

Assessment of Eldas and Wajir North boundary Conflict Consequences on Services Delivery in Wajir County Headquarters, Kenya

By

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to establish the consequences of boundary conflict between Eldas and Wajir north sub-county on access to public services in Wajir North Sub-County, Kenya. The prevalent and occurrence of competition, aggressive mentality, antagonism and hostility among different communities are of indicators of conflict. The contention of the study was that contemporary boundary disputes in the focal area (Wajir North and Elda's sub-counties) are largely associated with territorial struggles motivated by the quest for the control of geostrategic and economic resources on the affected borderlines and frontiers. The study targeted a total population of 830 comprising village elders, chiefs, elected leaders, sub-county administrators and civilians from the sub-counties. Random, stratified random sampling, snowballing and purposive sampling were used to select a sample size of 83. Collected through semi-structured questionnaires data was analyzed using of SPSS software. Qualitative data was analyzed by use of content analysis and a prose form presentation. The findings were presented in tables, diagrams and charts which evolve conclusion and recommendations to address the persistent border disputes between North and South Wajir sub-counties. The study established that unclear ownership, sedentary and nomadic livelihood user rights voluntary and mutually beneficial exchanges and resource straddling/overlapping a border contributed significantly to border resource conflicts in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties. Also, it was established that granting crossing/passage, levy collection, patrols enforcement and designing of passage rules/conditions accounted for entry and exist border points conflicts in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties. It was also found out that borderline position conflicts were caused by unclear borderlines, no fixed boundaries, borders that keeps shifting based on relations, war, nomadic livelihood complicated ownership, incompatible ethnic groups fusion, claim on rivals' land as ancestral land, as well as proximity, kinship, common loyalty to a king defined society not boundary in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties. The study recommends streamlining unclear ownership, sedentary and nomadic livelihood user rights voluntary and mutually beneficial exchanges and resource straddling and overlapping a border to solve border resource conflicts in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties. Also, it is recommended engaging warring factions to address granting crossing/passage, levy collection, patrols enforcement and designing of passage rules/conditions to mitigate entry and exist border point's conflicts. Further, the study recommends comprehensive streamlining unclear borderlines, no fixed boundaries, relations, war, nomadic livelihood, incompatible ethnic group's fusion, and claim on rivals' land as ancestral land, proximity, kinship, or common loyalty to a king in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties.

Key words: A boundary, boundary conflict, Service delivery, Eldas and Wajir North

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Background of the Study

A boundary is significant because it determines the confines of a community's sovereignty and identity by delineating its territorial and jurisdictional scope under one entity with lifestyles, culture, language, destiny, privileges among others (Boone, 2017 & Kenya Gazette Supplement No.15 Senate Bills No. 6, 2023). Implicitly, a boundary constitutes self-preservation of a community or state, guarantees peaceful coexistence, social and economic activities as well as larger society' stability (Issa-Salwe, 2016). However, border has generated ethnic-based conflicts which antagonize coexistence. This study attempts to infer that boundary induced changes in diversity are associated with various levels of ethnic-engineered conflicts.

Boundary disputes can be defined as negative attitude, antagonism, rivalry, disagreements between neighbors over their rights and duties with respect to adjacent, or nearby, real property owners (Martin-Shields & Stojetz, 2018). Conflict mostly arises when warring groups also have contrasting propositions about borders between them (Bazzi & Gudgeon, 2017). Boundary conflicts take different forms namely territorial, position, functional, superimposed, antecedent, resources and cultural border disputes among others. However, this current study focuses on resources, functional and borderline position disputes.

Positional dispute can arise when a feature such as a natural river boundary changes its location by erosion and deposition so that one side gains land and the other loses it. Functional border disputes have been understood as resulting from different understandings of the function of the border and of the sharing of resources spanning the boundary and border region (Oduntan, 2015). Resource disputes increase as populations expand and demand more and more of certain resources such as surface water that flows from one territory or another, or hidden ground water that migrates underground, or oil and gas. Essentially, a single or combination of these categories of border conflicts can be experienced in one conflict (Oduntan, 2015).

