

**KENYA-SOMALIA DIPLOMATIC RIFT'S IMPACTS ON KENYAN TRADE AND  
COMMERCE RELATIONS 2012-2021**

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## DECLARATION AND APPROVAL

### Declaration

This research is my original work and has never been submitted for a degree in any other university. It has been complemented by references duly acknowledged using the current A.P.A. with anti-plagiarism regulations.

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## **DEDICATION**

I would like to dedicate this research report to my entire family, especially to my lovely mom and dad, for the financial support they have rendered to allow me to pursue this course and to enable me to do my research efficiently. Lastly, I thank the Almighty Allah S.W.T for the guidance, strength, power of the mind, protection, skills, and for giving me health.



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## ABSTRACT

The diplomatic tension between Kenya and Somalia has a history that can be traced back to various events and incidents. One prominent event that contributed to the rift was the maritime border dispute between the two countries, which began in 2012 and lasted until 2021. The dispute centered around delineating the maritime boundary in the Indian Ocean, particularly the area rich in oil and gas reserves. Both countries claimed sovereignty over the territory, leading to a protracted legal battle at the International Court of Justice. While previous researchers have touched on these diplomatic tensions between these two countries, this study exclusively examined the effects of the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift on Kenyan trade and commerce relations. Four objectives guide the study: assessing the effects on Miraa trade, educational exchange and scholarships, export and import promotion, job creation, and skill development. Social conflict theory served as a guide for the investigation. According to the hypothesis proposed by Karl Max in 2016, competition for scarce resources keeps civilization in a condition of constant conflict. Instead of agreement and conformity, it maintains social order through dominance and authority. According to social conflict theory, those in positions of money and power attempt to maintain them by any means necessary, mostly through repressing the weak and impoverished. The target population comprises 820 respondents, including Miraa traders, students, other traders, and professional workers. Purposive sampling was used to choose a sample size of 246 respondents, and questionnaires were used to gather data. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze quantitative data, while theme analysis and coding were used to analyze the qualitative data. The study reveals that the Kenya-Somalia rift has negatively affected Miraa trade, educational exchange, export and import activities, job creation, and skill development between the two countries. Resolving the diplomatic rift is crucial to restoring trade and commerce relations, fostering economic growth, and enhancing regional stability. The study found that trade between Kenya, Somalia, and other states in the IGAD region is negatively impacted by the border dispute between the two countries. This mostly happens when states use coercive diplomacy and border closure as the first line of defense and cannot resolve the problems. Coercive diplomatic measures and border closures have the potential to cause economic damage and strained relations between states, which will have an indirect and direct impact on their citizens. Since the issues at stake for the two countries are far more significant than the current fight, the dispute is more political than legal. The study's findings are expected to provide insights for both countries to ease diplomatic tension and address the underlying issues, promoting peaceful coexistence and collaboration that will benefit both nations and the region.

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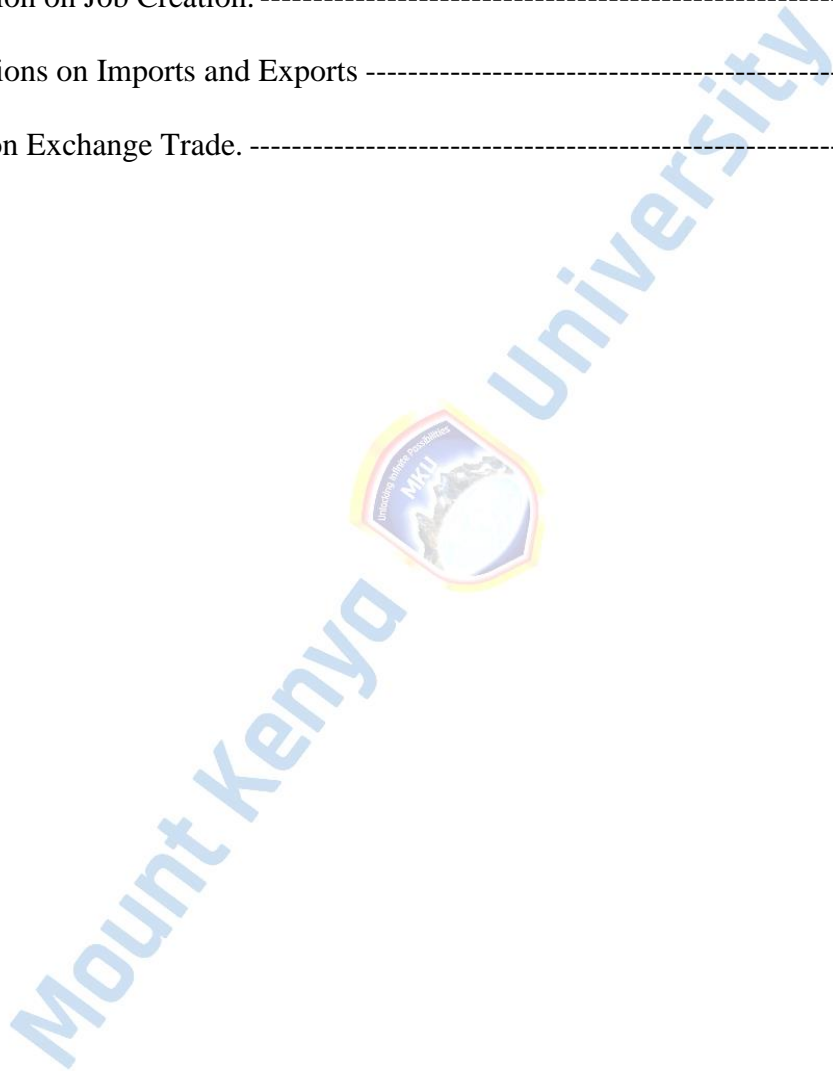
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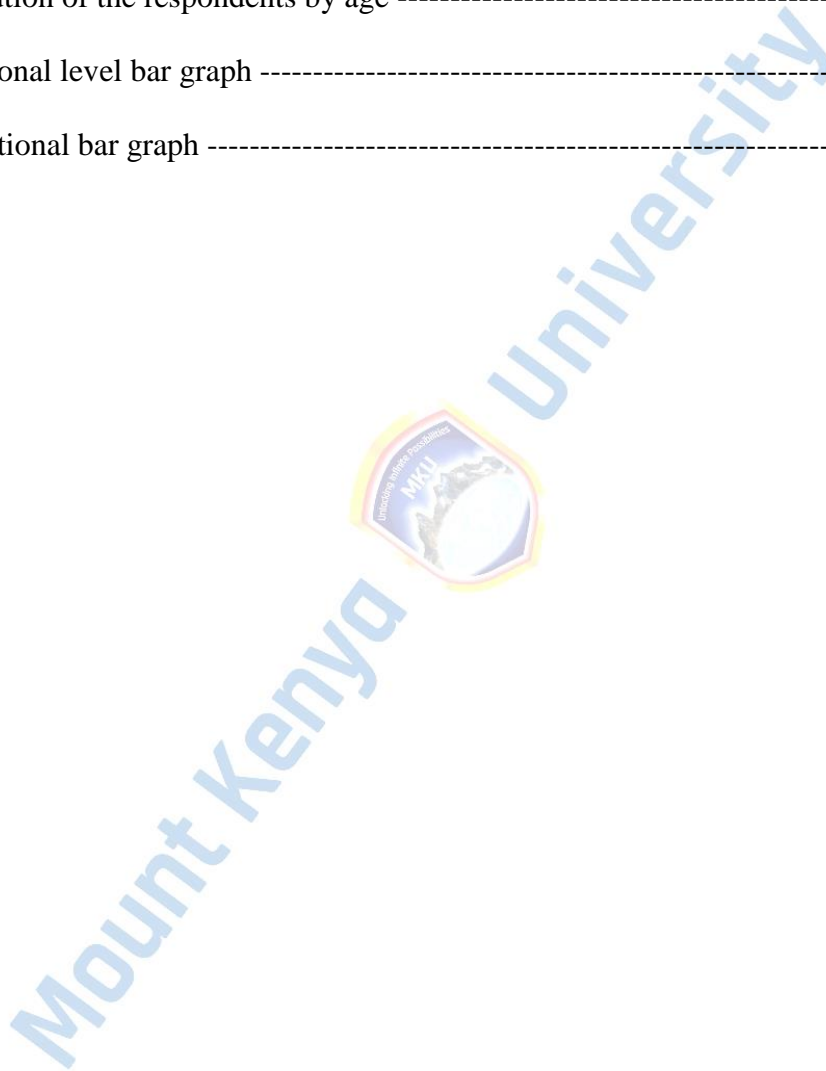
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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AMISOM	African Union Mission to Somalia
APFO	Africa Peace Forum
A.U.	African Union
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
E.A.C.:	East African Community
G.D.P.	Gross Domestic Product
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority for Development
K.D.F.	Kenya Defiance Forces
LAPPSET	Lamu Port- South Sudan Ethiopia Transport Corridor
M.F.A.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
N.G.O.	Non-Governmental Organizations
NFD	Northern Frontier District

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

The Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift revolves around a territorial dispute over maritime boundaries between the two countries. Since a state's territory is defined by its boundaries by the 1933 Montevideo Convention and the Westphalia State system, border diplomacy is essential to national trade (Organization of American States, 1933). Because maintaining territorial integrity is a fundamental national interest, states invest large sums of money in defending their borders and building armies to fend off outside threats.

During the colonial era, European powers drew boundaries in Africa to serve their interests, disregarding the indigenous populations. After gaining independence, African states, including Kenya and Somalia, inherited these colonial borders. The Organization of African Unity (O.A.U.) adopted the principle of respecting and recognizing these inherited boundaries. However, Somalia contested the Kenya-Somalia border, leading to a territorial conflict between the two countries.

The International Court of Justice (I.C.J.) is now deliberating over a dispute involving more than 62,000 square miles of maritime territory between Kenya and Somalia. Somalia's equidistance delimitation principle and Kenya's use of the straight-line delimitation principle are at odds, which is the root of the dispute. Despite the border dispute, the two countries have maintained bilateral trade agreements, and the Somali ethnic people living along both sides of the border have historical connections.

The Kenya-Somalia maritime dispute focuses on a territorial claim over the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), covering over 100,000 square kilometers in the Indian Ocean. Both countries assert sovereignty over this territory, which holds significant economic potential, including hydrocarbon

deposits, fish, and other marine resources (Abdullahi, 2019). The maritime delimitation case was lodged at the I.C.J. by Somalia in 2014, with differing opinions on how the border should be defined. Kenya potentially faces restricted access to the high seas unless Somalia grants permission, as Kenya has already delimited its sea boundary with Tanzania. The dispute's economic interests have attracted the attention of geopolitical actors such as the U.S., UK, France, Italy, and Norway, the U.K., Turkey, the U.A.E., and France, highlighting the significance of the issue on a global scale (Ogembo & Ichani, 2024). In this context, researching the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift is valuable for understanding the complexities of border disputes, the implications for national trade and security, and the role of international institutions in resolving such conflicts.

Kenya-Somalia's history dates back to 1914, when European colonial powers established formal borders for Africa (Caroline M., 2017). Clans that spoke the same language and culture were split apart due to the division between Kenya and Somalia. Tribes from Kenya and Somalia, in addition to the separation, began battling over resources. When Kenya and other African nations sought strategies to unite their nations inside their borders after gaining independence in the 1960s, the tensions between the two bordering nations grew worse. Within and outside their borders, Somalia aimed to bring all Somalis together. The concept of "Pan Somali" was promoted by the Somali administration as propaganda. When Somalia claimed a portion of Kenya's Northern Frontier District in 1963, their tense relationship worsened. Normalcy returned with the signing of the Arusha Agreements, but ties deteriorated once more when Kenya sided with Ethiopia in the Ogaden War. Nonetheless, tensions were reduced by President Daniel Arap Moi's 1984 travels to Somalia (Menkhaus, 2005).

Kenya was affected by the protracted civil war in Somalia. However, as the civil war broke out, Kenya helped Somalia by taking in thousands of its citizens. However, asserting self-defense due to increased cross-border activity, Kenya began invading Somalia in 2011 to drive Al-Shabaab from her border to the interior. The Kenyan Defense Forces were indicted for participating in the illegal trade of sugar and charcoal, making the operation a botched scandal. The operation is believed to have contributed to the defeat of Al-Shabaab and the recovery of key core cities like Mogadishu and Kismayo (Pamba, 2019).

Although Kenya had a Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) directing their operations in the ambiguous territory, Somalia took Kenya to the International Court of Justice in 2014 for encroaching on its maritime territory, according to the IGAD working report 2021. Somalia opposed the idea of the case being settled out of court, even though Kenya challenged the International Court of Justice's decision to settle it. Additionally, Somalia requested that the Court award it compensation from Kenya, arguing that the nation's actions in the region violated its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Kenya declared in February 2019 that it had expelled Somalia's ambassador to the country and recalled its ambassador from Mogadishu due to allegations that Somalia had sold oil blocs at auction in the disputed territory. Additionally, it made a stopover in Wajir essential for aircraft departing from Mogadishu. A few months later, in May 2019, Somalia blasted Kenya for detaining and expelling a delegation of Somali officials from the country to attend a European Union workshop at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport due to their lack of visas (Mahmood, 2020).

Following Nairobi's decision to stop granting Somali visas upon arrival to prevent the spread of the coronavirus corona virus, Somalia banned the importation of Miraa/khat from Kenya in March 2020. However, imports of khat from Ethiopia continued unabated. After Kenya purportedly

supported the reelection of Jubbaland's president, Ahmed Madobe, who is thought to have had a falling out with the central government, it also removed Kenya's ambassador from its territory (Mahmood, 2020).

During intense border clashes between the Somali government and regional forces in March 2020, Kenya accused Somalia of carrying out an "unwarranted attack" on the Kenyan town of Mandera. Somalia disputed the claim. After Somalia severed diplomatic ties with Kenya in December, claiming that Kenya was interfering in its internal affairs, the situation worsened. Kenya denied this accusation. Kenya promised to open a consulate and start direct flights to Hargeisa during Somaliland President Muse Bihi Abdi's December 2020 visit to Nairobi (Omondi, 2020).

Economic and maritime boundary disputes have long caused tensions between Kenya and Somalia. However, the issue is worsening due to new alliances in the area. Kenya's alleged meddling in Somalia's domestic affairs is the subject of the most recent controversy.

According to Demissie (2021), countries in the Horn of Africa are being dragged into the conflict, endangering the stability of an already precarious region. Even if the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is involved in the most recent crisis, the regional organization might not be able to handle the issue independently. Instead of the customary AU-IGAD interaction, the crisis necessitates strong collaborative action by the A.U. and IGAD with the assistance of international allies.

The IGAD summit in December 2020 approved a fact-finding mission headed by Djibouti after Somalia accused Kenya of meddling in its domestic affairs and cutting diplomatic ties, leading to the recall of each country's ambassadors (Demissie, 2021). The mission found that the available evidence did not sufficiently support Somalia's assertions. Somalia criticized the mission's

findings, arguing that they were not objective because Kenya impacted Djibouti (Mutambo & Otsialo, 2021).

Since 2014, Kenya and Somalia have been embroiled in an unresolved maritime boundary dispute. Due to illegal activities in its maritime domain along the Indian Ocean, Somalia filed a lawsuit against Kenya at the International Court of Justice. The court's decision on the matter is still pending. The Jubbaland state in Somalia, which borders Kenya, has been the primary cause of their relationship's continued decline in recent years. Kenya's security cooperation with Jubbaland is essential in the fight against al-Shabaab (Demissie, 2021).

