

Economic Effects of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Attacks on the Livelihoods of the People of Mandera East Sub County, Mandera County, Kenya

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Abstract: *Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) continue to be an everyday threat to citizens in disputes across the globe, and have been a selected armament for non-state armed groups. In Kenya, since the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) joined the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) on 14 October 2011, there was sudden rise in retaliatory attacks by use of IEDs targeting civilians and security personnel. These attacks have disrupted the livelihoods of people, especially those living along the porous border with Somalia. This study, therefore, sought to examine the economic effects of IED attacks on the livelihoods of the people of Mandera East Sub-County. The study was based on Johan Galtung model. The study employed a descriptive survey design in which detailed information, both quantitative and qualitative was sought through questionnaires and interviews. The study was limited to Mandera East Sub-County, which has a population of 159,638. The sampled respondents were 395 household heads. Quantitative data were analyzed and presented in form of figures and tables, while qualitative data were classified into major themes based on objectives and presented in verbatim. It was established that that indeed IED attacks had affected the economic lives of the people largely in both formal and informal sectors. As such, it is recommended that economic empowerment be given priority in the area.*

Keywords: IEDs, economic effects, IED attacks, livelihoods of the people, Mandera East Sub-County

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

In the recent years, incidents on the use of IED's have been on the rise (Dathan, 2018). Worldwide, the use of IED's has resulted into many deaths. For example, in Iraq and Afghanistan, IED attacks killed and injured nearly 1,000 children in 2014 only (United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), 2019). So lethal are the effects of the use of IED's that not even United Nations (UN) personnel are spared from them. In 2015, 38 attacks were witnessed against UN agencies and peace keepers which led to loss of life, injury and destruction of property. These attacks occurred in Mali, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Somalia, Afghanistan, Syrian Republic, Yemen and Tanzania (UNIDIR, 2019). In a year period from September 2017 to August 2018, there were approximately 16,300 reported IED incidents worldwide, with exclusion to those within the United States of America (USA) (Hummel, Burpo& Bonner, 2019). These attacks resulted to over 25,000 casualties. Out of these incidents, 37% (about 6,000) happened away from Afghanistan and Iraq in nations such as India, Colombia and Nepal (Conflict Armament Research, 2018).

According to the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Somalia, approximately 3,000 non-combatants and armed individuals have been killed or injured by IED attacks in Kenya and Somalia in the previous 5 years (UNMAS, 2019). From the counter terrorism database, the year 2017 was the most lethal, with a significant incident, a twin bomb attack that happened on 14th October in the Capital Mogadishu, that saw more than 500 people dead and over 300 injured. In addition, Somalia was affected by IED attacks that amplified

by 130% in 2016, with several citizen deaths and injuries, in comparison to the levels detailed in the preceding years. More than 271 citizen injuries and fatalities were documented in 2015, and 630 were documented in 2016. More than a hundred armed actors' injuries and deaths were documented in 2015 and two hundred were documented in 2016. The Al-Qaeda outlet al-Shabaab is the utmost productive operator of IEDs as a weapon of choice in Somalia. From the explosive violence appealed by Somalian Al-Shabaab, at least 70% of their assaults have been committed by usage of IEDs (UNMAS, 2019).

In Kenya, the use of IEDs has gained prominence in the recent past. Since the Kenyan government joined the African Union in Somalia to fight the Al-Shabaab terrorist group (Centre for Strategic and International Studies, 2017), there were several incidents where the terrorists retaliated by planting IEDs along the Main Supply Routes (MSRs) and targeted social places such as malls, hotels and institutions of learning, that resulted to both civilian and military casualties (Ploch, 2013; Reuters, 2015). This state of affairs mainly dominated areas bordering Somalia, namely Garissa, Wajir, Mandera and Lamu Counties. In particular, Mandera County has frequently undergone a series of IED attacks (Ndubi, 2017). On numerous times, the Al Shabaab militants traversed the border into Mandera County willingly, attacked, maimed and killed people by planting IEDs and traversed back into Somalia unnoticed.

In an effort to secure Mandera County, the government of Kenya posted more safety groups to the region, to act in accordance to such occurrences by developing police and military camps alongside the Kenya - Somalia border in the county, and initiated construction of the border fence between Kenya and Somalia. However, the efforts put in

place did not bear fruit, with continued socio-economic challenges, in spite of their existence. Therefore, the research sought to examine how IED attacks affected the economic livelihoods of the people living in Mandera East Sub County, Mandera County, Kenya.