Factors such as resource scarcity, location feature, domestic politics, geopolitical competition and or cultural difference trigger conflict among neighboring ethnicity, communities, or states both in the developed and developing scopes according to socioeconomic and political situations with unstable governments, weak economies record high disputes (Posner & Cvitanovic, 2019). Border disputes has resulted in dire socio-political, socioeconomic such as arms proliferation, mortality and morbidity, displacements and destruction of houses, crops, food stores, shops, are torched, vandalized as well as stealing or killing livestock besides interrupting transport system (OECD/FAO, 2015).

Human Rights Watch (2021) reports over 150 on-going border disputes mostly in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific region, but also in Europe and the Americas. However, the People's Republic of China takes the cake when it comes to border disputes it has them with the following countries: Taiwan (ROC), North Korea, South Korea, Japan, Bhutan, India, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei. Of the above conflicts, the severest territorial boundary

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dispute is between China and Japan over China's oil/gas operations at the East China Sea Chunxiao and Tianwaitian which interfered oil operations in China. Under UNCLOS, China has the right to claim a continental shelf as far as 350 nautical miles; however, Japan also has the right to an EEZ extending 200 nautical miles from its shore (Morelli & Rohner, 2015). In Latin America Alabama verses Georgia over border entry and exist point conflict Rock and Black Hills land claim, New York and Connecticut over Carter Lake, Iowa, Country Club Dispute, Ellis Island and Erie Triangle. Equally, Florida verses Georgia, Georgia verses South Carolina and Green verses Biddle. In attempts to exploit river banks border resources, Takistan and Uzbekistan the Panj and Amu Darya, have ended in serious conflicts in Afghanistan (Posner, 2017). In India, there continue to be border disputes in the North-East region of India comprises of eight states, namely Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim which interrupts public service access in these states (Baskaran, Min & Uppal, 2015).

In Burundi, civil war claimed over 200,000 lives in 2000 just as in Liberia, over 250, 000 lives were lost in the war between 1990 and 2004. In Sierra Leone over 200, 000 people were lost in the civil war between 1991 and 2001. But perhaps the most pathetic situation occurred in Sudan (McMichael, 2016). The civil war in Sudan has been one of the longest and costliest on the continent with an estimated two million lives lost to the war (Castro, 2018).

To the local communities in Kenya, present borders administrative and electoral boundaries not harmonized with pr-colonial social-cultural dynamics, created confusion and worsened friction among clans. The North-East Nomadic with border dispute history, borders as colonials' strategy to divide them from their kin, hinder their mobility for pasture and rule hence attempt to rethink the borderlines (van Baalen & Mobjörk, 2018). Clans respect boundaries and operationalize cross border engagement. Manifestation of such disputes includes ancestral claims by both the Garre and Degodia clans on Malka Mari National Park along the River Dawa (Salad (2015) same way Garre-Murulle conflicts over ancestral claim of the East of the B9 road to El Wak Police Station belongs with most recent Alango and Alungu administrative locations conflict (Muigua, 2016). IEBC's elective Wards created conflict between the Garre and Degodia clans (de Groot, Bozzoli, & Brück, 2015) as well as Corner Tribes and Murulle clan border war over newly created DarAl-Salaam Ward (Akoth, 2018). Areas administratively placed under one area, while politically affiliated to a different area, attract border disputes such as Garre-Murulle over Eres Teno location, Lafey and El Wak, Quramadow and Tinfa locations, (Rohwerder, 2015). Other boundary disputes include Kamba and Taita over the control of Mtito Andei Town (Klaus, 2017, Linke, et al. 2018) are just a few examples of how boundary delimitation constitutes an impediment to peace between the clans in Kenya.