Over the last three years, the region's alliances have changed, worsening the situation. The central government of Somalia has benefited from Ethiopia's growing support for it (instead of its states) and Eritrea's newfound collaboration with Somalia following nearly ten years of strained ties (Demissie, 2021). Various political, social, and economic topics are areas of agreement and cooperation among the three countries. Because of this, there was a heated conflict during the 2019 Jubbaland election between the central government of Somalia and Jubbaland soldiers supported by the Ethiopian and Kenyan military, respectively. Even though Madobe, an ally of Kenya, was re-elected, the federal government promptly disputed the election process and declared it invalid. In the meantime, Kenya kept acknowledging and working with Modobe (Demissie, 2021).

The problem also impacted the ongoing editing of Somalia's Foreign Ministry; Jubbaland broke the terms of the September 2020 election deal because of Kenya's purported meddling in Somalia's domestic affairs (Demissie, 2021).

IGAD is now managing the dispute upon receipt of the report from the fact-finding mission. However, due to their workload, the war between Somalia and Kenya might not be a top priority

for IGAD heads of state. Ethiopia's attention is being diverted from IGAD issues, for instance, by the conflict in Tigray (Demissie, 2021).

Tensions between Somalia and Kenya have the potential to greatly exacerbate the already poor security and humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa if they are not addressed. The A.U. in the area must take more forceful action, beginning with creating cooperative conflict response systems with IGAD. Now is the moment to put words into action, as the Horn of Africa accounted for 54% of the 2020 AU Peace and Security Council discussion. At a time when stability is more important than ever, a strong A.U.–IGAD partnership could help (Demissie, 2021).

Due to Europe's arbitrary mapping of Africa and the Organization of African Unity's (O.A.U.) Cairo Resolution 16(I) 1964 vowed to uphold colonial borders after independence, but Kenya and Somalia are inextricably linked and must coexist at all costs. Since gaining their independence, the two nations have kept diplomatic and commercial ties, although this collaboration has been tinged with mistrust. One of the most notable aspects of the nadir between the two nations is perhaps Mogadishu's decision to sever diplomatic connections with Kenya in recent months. For this reason, the research will examine the diplomatic gap on several issues, as covered below (Pamba, 2019). Given the background information above, more research is required to fully understand the diplomatic challenges surrounding the two nations' trade and economic relations.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift and ongoing territorial dispute significantly impact Kenyan trade and commerce relations. While there is existing knowledge about the dispute and its implications, key aspects still require further investigation to understand the extent and specific consequences on Kenyan trade fully. The diplomatic rift between Kenya and Somalia is rooted in a territorial dispute over maritime boundaries, particularly in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

of the Indian Ocean; hence, it poses significant challenges to Kenyan trade and commerce. This conflict has escalated to legal proceedings at the International Court of Justice, creating uncertainty that impacts trade relations. The disputed maritime area is economically essential, holding valuable resources like hydrocarbon deposits and fish. However, the tensions have disrupted commercial activities, including import and export trade.

As a result of this diplomatic rift, Kenyan businesses face economic losses due to decreased trade volumes, higher transport costs, and potential loss of access to marine resources. The rift has also straddled bilateral trade agreements, complicating the flow of goods and services between the two nations. Insecurity stemming from the situation in Somalia has also aggravated issues in neighboring regions, leading to increased banditry and reduced economic activity in Northeastern Kenya.

Given these circumstances, this research aims to investigate the specific effects of the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift on Kenyan trade and commerce relations. It will explore the extent of the economic impacts on Kenyan businesses, assess the status of bilateral trade agreements, and analyze potential long-term consequences if the dispute remains unresolved. Understanding these dynamics will provide valuable insights for policymakers and stakeholders to discover the challenges posed by this conflict. Therefore, the research seeks to investigate the effect of the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift on Kenyan trade and commerce relations.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study was to determine the effects of the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift on Kenyan trade and commerce relations with Somalia between 2012 and 2021.

### **1.4 Objectives of the Research Study**

The objectives of the study are to:

- i. Examine the effects of the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift on the Miraa trade between Kenya and Somalia.
- ii. Investigate the effects of the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift on educational exchange and scholarship programs between Kenyan and Somali students.
- iii. Assess the effects of the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift on job creation and exchange of skill development between Kenya and Somalia.

### **1.5 Research Questions**

The following research questions guided the research.

- i. What are the effects of the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift on the Miraa trade between Kenya and Somalia?
- ii. How does the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift affect educational exchange and scholarship between Kenya and Somalia students?
- iii. What are the consequences of the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift on job creation and skill development between Kenya and Somalia?

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

The study would significantly contribute to the existing body of knowledge by reviewing the effect of the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift on Kenyan trade and commerce relations. It would also act as a source of empirical literature for future researchers and suggest areas for further research.

Equally, the study holds significant importance for various stakeholders, such as policymakers and government officials, who can benefit from the findings to make informed decisions and devise effective strategies to mitigate the negative consequences of the rift. Understanding the specific

impacts on key economic sectors and employment will aid in maintaining trade stability and promoting economic growth.

It is significant for businesses and investors involved in Kenyan-Somali trade relations to gain insights into the challenges of the rift. This understanding can help restore confidence, attract investments, and develop strategies to navigate trade disruptions, such as import/export restrictions and market uncertainties. Identifying alternative trade routes and markets can also provide opportunities for diversification and expansion. Furthermore, the study's findings can shed light on the broader regional integration efforts in East Africa by examining the impacts on regional trade agreements such as the East African Community (E.A.C.) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The study can contribute to discussions on regional cooperation and conflict resolution.

It also adds to the existing body of knowledge on the impacts of diplomatic rifts on trade and commerce relations. It can serve as a reference for future research on similar conflicts and their implications for national and regional economies. It contributes to informed decision-making, trade stability, business confidence, diversification, regional cooperation, and academic discourse on diplomatic conflicts and trade disruptions.

It could be a vital paper for the ministries of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation at the national and international levels since the findings can be utilized to improve and resolve diplomatic rows between the two countries. The study is also important to international developmental partners such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, as well as other non-governmental organizations that help Kenya and Somalia finance their projects since it can provide solutions to the challenges faced in implementing the projects.

## **1.7 Assumption of the Study**

The research has assumed that:

- i. The respondents who will be selected will give accurate information.
- ii. The respondents selected will provide a true presentation of the targeted population.
- iii. Border diplomacy has not been effectively utilized to resolve the Kenya-Somalia dispute.

## **1.8 Limitations of the Study**

The research has the following limitations:

Geographical factors were challenging as respondents lived far apart and were unavailable on time. However, the researcher issued questionnaires to fill out and return at their convenient time to complement the respondents who were not available. The questionnaire's return rate was below 100%, which limited how far the study's findings could be applied. The researcher employed a checklist and data analysis to bolster the veracity of the information gathered. Additionally, because respondents may provide socially biased responses to appease the researcher, it may be challenging to control their attitudes. Nevertheless, the constraint will be overcome by asking responders to answer the instruments honestly and truthfully.

### **1.8.1 Delimitation of the Study**

The study has limited itself to finding out the effect of the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift on Kenyan trade and commerce relations and available research material and literature since this is a relatively fresh research study. The study will not be limited to only targeted respondents in the trade sector, given that other potential people, such as people working in foreign departments, could provide more information. However, the current respondents were selected because of their large number and availability.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter reviews the literature on the effects of the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift on Kenyan trade and commerce relations. The first section looks at the concept of Diplomatic trade, the second deals with Miraa trade, the third engages with educational exchange trade, and the fourth addresses export and import trade.

#### **2.1 Concept of Diplomatic Trade**

Diplomatic trade is the process of facilitating and improving commercial connections between countries through diplomatic channels and agreements. At the international level, diplomatic trade seeks to increase interdependence between nations, promote economic cooperation, and eliminate trade barriers. Bilateral and international trade agreements that support the free flow of capital, products, and services frequently make this idea a reality. One notable example of a diplomatic trade initiative that changed trade relations in North America is the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which has since been replaced by the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). It did this by removing tariffs on a variety of goods and establishing a competitive regional market (Doe, 2020).

International organizations such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) have advocated for policies that lower trade barriers and increase diplomatic cooperation in trade in recent years. Smith and Johnson (2019) assert that the WTO's function in resolving trade conflicts and upholding agreements has been essential to preserving steady diplomatic trade ties throughout the world. Additionally, as demonstrated by the recent European Union (EU) trade agreements with Canada and Japan, which

have created frameworks for cooperation and opened up new markets, diplomatic trade frequently entails negotiating terms that safeguard home industries while improving access to international markets (Williams, 2021).

The East African Community (EAC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) are examples of regional economic blocs that are increasingly influencing diplomatic trade in Africa. By standardizing customs, lowering taxes, and encouraging regional cooperation among African countries, these organizations promote trade. As per Ngugi and Ochieng (2019), the EAC has been instrumental in promoting commerce among its member nations by instituting similar standards. This has boosted intra-regional trade by decreasing trade-related disputes and bureaucratic delays.

Addressing the particular difficulties brought on by political unrest, border conflicts, and economic inequality among member states is another aspect of diplomatic trade in East Africa. As tariffs are lowered and nations concentrate on building infrastructure to facilitate trade, current attempts to strengthen diplomatic economic ties through the AfCFTA are expected to increase commerce within the continent by up to 52% by 2025, according to Adedeji (2020). The political will of the participating countries and their dedication to promoting stability and economic prosperity through cooperative policies are critical factors in the success of diplomatic trade efforts in Africa (Kariuki, 2021).

Kenya-Somalia diplomatic trade is a complex idea that has been greatly influenced by both past connections and present difficulties. The cultural and economic ties that exist between Somalia and Kenya, in addition to their shared physical border, promote interdependence. For people on both sides of the Kenya-Somalia border, trade is essential, especially in the Mandera, Wajir, and Garissa districts where cross-border trade plays a significant monetary role. Consumer goods,

textiles, livestock, and agricultural products are all part of this commerce, which brings in money for thousands of locals. But sustaining stable commercial partnerships has always been difficult due to Somalia's complicated sociopolitical environment and border security issues (Abdullahi, 2021).

The continuous maritime border dispute between Kenya and Somalia is one of the main barriers to diplomatic trade between the two countries. In 2019, Somalia filed a petition with the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which intensified the issue. A 100,000-square-kilometer triangle in the Indian Ocean that is thought to have rich oil and gas deposits is at the heart of the conflict. Due to the conflict's unresolved status, tensions have increased and diplomatic ties between the two nations are being strained, which has an impact on cross-border trade. Periods of increased diplomatic tension have caused disruptions in commercial flows when both nations impose restrictive measures to assert control over disputed areas, according to studies by Mwangi and Kimathi (2020).

Diplomatic trade is also significantly impacted by security concerns along the Kenya-Somalia border, which are mostly associated with the actions of the insurgent organization Al-Shabaab. Security activities, military checkpoints, and restrictions to stop militant movement can impair cross-border commercial lines. Although necessary for national security, these security measures also hinder trade and raise the cost of transportation for merchants. According to Ahmed and Hassan (2022), the livelihood of border communities that mostly depend on cross-border trade has been impacted by the rising cost of trade, which has made it difficult for local enterprises to stay competitive.

The movement of refugees over the border is another element impacting diplomatic relations between Somalia and Kenya. A sizable Somali refugee community resides in Kenya, mostly in the

Dadaab refugee complex. Due to the need for goods and services as well as the difficulties with legal status and goods movement, the refugee population affects trade both directly and indirectly. The informal trade networks that emerge inside refugee camps support the local economy but frequently function outside of official regulatory frameworks, making it more difficult to properly monitor and regulate cross-border commerce (Karanja, 2021).

There have been attempts to enhance diplomatic relations between Somalia and Kenya, frequently with the assistance of regional organizations like the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). These groups have promoted discussion on the maritime conflict as well as other diplomatic matters that affect commerce. Notwithstanding the underlying diplomatic difficulties, Kenya has also sought to improve trade laws and regulations to guarantee the effectiveness and safety of cross-border trade (Omollo, 2020). Kenya has also taken steps to legalize cross-border trade, including business registration, border infrastructure improvements, and making sure security measures don't unnecessarily impede trade.

In conclusion, security, territorial integrity, and economic necessity are all closely related to diplomatic trade between Kenya and Somalia. The particular difficulties of cross-border trade emphasize the need for diplomatic solutions that go beyond temporary limitations and instead concentrate on measures that promote stability and reciprocal economic gains. Kenya and Somalia may both strive toward a more stable and successful trading climate that benefits communities on both sides of the border by keeping lines of communication open and participating in regional cooperation (Amina, 2022). Kenya and Somalia have actively engaged in trade and commerce, particularly in agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and natural resources. However, the overall trade environment in Somalia has been constrained by factors such as political instability, security concerns, weak infrastructure, and limited institutional capacity. The Kenya-Somalia diplomatic

rift has had various implications on the trade and commerce relations between the two countries from 2012 to 2021. The diplomatic tensions and territorial disputes have introduced uncertainties and barriers to trade, affecting both countries' foreign procurement opportunities and export transactions. The rift has led to disruptions in cross-border trade activities, including delays in cargo clearance, increased transport costs, and restrictions on the movement of goods and services. The diplomatic rift has also impacted the business opportunities between Kenya and Somalia. The uncertainties and tensions have hampered investor confidence, making it challenging for businesses to explore new ventures or expand existing operations. The rift has created a climate of caution and limited the scope for collaboration and joint ventures between the two countries (Nor, 2021).

Somalia and Kenya had good diplomatic and commercial ties, but wars and national policies broke them up. The ability to negotiate better international trade outcomes is revealed by this study's statistical model, which is based on the theory of economic diplomacy. By looking at imports, we found that diplomats could pursue more "value-claiming" in economic diplomacy than anticipated. Our findings confirm the widely held belief in both countries' economic diplomacy and provide evidence of a different viewpoint. This study's unique viewpoint enhances the large body of research on trade and economic diplomacy situations.

When nations exchange goods and services, this is known as international trade. International trade allows countries and individuals to acquire goods and services that are either unavailable or more costly in their own countries (Daneshjo, 2014).

Trade relations between Kenya and Somalia are crucial to the growth of both nations' economies. As a result, business and distributors, shipping and marketing, customs officers and border inspections, taxes and quotas, export subsidies, and import licenses are no longer the only aspects

of international trade. International trade has evolved over the last three millennia from sporadic trips to meet foreign people and trade familiar goods for exotic ones to enrich rulers and elites to becoming a major force behind global economic growth today. By 2000, international trade accounted for approximately 35% of global economic production, up from about 2% in the early nineteenth century (Pigman, 2016).

Today, commerce is a necessary and unavoidable part of a global economy that allows billions of people to work, make a livelihood, and invest and consume the products of their labor. The world economy cannot prosper without international trade. The sharp rise in trade in comparison to global economic activity serves as a metaphor for the growing need for people to interact with one another in order to resolve conflicts and do business. Another fundamental and vital human activity has increased with this significant expansion in international trade (Pigman, 2016).

## **2.2 Effects of Diplomatic Rift on Miraa Trade**

Due to disagreements over Indian Ocean maritime claims, Kenya's proposal to erect a 700-kilometer border fence, and, more recently, Somalia's Miraa ban—a move that is both historic for Somalia and infuriating for Kenya—Kenya-Somalia relations have reached their lowest point in years (Waal, 2020). Miraa cultivation provides a living for over half a million Kenyan farmers (Bearak, 2020). A measure designating Miraa as a cash crop and providing KSh. 1 billion to Miraa farmers to address market shocks was signed into law by President Uhuru Kenyatta in 2016. Somalia is Kenya's largest market for Miraa exports (Waal, 2020).

According to Hassan (2014), about 20 cargo flights carrying Miraa/khat arrive daily in Somalia. Ironically, though, these aircraft return to Kenya empty. It's no surprise that Somalia and Kenya have such a large trade gap. Fisheries items and other exported goods from Somalia are excluded from the Kenyan market (2020, Waal).

