

**INFLUENCE OF CONFLICT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES ON PEACE-
BUILDING AMONG PASTORALIST COMMUNITIES IN LAIKIPIA WEST,
SUB COUNTY, KENYA**

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DECLARATION AND APPROVAL

Declaration

This thesis/project is my original work and has never been presented for any academic award any institution.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate the research to my family.



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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ASALs	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
GOK	Government of Kenya
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
LWSC	Laikipia West Sub-County
NACOSTI	National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
TDRMs	Traditional Dispute Resolution Mechanisms
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

ABSTRACT

Peace is central for sustainable development, it promotes non-violent societies, fair court treatment, human rights respect, strong law regulation, and transparent institutes. However, the emergence of conflict can threaten regional peace and security. Therefore, this research aimed to assess the influence of conflict management strategies on peace-building among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West Sub County, Kenya. The objectives of this research included: to determine the influence of mediation strategy on peace-building in pastoralist communities, to establish the influence of reconciliation strategy on peace-building in pastoralist communities, to assess the influence of good governance strategy on peace-building in pastoralist communities, and to evaluate the influence of the gender mainstreaming strategy on peace-building in pastoralist communities in Laikipia West, Sub County, Kenya. The study employed a descriptive survey design to concisely and precisely outline descriptive and inferential statistics to understand the phenomena under investigation. The study's target population was 37,844 households. The study's sample size was 256 participants. A proportional stratified random sampling was used to sample pastoralist communities per household (ward), while purposive sampling chose and identified key informants. The study collected primary data using questionnaires and an interview guide. The study used SPSS version 25 to analyze quantitative data and used the correlation tests to establish a correlation between independent variables (mediation, reconciliation, good governance, gender mainstreaming) and dependent variables (peace-building). The study's findings were presented using tables and figures suitable for the dataset. The qualitative data was analyzed by content and thematic analysis and presented using narratives, common themes, patterns, and trends. The researcher upheld ethical considerations. The study found a significant negative correlation between mediation strategy and peacebuilding initiatives among pastoral communities, with a Pearson correlation of $r = -0.298$, $P < .05$. The study revealed a significant negative correlation between peace-building and reconciliation strategy among pastoral communities in Laikipia West Sub County at ($r = -0.309$, $p < .05$). The study found a strong positive correlation between peace-building and good governance strategy among pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub-county, at ($r = 0.560$, $p < .05$). The study found a moderate positive correlation between gender mainstreaming strategy and peacebuilding among pastoral communities, as denoted by $r = 0.400$, $P < .05$. The study concludes that mediation and reconciliation strategies are ineffective in promoting peace-building among pastoral communities and with a weakly negative correlation between peace-building and mediation and reconciliation strategies respectively. The study concluded that good governance and gender mainstreaming strategies positively influenced peace-building in pastoral communities, and had a positive correlation with peace-building in the Laikipia West sub-county. The study recommends community-based mediation, reconciliation, and good governance strategies to resolve conflicts. Further, advocates for gender mainstreaming and the involvement of local traditions.

Further, a comprehensive policy framework needs to be developed, to involve collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, and international partners to improve conflict management in Laikipia West sub-county.



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasize the interconnectedness of Peace and prosperity, it state that long-term growth is contingent upon peace and security. The SDG (goal,16) emphasizes the need for fair, peaceful, and welcoming communities by making sure everyone has the same access to justice, human rights are respected, there is good government, and organizations are open, effective, and answerable (Whaites, 2016). Thus, peace and security help the surroundings, society, and the economy grow. ‘The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948’ promotes peace, fostering social, economic, and environmental progress. It involves diplomacy, negotiation, reconciliation, mediation, conflict prevention, humanitarian assistance methods to enhance peacebuilding (UN,1948). The UN supports peace by promoting it, maintaining it, protecting civilians, and addressing root causes of tension through early warning systems and conflict analysis.

According to Sternhagen (2016), political groups engage in conflict when they compete for real or perceived advantages, often driven by ethnic factors. Extreme disagreement characterizes conflict. Among these are well-coordinated political movements, popular uprisings, separatist movements, and civil wars fought along polarized lines. Although conflict is inherent to human society, Blank (2023) argues that it poses a danger to regional stability when it escalates. A state of security is one in which there is no conflict, and conflict is the process of reacting to dangers.

Conflicts escalate in arid regions due to divergent claims on few resources, which in turn stem from differing agendas. Muigua (2018) argues that conflicts arising from natural resources are inevitable in human interactions, but if not managed properly, they

can escalate into disputes, damaging relationships and causing undesirable consequences. Therefore, effective conflict management strategies can significantly impact relationships and overall peace and well-being.

Conflict Management is a set of initiatives aimed at limiting, mitigating, containing, or eliminating violent conflict expression without involving political conflict resolution (Wakeling, *et al.*, 2023: p.333). Conflict management is the process of efficiently settling conflicts. Conflict management strategies include the many tactics and techniques used to avoid, alleviate, or resolve disputes that emerge either between or inside states. The objective of these strategies is to peacefully resolve conflicts, preserve stability, and foster collaboration among parties with disputes.

The United Nations, according to Foley (2023, p.96) has established a series of organizational frameworks under the overarching category of peacebuilding to promote the foundation of a legal system and the reform of the judicial sector during the transitional period between peace and conflict. However, a significant portion of the peace building efforts in areas affected by war, both during and after the conflict, are not successful due to their lack of local ownership and direction.

Kansiime (2018) asserts that peace building is a vital approach to addressing international security issues by fostering peaceful development and stability in post-conflict societies. It involves local actors, empowers women, and effectively addresses violent conflicts. It enhances local conflict resolution and management capacities, promoting long-lasting peace. Local stakeholders are incorporated in peace building initiatives, recognizing their importance in achieving lasting peace.

The SDG Report (2023) shows that peace building is an action to strengthen and solidify peace to prevent conflict relapse, crucial the foundation of a legal system, advocating for peaceful societies, availability of justice, as well as efficient institutions

on every level. Therefore, the importance of peacebuilding promotes long-lasting peace by addressing the prevention, resolution, and management of violent disputes on local level capacities.

Globally, drought-stricken areas such as Africa and Asia are now experiencing a dire conflict for limited resources that results in fractured families, widespread hunger among individuals, children, and successive generations trapped in cycles of violence (Adaawen, Rademacher-Schulz, Schraven & Segadlo, 2019). However, peace building strategies in Africa face numerous interconnected issues, including ethnic tension-based conflicts, extreme poverty, resource abuse, and government failures. These strategies are more likely to respond to conflicts based on ethnicity, extreme poverty, or natural resource abuse and when governments fail to fulfill their responsibilities.

Rural communities in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), conferring to Adaawen et al. (2019), have historically adjusted to periods of drought. However, the escalating consequences of limited resources, food security, water availability, and rural livelihoods, coupled with population expansion and limited natural resources, are nowadays, leading to an increase in the amount of internally displaced individuals and overall conflict.

According to Ayana (2019), the Eastern Africa area has a reputation for enduring droughts and civil wars and experiencing recurrent disputes among pastoralist communities. Droughts, prevalent in semi-arid Africa, often lead to resource scarcity, particularly in dry land. Maina (2019) asserts that within semi-arid regions of Africa, conflicts between and within communities arise during seasons of drought. East African pastoral communities have traditional methods for managing resource scarcity during dry periods, as demonstrated by studies (Few & Tebboth, 2018; Atsiaya et al., 2019).

On August 27, 2015, the Kenyan legislature ratified the National Policy on Conflict Management and Peace building, an initiative that aims to stabilize the country and find

permanent solutions to violent disputes (Odidi, 2022). Further, Chapter 10 of the Kenyan Constitution creates the Supreme Court, High Court, and Court of Appeals for resolving disputes. Article 159 outlines Alternative Dispute Resolution to guarantee immediate reactions to conflict concerns, the policy facilitates cooperation and synergy-building among important parties and provides a regulatory framework for the distribution of funds for government-driven peace initiatives. ADR mechanisms, including Resolution strategies that have been used for a long time like arbitration, reconciliation, mediation. These strategies are crucial for conflict management in Kenya. The traditional justice system is the most prevalent among pastoralist communities, employing negotiation, mediation, reconciliation, arbitration, and litigation methods.

Kenya has seen recurrent episodes of violent warfare from the period leading up to its independence. There are two primary categories of conflict: political conflict and conflict related to resources. Therefore, conflicts and the act of resolving conflicts among pastoralist groups are not recent occurrences. For example, Wanjiku, Tarus and Nyakwaka, (2023) reveal that Inter-ethnic conflict persists between Kenya and neighboring countries, primarily in arid and semiarid areas, primarily among pastoralist communities since the colonial era. Further, within the deserts and semi-deserts of Kenya, disputes around the management and use of natural resources are prevalent among pastoralist groups.

Although there has been a rise in peace-building efforts, conflicts in the region persist and lead to continued turmoil in pastoralist areas. Consequently, famines and battles in Kenya had caused a great deal of casualties and possessions, the decades' reverse peace and advance initiatives, rise in number of evacuated individuals, the change of vital resources away from growth initiatives.

The pastoralist communities in Kenya are now experiencing this challenge as their livestock deteriorate and their traditional territories diminish as a result of drought conditions. These conflicts include not only far disputes but also poignant narratives of despair, fortitude, and the agonizing decision between security and peace. These accounts emphasize the immediate need for lasting resolutions to these critical problems. Warurii (2015) highlights the significant impact of ethnic conflicts on neighboring countries, regional and global security, and policymakers' concerns. The author argues that conflicting interests in land resource usage, particularly in socioeconomic resources, have persisted since colonial times, contributing to inter-ethnic violence in Rumuruti Division, Laikipia.

According to Few and Tebboth (2018), natural resource disputes between farmers and pastoralists pose a threat to Laikipia West Sub-County which occur when pastoralists and farmers fight for water and pasture, among other resources. Consequently, these conflicts often severely influence livelihood.

1.2 Problem Statement of the Study

Kenya has made great milestones in developing peace building policies and legal frameworks. However, there are still gaps in effective conflict strategies in the current policy that need to be addressed for practical implementation to reduce conflict incidences and enhance peace. Conflicts among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West persist due to historical competition, land disputes, political agitation, youth indolence, and cultural ideals. Consequently, conflicts lead to inter-ethnic, inter-clan, and counter-attacks, causing in the loss of lives and tension in region. Further, Laikipia West region is facing persistent conflicts that continue to disrupt social and economic activities and cause people to migrate, relocate, and destroy properties.

Further, the regular ethnic conflicts in the Laikipia West sub county led to fatalities. In addition to fatalities, some individuals have suffered the loss of certain bodily parts and have been left with lasting scars as a result of the conflicts. Indeed, the occurrence of conflicts may impact various aspects such as political, economic, social, and cultural aspects, leading to economic decline, weakening governance, service inefficiency, resource depletion, food loss, and capital outflow in Laikipia West Sub County.

There are few studies done on conflict management strategies for building peace in Kenya, such as Bradley (2017) and Wanjiku et al. (2023). However, none of the studies has addressed the current phenomenon in the context of pastoralist communities in Laikipia West. Further, previous studies have implied contradictory findings that may be attributed to different methodologies and conceptual gaps, such as small sample sizes and different backgrounds that affect the generalizability of findings to a vast population. Therefore, the current study sought to address the conceptual, contextual, and methodology gaps by investigating the influence of conflict management strategies on peace building among pastoralist communities in the Laikipia West sub-county.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

This study aimed to investigate influence of conflict management practices on peace-building among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West Sub County, Kenya.

1.4 General Objective of the Study

To assess the extent to which conflict management strategies influence peace-building among Pastoralist communities in Laikipia West sub county.

1.4.1 Specific objectives of the Study

The study was guided by the following specific objectives:

- i. To determine the influence of mediation strategy on peace-building in pastoralist communities in Laikipia West, Sub County.

- ii. To establish the influence of reconciliation strategy on peace-building in pastoralist communities in Laikipia West, Sub County.
- iii. To assess the influence of good governance strategy on peace-building in pastoralist communities in Laikipia West, Sub County.
- iv. To evaluate the influence of gender mainstreaming strategy on peace-building in pastoralist communities in Laikipia West, Sub County.

1.5 Research Questions

The following questions guided the study:

- i. To what degree does mediation strategy influence peace building between villages of herders in Laikipia West sub county?
- ii. How does reconciliation strategy influence peace building among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West sub county?
- iii. To what extent does good governance strategy affect peace-building among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West sub county?
- iv. How does gender mainstreaming strategy influence peace-building among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West sub county?

1.6 Significance of the Study

Peace building within pastoralist communities in Laikipia West Sub County was the intended outcome of this research; therefore, the study aimed to fill the existing knowledge gaps. The study was significant in providing descriptive and inferential data, offering valuable insights into the intricate dynamics of disputes among pastoralist groups, and understanding effective strategies for resolving conflicts among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West Sub County. Further, the study was significant for its potential to enhance community well-being, inform policy decisions, and contribute to the academic understanding of conflict dynamics and peace building processes in

pastoralist contexts. Therefore, this study contributed to understanding conflict management and peace building in pastoralist contexts. The study benefited conflict studies, peace building, and pastoralism scholars by providing the relationship between conflict management strategies and peace building outcomes in Laikipia West Sub County.

1.7 Scope of the Study

This study focused on conflict management strategies utilized in peacebuilding, which were used during the occurrence of conflicts. Therefore, four strategies were perceived as formal and informal strategies for managing conflicts among pastoralist communities. They included mediation strategy, reconciliation strategy, good governance strategy, and gender mainstreaming strategy. These methods were investigated in relation to peace building among pastoralist communities in the Laikipia West Sub County. Further, the study included pastoralist communities in the Laikipia West Sub County.

1.8 Limitation of the Study

The study was limited to a descriptive survey design that might not capture change over time in investigating conflict management strategies on peace building among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West Sub County. The research was limited to participants' responses to research questions. There were potential disruptions to fieldwork and data collection as a result of external factors, such as ongoing war in the area. The study was limited by language barriers since the pastoralist communities participating in the study spoke different local dialects. Further, the study was confined to Laikipia West Sub County due to resource constraints.

1.9 Delimitation of the Study

The study focused on the influence of conflict management strategies on peace building among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West. The study's independent variables were mediation, reconciliation, good governance, and gender mainstreaming, while the dependent variable was peace building. The study's target population was pastoralist communities in Laikipia West. The study employed a 'descriptive survey design' to investigate the phenomena under scrutiny. Further, they employed questionnaires and interviews as primary instruments to collect data. The study collected 'quantitative and qualitative data' to better understand the phenomena under scrutiny. In addition, 'descriptive and inferential statistics' were used to describe the characteristics of the participants and draw conclusions for the study.

1.10. Assumptions of the Study

It was assumed in the study that conflicts were a normal occurrence in Laikipia West Sub County and that they needed conflict management strategies to resolve the conflicts. The study assumed that participants would provide viable information to conclude the study. The study assumed that the relevant authorities would give a permit to allow data collection. Finally, the study assumed that relationships between study variables would remain constant during the study.

