

**CONTRIBUTION OF KENYA'S PEACEKEEPING OPERATION IN SOMALIA  
IN ADVANCING KENYA'S NATIONAL INTEREST**

**KERRY MUHATI MAYABI**

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**DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATION**

I declare that this research Thesis is my original work and has not been presented in any other university.

Signature: .....

Date: .....

**Kerry Muhati. Mayabi**

**MIR-3-2593-2/2023**

**Recommendation**

This research Thesis has been submitted for examination with our approval as the University Supervisors.

Signature: .....

Date: .....

**Fredrick Ochieng' Agolla**

**Kenya Methodist University**

Signature: .....

Date: .....

**Dr. Joshua O. Miluwi**

**Kenya Methodist University**

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to my family for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout this journey. May God bless you all abundantly.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I thank the Almighty God for giving me the health, strength, and resources to complete this research. I extend my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Joshua O. Miluwi, for his continuous guidance, support, and encouragement throughout the research process. I also deeply appreciate Mr. Fredrick Ochieng' Agolla for his invaluable assistance and insightful advice, which were essential to the successful completion of this work. May God bless you both.

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## ABSTRACT

Kenya's peacekeeping operations in Somalia aim to strengthen national security, promote regional stability, and enhance geopolitical influence, yet face challenges such as security threats, economic pressures, humanitarian concerns, and fluctuating public support. This study examined the influence of Kenya's peacekeeping mission on achieving national interests, focusing on military engagement, diplomatic alliances, capacity building of Somalia's security forces, and refugee management. Guided by Realism, Liberal Institutionalism, Constructivism, and Rational Choice Theory, the research employed a mixed-methods design, collecting data from 171 purposively sampled stakeholders, including defense officials, AMISOM personnel, diplomats, counterterrorism experts, and affected civilians. Data were gathered through structured questionnaires and semi-structured interviews, with validity ensured via expert review and reliability confirmed using Cronbach's alpha. Quantitative analysis employed descriptive and regression statistics in SPSS, while qualitative data underwent thematic analysis. Findings reveal that Kenya's peacekeeping operations significantly advance national interests, with capacity building having the strongest impact, followed by military engagement, diplomatic alliances, and refugee management, all statistically significant. The study concludes that Kenya's military presence enhances security, diplomatic alliances strengthen regional leadership, and capacity building in Somalia promotes stability. Effective refugee management is critical for minimizing cross-border threats. Recommendations include sustaining military operations, investing in Somali security capacity, enhancing border control, strengthening diplomatic partnerships, and promoting public awareness for transparency and stakeholder engagement.

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

<b>AMISOM</b>	African Union Mission in Somalia
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>BARMM</b>	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
<b>CAB</b>	Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro
<b>KDF</b>	Kenya Defence Forces
<b>LTTE</b>	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
<b>MFA</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>MILF</b>	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNMISS</b>	United Nations Mission in South Sudan

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Peacekeeping operations play a crucial role in assisting countries to achieve their national interests, especially in regions affected by conflict or instability. These operations, often led by international organizations such as the United Nations, aim to maintain peace, protect civilians, and support the rebuilding of post-conflict societies (Kenya, 2022). According to Albrecht and Cold-Ravnkilde (2020) the primary benefits of peacekeeping operations is the provision of security. In many instances, peacekeepers help prevent further violence, allowing governments to concentrate on stabilizing their political environments and rebuilding their economies (Williams, 2020). For example, in South Sudan, peacekeepers have been instrumental in protecting civilians during ongoing conflict, thereby enabling the government to begin the recovery and development process (Adar & Kaburu, 2020).

According to Aroussi (2021) peacekeeping operations also contribute to the protection of human rights and the provision of humanitarian aid. Countries emerging from conflict often face significant challenges in safeguarding their citizens. In Sri Lanka, for example, following the end of the civil war, peacekeeping support was vital in assisting the government with rebuilding infrastructure, resettling displaced populations, and promoting national unity (Agwanda, 2022).

Furthermore, peacekeeping operations offer nations opportunities to strengthen their international relationships. Through participating in peacekeeping missions, countries can

enhance their global reputation and foster diplomatic ties (Adar & Kaburu, 2020). Egypt's involvement in peacekeeping missions, particularly in Sudan, played a key role in maintaining regional stability and cultivating stronger relationships with international partners (Bokeriya, 2022).

### **Global Perspective**

Sri Lanka's civil war, which lasted from 1983 to 2009, was one of the longest and most destructive conflicts in South Asia. Although Sri Lanka did not have traditional peacekeeping operations during the conflict, it received international support after the war ended in 2009. This support aimed to assist in the country's rebuilding efforts and to address the challenges of post-war reconciliation (Ranaweera, 2022).

Post-conflict, Sri Lanka's primary national interest was to rebuild the country, promote national unity, and improve its global standing. After the civil war, the government focused on restoring economic stability, particularly in the northern and eastern provinces that had been most affected by the conflict. International organizations, such as the United Nations, alongside countries like India, provided humanitarian aid and financial support to help rebuild infrastructure (Halkes, 2021).

A notable example of the reconstruction efforts was in the Northern Province, where, with international assistance, the government-built schools, hospitals, and roads. In addition, efforts were made to resettle displaced people and demobilize former fighters from the Tamil Tigers (LTTE). These efforts were essential for stabilizing the country and achieving national interests related to peace and recovery (Luna & Whetstone, 2022).

However, Sri Lanka's national interests were challenged by allegations of human rights violations during the final stages of the war, which led to tensions with the international community. Despite this, peacebuilding efforts played a key role in the country's economic recovery and its goal of re-engaging with the international community (Fernando, 2022).

The Philippines, on the other hand, has faced long-standing conflict, particularly in the southern region of Mindanao, where insurgent groups like the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) sought autonomy. According to Tolibas (2022) over time, the Philippine government has pursued peace agreements, supported by international entities, to address the root causes of this conflict. In 2014, the Philippine government signed the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB), a peace deal with the MILF, which aimed to establish the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Peacekeeping efforts from international organizations, such as the United Nations and ASEAN, helped monitor the ceasefire and supported the implementation of the peace agreement (Vershina et al., 2023).

The Philippines' national interest was to end the insurgency, bring stability to Mindanao, and attract investment to the region. Peacekeeping efforts helped create a secure environment that was necessary for economic development (Julian, 2020). The establishment of BARMM provided greater political autonomy to the Muslim-majority areas, reducing the likelihood of further insurgent activity and enabling targeted economic development. International peacekeeping missions supported the peaceful transition of power and the integration of former rebels into society (Hirono, 2021).

These peace efforts were vital for the Philippines' broader goal of national unity and economic growth, particularly in a region that had been plagued by violence for decades.

The success of peacekeeping in Mindanao also helped enhance the Philippines' reputation as a contributor to regional stability (Hirono, 2021).

### **Regional Perspective**

South Sudan, which gained independence in 2011, has faced significant challenges in achieving political stability due to internal conflicts and ethnic tensions. The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) has been active in the country since its independence, providing peacekeeping support to protect civilians, monitor ceasefires, and facilitate humanitarian aid (Opiyo et al., 2024).

South Sudan's main national interest has been achieving lasting peace and stability, which are essential for the country's development and recovery after years of civil war. According to Russo (2022) the country's key objectives has been to secure its oil resources, which are vital to its economy. The presence of peacekeepers has helped protect oil production facilities in conflict zones, ensuring a steady flow of income during times of unrest (Eyanae, 2022).

A significant example of peacekeeping efforts was during the 2013-2014 civil war when violence erupted between government forces and rebel groups. UNMISS played a crucial role in establishing safe zones for displaced persons and offering protection to thousands of civilians (Katumba, 2020). These efforts were essential to the stability of the country and aligned with South Sudan's national interests of maintaining peace and securing its future. Despite these efforts, South Sudan continues to face challenges, including ethnic violence and slow political reconciliation. Peacekeeping remains essential for achieving long-term stability and national cohesion (Katumba, 2020).

