasizing how capacity deficiencies disrupt coordination and compromise economic security. The study

underscores the need for continuous training to update skills and enhance capacity, aligning with systems theory's focus on adaptation and resilience in complex systems. Both theories provide insights into the implications of capacity and training gaps, offering strategies to address these challenges and enhance the effectiveness of multiagency security approaches for safeguarding economic assets.

V. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

The study in Lamu County reveals that the lack of coordination and communication among security agencies significantly hampers multi-agency efforts to enhance economic security. Fragmented initiatives and resource limitations impede swift responses to evolving threats. Additionally, budget constraints hinder training, technological investments, and collaboration, affecting the overall efficacy of security strategies. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach to bolster coordination mechanisms, prioritize funding, and foster stakeholder engagement. Additionally, the findings in Lamu County highlight other key challenges facing multiagency security approaches, including socio-political intolerance and capacity deficiencies. It is thus concluded that Socio-political intolerance disrupts collaboration, fosters divided loyalties, and politicizes security efforts, undermining community trust and the impartiality of security measures. It also poses a risk for radicalization when marginalized groups feel persecuted, further complicating counter-terrorism initiatives. Meanwhile, inadequate training and capacity gaps hinder the ability of security personnel to respond effectively to dynamic threats like cybercrime and organized crime, thereby compromising economic security.

5.2 Recommendations

Recommendations include strengthening communication frameworks for seamless collaboration, increasing budget allocations to support personnel training and technology acquisition, and adopting multi-stakeholder strategies to improve local community involvement in security efforts. Furthermore, anti-corruption measures must be reinforced to ensure transparent operations and restore public trust in security agencies. These strategies will create a more resilient security framework, enabling Lamu County to address complex threats effectively while promoting economic stability and growth.

Furthermore, it is recommended that, in order to promote inclusivity and impartiality in security policies, ensuring measures are seen as fair and non-partisan, continuous training programs are essential for updating skills, particularly in technological and collaborative aspects of security. Additionally, strengthening coordination frameworks and community engagement can help build trust, ensuring effective intelligence gathering and cohesive multiagency efforts.

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