

**INFLUENCE OF LOCAL INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISES
IN THE STRENGTHENING OF PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY IN
KAPYEGO, ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

Conflict over natural resources is major type of conflicts globally. According to United Nations report (2012), in the last sixty years at least 40 per cent of civil wars on the African continent have been connected with natural resources. Studies of communal conflict in Arid and Semi-Arid areas of Kenya have shown increase in conflicts on cattle rustling, natural resources and political conflicts. The national and county governments have acted on violent extremisms brought about by youth radicalization, ethno- political tensions, unemployment and marginalization of ethnic minorities and competition of livelihood natural resources as some of the causes of conflicts. Conflicts over scarce natural resources among pastoral communities in the Kapyego ward in Elgeyo Marakwet county includes scarcity of water and pasture and this have caused heavy loses of livestock and human life. Indeed this present a major challenge to conservation and social economic development in the region. **The field based study was conducted in 2012. Data collection methods included use of questionnaires and the** researcher analyzed data using regression and correlation analysis to explore the nature of the relationship that exist among dependent and independent variables. The researcher used chi-square test, paired t-test and f-tests to perform hypotheses tests and conduct analysis of variance in accordance to the research objectives. Survey research approach was adopted to collect data from 110 participants sampled across the focus region out of 350 population size. The objective of the study was to investigate whether stability of community based institutional governance structures influence natural resource based conflicts. The research examined the role of efficient livelihood empowerment technologies to address resource based conflicts in the fragile ecosystem. The research findings indicated that stable community based institutions have a positive correlation with achievement of peace, security and stability in the region. The study findings indicated that

promotion of social and nature based enterprises like value addition of indigenous gums and resins and promotion of biofuel value chains in support of youth and women reduced significantly resource based conflicts. The research recommended that strengthening of local institution on governance structures instrumental in achieving a peaceful community in Kapyego. The study further recommended the need to promote alternative nature based livelihood opportunities and value chains targeting the vulnerable group for achievement of sustainable peace, security and stability in the region. The study is anchored in SGD(16) which promotes peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Keywords: Peace, Conflict, Social enterprises, Institutions, Value addition, Security

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Conflict over natural resources is major type of conflicts globally. According to United Nations report (2012), in the last sixty years at least 40 per cent of civil wars on the African continent have been connected with natural resources. Kapyego is a ward in Elgeyo Marakwet County, the site of this study. The velocity of violence in ASAL areas can mutate if unchecked and this can be made through various interventions like disarmament, demobilization and engaging in diversionary economic and social activities according to Muggah R (2011). Pastoralists have clashed over competition of scarce resources and marginalization of minorities (Colletta N. 2012). According to Red Cross (2014), there have been increase in inter clan conflicts due to remaining scarce natural resources caused by drought since peace, security and stability have characterized human lifestyle in ASAL areas. Social, political and economic rights have not been fully actualized and communities face significant challenges in regard to their security and livelihoods (Llorente, MV, 2015).

Conflicts revolve around livestock, divergent modes of livelihoods and cultural identity. Rural areas have been trapped in cycles of violence for decades in an attempt to satisfy human well-being needs (Fundacion 2015). Desktop research suggest that this particular region is prone to dispute and frequent community conflict. The researcher sought to ascertain the exact number of times when conflict is likely to erupt and disrupt normal operation in the villages and market places, and find out possible causes. From the study, cattle rustling, ethnic tension, political differences, competition for limited water and pasture for animals ranked highest among causes of conflict and war. Additionally, respondents cited marginalization of some communities, poverty and unemployment among the youth as other causes of conflict in the region.

1.1 Objectives of the Study

1.1.1 To determine whether stability of community based institutional governance structures influence natural resource based conflicts.

1.1.2 To examine the role of efficient livelihood empowerment technologies to address resource based conflicts in the fragile ecosystem.

To establish the role of stakeholders in the strengthening of peace, security and stability

2.0 RESEARCH THEORIES

2.1 System theory in community development

The theory was developed by Ludwig Von Bertalanffy and provides an analytical framework which can be used to describe the dynamics of inter group relationships. System theory talks about group of things which have something in common and in this case the efforts to strengthen peace and stability by use of established institutions. The theory argues that communities operate under social systems

2.2 Theory of poverty: The culture of poverty and conflict management

The theory by Oscar Lewis argues that the culture of poverty constitute a design of living that is passed from generation to the next where individuals feel marginalized, helpless and inferior and may adopt the attitude of revenge which is a common practice in conflict prone areas.