Egypt has also played an important role in regional peacekeeping, motivated by its national interests in maintaining peace and stability in the Middle East and North Africa. Egypt's involvement in peacekeeping operations, both within its borders and abroad, has been driven by its concerns for regional security, economic stability, and geopolitical influence (Hellquist, 2021).

For example, Egypt participated in peacekeeping missions in Sudan, particularly during the Darfur crisis. Egypt's primary national interest in this situation was to prevent the spread of conflict to its borders and maintain regional stability. Through supporting peacekeeping operations in Sudan, Egypt aimed to safeguard its security, protect trade routes, and sustain good relations with neighboring countries (Feierstein, 2020).

Furthermore, Egypt's engagement in peacekeeping efforts helped enhance its geopolitical standing and strengthen relationships with international partners such as the United States and the European Union. Egypt's role as a peacekeeper allowed it to position itself as a key player in the Middle East and in the African Union's peace efforts (Rabinovich, 2021).

### **Local Perspective**

Kenya's military intervention in Somalia has been a defining aspect of its national security strategy since 2011. The intervention began with Operation Linda Nchi, a military campaign launched by the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) to counter Al-Shabaab, a militant group responsible for cross-border attacks, kidnappings, and acts of terror within Kenya (Mbugua, 2020). The 2011 abduction of foreign tourists and aid workers along Kenya's coast, as well as the growing threat posed by Al-Shabaab's infiltration into Kenyan territory, necessitated direct military action (Williams, 2020). This intervention marked a

significant shift in Kenya's security posture, moving from defensive border security measures to proactive military engagement beyond its borders.

In 2012, Kenya formally integrated its forces into the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), aligning its military operations with a broader multinational effort aimed at stabilizing Somalia and neutralizing Al-Shabaab's strongholds (Kenyanya, 2022). This transition positioned Kenya not merely as an independent actor but as a key contributor to regional security under the African Union's mandate. While initially framed as a counterterrorism operation, Kenya's continued military presence in Somalia has since evolved into a complex engagement with both security and geopolitical implications.

Kenya's intervention in Somalia is driven by multiple national interests, including security, economic stability, and diplomatic influence. Somalia's instability directly threatens Kenya's internal security, as evidenced by Al-Shabaab's retaliatory attacks, including the 2013 Westgate Mall attack, the 2015 Garissa University massacre, and the 2019 DusitD2 hotel attack in Nairobi (Ibrahim, 2021). Moreover, Kenya's economic interests are at stake, as Somalia's proximity to vital maritime trade routes makes regional stability crucial for the safety of the port of Mombasa, a major economic hub for Kenya and the broader East African region (Mohamed, 2022). Ensuring stability in Somalia also strengthens Kenya's position within regional organizations such as the African Union (AU), the United Nations (UN), and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), reinforcing its role as a key player in East African diplomacy (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2014).

Despite these strategic interests, Kenya's military engagement in Somalia has faced significant challenges. Al-Shabaab has remained resilient, adapting its tactics and continuing to pose a security threat within both Somalia and Kenya. Kenya's diplomatic

relationship with Somalia has also been strained by disputes, particularly the maritime boundary conflict over offshore oil and gas reserves, complicating efforts to foster regional cooperation (Mwangi, 2021). Additionally, logistical constraints, resource limitations, and questions regarding the long-term sustainability of Kenya's military presence in Somalia have raised concerns about the effectiveness of the intervention (International Crisis Group, 2019).

## **1.2 Statement of the Study**

Kenya's involvement in peacekeeping operations in Somalia presents a complex dilemma for achieving its national interests. Despite Kenya's significant investment in military operations aimed at securing its borders and countering terrorism, the persistence of Al-Shabaab remains a formidable challenge. The group continues to carry out attacks on Kenyan soil, undermining the country's efforts to stabilize the region and secure its economic interests. The continued threat of terrorism raises concerns over the effectiveness of Kenya's intervention in Somalia, especially as the nation has experienced a series of deadly attacks attributed to Al-Shabaab since the commencement of the peacekeeping mission (Agwanda, 2022).

The financial burden associated with Kenya's peacekeeping operations is another pressing issue. As the conflict in Somalia persists, Kenya faces the challenge of balancing its military expenditures with domestic priorities such as health, education, and infrastructure development. The heavy investment in the peacekeeping mission has resulted in concerns about the diversion of resources from vital public services, which are crucial for Kenya's socio-economic growth (Ministry of Defence, 2017). Furthermore, inadequate support

from international donors has exacerbated this financial strain, raising questions about the sustainability of Kenya's involvement in Somalia.

Diplomatic challenges also remain central to Kenya's peacekeeping efforts. Tensions with Somalia, particularly over maritime boundary disputes and accusations of interference in Somalia's internal political matters, have complicated bilateral relations. These strained relations weaken the legitimacy of Kenya's peacekeeping mission and challenge its foreign policy objectives (International Crisis Group, 2021). Moreover, the lack of clear progress in the stabilization of Somalia raises concerns about the long-term effectiveness of Kenya's operations, particularly in ensuring national security and regional prosperity.

Lastly, Kenya faces the internal challenge of managing the humanitarian consequences of its peacekeeping involvement. Increased refugee flows from Somalia, particularly to areas like Dadaab, strain local resources and contribute to socio-economic pressures in Kenya's border regions. These challenges undermine Kenya's ability to achieve a balanced development agenda while simultaneously managing the security and humanitarian implications of its involvement in Somalia (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], 2021). In light of these complex issues, this study aimed to critically assess the impact of Kenya's peacekeeping operations in Somalia.

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

#### **1.3.1 General Objective**

The general objective of the study was to determine the contribution of Kenya's peacekeeping operation in Somalia in advancing Kenya's National Interest.

### **1.3.2 Specific Objective**

- i. To investigate the influence of military engagement in Somalia on the achievement of Kenya's national interests.
- ii. To examine the impact of Kenya's peacekeeping-driven diplomatic alliances in Somalia on the enhancement of Kenya's national interests.
- iii. To assess the effect of Kenya's peacekeeping-supported capacity building of Somalia's security forces on regional stability and the advancement of Kenya's national interests.
- iv. To evaluate how Kenya's peacekeeping-related refugee management strategies influence border security and the protection of Kenya's national interests.

### **1.4 Research Hypothesis**

**H<sub>01</sub>:** Military engagement in Somalia has no statistically significant influence on the achievement of Kenya's national interests.

**H<sub>02</sub>:** Diplomatic alliances formed through peacekeeping operations have no statistically significant influence on the achievement of Kenya's national interests.

**H<sub>03</sub>:** Capacity building of Somalia's security forces has no statistically significant influence on the achievement of Kenya's national interests.

**H<sub>04</sub>:** Refugee management strategies have no statistically significant influence on the achievement of Kenya's national interests.

## **1.5 Significance of the Study**

### **1.5.1 Government Officials and Policymakers**

This study offers clear, evidence-based insights into how Kenya's military and diplomatic activities in Somalia contribute to its national security. By evaluating the successes, limitations, and risks of these operations, it helps policymakers make more informed decisions on future peacekeeping missions and national defense strategies.

### **1.5.2 Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) and Security Planners**

The findings will assist the Kenya Defence Forces in reviewing their peacekeeping operations, identifying both strengths and areas needing improvement. This helps in better planning, resource use, and coordination of military activities, ultimately enhancing Kenya's preparedness for regional and international security roles.

### **1.5.3 Diplomats and Foreign Policy Experts**

Kenya's role in Somalia has shaped its relationships with regional bodies such as the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), as well as with international partners like the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), and the United States. This study explains how peacekeeping has influenced diplomatic ties and regional cooperation, supporting the development of a more effective foreign policy.

### **1.5.4 Economists and Business Stakeholders**

Security in Somalia directly affects Kenya's economic interests, especially in trade and cross-border business. This study helps economic planners and business leaders understand

how stability in Somalia supports investment, market access, and economic growth in Kenya. It highlights how insecurity or displaced populations may affect regional trade routes and border economies.