1.11 Operational Definition of Terms

Mediation strategy refers to an approach of peaceful dispute resolution that includes the involvement of a third-party individual, wherein a mediator seeks to influence conflict by resolving or modifying it in some manner.

Reconciliation strategy refers to a technique of rebuilding damaged relationships due to conflicts and restoring trust following disagreements to foster a mutual understanding among parties.

Good governance strategy refers to a method used in conflict resolution that involves transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in decision-making in fostering trust and legitimacy among parties.

Gender mainstreaming strategy refers to the approach that involves incorporating viewpoint of a gender to address the unique needs of both genders by ensuring that conflict impacts are analyzed and resolved with gender dynamics to promote equality and enhance conflict resolution among parties.

Peace building refers to a practical, long-term process to create a peaceful environment, address underlying conflict factors and construct sustainable structures for coexistence.

Conflict management strategies refers to techniques for resolving disputes between or within parties using various tactics and techniques. These techniques are aimed to peacefully resolve conflicts, maintain stability, and promote collaboration among disputing parties, thereby preserving stability.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The section presents empirical review, with sub-themes of specific objectives, which include a mediation strategy, reconciliation strategy, good governance strategy, and gender mainstreaming strategy for peace-building. Further, it presents a theoretical review, conceptual framework, recap of literature, and research gaps.

2.2 Empirical Review

The literature was thematically reviewed to assess the empirical evidence linked to the objectives described in the following sections.

2.2.1 Mediation Strategy and Peace-building

Mediation is a strategy in dispute resolution facilitated by an impartial third party. It offers a flexible and less formal alternative to traditional litigation, empowering conflicting parties to actively participate in crafting a mutually agreeable resolution. Its popularity stems from its adaptable nature and simplified procedural requirements, making it an increasingly favoured method for resolving disputes.

The 2010 Kenyan Constitution utilized ‘Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)’ techniques alongside ‘Traditional Dispute Resolution Methods (TDRMs)’ to address disputes involving natural resources. The Constitution aims to resolve conflicts first using ADR and TDRMs, with court intervention only when necessary. Communities are encouraged to use the most suitable mechanisms to resolve disputes (Muigua, 2016). However, the study reveals a lack of genuine attempts to implement ADR mechanisms, for the purpose of managing conflicts involving natural resources in Kenya, primarily by means of mediation and negotiation.

Mohamed and Adan (2022) reveal that various conflict resolution methods had varying effects on fostering peace, with mediation, having the biggest influence as denoted by $r= 0.508$. Additionally, the results revealed that the use of alternative conflict resolution is advisable due to its shown beneficial impact on fostering peace in the area. Unlike previous studies, this study blended formal and informal conflict management strategies to investigate the phenomena under investigation among pastoral communities.

2.2.2 Reconciliation Strategy and Peace-building

Reconciliation is a widely accepted concept as it is crucial for long-lasting peace, requiring a top-down political settlement. This bottom-up strategies aims to resolve unresolved conflict issues and prevent future conflicts from recurring by addressing unresolved issues. Reconciliation has been significant in several scholarly discussions about democracy, conflict transformation, and peacebuilding.

According to Sida (2018, p.1) reveal that violent conflicts negatively impact communities and individuals, leading to injustice and livelihood destruction. These actions create mistrust and distrust, destroying social bonds. Trust recreation is crucial for sustainable development and peace, and bringing justice to conflict victims is a prerequisite for increased trust.

Hassan (2019) study on the effect of reconciliation in the process of establishing peacebuilding after a genocide in Rwanda and Cambodia with the goal of knowing the elements that contribute to its failure or success in these specific situations. The author's findings indicate that the process of reconciliation has been unsuccessful in both Cambodia and Rwanda.

According to Dahiye and Mbataru (2023) shown that conventional conflict resolution processes, namely reconciliation, negotiation have a substantial impact on peace-

building and security in Garissa County, Kenya. Further, the study found that both negotiation and arbitration had a statistically significant and favorable impact on peace-building and security ($\beta = 0.211$; 0.755 ; $P\text{-Value} < 0.05$) respectively.

Therefore, reconciliation is the crucial prerequisite for transitioning from the present state of peace to a state of enduring and secure peace. Unlike previous studies, this study blended formal and informal conflict management strategies to investigate the phenomena under investigation.

2.2.3 Good Governance Strategy and Peace-building

As stated by the 'United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2023)' the term "good governance" is used to refer to the many mechanisms of government that possess the qualities of capability, responsiveness, inclusiveness, and transparency. Good governance necessitates fair legal frameworks, impartial enforcement, and protection of human rights, especially for minorities, requiring an independent judiciary and an impartial police force. Over the past few decades, a significant amount of academic and policy-oriented literature has been produced on good governance, clarifying and criticizing the concept while making it operational.

Githaiga (2020) reveal that peace building through state policies and structures is believed to enhance national and local peace capacities. However, in Kenya, institutions now pose a threat to peace building. This process has increased national peace capacities, but it also the local agency, the successful practice of peace, and the sustainability of resources are all threatened. Watakila (2015) reveals that conflicts and Communities' trust in pastoralist as a means of subsistence and land usage has been eroded due to top-down interference by development players and governments. This has led to hopelessness, as pastoralist is the most suitable way for these communities to

use arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). However, they face restrictions and constraints from inappropriate policies and natural factors in in Borana Community.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2023) reveal that effective governance may promote enduring peace by tackling underlying sources of conflict and ensuring equitable representation of the needs and interests of all people. Further, conflict is a governance issue, and a government can significantly promote peace by managing the country's budget and development.

Unlike previous studies, this study blended formal and informal conflict management strategies to investigate the phenomena under investigation.

2.2.4 Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Peace-building

Gender mainstreaming is a strategy that integrates a gender perspective into all aspects of policies, programs, and activities, aiming to consider the concerns, experiences, and needs of both genders, with the ultimate goal of promoting gender equality. This approach acknowledges that gender issues are socially interconnected and requires systematic and comprehensive efforts.

Therefore, gender mainstreaming has a notable effect on the efficacy of resolving disputes. The social and cultural construction of gender establishes distinct roles for men and women and governs their interactions; in traditional African contexts, these roles are particularly defined. Ejere (2023) demonstrates that gender plays a crucial role in inter-ethnic settlement of conflicts in Marsabit County's Laisamis Sub-county. At the individual and social levels, gender affects conflict dynamics, according to Prase and Mujtaba (2015). In examining the role of gender in resolving conflicts necessitates looking at it from personal, interpersonal, and societal perspectives'. The findings reveal that gender can influence parties' interpretation and meaning of conflicts.

Further, Elverson (2019) posits that gender exerts an influence on methods of disputes control. The mechanisms applied in addressing women's conflicts were comparatively fewer efficient than those for males. Amusan *et al.* (2017) found that men often cause conflicts, neglecting Women's Contribution to Peace building and conflict resolution. Wars disproportionately impact women, but despite this, they are often overlooked in peace processes.

In Rwanda, according to Warren and Troy (2015) revealed that Rwanda's reconciliation effort was mostly successful due to gender equality and women's full engagement, who significantly participated in conflict resolution, particularly in political representation and decision-making at the highest levels and local peace-making processes.

In 2015, "United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)" discovered that women's capacity and role in conflict resolutions throughout the African continent, including Tanzania, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Namibia, and Somalia, have demonstrated fruitful outcomes.

Unlike previous studies, this study blended formal and informal conflict management strategies to investigate the phenomena under investigation.

2.3 Theoretical Review

The study reviewed suitable theories which are presented in subsequent sections, to understand the research problem and guide the study.

2.3.1 John Burton's Theory of Human Needs

The study was grounded regarding John Burton's view of human requirements developed in 1970s to discuss the influence of conflict management strategies on peace keeping among the pastoralist communities. Burton suggests that when individuals or groups feel that their essential needs are not being met, conflict becomes more likely. Protecting basic needs, such as those of pastoralist communities, can improve the

success of conflict management strategies in fostering peace and sustainable development.

According to Riaz (2023) conflict can arise from the struggle to fulfil unmet needs at individual or societal levels. This theory emphasises basic human needs such as safety, self-identity, acknowledgment, and engagement as precursors to conflicts. A deeper understanding of and response to these needs among pastoralist groups could enhance peace building efforts. Further, the theory is particularly relevant in explaining conflicts within pastoralist communities stemming from competition over vital resources like land and water, which are crucial for their survival and cultural identity, while their basic human needs remain unfulfilled.

Conflicts take place as a consequence of deprivations of basic human needs of people. Conflicts occur when individuals are prevented or lacking access to some fundamental human need. (Arias *et al*, 2023). This need includes; security, participation and identity. The deprivation of this needs leads to frustration as a result of tension and those aggrieved are likely to cause conflict. According to Riaz (2023) the actual root cause of conflict is in the refusal to acknowledge the universal human needs, such as security, social recognition of identity, and active involvement in the decision-making processes that shape the conditions for securing one's identity. Burton holds that conflict can be prevented or managed by addressing the human needs, by so doing, societies are able to attain sustainable peace by providing a lasting solution to root causes of possible frustration, tension, dissatisfaction and even conflict Irrespective of their cultural, religious, or ethnic backgrounds, all individuals share the same type, quantity, and sequence of fundamental wants.

This study applied Burton's human needs theory to ascertain the impact of conflict management strategies on peace-building among the pastoralists of Laikipia Kenya. In

a conflict setting, there exist underlying social, political, and economic systems that give rise to tension and hardship, (Arias *et al*, 2023). It further deployed to examine possible ways of addressing them in order to create a stable, sustainable and harmonious community. All individuals strive to satisfy their needs, irrespective of the hierarchy and prioritization of these requirements (Arias et al., 2023).

2.3.2 The Conflict Management Model

This approach was developed by Thomas and Kilmann in 1974. The model argues that there are five strategies that can be used to solve and manage conflict. To fully understand the four strategies for dispute resolution in Laikipia West, this framework evaluated all of the approaches for managing conflicts, including negotiation, mediation, and arbitration. This model guided this study in determining the influence of mediation strategy on peace-building in pastoralist communities. This model offered a comprehensive review of conflict management practices in Laikipia West, including negotiation, mediation, and arbitration, facilitating a thorough comprehension of conflict resolution techniques.

According to Eitu and Ogbonna (2023) state that parties in a conflict situation may either choose to remain assertive or become cooperative in the conflict. Effective mediation strategy depended on combining the strategies highlighted by Thomas and Kilman. Therefore, the model was suitable to understand strategies that promote dialogue, build trust, and establish peaceful dispute resolution mechanisms among pastoralist groups in Laikipia County.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

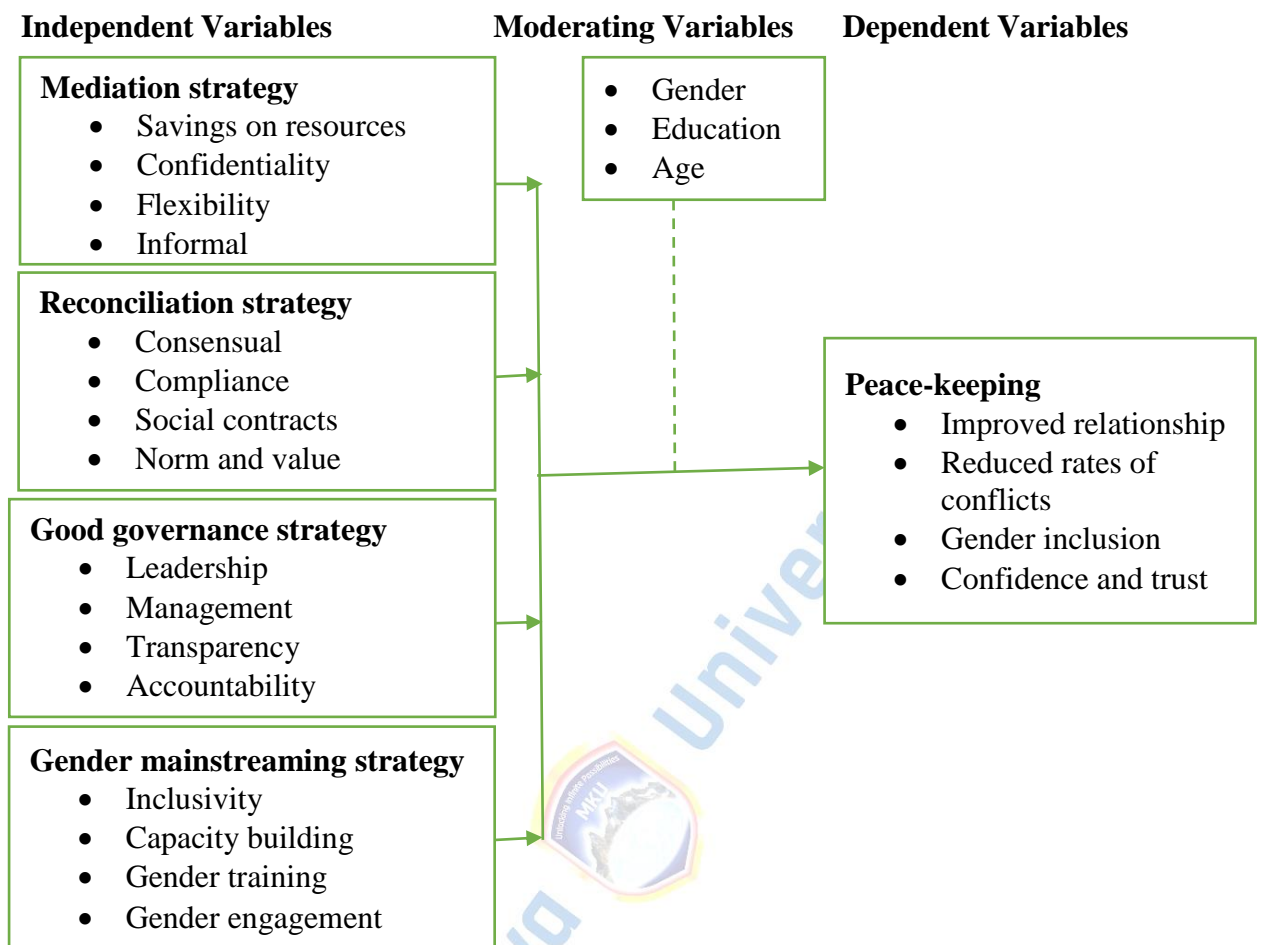


Figure 1 Conceptual Framework

The study aimed to establish the relationship between independent variables: mediation, reconciliation, good governance, and gender mainstreaming in peace building among pastoralist communities. Further, moderating variables such as gender, age, and education may limit or expedite the relationship between conflict management strategies and peace building among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West sub-county, Kenya.