3.0 THE STUDY HYPOTHESIS

3.1 Embracing community-based institutional organization is independent of peace and better security in society.

3.2 Stability of community based institutional governance structures is not influenced natural resource based conflicts.

3.3 Efficient livelihood empowerment technologies do not address resource based conflicts in the fragile ecosystem.

3.4 Stakeholders in the region do not play any role in the strengthening of peace, security and stability

4.0 STUDY METHODOLOGY

4.1 Research design and method

The study followed exploratory research design. Quantitative research method was adopted to collect data from the study respondents. Consistent with the principles of quantitative research

method, survey research approach was implemented to collect data from the study participants. Quantitative data included open ended and closed-ended information.

4.2 Research instrument

The survey instrument comprised demographic data items, Likert-scale survey items, dichotomous questions and checklists which were designed to collect data on the issues under investigation.

4.3 Reliability of the instrument

Table 1.0 below gives the results for the reliability test of the questionnaire tool used

Table 01: Reliability Statistics

Reliability Statistics		
Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.722	.579	15

Alpha obtained was 0.722 which is above the minimum threshold of 0.7 which imply the questionnaire tool used is reliable to make inference and generalize the results.

4.4 Study participants

Survey research approach was adopted to collect data from 110 participants sampled across the focus region out of 350 population size. Kapyego is a ward in Elgeyo Marakwet County, the site of this study. The researcher used the systematic or the nth method where every nth household had a chance to participate in the study, and in this case every 3rd household participated in the study.

5.0 DATA ANALYSIS

In this survey, one hundred and ten adult respondents were involved of which 93.3% are indigenous of Elgeyo Marakwet County while the rest have settled in the region for more than ten years but are not the indigenous people. Conflict is a phenomenological concept and can only be understood better, when respondents' demographic structures are well chosen in terms of their sex and age. In this study, 40% of respondents were male, 60 % female. The average age of the respondents was 40 years with the oldest person being 60 years and the youngest person being 24

years. Table 1.0 below gives summary statistics and normality test of age facto of the respondents.