1.2 Purpose of the study

The general objective of this study was to examine the economic effects of IED attacks on the livelihoods of the people of Mandera East Sub County, Mandera County, Kenya.

2. Theoretical Framework

This study was premised on Johan Galtung's model as posited by Galtung (1996). Galtung presents a framework for understanding economic parts of conflicts, how conflicts impact basic human needs and how peace and relations can be reflected to restore law and order after conflicts in an area. Ramsbotham, Miall and Woodhouse (2011) showed how conflicts affect societies. Conflicts/violence consists of actions, words, attitudes, structures that cause physical, psychological, and environment damage and/or prevent people from reaching their full potential.

According to Webel (2007), there are three forms of violence namely, direct, physical and social violence. The model is of the view that the three forms of violence need to be integrated into a framework of understanding on how to resolve and manage conflicts arising from different aspects, including explosives. The model views conflict as a dynamic process in which attitudes, contradictions and behaviours are constantly being changed and influencing each other. Thus, direct violence can be reduced by changing conflict behaviour, physical violence by removing structural contradictions and injustices, and socio-cultural violence by changing attitudes (Ramsbotham *et al.*, 2011). Therefore, it requires that conflicting parties are prevented from destroying each other, are encouraged to transform their attitudes and to overcome contradictions at the root of the conflict.

In relation to the theory, on numerous times IED attacks have been undertaken by the Al-Shabaab fighters who have crossed the porous Kenya - Somalia border into Mandera willingly, maimed, confronted, murdered and traversed back into Somalia unnoticed. The cultural, economic livelihoods of the people of Mandera have been affected significantly.

With livelihoods affected, the attacks have led to a blame game between the government and the locals. The government administrators on the ground have ended up apportioning the blame to the permeable Kenya - Somalia boundary and reluctance of residents to volunteer and give information to the security agencies. On the other hand, the local community has equally accused government officials on corruption (Harrel, 2019). This theory therefore, informs the economic effects of IED attacks.

3. Literature Review

Keefer and Loayza (2008) observed that IED attacks are the planned risk of viciousness by people or subnational assemblies to get a partisan or communal goal using the terrorization of big gatherings, past that of instant casualty. The IED attacks can impose costs on targeted countries. Incidents of IEDs have financial concerns by distracting Foreign Direct Investments (FDI), destruction of facilities, relaying community investment reserves to security, and preventing trade. Notable is the 9/11 attack in the USA that had both instant and protracted economic effect, some of which prolonged to this day. The attack contributed to the war on terrorism, one of the peak noticeable roots of government expenditure in the US historical perspective (Vadm, 2015).

Pico (2017) noted that non-state armed gatherings, for example, the Taliban and ISIS frequently use IEDs to destabilize harmony activities and threaten non-military personnel populaces in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Al Qaeda, ISIS, and other fierce radical gatherings use IEDs as a basic component of a more extensive system to balance decreasing quality by moving returning warriors or homegrown terror fanatics to strike for the terror group's benefit. ISIS likewise has purposely set IEDs before withdrawing from a territory with the goal of dragging out frailty, exacting extra losses on networks attempting to recoup, and postponing monetary redevelopment in freed networks long after direct ISIS-actuated threats in those territories stop.

Cerretti (2019) observed South Sudan showed little development since its independence. The humanitarians have not only failed to intervene in complex emergencies objectives in current South Sudan but also in former Sudan. The objectives include rescuing lives, pacify suffering and preserve the human dignity of the disaster-affected population. Humanitarian lawlessness and suffering have climaxed to alarming state with unabated IED attacks and conflicts that lead to violation of international human rights. About 20% or 2.45 million South Sudanese are displaced, 1.61 million internally displaced while 831,000 fled to the neighbouring countries. Approximately 40% of the South Sudan population is probably exposed to serious food security during the haunt season. Africa in particular has a host of terrorist organizations that include Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb/AQIM, Al-Shabaab, Wahabiyasala first sect in Ethiopia, the Boko Haram in Northern Nigeria, which continues to cause an increasing threat to international security and peace by use of IEDs.