#### **1.5.5 Scholars and Academic Researchers**

The study contributes to academic work on peacekeeping, national security, and regional stability. It provides a case study of Kenya's involvement in Somalia, offering useful comparisons for researchers examining the role of military and diplomatic efforts in achieving national goals. It also lays the groundwork for further research on how peace operations influence internal and regional security dynamics.

#### **1.6 Scope of the Study**

This study focused on examining the contribution of Kenya's peacekeeping operations in Somalia toward advancing Kenya's national interests. The analysis centered on four dimensions of peacekeeping involvement: (a) military engagement, (b) diplomatic alliances fostered through peacekeeping, (c) Kenya's role in building the capacity of Somalia's security forces, and (d) refugee and border management. These variables were investigated in relation to how they advance or challenge Kenya's national security, political, and economic interests.

The geographical scope was limited to Kenya and Somalia, with particular emphasis on southern Somalia, where the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and its successor the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), have been most active. Regional dynamics, including cross-border

movements, refugee flows, and partnerships with neighboring states, were also considered given their direct impact on Kenya's security environment.

The temporal scope covered peacekeeping operations from Kenya's military intervention in Somalia in 2011 (Operation Linda Nchi) through the AMISOM/ATMIS period, up to May 2025, to capture both historical trends and current realities. Methodologically, the study applied a mixed-methods design combining qualitative and quantitative data. Primary data were gathered from interviews with Kenyan military officers, policymakers, diplomats, and regional security experts. Secondary data included government policy papers, scholarly works, international organization reports, and credible media sources.

### **1.7 Limitation of the Study**

Several limitations affected the depth and breadth of this study. First, access to classified military and intelligence reports was restricted due to the sensitive nature of national security operations. To address this, the study relied on open-source materials, expert interviews, and credible academic analyses. Second, there was a potential risk of bias in official reports and media sources. To minimise this, the researcher incorporated perspectives from independent experts and international organizations to ensure a more balanced and objective view. Third, language differences and political sensitivities presented challenges during data collection, particularly in Somalia. This was mitigated by engaging trained research assistants fluent in Somali and Kiswahili, who supported the researcher in conducting interviews, translating key documents, and accurately interpreting respondents' views. The use of research assistants not only overcame the language barrier but also helped in navigating local cultural nuances. In addition, the study utilised

professionally translated materials and consulted local subject-matter experts to further ensure cultural and contextual accuracy.

### **1.8 Delimitation of the Study**

This study was delimited to the assessment of Kenya's peacekeeping operations in Somalia from 2011 to 2025. It focused only on four specific dimensions—military engagement, diplomatic alliances, capacity building of Somalia's security forces, and refugee management—as the independent variables contributing to Kenya's national interests. Other related aspects, such as Kenya's domestic counterterrorism policies, economic reforms, and broader African Union security interventions, were excluded to maintain the study's focus.

Geographically, the research was restricted to Kenya and Somalia, particularly the southern regions of Somalia where Kenyan forces have been most active. It did not extend to other regional conflicts or Kenyan peacekeeping roles in countries beyond Somalia. Methodologically, while both qualitative and quantitative data were used, the study was limited to available secondary data and expert interviews, and thus may not fully capture confidential or classified dimensions of Kenya's strategic engagement.

### **1.7 Definition of Terms**

**Military Engagement:** The direct deployment of a nation's armed forces in foreign operations combat or support to pursue strategic, political, or security goals that align with national interests and regional stability (Gicovi, 2023).

**Diplomatic Alliances:** Structured partnerships between states, often through peacekeeping operations, established to foster mutual political, economic, or security gains and

strengthen influence within international frameworks (Peace and Security Council of the African Union, 2022).

**Capacity Building:** Techniques aimed at empowering individuals, organizations, and communities to develop sustainable competencies, resources, and institutional mechanisms to achieve objectives effectively and strengthen governance or security systems (Sustainability, 2024).

**Refugee Management:** Organized processes for receiving, protecting, assisting, integrating, or facilitating safe return of displaced populations across borders, ensuring humanitarian protection while mitigating risks to host states' security (inferred from Kenya's defence policy context).

**National Interests:** Strategic priorities guiding a state's policies such as sovereignty, security, economic well-being, and regional influence shaped by existential threats and goals, as observed in Kenya's peace enforcement under AMISOM (Gicovi, 2023).

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter delves into a comprehensive review of scholarly theories and empirical studies relevant to Kenya's peacekeeping operations in Somalia and their impact on the realization of Kenya's national interests. The section provides a theoretical framework and synthesizes prior research to establish a strong foundation for the study. The discussion focuses on understanding how Kenya's involvement in peacekeeping contributes to its strategic objectives, including security, economic, and political interests.

#### **2.2 Theoretical Review**

The study is anchored on Realism in International Relations, with three complementary theories Liberal Institutionalism, Institutional Theory, and Human Security Theory applied to specific objectives. This multi-theoretical approach ensures that Kenya's peacekeeping engagement in Somalia is analyzed from security, diplomatic, institutional, and humanitarian dimensions.

##### **2.2.1 Realism in International Relations**

Realism remains one of the most influential theoretical frameworks in international relations, emphasizing the primacy of the state, the anarchic structure of the international system, and the pursuit of power as a means of securing national interest. Morgenthau's (1948) *Politics Among Nations* established classical realism, stressing that states are inherently driven by a struggle for power rooted in human nature. He argued that national

interest, defined in terms of power, is the guiding principle of foreign policy. Realism maintains that moral aspirations cannot override the pursuit of survival in a competitive system (Morgenthau, 1948).

Building on this, Waltz (1979) advanced neorealism, which shifts the focus from human nature to the structure of the international system. In *Theory of International Politics*, Waltz explained that the anarchic system compels states to act in self-help, where security dilemmas push states to balance against threats. This structural view underscores that power is not merely about ambition but about survival within a system without overarching authority.

Applying realism to Kenya's peacekeeping operations in Somalia, the theory suggests that Kenya's military engagement under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is not purely altruistic. Instead, it is a rational strategy aimed at neutralizing threats posed by Al-Shabaab, ensuring border security, and asserting Kenya's influence in the Horn of Africa. By projecting military power beyond its borders, Kenya seeks to safeguard its sovereignty and regional position. Realism thus explains Objective (a), showing that Kenya's intervention is a calculated pursuit of national interest, aligning with the realist assumption that states prioritize survival and security over moral or cooperative ideals.

Nevertheless, realism has limitations. It often neglects the roles of international institutions, non-state actors, and normative considerations that shape foreign policy. Despite these critiques, realism provides a robust anchor theory for analyzing Kenya's military strategy in Somalia as a function of power politics and national interest.

### **2.2.2 Liberal Institutionalism**

Liberal Institutionalism offers a counterpoint to realism by emphasizing the role of international institutions and cooperation in mitigating conflict. Robert international and Joseph Nye were key proponents, particularly through their work *Power and Interdependence* which introduced the concept of “complex interdependence.” They argued that states, while rational actors, are constrained and guided by international institutions that reduce uncertainty, facilitate cooperation, and establish norms. Institutions are therefore critical in shaping state behavior in an anarchic system (Keohane & Nye, 1977).

Robert Keohane’s subsequent work, *After Hegemony* (1984), further argued that international cooperation is possible even without a single dominant power, because institutions create frameworks for reciprocity, transparency, and enforcement. Institutions help states overcome the “prisoner’s dilemma” by lowering transaction costs and promoting mutual gains (Keohane, 1984).

In the context of Kenya’s peacekeeping operations in Somalia, Liberal Institutionalism is highly relevant to Objective (b), which focuses on diplomatic alliances. Kenya’s involvement in AMISOM reflects not just military action but also a strategic embrace of multilateralism. Through the African Union, the United Nations, and bilateral partnerships, Kenya secures legitimacy, financial support, and intelligence-sharing. These institutional alliances enhance Kenya’s ability to pursue national interests, such as stability in the Horn of Africa, counter-terrorism collaboration, and improved diplomatic standing.