Statement of the Problem

Despite, its efficacy to community's sovereignty, identity, self-preservation, control to resources and public service access, border dispute dimension suffers adequate scholarly attention. Yet, for over four decades, Wajir North and Eldas sub-counties have been the scene of recurrent sporadic ethnic conflicts especially among the Degodia and Ajuran clans. For instance, of the estimated over one hundred chieftain and ethnic disputes across the county, Wajir North and Eldas sub-counties alone accounts for 70 percent of them (Horowitz & Klaus, 2018). For instance, sources indicate that in August 2015, Degodia and Ajuran inter-clan fighting along the border of Eldas

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and Wajir North left 15 individuals killed and nine injured (Kenya Inter Agency Rapid Assessment {KIARA}, 2018). Further, KIARA reports that between 2014 to 2017 violent conflicts left 500 people killed, 800 injured, and displacement of over 18,000 households. Houses, crops, food stores, shops, were torched and vandalized, crops destroyed and over 20,000 livestock were stolen or killed (KIARA, 2018).

The interruption of social as well as economic activities, robs households their fundamental rights. Inability by residents of the Wajir North Sub- County to access healthcare and government service offered in public offices located in Eldas sub-county, was the worst effect of the conflicts (KIARA, 2018). As a result, residents lack basic medical services, veterinary drugs and other related supply to their livestock, speedy registration of persons, land issues among others (Danish Refugee Council, 2018). Despite these challenges, most studies in this field are contextually done in other countries while local studies have conceptually examined other type of conflicts or examined conflict in broad context. There exists little empirical evidence on both Eldas and Wajir North boundary conflict and its effect on public service access in Wajir County, Kenya. This study therefore, fills this gap by narrowing to effects of boundary conflict on public service access.

Objective of the Study

The core purpose of the current study is to assess the determining factors and effects of boundary conflicts between Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties on public service access. Specifically, the study examined the influence of border resource conflict on access to public service in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties, Kenya.

Review of Related Literature

This section discusses the empirical literature review in an alignment to the objective of the study and emerging research gaps.

Border Resource Conflict

The arbitrary colonial division of African borders contributed a lot for the contemporary African resource sharing problems. The blind partition of African borders caused the disintegration of same ethnic groups into different regions or territories and the merging together of different ethnic groups into same place. This, in turn, resulted in several intrastate conflicts with adverse effects. For instance, in Central African Republic, Jennings (2015) assert that conflicts in this country is historically rooted in poor governance, inequalities and discrimination in resource distribution. In addition, the author notes that there is existence of perennial conflicts by pastoral communities over grazing land rendering peace making a difficult process to resolve the conflicts as the government lacked the capacity to address the contentious issues dividing the people through exclusivity of all groups in the country such as the refugees.

According to Linke et al. (2018), unequal structure of property rights coupled by climate-induced people mobility and wildlife migration have been shown to contribute to enhanced conflict between trans human, sedentary and nomadic livelihood practices. The interconnections between climate change and land use conflict show that rural areas with significant rainfall shortages are more prone to violence. Linking land conflict with both the demands of agriculture and resource shortages, this study has argued that while environmental change and shortages of

rainfall represent a stress for many households' livelihoods, certain regulations may ameliorate these difficulties (Ibid). In essence, this study demonstrates that struggles over limited resources, particularly land, are exacerbated by both environmental factors and unequal structure of property rights.

Furthermore, land conflicts in Kenya have also been attributed to migratory and mobility patterns, whether rural-rural or rural-urban, which alter the dynamics of existing struggles over limited resources such as land (Mwita 2017). While it is true that climate change is not the only reason behind migrations, it is also true that as populations migrate to other territories, overcrowding becomes a reality with the potential to heighten existing socioeconomic tensions within and among populations. In writing about migrations and the changing patterns of pastoral mobility in East Africa, van Baalen and Mobjörk (2018) argue that being confronted by increasing resource scarcity, resource-dependent populations often respond by migrating to areas where resources are available or where there are alternative livelihoods, such as urban areas [where] environmental change also affects the livelihoods and movements of permanent migrants, such as livestock herders, by upsetting the sustainability of their traditional mobility patterns.