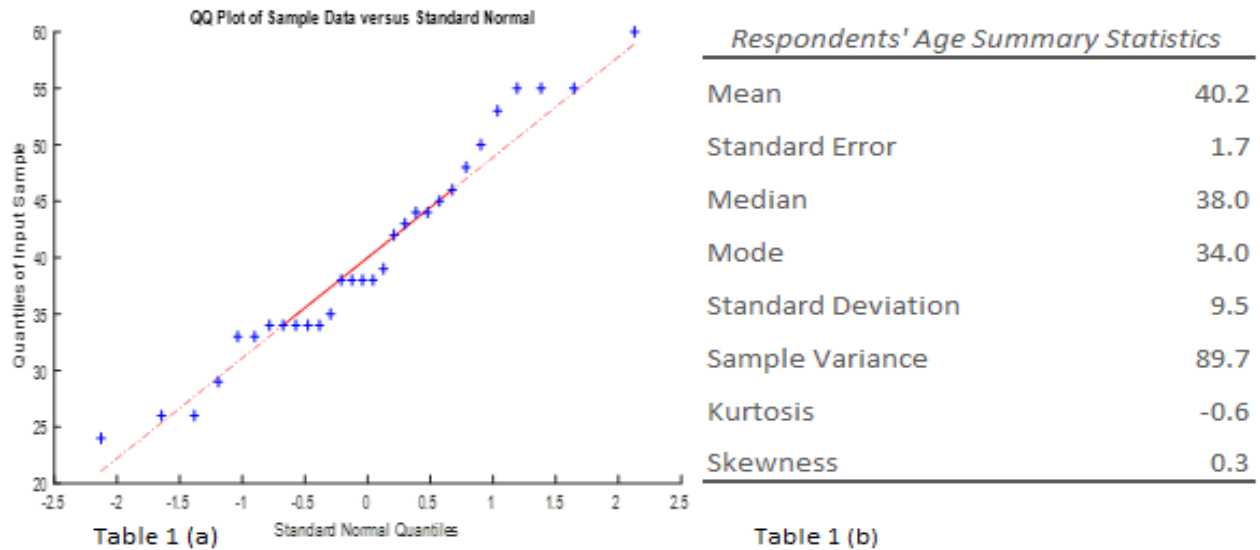
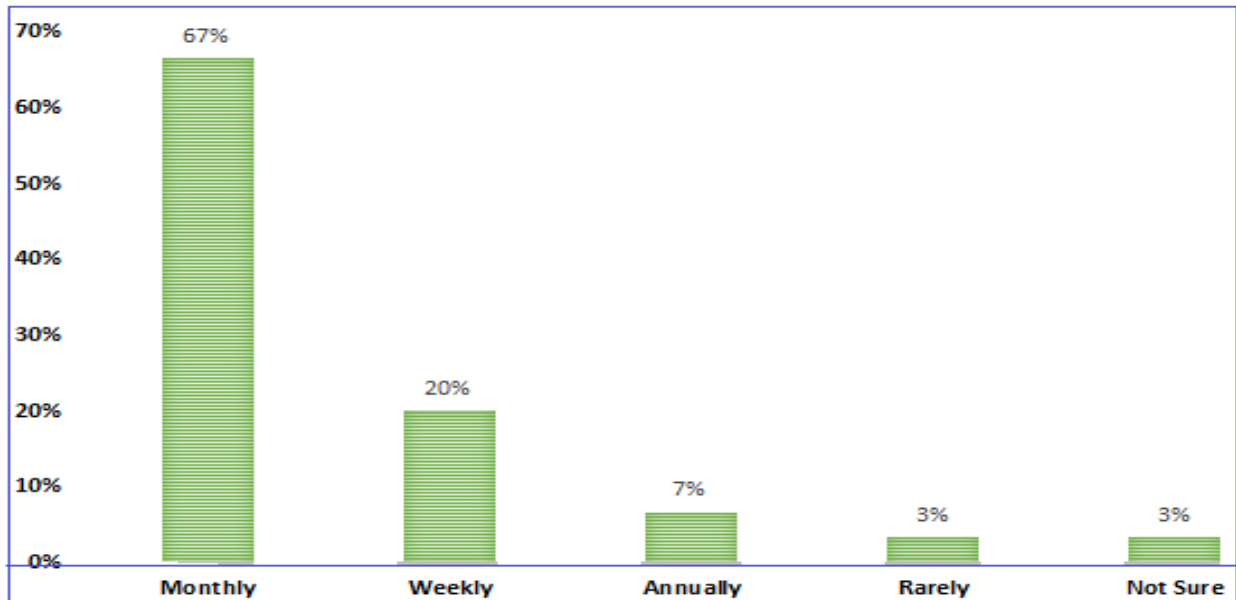


Table 1(a) above shows a visual distribution of sample data used versus the theoretical normal distribution model. We can clearly see that the distribution of age per respondent falls within ± 3 standard deviation. This shows that there is not outlier in the data set. Table 1(b) presents the descriptive and distributional statistic measures of age of respondents used in the study. The Kurtosis of -0.6 and the skewness of 0.3 are all closer to zero than one giving a secondary validation of the normality assumption on age. Achieving normality test using the above tables minimizes the sampling error and the responses on the subsequent Likert scales are valid at 95% confidence level.

5.1 Community conflict in Kapyego.

It was found that most of the youth who engage in conflict and other vices were in most cases idlers in the village and market places. The study indicate that 67% of agree that conflict in Kapyego occur at least once every month, 20% witness community disputes and conflict weekly while 7% encounter conflict between communities daily. However, 3% claimed that conflict rarely occur and 3% on the other hand had no idea about conflict occurrence in their region. It was then established that respondents were had no idea about the state of conflict in there region lived most of their lives outside Elgeyo Marakwet County. Table 2.0 below gives a visual impression of conflict incidences in Kapyego.