The strength of Liberal Institutionalism is that it broadens the analytical lens to include how cooperation and rules shape outcomes. It explains why Kenya seeks legitimacy and support through institutional frameworks rather than unilateralism. However, critics note

that institutions often reflect power asymmetries, with stronger states disproportionately influencing decision-making. Moreover, in fragile contexts like Somalia, institutions may lack enforcement capacity. Despite these challenges, Liberal Institutionalism highlights how Kenya's diplomatic strategies and alliances within peacekeeping frameworks amplify its national interests beyond mere military might.

### **2.2.3 Institutional Theory**

Institutional Theory provides insights into how organizations adopt structures, norms, and practices in response to external pressures for legitimacy. The foundational work by John W. Meyer and Brian Rowan, *Institutionalized Organizations: Formal Structure as Myth and Ceremony*, argued that formal structures are often adopted symbolically to demonstrate conformity with widely accepted norms, even when they may not be fully operationalized. This process, known as institutional isomorphism, allows organizations to gain legitimacy and secure resources, even if actual practices deviate from formal rules (Meyer & Rowan, 1977).

DiMaggio and Powell (1983) expanded this perspective in *The Iron Cage Revisited*, identifying three mechanisms of institutional isomorphism: coercive (pressures from authority), mimetic (imitation of successful models), and normative (pressures from professional standards). These processes explain why organizations across different contexts often resemble each other, as conformity provides legitimacy.

Applied to Kenya's peacekeeping mission in Somalia, Institutional Theory helps explain Objective (c), which addresses capacity building. Kenya, through AMISOM and bilateral programs, supports the training and structuring of Somali security institutions. This process

often involves transplanting models of security governance, accountability, and chain-of-command from established institutions. By encouraging Somalia to adopt internationally recognized practices, Kenya not only strengthens Somalia's ability to manage its security but also enhances its legitimacy as a functioning state. A more stable Somalia reduces spillover threats, thereby advancing Kenya's national interests.

The theory's strength lies in showing how legitimacy and external pressures shape institutional development. However, critics argue that institutional reforms in fragile states often remain symbolic, with limited capacity to enforce rules in practice. In Somalia, institutional adoption may be superficial if not supported by resources and political will. Nonetheless, Institutional Theory provides a valuable framework for understanding how Kenya's role in building Somali security institutions contributes indirectly to regional stability and its own security.

#### **2.2.4 Human Security Theory**

Human Security Theory broadens the concept of security from state-centric to people-centered approaches. Popularized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 1994) in its Human Development Report, human security was defined as "freedom from fear" and "freedom from want." The report identified seven dimensions of human security: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political security (UNDP, 1994). This marked a significant departure from traditional views that equated security with military defense of state borders.

Scholars such as Alkire (2003) emphasized that human security integrates both protection and empowerment: ensuring individuals are shielded from critical and pervasive threats

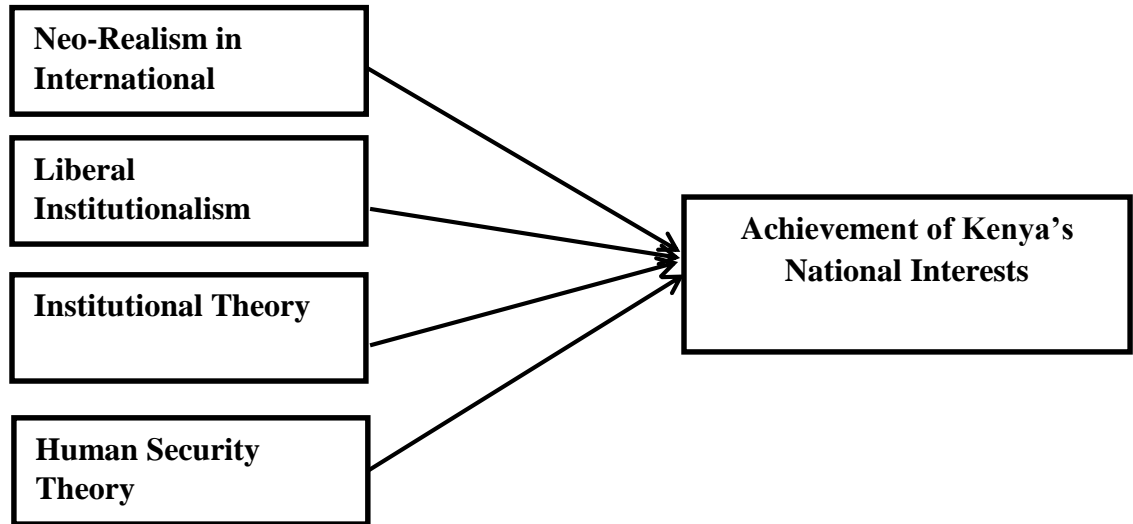
while also enhancing their capacity to act on their own behalf. This dual focus reflects the multidimensional and interdependent nature of security challenges in the contemporary world.

Applied to Kenya's peacekeeping mission in Somalia, Human Security Theory is highly relevant to Objective (d), which examines refugee management. Refugee flows from Somalia into Kenya present both humanitarian and security challenges. From a human security perspective, effective refugee management must address the vulnerabilities of displaced persons—such as access to basic needs, protection from violence, and integration—while balancing Kenya's need to secure its borders and prevent infiltration by militant groups. Human security underscores that protecting refugees is not only a moral obligation but also a strategic measure to prevent instability and radicalization.

The strength of this theory is that it reframes refugee issues beyond border control, situating them within a holistic framework of human dignity and development. However, critics argue that the concept of human security is overly broad and lacks clear operationalization, making it difficult to implement in policy. Nonetheless, Human Security Theory provides a comprehensive lens to analyze Kenya's refugee policies as part of its broader national interest strategy in the Somalia peacekeeping context.

**Figure 2. 1:**

*Theoretical Framework*



**Source: Author (2025)**

**Dependent Variable**

## **2.3 Empirical Review**

The literature review focuses on analyzing previous studies related to Kenya's peacekeeping operations in Somalia and their impact on achieving Kenya's national interests. This section critically examines the findings of earlier research, highlights the key outcomes, identifies areas where information is lacking, and addresses gaps that this study aims to fill.

### **2.3.1 Military Engagement**

Kenya's involvement in Somalia through military engagement and peacekeeping operations has been driven primarily by the pursuit of National Interests. Situated along a shared border with Somalia, Kenya has faced significant security challenges arising from

instability in its neighbor (Hosang, 2020). The collapse of the Somali state in 1991 and the subsequent rise of militant groups such as Al-Shabaab have posed direct threats to Kenya's security, compelling intervention. The most direct influence of Kenya's military engagement in Somalia is its role in combating terrorism (Ellis, 2022). Al-Shabaab, an Islamist militant group based in Somalia, has been a persistent threat to Kenya. The group has conducted numerous attacks, including the 2013 Westgate Mall attack, the 2015 Garissa University attack, and recurrent assaults in northern Kenya. These incidents have resulted in the loss of lives, destruction of property, and psychological trauma among Kenyans (Moreno et al., 2021).

Consequently, Kenya launched Operation Linda Nchi in October 2011, a military intervention aimed at neutralizing Al-Shabaab's operational bases in Somalia. Kenyan forces subsequently joined the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), a regional peacekeeping initiative mandated to support Somalia in its fight against militants (Ifesa, 2023). Through coordinated military operations, Kenyan forces have weakened Al-Shabaab's control over key territories, disrupting its capacity to plan and execute attacks. For instance, the recapture of the port city of Kismayo in 2012 by Kenyan forces significantly reduced Al-Shabaab's revenue streams from illegal charcoal exports, undermining its operational capacity (Ifesa, 2023).