Van Baalen and Mobjörk (2018) show that in the Turkana district in Kenya, both the frequency and intensity of livestock-related violence are higher in wetter areas on the plateaus and high rising ridges when the Turkana are the attackers. They also observe that in the Lolita Forest in southern Kenya, cooperation between neighbouring Maasai communities has become more difficult to maintain with the 'slow and continuous' in-migration by the Purko Maasai (Ibid). Overall, environmental and/or climate change discourse on land conflict focuses on issues of mobility, migrations, and struggles over limited resources such as water and grazing pastures.

Closely related to climatic and environmental explanations of land conflict in Kenya, there is growing literature focusing on resource extraction and unbalanced rent sharing (Abuya, 2017). At the core of these arguments is the delicate balance between who controls, uses, or benefits from the resources extracted from certain territories, often seen as belonging to particular groups. As Abuya puts it that the major source of conflict is usually over who owns (and therefore controls) the land on which mining activity is taking place (Abuya 2017).

In addition to rent seeking and rent sharing narratives as possible explanations for conflict over land, there is also the question of displacement that is closely tied to natural resource extraction. For instance, studies by Klaus (2017) on compensation programs offered to the residents of Kwale, living in the Titanium rich coastal strip of Kenya, showed that forced resettlement schemes in non-mineral areas increased conflicts between local residents. This is because the socioeconomic opportunities and livelihood practices are tied to natural resource extraction.

On the flip side, Klaus (2017) notes that, "whereas mining may result in positive socioeconomic benefits to societies and communities near mining areas, social ills and vices, including loss of cultural cohesion and interpersonal dynamics, breakdown of cultural norms and traditions, and increased crime and disease are some of the undesirable social impacts that can arise. All of this contribute to the changing dynamics of conflict over land in Kenya. Further, the quest for natural resource rents for urban development and agricultural commercialization, particularly among a handful of political elites, has increased the value of land and subsequent "land grabs (Mwita, 2017). Apart from urban "land grabs" in Kenyan cities such as Nairobi and

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Mombasa, rural areas of the Rift valley, Central, and Coastal regions are also witnessing an increase in these irregular allocations of lands. Land grabbing has become a frequent occurrence in Kenya due to little or lack of documentation for land ownership by communities. Historically, the problems of land ownership are tied to the fact that “ethnic entrepreneurs and political brokers played a significant role in instigating violence.

The Kenya-Qatar deal over the 40,000 hectares leasing in Kenya’s River Tana Delta is one example of how international actors (e.g., foreign governments) are becoming increasingly involved in changing the dynamics of land access rights in Kenya (Klaus, 2017). With rising pressures from international actors such as OCHA and UN Habitat advocating for the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the growing push to increase food security in the country, such land deals are often met with mixed feelings. In fact, as Klaus (2017) notes that in 2012, clashes over water sources and pastures in the Tana Delta and parts of Northern Kenya, cattle-rustling and localized political violence among pastoralism communities across Kenya’s North left scores dead and over 118,000 displaced.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical underpinning this study is the recognition theory to explain the many border conflicts among different communities the Somali sub tribes in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties in Kenya. Essentially, this theory attempts to develop the sub-themes being examined namely resource border conflicts, operational border conflicts and superimposed border conflicts. Further, the theory strives to link these conflicts to public service access in the two sub-counties.

Recognition Theory

Recognition theory is used in this study to understand inter-ethnic conflict based on non-recognition of one another in the distribution of resources, drawing of boundaries and operations of boundary lines in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties. This study borrows extensively from the Recognition Theory to explain inter-ethnic relations in the conflict between the clans living in the two areas. The origin of Recognition Theory can be traced to the work of Johann Fichte in his foundations of Natural Rights (Hegel, 1807). Fichte produces a thorough ontology of humans’ existence and justice, and demonstrates that freedom and self-understanding are contingent on recognition. This idea of recognition was developed further by Hegel who argues that recognition is never simply given or guaranteed, but always dependent upon equal relations with others. This co-dependency results in mutual relations of recognition, which are the condition for understanding oneself as a genuinely free being, albeit one that acknowledges, and thus adjusts itself, to the freedom of others.

