

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Livestock rustling/raiding remains a major cause of insecurity and conflict among the pastoral communities in the ASAL of Kenya. Since 2000, there has been a transition from use of crude weapons such as rungu, machetes, bows and arrows to use of more sophisticated weaponry, specifically firearms that have led to loss of lives, property and displacement. The factors found to influence cattle rustling and raiding include political instigation, idleness, unemployment and poverty among the youth, cultural motivation and environmental conditions such as drought.

As a result, the government has made efforts by increasing deployment of police reservists; implementation of Boma Declaration, increasing awareness raising and sensitisation, research and knowledge generation and increasing patrols by the government military forces. Even though the government has been in the forefront in curbing livestock rustling menace, it has been more reactive than proactive. An example is the November 2012 massacre of Barogoi of Suguta Valley in Turkana County, where more than 38 police officers were killed by cattle rustlers. Therefore, the government has not prioritised resolution of cattle rustling and related conflicts in its development agenda. One of the reasons is limited information due to lack of a comprehensive study that addresses the social and economic costs of cattle rustling/raiding in qualitative and quantitative terms, with clear implications on the local and national economy. Therefore, the findings of this study address this gap. Thus, the information generated will serve as a negotiation tool to lobby the government, development partners and other relevant stakeholders to combat the menace in order to create a conducive environment for the affected communities to be engaged in sustainable livelihoods.

#### 5. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of this assessment, on the social and economic costs of cattle rustling/raiding, provide evidence for strengthening the following:

- Peace building process among counties in Northern and North Western Kenya while improving their role in ethnic conflict resolution
- Traditional institutions remain central in creating peace, security, law and order with the roles being community policing and conflict management and need to be strengthened;
- The counties with livestock rustling should create a database on the deaths, losses and injuries. Data is scarce; therefore monitoring and evaluation of trends is difficult;
- Strengthening of surveillance within county boundaries is required and requests for pasture should be procedural and hence the need to develop protocols for cross border use;
- There is need for civic education by the government, non-governmental organizations and civil society groups to pastoral communities. Vocational and technical skills should be offered to the youth who take part in cattle rustling
- Initiate a "list of shame" among politicians and prominent pastoralists who incite the youth for political interests and their disqualification from seeking or holding any political and public office in Kenya;
- Exploration of new income generating activities in the affected counties to minimize the idleness and unemployment of youths through creation of job opportunities;
- There is need to scale-up best practices such as upgrading of the local and exotic breeds. According to the Kenya News Agency, the Pokot cattle rustlers are moving closer to the Baringo hinterlands because of their love to the traditional breeds;
- Resource centres should be established for awareness creation and sensitization on livestock rustling, especially for the youth while ensuring formal education for them;
- A radical measure to conduct massive recruitment for youth to the National Youth Service would enable them to acquire alternative skills to earn a living.

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### SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COSTS OF CATTLE RUSTLING IN KENYA



#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Livestock rustling is one of the causes of insecurity, resource use conflicts and poverty among the pastoral communities occupying the rangelands of Kenya. In the last two decades, there has been a tremendous increase of incidences of livestock rustling using sophisticated and complex weapons, which have not only become a major security threat to the lives of the pastoral communities but also a key threat to their livelihoods, primarily linked to large herd sizes. Furthermore, easy access to and proliferation of weapons have threatened the security of the country as a nation, the East African Community and the Greater Horn of Africa.