Somalia urged 2016 that Kenya respect its sovereignty and territorial integrity before lifting the embargo on Miraa. Although hoped for, it did not pass (Waal, 2020). Abukar Osman, the Federal Republic of Somalia's Permanent Representative to the U.N., denied its involvement in AMISOM when he addressed the Security Council on February 27, 2020, that Kenya remains a disruptive influence in Somalia (Kevin, 2020). Somalia firmly opposes such flagrant transgressions and will do everything within its power to protect its unity and sovereignty in conformity with international law. It will trigger the Mira export, which brings in roughly \$145,000 per day for dealers in Kenya; thousands of livelihoods are at risk due to a Somali prohibition on importing Khat from Kenya (Hassan, 2014). Khat producers, packers, transporters, and wholesalers—known as Miraa in Kenya—are concerned that they will be unable to make a living if they lose their largest market, Somalia. Kenyan khat has been banned in Somalia because it has a moderately amphetamine-like effect when chewed. Khat is extensively used in the afternoon, much like tea or coffee in other parts of the world and has long been used by Somali men for social and cultural purposes. However, excessive usage of it can result in mental health issues. Hassan (2014).

Kenya had significant influence over Somalia from 1991 until the end of the Somali state recently. However, as Somalia resists the Kenyan invasion, Kenya appears to have a patron-client relationship with some Somali leaders and commercial elites. Calls for Somalia to leave the Hague maritime dispute lawsuit have been repeatedly denied (Dhaysane, 2021).

To make things worse, it is thought that earlier this year, Turkey-trained Somali Special Forces (Gorgor Brigade) and Kenya-backed Jubaland militia engaged in combat near the border town of Bula Hawa, in which Kenya armed a proxy force. The battle was said to have spread to Mandera in Kenya (Waal, 2020). As stated by the B.B.C. (2018), "The Somali president warned Somalia to

stop provoking Kenya by violating its territorial integrity, claiming that the Somali army had fought on Kenyan land, causing tension and harassing residents" (Waal, 2020).

According to data from the Central Bank of Kenya, Somalia's revenues fell to a decade-low. Kenya currently benefits from Somalia's revenues in the form of vegetables, other agricultural products, and Miraa exports (khat). In the 12 months ending in December 2019, the value of exports, mostly miraa (khat), decreased by Ksh. 3.24 billion, or 21.51 percent, to Sh11.83 billion. Miraa traders have suffered the most since Mogadishu has long been their main market (Vellum Kenya, 2021).

Since the Miraa trade in Somalia is unsustainable due to its detrimental effects on society, even if the Somali government decides to lift the ban, the problem will persist. Therefore, the Kenya-Somalia rift should be resolved amicably to save the many people who rely on the cash crop for their livelihood. These events have serious implications for bilateral trade, including the Miraa trade. There is a risk that this dangerous stalemate could truly spiral out of control.

International trade is frequently significantly impacted by diplomatic rifts, which can affect supply chains, market access, and tariffs. Economic sanctions or trade restrictions are commonly used as instruments to apply pressure when nations are embroiled in diplomatic disputes. For example, substantial import tariffs have resulted from the ongoing trade tensions between the United States and China, which intensified in 2018. These tariffs have an impact not only on the two economies directly involved, but also on global supply chains and markets that rely on these economies for goods and raw materials (Brown, 2021). The impact of these conflicts highlights the interconnectedness of the world's markets, since any interruption in one relationship can have a ripple effect on global trade networks.

As nations look for new allies to cover the voids created by closed trade routes, diplomatic rifts can also result in changes to alliances. For instance, following sanctions imposed by Western

nations due to its role in Ukraine, Russia has increasingly looked to China and other Asian markets for trade and commercial relationships. Trade dynamics have changed as a result of this change, affecting the movement of agricultural products, technology, and energy (Jackson & Huang, 2020). Recent research indicates that diplomatic rifts that impede international trade have an influence on investor confidence and cause market volatility in addition to the economic growth of the directly engaged nations (Smith & Lee, 2021).

In the African setting, cross-border trade is frequently directly impacted by diplomatic tensions between neighbors. Due to the strong economic ties among African nations, commerce can be disrupted by political disputes or diplomatic problems, which can have an impact on livelihoods, market stability, and attempts at regional integration. The 2019 border shutdown in Gatuna is an example of the diplomatic difficulties between Rwanda and Uganda. Economic losses resulted from the border closure's disruption of trade between the two nations, particularly for small-scale traders who depend on cross-border trade (Nkurunziza & Mugabe, 2021).

Regional trade agreements that seek to promote trade throughout the continent, such those under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the East African Community (EAC), are likewise jeopardized by these interruptions. For example, diplomatic differences among member states have hampered the EAC's efforts to establish a single market and unify trade laws and enhance intraregional commerce. The movement of products and services across borders is impacted by the higher transportation costs and logistical difficulties that result from border closures and trade restrictions during diplomatic tensions (Mwangi, 2020). Such occurrences underscore the necessity for procedures to resolve conflicts amicably and show how delicate regional trade arrangements are when diplomatic problems emerge.

Trade relations between Kenya and Somalia have been significantly impacted by diplomatic rifts, which frequently lead to strained commerce and economic disruptions. Political disagreements, border issues, and security concerns have been the main sources of diplomatic conflict between Somalia and Kenya. Trade constraints brought about by these problems have an impact on the flow of products and services between the two countries. For instance, since Somalia brought the case before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 2019, the maritime conflict over resource-rich waters in the Indian Ocean has gotten more intense. As the two nations defend their territorial claims, this conflict has caused uncertainty for businesses and has resulted in sporadic slowdowns in commerce (Omondi, 2021).

Kenya's security measures along the Somali border, which are primarily intended to limit the influence of Al-Shabaab, a militant organization that operates in both Kenya and Somalia, have also had an impact on trade disruptions. Small-scale traders find cross-border trade less feasible as a result of the longer travel times and higher transportation expenses brought on by the heightened security measures, which include the installation of checkpoints and patrols along important trade routes. According to Hassan and Yusuf (2022), these limitations have had a direct effect on the trade in cattle and agriculture, two crucial economic sectors in border areas like Mandera. Higher transaction costs deter informal traders and have an effect on the earnings of families who depend on this industry for a living.

The implementation of travel restrictions and visa procedures is another element that makes trade more difficult during times of international conflict. Travel restrictions have occasionally resulted from diplomatic disputes between Somalia and Kenya, which has made trading even more difficult. Due to difficulties obtaining work permits and visas, Kenyan traders and businesspeople operating in Somalia, particularly in Mogadishu, have limited access to markets (Kariuki, 2021).

Since entrepreneurs find it challenging to launch and sustain business activities in an unpredictable political environment, such restrictions jeopardize the continuation of commerce and investment between the two nations.

Regional organizations like the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) frequently mediate efforts to resolve these trade issues. These groups seek to advance diplomatic solutions and encourage communication in order to sustain economic cooperation. Notwithstanding these initiatives, sustained trade is still hampered by Kenya and Somalia's shaky diplomatic relations. Mwenda (2022) estimates that during the last ten years, trade volumes between Kenya and Somalia have decreased by around 20%, primarily as a result of sporadic trade restrictions and the erratic nature of diplomatic relations.

Conclusively, the impact of the diplomatic divide on trade between Somalia and Kenya underscores the need of stable diplomatic ties in promoting international trade. Particularly for local traders who rely on unofficial cross-border trade for their livelihoods, the economic cost of these confrontations is significant. A more stable trade climate that benefits both nations economically and promotes regional stability could result from a determined attempt to settle these disputes diplomatically (Musa, 2022).

### **2.3 Effects of Diplomatic Rift on Educational Exchange and Scholarships**

Over twenty years of conflict have all but devastated Somalia's educational system, which is marked by low standards, a shortage of trained teachers, and insufficient funding. One of the worst educational deficiencies in the world is seen in Somalia. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in 2018, 972,000 children, or one in five Somali students, were displaced out of a total of 4.7 million school-aged people (12.3 million Somali population). In particular, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) reports that from

November 2016 to August 2017, about 50,000 children were displaced and deprived of the opportunity to attend school. As stated by Mukami and Wasike (2021), Tensions along the porous Kenya-Somali border have affected more than 3,000 Somali students who cross into Kenya daily to attend school.

Educational exchange programs, which are vital conduits for information interchange, cross-cultural understanding, and research cooperation, are frequently impacted by diplomatic conflicts between countries. Governments frequently restrict access to scholarships or visas for students from the impacted nations when diplomatic relations deteriorate. Citing worries about intellectual property and national security, the diplomatic split between the United States and China, for example, has resulted in visa restrictions for Chinese students studying in American universities, especially those in science and technology fields (Green & Chen, 2020). Thousands of students and academics have been impacted by these limitations, which have interfered with academic cooperation and restricted access to important research networks.

Research funding and faculty exchanges are two more areas where diplomatic tensions can affect educational exchange in addition to visas and scholarships. Some countries may restrict funding for collaborative projects or apply sanctions, which would hinder institutions' capacity to work together internationally. Political and economic sanctions that limit resources and collaboration chances for staff and students have made it difficult for Russia and several European nations to maintain research partnerships in recent years (Brown & Ivanov, 2021). These instances demonstrate how diplomatic concerns can deny students access to important learning opportunities, which can hinder academic development and the more general exchange of ideas across national boundaries.

Diplomatic disputes have a similar effect on educational exchange programs across Africa, frequently disrupting chances for professors and students to gain from cross-border education. Political disputes among governments, for instance, can result in less collaboration in education in East Africa, which has an impact on students who depend on exchange programs or scholarships to study in nearby countries. The 2019 diplomatic disagreement between Rwanda and Uganda is a noteworthy example. It led to border restrictions and impacted educational exchanges, as many Rwandan students studying in Uganda encountered challenges with access to educational facilities and transportation (Mugisha & Ndikumana, 2020).

By supporting scholarships, student mobility, and faculty exchanges among member states, regional integration projects like the East African Community (EAC) promote educational collaboration. However, these efforts may be impeded when diplomatic problems emerge. Students have fewer options for high-quality education in the area and are less accessible when borders are closed or travel restrictions are imposed. The implementation of policies aimed at harmonizing education systems, such as the Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs), which aim to standardize qualifications and enable students to study and work across borders, has been delayed due to diplomatic tensions between some EAC member states, claims Karani (2021). The disruption of such activities diminishes the collaborative networks necessary for educational advancement and restricts the region's potential for academic improvement.

Diplomatic difficulties between Kenya and Somalia have a big impact on scholarship opportunities and educational exchanges, especially for teachers and students participating in cross-border programs. Accessing education in Kenya has become more challenging for Somali students due to the tense relationship between Kenya and Somalia, particularly in institutions where they have historically sought to study. Somali students have been drawn to Kenya because it provides higher

education options that might not be easily accessible in Somalia because of the country's ongoing turmoil (Ahmed & Omar, 2022). This pattern has been broken, though, by the sporadic diplomatic disputes between the two countries, which frequently lead to more stringent visa requirements and limitations for Somali students.

Travel restrictions and visa issuance are two of the most prominent effects of the diplomatic tensions between Kenya and Somalia. Kenya has imposed stringent visa requirements for Somali citizens during periods of increased diplomatic tension, making it difficult for students to enroll in Kenyan universities. Along with limiting their educational options, this restriction also makes it more difficult for them to participate in exchange programs or apply for scholarships that Kenyan colleges provide. For instance, Somali students experienced difficulties in acquiring student visas in 2020 after diplomatic tensions escalated, which impacted their capacity to enroll in and attend classes at Kenyan universities (Mwangi, 2021).

Scholarship prospects are also impacted by the diplomatic divide, as Somali and Kenyan institutions are growing more hesitant to provide financial aid to students from the neighboring nation. Scholarships are frequently a component of programs for cultural exchange and diplomatic goodwill, and they become less available as diplomatic relations deteriorate. During diplomatic standoffs, Somali students who have historically depended on government-sponsored programs or scholarships from Kenyan institutions are increasingly excluded from these financial resources (Kariuki, 2021). Furthermore, Somali students studying in Kenya are restricted in their ability to participate in long-term educational programs or research projects due to uncertainty surrounding their residency status.

Kenyan-Somalia educational exchange programs also suffer because universities and colleges are less inclined to form alliances or conduct joint research when relations are strained. In fields like

healthcare, engineering, and business studies, these interactions—which include both students and faculty—are essential for knowledge transfer and the exchange of best practices. Diplomatic uncertainty has resulted in a decrease in faculty exchanges between Somali and Kenyan schools in recent years, which has limited the opportunity for Somali academics to acquire training and mentorship in Kenyan institutions (Ochieng, 2022).

Academic research and collaboration are also impacted by the ongoing diplomatic tensions, especially in fields like cross-border trade, regional development, and conflict resolution that are pertinent to both nations. As travel restrictions and visa issues become obstacles, researchers and academics from Somalia and Kenya are less likely to work together or attend joint conferences and seminars. The possibility of joint scholarly contributions that could help both countries, especially in comprehending and tackling common socio-political issues, is hampered by this lack of cooperation (Abdi, 2021).

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF, 2010), learning activities have been severely impeded by Kenya's insistence that the Dadaab camp be closed in 2020, giving the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) an ultimatum in the wake of the long-standing diplomatic crisis between the two nations. According to an Amnesty International study (2017), Human Rights Watch queried whether Somali refugees were leaving Kenya freely. Many of the people the humanitarian group interviewed in Dadaab said they had consented to return home because they believed Kenya would push them out if they stayed. The Lutheran World Federation, which oversees much of the education in Dadaab, claimed many school-age children could not complete their studies because of the repatriation. "After completing several years of education, many students are missing their primary and secondary final exams," stated Lennart Hernander, the federation's representative in Kenya. International Amnesty. The long-lasting

diplomatic rift may negatively affect educational initiatives that Somalia could have benefited from. For instance, in July 2017, Kenya agreed to teach 200 nurses from Somalia Manderu Medical Training College (Jelimo, 2018)

Lastly, the effect of diplomatic tensions between Kenya and Somalia on scholarships and educational exchange highlights the wider effects of tense international relations on educational possibilities. The limitations on academic partnerships, scholarships, and student movement underscore the necessity of diplomatic approaches that emphasize education as a means of fostering international understanding. Even in times of political unrest, fostering closer educational relationships may be a means of establishing future diplomatic stability and mutual understanding (Musa, 2022).

#### **2.4 Effects of Diplomatic Rift on Exports and Imports**

A gravity model and 25 years of quarterly data were used by Chit et al. (2008) to investigate the impact of real exchange rate fluctuation on exports using the co-integration approach. The explanatory variables employed by the authors were relative prices, exchange rate volatility, and G.D.P. in both the home and foreign countries. In the growing East Asian nations under study, the authors discovered a negative correlation between exports and exchange rate volatility. The gravity model yields reliable results and depicts a strong pattern of international trade. According to some scholars, the Gravity model is logically weak, given that nations have shifted from dealing with their immediate neighbors to the global market due to globalization and the development of information technology. As a result, the model is deemed overly straightforward in a complex global marketplace.

Ling (2008) employed a Vector Error Correction Model (VECM) in a study on the correlation between Malaysia's real exchange rate and trade balance between 1955 and 2006. Both domestic

and foreign income, as well as the real exchange rate (R.E.R.), were included as independent variables. According to the analysis, Malaysia's trade balance improved after a devaluation. Using more variables could result in integrating different orders, even though the few variables chosen might have been integrated in order. The autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) approach was better appropriate for this Kenyan investigation since it employed a shorter sample period and more variables.

Olimov and Sirajiddinov (2008) used quarterly data from 1994 Q3 to 2005 Q2 to examine the impact of currency rate volatility and misalignment in Uzbekistan. The generic error correction model was applied in the investigation. The economic fundamentals selected were terms of trade, trade openness, government consumption, the investment-to-GDP ratio, and a policy dummy. The findings imply that the real exchange rate mismatch negatively impacts exports. The findings indicated that the price elasticity of import demand ranges from -0.78 to -0.83. Since theory indicates that exchange rates are influenced by these fundamentals, particularly for short timeframes, their usage was appropriate for this investigation.