Cannon and Ali (2018) argue that the economic lives of the people in Mandera County revolve around pastoralism, mining, health and trade. These issues, together with education, have been affected greatly because the IED attacks. In 2018, miners were killed by Al Shabaab operatives in their minefields (Kejitan, 2018). This attack created a lot of fear in people. In fact, mining had to be temporarily halted because of fear of subsequent attacks and this led to unemployment and diminished capacity to take care of their livelihoods. Furthermore, the group, according to Cannon and Ali (2018), targeted non-local teachers, who

happen to be the majority. This move by the group threatened the education sector with many of the teachers opting for transfers to other regions because of fear for their lives (Odula, 2018).

Mutambo (2019) found that the health sector has been affected and the construction industry completely paralyzed, such that, many health centres that were manned by non-locals had to be abandoned because of uncertainty. In April 2019, the kidnapping of two doctors of the Cuban origin in the region of Mandera brought up crisp issues on the methodology of the Kenya Defense Forces in the quest for Somali terror group, Al Shabaab. Suspected Shabaab activists kidnapped Dr Landy Rodriguez and DrasselHerera Correa, Cuban medicine experts working in Kenya under a plan between Nairobi and Havana. The kidnapping occurred during the day as the doctors were being headed to work by a nearby driver and outfitted police where one police officer was shot dead during the abduction process (Mutambo, 2019).

Henson (2017) argues that since the aim of terrorists is usually to create fear, such fear is manifested in the disruption of the livelihoods and diminished development. Terrorists have an aim of creating an atmosphere of perpetual fear and paranoia among the people's livelihoods. For the terrorists, as long as people's lives have been disrupted, they create a climate where people fear for their lives (Momanyi, 2015). Therefore, the lives of the people of Mandera East Sub-County have been negatively and adversely affected to the detriment of the economic activities in terms of meeting their daily needs.

Akwiri (2018) posits that at whatever point there is an assault regular people are influenced somehow. Honest lives are lost pointlessly or individuals lose relatives in the battle. Subsequently, at whatever point there is an assault the individuals lament. The result touches on the nerve centre of people's lives. Economic impacts of terrorists' attacks in Kenya are most obvious in the tourism sector. The sector that speaks to roughly 15% of its outside income constitutes an eighth of the economy. The drop in the quantity of tourists to Kenya is badly brought about the reduction in hotel appointments and inhabitancy. In 2003, it was estimated that hotel bookings normally at about 40 to 45 per cent was slumped down to an average of 20-30 percent in the shoreline tourist hotels.

4. Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey design. According to Creswell (2014) this design is appropriate when the researcher seeks to provide detailed explanation about a particular issue. In this case, the issue under investigation was the socio economic effects of IED's on the livelihoods of people living in Mandera East Sub-County. The choice of Mandera East Sub-County was premised on the fact that the region is prone to the attacks and has experienced many attacks in the recent past, owing to its proximity to the porous border with Somalia (Kaggikah, 2017). The target population in the study comprised of 159,638 household heads in the sub county.

Based on the Yamane (1967) formula, 395 household heads formed the sample population for the study. The study used systematic sampling, which was used to pick the household heads of Mandera East Sub County by picking every 10th household until sample size was achieved. The primary data collection instruments for this study were through questionnaires and key informant interviews. The reliability of the study was tested using the Cronbach Alpha test and the validity test was ensured by consulting experts and supervisors of the study. The study realized an overall Cronbach Alpha coefficient of 0.83, which meant that the research instruments were reliable and could be used to collect data from the field. The collected data was sorted, cleaned and coded into SPSS 25 for subsequent descriptive statistics. Descriptive statistics were conducted through frequency counts and percentages to capture the distribution of responses on the key issues addressed in the study objectives. The analyzed data was presented using charts, figures and tables.

5. Findings

5.1 Demographic Information

The study targeted to collect data from 395 household heads. However, there were non-response incidents encountered during data collection and therefore 100% response was not achieved. The researcher managed to collect data from 350 respondents and after checking for completeness of the questionnaires, 319 questionnaires were found complete and suitable for analysis achieving 81% response rate. This response was excellent as per Kothari and Garg (2014) who recommended a response rate of 70% or more and therefore sufficient for analysis.

The respondents were required to indicate their gender. The intention of this was to be able to understand the gender dynamics, especially in the sub county and how they affect the people who live in the area. The study found that a majority of the respondents were male at 288 (90%) while a paltry 31 (10%) were female (Figure 1).