2.5 Recap of literature Review and Gaps

Table 1: Recap of Literature Review and Gaps

Author (s)	Title	Key findings	Research gaps	'How the current Study will fill the gaps'
Watakila, 2015.	'The role of pastoralists in conflict management in the Horn of Africa on the Borana community in North Eastern Kenya.'	The study reveals that conflicts and top-down interventions by governments have undermined communities' confidence in pastoralist livelihoods and land use systems in Borana of Northern.	The study shows conceptual gap; it explores role of government intervention Regarding dispute resolution processes within the Borana Community	The current study employ both formal and informal conflict management strategies in peacebuilding among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West.
Muigwa, Kariuki, 2016	Using mediation and negotiation to manage disputes over Kenya's natural resources.	The study reveals a lack of genuine attempts to implement ADR mechanisms, especially mediating and negotiating disputes over Kenya's natural resources.	This study shows conceptual gap, it focused on application of ADR mechanisms in Kenya. But, it lack specificity on a particular community/region in Kenya.	'The current study focus on' pastoralist communities in Laikipia west, it focus on informal and formal strategies in peacebuilding.
Dahiye & Mbataru, (2023)	The Impact of Conventional Dispute Resolution Processes on Safety and Security in Kenya's Garissa County.	The study found that traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, significantly impact peace-building and security in Garissa County, with a positive significant effect at (P-Value < 0.05).	The study shows theoretical gap, it applied two theories. It also show methodological gap, it used non-probabilistic method to select participants.	To address these gaps, this study uses five theories to address on all variables. Additionally, it sample people using both probability and non-probability strategies.
Ejere, B.2019	'The impact of gender roles on the improvement of 'inter-ethnic conflict resolution in Laisamis sub county, Marsabit county, Kenya'	The study found that cultural factors, In Marsabit County's Laisamis Sub-county, 'rite of passage, traditional leadership, gender, and nomadic lifestyle affect' inter-ethnic conflict resolution.	The study show conceptual gap, it only focused on cultural factors to investigate intra-ethical conflicts in Marsabit county.	The study focus on conflict management strategies aimed at fostering peace-building among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West.
Mohamed A. Y., & Adan	'Impact of Mediation in Fostering Harmony Among	The study found that alternative dispute resolutions (ADR) mechanisms like	The study shows geographical gap, it was done in both Kenya and Ethiopia.	This current study was conducted locally and uses a huge sample size

Author (s)	Title	Key findings	Research gaps	'How the current Study will fill the gaps'
J. G. (2022).	Pastoralist Communities Across the Kenyan and Ethiopian Borders.'	mediation, significantly promote peace in the region. It has a positive impact on peace promotion.	The is a population gap, 'the study used a small sample size(104) to generalize results for Kenya and Ethiopia'.	of (256) to generalize findings in Laikipia West, Kenya.
Githaiga, N. (2020).	'An Analysis of Kenya's Infrastructure for Peace in the Context of Institutionalization and Its Impact on Peace building.'	It shows that local agency, sustainable resources, and effective peace practice are now in danger from the institutionalization process. The composition and level of institutionalization (administration) of peace infrastructures might vary.	There is a methodological gap, the study used qualitative approach as a single method that may yield biased results.	To fill in the methodological gap, this study employs mixed method (quantitative and qualitative approach).
Hassan, S. (2019).	Examining the process of reconciliation and peace-building in countries that have experienced genocide, with a specific focus on Rwanda and Cambodia, using a structured and comparative approach.	The study reveals that reconciliation in Cambodia and Rwanda has been unsuccessful strategy, primarily due to the structural dimension of the lack of justice and truth.	The study show a geographical gap, it was done in foreign regions with different economic background.	In order to probe the present situation, a local investigation into the subject matter in Kenyan context.
Prause, D., & Mujtaba, B. G. (2015).	Strategies for effectively handling conflicts in companies with diverse employees.	The study examines the efficacy of conflict management protocols in contemporary society, with a specific emphasis on addressing workplace diversity and gender inequalities.	There is a conceptual gap and geographical gap, the study investigated conflicts management in organization and workplace in USA.	The current study scrutinizes conflict management strategies on peace building in Kenyan context.
Elfversson, E. (2019).	An examination of the political factors influencing the process of resolving communal conflicts in Kenya	The study reveals that government bias hinders conflict parties from overcoming commitment issues, as they lack trust in the pledges made by the government to either	The study fails to account for relevant context focused on government as a strategy. However, other conflict management strategies	To fill in the gap, this study investigates four strategies on peace building in Laikipia west, Kenya.

Author (s)	Title	Key findings	Research gaps	'How the current Study will fill the gaps'
	through a comparative analysis.	ensure or maintain agreements, thereby reducing the chances of reaching a peace agreement.	are underrepresented in the study.	
'Amusan, L., Abegunde, O., & Akinyemi, T. E. (2017).'	The Grazing Bill is a response to farmer-herder tensions in 'Nigeria; climate change, pastoralist migration, governance of resources, and security.'	The study reveal that 'access to grazing land for pastoral farmers' is affected by Nigerian legislative branch, despite community agitation for legislative protection, aligning with federalism principles that prioritize local interests.	The study show conceptual gap, the study focused on various variables to examine farmer-herder in Nigeria.	This current study focuses on various conflict management strategies in peace building in pastoralist communities in Kenya.
'Warren, T. C., & Troy, K. K. (2015).'	'An analysis of violent intra-ethnic conflict through the lens of group fragmentation influenced by state power.'	The study confirms the predicted curvilinear relationship and reveals predictable shifts in its specific shape under different social and political contexts.	The study show geographical gap, the study examine intra-ethnic conflict on state power with foreign data.	The current study was carried locally to understand conflict management in Kenyan context.
UNESCO, 2015	Repairing the shattered guarantee of universal access to quality education. Results from the international study on children who are not in school.	Worldwide, '53% of out-of-school children are girls,' 70% of countries aim for gender parity in primary education by 2015, with 15% far from this, and 7% very far, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.	The study show population gap and geographical gaps, the focused on gender parity in globally, highlight the gap in sub-Saharan Africa.	This study addresses the gaps by understanding influence of gender main streaming in pastoralists in Kenya.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

‘The chapter introduces methodology adopted in the study to include research design, target population, sample size, sampling frame, instruments, pre-testing, validity, reliability, data analysis, and ethical issues’.

3.2 Research Methodology

The study employed a descriptive survey design that clearly defined its research objectives, process, tools and outcomes. This design allowed for the establishment of informative, descriptive statistics and opened the door to investigate the complex relationships among independent variables. The study’s variables such as mediation, reconciliation, good governance, and gender mainstreaming strategies, particularly within pastoral communities.

The design blended both quantitative and qualitative methodologies enriched the research experience. In-depth insights emerged from qualitative data gathered through engaging key informant interviews (KII) with county staff and stakeholders, offering a valuable perspective on their experiences and opinions to understand the phenomenon under investigation. Meanwhile, quantitative data collected through structured questionnaires facilitated identify trends and relationships through descriptive and inferential statistics. This multifaceted approach ensured a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter, making the findings robust and relevant.

3.3 Research Design

According to Asenahabi (2019), a research design is a "blueprint plan" that describes the strategies and methods used to achieve the study's goals. The research used a descriptive survey design to concisely and precisely outline the study's descriptive and

inferential statistics. Further, the design focused on the methods involving data collection, interpretation, and presentation (Trochim, 2020). The design allowed statistical metrics like mean, median, and standard deviation to describe the study population and establish relationships between independent and dependent variables. In addition, the design allowed the use of quantitative and qualitative approaches for data collection. Therefore, this design was suitable for learning more about conflict management strategies for peace-building among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West County.

3.4 Study Site

The study took place in Laikipia West Sub County (LWSC), Laikipia County. According to GOK (2019), the county is bordered by other counties: “Samburu to the north, Isiolo to the north-east, Meru to the east, Nyeri to the south-east, Nakuru and Nyandarua to the south-west, and Baringo to the west.” Laikipia County is prone to insufficient rainfall and repetitive periods of drought as a result of its geographical positioning on the leeward side of Mount Kenya (Atsiaya et al., 2019). The unit of analysis was the local communities that are actively involved in pastoral activities and regularly involved in various conflicts in Laikipia West Sub County.

Research site is a diverse region that includes pastoralists cultures, like as the Maasai, Samburu, Pokot, Kipsigis, and Turkana communities that are living in the area since ancient times. These communities frequently migrate to region for grazing lands during drought, causing conflicts that severely impact livelihoods due to their seasonal migration. Further, droughts cause famine and local poverty force people to rely on relief food. Reduced river flow causes tension between residents, and scarce water and pastures lead to livestock death.

Kamau, Mwangi and Ouna (2020) reveals that Laikipia West Sub-County has experiencing devastating droughts and conflicts which occur mostly in January to March, with local perceptions largely influenced by ethnicity and livelihood conditions, as revealed by participant narratives.

3.5 Target Population

The population targeted represented all of the people involved, people, items, species, cases, or groups that shared common characteristics of interest to the researcher. Laikipia West Sub County had a population of 129,263 as noted by KNBS in 2023, with males at 65,158, females at 64,102, and intersex individuals at 3 (KNBS, 2023). The study's target population was all the households in Laikipia West Sub County, totaling 37,844 households (KNBS, 2023). The study's population included all the pastoralist communities, county government security officers, community leaders, chiefs, and ward administrators in Laikipia West Sub County.

3.6 Sampling Procedures and Sample Size

To sample is to deliberate selection of relevant individuals for research, accurately reflecting the characteristics of a broader group. Thus, a sample comprises a portion of the population. A proportional stratified random sampling was used to sample participants and ensure equal allocation of samples for each stratum (ward) among pastoralist communities. Therefore, the design allowed reaching a diverse population and ensured representation of all the subgroups of pastoralist communities in Laikipia West Sub County. Further, the design was useful for representative samples and reduced bias in analyses, leading to more precise and reliable results. A purposive sampling was implemented in order to select and identify key informants. Using Cochran's formula, the sample size was 256 households. The basic Cochran's formula for calculating the sample size is as illustrated below:

$$n = \frac{z^2 \cdot p \cdot (1 - p)}{e^2}$$

Where:

n = sample size

N = population size (37,844 in this case)

z = z-score (1.96 for 95% confidence level)

e = margin of error (0.0612 or 6%)

p = population proportion (0.5 is used for maximum sample size)

Substitution:

$$n = (1.96^2 \cdot 0.5 \cdot (1-0.5)) / 0.0612^2$$

$$n = (3.8416 \cdot 0.25) / 0.00375$$

$$n = 0.9604 / 0.00375$$

$$n \approx 256.106.78$$

$$n \approx 256.$$

The proportional sample size distribution for each ward was calculated using the formula below:

$$\text{Sample size per ward} = \frac{\text{Number of households in ward}(x)}{\text{total households}(37,844)} \times \text{Total sample size}(256)$$

The proportional sample size distribution per ward is displayed in Table 1.'

Table 2: Sampling Frame

Laikipia West Sub County(Wards)	Households (ward)	Proportional	Sample size (ward)
Ol-moran	7,305	7305/37844*256	49
Rumuruti	5,366	5366/37844*256	36
Igwamiti	4,730	4730/37844*256	32
Marmanet	6,413	6413/37844*256	43

Salama	5,676	$5676/37844*256$	38
Githiga	8,354	$8354/37844*256$	57
Total	37, 844		256

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS, 2023)

3.7 Research Instruments

Instruments used in research are tools that researchers use to gather data, categorized based on their structural composition, intended function, inherent characteristics, and accessibility (Sathiyaseelan, 2015). The study collected primary data using questionnaires and interviews. Conversely, secondary information was obtained from document analysis of Laikipia County government agents.

3.7.1 Questionnaires

A collection of questions is what makes up a questionnaire, administered to respondents that required answers. The respondents read the questions and wrote down the answers in spaces given or chose pre-determined answers to the questions. A semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect information from the participants where it contained closed-and open-ended questions designed to elicit numerical responses and qualitative data. The questionnaire was cost-effective and consumed less time to collect data from a large population (Bern et al., 2018). The questionnaire was split into three sections where Section A collected demographic information of the participants. Section B covered questions for each specific objective and Section C contained questions on peace-building.

3.7.2 Interview Schedule

The interview contained a predetermined list of questions and subjects to cover with the interviewees (Mauldin, 2020). The study used unstructured interviews that contained open-ended questions to allow respondents to express their views,

perception, attitude, feelings, and experience regarding the subject matter. The interviews were conducted with key informants such as law enforcers (police), chiefs, ward administrators, and community leaders who provided viable insights and in-depth information to understand the phenomena under investigation.

3.8 A Pilot Study

The researcher conducted a pre-test to pilot the instrument before the actual study. The researcher used a 10% proportion of the total sample size (256) to randomly select 25 individuals who participated in a pilot study, as noted by Lowe (2019), to test the instruments. The pilot study aimed to enhance the content and face validity of instruments to be used in the actual study by clarifying unclear questions, phrases, or items. This was achieved by rephrasing, restructuring, or deleting criteria that did not fit the study's objectives. The pilot study participants and results were excluded from the final research.

3.8.1 Validity of Instruments

Validity means the extent to which a given tool can accurately measure what it is intended to measure in a study. The study used an expert judgmental approach to test whether the content validity was accurate to measure the intended outcomes, as recommended by Bajpai et al. (2014). Thus, the study's content validity was subjected to a comprehensive evaluation conducted by a team of field specialists. Further, the researcher ensured that the face content of the instrument was aligned with specific objectives and was relevant and logical for the study's participants.

3.8.2 Reliability of Instruments

The research utilized a reliability scale to test instruments through a consistency test, specifically calculating Cronbach's alpha coefficients, a statistical measure commonly used in social sciences, to ensure the tools accurately measure the specified

outcome(Taber,2018). The Cronbach alpha coefficients varied from -1 to +1. Taber (2018) emphasized the importance of a Cronbach's alpha estimate of 0.70 or above for the six-factor model's internal consistency, which indicated the instruments' trustworthiness and acceptable reliability in a study. The reliability test is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Reliability Statistics Analysis

Study Variables	Reliability Statistics	
	Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
Mediation Strategy	0.755	6
Reconciliation Strategy	0.667	3
Good Governance Strategy	0.543	4
Gender Mainstreaming Strategy	0.454	3
Peace-building outcomes	0.655	7
Grand Total	0.734	23

3.9 Data Collection Procedure

The investigator obtained a permit from relevant bodies prior to fieldwork to collect data. Then, the researcher obtained formal consent from respondents and administered structured questionnaires to pastoralist communities in the Laikipia West Sub County. The researcher used the pick-and-drop method to administer the questionnaire and collected it later at a stipulated time. The design gave participants sufficient time to address every inquiry for accuracy. On the other hand, interviews were conducted with key informants, wherein the researcher led the schedules; each schedule ranged between 10-20 minutes, and the research assistant took notes, made thick transcriptions, and audio-recorded the interviews with key informants.

3.10 Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis entailed collecting, verifying, scrutinizing, and interpreting data to uncover patterns, relationships, and insights and draw meaningful conclusions from raw data (Goniwada: 2023, p.135). It used statistical methods and techniques to conclude, make inferences, and make informed decisions. The data from surveys and interviews were coded, verified, and cleaned to ensure accuracy and correctness. The study employed SPSS version 25. Quantitative data from questionnaires were analyzed using descriptive statistics: mean, standard deviation, frequency, and percentage.

Further, for inferential statistics, the correlation tests established a correlation between independent variables (mediation, reconciliation, good governance, and gender mainstreaming) and dependent variables (peace building). The findings were presented using tables and figures suitable for the dataset. On the other hand, qualitative data obtained from interviews were analyzed using content and thematic analysis and presented using narrative, common themes, patterns, and trends.