Military engagement in Somalia has also been pivotal in safeguarding Kenya's territorial integrity. Al-Shabaab's activities along the porous Kenya-Somalia border have resulted in cross-border incursions, threatening communities in northern Kenya (Yigzaw & Mengisteab, 2024). These attacks have displaced populations, disrupted livelihoods, and strained local governance structures. Deploying military forces in Somalia has acted as a

preemptive strategy to neutralize threats before they escalate into Kenyan territory (Hussein, 2022).

Moreover, Kenya has established buffer zones along its border to deter militant infiltration. For example, Kenyan forces' presence in Jubaland, a semi-autonomous region in southern Somalia, has created a security corridor that mitigates the risk of cross-border attacks. This approach has been instrumental in stabilizing border regions, ensuring the safety of communities and securing vital infrastructure, such as the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor (Hussein, 2022).

Mukhammadsidiqov and Turaev (2020) conducted a study in the United States focusing on the impact of military interventions in conflict zones on national security. Using a descriptive research design, the study targeted defense policy analysts and military personnel as the population. A purposive sampling technique was employed to select 150 respondents. Data was collected through structured interviews and analyzed using thematic content analysis. The findings highlighted that military engagement in Somalia had strategic benefits in curbing global terrorism but noted significant challenges in resource allocation and mission coordination. The research gap identified was the lack of focus on how regional collaboration influenced the effectiveness of such interventions.

Mohamed and Abdi (2022) examined the role of African Union peacekeeping forces in promoting stability in Somalia and its implications for neighboring countries, including Kenya. The study adopted a mixed-methods research design, targeting government officials, military leaders, and civil society representatives in Mogadishu. Stratified random sampling was used to select 120 respondents. Quantitative data was analyzed using

SPSS, while qualitative data was analyzed thematically. The study found that the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) played a crucial role in stabilizing the country, indirectly enhancing Kenya's security. However, a research gap existed in understanding the cost-effectiveness of Kenya's direct military engagement.

Kyule (2018) conducted a study in Kenya to assess the influence of cross-border military operations on national security. The study employed a case study design, focusing on Kenya Defense Forces (KDF) personnel who had participated in operations in Somalia. The target population included 500 military personnel, from which a sample of 200 was drawn using simple random sampling. Data was collected through questionnaires and analyzed using descriptive statistics and regression analysis. The study concluded that KDF's operations significantly reduced threats from Al-Shabaab but highlighted a gap in post-conflict reconstruction strategies.

Hassan (2019) explored the impact of military cooperation between Kenya and other countries in addressing security threats emanating from Somalia. The research used a qualitative design, targeting policymakers and security experts from Kenya and the United Nations. Snowball sampling was used to select 50 participants, and data was analyzed using thematic analysis. The findings underscored the importance of intelligence sharing and joint operations. The study, however, did not sufficiently explore the role of non-military strategies in complementing military efforts.

Mohamed (2022) examined the role of international peacekeeping in combating terrorism in Somalia and its implications for regional stability. This study adopted an exploratory design, targeting international security agencies and regional organizations. A purposive

sampling technique was used to identify 100 respondents, and data was collected through interviews and document reviews. The findings indicated that international peacekeeping operations, while beneficial, faced challenges such as inadequate funding and lack of local engagement. A significant research gap was the limited analysis of Kenya's specific security interests.

Mwangi (2021) conducted a study in Nairobi to assess the economic and social implications of Kenya's involvement in Somalia's peacekeeping missions. A descriptive research design was used, with a target population comprising policymakers, business leaders, and community members. Cluster sampling was used to select 150 participants. Data was analyzed using SPSS for quantitative data and NVivo for qualitative data. The study revealed that while Kenya's National Interests were partially achieved, economic costs and social impacts were underexplored, leaving a gap in evaluating the broader consequences of military engagement.

Tadesse (2023) examined the influence of peacekeeping operations on local governance in Somalia and its spillover effects on Kenya's security. Using a case study approach, the research targeted Somali local leaders and Kenyan border communities. Stratified sampling was employed to select 80 respondents. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews and focus groups and analyzed thematically. The findings emphasized the role of local governance in complementing military efforts but noted gaps in addressing cross-border criminal activities that affected Kenya.

Odhiambo (2023) focused on the role of Kenya's regional leadership in addressing security challenges in Somalia. The research used a mixed-methods design, targeting security

experts, regional diplomats, and researchers. A total of 100 respondents were selected through convenience sampling. Quantitative data was analyzed using regression models, while qualitative data was analyzed through thematic coding. The study concluded that Kenya's military engagement enhanced its geopolitical influence but identified a gap in addressing domestic public perceptions of its involvement.

### **2.3.2 Diplomatic Alliances**

Kenya's active participation in peacekeeping operations under international frameworks like the United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) has been a strategic tool in promoting its National Interests. These alliances not only enable Kenya to foster peace and stability in conflict-prone regions but also strengthen its domestic security, enhance its international standing, and promote economic growth (Koga, 2022).

Kenya's geographical location in East Africa places it at the center of regional instability, with neighboring countries such as Somalia, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) experiencing prolonged conflicts (Byun et al. 2020). These conflicts often spill over into Kenya, bringing challenges such as cross-border terrorism, the influx of refugees, and illegal arms trafficking. Through peacekeeping alliances, Kenya has sought to mitigate these threats by contributing troops and resources to stabilize the region (Ifesa, 2023).

McGlynn and Đureinović (2023) notable example is Kenya's involvement in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), where it has collaborated with countries such as Uganda, Ethiopia, and Djibouti. AMISOM's mandate includes degrading the capabilities of the Al-Shabaab militant group, a direct threat to Kenya's security. Al-Shabaab has been

responsible for several attacks on Kenyan soil, including the 2013 Westgate Mall attack and the 2015 Garissa University attack (Djalal, 2021).

Manor and Golan, (2020) peacekeeping efforts have strengthened regional intelligence-sharing networks, enabling Kenya to preempt and neutralize threats. For instance, joint counterterrorism operations with AMISOM allies have disrupted several planned attacks within Kenya. This collaboration has enhanced Kenya's border security and reduced the infiltration of extremist elements (Soler, 2021).

Kenya's participation in peacekeeping missions has significantly elevated its global standing, positioning it as a key player in international peace and security. This elevated status has allowed Kenya to influence policies that align with its national interests (Echeverría et al., 2021). A case in point is Kenya's election to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as a non-permanent member for the 2021–2022 term. During its tenure, Kenya advocated for resolutions addressing terrorism, small arms proliferation, and conflict prevention in Africa (United Nations [UN], 2022).

Biden (2021) conducted a study in the United States on the role of strategic alliances in enhancing national security through peacekeeping missions. The study adopted a mixed-methods research design, targeting policymakers, military strategists, and international relations experts. The researchers used purposive sampling to select 200 respondents and collected data through surveys and semi-structured interviews. Quantitative data were analyzed using regression analysis, while qualitative data were analyzed thematically. The findings revealed that strategic alliances in peacekeeping enhanced intelligence sharing, which significantly mitigated security threats. However, a key research gap was the limited

analysis of how smaller regional actors, like Kenya, leveraged such alliances for their security interests.

Staeger (2023) examined the influence of African Union partnerships on the security of member states, focusing on Somalia and its neighboring countries. The study employed a descriptive research design and targeted government officials, security personnel, and academics in Ethiopia. A stratified random sampling method was used to select 150 respondents. Data were collected through questionnaires and analyzed using SPSS for statistical analysis. The study found that African Union-led peacekeeping operations enhanced regional stability and strengthened diplomatic ties. However, the research did not address the specific benefits or challenges faced by individual member states, including Kenya.