Cattle rustling is defined as forceful acquisition of cattle from one community by another using guns or other weapons and in turn leaving behind destruction of property and loss of lives. This concept should be understood against cattle raids which involve stealing livestock from one community by another without destroying property or killing people. Traditionally, cattle rustling/raiding often involved small-scale violence and theft of the best livestock or restocking of animals lost through drought

or disease, and was sanctioned and controlled by elders. Therefore, it was used as a coping mechanism by pastoralists to restock their herds after natural disasters such as drought, diseases or to address shortfalls during traditional and/or marriage ceremonies. Recently, due to the proliferation of small arms and commercialization of cattle rustling, there is an emergence of large-scale violent cattle raiding between neighbouring pastoral communities in Kenya. It has over time evolved into a big criminal commercial enterprise, leading to increased incidence of violence, conflicts, loss of lives and livestock. Violence and displacement related to cattle rustling in the central Kenyan districts of Laikipia and Samburu have forced thousands of people to flee and led to the closure of 12 schools leaving about 2,500 pupils without classes. Cattle rustling in Kenya is common in the northern and Rift Valley regions. However, there is limited information on the social and economic costs of cattle raiding on the pastoral systems, leading to inadequate policy and institutional support for the systems. The main objective of this policy brief, is to derive adequate credible evidence to draw attention at the national policy level to the negative



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socio economic impact of livestock rustling in Kenya .

## 2. METHODOLOGY

Using purposive sampling, this study assessed the social, economic and political costs associated with livestock rustling among the pastoral communities of Kenya, taking Laikipia County as a case. The study utilized descriptive research and explanatory design. The study locations in the county were Ngwesi and Rumuruti. The study targeted household heads, relevant government ministries, herders, market politicians, chiefs and officers commanding police stations. Simple random, purposive and snowballing sampling procedures were used to select 71 respondents; 35 in Il Ngwesi and 36 in Rumuruti. Laikipia County is one of the 14 counties within the Rift Valley region. It covers an area of 9,462 km<sup>2</sup> and lies between latitudes 0° 18" and 0° 51" North and between longitude 36° 11" and 37° 24N It borders Samburu County to the North, Isiolo County to the North East, Meru County to the East, Nyeri County to the South East, Nyandarua County and Nakuru County to the South West, and Baringo County to the West

## 3. MAIN FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

### A. Factors Influencing Cattle Rustling in Kenya

According to the reviewed previous studies, factors that influenced cattle rustling/raiding in Kenya include historical marginalization by the national governments, weak strategies by the national governments in curbing raiding and related conflicts, commercialization of livestock raids, cultural motivation of the raiders, harsh environment and environmental insecurity, political instigation due to political interests, idleness, unemployment and poverty among the youth.

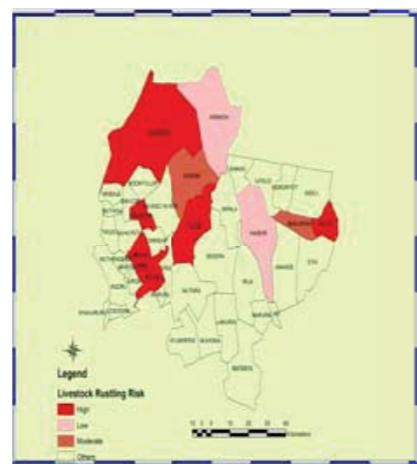
### B. Efforts to Curb Cattle Rustling in Kenya

There have been several efforts to minimise livestock rustling in the country including continuous disarmament exercise, training, awareness creation, dialogue and peace committees, intercommunity cultural events, application of technology, peace caravans, deployment of police reservists, policy formulations and legislation.

### C. Cattle Rustling in Laikipia County

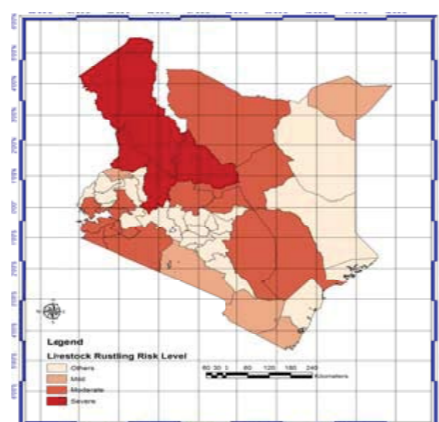
Livestock production is dominant in the Northern parts of the county. According to the 2009 population and housing census report on livestock, there were 189,685 head of cattle in the county and 623,648 sheep and goats. Others include poultry, camels, donkeys, rabbits and bees. Livestock remains a major contributor to household income in the County in which the value of

livestock is estimated at Kshs 94010000 (US\$ 94010) in the two selected sites.