Juthathip (2009) examined developing Asian nations from 1995 to 2008, estimating equilibrium R.E.R. and misalignment using quarterly data and the Behavioural Equilibrium Exchange Rate (BEER) approach.

Analysis was done on the connection between exports and misalignment.

Productivity, net foreign assets, terms of trade, and trade openness are among the variables used. The study's findings demonstrated that exports were negatively correlated with exchange rate misalignment and that the R.E.R. was consistently overvalued in the lead-up to the 1997–1998 crisis. According to the author, exports may have a favorable effect when an R.E.R. depreciation is linked to a substantial misalignment. Export diversification raises the coefficient's magnitude

and importance. Since it acknowledges a set of actual macroeconomic factors as the drivers of the equilibrium real exchange rate (R.E.R.), the BEER approach has been regarded as superior and was used in this study.

Naseem et al. (2009) used quarterly data from 1991 to 2003 to examine the impact of real exchange rate misalignment on Malaysian import flows. The study's findings demonstrated that imports benefited from an exchange rate mismatch. The study determined the equilibrium exchange rate utilizing the natural real exchange rate (NATREX), and a GARCH model was used to measure real exchange rate volatility. Their findings differed from those of earlier studies because of the notable improvement in exchange rate misalignment. Using Johansen co-integration, Musyoki et al. (2012) attempted to ascertain Kenya's actual exchange rate misalignment from 1993 to 2009.

The study's independent variables were capital, productivity, trade openness, terms of trade, and government spending. According to the study's findings, the country's goods became less competitive, and the exchange rate was frequently higher than the equilibrium level. Given that Kenyan markets were liberalized in 1993, lag effects are expected to have an impact on the study's findings. The economy was still experiencing the effects of creeping pegs. The same variables were employed in this analysis, but the sample size was increased beyond the anticipated lag effects to account for this bias.

The trade balance between Kenya and Somalia showed a positive trend from 2012 to 2019. Despite low imports, exports have been falling over time, indicating a positive trend. Despite Kenya signing a joint commission for cooperation in 2017 and a trade agreement with the Somalia Chamber of Commerce to advance trade in 2020, exports have had negative growth of 49% since 2012, declining in value from US\$227,883 in 2012 to US\$116,023 in 2019. This was due to deteriorating diplomatic ties. Trade and economic ties between Somalia and Kenya have long

existed. Kenya sold \$116 million to Somalia in 2019, according to data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity (O.E.C.), a trade data analysis firm. The primary goods were tea (\$5.71 million), various vegetable products (\$13 million), and rolled tobacco (\$41.2 million). Somalia sent \$4.32 million to Kenya at that time. Prefabricated building materials (\$3.44 million), other electrical equipment (\$210,000), and other cast iron items (\$210,000) were the top exports. Somali exports to Kenya have grown at an annualized rate of 31.4% over the past 22 years, from \$10,500 in 1997 to \$4.32 million in 2019. The UN COMTRADE database on international commerce shows that Kenya exported US\$122.53 million to Somalia in 2021.

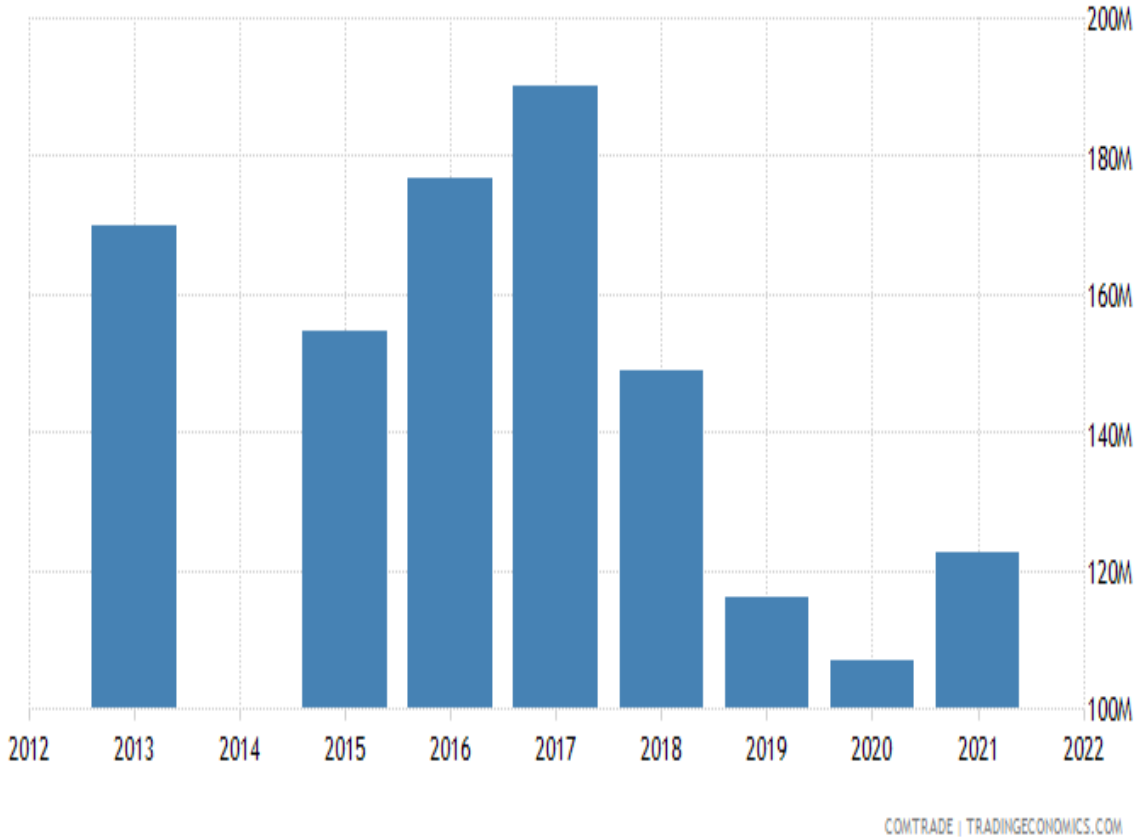


Figure 1. Kenya Exports to Somalia data, historical chart.

A study by Song and Velasco (2023) analyses the shift towards a more independent and balanced approach under President Duterte while also investigating the factors influencing the Philippines' balancing strategy between the United States and China. This study suggests that people consider the foreign policies of the Duterte administration to be bold. Observers considered this action to be pragmatic. People believed that the action served the regime's short-term objectives. Despite the relationship between the Philippines and the United States staying intact, the administration of Duterte strongly emphasized the success of stabilizing the relationship between the Philippines and China.

Fernandez and Forte (2022) found out that economic diplomacy uses bilateral and multilateral relations, and influence established by the government to safeguard their economic interests such as the promotion of trade and attracting of foreign investments. Most governments indirectly facilitate information and communication between firms in trading countries through economic diplomacy. This makes the government a significant tool in reducing on-tariff trade barriers associated with information asymmetry faced by firms when entering new markets. The tools used include state visits, trade missions, diplomatic representations, and trade centers.

Ding, Hu and Huang S (2023) did a study on diplomatic relations and firm internationalization speed. The main purpose of this study is to investigate the diplomatic relations between countries that influence the speed of internalization. These findings show that the more friendly the bilateral diplomatic relations are between the two nations, the more efficient it is to enhance firm internationalization speed. These findings not only contribute to both the firm internationalization speed literature and the international relations literature but also have organizational significance for how enterprises can use friendly diplomatic relations between the two countries to improve their rate of international growth.

In another study by Salman (2023), the relationship between Israeli and Tanzanian was strengthened. It examines the relationship between tourism and classic diplomacy as the major field of study and development of policies. This study focuses on the contribution of tourism to the strengthening of bilateral relations between governments through an analysis of Israeli-Tanzanian reasons as a crucial case study. This study also pinpoints the major roles of tourism sector in strengthening diplomatic relations among nations. Tourism intersects economic diplomacy and influences relationships and strategies.

Oyugi and Winnie (2023) researched Chinese Economic Diplomacy in fostering the development of infrastructure in Kenya. This study was conducted in Kenya. They study shows that China offers Kenyan financial support without Western Democratic conditions. The study concentrated on how this partnership manifests itself in the development of infrastructure, and how it promotes the export and imports of commodities from these two countries. The study was grounded with no-power transformation and complex interdependency theories, which were validated to inform the conceptual framework of the study. Historical and descriptive approaches were used in this study. The results reveal that employee's population in Kenya is greater than their counterparts in China. The Chinese has investment development of infrastructures in Kenya is which has significantly benefited the majority lower cadre employees in the Kenya's informal sector. This study concluded that economic diplomacy of the Chinese government has foster the development of infrastructures in Kenya since 1963. The study recommends that the government of Kenya should come up with policies that impacts the Kenyan works with the technological skills

Kumar (2024) studied the location of Mozambique in India's strategy toward a gas-based economy. He says that natural gas is increasingly recognized as a vital 'bridge fuel' owing to its economic viability, versatility as feedstock, and lower pollution compared to other fuels. On the

other hand, India aims for a net-zero emissions, acknowledges natural gas's role in transitioning to a greener energy mix, serving as a transitional fuel until renewables gain prominence. Despite ambitious plans, progress has been slow, prompting the need for timely policy intervention. India's heavy reliance on imported liquefied natural gas (LNG) from conflict-prone regions underscores the urgency of diversification to ensure energy flow security. Given India's soaring energy demand, the use of natural gas is of paramount importance. Therefore, strategic integration of gas-rich regions like Mozambique into India's strategy for a gas-based economy is imperative for achieving energy security through the '4 A's' (availability, accessibility, affordability, and acceptability). However, despite these opportunities, the evolving security situation in the north of Cabo Delgado Province in Mozambique has significantly affected India's interests. The deteriorating security amid rising terrorism has implications for Indian investments, necessitating a holistic response.

A sample study conducted by Esayas and Alison (2024) on normalizing informality in local-transnational spaces demonstrated that informal practices presumably remain the primary source of employment and income for majority of participants in the cities of the Global South. This study also discusses the 'normality' of 'informality' Examining contraband, conflict, and informal trade in Dire Dawa in Ethiopia. After merging the literature on the unregulated economy and cross-border trade and collecting evidence from Eastern Ethiopia, this research examines how importation and exportation of good and services are deeply embedded in local-transnational interactions through partnerships between the main stakeholders. He argued that unregulated international trade provides vital livelihood opportunities, enduring even in conflict. This reduces vulnerability of the participants in the unregulated international with policies that do not eradicate them.

## **2.5 Theoretical Framework of the Study**

Social conflict theory served as a guide for the investigation. According to the hypothesis proposed by Karl Max in 2016, competition for scarce resources keeps civilization in a condition of constant conflict. Instead of agreement and conformity, it maintains social order through dominance and authority. According to social conflict theory, those in positions of money and power attempt to maintain them by any means necessary, mostly through repressing the weak and impoverished (Orodho, 2016).

Social conflict theory suggests that society is characterized by various disparities and tensions that may arise due to disparities in power, resources, and social standing. The Social Conflict Theories suggest societies have power divisions and resource inequalities. This theory challenges the established order and emphasizes social changes guided by these conflicts. Sociologists have used conflict theory to structure and enrich the discussions as far-ranging historical events to individualistic versus collectivist cultures and gender discrimination in the workplace.

Numerous social events, such as wars and revolutions, prosperity and poverty, prejudice, and domestic violence, have been explained using the social conflict hypothesis. Every civilization has groups and clusters of people that must be controlled to ensure that daily operations function smoothly. The existence of laws and regulations in society ensures group control. Orodho (2016). He claims that people frequently veer off course, intentionally or accidentally, in the absence of rules. He says that as society is composed of individuals vying for few resources, conflicts between conflicting interests—rather than agreement or adaptation—lead to change. According to Abbass (2014), conflict can arise due to immigration, population increase, a reduction in economic performance, resource depletion, or an equal distribution of resources.

Various theories are available to elucidate the relationships between different states worldwide. Dependency and decision-making theories are among the theories that play a crucial role in understanding international relations. The decision-making theory specifically focuses on the process through which states arrive at their decisions, making it a valuable tool for analyzing the foreign policies of nations. By examining how states make decisions, this theory provides insights into the dynamics of political relations, including the factors contributing to their continuity or change. In Kenya and Somalia, the decision-making theory can offer valuable insights into the ongoing political dynamics and help shed light on the evolving relationship between the two countries.

### **2.5.1 Application of social conflict theory in Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift**

According to a study Ndolo and Benard (2023), the maritime dispute between Kenya and Somalia Kenya–Somalia has existed for several decades and has had many impacts on the economies and social dynamics of Kenya and Somalia. Some of these effects are poor diplomatic relations, loss of income, and poor living standards for fishing communities. Several international organizations such as the UN, EU and IGAD have intervened to help resolve disputes. Challenges have made it difficult for various interventions to succeed. These challenges encompass issues of sovereignty and national self-interest, the severance of diplomatic relations, difficulties in enforcing international law, and the lengthy duration of court proceedings. This theory also explains the Kenya-Somalia rift through resource competition, national identity, historical grievances, political exploitation, security concerns, media influence, and economic disparities, highlighting the complexities of their diplomatic relations.

### **2.5.2 Strengths of Social Conflict Theory**

The main resilience of the social conflict theory is that it tries to seek the moral ends: the Liberation of humanity from misleading claims of “universality.” Global applicability is when one group takes authority and pursue to justify it on the grounds that it represents “freedom for all.” The reality is that it is “freedom for them.” Using globalist rhetoric to disguise specific domination is a common means to control dialogue and political discussion. This approach of "unmasking" is one of the most appealing aspects of conflict theory.

The main strength of social conflict theory lies in its exposure to power dynamics masked as universal interests, making it a valuable commodity in understanding the diplomatic relationship between Kenya and Somalia. This theory helps unravel how the national interest of a country may be framed as “regional stability” or “security for all,” but might serve the specific goals of the more powerful nation, typically Kenya, which often has greater influence in regional forums and resources to support its stance.

By highlighting these power imbalances, the conflict theory sheds light on how Kenya might leverage universalist claims to justify its actions, potentially masking specific economic and security motives. Somalia, often positioned as the less powerful party, faces the challenge of navigating a narrative where its interests might appear secondary to broader “East African stability.” Thus, conflict theory unearths these hidden agendas, offering a framework for questioning whether both nations genuinely benefit equally.

Social conflict theory effectively explains the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift by emphasizing identity politics and resource competition. It highlights how historical grievances shape mistrust

between communities, influencing current tensions over maritime boundaries and economic interests that are central to the conflict.

Furthermore, the theory examines power dynamics and societal inequalities, showing how political leaders exploit conflict for domestic support. It also acknowledges the role of media narratives in shaping public perceptions, providing valuable insights into the complexities of the rift and informing potential resolutions.

### **2.5.3 Criticisms of social conflict theory**

Critics of social conflict theory argue that it oversimplifies complex social dynamics by focusing primarily on class struggles and neglecting the role of consensus and shared values within society. This reductionist view can lead to a deterministic perspective, suggesting that economic factors alone drive social behavior. Moreover, this theory often emphasizes conflict at the expense of understanding cooperation and social harmony.

Additionally, critics have highlighted the lack of rigorous empirical evidence supporting the claims of the theory. They asserted that it fails to adequately consider other important factors, such as race, gender, and culture, in shaping social relations. Furthermore, the theory may idealize the oppressed without recognizing their agency and the diversity of their experiences, limiting its overall explanatory power.

To summarize it, the social conflict theory being useful in analyzing Kenya-Somalia tensions being criticized for oversimplifying complex issues, emphasizing power struggles, and neglecting cooperative efforts, internal political dynamics, and external influences. It often assumes

continuous conflict and may overlook subtle interests, potentially escalating tensions rather than aiding diplomatic solutions, thus requiring complementary perspectives for balanced understanding

## 2.6 Conceptual Framework

The effect of the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift on Kenya's trade and commerce relations is conceptualized as shown in Figure 2.