Mohamed (2024) conducted a study in Kenya on the role of diplomatic efforts within peacekeeping missions in advancing National Interests. The research used a case study design and focused on Kenya Defense Forces (KDF) personnel and Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials. The target population was 500 individuals, from which a sample of 200 was drawn using simple random sampling. Data collection involved structured interviews and document analysis, with data analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Staeger (2023) examined the impact of peacekeeping operations on fostering regional alliances in East Africa. This study targeted policymakers, regional security experts, and international peacekeeping representatives. The research employed a qualitative design with snowball sampling to identify 75 participants. Data were collected through in-depth interviews and analyzed thematically. The findings emphasized that Kenya's involvement

in Somalia strengthened its strategic alliances with countries like Ethiopia and Uganda, improving regional security coordination. However, the study did not explore the financial and political costs of these alliances on Kenya's domestic affairs.

Musau et al. (2023) conducted a study in the United Kingdom on the influence of peacekeeping coalitions on national security. The study used exploratory design and targeted military personnel, international relations experts, and policy advisors. A purposive sampling technique was applied to select 100 respondents, and data were collected through surveys and focus group discussions. Data analysis included content analysis for qualitative data and correlation analysis for quantitative data. The study revealed that peacekeeping coalitions enhanced collective security but noted that smaller nations often faced unequal power dynamics in such alliances, a gap relevant to Kenya's context.

Manyonge (2021) conducted a study in Nairobi on the role of Kenya's strategic alliances in peacekeeping missions in advancing its National Interests. The study employed a descriptive research design and targeted Kenyan diplomats, security officers, and regional organizations. Cluster sampling was used to select 120 respondents. Data collection involved questionnaires and interviews, analyzed using SPSS for statistical data and NVivo for thematic analysis. The study found that Kenya's alliances improved cross-border security but highlighted gaps in transparency and accountability within these partnerships.

Mohamed and Abdi (2022) explored the role of peacekeeping operations in fostering bilateral relations between Somalia and its neighboring countries. The study was conducted in Somalia and used a case study approach, targeting local leaders, Kenyan diplomats, and

peacekeepers. Stratified sampling was employed to select 100 participants. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews and analyzed thematically. The findings indicated that peacekeeping operations served as a platform for enhancing diplomatic ties between Somalia and Kenya. However, the research did not address the operational challenges faced by Kenyan peacekeepers in achieving their objectives.

Odhiambo (2023) examined the impact of regional strategic alliances formed through peacekeeping missions on Kenya's security. The study adopted a mixed-methods research design and targeted security experts, regional organizations, and government officials in Kenya. A total of 150 respondents were selected using convenience sampling. Data were collected using surveys and document analysis and analyzed using statistical tools such as regression models and thematic coding. The study concluded that Kenya's involvement in peacekeeping operations enhanced its geopolitical leverage but identified a gap in understanding the role of cultural and social dynamics in forming effective alliances.

### **2.3.3 Capacity Building of Somalia's Security Forces**

Ali and Mutundu (2022) examined the impact of international capacity-building programs on Somalia's security forces and their influence on regional stability. The study adopted a qualitative research design, targeting military officials, policy experts, and representatives from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Data were collected through interviews and policy document reviews and analyzed using thematic analysis. Findings indicated that improved training and logistical support led to increased counterterrorism efficiency, reducing Al-Shabaab threats. However, the study identified a research gap in assessing long-term sustainability after external funding withdrawal.

Muchemi (2021) analyzed how Somalia's security sector reforms influence Kenya's national security. The study employed a cross-sectional survey approach, sampling 150 respondents, including security analysts, Kenya Defense Forces (KDF) officials, and policymakers. Data collection involved structured questionnaires and government reports, analyzed using regression analysis. The findings revealed that a strengthened Somali security force minimized cross-border terrorist infiltration. However, the study noted a gap in evaluating cooperation between Kenyan and Somali security agencies.

Mohamed and Abdi (2022) investigated the role of Ethiopia's military training initiatives in Somalia and their effect on border security. The study utilized a mixed-methods research design, selecting 120 respondents, including Ethiopian defense personnel, Somali officers, and regional analysts. Data collection involved interviews and security reports, analyzed through thematic coding. The study found that Ethiopia's military support enhanced counterinsurgency operations, reducing cross-border threats. However, it highlighted a gap in assessing the impact of shifting political dynamics on bilateral security cooperation.

Hassan (2022) examined Uganda's contribution to Somalia's security reforms under AMISOM and its effects on East African regional security. The study adopted a longitudinal research design covering ten years, targeting military trainers, government officials, and security experts. A total of 135 respondents were selected using purposive sampling. Data were analyzed using time-series analysis. The study found that Uganda's military support significantly improved security in Mogadishu, but concerns remained regarding the Somali army's self-sufficiency. The research identified a gap in evaluating Uganda's long-term role in Somalia post-AMISOM withdrawal.

Cold-Ravnkilde and Nissen (2020) explored the role of international security assistance in strengthening Mali's armed forces and its impact on regional stability in West Africa. The study applied a case study research design, analyzing security interventions by the European Union Training Mission (EUTM) in Mali. Data collection involved interviews with security experts, government officials, and military personnel, analyzed using qualitative content analysis. Findings showed that international capacity-building improved Mali's counterterrorism capacity but lacked sustainability without continuous external support. The study noted a gap in assessing local ownership of security reforms.

Baudais and Maïga (2022) examined NATO's capacity-building programs for Ukraine's military and their impact on European security. The study used a comparative research design, analyzing security reforms in Ukraine and their effects on border stability with Russia. The study targeted 160 respondents, including NATO officials, Ukrainian defense personnel, and policy analysts. Data collection involved document reviews and structured interviews, analyzed using comparative policy analysis. The study found that military capacity-building strengthened Ukraine's defense posture but escalated tensions with Russia. However, the study identified a gap in assessing long-term diplomatic strategies for conflict resolution.

Gicovi (2023) explored Japan's role in training foreign military forces under international peacekeeping initiatives and its effects on regional security in Asia. The study employed a longitudinal design covering Japan's security assistance programs in the Philippines, targeting 120 respondents, including military trainers, defense analysts, and policymakers. Data collection involved government security reports and interviews, analyzed using time-

series analysis. The study concluded that Japan's security training reduced piracy threats in the South China Sea but lacked a long-term regional coordination framework.

Baudais and Maïga (2022) investigated Pakistan's military capacity-building initiatives in Afghanistan and their effects on border security. The study applied a mixed-methods approach, selecting 150 respondents, including military officers, border security officials, and intelligence experts. Data were collected through structured questionnaires and security reports, analyzed using regression analysis. The study found that enhanced Afghan security forces reduced cross-border terrorist infiltration, but challenges remained in intelligence sharing. The study noted a research gap in assessing joint counterterrorism operations between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Hassan and Omar (2023) assessed the effectiveness of capacity-building initiatives in Sudan's security sector and their role in regional stability. The study adopted a case study approach, targeting 140 respondents, including Sudanese military officials, international security advisors, and policymakers. Data collection involved semi-structured interviews and policy document analysis, analyzed through qualitative coding. Findings indicated that military training programs enhanced counter-insurgency efforts in Sudan's border regions. However, the study highlighted a gap in evaluating the coordination between Sudanese security forces and regional bodies like IGAD.

Mensah (2024) examined the role of Ghana's security capacity-building programs in West African regional peacekeeping efforts. The study employed a qualitative research design, selecting 130 respondents, including military trainers, peacekeeping officials, and regional analysts. Data collection involved document reviews and in-depth interviews, analyzed through thematic analysis. The study found that Ghana's military training programs

contributed to regional stability by strengthening peacekeeping missions. However, the study noted a gap in assessing the sustainability of Ghana's peacekeeping contributions without external funding.

Capacity building of Somalia's security forces significantly impacts regional stability and Kenya's national security. Strengthening Somalia's security institutions enhances its ability to combat terrorist threats, particularly from Al-Shabaab, which has been responsible for cross-border attacks in Kenya (Menkhaus, 2014). A well-trained Somali security apparatus reduces the operational capacity of terrorist groups, thereby decreasing their ability to destabilize the region.

Furthermore, capacity building fosters state authority and governance in Somalia, mitigating the proliferation of armed militias and illegal arms trade, which pose security threats to neighboring countries (Williams, 2020). A stable Somalia reduces the number of refugees fleeing into Kenya, easing pressure on Kenya's resources and reducing the risk of harboring extremists among displaced populations (Ibrahim, 2021).