3.11 Ethical Considerations

The investigator attained an introductory letter from “Mount Kenya University,” attained a “National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) research permit,” and obtained permission from Laikipia county government agents to proceed with data collection in Laikipia West Sub County. The researcher visited the research site to recruit respondents and familiarize themselves with the study area. In addition, the researcher required formal consent from respondents who took part in the study.

Further, to safeguard personal privacy and confidentiality, participants were instructed not to disclose their identities in the study. Instead, the researcher used pseudonym procedures if needed. The participants were free to withdraw from participating in the

research. The data collected from the participants was protected by ensuring it was only used for academic purposes. Finally, secondary data and sources used in the study were referenced and acknowledged in the study.



CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION, DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

The chapter presents data in relation to the research objectives and questions in the paper. The chapter starts with an introduction of the response rate for the questionnaires that were distributed among Laikipia West Sub County's pastoralist communities. Descriptive and predictive statistics that were drawn from the analysis using the SPSS software are explained in detail. The chapter systematically addresses specific objectives, and respond to research questions, presents discussion on previous studies on the influence of mediation, reconciliation, strategic good governance, and gender mainstreaming on peacebuilding among pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub-county.

4.2 Return Rate

The return rate of instruments is a crucial indicator of the reliability and validity of the collected data, indicating the proportion of instruments completed and submitted by respondents. Based on the Cochran formula, an estimation of sample size was the target of 256 households. A total of 205 form questionnaires were returned, with a return rate close to 80.1%. The remarkably high return rate demonstrates the participants' strong engagement and enthusiasm to be part of the study. Furthermore, all key informant interviews achieved a perfect 100% return rate.

4.3 Demographic Information

The demographic information of respondents consists of age, gender, and educational experience in this study. To understanding the background and diversity of the participants these aspects were assessed. Asenahabi (2019) and Trochim (2020)

contended that demographic data serve to provide context and that the sample accurately represents the population it represents. This information is important in interpreting the findings and understanding the influence of conflict management strategies on peace building among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West Sub County.

4.3.1: Gender Distribution

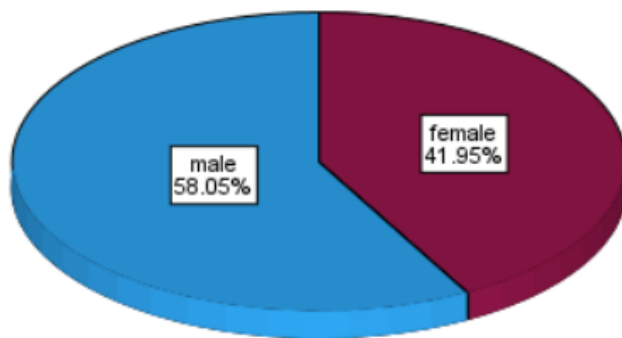


Figure 2. Gender Distribution of the Respondents

Figure 2 shows the gender distribution of the respondents. Of the 205 respondents, 119 (58.0%) are male and 86 (42.0%) are female. The rate of representations of males relative to females is higher among the participants than among the usual population.

The study provides valuable context by examining the gender balance in cattle-keeping communities in Laikipia West Sub County. To understand conflict management strategies in peacebuilding requires recognizing the gender makeup and their contributions to the process, as these factors can influence the outcome differently depending on gender components. Asenahabi (2019) emphasizes the need to take into account demographic factors in terms of research design in order to realize accurate representation; Trochim (2020) also underscores the impact of gender on research outcomes.

There can be significant differences between the way that conflict management and peacebuilding initiatives are approached and effective in one case but not in another,

and this can vary with gender. Bradley (2017) notes that different roles and responsibilities of the genders in community settings influence their views and participation in peacebuilding efforts. Hassan (2019) adds that gender-inclusive approaches are important in order to address the success of peacebuilding programmes. Therefore, recognizing gender differences enhances data analysis and provides tailored strategies for each gender group. Efficient conflict management strategies are crucial for promoting peace and political stability in the zone, ensuring all-encompassing solutions.

4.3.2: Age Distribution

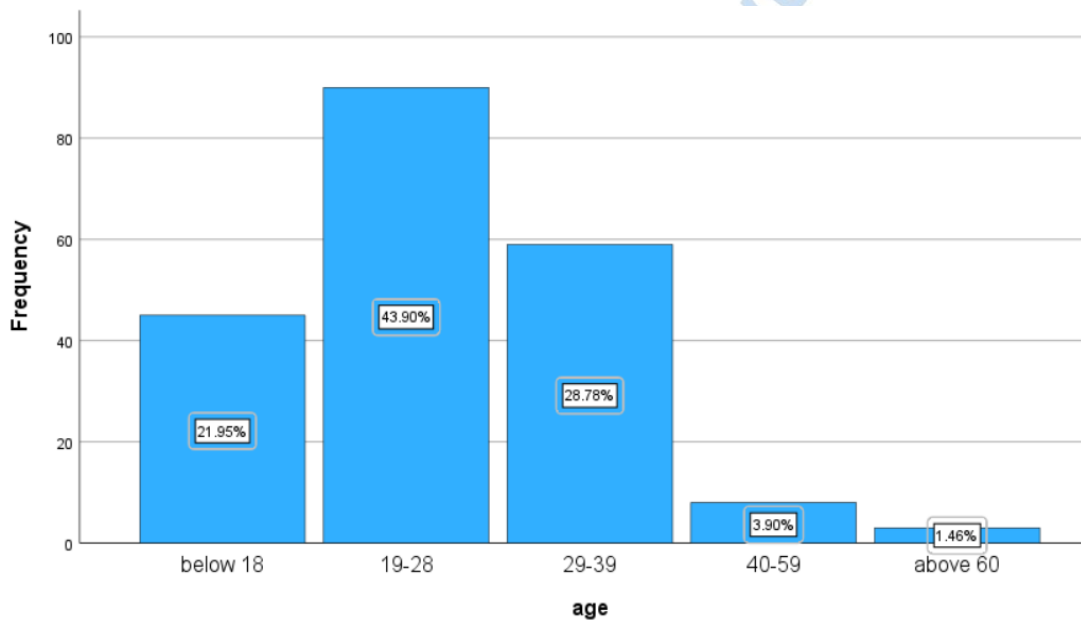


Figure 3: Age Distribution of Respondents

The age distribution of the respondents of the study is presented in the Figure 3. Of these respondents (205), 90 are 19-28 years (43.9%). The next in a row comes out to be the 29-39 age group, with 59 respondents (28.8%). The respondents in the below-18 age group are 45 (22.0%), and those in the 40-59 age group are 8 (3.9%). The above-60 category is the smallest group, with three respondents (1.5%).

The participants chosen for this distribution also spread through a large range of ages, with many of them being in the younger age brackets (19-28 and 29-39). The age composition is important for understanding the perspectives on conflict management and peace-building attitudes and experiences concerning the application of these strategies. For instance, younger respondents might agree or not on mediation and reconciliation strategies as opposed to older respondents (Asenahabi, 2019).

The study's inclusion of all age groups provides a comprehensive understanding of the community's demographics and highlights generational differences in conflict management and peace-building initiatives, thereby enhancing its comprehensive findings. Further, it offers useful information on how to target solutions to the affinities and ends of different age groups (Trochim, 2020).

4.3.3: Level of Education

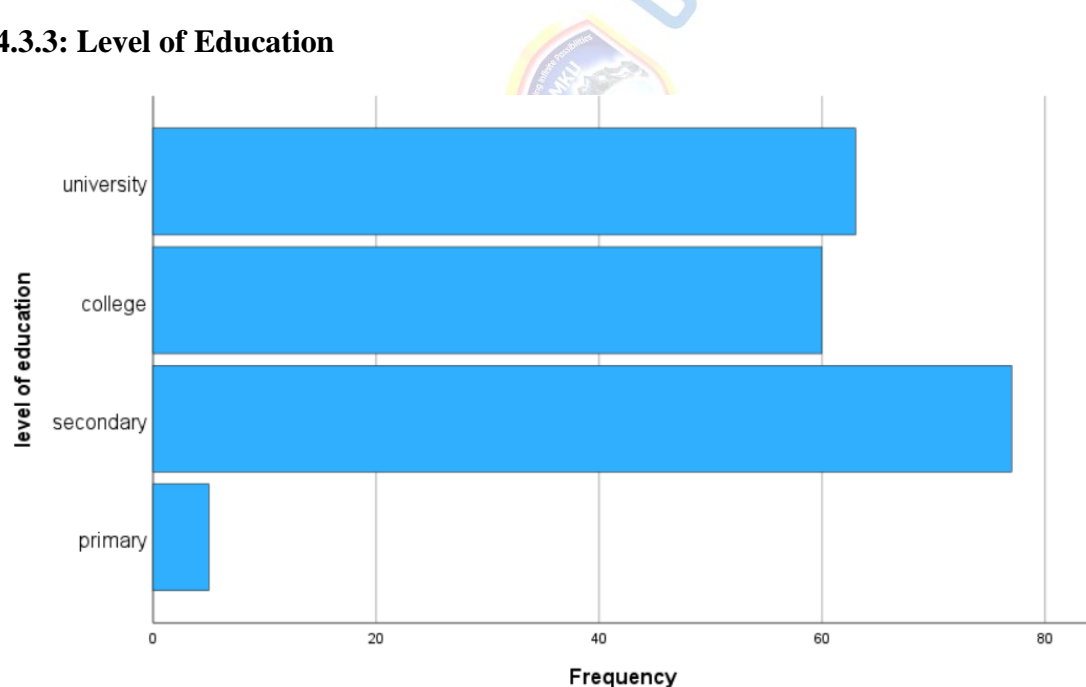


Figure 4: Educational Background of Respondents

Findings in Figure 4 presents the level of education of the study's respondents. Of these, the highest frequency is in the primary education category, with 85 respondents (41.5%), and the no formal education category, with 50 respondents (24.4%). There are

52 respondents (25.4%) in secondary education and 18 respondents (8.8%) in tertiary education.

Education attainment significantly influences conflict management and peace building strategies. As individuals progress in their education, they may better understand and implement conflict resolution strategies. Kamau, Mwangi, and Ouna (2020) assert that education influences people's conflict handling methods, emphasizing the importance of understanding educational levels in conflict management.

Moreover, the inclusion of respondents with different educational backgrounds provides a better understanding of the community's demographic profile. By exploring all of this diversity, all of them teach how education works, its influence in changing attitudes and the effectiveness of peace building initiatives. By analyzing demographic factors such as education, says Trochim (2020), conflict management strategies can be tailored to be more inclusive and useful. In addition, Bajpai (2014) emphasizes the need to consider educational levels when designing interventions that can be achieved in the community by and suitable to all members of the community.

4.3.4 Pastoralists Work Experience

Table 4: Pastoralists' Work Experience

Experience	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation
Experience as a pastoralist	205	1.00	14.00	7.0878	3.68384
Valid N (listwise)	205				

Table 4 displays descriptive statistics for pastoralists' work experience. The data comprises 205 respondents who have a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 14 years of experience. The experience was about 7 years, with a standard deviation of about 3 years of variations.

The respondents come from a wide range of experience levels, from very little to extensive experience as pastoralists. The mean experience shows that, on average, respondents have a moderate level of experience in pastoralism. Pastoralists' work experience is critical to understanding how experience impacts the pastoralists' perspectives on conflict management and peace-building strategies. Pastoralists who have more experience may have deeper insights into age-old techniques and how other strategies work. Eitu and Ogbonna (2023) argue that the success of various forms of conflict management, including mediation, may, to a lesser or greater extent, depend on the experience and cooperative attitudes of the parties.

The range of experience levels helps the study present a wide breadth of insights and practices, giving the findings a broader depth of diversity, reflecting the community's evolutionary dynamics. Additionally, this variation can exemplify differences in the ways people accept and execute conflict management strategies depending on their experience level. In a clever appeal to the Conflict Management Model (Thomas & Kilmann, 1974) suggest that knowledge of these factors can help in designing more effective and inclusive mediation strategy accommodating both novice and veteran pastoralists.

4.3.5 Awareness of Conflict Management Strategies among Pastoral Communities

Key informant interviews found that some respondents demonstrated a limited awareness of conflict management strategies. The Deputy County Commissioner reported that:

“There is a team of elders serving on matters of reconciliation in conflict management in Laikipia West Sub-County.”

Conversely, other respondents identified mediation, reconciliation, and the Nyumba Kumi initiative as viable strategies for resolving disputes within pastoral communities.

The observed lack of awareness may be linked to various challenges, including inadequate resources, educational deficiencies, insufficient information dissemination, negative public perceptions, and unresolved historical injustices that hinder the effective implementation of mechanisms to enhance peace-building efforts among pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub county.

In addition, respondents suggested several best practices intended to elevate conflict management awareness within Laikipia West Sub-County. These practices include incorporating sports initiatives like tournaments and leagues, promoting cultural activities, improving infrastructure (roads), and fostering effective public participation. In addition, educating individuals about the significance of peace and its benefits could also substantially enhance awareness regarding conflict management strategies among pastoral communities in the Laikipia West sub-county.

4.4. Mediation Strategy and Peace-building

Mediation strategy is important in peacebuilding because it can address dialogue between parties in dispute and help them find mutually acceptable solutions. It takes advantage of the neutrality and expertise of mediators in order to help address the root of the problem and build trust. Given that mediators promote understanding and cooperation by the parties, mediation significantly steers peace by promoting harmony in the lives of people and solving conflicts (Mohamed &Adan, 2022).

4.4.1 Descriptive Statistics for Mediation Strategy

Descriptive statistics are vital tools for comprehending the characteristics of mediation strategy and their contributions to peace-building. They describe key variables such as central tendencies, dispersion, and distribution patterns. This analysis aids in identifying trends within the data and offers a foundational understanding of data distribution. In the context of mediation strategy and peace-building, descriptive

statistics are employed to explore various elements of conflict resolution processes, including perceived effectiveness, frequency of application, and their influence on peace-building outcomes. Therefore, descriptive statistics lay the foundation for understanding the dynamics between mediation strategy and peace-building outcomes among pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub-county. The computed descriptive statistics for mediation strategy are presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Descriptive Statistics for Mediation Strategy

Statement	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Mediation strategy among pastoral communities mitigate conflict for successful peace building.	205	1	5	2.95	1.380
Use of mediation strategy to enhance efficacy of peace building initiatives in pastoral communities.	205	1	5	3.90	.875
Locally-driven mediation strategy is more sustainable in peace building among pastoralists.	205	1	5	3.35	.992
Mediation strategy focuses on the unique social structures and dynamics of pastoral communities.	205	1	5	2.40	1.589
NGOs/international organizations enhances mediation process and outcomes.	205	1	5	3.38	1.057
Effective mediation can be used for diverse sub-groups within communities, thus flexibility in pastoralist settings.	205	1	5	3.08	1.350
Valid N (listwise)	205				

The majority of respondents, with a mean score of 2.95, acknowledged the role of mediation in influencing peace-building within pastoral communities. However, they acknowledge that mediation strategy need to be improved to be more effective in building a successful peace. The use of mediation to improve peacebuilding was confirmed by a mean score of 3.90, which suggests strong approaches to using mediation for peacebuilding initiatives.