Table 2.0: Frequency of conflict occurrence in Kapyego

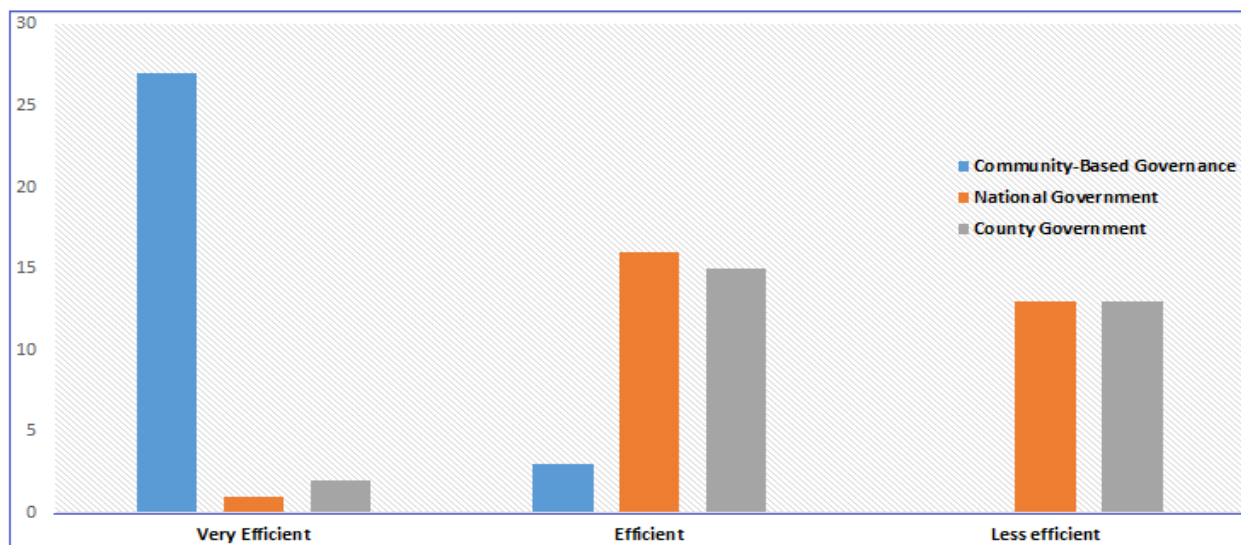


Further, the 54% of respondents who claimed to witness community conflict on monthly and weekly bases point out competition for water and pasture as the main cause of dispute. From the study, the communities in Elgeyo Marakwet County desire to live a peaceful life and coexist with their neighbors in harmony. Historically, there have been various initiatives to address this gap by national government and some non-governmental organization trying to bring pastoralist communities together.

Despite heavy investment by the national government to restore security in Kapyego and its environs, this study established that only 16.7% of the respondents think that conflict has been reducing over years while the vast majority 83.4% do think that conflict in the region is still severe like it were many years ago. When asked about the region why conflict has not reduced for many years, it was reported that the government and other well-wisher NGOs do not understand how to handle the dynamics of community disputes in the region. For instance, 90% of the respondents do not support the idea of the government using force in the attempt to address conflict in the region. Only 6.7% support use of force by government as an alternative measure to restore peace and enhance security in Elgeyo Marakwet County.

Confronted by this reality of issues, the researcher sought to find out the communities' alternative approach to achieving peace and security in the region. All the respondents in study claimed to have a community based governance structures which understands internal dynamics of the communities such as culture, economic status and social norms. Interestingly, 93.3% of

the respondents claimed that using community based governance system is the best way to approach security issues among communities. To further interrogate the probable role of community based institutional governance structures in addressing natural resource based conflicts in Elgeyo Marakwet, the researcher asked the respondents to state how relevant are community based governance systems in creating a peaceful society. It was observed that only 53.3% rate it as a relevant strategy in addressing community disputes. The study went ahead to assess the efficiency of National and County governments, and community based governance structures in addressing peace and security matters. Significance indices of each of the three governance structures were converted into percentages and the results presented in Table 3.0 as shown below.



The researcher converted the above data into significant indices. The efficiency of community based institutional organization is rated at 61%, county government at 20% and national government at 19% in addressing peace and security matters. The results therefore suggest that, theoretically, community based institutional structures are more efficient in promoting peace and stability among warring communities in Kapyego. The researcher evaluated the readiness of the community in embracing the idea of community based institutional approaches to security issues. Chi-square test statistics was used to test the assumption that embracing community-based institutional organization is independent of peace and better security in society.

Table 4.0 and Table 5.0 shows Contingency and Chi-square summary output respectively

Table 4.0: Contingency Table

Extent to Which the Idea Address Security Issues					
Likelihood of Embracing The Idea		Very Large Extent	Large Extent	Hard to Tell	Total
	Very Likely		12	18	5
Likely		9	39	5	53
Neutral		3	11	0	14
Very Unlikely		0	8	0	8
Total		24	76	10	110