Kenya, a key regional actor, has invested in Somalia's security through the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS). This investment ensures that Kenya's borders remain secure by preventing terrorist infiltration. Moreover, a secure Somalia fosters economic growth through increased cross-border trade and investments, benefiting both nations.

Hassan (2019) analyzed the impact of capacity-building programs on Somalia's security forces and their role in enhancing regional stability. The study employed a mixed-methods approach, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative data. The research targeted

security personnel, policymakers, and regional security analysts, using stratified sampling to select 150 respondents. Data collection involved structured interviews and policy document reviews, while regression analysis was applied to measure the correlation between security capacity building and regional stability. The findings indicated that strengthening Somalia's security sector significantly reduced cross-border threats and enhanced cooperation among East African nations. However, the study identified a gap in assessing the long-term sustainability of these initiatives.

Mohamed and Abdi (2022) investigated Kenya's role in training Somalia's security forces and its implications for national security. The research utilized a case study approach, focusing on Kenya's military training programs in Somalia. The study sampled 100 respondents, including military officers and security experts, through purposive sampling. Data collection entailed expert interviews and government reports, while thematic analysis was employed. The results demonstrated that Kenya's security interventions had a positive impact on counterterrorism efforts and border security. Nonetheless, the study highlighted challenges related to coordination between Kenyan forces and Somali security institutions.

Mohamed (2022) explored the effectiveness of foreign-funded security training in Somalia and its influence on regional security. The study adopted a longitudinal research design over seven years, assessing changes in Somalia's security landscape. The research targeted security trainers, government officials, and international donors, applying random sampling to select 200 respondents. Data were collected through surveys and security assessments, with statistical modeling used for analysis. The study concluded that foreign-backed training initiatives contributed to improved counterinsurgency efforts but pointed to a gap in local ownership and sustainability of these programs.

Ibrahim (2021) examined the relationship between Somalia's security sector reforms and Kenya's border security. The study utilized a descriptive research design, targeting border security personnel and local community leaders. A sample of 80 respondents was selected using stratified sampling, and data were obtained through focus group discussions and document analysis. Content analysis was used to interpret findings, which showed that security sector reforms in Somalia had a direct positive effect on mitigating cross-border crime. However, the study revealed inadequate intelligence-sharing mechanisms between the two nations.

Ali (2020) assessed the impact of counterterrorism capacity-building on regional peace efforts. The study employed a quantitative approach, using surveys and structured interviews with security professionals and diplomats. A total of 130 respondents were selected through convenience sampling. The analysis, conducted using correlation tests, demonstrated that enhanced counterterrorism training led to a decline in terror attacks across the region. Nonetheless, the study identified a research gap regarding the influence of political dynamics on security cooperation.

Gicovi (2023) studied the role of regional security cooperation in stabilizing Somalia and its implications for Kenya. The research adopted a cross-sectional study design, targeting security analysts and policy advisors. A sample of 110 respondents was selected through snowball sampling. Data were gathered using expert interviews and policy evaluations, with comparative analysis applied. The findings indicated that regional security collaborations, particularly through the African Union, played a vital role in countering insurgencies. However, the study highlighted the challenge of sustaining these efforts beyond external funding cycles.

Dua et al. (2020) analyzed the effectiveness of Kenya's involvement in Somalia's security training programs. The study employed a historical research design, examining security trends over a decade. The research targeted former and active military officers, using purposive sampling to select 90 respondents. Data were collected through archival reviews and key informant interviews, analyzed through historical trend analysis. The study concluded that Kenya's training programs had significantly improved Somalia's security forces' operational capacity, yet bureaucratic inefficiencies hampered progress.

Kjeksrud (2023) investigated the link between police training in Somalia and crime reduction along the Kenya-Somalia border. A quasi-experimental design was used, measuring crime trends before and after training interventions. The study sampled 140 respondents, including police officers and local authorities, using stratified random sampling. Data collection involved crime reports and direct observations, analyzed through time-series analysis. The results showed a correlation between enhanced police training and decreased border crime, yet a gap remained in understanding the community's perception of security forces.

Yusuf (2019) evaluated the role of intelligence-sharing between Somalia and Kenya in mitigating terrorist threats. The study adopted a qualitative approach, targeting intelligence officers and counterterrorism experts. A total of 100 respondents were selected through purposive sampling. Data were obtained through in-depth interviews and intelligence reports, analyzed using thematic coding. The findings revealed that improved intelligence-sharing mechanisms had thwarted numerous terror plots. However, the study noted gaps in legal frameworks governing information exchange.

Ahmed (2022) assessed the impact of donor-funded security reforms in Somalia on regional peace. The study applied a longitudinal research design, tracking security developments over six years. The research targeted government officials, security trainers, and civil society actors, selecting 160 respondents through stratified sampling. Data collection methods included policy document analysis and structured interviews, with regression modeling applied for analysis. The study concluded that donor-funded reforms contributed to stabilizing Somalia, but long-term dependence on external funding posed sustainability concerns.

### **2.3.4 Management and Control of Refugees(REFUGEES) Movements**

The management and control of Refugees(Refugees) movements significantly impact border security and Kenya's National Interests. According to Shimawua (2020), uncontrolled refugees movements pose security challenges, as porous borders facilitate the infiltration of extremist groups such as Al-Shabaab, leading to increased risks of cross-border terrorism. The Kenyan government has implemented biometric registration and border surveillance to mitigate these threats (Nnadi et al. 2020). However, weak enforcement mechanisms and corruption among border officials remain key challenges (Mutua, 2019).

Furthermore, large-scale displacement from Somalia and South Sudan has strained Kenya's security and public resources. Studies by Regasa and Lietaert (2022) highlight that overcrowded refugee camps, such as Dadaab and Kakuma, serve as recruitment grounds for criminal networks and insurgents, escalating insecurity within Kenya's borders. Additionally, IDP movements influence Kenya's diplomatic relations with neighboring countries. Research by Dua et al. (2020) emphasizes that Kenya's strict border policies have led to tensions with Somalia, affecting cross-border trade and cooperation.

In response, Kenya has partnered with international organizations such as the UNHCR to enhance refugee management through structured repatriation programs (Kimani, 2021). Nevertheless, balancing humanitarian obligations with national security remains a persistent challenge (Ahmed, 2022).

Williams (2020) analyzed the impact of refugee movements on border security in northern Nigeria, specifically in states affected by Boko Haram insurgency. The study used a

longitudinal research design spanning five years, targeting security officials, community leaders, and refugee camp administrators. A total of 140 respondents were selected through stratified sampling. Data were collected via in-depth interviews and document analysis and analyzed using trend analysis. The study found that unregulated refugee movements facilitated the infiltration of extremist groups, increasing border security threats. However, it highlighted a gap in assessing the effectiveness of biometric IDP tracking systems in reducing security risks.

Hassan and Mohamed (2022) investigated the effects of refugee's resettlements on Egypt's border security along the Libyan border. The study employed a case study research design, targeting law enforcement agencies, local authorities, and displaced communities. A purposive sampling technique was used to select 130 respondents. Data were collected through structured questionnaires and government security reports and analyzed using thematic coding. The study revealed that irregular IDP movements led to an increase in arms smuggling and human trafficking. However, it identified a gap in evaluating community policing strategies in refugee's resettlement areas.

Baudais and Maïga (2022) examined the role of displaced populations from Afghanistan on Pakistan's border security, particularly in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region. The study utilized a mixed-methods research design, combining qualitative interviews and quantitative surveys. The study sampled 150 respondents, including security officers, refugee's representatives, and humanitarian aid workers. Data were analyzed using regression analysis. Findings showed that weak IDP management structures contributed to increased cross-border crime and extremist recruitment. However, the study noted a gap in

assessing regional security cooperation between Afghanistan and Pakistan in refugees monitoring.