In addition, a mean score of 3.35 on the locally driven mediation strategy also reflects the importance of the community-based approaches. However, the mean score of 2.40 for addressing distinctive social structures and dynamics of pastoral communities implies that current mediation efforts may not explore the level of the distinctive social contexts within the said communities.

There is a mean score of 3.38, indicate a positive view of the role of NGOs and international organizations in improving processes and outcomes of mediation. External support is considered useful in the mediation process, this means. The mean of 3.08 acknowledges mediation's flexibility to accommodate diverse subgroups within the community; this indicates it is able to function in different circumstances.

During interview, it was discovered that:

“Mediation is crucial in uncovering the underlying issues that spark conflict among pastoral communities. This strategy focuses on fact-finding paves the way to understanding and addressing the root causes of these disputes, fostering a more harmonious environment for all involved.” Key Informant, 2024

These findings greatly reinforce mediation strategy in their contribution to peacebuilding among pastoral communities. Mohamed and Adan (2023) highlight the main positive result of mediation for peacebuilding, highlighting the significance of experience in managing disputes and encouraging unity in pastoralist societies. Also, as Gehrig et al. (2023) demonstrate, such an understanding of the root causes of conflicts and mediation's role in securing peaceful resolutions are important. By making connections and reaching accommodations, mediation helps opposed sides not only understand each other better but to do so in a way that can be more sustainable.

The insights can be integrated so that interventions designed to accommodate the underlying needs of the communities enhance lasting peace and harmony. Knowing the respondents' perceptions allows the mediator to refine their strategies to be more attuned to the unusual social dynamics of the pastoral communities. Thus, collaborative

efforts in improving mediation processes have the potential to work. However, the importance of meeting different social structures and dynamics necessitates further delineated attention toward the inclusivity and ability of these strategies.

Overall, the study highlights the critical role of mediation in conflict resolution as well as in building peace between pastoral communities. Continuous evaluation and revision of strategies are crucial for their sustainability in addressing the context they are intended to address. Practitioners learn from both supporting and contradictory studies, bridging gaps and overcoming challenges of making peace more successful and enduring outcomes.

4.4.2: Inferential Tests for Mediation Strategy and Peace-building

The research investigates the relationship between mediation strategy and peace-building among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West Sub-County, using Pearson correlation analysis. The obtained correlation results are presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Correlation between Mediation Strategy and Peace-building

Pearson Correlation results		Peace-building	Mediation strategy
Peace-building	Pearson Correlation	1	-.298**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	205	205
Mediation strategy	Pearson Correlation	-.298**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	205	205

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The results in Table 6 present the Pearson correlation between mediation strategy and peacebuilding. The study found a correlation between peacebuilding and mediation strategy among pastoral communities as denoted by $r=-0.298$ and this is significant at 0.01 level (2-tailed, $P<.05$). The results imply a negative correlation between mediation strategy and peace-building initiatives. The higher the effectiveness of mediation strategy, the more people expect them to be successful. In this case, the effectiveness

of the mediation strategy was found to be lower, which indicated a decrease in the perception of successful peacebuilding.

Mediation processes often raise underlying issues, which naturally may first increase conflict perceptions or tension. This is consistent with Kinyua and Njoroge (2019), who argue that while mediation processes may at first appear daunting to them, such processes eventually yield more sustainable peace in the long run. Moreover, they indicate that initial rejection of mediation is typical and ultimately yield more durable and profound resolutions.

Further, the findings are supported by Amollo and Ochieng (2020), who emphasize the importance of community engagement in mediation. The study emphasizes the importance of community-driven mediation, stating that while immediate results may not always be achieved, the benefits are substantial.

Nevertheless, Mutuku (2018) brings into focus the alternative view that mediation often does not yield positive outcomes. Beyond that, in some cases, especially in communities with entrenched division, unmanaged mediation can make things worse. Mediation success is dependent on a good understanding of the local context and the use of skilled mediators.

In addition, Beardsley et al. (2006) suggest that mediation adds quality to dialogue between warring parties by providing decent information, assisting belligerents in disclosing their real meanings, and resolving conflicts more effectively. In addition, mediation dispels the fears of defection and supplies both positive and negative inducements to press belligerents toward peace. However, Mohamed and Adan (2023) reveal that conflict resolution mechanisms like mediation, had the biggest influence in peacebuilding as denoted by $r= 0.508$.

The findings suggest that mediation strategy should be continuously reviewed and adapted to meet community needs and promote sustainable peace. Mixed perceptions remind us that mediation should involve more than immediate outcomes and emphasize the importance of a restrained approach to mediation, which takes into account both immediate outcomes and longer-term contributions to peace-building efforts. Practitioners can use learning from both supporting and contradictory studies to refine their approaches, bridge gaps, address challenges, and achieve more successful and enduring peace-building outcomes.

4.5 Reconciliation Strategy and Peace-building

Peacebuilding involves a reconciliation strategy to resolve conflicts and restore trust between communities by restoring relationships, admitting past wrongdoings, and engaging in open dialogue. The reconciliation is successful when there is both a top-down political effort and a participatory effort to reconcile divisive forces and foster social cohesion. Using this kind of approach maintains long-term stability and harmony (Dahiye & Mbataru, 2023).

4.5.1 Descriptive Statistics for Reconciliation Strategy

Descriptive statistics are crucial for understanding reconciliation strategy and their role in peace-building, describing key variables like central tendencies, dispersion, and distribution patterns. Descriptive analysis aids in identifying trends within the data and offers a foundational understanding of data distribution. In the context of reconciliation strategy and peace-building, descriptive statistics are employed to explore various elements of conflict resolution processes, including perceived effectiveness, frequency of application, and their influence on peace-building outcomes. Therefore, descriptive statistics lay the foundation for understanding the dynamics between reconciliation strategy and peace-building outcomes among pastoral communities in Laikipia West

sub-county. The computed descriptive statistics for reconciliation strategy are presented in Table 7.

Table 7: Descriptive Statistics for Reconciliation Strategy

Statement	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Reconciliation strategy ensure long term peace sustainability beyond conflict resolution	205	1	5	3.41	.990
Reconciliation strategy address resource scarcity issues that lead to conflicts among pastoralist.	205	1	5	2.81	1.169
Reconciliation strategy address psychological and emotional trauma experienced by conflicts affected communities	205	1	5	2.35	1.564
Valid N (listwise)	205				

The data from Table 7 provides insights into respondents' perceptions of the effectiveness of reconciliation strategy in peacebuilding in pastoral communities. Reconciliation strategy ensures long-term peace sustainability beyond conflict resolution was denoted by a mean score of 3.41, it indicated a majority of respondents agreed on statement.

During the interview, it was revealed that:

“A successful reconciliation strategy thrives on inclusivity and active public participation, especially within pastoral communities. When everyone has a voice, the chances of genuine understanding and healing increase dramatically. Conversely, the absence of constructive dialogue can seriously hinder the reconciliation process, leading to missed opportunities for peace and collaboration. To emphasize open communication is essential for fostering unity and building trust among diverse groups”. Key Informants, 2024

This corresponds with the view of Dahiye and Mbataru (2023), who underscore the immense contribution of reconciliation toward laying a firm basis for long-lasting peace and security. Reconciliation strategy tackles resource scarcity issues causing conflicts among pastoralists, scored a mean score of 2.81. The results suggested a moderate

agreement among respondents that some see the benefits but others may not fully understand its efficacy. This track is similar to something Hassan (2019) reports, namely that reconciliation efforts may not always successfully address underlying resource conflicts and can be complicated.

Reconciliation strategy addresses psychological and emotional trauma experienced by conflict-affected communities, it scored a mean score of 2.35 by respondents. The lower score indicated that respondents are not as sure as they were previously that reconciliation strategy can address psychological and emotional trauma. The results aligned with Sida (2018) who revealed challenges that reconciliation should be beyond the surface level of conflict resolution to heal the deep-seated emotional wounds and rebuild trust within our communities.

Despite its significance as a process of transforming the conflict and establishing sustainable peace, there is little agreement about what reconciliation means or how it should be achieved. While the mean scores vary, however reconciliation is promoted, but implementation may be difficult as deep-rooted issues may include resource scarcity or psychological trauma associated with reconciliation. Lederach (1997) argues that effective reconciliation requires dealing with both current and underlying social, economic, and psychological factors that contribute to current conflicts. It is important for having lasting peace and harmony that this be a holistic approach.

In addition, the importance of psychological support during reconciliation processes is further pointed out by a study by Brounéus (2008). Without the emotional and psychological scars associated with conflicts being addressed, efforts to build peace are superficial and unsustainable. This reinforces the importance of not only substantive reconciliation strategy but also comprehensive (multiplicity) reconciliation strategy, which are inclusive of all aspects of the conflict and its after-life.

On the other hand, Bloomfield et al. (2006) claim that reconciliation strategy is context-specific and must be adapted to take into account the special needs and circumstances of affected communities. This implies an unlikely one-size-fits-all approach in regard to determining reconciliation initiatives and that local dynamics and cultural contexts need to be taken into account.

In general, these findings underscore the important place of reconciliation strategy in peacebuilding and also indicate target areas that are in need of reinforcement. Sustainable peace in pastoral communities should include both resource-based conflicts and psychological trauma, and efforts to reconcile must do so simultaneously. The mixed perceptions indicate that a nuanced approach, looking at the specifics of these communities, requires a mixture of top-down political-will and grassroots efforts to effectively achieve a holistic and effective process of reconciliation.

In comparison, Abugbilla (2022), in his study on the Côte d'Ivoire post-conflict peacebuilding mechanisms, discovered that adopting amalgamated mechanisms presents challenges and does not always lead to effective reconciliation. Certainly, the sequencing and implementation of reconciliation efforts are critical and must be done carefully.

Oxford Handbook of Peacebuilding (2021) further indicates that while there is near universal agreement regarding the need for reconciliation after violent conflict, what reconciliation involves, how it relates to overall peacebuilding processes, and how it can be realized have been contentious, emphasizing the complexity and the very local nature of reconciliation work. On contrary, Hassan (2019) found, reconciliation efforts in Rwanda and Cambodia were not successful, and gender strategies alone might not be enough without engaging broader socio-political contexts.

These findings more broadly underscore the essential contributions of reconciliation strategy to creating space for peace while also identifying potential strengths and areas for improvement of such strategies. Through successful reconciliation, this also means addressing both resource-based conflicts and psychological trauma, placing the mixed perceptions in front of us that require a nuanced approach; one that recognizes the particularities of these communities, understands the needs of these communities, and the particular dynamics of these communities, as we work to create a whole and holistic reconciliation process needing to include top-down political efforts and grassroots initiatives.

4.5.2: Inferential Statistics for Reconciliation Strategy and Peace-building

The research investigates the relationship between reconciliation strategy and peace-building among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West Sub-County, using Pearson Correlation analysis. The obtained correlation results are presented in Table 8.

Table 8: Correlation Between Reconciliation Strategy and Peace-building

Pearson Correlation		Peace-building	Reconciliation strategy
Peace-building	Pearson Correlation	1	-.309**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	205	205
Reconciliation strategy	Pearson Correlation	-.309**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	205	205

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 8 demonstrated a statistically significant negative correlation between peace-building and reconciliation strategy ($r = -0.309$, $p \text{ value} = .000$, $p < 0.05$) among pastoral communities in Laikipia West Sub County. The observed negative relationship indicated that a rise in the implementation of reconciliation strategy may be associated with only a slight decrease or challenges in peace-building outcomes among pastoral communities. This phenomenon could potentially result from shortcomings in current

strategies, which may include insufficient inclusivity, biased approach, or a deficiency in community trust.

Further, the statistical significance ($P < 0.05$) indicates a true occurrence in the data, which indicated that this negative relationship is unlikely to have occurred by chance. The weak negative correlation indicates that reconciliation strategy may not adequately tackle the fundamental causes of conflict within pastoralist communities in Laikipia West sub county. The research supports the utilization of conflict management solutions tailored to specific socio-cultural and economic conditions of communities, thereby questioning the effectiveness of reconciliation strategy in enhancing peace-building initiatives. It also underlines the need for localized and adaptable approaches especially in pastoral communities.

The study's findings are in tandem with those of Sida (2018, p.1), who revealed that violent conflicts negatively impact communities and individuals, leading to injustice and livelihood destruction. These actions create mistrust and distrust, destroying social bonds. Trust recreation is crucial for sustainable development and peace, and bringing justice to conflict victims is a prerequisite for increased trust. Further, Hassan (2019) investigated the impact of reconciliation on peacebuilding after the genocide in Rwanda and Cambodia and explored factors contributing to its failure or success. Further, findings revealed that the reconciliation strategy has been unsuccessful in both countries.

On the contrary, Dahiye and Mbataru (2023) showed that conventional conflict resolution processes such as reconciliation strategy substantially impacted peace-building and security in Garissa County, Kenya.

4.6 Good Governance Strategy and Peace-building

A good governance strategy is crucial for peacebuilding, stability, and justice establishment. Good governance mitigates conflict conditions by raising transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. Effective governance of resources equitably distributes resources, creates a fair legal system, and talks to the marginalized voices so that people can cooperate and trust one another (Brinkerhoff, 2005; UNDP, 2016). That reduces conflict likelihood. However, implementation can be silenced by corruption and weak institutions (Hyden, 2006). Good governance for these obstacles remains essential for social stability, economic development, and conflict resolution, building resilient communities that sustain long-term peace.

4.6.1 Descriptive Statistics for Good Governance Strategy

Descriptive statistics are crucial for understanding good governance strategy and their role in peace-building, describing key variables like central tendencies, dispersion, and distribution patterns. Descriptive analysis helps identify trends and data distribution, while descriptive statistics analyze conflict resolution processes in good governance strategy and peace-building, understanding perceived effectiveness, frequency of application, and their influence on peace-building outcomes. Therefore, descriptive statistics lay the foundation for understanding the dynamics between good governance strategy and peace-building outcomes among pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub-county. The computed descriptive statistics for good governance strategy are presented in Table 9.

Table 9: Descriptive Statistics for Good Governance Strategy

Statement	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Implementation of good governance contribution to peace building among pastoralist	205	1	5	3.74	1.052
Does effective governance management address root causes of conflicts among pastoralist groups	205	1	5	3.11	.914
Participatory governance approach empowers pastoralist communities	205	1	5	4.08	1.210
Structured dialogue positively influence peace building efforts among pastoralist	205	1	5	4.45	1.011
Valid N (listwise)	205				

Table 9 shows that most pastoral communities' perceptions of good governance strategy influence peace-building among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West sub-county. Implementation of good governance contributed to peacebuilding among pastoralists scored a mean score of 3.74, which indicated that most respondents agreed that good governance is important. The findings reflected Brinkerhoff (2005) and UNDP (2016), who hold that stable and just societies, without conflict conditions, can be shaped by transparent, accountable, inclusive governance.