Regarding the intensity of cattle rustling, it was reported that in the period 2015-2017 for Laikipia West Constituency, there was about 418 raids with 158 human deaths and 691 human injuries. The costs associated with livestock raiding include loss of human lives, property destruction, displacements from homes, insecurity and limited access to grazing resources. More than 90% of the interviewed respondents mentioned that they had experienced livestock losses.

The total cost associated with loss of livestock among the 71 sampled households in the County was estimated at Kshs 28,159,000 (US\$ 28,158). To recover from the livestock losses, the communities in the selected sites employed various methods namely donations and gifts from family and friends, purchase from own savings, self-recovery mechanisms and raiding. According to focus group discussions, wealthy individuals including prominent personalities with access to sophisticated guns and weapons are hire youth below 30 years to steal livestock from the communities and to transport them to slaughter houses in Nairobi, after which they receive a portion of the stolen animals in cash or kind as a reward.



### D. Social and Economic Costs of Cattle Rustling at National Level

Livestock rustling risk levels in the country are categorised as hotspots/severe, moderate or mild/low, depending on their intensity and frequency as shown in Figure 2. A total of 27 counties face one or the other of the three levels of risk. Five Counties fall under the severe category (Elgeyo-Marakwet, Baringo, Samburu, West Pokot and Turkana), with Turkana at highest level followed by West Pokot. . Using very conservative prices for animals, the total value of livestock lost in the 'severe' counties in the period 2014-2016 was about Kshs 6.05 billion, with goats contributing the bulk of this loss (of about Kshs 4.19 billion). A loss of Kshs 6.05 billion in three years in the counties under high/severe risk conditions of rustling gives about Kshs 2.02 billion loss per year. During the same period, the estimated total cost of displacement associated with cattle rustling in the severely affected Counties is Ksh 37.27 billion.

In terms of moderate livestock rustling, about 15 Counties fall under this category with an estimated total value of livestock lost in the same period at about Kshs 5.89 billion (Kshs 1.96 billion per year); once more goats contributing the largest of the loss (Kshs 3.28 billion).

These Counties lost about Kshs 90.08 billion over the period 2014-2016 in displacement cost.

In the mild or low risk Counties, the loss in terms of livestock stolen was Kshs 2.82 billion between 2014-2016. In this case, the highest loss was from the stolen goats. Taking an average of three years, the yearly total loss was Kshs 0.94 billion. With respect to the cost of displacement, mild risk counties lost about Kshs 13.32 billion.

The overall economic cost of livestock rustling in Kenya is shown in the Table below. It consists of the cost of displacement in terms of compensation for or assistance to families in order to resettle and start earning a livelihood again of almost similar magnitude; and the cost of livestock which depicts loss of capital and revenue, both at the local and national levels. The total cost of livestock lost is estimated at Kshs 14.75 billion over the three years giving an annual loss of about Kshs 4.92 billion; while the cost of displacement is Kshs 140.6 billion so that the annual cost is about KShs 46.86 billion. This gives an overall national annual cost of Kshs 51.78 billion which is a significant figure that if avoided and utilized elsewhere efficiently can spur development.

Overall Total cost of cattle rustling in Kenya (2014-2016)

Nature of livestock rustling	Livestock loss (Ksh Billion)	Cost displacement (Ksh Billion)	Total cost (Ksh Billion)	Annual total cost (Ksh Billion)
Severe	6.05	37.2	43.25	14.41
Moderate	5.88	90.1	95.98	32.00
Mild	2.82	13.3	16.12	5.37
Total	14.75	140.6	155.35	51.78