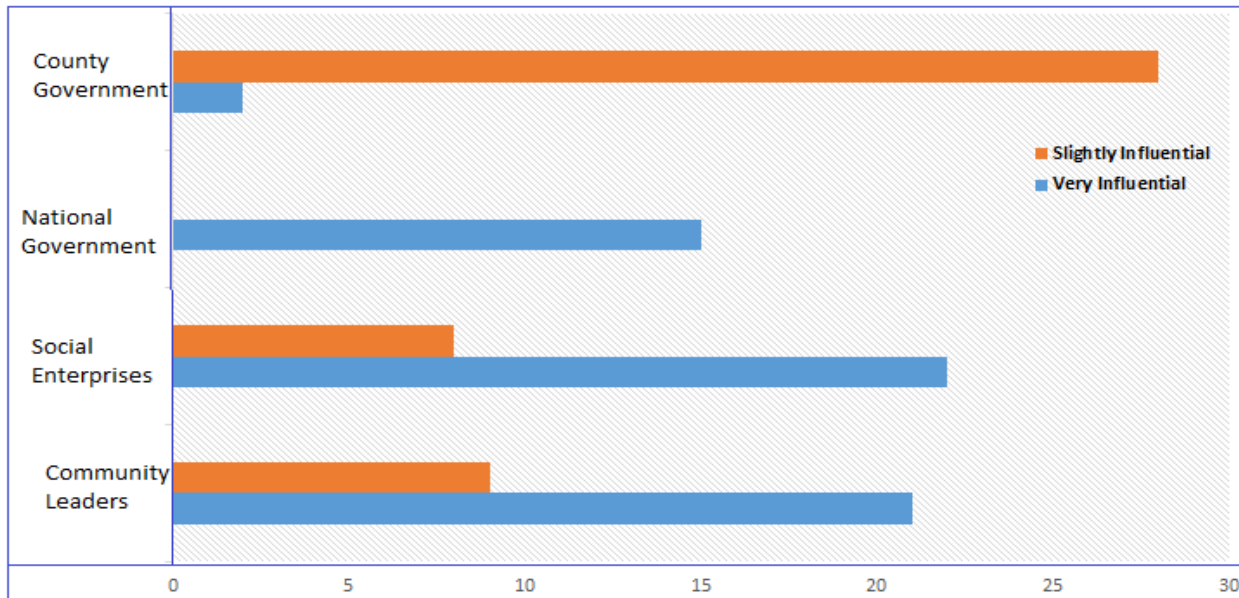
Table 5.0: Chi-Square Test Statistics

	Value	Df	P-Value
Pearson Chi-Square	4.074	6	0.002
Likelihood Ratio	4.554	6	0.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	0.068	1	0.001
N of Valid Cases	110		

The contingency Table 4.0 shows response distribution and the marginal totals for each category of question. The Chi-square Table 5.0 shows the statistical significance of the above response distribution. Clearly, the p-value for Pearson chi-square statistics is less than 5% ($P = 0.000 < \alpha = 0.05$). Since the P-value is less than the significance level set at 5%, we reject the null hypothesis that embracing community-based institutional organization is independent of peace and better security in society at 5% significance level and conclude that community based institutional governance and promoting security and peace in society are dependent. We can therefore deduce that enhancing stable community based approach to issues promotes peace and enhance peace in society.

The success of community based institutional governance is founded on the participation of the local people and the influence of external forces such as government and politics. The study established that all the respondents participated in at least one social empowerment program. The

following is a visual depiction of how influential some key players are in shaping people’s behavior and attitude of the local people.



The significance indices from the above tables ranks social enterprises at 32%, community leaders at 31%, county government at 19% and national politics at 18%. It is easy from this finding to see that social enterprises and community leadership which comprise of the top two in shaping peoples’ attitude and behaviour are key players in achieving community based institutional governance. On the other hand, county government and national politics appears to lag behind in their influence on the people. It is probably a suggestion that people look at traditional forms of leadership as oppressive or hold it in contempt.

5.2 Role of Social Enterprises in peace, security and stability

Social enterprises target a diverse audience with a specific aim. In most cases, social empowerment programs seek to bring equity in society by advocating for economic, cultural and social development. In pursuit for effective mechanism to deal with security and stability in society, social development must be given priority over cultural and possibly economic parameters. From the study, we found that 43.3% of social empowerment groups target the youth, 33.3% target ethnic minorities, 20% target the aged and only 3.3% target persons with disability. Targeting youth could be one way of safeguarding them against radicalization and making them more tolerant and diplomatic in conflict resolution instances.

Further, 45 % of these social enterprises engage people in social and economic activities while only 9 % engage in cultural activities. While other scholars may argue that this is a sign of lost

identity, I would like to look at it differently. To assess the extent to which each of the target group is involved in different activities, a cross tabulation was conducted and the results presented in the table below.