The study indicates that efficient governance management effectively addresses the root causes of disputes in pastoralist communities, with a mean score of 3.11. The results reinforce Hyden (2006) that suitable governance frameworks are used to address and resolve issues, while actual implementation may provide challenges. Further, a mean score of 4.08 indicated strong agreement among respondents regarding the participation governance approach in empowering pastoralist communities. The study's findings are corroborated by the research conducted by Gaventa (2006) and Mansuri and Rao (2013), which focuses on inclusive governance. The findings align the study with the prominent themes of community empowerment and conflict resilience.

A structured dialogue positively influences peacebuilding efforts among pastoralists was highly endorsed by a mean score of 4.45, that indicated very strong agreement that structured dialogue is conducive to peacebuilding efforts. Brock et al. (2009) found that structured dialogue and participatory decision-making as very important for dealing with conflicts and promoting cooperation at the community level. Therefore, the study underscore that the key to building peace in pastoralist communities lies in their good governance strategies.

During interview, it was report that:

“When both levels of government work together to tackle pastoral communities' challenges, effective governance shines in the Laikipia West sub-county. Leaders prioritize fairness, ensuring that every community is treated with respect and free from discrimination and bias. The people of Laikipia hold their government in high esteem, fostering a sense of honor and trust. Community elders play a vital role in maintaining positive relationships and upholding shared policies, creating an environment of collaboration. In this setting of good governance, tribalism takes a back seat as long as leaders unite in their vision for the community”. Key Informant, 2024

Good governance is a bedrock key to maintaining stability, inclusivity and accountability and a conducive environment for durable peace. Transparency and accountability in governance service delivery are critical to reducing corruption and ensuring the even distribution of resources, therefore reducing conflict conditions (Brinkerhoff, 2005; UNDP, 2016). Furthermore, through participatory means, inclusive governance empowers marginalized communities and promotes social cohesion and resilience against conflict (Gaventa, 2006; Mansuri and Rao, 2013).

Nevertheless, the difficulty of putting these strategies into practice, especially in environments where corruption takes root and public institutions are especially weak, also has to be dealt with if they are to be successful. As pointed out by Mutuku (2018), even though good governance is acknowledged, the political and socio-economic environment presents many challenges in implementing the same. As Bayart et al.

(1999) discuss, entrenched corruption and weak institutions can frustrate governance efforts and is an enemy of peace and peace building through stalemate and failure of conflict resolution. Chabal and Daloz (1999) claim that external actors can even impose their formal systems, and in some cases, traditional governance structures perform better.

In addition, Hyden (2006) underscores that context-specific good governance is needed and must be tailored to address the specific needs and constraints of each community. Thus, this corresponds to Brock et al. (2009) findings that structured dialogue and participatory decision-making are indispensable in handling conflicts and promoting cooperation among groups. Stedman (1997) also mentioned that external governance models often are not helpful in the effective implementation of the root causes of conflicts.

The contradictory nature of the debate between those supporting and those denying the claimed effects of the constitution provides a synergistic opportunity for practitioners to refine their approaches to governance further, bridging gaps and overcoming obstacles to more sustainable, more effective peace-building outcomes. Such an understanding enables theories of governance strategies to be technically cogent but practical while also contextualized, given the particular socio-political settings they find themselves in. As long as there is continued research and adaptation, good governance can make a huge difference toward the long-term peace and stability of pastoralist communities.

4.6.2: Inferential Statistics for Good Governance Strategy and Peace-building

The research investigates the relationship between good governance strategy and peace-building among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West Sub-County, using Pearson correlation analysis. The obtained correlation results are presented in Table 10.

Table 10. Correlation Between Good Governance Strategy and Peace-building

Pearson correlation		Peace-building	Good governance strategy
Peace-building	Pearson Correlation	1	.560**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	205	205
Good governance strategy	Pearson Correlation	.560**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	205	205

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Results in Table 10 demonstrated a strong positive correlation between peace-building and good governance strategy among pastoral communities as denoted by ($r = 0.560$, $P\text{-value}=0.00$ $p < 0.05$). The statistically significant relationship suggests that higher quality governance leads to more effective peace building efforts in Laikipia West sub county. The Pearson correlation results indicate a strong positive correlation between peacebuilding and good governance strategy.

Good governance significantly enhances the effectiveness of peacebuilding efforts. The study confirms its importance in conflict resolution and community stabilization. The results imply that stable and inclusive governance is an environment to work with for lasting peace among pastoral communities.

According to Brinkerhoff (2006), transparent and accountable governance practices have minimized corruption and ensured a fair allocation of resources, thereby mitigating conflict conditions. Like UNDP (2016), it also notes that stable societies require inclusive governance. Gaventa (2006) defines inclusive governance of social

cohesion and resilience against conflicts as empowering marginalized communities through participatory approaches. Mansuri and Rao (2013) highlight participatory development's role in strengthening community resiliency.

These studies suggest that implementing good governance strategy in contexts with weak institutions presents challenges due to socio-political reasons. Good governance is important for most countries, however, its implementation remains a challenge. Conflict resolution and peace-building efforts can undermine entrenched corruption and weak institutions. In some cases, traditional governance structures may be more effective than formal systems from external actors, as noted by Mutuku (2018) and Bayart et al. (1999).

In addition, Hyden (2006) contends that good governance is bound to be context-specific, for instance, varying according to highly dissimilar communities. Brock et al. (2009) also highlight that conflicts are to be addressed with structured dialogue and participatory decision-making. Stedman 1997 also points out that often, externally imposed governance models do not succeed in solving the root causes of conflict. Further, inclusive governance supported peacebuilding, while Brinkerhoff (2005) offered evidence that governance contributed to stability in general.

Practitioners can integrate both supportive and contradicting perspectives and refine their governance approaches by bridging gaps and overcoming obstacles to more sustainable, effective peacebuilding outcomes. Not only is this theoretical, but it is also practical and caters to the unique socio-political contexts where it is implemented. Good governance must adapt with continued research and contribute significantly to long-term peace and stability in pastoralist communities.

4.7 Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Peace-building

Gender mainstreaming is crucial for peacebuilding as it considers both men's and women's perspectives and needs, empowers women, who are key agents of community cohesion and conflict resolution, and promotes equality. This approach enhances and not only contributes to making peace efforts more inclusive and sustainable (Puechguirbal, 2010). Policies sensitive to gender close cracks in the underlying gender inequalities that foster conflict. Integrating gender perspectives into peacebuilding initiatives aligns us with creating more effective and equitable peacebuilding solutions that, collectively, have a balanced and just sense to them in which all are given the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from peacebuilding.

4.7.1 Descriptive Statistics for Gender Mainstreaming Strategy

Descriptive statistics are crucial for understanding gender mainstreaming strategy and their role in peace-building, describing key variables like central tendencies, dispersion, and distribution patterns. Descriptive analysis aids in identifying trends within the data and offers a foundational understanding of data distribution. In the context of gender mainstreaming strategy and peace-building, descriptive statistics are employed to explore various elements of conflict resolution processes, including perceived effectiveness, frequency of application, and their influence on peace-building outcomes. Therefore, descriptive statistics lay the foundation for understanding the dynamics between gender mainstreaming strategy and peace-building outcomes among pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub-county. The computed descriptive statistics for gender mainstreaming strategy are presented in Table 11.

Table 11: Descriptive Statistics for Gender Mainstreaming Strategy

Statement	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Gender mainstreaming strategy enhance peace building initiatives within pastoral communities.	205	1.00	5.00	3.72	.832
Gender mainstreaming approach encourages sustainable peace in pastoralist communities.	205	1.00	5.00	3.74	.978
Gender mainstreaming strategy in peace-building among pastoralist address local cultural norms.	205	1.00	5.00	3.97	.882
Valid N (listwise)	205				

The findings presented in Table 11 indicate that a majority of respondents believe that gender mainstreaming strategy contribute positively to peace-building efforts in pastoral communities. The mean score was 3.72, with a standard deviation of 0.832. These results suggest that participants generally agreed on the beneficial influence of gender mainstreaming on peace-building in these communities.

Gender is an important element in interethnic conflict resolution in Marsabit County, as argued by Ejere (2023). Prase and Mujtaba (2015) confirm this notion further by saying the need to combine gender perspective into conflict solution strategies. The findings mirror the high degree of agreement shown for the studies, which means that gender mainstreaming is a core necessity in meaningful peace-building initiatives.

Gender mainstreaming approach encourages sustainable peace in pastoralist communities scored a mean rating of 3.74 and a standard deviation of 0.978. Although there is some variability in responses, the strong agreement among participants suggests that this variability may be due to different ways in which different communities practice and perceive gender mainstreaming among pastoral communities.

During interview, it was discovered that:

In pastoral communities, women and children often comprise the demographic most affected during conflicts, highlighting the importance of their voices in these discussions. It is essential to recognize that when gender equity is prioritized and tribal differences are acknowledged, there is a significant potential for enhanced peace-building efforts. Key informant, 2024

The idea that gender perspectives can indeed encourage sustainable peace is, as Elverson (2019) finds, that gender significantly impacts conflict management methods. Amusan et al. (2017) highlight the undervalued role of women in peacebuilding, indicating that participants understand the importance of gender mainstreaming for long-term peace. Further, the study found that awareness of gender mainstreaming is crucial to sustainable peace.

There is general agreement that gender mainstreaming strategy produce positive results however, there are a number of conflicting views. According to Eitu and Ogbonna (2023), the level of assertiveness and cooperation among the conflicting parties may vary radically when assessing the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming strategy.

The study suggests that gender mainstreaming may not always be universally effective and its success may depend on the dynamics of the conflict situation, making it inappropriate to assume that a gender focus must reflect these dynamics. This shows the challenges inherent in trying to translate gender mainstreaming into action and the need for coherency of this policy. Sida (2018) argues that violent conflicts can cause great mistrust and destroy social bonds, which is likely to hinder the work of gender mainstreaming in environments that are full of mistrust.

This allows for the integration of both supporting and contradicting studies into the analysis such that it is apparent that although there is a broad consensus over the favorable effects of gender mainstreaming strategy on peacebuilding, their effectiveness may be subject to particular contexts and other factors. The nuances of

each area indicate that the development of more tailored and context-specific gender mainstreaming approaches to the peacebuilding effort is important. To ensure the maximum effect of gender mainstreaming strategy to achieve sustainable peace in pastoralist communities, the specific cultural, social, and political factors that come into play must be addressed.

4.7.2 Inferential Statistics for Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Peace-building

The research investigates the relationship between gender mainstreaming strategy and peace-building among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West Sub-County, using Pearson correlation analysis. The obtained correlation results are presented in Table 12.

Table 12. Correlation Between Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Peace-building

Pearson correlation		Peace-building	Gender mainstream strategy
Peace-building	Pearson Correlation	1	.400**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	205	205
Gender mainstream strategy	Pearson Correlation	.400**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	205	205

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 12 presents Pearson correlation results investigates the relationship between gender mainstreaming strategy and peacebuilding outcomes among pastoral communities. The study established a moderate positive relationship between gender mainstreaming strategy and peacebuilding outcomes among pastoral communities, as denoted by $r = .400^{**}$ $P\text{-value} = .000$, $P < .05$. The results showed a statistically significant positive correlation which indicated that gender mainstreaming strategy positively influenced peacebuilding in the Laikipia West sub-county.

The moderate positive correlation between gender mainstreaming strategy and peacebuilding efforts indicates the importance of considering the gender perspective in peacebuilding mechanisms among pastoral communities. The findings are consistent with previous studies on gender roles in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

For example, Ejere (2023) indicated that gender perspectives are important in handling inter-ethnic conflicts in Marsabit County. The findings are consistent with the assumption that gender mainstreaming can contribute to peacebuilding initiatives. Like Prase and Mujtaba (2015), who stress the importance of including gender perspectives in conflict resolution strategies. This is in agreement with the strong agreement table and the fact that gender mainstreaming is a key factor in an effective peacebuilding initiative.

The results indicate that positive correlative and significant relationships exist between gender mainstreaming and sustainable peace in pastoralist communities. Elverson (2019) supports the idea that gender significantly determines conflict management methods, supporting the idea that gender perspectives can promote sustainable peace. Additionally, the high level of agreement that gender mainstreaming strategy deal with local cultural norms emphasizes the need for culturally sensitive and culturally sensitive inclusive peacebuilding.

In support, Warren and Troy (2015) credit Rwanda's success in reconciliation efforts with elevated gender equality as well as the engaged actions of women. The implication is that gender mainstreaming strategy has to include local cultural norms. It is further supported by UNESCO (2015), which proves the positive results of women's participation in the address of conflict in Africa and thus recommends that women's mainstreaming strategy should be culturally sensitive and inclusive.

The positive findings must be evaluated alongside some opposing viewpoints. Eitu and Ogbonna (2023) argue that the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming strategy can vary considerably based on the levels of assertiveness and cooperation among the conflicting parties. This observation implies that gender mainstreaming does not always attain universality; its success may depend on the specific dynamics of the conflict in question. For example, Hassan (2019) notes, efforts at gender reconciliation in Rwanda and Cambodia suggest that efforts to reconcile may not depend solely on gender strategies without considering other socio-political contexts.

This is evidence of the complexity of gender mainstreaming strategy and the need for a multifaceted approach. As with gender mainstreaming in highly distrustful environments, violent conflicts generate deep mistrust and devastate social bonds, according to Sida (2018), making the practice of gender mainstreaming highly impractical in such an environment

Finally, the results confirm strong empirical evidence that such strategies for mainstreaming gender make positive contributions to peacebuilding efforts among pastoral communities. The integration of gender perspectives in peacebuilding initiatives is significant, positive, moderate, and statistically significant, however, their effectiveness may vary depending on the situation and other factors. The development of effective gender mainstreaming approaches for gender enhancement in peacebuilding initiatives in pastoralist communities is crucial to address situations.

4.8 Level of Satisfactory with Peace-building Initiatives

Descriptive statistics are crucial for understanding pastoral communities' perception towards peace-building initiatives. The analysis describes key variables like central tendencies, dispersion, and distribution patterns. Descriptive analysis aids in identifying trends within the data and offers a foundational understanding of data distribution.

Descriptive statistics are used in peace-building initiatives to analyze conflict resolution processes, perceived effectiveness, and frequency of application in pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub-county. Therefore, descriptive statistics are crucial for understanding the efficacy of peace-building initiatives among pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub-county. The computed descriptive statistics for peace-building initiatives are presented in Table 13.