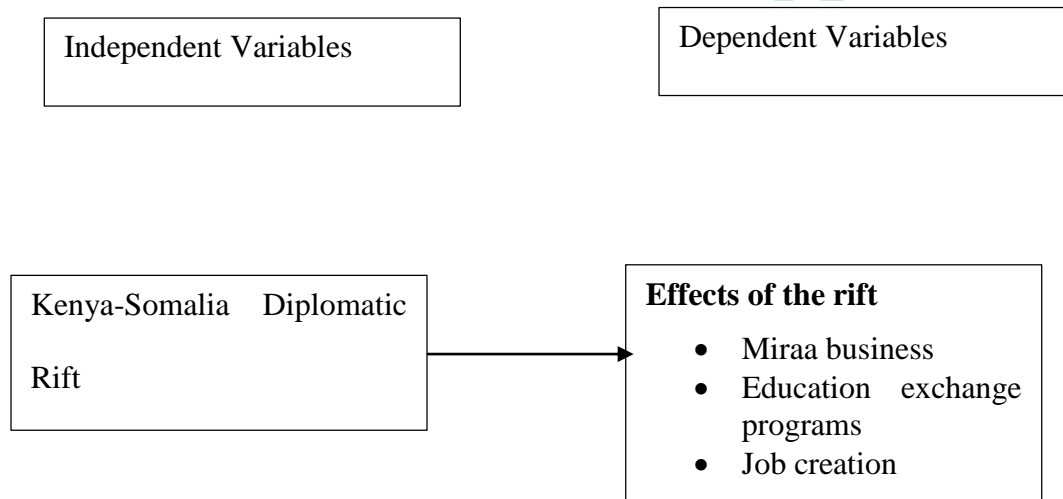


Figure 2. Conceptual Framework

## 2.7 Summary of Literature

The literature above has reviewed the research study based on the overall objectives of the research paper. The literature has been derived from reports of international organizations, newspapers,

articles, journals, and research findings from postgraduate students. The literature review of the research study has fully tackled the effects of diplomatic conflicts emanating from political drawbacks and boundary lines, focusing on trade relations, educational exchanges, and other related activities, more explicitly peace and security.

Extensive research on the impact of the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift on Kenyan trade and commerce relations has been limited thus far. However, recognizing the existing research gaps in this area, a comprehensive study was undertaken to investigate and establish the effects of the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift on Kenyan trade and commerce relations with Somalia. The study aimed to fill the void in understanding the consequences of the diplomatic tensions between Kenya and Somalia on their economic interactions. By examining this specific aspect, the research sought to shed light on the implications for trade and commerce between the two nations. Through rigorous analysis and empirical investigation, the study aimed to provide a deeper understanding of the dynamics at play, exploring how the diplomatic rift impacted various sectors of trade and commerce, such as import and export activities, investment flows, and business collaborations. By bridging this knowledge gap, the research aimed to contribute to formulating effective strategies and policies to mitigate any negative consequences and maximize the potential benefits of a productive relationship between Kenya and Somalia in trade and commerce.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

The study's research methodology is the main topic of this chapter. The following is the order in which the research methodology is presented: study design and methodology, explanation of the variables, explanation of the selection of the study location, identification, and discussion of the target population, state, and elaboration of the sampling size and technique, research instruments, reliability and validity, data collection technique and analysis, and, lastly, an examination of the ethical considerations necessary during the data collection and analysis process. All of them were designed to gather data and analyze how the diplomatic gap between Kenya and Somalia affected trade and commerce relations.

#### **3.1 Research Methodology**

Research methodology refers to the systematic approach used to conduct research, encompassing the strategies, methods, and processes used to collect and analyze data. It outlines the framework within which research is designed and executed, guiding the researcher in addressing specific research questions and objectives (Creswell, 2008).

In order to provide a more thorough understanding of the research topic, the researcher has chosen to use a mixed-methods approach that combines qualitative and quantitative techniques. This approach enables the researcher to collect more data to derive detailed and in-depth insights into the participants' experiences, attitudes, and perceptions. Researchers can handle study problems that might be better investigated from several angles by using quantitative approaches, which include statistical analysis and numerical data that enable the examination of statistical relationships and broader generalizations. The capacity of this method to triangulate data, which

improves the validity and dependability of research findings, is one of the primary arguments for its use. Creswell and Clark (2018) assert that by combining the advantages of both qualitative and quantitative methods, the use of mixed methods can result in a more thorough knowledge of complicated events.

### **3.2 Research Design**

Research design serves as a blueprint for how the actual research will be carried out (Law & Lodge, 1984). The research design used in the study was descriptive. The design was perfect for the study because it captures people's behaviors, emotions, and opinions about the issues (Kombo & Tromp, 2006). According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), a descriptive research design aims to identify a research topic by determining the population's actual state and presenting correct facts through data gathering and verifying study assumptions. The design was chosen to allow the researcher to get information from those who knew pertinent details. In order to provide data that could be compared across the selected sample to find similarities and differences, the survey methodology was used to collect the data, which involved interviewing a set number of respondents.

### **3.3 Location of the study**

The study was conducted in Nairobi City County among the Populous Somalia estates of Eastleigh, South B, and South C, where traders and diplomats were key respondents. The study location, Nairobi City County, and Border towns were selected because they are mainly inhabited by both Kenyans and Somali ethnic communities that were involved in the diplomatic rifts between the two countries. The location was also selected to create a convenient place for responders and reach the most affected population in terms of the diplomatic rifts and their precipitations to the general communities from the two countries.

### **3.4 Target Population**

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), a population is an entire group of individuals, objects, or events exhibiting the same characteristics. Target Population was defined as the population from which samples are selected for analysis and observation. This study drew the population from Nairobi City County among the Populous Somalia estates of Eastleigh, South B, and South C. The target population for the study was comprised of 820, a further breakdown into 110 Miraa traders, 286 Students, 240 Other traders, and 184 Professional workers who were the key targets that held relevant information for the study.

#### **3.4.1 Sampling Technique**

Sampling techniques are methods used to select a smaller group of individuals from a larger population to represent that population in a study. These techniques help researchers gather data efficiently while ensuring that the sample reflects the characteristics of the population. Two common techniques are stratified sampling and purposive sampling.

Stratified sampling was appropriate for the study because it is suitable for analyzing homogenous groups in a setting like this type of group, which can be further divided into groups to form many strata and segments. Purposive sampling was also appropriate for selecting the sample of Miraa traders, international students, professional staff, and indirect business people. Using stratified sampling helped capture diverse perspectives and experiences within each homogenous group. In selecting participants from specific categories, the researcher was able to draw the characteristics that were most important to the study, leading to a more comprehensive and insightful analysis.

#### **3.4.2 Sample Size**

According to Arwen and Greg (2006), a sample is a collection of data drawn from a statistical population using specific data collection methods. A sample size of at least 10% for a big

population of more than 1000 people and 20% for a small population of fewer than 1000 people is considered a good representation of the population, according to Gay (1992). Gay said that a researcher may use samples to represent the population because of limitations and restrictions that prevent them from reaching the entire population. Random selection was used to determine the sample size because the study was qualitative. The percentage representation of each responder compared to the target population and sample size is shown in the table below.

**Table 1. Sample size Matrix**

Respondent	Target population	Sample size	% of the Sample
Miraa traders	110	30%	33
Foreign Students	286	30%	86
Other traders	240	30%	72
Professional workers	184	30%	55
Total	820		246

**Table 1. Sample size Matrix.**

### **3.5 Research Instrument**

Data collection, according to Donald, C. and Pamela S. (2006), is the methodical process of obtaining information based on the variables of interest that allows one to measure and test hypotheses and provide answers to the predetermined research questions. The techniques utilized to gather information for the study are known as data-collecting instruments. The researcher gathered primary and secondary data and analyzed relevant books, articles, newspapers, journals,

and social media. Understanding and developing a framework for the analysis were aided by secondary data.

The primary data collection method used in this study was questionnaires. Gay (1992) recommends using questionnaires since they are suitable for collecting information from a large group. Mulusa (1990) argues that questionnaires are good because they allow respondents to give honest, detailed information about personal feelings, perceptions, and opinions to questions seen as sensitizing if their identity is not required. Questionnaires will be administered to both purposively selected international students and traders to elicit opinions and thoughts on the impacts of the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift on Kenya trade.

### **3.6 Piloting of the Instruments**

Before the data was collected, the study was piloted using the test-retest method after the research instruments were prepared. Using a stratified random sampling procedure, 20 Miraa traders, 20 Somalian students attending Kenyan universities, and 20 other traders involved in various merchandise were chosen for the piloting of the study in Kamukunji subcounty. The instrument was pre-tested to help the researcher identify, reassemble, and remove ambiguous items. The goal of the pilot was to identify any discrepancies in the questionnaire so that it would meet the needs of the respondents. The researchers were able to establish the validity of the instruments by rephrasing the questionnaires to address any issues that had come up during the piloting. The collected data was saved as scripts for questionnaires.

#### **3.6.1 Validity of the Research Instruments**

Validity guarantees that the research tool measures precisely what it is supposed to. To optimize data completeness and reliability, the research instrument was tested prior to the start of the data-gathering activity. Mugenda & Mugenda (2003) define validity as the precision and significance

of conclusions drawn from study findings. In order to guarantee the validity of the research instrument utilized in the study, the instrument and data collection tools were thoroughly assessed using the content validity technique, which looked at the language, vocabulary, and sentence structure, as well as whether the questions were acceptable to the respondents. The department's lecturers and supervisors have provided expert assessments on whether the tools effectively address the study's objectives.

### **3.6.2 Reliability of the Instrument**

The instrument's reliability was tested before the data collection activity to ensure that repeated trials yield comparable results. (2006) Sorensen et al. According to Mugenda & Mugenda (2003), dependability is a metric that quantifies how consistently a research instrument produces results. The instrument's reliability was tested using the test-retest approach to ensure that the intended study variables were consistent and reliable.

Following that, a study pilot was conducted with the chosen respondents. The split-half technique was then used to test the questionnaires to gauge the instrument's internal consistency. The researcher used the test-retest approach to the data's dependability. This entailed giving the same participants the identical instruments repeatedly. One significant observation was the time gap between the first and second testing periods. The reliability coefficient was then determined by calculating the correlation coefficient. The instrument is thought to have excellent test-retest reliability because the co-efficient was high (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003).

### **3.7 Data Collection Techniques**

Data gathering got underway after receiving approval from Mount Kenya University Graduate School and authorization from the National Council of Science and Technology. Nairobi City County was also asked for permission. All sampled respondents were then visited in advance to

schedule a time to administer the surveys. The researcher informed the respondents of the expectations in the participation of the survey.

### **3.8 Data Analysis**

This refers to analyzing data by applying logical and analytical thinking to look at each part of the data being collected and interpret it (Donald & Pamela, 2006). Qualitative research analysis, which includes familiarization, the identification of a theme framework, coding, charting, graphing, and interpretation, was used to analyze the data produced by the questionnaire. Data presentation and assessment of the ramifications of the diplomatic gap between Kenya and Somalia are presented. Finding, amending, and fixing errors such as misspellings, questions that respondents failed to answer, or any other errors committed during data collection will be the first step in the data analysis process. Both qualitative and quantitative analyses were performed on the gathered field data. Following a rigorous data reading to understand its content, codes were developed to identify recurrent themes and viewpoints. The researcher relied on his ability to think critically and analytically to find the topics.

Quantitative data was analyzed by coding. It used SPSS 26 to create frequency tables, graphs, and charts where applicable. The researcher also contrasted the questionnaire's results with those from the literature review to identify commonalities. The themes were then coherently presented by the study's goals. To accomplish this, the researcher compiled the data to connect the study's goals with the research findings.

### **3.9 Ethical Considerations**

The National Council of Science and Technology granted the researcher a research permit, and Mount Kenya University Graduate School provided an introductory letter. While in the field, the researcher kept the respondents' information as private as possible by not revealing their names

and used it exclusively for this study. The study's goals were no different. Before granting each respondent the freedom to engage with the study without being forced or favored, the researcher obtained their agreement. This allowed them to withdraw from the study at any time if they desire.

The researcher will also follow proper conduct and tradition regarding the respondents' rights. Before answering any questions, the respondents were asked for their formal verbal consent. Additionally, the researcher ensured that authorities were consulted, approval was obtained, and respondents were adequately informed about the study before starting it.



Mount Kenya University

## CHAPTER FOUR

### RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

#### 4.1 Introduction

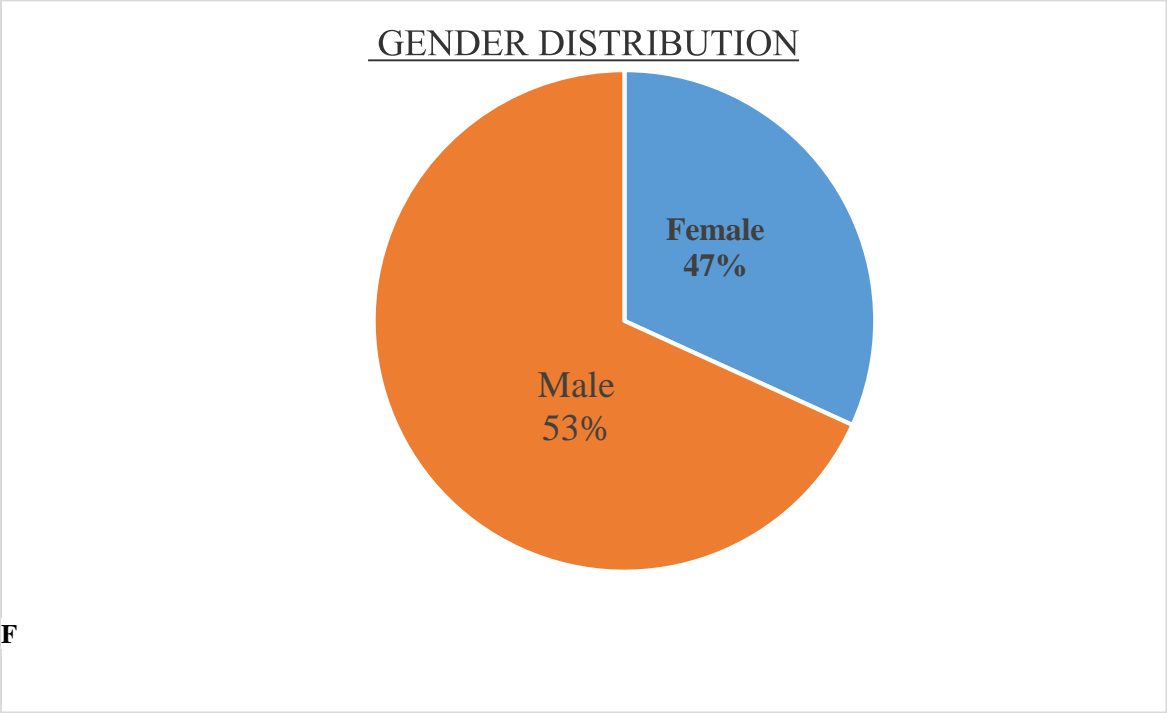
This chapter presents data and interpretations of the implications of informal cross-border trade on the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift and Kenyan trade and commerce relations. The data gathered is presented using tables and graphs with explanations provided. It also addresses findings from the open-ended questions in prose. The interview guide results used content analysis to present the findings in prose, representing the specific themes from the collected data.

#### 4.2 Demographic Data

This section presents data on the gender, age, education level, and occupation of the respondents.