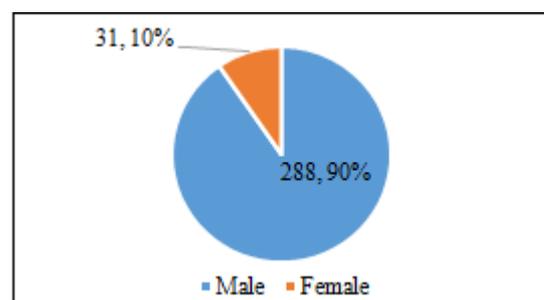


Figure 1: Gender of Respondents
Source: Research Data (2020).

The inference here was that when it comes to the household heads, the ratio of women to men was low. This could be attributed to several factors such as the lower number of women who head their households due to cultural practices. Since the household heads were being targeted, men are the ones who showed up owing to the highly patriarchal nature of the society. Therefore, this sample was deemed as

appropriate in understanding the gender dynamics of the area.

The study sought to find out the length of residency of the household head in Mandera East Sub County. This was done to determine whether the respondents were residents or not. The findings indicated that 258 (81%) of the household heads had lived in the area for more than 6 years, 44 (14%) had lived for 3-5 years, and 11 (3%) had lived for 2-3 years while 6 (2%) had lived for less than a year. The findings imply that the majority of the household heads had lived in Mandera East Sub County for more than 6 years, showing that they were residents of the area as shown in Figure 2.

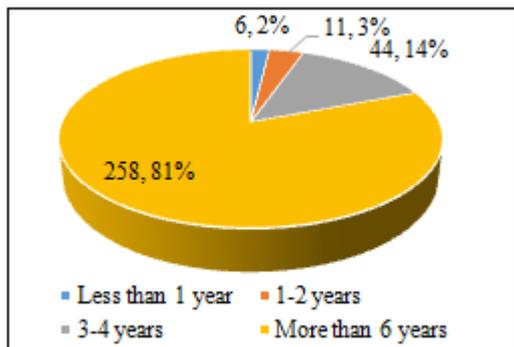


Figure 2: Length of Residence in the Study Area
Source: Research Data (2020).

The respondents' source of income was also captured in the study. Since the study was aimed at explaining the economic effects of IEDs, the status of the respondents was considered as a very important phenomenon to understand. The findings are presented in Figure 3. From the findings, it was apparent that all sectors were represented in the respondents' choice;

where 194(61%) stated that their major source of income was pastoralism, 72(22%) said their income was from business, 35 (11%) identified salaries as their main source of income while 18 (6%) got their income from farming. Therefore, as much as there is presence of salaried personnel in the area, the livelihoods of the people revolved around pastoralism and business.

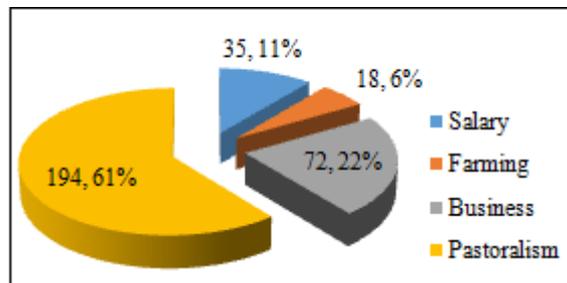


Figure 3: Main Source of Income of Residents
Source: Research Data (2020).

The respondents' highest education level was also captured in the study to indicate the capability of the respondents to answer questions posited to them. The findings on the highest level indicated that 149 (46.7%) of the respondents (household heads) had attained secondary education level, 79 (24.8%) had attained primary school education, 75 (23.4%) had no formal education, 12 (3.8%) had attained college education level while 4 (1.3%) had attained university education. The findings show that secondary level education is the most attained by household heads in Mandera East Sub County, as presented in Figure 4.