Table 13: Descriptive Statistics for Peace-building Initiatives

Statement	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
I am satisfied with the usage of mediation strategy in resolving conflicts among pastoral communities.	205	1	5	4.31	.994
I am satisfied with the usage of reconciliation strategy in resolving conflicts among pastoral communities.	205	1	5	3.28	.797
I am satisfied with good governance strategy in resolving conflicts among pastoral communities.	205	1	5	3.47	.921
The use of mediation, reconciliation, good governance, and gender mainstream conflict resolution strategies significantly boost confidence and trust in pastoral communities.	205	1	5	3.57	1.049
The use of mediation, reconciliation, good governance, and gender mainstream conflict resolution strategies has been proven to significantly reduce conflicts in pastoral communities.	205	1	5	3.74	.822
I am satisfied with the usage of gender mainstreaming strategy in resolving conflicts among pastoral communities.	205	1	5	3.47	1.008
The use of mediation, reconciliation, good governance, and gender mainstream conflict resolution strategies improve relationships within pastoral communities.	205	1	5	4.39	.987
Valid N (listwise)	205				

Table 13 portrays descriptive statistics on respondents' satisfaction with different conflict resolution strategies employed by pastoral communities. The study found that respondents were highly satisfied with the use of mediation as a conflict resolution method, with a mean value of 4.31 and a standard deviation of 0.994. The low standard deviation indicates that participants generally agree on positive views, indicates the effectiveness of mediation in pastoral communities due to its flexibility and collaborative nature, enabling conflicting parties to actively contribute to mutually acceptable solutions.

The reconciliation strategy received a mean score of 3.28, with a standard deviation of 0.797. Respondents were moderately satisfied with this strategy, while mediation received less satisfaction. This could be due to the challenges of resolving conflict, such as stress, assumptions, and unspoken commitments, which can hinder the task and trust in dialogue.

The satisfaction score for good governance strategy is moderate to high; it has a mean of 3.47 and a standard deviation of 0.921, indicating its importance in conflict resolution. However, the effectiveness of good governance may vary depending on community implementation. Transparency, inclusion, and responsiveness are essential elements of good governance, which are crucial for sustainable peace. The response to good governance varies, suggesting its effectiveness varies.

The study found a mean of 3.57 and a standard deviation of 1.049 for the combined impact of conflict resolution strategies on confidence and trust in pastoral communities. The results suggest moderate agreement that these strategies increase confidence and trust among respondents. However, the higher standard deviation may indicate a wider range of opinions.

The study reveals that conflict resolution strategies have a mean effect of 3.74 on conflict reduction, with a standard deviation of 0.822. These strategies generally reduce conflicts in pastoral communities, with a low standard deviation, indicating consistent views. Integrating multiple strategies effectively addresses most conflict aspects, suggesting that a comprehensive approach is necessary for effective conflict management.

The satisfaction with the gender mainstreaming strategy is generally high, with a mean of 3.47 and a standard deviation of 1.008. This approach integrates gender perspectives into conflict resolution processes, but its impact may vary depending on cultural and social dynamics in different communities.

The study reveals a high consensus among respondents that combining conflict resolution strategies can strengthen relationships among pastoral communities, with a mean value of 4.39 and a standard deviation of 0.987, indicating that these strategies can promote long-term peace and improve relationships among pastoral communities. Also, the high satisfaction of 4.31 about the mediation strategy is akin to Mohamed and Adan's (2022) finding that mediation has a major bearing on the development of peace through its flexible and informal character. The consistently positive views imply that mediation gives the conflicting parties sufficient power to collaborate in mutually agreeable solutions.

Hassan (2019) found that moderate satisfaction with a strategy, attributed to varying effectiveness, is linked to a mean of 3.28, indicating that long-lasting peace necessitates reconciliation, but not uniformly. The mean for the good governance strategy was 3.47, which suggests moderate to high satisfaction. However, satisfaction could vary owing to the implementation challenges highlighted by Githaiga (2020). Transparent,

inclusive, and responsive mechanisms essential for sustainable peace form what can be called good governance (United Nations Development Programme, 2023).

The result indicates that the mean score of 3.57 shows that respondents had more confidence when the conflict resolution strategies were combined. Dahiye and Mbataru (2023) support the diverse opinions by asserting that there may be different experiences of the effectiveness of these combined strategies in different contexts.

This is consistent with the general agreement that combined strategies greatly reduced conflict, and the mean of 3.74 is consistent with Professor Mohamed and Professor Adan (2022), who say that integrated multiple conflict resolution strategies significantly reduced conflicts.

Findings are consistent with those of Ejere (2023) and Prase and Mujtaba (2015), with moderate levels of satisfaction with the gender mainstreaming strategy, with a mean of 3.47. Although gender mainstreaming, or gender perspectives integrated into conflict resolution, has been proven effective within a number of contexts, the impact of gender mainstreaming can be variable according to particular cultural and social dynamics.

With a mean value of 4.39 for the combined impact on pastoral communities' relationships, it illustrates the power of combining different strategies to create better relationships and longer peace. Warren and Troy (2015) and UNESCO (2015) both draw on strong consensus, which has shown excellent results in integrating gender equality and women's engagement in conflict resolution processes.

To sum up, there appears to be a very high satisfaction with mediation and the converging effects of multiple and effective strategies in enabling social relationships and reducing conflicts. These results suggest that individual strategies such as reconciliation and gender mainstreaming have moderate acceptance levels; however, when combined with mediation and good governance, they are tremendously effective.

The findings in this paper highlight the need for a multi-faceted/integral comprehensive approach to conflict resolution in pastoral communities.

The study sought to establish multiple correlations analysis to understand how independent variables (mediation, reconciliation, good governance, and gender mainstream strategies) predict and explain dependent variable(peace-building) among pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub-county. Multiple correlations analysis was established through Pearson correlation analysis. The computed multiple correlations results are presented in Table 14.

Table 14: Multiple Correlation Between Independent and Dependent Variables

Multiple correlations		Peace- building	Mediation strategy	Reconciliati on strategy	Good governance strategy	Gender main stream strategy
Peace- building	Pearson	1	-.298**	-.309**	.560**	.400**
	Correlation					
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	205	205	205	205	205
Mediation strategy	Pearson	-.298**	1	.781**	-.288**	.048
	Correlation					
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.000	.493
	N	205	205	205	205	205
Reconciliati on strategy	Pearson	-.309**	.781**	1	-.320**	.048
	Correlation					
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		.000	.490
	N	205	205	205	205	205
Good governance strategy	Pearson	.560**	-.288**	-.320**	1	.464**
	Correlation					
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000		.000
	N	205	205	205	205	205
Gender mainstream strategy	Pearson	.400**	.048	.048	.464**	1
	Correlation					
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.493	.490	.000	
	N	205	205	205	205	205

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Results in Table14 demonstrated that informal conflict resolution strategies (mediation and reconciliation strategies) had a statistically significant negative correlation with

peace-building among pastoral communities in Laikipia West Sub county as denoted by ($r=-.298^{**}$ p-value=0.000, $p<.05$ and $r=-.309^{**}$ p-value=0.000, $P<.05$) respectively. The analysis revealed that the interaction between the two variables negatively impacted peace-building efforts within pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub-county. In contrast, the findings indicated that informal conflict resolution mechanisms are ineffective in enhancing and fostering peace-building initiatives within pastoral communities. In this case, ADR mechanisms, which include strategies like reconciliation and mediation, are ineffective in resolving disputes among pastoral communities.

Further, formal conflict resolutions (good governance and gender mainstreaming strategies) had a statistically significant positive correlation with peace-building outcomes among pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub-county, as denoted by ($r=.560^{**}$, p-value=.000, $P<.05$.; $r=.400^{**}$ P-value=.000, $P<.05$) respectively. The formal conflict resolution mechanisms (good governance and gender mainstreaming strategy) positively influenced peace-building outcomes among pastoral communities. The findings implied that good governance strategy and gender mainstreaming strategy improved and promoted peace-building outcomes among pastoral communities in Laikipia West Sub-county.

The multiple correlations implied that the relationship between independent variables and dependent variable (peace-building) among pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub-county was ranked as follows: good governance strategy at $r=.560^{**}$, followed by gender mainstream strategy at $r=.400^{**}$, mediation strategy at $r=-.298^{**}$, and finally reconciliation strategy at $r=-.309^{**}$.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.0 Introduction

The chapter provides a comprehensive summary of the research and its recommendations, it aims to consolidate the findings from previous chapters to enhance our comprehension of the influence of conflict management strategies on peacebuilding. Further, the chapter provides recommendations on the effectiveness of these strategies so that they contribute towards peace-building among pastoral communities in Laikipia West Sub-county.

5.1 Summary of the study

The study summarizes the influence of conflict management strategies on peace-building among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West Sub County, Kenya. The study's independent variables include mediation, reconciliation, good governance, and gender mainstreaming strategies while dependent variable was peace-building. In the case of the Laikipia West sub-county, these variables may promote sustainable peace in a geopolitical area prone to conflicts over resources, political agitation, and cultural differences.

The study reveals the ongoing conflicts in Laikipia West sub-county, including historical competition, land contestation, political agitation, youth indolence, and cultural idols, lead to disruptions in social and economic activities, loss of lives, and property destruction. The study aims to highlights a gap in current conflict management strategies.

A descriptive survey design was employed. The sample size of 256 households was determined using the Cochran formula from 37,844 households used in the study. The study's respondents were selected through proportional stratified random sampling. A

set of questionnaires and interviews was collected, and data were analyzed through SPSS version 25 for descriptive and inferential statistics. The instruments were validated and reliable through a pilot study.

The study found that various strategies contribute to building peace, with mediation being a powerful mechanism for dialogue and understanding among conflicting parties. Its flexibility and collaborative nature were highly valued. Reconciliation was found to be a key factor in sustaining long-term peace beyond conflict resolution. Peacebuilding involves good governance, which is transparent, accountable, and inclusive. However, implementation challenges arise from entrenched corruption and weak institutions. Gender mainstreaming was found to be positively correlated with peacebuilding, but its success could depend on culture and society.

The study found that pastoralist communities, including mediation, reconciliation, good governance, and gender mainstreaming strategies, utilize four conflict management strategies. The study found that ADR mechanisms like mediation and reconciliation negatively influenced peace-building outcomes among pastoral communities. In contrast, formal conflict management strategies like good governance and gender mainstreaming positively influenced peace-building among pastoral communities in the Laikipia West sub-county.

5.2 Summary of the Main Findings

The study investigated the influence of conflict management strategies on peacebuilding among pastoral communities in Laikipia West Sub County, Kenya. The independent variables include mediation, reconciliation, good governance, and gender mainstreaming, to assess their contribution to peace-building among pastoral communities.

5.2.1 Mediation Strategy

Descriptive statistics demonstrated that peacebuilding was significantly influenced by mediation strategy by negotiating dialogue among conflicting parties. However, when conflicts were a result of resource competition or intervention, political agitation, or cultural differences, this approach was especially effective. Majority of respondents believe mediation strategy offers flexibility and collaboration, incorporating the unique personalities of conflicting parties into a tailored approach.

The study found that community elders, local leaders, and other stakeholders in mediation efforts demonstrated trust and respect, to ensure mutual agreements were adhered to and respected by the broader community. However, this balance of power could sometimes offset the success of the mediation or hinder long-term support for the mediated agreement among pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub county.

Inferential statistics through the Pearson correlation established a statistically significant negative correlation between mediation strategy and peacebuilding in pastoral communities, with an $r=-0.298$, $p<.05$, a weakly negative correlation. The findings suggest a decrease in the perception of successful peacebuilding initiatives. The higher the effectiveness of mediation strategies, the more people expect them to be successful. However, the effectiveness of mediation strategies was lower, indicating a decrease in perception among pastoral communities in the Laikipia Sub-County.

5.2.2 Reconciliation Strategy

Descriptive statistics revealed that reconciliation strategy is crucial for long-term peace, involving rebuilding relationships, grievances, and fostering forgiveness and understanding. However, it's not always effective, as conflicts may not always be resolved on the same battlefield to address deep-seated psychological and emotional trauma. This requires significant time, resources, and continuous support to have a

lasting impact. The study revealed that reconciliation led by mental health professionals, religious leaders, and community figures is essential for interrupting the cycle of violence and building a more resilient community, making it vital for achieving healing.

Inferential statistics through Pearson correlation established a statistically significant negative correlation between peace-building and reconciliation strategy among pastoral communities in Laikipia West Sub County, as denoted by $r = -0.309$, $P < .05$, a weakly negative correlation. The findings imply that a higher implementation of reconciliation strategy may lead to a slight decrease in peace-building outcomes, possibly due to shortcomings in current strategies such as insufficient inclusivity, biased approaches, or a lack of community trust among pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub county.

5.2.3 Good Governance Strategy

Descriptive statistics reveals that transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance structures effectively address the root causes of conflicts, preventing conflicts in communities through fair resource distribution, rule of law, justice, and fairness of the communities, making them essential for peacebuilding.

The study highlights the challenges governance initiatives face in contexts with corruption and weak institutions, which can hinder their success and damage public confidence. The study found that strengthening governance institutions, enhancing civic education, and seeking international cooperation will build local governance structures' capacity, improving accountability and community involvement.

Inferential statistics through Pearson correlation established a statistically significant strong positive correlation between peace-building and good governance strategy among pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub-county, as denoted by $r = 0.560$, $P < .05$, a strong positive correlation. The results imply that higher-quality governance

significantly enhances the effectiveness of peacebuilding efforts. The study confirms good governance strategy importance in conflict resolution and community stabilization. The results suggest that stable and inclusive governance is an environment for lasting peace among pastoral communities, indicating its significance in conflict resolution and community stabilization among pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub-county.

5.2.4 Gender Mainstreaming Strategy

Descriptive statistics found that gender perspectives on peacebuilding efforts alleviated the threat of gender bias in peacebuilding efforts among pastoral communities. The process for mainstreaming gender was to ensure that women's unique needs and contributions were recognized and integrated into peacebuilding processes. The study found that gender mainstreaming positively influenced peacebuilding processes in Laikipia West sub county. This strategy allows gender participation in decision-making processes and addresses issues characterizing gender that generally play a role in conflicts.

The study suggests that gender mainstreaming's effectiveness varies based on social and cultural factors, with some communities facing obstacles due to traditional gender roles. It advocates for culturally sensitive approaches respecting local traditions and emphasizes the need for partnerships with local women's groups and civil society organizations to support gender mainstreaming initiatives. The study highlights the importance of gender mainstreaming strategy in peace-building within pastoralist communities in Laikipia West sub county.

Inferential statistics through Pearson correlation established a statistically significant moderate positive correlation between gender mainstreaming strategy and peacebuilding outcomes among pastoral communities as denoted by $r = 400^{**}$, $P < .05$.

a moderate positive correlation. The results suggest that considering the gender perspective in peacebuilding mechanisms is crucial, as it positively influences peacebuilding in the Laikipia West sub-county. The findings align with previous studies on gender roles in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and the emphasizes the importance of gender perspectives in peacebuilding efforts among pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub-county.

5.3 Conclusion of the Study

The study concludes that mediation strategy was ineffective in promoting dialogue and understanding between warring factions and thus failed to lead to tailored solutions. Further, power imbalances and a lack of long-term support can hinder their effectiveness. The study also concludes that there exists a weak negative correlation between mediation strategies and peacebuilding among pastoral communities.

The study concluded that the reconciliation strategy was ineffective in healing relationships and resolving grievances. However, their effectiveness is inconsistent due to the significant psychological and emotional trauma that requires time, resources, and community involvement. The study concludes that there exists a weakly negative correlation between peace-building and reconciliation strategy among Laikipia West Sub County pastoral communities. Implementing reconciliation strategies may slightly decrease peace-building outcomes due to shortcomings like insufficient inclusivity or lack of community trust in Laikipia West Sub-county.