##### 4.2.1 Gender

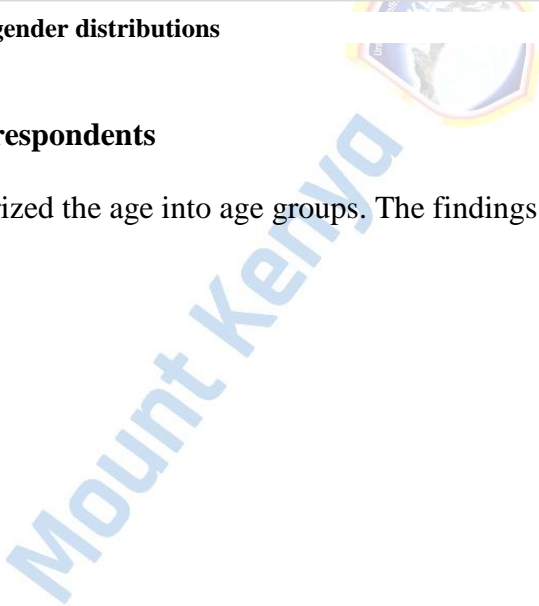
The study categorized the sex of the respondents into female and male. The findings are shown in the pie-chart 4.1 below. Males interviewed were 53% and females 47%.

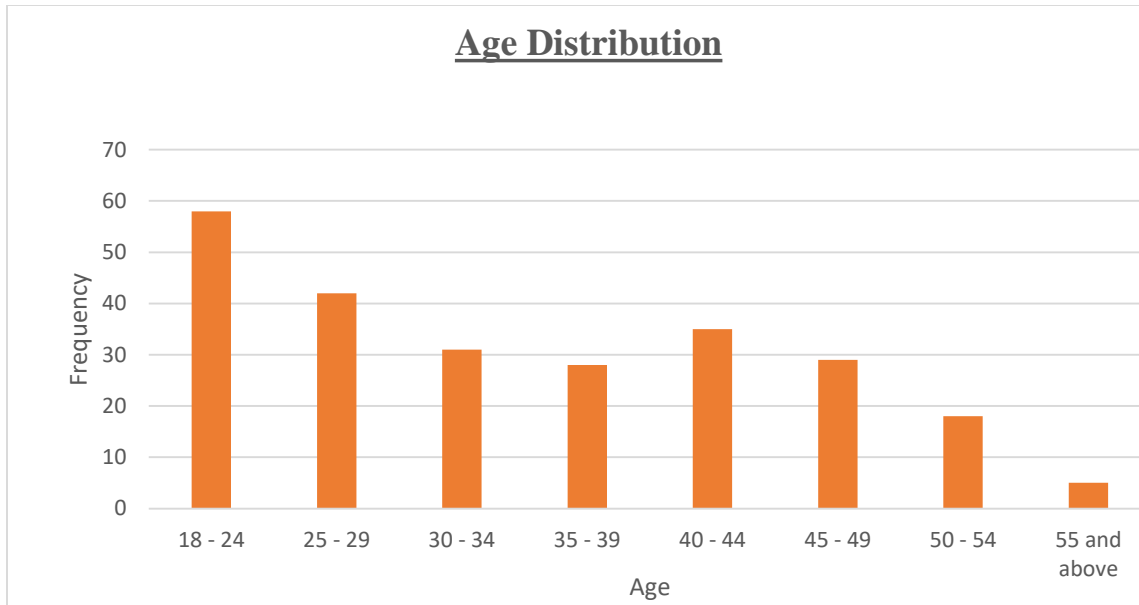


**Figure 3. Pie chart gender distributions**

**4.2.2 Age of the respondents**

The study categorized the age into age groups. The findings are shown in figure 2 below.



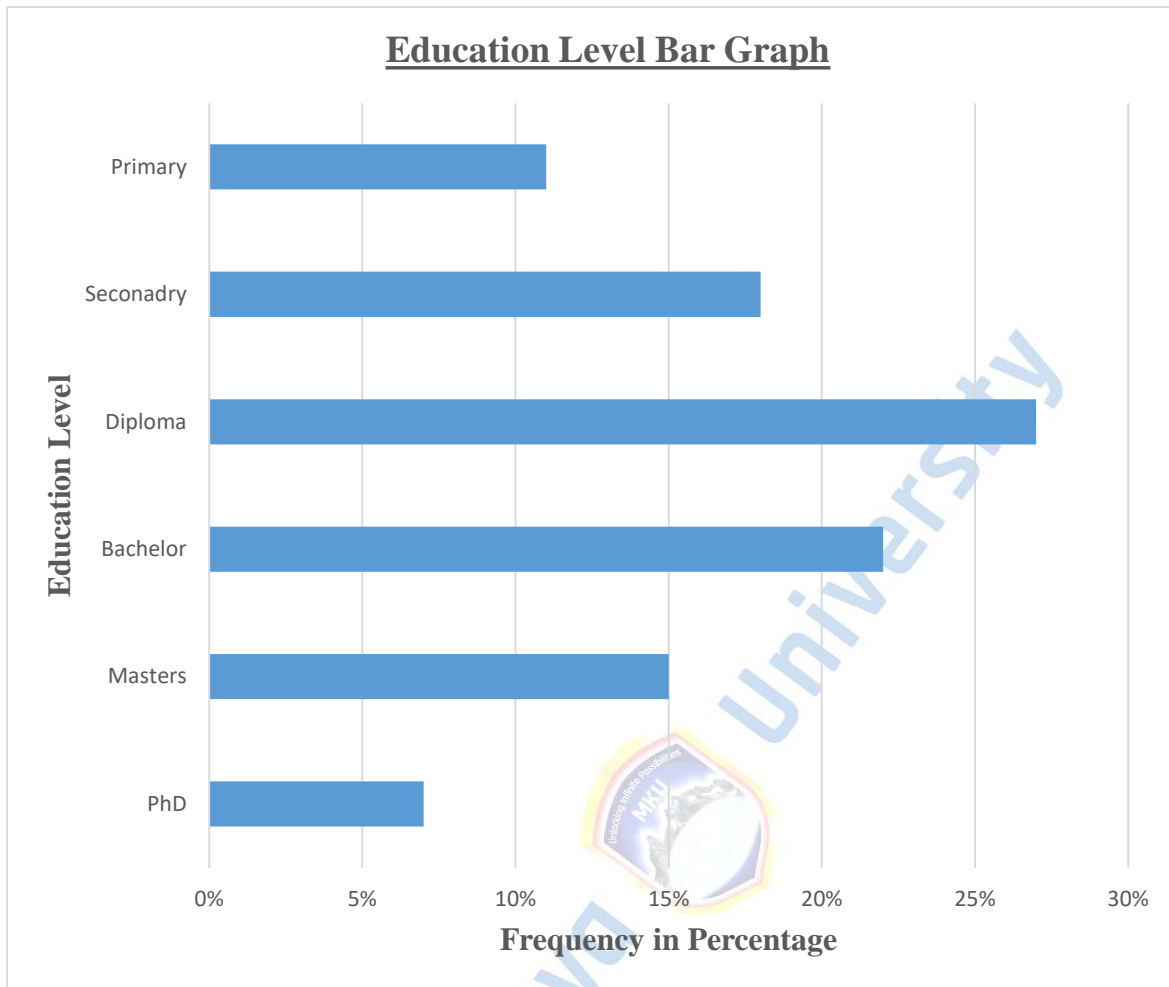


**Figure 4. Distribution of the respondents by age**

### 4.2.3 Education Level

The study established the education level of the respondents. The findings are shown in Figure 3 below.

From figure 3 below, 7% had a P.H.D. level of education, 15% had a master's degree university level of education, 22% had a Bachelor's degree, 27% had a college diploma, 18% had secondary education, and 11% had primary education.



**Figure 5. Educational level bar graph**

#### **4.2.4 Occupation**

The study categorized the respondents into their professional affiliations. The findings are shown in Figure 5 below.

The figure above shows that 25 % were miraa traders, 33.3% were general merchandise traders, 16.3% were students, 14.6% were professionals, and 10.6% were in other occupations.

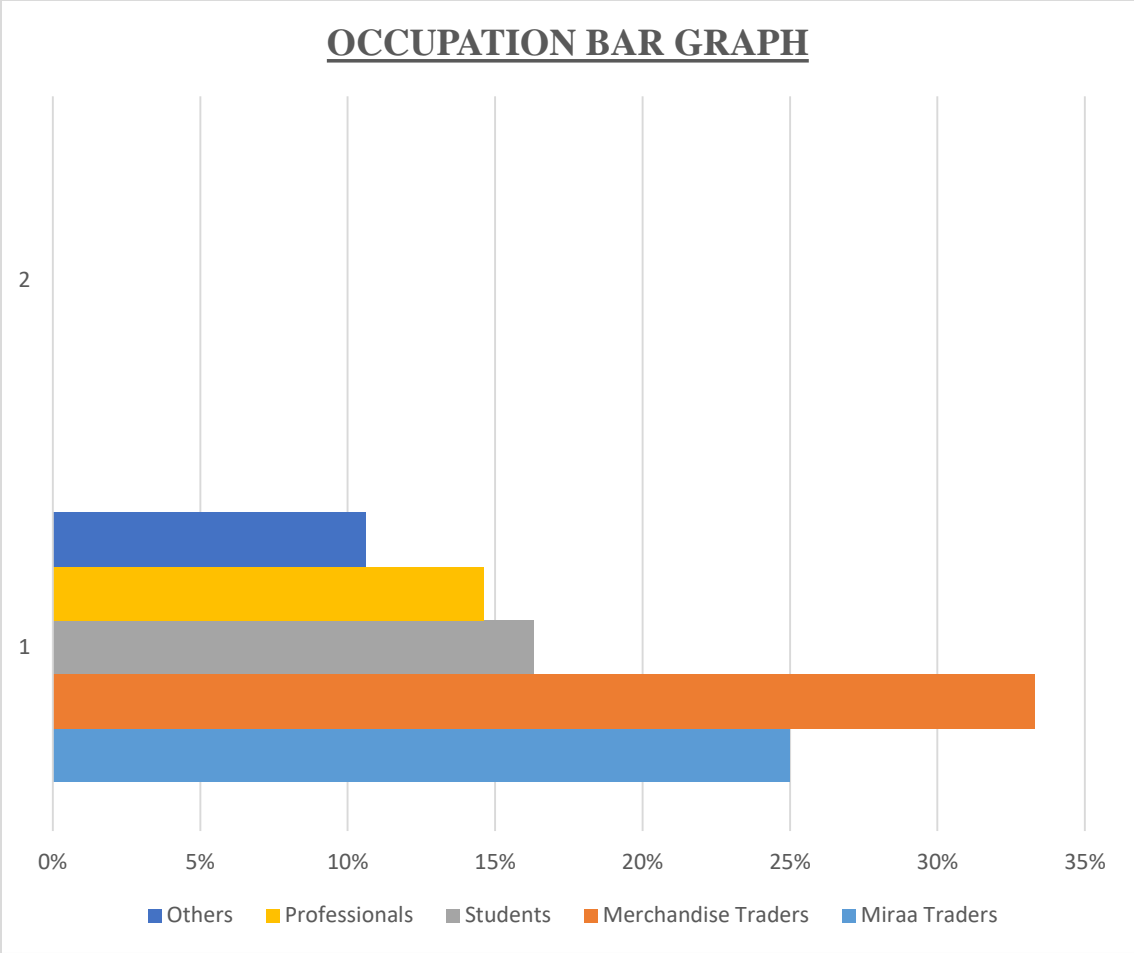


Figure 6. Occupational bar graph

4.3 The effects of Miraa Trade

The impacts of the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift are far-reaching and influence the social lives of Miraa traders. According to Table 6.1, this study established that the majority of the respondents felt and appealed to the national government to lobby and convince the government of Somalia to lift the ban on Miraa trade and not to suspend miraa trade, with 35.4% disagreeing with the suspension of miraa trade, those that strongly disagreed to the statement were by 25%, while those who strongly agreed were by 21.6%. Those who agreed with the suspension were by 18%.

According to Table 6.1, the study established that miraa trade is a source of livelihood on both sides of the borders. Most of the respondents (40%) strongly agreed that the business greatly impacts the lives of traders and their families. Some respondents (35%) agreed that it is a source of livelihood for many. Less than 25% confirmed that they disagreed that miraa trade impacts people's livelihoods.

In Table 3, based on the findings, the respondents agreed that Miraa trade between Kenya and Somalia Miraa traders pay taxes, thus boosting revenue collection in the two countries. This was shown by 55%, while those who strongly agreed to the statement were 26%, and those who strongly disagreed and disagreed were 6% and 13%, respectively. The findings on Miraa trade employed many people in Kenya and Somalia agreed 49%, while those strongly agreed (37%, those who disagreed were represented by 10%, and those who strongly disagreed (4% of the respondents. If the miraa trade has been connecting people from the two countries, it was strongly agreed upon, with a 23% and 26% response rate, respectively. In contrast, 16% of the respondents had a neutral response rate; those who disagreed were 17%, and those who strongly disagreed with the statement were 16%. Based on findings on Miraa trade, which has earned both countries foreign exchange, those who strongly agreed with the statement were 36%, those who agreed were 30%, and those who disagreed and strongly disagreed were 23% and 10%, respectively.

**Table 2. Effect on Miraa Trade**

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	Freq	Freq	Freq	Freq	Freq
	Perc	Perc	Perc	Perc	Perc

Miraa trade to be suspended.	53	46	-	-	87	62	25%		
	21.6%	18%			35.4%				
Miraa trade is a source of our livelihood	98	40%	87	-	-	61	24%	-	-
			36%						
Miraa trade pays taxes to the government	65	26%	136	-	-	31	13%	14	6%
			55%						
Miraa trade has employed many people	91	37%	121	-	-	25	10%	9	4%
			49%						
Miraa trade has been connecting people in the two countries	57	23%	63	40		46	17%	40	16%
			26%	16%					
Miraa trade has earned foreign exchange for both countries.	89	36%	75	-	-	56	23%	26	10%
			30%						

**Table 2. Effect on Miraa Trade**

The miraa (khat) trade represents a significant economic connection between Kenya and Somalia, with multiple stakeholders and economic implications. Analysis of the data provided reveals several key aspects of this trade relationship. The data shows strong evidence of fiscal benefits, with 81% of respondents (55% agreeing and 26% strongly agreeing) confirming that miraa trade contributes to tax revenue in both countries (Study data, 2024). Only 19% disagreed, suggesting a substantial contribution to public finances through formal trade channels.

The trade's role in employment generation is significant 86% positive response (49% agreed, 37% strongly agreed). Only 14% negative response (10% disagreed, 4% strongly disagreed). This indicates miraa trade's crucial role in livelihood support across both nations.

The trade's role in connecting communities shows mixed responses .49% positive (23% strongly agreed, 26% agreed), 16% neutral and 33% negative (17% disagreed, 16% strongly disagreed).

This suggests varied perspectives on the trade's social impact.

The trade's contribution to foreign exchange is substantial: 66% positive response (36% strongly agreed, 30% agreed), 33% negative response (23% disagreed, 10% strongly disagreed). This indicates significant economic value at the national level.

The miraa trade between Kenya and Somalia demonstrates significant economic implications, particularly in foreign exchange contribution. According to recent data, 66% of respondents acknowledged its positive impact on foreign exchange earnings, highlighting its crucial role in both nations' economies.

The trade's influence on the balance of trade is particularly noteworthy. Through consistent export earnings, miraa trade helps reduce trade deficits while building foreign currency reserves. This strengthens both countries' capacity to finance imports and maintain healthy trade balances. The steady forex inflows also contribute significantly to currency stability, providing an essential buffer against currency fluctuations and ensuring a reliable stream of hard currency.

From an economic planning perspective, the predictable nature of miraa trade earnings enables more effective fiscal planning. This predictability supports precise budget allocations for essential imports and contributes to each country's debt servicing capabilities. The regular forex earnings provide a foundation for sound economic management and planning.