Table 7.0: Cross tabulation

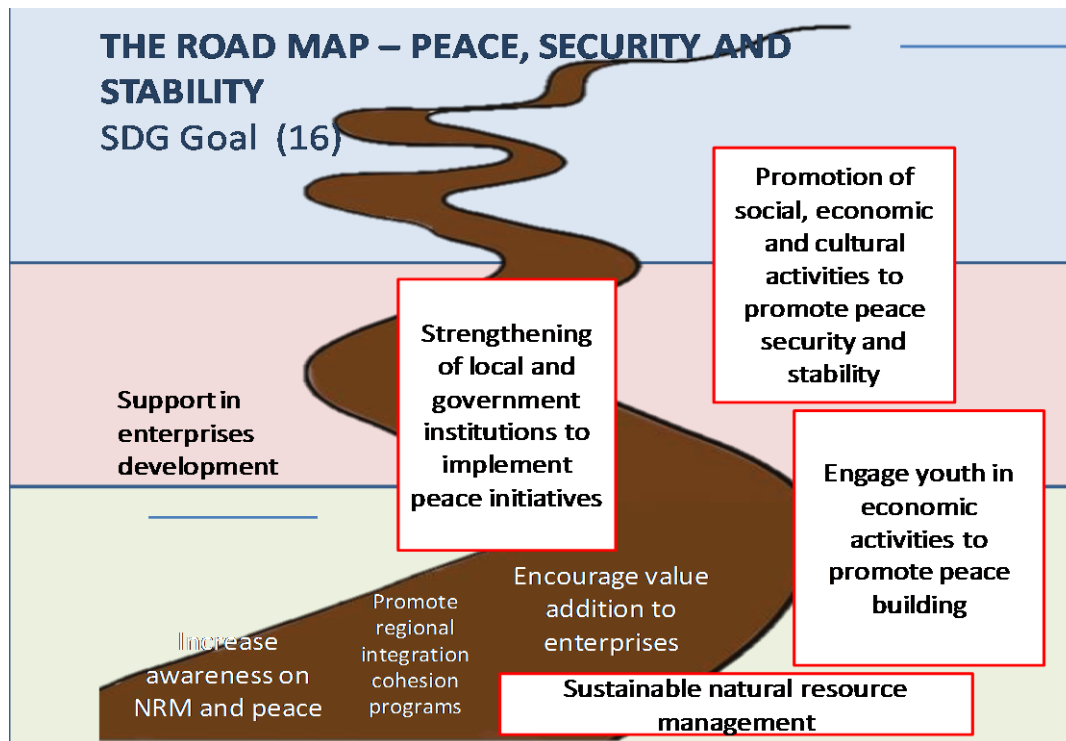
	What is the Nature of Activities that Motivate Many People to Join Social Enterprises?			Total									
	Economic Activities	Cultural Activities	Social Activities										
	Which Group Do Social Enterprises Target Mostly?	Youth	Senior Citizens		Persons With Disability	Ethic Minority							
	41	6	0	3	0	5	12	13	53	25	11	21	110
Total	50	10	50										

6.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The research findings indicated that stable community based institutions have a positive correlation with achievement of peace, security and stability in the region. The study findings indicated that promotion of social and nature based enterprises like value addition of indigenous gums and resins and promotion of biofuel value chains in support of youth and women reduced significantly resource based conflicts. From the research findings, youth are mostly engaged in economic activities perhaps to make them busy and avoid idleness. It is also important to note that poverty was mentioned as one of the causes of conflict in society. Therefore, if most youth are engaged in economic activities as suggested by the above results then social enterprises can be instrumental in creating peaceful communities.

Ethnic minorities are mostly engaged in social activities probably to make them feel part of the main communities in the county. This is one strategy to minimize ethnic tension and promote harmony between communities. We can also see that senior citizens are mostly involved in social activities, possibly for support and identity. In a nutshell, the above findings and discussions point to the fact that strengthening of local institution on governance structures are instrumental in achieving a peaceful community in Kapyego. The research recommended that

strengthening of local institution on governance structures instrumental in achieving a peaceful community in Kapyego. The study further recommended the need to promote alternative nature based livelihood opportunities and value chains targeting the vulnerable group for achievement of sustainable peace, security and stability in the region.



SGD(16) which promotes peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

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