Recognition theory is based on three principles of equitable distribution of wealth, recognition of others and allowing participation of others in decision making in the management of resources. Distributive justice is a way by which the benefits and burden of lives are shared between members of society or community. Hegel argues that it is the principles of distributive justice that arranges how these benefits and burdens *ought* to be shared or distributed among members of a given society. In human society, number of available resources and Wealth are scarce and limited. Procedure, pattern and process of distribution have always become contestable. Therefore, available resources must be rationalized among members of society. If

the principle of rationalization is based on of distribution principles namely equality, equity, and need. Where there is unjust distribution of social goods, redistribution is necessary.

Recognition theory is relevant to this study as resource benefits distribution in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties is characterized with struggle, mistrust, rivalry, and conflict characterize ethnic relations since distribution processes of resources are seen as unjust. This distribution principle of recognition theory explains conflict caused by boundary exclusion from utilization of resources positioned in another sub-county. Distribution justice view recognition of every ethnic group in the sharing of resources differently. Distributive justice requiring redistribution is central to any peace or reconstruction programme in these two areas. However, redistribution alone cannot ensure justice without recognition which introduces recognition principle of the recognition theory.

Hegel insists that distributive justice must be predicated on mutual recognition of one another which cannot be coerced but rather be freely given and received. Hegel says recognition is the mechanism by which social existence is generated. It can be inferred from the position of Hegel that ethnics' inclusion as ethical and political subjects within in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties is contingent on receiving and conferring appropriate forms of recognition on all the ethnic groups in the region. Besides explaining how imposing boundaries in the area by colonialists and post-independent government agencies, this theory is relevant in conflict resolution intervention measures requiring recognizing input of ethnic groups in boundary making to avoid arbitrary demarcation promoting exclusion. Recognition element of this theory develops boundary crossing control conflict variable of the current study.

However, equitable resource distribution and mutual recognition do not serve distributive justice without allowing participation of all ethnic groups in decision making process. In improving recognition theory, Fraser's (1997) introduced the principle of recognition theory called parity of participation. Fraser posits that justice requires social arrangements that permit all to participate as peers (equal) in social life. Fraser focuses on the way the political decision/rules and the way political boundaries are drawn and resources distribution can inflict injustice, to a matter of cultural and/or economic injustice. It is being denied the status of full partner in social interaction constituting one clan as an unworthy of respect and unequal clan in participating in the distribution of resources, drawing of boundary lines and operations of managing borderlines that has caused disputes in the two sub-counties of Eldas and North Wajir. In conclusion, this theory promotes equality, equity and need by advocating the removal of existing status order that seems to promote inequality. From this theory's standpoint, it can be argued that peace can be possible in the sub-counties of Eldas and North Wajir, if all ethnic groups possess the status (recognition), resources and voice (participation) needed to be equal in socio-political and economic arrangements.

Research Methodology and Design

This study will apply a mixed research approach comprising quantitative and qualitative techniques in the collective, analysis and presentation of data. Parallel data gathering of both qualitative and quantitative data will be done at the same time using a questionnaire with open-ended and closed questions for qualitative and quantitative respectively. The integrated design that combines the two different options during the conduct of the evaluation is meant to provide more insightful understandings. As such, the hybrid is aimed at enriching the data by using qualitative work to identify issues or obtain information on variables not obtained by quantitative survey. Using a combination of qualitative and quantitative data will therefore improve the evaluation by ensuring that the limitations of one type of data are balanced by the strengths of another (Stage & Manning, 2015).

Research Design

The study will adopt descriptive research design and both qualitative quantitative approaches will be applied. However, quantitative method of research will be the primary approach. The design is significant to this study since it allows for in-depth collection of data on dynamics of inter-clan conflicts between the two sub-counties of Wajir County ascertaining people's narratives, opinions, attitudes and feelings.