The study concluded that good governance strategy positively influences peace-building outcomes among pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub county. Good governance, which is transparent, accountable, and inclusive, is crucial for peacebuilding. It helps distribute resources and create a sense of justice, but corruption and weak institutions can hinder its effectiveness. The study concludes that there exists

a strong positive correlation between peace-building and good governance strategy among pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub-county. Further, a higher-quality governance enhances the effectiveness of peacebuilding efforts, confirms the importance of good governance strategy in peace-building among pastoral communities in Laikipia West sub-county.

The study concluded that gender mainstream strategy positively influenced peacebuilding efforts among pastoral communities. However, traditional gender roles and cultural norms hinder women's participation, necessitating culturally sensitive approaches. Gender mainstreaming encourages peacebuilding; however, it requires culturally sensitive approaches. The study concludes that a moderate positive correlation exists between gender mainstreaming strategy and peacebuilding outcomes in pastoral communities in the Laikipia West Sub-County. The study emphasizes the importance of considering gender perspectives in peacebuilding mechanisms among pastoral communities in the Laikipia West sub-county.

The study concludes that informal conflict resolution strategies, such as mediation and reconciliation, had a negative correlation with peace-building efforts among pastoral communities in Laikipia West Sub county. The findings suggest that ADR strategies are ineffective in enhancing peace-building initiatives.

In contrast, formal conflict resolutions, such as good governance and gender mainstreaming strategies, had a positive correlation with peace-building outcomes. These strategies, which include good governance and gender mainstreaming, positively influenced peace-building outcomes among pastoral communities. The findings suggest that these strategies can improve and promote peace-building outcomes among pastoral communities in Laikipia West Sub-county. Therefore, formal conflict

resolution mechanisms are essential for fostering peace-building initiatives in pastoral communities.

5.4 Recommendations of the Study

The study's findings recommend that:

1. The community-based approaches in mediation involve local leaders and respected community members seeking culturally relevant and accepted solutions, making mediated agreements more legitimate and accepted, thus enhancing mediation efforts.
2. Reconciliation strategy should involve integrating mental health support to address psychological and emotional trauma in conflict-affected individuals, potentially through training local counselors or providing daytime mental health services.
3. To enhance governance, develop capacity-building programs to strengthen local institutions, promote transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. Train government officials and community leaders, encourage community participation in governance processes, and implement robust anti-corruption measures, including separate oversight bodies and a focus on government transparency, to combat corruption and promote democratic governance.
4. The government should promote gender mainstreaming and harmonizing local traditions by integrating gender perspectives through culturally sensitive approaches. They are collaborating with women's groups and civil society organizations to develop culturally appropriate interventions and encourage women's participation in peacebuilding and decision-making processes.
5. A comprehensive policy framework has been developed to address conflict incorporating mediation, reconciliation, good governance, and gender

mainstreaming strategies. The framework encourages collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, and international partners to effectively implement these strategies, aiming to address immediate and underlying conflict causes, improve conflict management, and contribute to regional peace.

5.5 Suggestions for Further Studies

The study suggests the following:

1. There is a need for a longitudinal research on informal and formal conflict management strategies in peacebuilding to provide insights into how these strategies evolve and continue to shape community relations in the Laikipia West sub-county.
2. Research is needed to explore the study's variables across other sub-counties with characteristics similar to Laikipia West sub county to draw meaningful comparisons and gain deeper insights into the outcomes.
3. Research is needed to include other variables, such as culture, socio-economic factors, and/or political policies, that were excluded by this study to investigate their contributions to peace-building among pastoral communities in the Laikipia sub-county.

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APPENDIX

APPENDIX I: AN INTRODUCTORY LETTER

‘Mount Kenya University,
School of Social Sciences,
Department of International Studies’.
Thika.

July, 2024.

Dear Respondent,

RE: ‘A REQUEST FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH’

‘I am a postgraduate student pursuing a Master's at Mount Kenya University. I am conducting a research study on’:

"Influence of Conflict Management Strategies on Peace-building in Pastoralist Communities in Laikipia West, Sub County, Kenya."

‘You have been chosen to participate in the participants for the research, and your study location has been picked for academic purposes’. The confidentiality of this study is absolute, and the data collected only served the scholarly purposes.

Kindly take time to respond to the study questions with the utmost honesty and transparency by providing detailed information on the research questions. ‘You are invited to participate in this research voluntarily and with your consent’. Kindly refrain from including your name in any part of this research.

Yours faithfully,

Peris

APPENDIX II: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PASTORALIST COMMUNITIES

The questionnaire aims ‘to collect information on’ *“Influence of Conflict Management Strategies on Peace-building in Pastoralist Communities in Laikipia West, Sub County, Kenya.”*

Instructions: Please mark [√] in the appropriate boxes and fill up the necessary information in the spaces provided.

“Section A: Demographic Information

1. Indicate your gender
 - a) Male []
 - b) Female []
2. Indicate your age bracket?
 - a) Below 18 []
 - b) 19-28 []
 - c) 29-39 []
 - d) 40-59 []
 - e) Above 60 []
3. Indicate your level of education
 - a) None []
 - b) Primary []
 - c) Secondary []
 - d) College []
 - e) University []”
4. What is your experience as a pastoralist? -----

Section B: Conflict Management Strategies and Peacebuilding

5. Mediation Strategy and Peacebuilding

Rate statement of mediation strategy on peace-building	“SD(1)	D(2)	N(3)	A(4)	SA(5)”
Mediation strategy among pastoralist communities mitigate conflicts for successful peace-building.					
Use of mediation strategy enhance efficacy of peace-building initiatives in pastoralist communities.					
Mediation strategy is applied in resolving conflicts among pastoralists in peace-building.					
A locally-driven mediation strategy is more sustainable in peacebuilding among pastoralist groups.					

Mediation strategy address the distinctive social structures and dynamics of pastoralist communities.					
The impact of external entities like NGOs/ International organizations enhance mediation process and outcomes in pastoralist conflict.					
An effective mediation method can be used for diverse sub-groups within communities, demonstrating its flexibility in varied pastoralist settings.					

6. Reconciliation Strategy and Peacebuilding

Rate influence of reconciliation strategy on peace-building	“SD(1)	D(2)	N(3)	A(4)	SA(5)”
Reconciliation strategy is useful in resolving conflicts within pastoralist communities.					
Reconciliation strategy aim to ensure long-term peace sustainability beyond conflict resolution,					
Reconciliation approach prevents further conflict and promote social cohesion through various mechanisms.					
Reconciliation strategies address resource scarcity issues that often lead to conflict among pastoralist communities.					
Reconciliation strategies address psychological and emotional trauma experienced by individuals and communities affected by conflict.					
Reconciliation strategy resolve the past wrongs, and ensure justice, and balancing forgiveness among pastoralists.					
Reconciliation strategy is effective in promoting peace-building among pastoralist communities.					

7. Good governance Strategy and Peacebuilding

Rate statement of good governance strategy on peace-building initiatives	“SD(1)	D(2)	N(3)	A(4)	SA(5)”
Implementation of good governance contribute to peace-building within pastoralist communities.					
Effective governance management address the root-causes of conflicts among pastoralist groups.					
Inclusivity in governance play in fostering social cohesion and reduces tensions among pastoralists.					
Transparency and accountability in governance significantly enhance peace-building on pastoralists					
Participatory governance approach empowers pastoralist communities.					
External actors like governmental bodies, NGOs, and international organizations support promote peace among pastoralist communities.					

A structured dialogue positively influence peace-building efforts among pastoralists.					
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8. Gender mainstreaming Strategy and Peacebuilding

Rate statements of effect gender mainstreaming strategy on peace-building.	“SD(1)	D(2)	N(3)	A(4)	SA(5)”
Gender strategy address the unique needs and challenges faced by women and youth in pastoralist communities during conflict.					
Gender mainstreaming strategies enhances the peace-building initiatives within pastoralist communities.					
Gender mainstreaming promote inclusivity and equal participation of both men and women in peace-building decisions among pastoralist groups.					
Use of gender mainstreaming approach influence sustainable peace in pastoralist groups.					
Gender mainstreaming strategy in peace-building among pastoralist groups address the local cultural factors.					

9. Rate the Level of satisfaction with peacebuilding initiatives in your community

Rate your level of satisfaction on peacebuilding initiatives in:	Greatly dissatisfied (1)	Dissatisfied(2)	Neutral (3)	Satisfied (4)	Greatly satisfied(5)
The use of mediation, reconciliation, good governance, and gender mainstream conflict resolution strategies has been proven to significantly reduce conflicts reported in pastoral communities.					
The use of mediation, reconciliation, good governance, and gender mainstream conflict resolution strategies enhances relationships among pastoral communities.					
The use of mediation, reconciliation, good governance, and gender mainstream conflict resolution strategies can significantly boost confidence and trust in pastoral communities.					
I am satisfied with good governance strategy in resolving conflicts among pastoral communities.					
I am satisfied with the usage of reconciliation strategy in resolving conflicts among pastoral communities.					
I am satisfied with the usage of gender mainstreaming strategy in resolving conflicts among pastoral communities.					

<p>The overall satisfaction level with mediation, reconciliation, good governance, and gender mainstream conflict resolution strategies in promoting peace-building among pastoral communities.</p>					
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APPENDIX III: INTERVIEW FOR KEY INFORMANTS

1. Are you aware of conflict management strategies in Laikipia sub county?

a) Yes b) No.

If yes, kind mention them.

2. How do reconciliation strategy resolves pastoralist communities in enhancing peacebuilding in Laikipia West?

3. In your opinion, how mediation strategy promotes community recovery from conflict in Laikipia west sub county?

4. In your view, explain how good governance strategy resolves conflict within pastoralist community in Laikipia sub county?

5. Discuss how gender mainstreaming strategy contribute to peacebuilding among pastoralists communities?

6. In your view, what are the challenges facing pastoralist communities in applying conflict management strategies to enhance peacebuilding in your sub county?

7. What are best practices to adopt to enhance peacebuilding among pastoralist communities in Laikipia West sub county?

APPENDIX IV: WORK PLAN

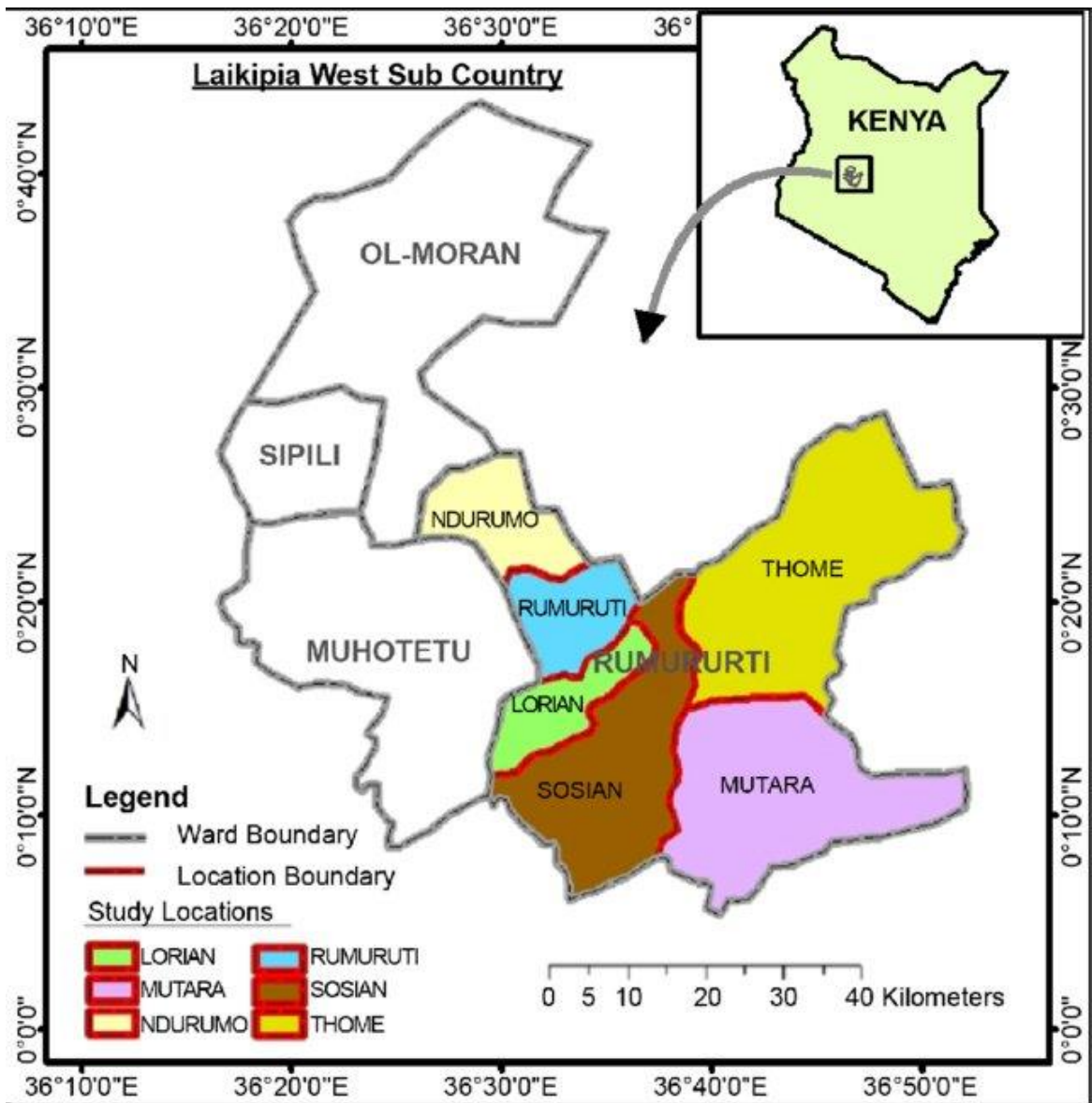
Time/Activities	Sept 2023	Oct 2023- Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Dec 2024
Concept writing	■								
Project writing		■							
Project defence			■						
Project corrections				■					
Data collection					■				
Data analysis						■			
Project writing							■		
Project defence								■	
Graduation”									■



APPENDIX V: BUDGET PLAN

Activities	Ksh per Item	Total Ksh.
Photocopying and printing	40@ 30*3	3,600
Internet and bundles	100GB@1500*1 year	10,500
Transport cost	Accumulative	25,000
Cyber services	Accumulative	9,000
Personal Computer	Once	52,000
Miscellaneous expenses	Accumulative	15,000
Grand Total		115,100

APPENDIX VI: A Map of Laikipia West Sub County



Source: IEBC (2022) Electoral Boundaries in Kenya. Kenya Government

APPENDIX VI: PLAGIARISM REPORT

INFLUENCE OF CONFLICT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES ON PEACE-BUILDING AMONG PASTORALIST COMMUNITIES IN LAIKIPIA WEST, SUB COUNTY, KENYA

ORIGINALITY REPORT

8% SIMILARITY INDEX	7% INTERNET SOURCES	2% PUBLICATIONS	6% STUDENT PAPERS
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PRIMARY SOURCES

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APPENDIX VII: RESEARCH LICENCE

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