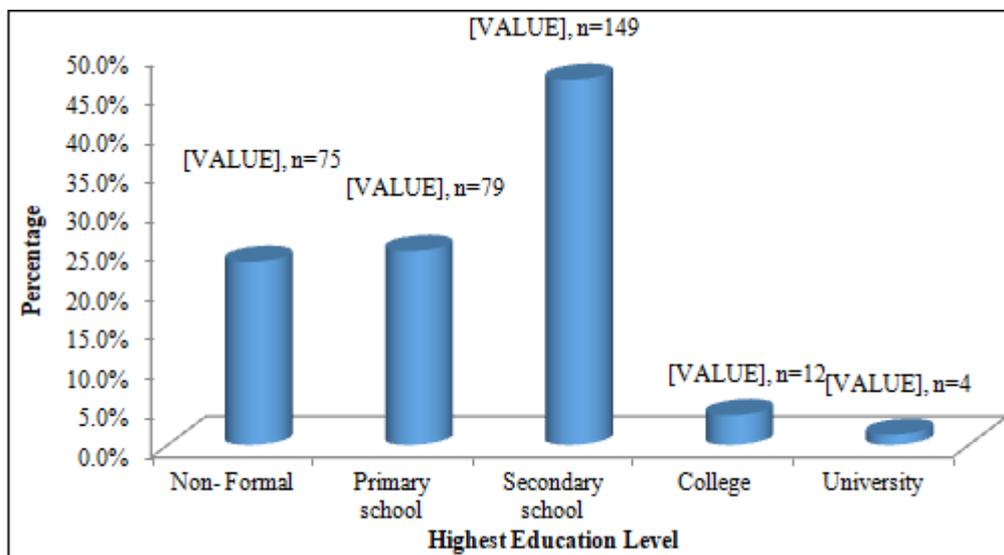


Figure 4: Respondents' Highest Education Level
Source: Research Data (2020).

The respondents' age was captured in the study to indicate the dominant age group for household heads. The findings on the age of the respondents indicated that 134 (42%) of the respondents were aged 36 - 45 years, 93 (29%) were aged 26-35 years, 50 (16%) were aged 18-25 years, and 39 (12%) were aged 46-55 years while 3 (1%) were aged more than 55 years. The findings show that most household heads are

aged between 36-45 years in Mandera East Sub County, as shown in Figure 5.

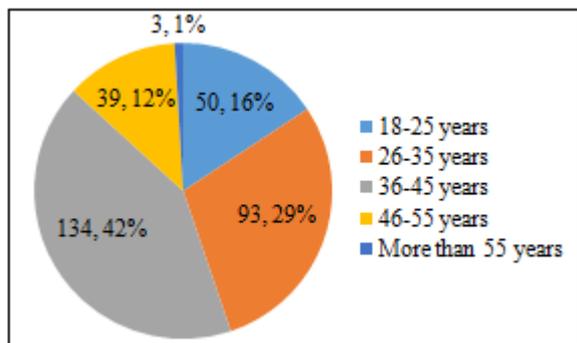


Figure 5: Respondents' Age
Source: Research Data (2020).

Marital status was sought in the study to indicate the marital status of the household heads. The findings on the marital status of the respondents indicated that 207 (65%) were married, 88 (28%) were divorced or widowed while 24 (7%) were single or never married. The findings clearly indicate that most household heads are married in Mandera East Sub County, as shown in Figure 6.

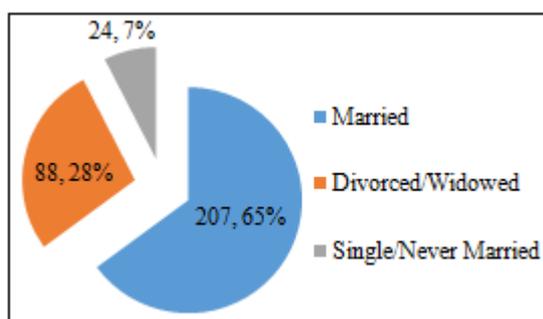


Figure 6: Respondents' Marital Status
Source: Research Data (2020).

4.2 Presentation of the Findings

The study sought to examine the economic effects of IED attacks on the livelihood of the people of Mandera East Sub-County. The study first sought to determine whether the respondents had experienced or responded to IED attacks. The study determined that a majority of the respondents, 303 (95%), indicated that they have ever been affected by the IED attacks while 16 (5%) were not affected by IED attacks. The findings indicate that most residents in Mandera East Sub County are affected by IED attacks, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Respondents Affected by IED Attacks

	Frequency	Percentage
Affected	303	95%
Not affected	16	5%
Total	319	100%

Source: Research Data (2020).