The banking sector benefits substantially from this trade relationship. It creates enhanced forex trading opportunities while supporting international banking operations. The consistent flow of transactions facilitates cross-border financial operations, strengthening the banking infrastructure

in both nations. Similarly, the trade sector experiences positive impacts through strengthened trade financing capabilities, robust support for import-export businesses, and enhanced regional trade integration.

Policy implications of this trade are equally significant. The importance of miraa trade necessitates protective policies for the sector, alongside streamlined forex regulations. It also demands careful diplomatic considerations in trade disputes, given its economic significance. Furthermore, the trade's contribution to economic security highlights the need for diversification of trade while emphasizing the importance of maintaining stable trade relations.

However, the 33% negative response rate indicates certain challenges that require attention. These include potential volatility in earnings, the need for more stable trade mechanisms, and requirements for better forex management systems. These concerns underscore the importance of developing robust strategies to protect and enhance this vital trade channel while addressing the apprehensions raised by dissenting respondents.

In conclusion, while the miraa trade significantly contributes to foreign exchange earnings and economic stability, it requires careful management and strategic planning to maximize its benefits while minimizing potential risks. The importance of trade to both economies necessitate continued diplomatic cooperation and policy refinement to ensure its sustainability and growth.

#### **4.3.1 Factors Promoting or Hindering Cross-Border Trade**

The main problem driving cross-border trade in Mandera and Doble/Liboi is that some goods are cheaper on the Somalia and Ethiopian sides than sourcing them from Kenya's capital, Nairobi, or

coastal Mombasa. Distance is another factor that drives traders to source goods across borders due to the high cost of transportation when sourcing within the country.

Infrastructural, political, procedural, and behavioral restrictions at the border prevent merchants from growing. Due to inadequate border infrastructure, small traders frequently must share the border processing area with trucks and other transit vehicles. Procedures that should just take a few minutes are slowed down and become more unclear, potentially lasting hours.

Existing buildings like market stalls and border offices are frequently in poor condition, and there are typically no restrooms, lights, or fencing. Moreover, uncertain trade policies, high tariffs, difficult clearance processes, and onerous documentation requirements typically entail integrated permitting and licensing systems, all of which add to the rising trade

costs.

Big, well-established dealers who can control economies of scale are the only merchants who can meet current trading needs. Petty traders, particularly women, find the region's borders unpleasant and risky due to poor governance, a lack of capacity, and dubious border guard behavior. These factors also increase trading prices.

Cross-border traders frequently deal with harassment, including assault against women, and corruption, especially bribery of all border officials, according to studies done at several border crossing sites in sub-Saharan Africa. Due to political, procedural, behavioral, and infrastructure constraints, merchants cannot expand at the border.

Market problems: The main issues identified by the traders related to the market are:

Poor access to market information: Many respondents indicated that they rarely receive information from governments or trade associations. You sometimes get market information, such as market price situations in different market areas.

Poor Business Development and Management: Most of the cross-border traders interviewed have only basic education, and the women have never attended any formal educational institution other than Madras (an Islamic religious education center). All lack knowledge of appropriate business skills, but all respondents agreed they would be willing to participate in capacity-building training.

Price fluctuations: The traders and government officials interviewed blamed the indefinite border closure between Kenya and Somalia and instability in the Ethiopian government, particularly in the Gedo region. Because of the border closure, traders must pay exorbitant bribes to security guards, and this is the only way they can keep their business running, which makes them very little profit by increasing the prices of goods when they reach the markets. Another issue affecting the price is uncertainty and adverse weather conditions like floods, drought, and rainfall with storms.

High taxation: Traders pay far more bribes to security agencies than if they had to pay taxes through formal channels. However, due to the border closure, traders must endure the bribes to continue making a living.

Border closure between Kenya and Somalia: The border closure has been one of the major contributing factors to the promotion of informal cross-border trade in Mandera and Liboi. The traders prefer to bring in the goods through informal channels because there are no functioning formal channels available in the area.

Poor Infrastructural problems: Existing transport infrastructure is poorly developed, particularly in key border towns mainly served by unpaved roads. Mandera has recently benefited from

upgrading some roads within the town to bitumen standards through investment by Mandera County Council.

High transportation cost: Due to the poor infrastructure, transport companies charge high amounts to transport goods from one point to the next. They also pay many bribes to security guards on the street, so they always include that amount in their calculations. The interviewed traders indicated that they prefer to use donkey carts to transport their goods because they pay fewer bribes, and the transport costs are much lower.

#### **4.3.2 Cross-Border Trade and Gender**

Women comprise the vast majority of small traders in Africa—up to 70–80% in some regions. Most of the time, their only source of income is cross-border trading. The numerous constraints about cross-border business activities disproportionately affect women traders, who are among the most vulnerable groups in many border areas of the continent. They also confront a variety of gender-related dangers and problems. Therefore, a gender component is necessary for every study or intervention to facilitate cross-border trade.

Women make up a significant proportion of small-scale traders in Africa, accounting for as much as 70–80% of traders in certain regions. Cross-border trade is a critical source of income for many of these women, offering economic empowerment and livelihood opportunities where other employment options may be limited (Brenton et al., 2013). However, women in cross-border trading face unique challenges that stem from both systemic trade constraints and gender-based issues. For instance, cumbersome trade procedures, high tariffs, and poor infrastructure disproportionately affect women, as they often lack the resources to navigate these barriers (UN Women, 2010).

Moreover, women traders are frequently subjected to harassment, corruption, and extortion by border officials, creating unsafe environments that threaten both their personal security and economic stability (UNCTAD, 2019). Gender-related issues, such as discrimination and limited access to credit, further exacerbate these challenges, reinforcing the vulnerability of women in this sector. Because these problems are deeply intertwined with gender, addressing them requires a gender-sensitive approach that considers the specific needs and risks faced by women traders.

Incorporating a gender component into policies and interventions to support cross-border trade is therefore essential. Such an approach can help to identify and dismantle the gender-based obstacles that women encounter, ensuring that reforms in cross-border trade support gender equity and economic inclusion (Brenton et al., 2013). This focus on gender can facilitate safer and more equitable trade practices, ultimately contributing to greater economic empowerment for women in Africa.

#### **4.3.3 Cross-border Trade and Culture**

Cross-border traders, primarily from the same family or ethnic group, frequently crossed the borders established during the colonial era to exchange products and services. This led to commercial movements for most of the region's total trade. The World Bank (2021). People in Mandera and Garissa, as well as in the neighboring regions of Ethiopia and Somalia, are bound together by a strong sense of common Somali identity (Ambrosio, 2015). Examples are a shared language, a strong Cushitic physical appearance, a clan-based identity, comparable historical and cultural occurrences, extensive Islamic connection, and primarily pastoral lifestyles. Common cultural contracts have been developed due to these similarities (Labahn, 1983).

The dynamics of cross-border trade in the Horn of Africa, particularly among ethnic Somali communities, demonstrate how cultural ties transcend colonial-era borders to facilitate economic

activities (World Bank, 2021). This phenomenon illustrates the enduring strength of traditional trading networks that predate modern national boundaries.

In the border regions of Kenya (Mandera and Garissa) and neighboring areas of Ethiopia and Somalia, trade is fundamentally shaped by shared Somali cultural identity. As Ambrosio (2015) notes, these communities are united by common characteristics including language, physical appearance, and clan structures. This cultural cohesion has historically facilitated trade relationships and continues to influence modern commercial interactions.

Labahn (1983) highlights how these cultural similarities have led to the development of informal but effective trading agreements and networks. These "cultural contracts" serve as foundations for business relationships, often operating parallel to formal state structures. This cultural-economic integration demonstrates what Little (2018) terms "borderland economics," where ethnic and familial ties create resilient trading networks that persist despite political boundaries. These networks have proven particularly important in maintaining economic activity during periods of regional political tension (Mahmoud, 2020).

#### **4.3.4 Products**

The migration of cattle from southern Somalia to the border region and ultimately to the major metropolitan markets in Kenya dominates the merchandise in this market route (Peter, 2001). There are extremely few agricultural products over the Kenya-Somalia border because it is far from productive agricultural zones, unlike other border locations in the Horn region, such as the Kenya-Ethiopia border near Moyale.

Important foodstuffs traded across the border include imported rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, tea, and noodles, also brought into Kenya from Somalia, mainly for the Dadaab refugee camp and

Mandera (Umulqer, 2020). Locally produced cowpeas, white corn, and sesame oil are traded from Somalia to Kenya. Other goods include non-food items (clothing, electronics, shoes, gasoline, kerosene, bottled drinking water, and soap). Tea, mineral water, kerosene, and soap are only transported from Kenya to Somalia on a limited basis (Umulqer, 2020).

When shortages and food aid are inaccessible in southern Somalia, maize and wheat flour are occasionally delivered from Kenya to Somalia. Small quantities of these shipments are transported; they may be loaded onto a donkey or picked up by a dealer in a bush taxi. On their way back to Somalia, the livestock traffickers often bring small amounts of clothing and tea from Kenya. To prevent theft and confiscation, the quantities are again limited. Although some miraa (the mildly narcotic leaf) is transported from Mandera and Garissa, Kenya, to Somalia, most of this item is transported by flight from Nairobi to Somalia (Peter, 2001).

**Table 3. Transportation between the two countries (Somalia and Kenya)**

Kenya	Somalia
Social services education and health including pharmaceuticals	Foodstuff,
Livestock	vehicle spare parts
Charcoal	Clothes
	Livestock

**Table 3. Transportation between the two countries**

### 4.3.5 Job Creation

In Table 6.2, the study established that a diplomatic rift between Kenya and Somalia has caused an increase in job retrenchment in the countries. 33% of the respondents strongly agreed, and 32% agreed with the statement. In comparison, 20% of the response rate disagreed, and only 14% strongly disagreed

Most respondents agreed with the increase in suspension and expulsion from jobs in their respective countries, as shown by 38%. In comparison, 29% strongly agreed, 22% disagreed and only 11% strongly disagreed with the statement. The findings also established that the majority of the respondents strongly disagreed, 35%, that job opportunities were reserved for the locals only; that % agreed with the statement, which was shown by 26%. In comparison, 22% disagreed, and 17% strongly agreed with the statement.

**Table 4. Implication on Job Creation.**

Statement	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neutral		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	Freq	Perc	Freq	Perc	Freq	Perc	Freq	Perc	Freq	Perc
There has been an increase in retrenchment.	86	33%	80	32%	-	-	49	20%	34	14%

There has been an increase in suspension and expulsion from jobs in respective countries	71	29%	93	38%	-	-	55	22%	28	11%
Job opportunities in the respective countries have been restricted to locals only	42	17%	64	26%	-	-	54	22%	86	35%

**Table 4. Implication on Job Creation**

#### **4.3.6 Imports and Exports**

In Table 4, based on the researcher's findings, most respondents agreed that exports between Kenya and Somalia have reduced by 40%. In comparison, those who agreed to the statement were shown at 37%, and those who disagreed and strongly disagreed at 24% and 10%, respectively. In the findings on the reduction in imports by Kenya and Somalia, many respondents agreed 55%, while those strongly agreed were 26%, and those who disagreed were represented by 13%. Those who strongly disagreed were 6% of the respondents.

The findings on the increment in taxation on goods showed that 55% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed, with a response rate of 26%. However, 18% of the respondents disagreed with the response rate that the diplomatic rift caused an increase in tax on goods. Based on the findings on the influx of hoarded goods due to the border wrangles, 60% agreed with the statement, and 40% disagreed

Table 4 shows that 38% of the respondents agreed that there has been an increased bottleneck on the import and export of goods to and from the two countries, while those that were in strong agreement were shown at 33%, and those that disagreed with the statement were by 29%.

On the issue of the Kenya- Somalia diplomatic rift causing an increase in the prices of the commodities, most of the respondents strongly agreed to the statement shown by 48%, as in Table 5, and 40% of the response rate agreed. In comparison, those who disagreed were only 11% of the total response.

The finding also established that the low turnover of stock and goods agreed by 31% of the response rate, those who disagreed were by 28%, those who strongly agreed were by 25%, while 15% of the respondents strongly disagreed that there had been a low turnover of stocked goods.

**Table 5. Implications on Imports and Exports**

Statement	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neutral		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	Freq	Perc	Freq	Perc	Freq	Perc	Freq	Perc	Freq	Perc
	Export has decreased.	98	40%	90	37%	-	-	58	24%	10

Import has reduced	89	%	105	43%	-	-	61	24%	-	-
There has been increased taxation on goods	65	26%	136	55%	-	-	46	18%	-	-
There has been an influx of hoarded goods.	-	-	147	60%	-	-	99	40%	-	-
There has been an increased bottleneck on export and import goods	80	33%	94	38%	-	-	72	29%	-	-
The rift has increased the price of commodities	117	48%	91	40%	-	-	28	11%	-	-
There has been a low turnover of stock goods	61	25%	79	31%	-	-	68	28%	38	15%

**Table 5. Implications on Imports and Exports**

The diplomatic strain between Kenya and Somalia has generated significant economic repercussions, particularly affecting trade dynamics between the two nations. Analysis of the data provided reveals several critical implications for cross-border commerce and market conditions.

**Price Inflation and Market Dynamics** The most substantial impact is evidenced in commodity price increases, with an overwhelming 88% of respondents acknowledging price escalation (48% strongly agreeing and 40% agreeing). This significant consensus suggests a severe disruption to normal market operations and price stability (Study data, 2024). The price increases likely affect essential commodities, potentially creating economic hardships for consumers in both countries.

### 4.3.7 Education Exchange Trade

The findings in Table 6 show that the Kenya- Somalia diplomatic rift had negatively impacted education exchange programs. The rift affected the students' lack of access to learning; most respondents (46%) agreed with the statements, strongly agreed (35%), and 19% disagreed. On the suspension of the learning activities as a result of the border wrangles, those who disagreed with the statement were shown as 61% and agreed with 37% of the respondents. The findings showed that 55% agreed that students missed exams, while those that strongly agreed were 23%, and 18% disagreed.

**Table 6. Education Exchange Trade.**

Statement	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neutral		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	Freq	Perc	Freq	Perc	Freq	Perc	Freq	Perc	Freq	Perc
	Students cannot access the learning	87	35%	112	46%	-	-	47	19%	-
Learning was suspended as the two countries were involved in the fight.	-	-	95	37%	-	-	151	61%	-	-
Learners missed exams	56	23%	136	55%	-	-	44	18%	-	-

**Table 6. Education Exchange Trade.**

The diplomatic tensions between Kenya and Somalia have significantly disrupted educational exchange and scholarship programs, creating substantial challenges for students from both nations. Analysis of the provided data reveals several key implications for cross-border educational cooperation.

About access to education, the most immediate impact is evident in the severe disruption of access to learning opportunities, with a combined 81% of respondents (46% agreeing and 35% strongly agreeing) confirming negative effects on educational access. This suggests a substantial impediment to the free flow of students, educators, and academic resources between the two countries (Study data, 2024).

On academic continuity, despite border disputes, there appears to be some resilience in maintaining learning activities, as 61% of respondents disagreed that learning activities were suspended. However, this finding must be contextualized within specific educational sectors and regions, as experiences may vary significantly across different institutional partnerships.

In regard to assessment and progression, critical concern emerges in the disruption of examination schedules, with 78% of respondents (55% agreeing and 23% strongly agreeing) indicating that students missed examinations. This suggests serious implications for academic progression and credential recognition between the two nations.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary of the study findings. The findings are summarized and presented in a brief manner to capture the major concerns in the study. The chapter also presents the conclusions made from the study findings. The chapter ends with the recommendations developed from the study findings and emerging gaps.