Study Location (Wajir North Sub- County)

Like other nomadic pastoralism clans, the Degodia and Ajuran who form the majority of the population in Wajir County, depend on livestock for their livelihood besides mining, trading and limited small scale crop farming due to the aridity of the county (Mwita, 2017). Severe aridity escalating high stake for water and pasture, explains long-standing boundary dispute between Degodia (Eldas) and Ajuran (Wajir North) clans over ownership of the disputed land besides new electoral units. Boundary demarcations broadly determine ownership of resources and ease of access to government services (Grimm & Weiffen, 2018).

Lack of understanding and agreement about border demarcations in Wajir County has greatly contributed to clan tensions. Conflicts between the Degodia and Ajuran clans are over Eldas and Wajir North sub-county border lines. The cause of the clan conflict between the clans is lack of knowledge on the actual border line. Ajuran claim the boundary area belong to them and Degodia maintain it belongs to them. This confusion causes conflict, especially during elections. This study therefore, seeks to investigate this issue and its influence on public service access.

Findings and Discussions

This section presents the findings of the study, data analysis as well as interpretation. Data was presented in form of tables, figures as well as graphs). The response rate, demographic data of the interviewees, as well as findings on the effect of boundary conflict on public service access in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties is discussed. The entire findings are analyzed in consideration of 95% confidence level while the error margin is 5%.

The given back questionnaires formed an essential base for data analysis for the present chapter. Before feeding the data into an SPSS program, the questionnaires were coded as well as tallied

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while taking into account the objectives of the study. The data was statistically analyzed through an SPSS program. A five-point Likert scale was employed to interpret the data with values 1= Strongly Disagree; 2= Disagree; 3= Uncertain; 4= Agree; 5= Strongly Agree.

Regression analysis approach was used in order to verify the level of significance of effect of boundary conflict on public service access. In each sub-part, feedback of the entire classes of interviewees is analyzed and a report generated. As well an explanation of the information is performed in order to derive significance of the findings and draw inferences. The objectives of the research are considered in a sequential manner as listed in the introductory chapter.

Descriptive Analysis of Boundary conflict and Public service access

Profoundly, the work endeavored to establish the influence of boundary conflict on public service access in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties. Three dimensions of boundary conflict were examined, namely, border resource-based conflict, border entry and exist point conflict and borderline position conflict. Data was gathered using semi-structured questionnaire of a five-point Likert scale design. Both frequencies and percentages were used for descriptive statistics. The percentages and frequency distribution marked the number of occurrences a score took place and the degree of occurrence of a certain observation accordingly. Lastly the inferential statistics (regression analysis) established the nature as well as the connection existing between boundary conflict and public service access.

Border Resource-Based Factors Causing Conflict in Eldas and Wajir North

The initial research objective sought to determine the contribution of resources-related to the boundary conflict between the Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties. To get some background to the issue under investigation, respondents were asked if pasture, water, veterinary centers or animal market were sources of disagreement leading to the border conflict. The statistical outcome generated are presented in Table 11.

Table 11: Conflict over Pasture, Water, Veterinary Centers or Animal Market Among Clans

Rating	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	73	100
No	0	00
Total	73	100

Source: (Author, 2021)

As reflected in the Table 11, all respondents represented by 100% responded in the affirmative that pasture, water, veterinary centers or animal market were sources of border conflict between Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties.

Table 12: Contribution of Resources to Eldas and Wajir North Border Conflict (n = 73)

Proxies		3	2	1
Wrong separation of related people or fusion of unrelated people.	F	38	33	2
	%	52.1	45.1	2.7
Conflict in g user rights between sedentary & nomadic livelihood	F	36	32	5
	%	49.3	43.9	6.8
Lack of voluntary & mutually beneficial exchanges	F	29	33	11
	%	39.7	45.2	15.1
Unclear ownership of resource straddling/overlapping the border	F	32	34	7
	%	43.8	46.5	9.6

*1= *Low Extent*; 2= *Moderate extent*; 3= *Great Extent*; F=*Frequency*; %=Percentage
Source: Author, 2021

Statistics in the table above report 52% of the respondents attributed the conflict over boundary resource to a great extent to the faulty separation of culturally related people or fusion of culturally unrelated people in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties who initially shared resources before sub-division. Moreover, 45.2% of the respondents were of the opinion that that the conflict in g user rights between those who embraced sedentary and those cherishing nomadic livelihood was to the moderate extent the cause of border conflict between Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties.