The study findings on whether the economic livelihoods of the people of Mandera East Sub County had been greatly affected by IED attacks, the study found that 166 (52%) strongly agreed that they had greatly ben affected by IED attacks, 82 (25.7%) agreed, 53 (16.6%) disagreed, 16 (5%) strongly disagreed while 2 (0.6%) were not sure. The findings imply that the residents were highly affected by IED attacks, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Effect of IED Attacks on Economic Livelihoods of Residents

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	16	5.0
Disagree	53	16.6
Not sure	2	.6
Agree	82	25.7
Strongly Agree	166	52.0
Total	319	100.0

Source: Research Data (2020)

On the ways in which the economic livelihood of the people of Mandera East Sub County been affected by IED attacks, the study found that 166 (52%) of the respondents identified trade to be the major economic activity affected by IED attacks, 85 (26.6%) identified pastoralism to be the major economic activity affected, 52 (16.3%) identified education while 16 (5%) identified mining. The findings imply that IED attacks affected the major economic activity of most residents, which was pastoralism, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Economic Activity Mostly Affected by IED Attacks

	Frequency	Percentage
Pastoralism	85	26.6
Trade	166	52.0
Education	52	16.3
Mining	16	5.0
Total	319	100.0

Source: Research Data (2020)

From the key informant interviews and open ended questions in the questionnaire, the respondents were asked to state whether they had ever experienced any IED attack and how the attack affected their economic lives. The experience was either directly or even indirectly because being an interwoven society, an act of violence affecting one person ends up affecting the entire society. The responses obtained in the study from key informants to support these claims, were as follows:

The economic effects of IED are both direct and indirect. Directly, people have opted to invest elsewhere because of the fear of investing in businesses where there is perpetual uncertainty of security. Others have closed their business entities because they fear being targeted by the Al Shabaab. Indirectly, many people who are working in sectors such as mining, construction and transport sector have opted out of the sub county (Source: Household head, Mandera East sub county).

Since the attacks begun, people no longer do business freely because of living in perpetual fear. Further, in some cases, people working in the area have migrated to other safer counties because of threats to their lives. The responses obtained in the study from key informants to support these claims, were as follows:

Education system has greatly been affected by frequent IED attacks in the area. Notably, several teachers camped at the Teachers Service Commission demanding to be transferred to safer places after several of their colleagues were targeted by these attacks. This led to the closure of schools, while other schools had pupils without teachers. The quality of

schools was therefore greatly affected in the area (Source: Sub County Ward Administrator).

Sectors mostly affected are education and health. Teachers went to their employer and demanded to be transferred from the area to other areas because the attacks targeted them in some cases. The health workers followed suit. This has led to the diminishing of education and health standards in the area. The responses obtained in the study from key informants to support these claims, were as follows:

Jobs have been lost both in the formal and informal sectors; government employees, who include teachers, doctors and nurses, have opted to get transfers to other areas because of the fear and fact that the Al Shabaab tends to target government installations in an attempt to paralyse the services offered. Therefore, evidence is too much to detail that IED attacks have taken a toll on the economic livelihoods of the people of Mandera East Sub County (Source: Household head, Mandera East sub county).

Terrorists have an aim of creating an atmosphere of perpetual fear and paranoia among the people and as long as people's lives have been disrupted, they create a climate where people fear for their lives. The responses obtained in the study from key informants to support these claims, were as follows;

Since the attacks begun to be witnessed in the sub county, our lives have been systematically retarded because the economic activities have been either suspended or abandoned all together because of fear of the attacks. This greatly affects our daily lives (Source: OCS).

6. Discussion

This research has demonstrated that there have been numerous IED attacks in Mandera East Sub County which had affected the economic livelihood of people (95%). The attacks had largely affected the economic lives of the residents especially pastoralism (26.6%), education (16.3%) and trade (52%). These findings are in tandem with those of Cannon and Ali (2018), who demonstrated that the economic lives of the people in Mandera County revolve around pastoralism, mining, health and trade; as such, together with education, have been affected greatly because of the IED attacks. In addition, Kejitan (2018) cites an incident which took place in 2018 where miners were killed by Al Shabaab operatives in their minefields. This attack created a lot of fear in people. As a result, mining had to be temporarily halted because of fear of subsequent attacks and this led to unemployment and diminished capacity to take care of their livelihoods. The responses obtained in the study from key informants to support these claims indicated that the economic effects of IED are both direct and indirect. Directly, people have opted to invest elsewhere because of the fear of investing in businesses where there is perpetual uncertainty of security. Others have closed their business entities because they fear being targeted by the Al Shabaab. Indirectly, many people who are working in sectors such as

mining, construction and transport sector have opted out of the sub county.