#### 5.2 Summary of Findings

The miraa trade represents a significant economic activity between the two countries involved. According to recent studies, approximately 75% of respondents see this trade as a vital source of livelihood, and 81% recognize its role in contributing to tax revenue. In addition to these financial benefits, the trade also provides crucial employment opportunities, with 86% of participants confirming its impact on job creation. Despite these advantages, there is a split in public opinion on the suspension of the miraa trade; 60.4% oppose the ban, while 39.6% support it, reflecting diverse perspectives on its societal impact.

Cross-border trade faces several challenges, including high transportation costs, poor infrastructure at border points, and complex trade procedures. Traders also experience harassment, corruption, gender-related issues affecting women, price fluctuations, and limited market information. Educational exchange has also been adversely affected due to diplomatic tensions, with 81% noting negative effects on access to learning and 78% confirming that students missed examinations, indicating significant disruptions in education.

Trade disruptions have also impacted imports and exports, as 77% report decreased exports, 98% report increased taxation, and 88% confirm rising commodity prices. Employment has been

similarly affected, with 65% noting increased job retrenchments and 67% observing suspensions and expulsions. However, strong cultural ties between the border communities, such as shared Somali identity, language, and traditions, continue to support trade relations, particularly in livestock and essential commodities. These cultural bonds have historically facilitated cooperation across borders.

### **5.3 Conclusions**

The study examined how the diplomatic divide between Kenya and Somalia affects trade and commercial relations. Most respondents agreed, and the results show that diplomatic rifts and their resolution can profitably embrace an institutional approach that sanitizes us to benefit from well-defined borders together. The possibility of such benefits impacted the choice to resolve the unresolved border issue amicably to foster better relations that favor unresolved trade and peaceful coexistence.

The results of this study suggest that the miraa trade has raised the living conditions of the local population, enabling them to live respectable lifestyles and afford to send their children to school. However, it has had a detrimental impact on education in the area since many young people have left school. Because the Miraa business offers quick money, some people do not care much about schooling. This means that the government and other pertinent authorities must handle the issue to streamline the Miraa trade in the area and ensure it continues serving the populace without harming future generations.

The study found that trade between Kenya, Somalia, and other states in the IGAD region is negatively impacted by the border dispute between the two countries. This mostly happens when states use coercive diplomacy and border closure as the first line of defense and cannot resolve the problems. Coercive diplomatic measures and border closures have the potential to cause economic

damage and strained relations between states, which will have an indirect and direct impact on their citizens.

Both states must consider why they have maintained this status quo without conflicts. If they take it slow and keep doing what they are doing, perhaps time will help them both gain more power. The African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development are two African procedures they could employ before resorting to the I.C.J. Notably, depending on the nature of the disagreement, political and legal methods exist to settle any international conflict. Based on the opinions of the disputing parties, a dispute's status as political or legal will be determined. Legality is automatically established if both parties believe the legal approach is the most effective way to resolve the conflict. It is necessary to look for political solutions if one party disagrees.

Since the issues at stake for the two countries are far more significant than the current fight, the dispute is more political than legal. To his knowledge, hundreds of issues were resolved through negotiation when the parties were presented with the option to use the Court, according to Ake Hammarskjöld, who served as the Court's Registrar from 1922 to 1936. Therefore, rather than pursuing a legal settlement, the two nations may wish to think about reaching a political one.

## **5.4 Recommendations**

### **5.4.1 Policy Recommendations**

The government should implement regulations and initiatives designed to deter young people from engaging in the production and trade of miraa—those who violate these regulations face severe consequences.

The government and non-governmental organizations should launch comprehensive and well-planned campaigns to educate the public about the benefits and drawbacks of miraa chewing and

trading. In this manner, as the community continues to produce and exchange crops, its members will be able to make well-informed judgments.

Miraa growers should receive assistance from the government and other organizations to commercialize the product. To address the issue of careless spending of funds accumulated from miraa among community members, they ought to encourage them to establish cooperatives and begin small-scale revenue-generating projects.

The people in the area should be informed about the negative effects of miraa by the government and non-governmental organizations. They should also be encouraged to cultivate tobacco and cotton as alternative cash crops. Additionally, free seed and fertilizer assistance should be provided to farmers in order to encourage them to cultivate alternative cash crops.

The following recommendations were further made:

- To improve policy implementation, the national governments of Kenya and Somalia should open the border between the two countries, set up the relevant border institutions, and make them functional to ease the movement of goods and services.
- This study recommends a common policy on enhancing trade and developing markets for Miraa, livestock/ livestock products, and horticultural produce, which is necessary to enhance livelihoods in the two countries.
- The study recommends revising a colonial state's maritime border as the only way to maintain it.
- Clear policy and bilateral agreements must harmonize conditions for the common benefit of the citizens of the two countries.

- This study suggests that Kenya-Somalia relations, which are currently in a stable political position, should update their borders using colonial demarcation and correct any mistakes to demonstrate which state controls the disputed marine parts.
- Since the idea would align the freedom of the coasts between two countries, both nations shall adhere to the current Convention on Continental Shelf accords.

### **5.5 Recommendations for Further Research**

This study examined how Somalia and Kenya are affected by the production and trading of miraa.

Additional study can be conducted on:

- i. The impact of Miraa production and trade on Kenya and Somalia.
- ii. The effects of Miraa on the economic, social, and cultural lives of Somalians and Kenyans.
- iii. The impact of Miraa production and trade on Kenya and Somalia.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: Research tools

#### QUESTIONNAIRE (MIRAA TRADERS, STUDENTS, PROFESSIONAL AND OTHERS)

My name is ABDI SHARIF. I have a Master of International Relations and Diplomacy from Mount Kenya University. As a requirement of this course, I am undertaking a research project on the effect of the Kenya-Somalia diplomatic rift on Kenyan trade and commerce.

Please feel free to answer the questionnaire as honestly as possible. Responses to these questions will be treated confidentially. Do not write your name anywhere on this paper. Please tick (✓) on the appropriate choice(s) that you think is the answer(s) or correct response(s) to the questionnaire.

#### SECTION A: Demographic information

1. Please indicate your gender

- (a) Male ( )                      (b) Female ( )

2. What is your age bracket?

- (a) 18- 24yrs ( )                      (b) 25- 29yrs ( )                      (c) 30-34yrs ( )                      (c) 35-39yrs

- (c) 40-44yrs ( )                      (d) 45-49 yrs ( )                      (c) 50-54yrs ( )                      (c) 55 yrs and above

3. Please indicate your level of education

- (a) Certificate ( )                      (b) Diploma ( )                      c) Bachelors ( )

- (d) Maters ( )                      (d) PhD ( )                      others ( )

4. What is your occupation?

(a). Miraa Traders ( ) (b). General Merchandise Trader ( )

(c). Student ( ) (d) Professional worker ( )

(d) Others ( ) specify-----

**Section B: Miraa Trade.**

The following statement relates to the effects of the Kenyan-Somalia rift on the Miraa trade. Kindly tick your level of agreement to each statement. Strongly Disagree (S.D.), Disagree (D), Neutral (N), Agree (A), and strongly agree (S.A.). Tick only one response for each statement.

	School Learning Environment	S.D.	D	N	S.A.	A
5	Miraa trade was suspended.					
6	Miraa trade is a source of our livelihood.					
7	Miraa trade pays taxes to the government.					
8	Miraa trade has employed many people.					
9	Miraa trade has been connecting people in the two countries.					
10	Miraa trade has earned both countries foreign exchange.					

**Section C: Educational Exchange Trade.**

The following statement relates to the effects of the Kenyan-Somalia rift on educational exchange trade. Kindly tick your level of agreement with each statement: strongly disagree (S.D.), disagree (D), Neutral (N), Agree (A), and strongly agree (S.A.). Tick only one response for each statement.

	School infrastructure	S.D.	D	N	S.A.	A
11	Students cannot access the learning					
12	Learning was suspended as the two countries were involved in a fight.					
13	Learners missed exams					

### Section C: Export and Import.

The following statement relates to the effects of the Kenyan-Somalia rift on exports and imports. Kindly tick your level of agreement with each statement: strongly disagree (S.D.), disagree (D), Neutral (N), Agree (A), and strongly agree (S.A.). Tick only one response for each statement.

	School Learning Environment	S.D.	D	N	S.A.	A
14	Export has decreased.					
15	Import has reduced					
16	There has been increased taxation on goods.					
17	There has been an influx of hoarded goods.					

18	There has been an increase in bottlenecks in export and import goods.					
19	The rift has increased the price of commodities.					
20	There has been a low turnover of stock goods.					

**Section D: Job Creation.**

The following statement relates to the effects of the Kenyan-Somalia rift on Job creation. Kindly tick your level of agreement with each statement: strongly disagree (S.D.), disagree (D). Neutral (N), Agree (A), and strongly agree (S.A.). Tick only one response for each statement.

	School Learning Environment	S.D.	D	N	S.A.	A
21	There has been an increase in retrenchment.					
22	There has been increased suspension and expulsion from jobs in respective countries.					
23	Job opportunities in the respective countries have been restricted to locals only.					

## Appendix 2: ERC certificate



REF: MKU/ISERC/2338  
TO: ABDI SHARIF MOHAMED

Date: 26 August 2022

REG: MIRD/2018/38323

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: THE EFFECT OF THE KENYA-SOMALI DIPLOMATIC RIFT ON KENYAN TRADE RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA FROM 2012-2021.**

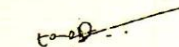
This is to inform you that **Mount Kenya University** has reviewed and approved your above research proposal. Your application approval number is **1411**. The approval period is **26/08/2022 - 25/08/2023**.

This approval is subject to compliance with the following requirements;

- i. Only approved documents including informed consents, study instruments, MTA will be used
- ii. All changes including amendments, deviations and violations are submitted for review and approval by **Mount Kenya University**
- iii. Death and life threatening problems and serious adverse events or unexpected adverse events whether related or unrelated to the study must be reported to **Mount Kenya University** within 72 hours of notification
- iv. Any changes, anticipated or otherwise that may increase the risks or affect the safety or welfare of study participants and others or affect the integrity of the research must be reported to **Mount Kenya University** within 72 hours
- v. Clearance for export of biological specimens must be obtained from relevant institutions
- vi. Submission of a request for renewal of approval at least 60 days prior to expiry of the approval period. Attach a comprehensive progress report to support the renewal
- vii. Submission of an executive summary report within 90 days upon completion of the study to **Mount Kenya University**

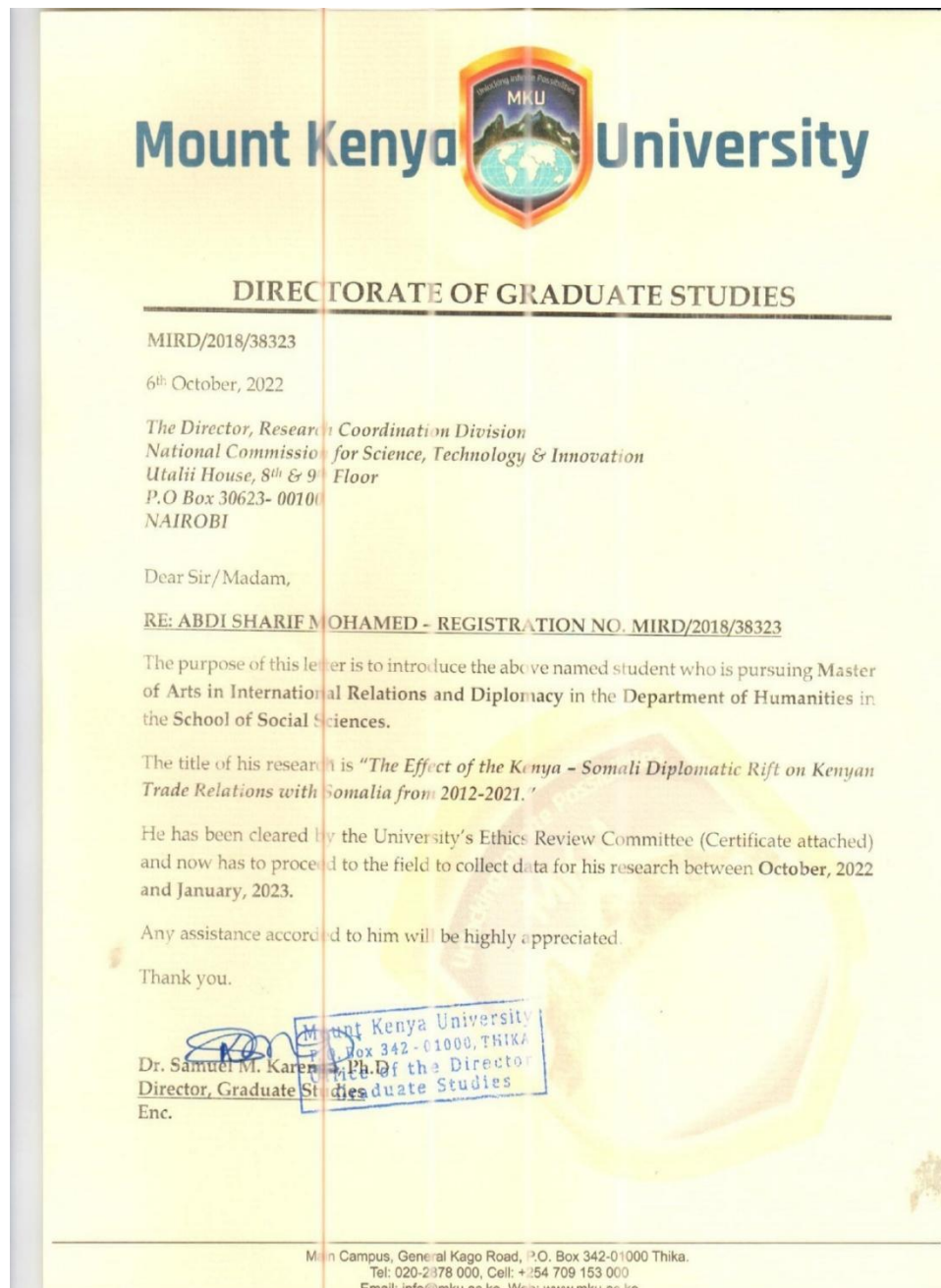
Prior to commencing your study, you will be expected to comply with any additional requirements from the relevant authorities in the country where this study will be conducted

Yours sincerely,



**Dr. Peter G. Kirira**  
**Chairman, Mount Kenya University ISERC**

### Appendix 3: Introduction letter from MKU





Appendix 5: Field entry /Research Authorization



Republic of Kenya

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR BASIC EDUCATION**

Telegrams: "SCHOOLING", Nairobi  
Telephone: Nairobi 020 2453699  
Email: [rcnairobi@gmail.com](mailto:rcnairobi@gmail.com)  
[cdenairobi@gmail.com](mailto:cdenairobi@gmail.com)

REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION  
NAIROBI REGION  
NYAYO HOUSE  
P.O. Box 74629 – 00200  
NAIROBI

When replying please quote

Ref: RDE/NRB/RES/1/65 Vol.2 (15)

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

Mr. Benson Kamau Ngwiri  
Pan Africa Christian University  
NAIROBI

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

We are in receipt of a letter from National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation, regarding research authorization in Nairobi County on the topic "KENYA-SOMALIA DIPLOMATIC RIFT'S IMPACTS ON KENYAN TRADE AND COMMERCE RELATIONS 2012-2021" for the period ending 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

This office has no objection and authority is hereby granted on the condition that the exercise will be carried out professionally.

A report on the exercise will be required on completion.

  
DR. PETER KIRIKA  
FOR: REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION  
NAIROBI



## Appendix 6: Turnitin report (First two (2) pages

### Abdi Sharif Mohamed

## KENYA-SOMALIA DIPLOMATIC RIFT'S IMPACTS ON KENYAN TRADE AND COMMERCE RELATIONS 2012-2021

Postgraduate 2025  
POSTGRADUATE 2024/25  
Mount Kenya University

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**Appendix 7: Research site map**