More so, 45.2% of the respondents and 46.5% of the respondents agreed to a moderate extent that lack of voluntary as well as mutually beneficial exchanges and unclear ownership of resource straddling/overlapping the border, were to blame for continued boundary conflict between Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties respectively.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Concerning resource-linked conflict, the study concludes that conflict over boundary resource is ascribed to the faulty separation of culturally related people or fusion of culturally unrelated people. As well, it is concluded that the conflict in g user rights between those who embraced sedentary and those cherishing nomadic livelihood, lack of voluntary as well as mutually beneficial exchanges and unclear ownership of resource straddling/overlapping the border, were to blame for continued boundary conflict between Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties respectively.

In answering the second research question, the study concludes that rivalry over granting crossing/passage and competition over border levy collection management fueled borderline position conflict between Eldas and North Wajir. Too, it is concluded that disagreements on patrolling of the border exist and existence of sharp differences on the designing of passage rules/conditions along the boundary accounted for the borderline conflict between Eldas and North Wajir. Similarly, it is concluded that the incompatible ethnic groups fusion played a substantial role to the conflict occurrence over the exact position of the borderline boundary between Eldas and Wajir North. Further, it is determined that the claim on rivals' land as ancestral land and kinship, proximity as well as common loyalty to a king defining society but

not boundary, was a major motivation for the conflict over borderline position in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties.

On the effects of border conflicts on access to public services, it was revealed that public access to birth, marriage, death and society registration were affected by boundary conflicts in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties. Equally, it is also concluded that citizens seeking various licenses as well as intentions of making payments for bills such as tax returns, and police clearance, land and court matters were inconvenienced by boundary conflicts to a moderate extent respectively in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties. Above and beyond, the study concludes that access to public healthcare, education, stipends and sports, and veterinary and other extension services was hampered by boundary conflicts in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties. Besides, conclusion is reached that civilians with intentions of participating in decision making process of national and county governance such as budget making, political gatherings among others, are hindered by boundary conflicts in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusions made a forehand, the current study confidently makes major suggestions aimed at addressing boundary conflicts between Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties as well as other regions in the country and over experiencing similar challenges. Admittedly, boundary conflicts have had far reaching social, economic and political ramifications on society both directly and indirectly hence the current study being a first in this area locally, is a welcome addition to those sharing the urgency of this phenomenon.

Undeniably, the effects of border conflicts on access to public services are grave and massive. It is therefore imperative for both effective intervention and prevention measures are proposed to arrest the issue. This will improve access to public access to birth, marriage, death and society registration, licenses, bills payments, police clearance, land and court matters healthcare, education, stipends and sports, and veterinary and other extension services and participation in decision making process of national and county governance in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties.

The study recommends re-examination of the faulty separation of culturally related people or fusion of culturally unrelated people with the aim of correcting wrongly amalgamating unrelated people as well as re-uniting once one people wrongly separated. It is imperative to streamline unclear ownership, sedentary and nomadic livelihood user rights voluntary and mutually beneficial exchanges and resource straddling/overlapping border issues. These measures will mitigate boundary conflict between Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties.

Finally, the study recommends that the incompatible ethnic groups fusion played a substantial role to the conflict occurrence over the exact position of the borderline boundary between Eldas and Wajir North. Further, it is recommended re-engineering proper borderline demarcation to address the claim on rivals' land as ancestral land and kinship, proximity as well as common loyalty to a king defining society but not boundary in Eldas and Wajir North sub-counties.

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