The study also determined that the residents in Mandera East Sub County (95%) had been greatly affected by IED attacks. In line with these findings, Keefer and Loayza (2008) also found that incidents of IEDs have economic consequences by first limiting trade which in most cases diverts foreign direct investments, destroy infrastructure and redirects public investments funds to security. In the USA for instance, the 9/11 attack had both immediate and long term economic effect, some of which are prolonged to date. The responses obtained in the study from key informants to support these claims that since the attacks begun, people no longer do business freely because of living in perpetual fear. Further, in some cases, people working in the area have migrated to other safer counties because of threats to their lives.

The findings from key informants show that workers in Mandera East Sub County were forced to flee the area, leaving health care centres, schools and other community facilities without the much needed workforce. These findings are supported by those of Odula (2018) who argued that IED targets were directed to non-local teachers, who happen to be the majority in Mandera County, which led them to opt for transfers to other regions because of fear for their live. The resultant effect is stagnation in the education sector. The responses obtained in the study from key informants also indicate that the education system has greatly been affected by frequent IED attacks in the area. Notably, several teachers camped at the Teachers Service Commission demanding to be transferred to safer places after several of their colleagues were targeted by these attacks. This led to the closure of schools, while other schools had pupils without teachers. The quality of schools was therefore greatly affected in the area.

Additionally, the health sector has been affected and the construction industry completely paralyzed, in that, many health centres that were manned by non-locals had to be abandoned because of uncertainty. Mutambo (2019) agrees that the kidnapping of two Cuban doctors in the county of Mandera raised fresh questions on the approach of the KDF in the pursuit of Somali militant group, Al Shabaab. Suspected Shabaab militants abducted the two Cuban medical expatriates working in Kenya under a special arrangement between Havana and Nairobi. The non-local doctors and healthcare workers were forced to vacate the county due to the incident, which paralyzed the economic activities in the area. The responses obtained in the study from key informants showed that sectors mostly affected are education and health. Teachers went to their employer and demanded to be transferred from the area to other areas because the attacks targeted them in some cases. The health workers followed suit. This has led to the diminishing of education and health standards in the area.

The findings in the study showed that the aim of IED attacks were to create fear among the residents, which disrupted their daily economic activities. Since the aim of terrorists is usually to create fear, such fear is manifested in the disruption of the livelihoods and diminished development.

Momanyi (2015) agrees that terrorists have an aim of creating an atmosphere of perpetual fear and paranoia among the people's livelihoods. For the terrorists, as long as people's lives have been disrupted, they create a climate where people fear for their lives. The responses obtained in the study from key informants showed that jobs have been lost both in the formal and informal sectors; government employees, who include teachers, doctors and nurses, have opted to get transfers to other areas because of the fear and fact that the Al Shabaab tends to target government installations in an attempt to paralyse the services offered. The lives of the people of Mandera East Sub-County had been negatively and adversely affected to the detriment of the economic lives in terms of meeting their daily needs. In agreement with these findings, Akwiri (2018) posits that whenever there is an attack, civilians are affected in one way or another. Innocent lives are lost unnecessarily or people lose family members in the fight. Thus, whenever there is an attack, the people lament. The result touches on the nerve centre of people's lives. The responses obtained in the study from key informants indicated that since the attacks began to be witnessed in the sub county, lives have been systematically retarded because the economic activities have been either suspended or abandoned all together because of fear of the attacks.

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

The study concluded that economic effect was to a great extent, and most economic activities had been affected that include trade, mining, pastoralism, education, transport and businesses.

It has been demonstrated by the findings that IED attacks affect the residents of Mandera East Sub-County economically. Based on these findings, it was established that for these attacks to be completely dealt with, the strategy needs to be holistic. First, the issue of economic empowerment of the people living in the area need to be fully addressed through, constructing learning institutions, improving access roads, opening up business opportunities and encouraging both external and internal investment. Once people are economically empowered, the chances of the youths being used by the Al Shabaab will be significantly lowered. In addition, once people are empowered, they will take deliberate measures on their own to ensure that their economic gains are safeguarded. As such, they will volunteer information to the government's security agencies and in the process, thwart the threat of IEDs.

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