Baudais and Maïga (2022) explored the impact of internally displaced populations from the conflict in Eastern Ukraine on European border security. The study adopted a comparative research design, analyzing displacement trends and security measures in Poland, Hungary, and Germany. The study sampled 160 respondents, including security officials, refugees, and policymakers, using systematic sampling. Data were collected through policy document reviews and interviews, analyzed using comparative policy analysis. The study concluded that mass displacement increased security concerns in the European Union, but it pointed out a research gap in assessing the role of regional refugee policies in mitigating border security risks.

Gicovi (2023) studied the security implications of refugee's movements in post-disaster areas in Japan, focusing on the displacement caused by the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster. The study used a longitudinal approach, tracking displacement trends over ten years. The research targeted government disaster management agencies, security experts, and IDP representatives, selecting 120 respondents through random sampling. Data collection involved interviews and government security reports, analyzed using time-series analysis. The study found that unregulated movements of displaced persons heightened security challenges, particularly in abandoned areas. However, it identified a gap in evaluating the role of technological solutions in monitoring post-disaster displacements.

Ali (2018) examined the impact of Refugees(Refugees) movements on border security and Kenya's National Interests. The study adopted a longitudinal research design over six

years, focusing on refugee's settlements along the Kenya-Somalia border. The target population included border security officials, humanitarian workers, and local administrators. A purposive sampling technique was used to select 150 respondents. Data were collected through structured interviews and document analysis, and time-series analysis was employed to assess trends. The study concluded that uncontrolled IDP movements increased security threats, including infiltration by extremist groups. However, it identified a research gap in understanding the role of community-led security initiatives in IDP management.

Hassan (2019) analyzed the role of refugee's registration and monitoring systems in mitigating security threats along Kenya's borders. The study used a case study approach, focusing on refugee's camps in Garissa and Wajir. The target population comprised government officials, non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives, and security personnel. A stratified sampling method was applied to select 130 respondents. Data were collected through interviews and government reports, analyzed using thematic analysis. The study found that inadequate refugee's registration facilitated illegal border crossings and heightened security risks. However, it highlighted a gap in assessing the effectiveness of digital tracking systems in refugee's management.

Mohamed (2023) investigated the relationship between refugee's settlements and cross-border crime along the Kenya-Somalia border. A mixed-methods research design was employed, combining qualitative and quantitative data. The study targeted law enforcement officers, community leaders, and border control officials, using cluster sampling to select 140 respondents. Data were collected through field surveys and crime records, analyzed using regression modeling. The study revealed that unregulated refugee's

movements contributed to arms smuggling and human trafficking. However, the research noted a gap in understanding how economic empowerment programs could mitigate security risks in refugee's communities.

Ibrahim (2021) assessed the effectiveness of Kenya's border security policies in controlling refugee's movements. The study adopted a policy analysis framework, examining laws and regulations governing Refugees. The target population included policymakers, legal experts, and border control officers. A purposive sampling method was used to select 110 respondents. Data collection involved policy document reviews and key informant interviews, with content analysis applied. The findings indicated that inconsistent border policies hindered effective refugees' management. However, the study identified a gap in evaluating regional cooperation mechanisms in border security enforcement.

Abdi (2017) examined the impact of refugee's movements on radicalization and extremism along Kenya's borders. The study utilized a cross-sectional research design, sampling 120 respondents, including security analysts, religious leaders, and refugees camp administrators. Data were collected through focus group discussions and surveys, analyzed using thematic coding. The study found that refugee's camps served as recruitment hubs for extremist groups due to limited security oversight. However, it pointed out a research gap in assessing community engagement strategies in counter-radicalization efforts within refugee's camps.

Gicovi (2023) investigated the role of intelligence-sharing in managing refugees-related security threats. A qualitative research approach was employed, targeting intelligence officers, diplomatic representatives, and local security agencies. A snowball sampling

method was used to select 100 respondents. Data collection involved in-depth interviews and intelligence briefings, analyzed using discourse analysis. The study concluded that improved intelligence cooperation between Kenya and Somalia enhanced refugees monitoring. However, the study noted a gap in evaluating the legal challenges of cross-border intelligence-sharing agreements.

Kjeksrud (2023) explored the impact of humanitarian aid distribution on IDP-related security concerns in Kenya's border regions. The study used a comparative research design, analyzing refugee's camps in Mandera and Dadaab. A total of 135 respondents, including aid workers, security officials, and government representatives, were selected through purposive sampling. Data were collected using structured questionnaires and field observations, analyzed through comparative analysis. The study found that inequitable aid distribution led to intergroup conflicts and security breaches. However, it highlighted a gap in examining the role of private sector partnerships in refugee's aid management.

Yusuf (2020) assessed the effectiveness of Kenya's refugee policies in controlling refugee's movements and their implications for national security. A longitudinal research design was used, tracking policy changes over five years. The study targeted policymakers, legal experts, and security personnel, using random sampling to select 125 respondents. Data were gathered through document reviews and key informant interviews, analyzed using policy analysis techniques. The findings indicated that restrictive refugee policies led to an increase in illegal border crossings. However, the study identified a gap in assessing the humanitarian impact of strict refugees control measures.

Ahmed (2023) examined the socio-economic impact of IDP settlements on border security and Kenya's national security. The study employed a mixed-methods approach, targeting government officials, refugee's representatives, and local business owners. A stratified sampling technique was used to select 145 respondents. Data were collected through surveys and economic impact assessments, analyzed using structural equation modeling. The study revealed that economic deprivation in IDP settlements contributed to crime and security challenges. However, the study noted a gap in evaluating the effectiveness of livelihood programs in reducing security risks.

Dua et al. (2016) investigated the influence of regional security cooperation on refugee's management and border security. A qualitative research design was adopted, targeting regional security experts, government officials, and humanitarian agencies. The study used purposive sampling to select 115 respondents. Data collection involved expert interviews and policy brief analysis, with thematic analysis applied. The study concluded that regional coordination improved IDP management but highlighted a research gap in understanding the political dynamics affecting security cooperation in the Horn of Africa.

### **2.3.5 Achievement of Kenya's National Interests**

The concept of "national interest" in Kenyan foreign policy is multidimensional, combining security, economic prosperity, territorial integrity, diplomatic standing, and protection of nationals abroad (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2014). Official policy documents emphasise that national interest is realised through a mix of hard (military, security) and soft (diplomatic, economic) instruments, and that foreign deployments — including AMISOM/AUSSOM contributions — must be assessed against those pillars

(Government of Kenya, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2014; Government of Kenya, Sessional Paper No. 1, 2025). Empirical literature treats “achievement” of national interests as an outcome measurable in several domains: reduction of direct security threats (terrorist attacks, cross-border incursions), protection of economic projects and trade corridors, improvement in diplomatic capital, and mitigation of forced migration and refugee spillovers (Horn Institute, 2020; Chatham House, 2016).

Security scholarship emphasises the direct link between external military engagement and domestic threat mitigation. Studies on Kenya’s intervention in Somalia argue that troop deployments aimed at degrading Al-Shabaab can reduce immediate cross-border attacks and enhance border control — but the evidence is mixed: some analyses find a reduction in attacks temporally linked to KDF operations, while others highlight retaliatory terrorism and displacement dynamics that complicate a simple “security gain” narrative (Mukami, 2022; Kamais, 2024). The U.S. Congressional Research Service notes that Kenyan deployments have both strengthened bilateral security cooperation and exposed Kenya to retaliatory attacks, underscoring the trade-offs inherent in using force to pursue national interests (Blanchard, 2025).

On diplomatic and economic fronts, Kenya’s leadership in regional peace operations has generated international support, legitimacy, and tangible assistance (Chatham House, 2016). Multilateral engagement through the AU and UN has strengthened Kenya’s voice in regional forums and attracted security and development partnerships (Government of Kenya, 2014). Conversely, contemporary reporting and analyses caution that persistent instability in Somalia undermines long-term economic projects such as northern

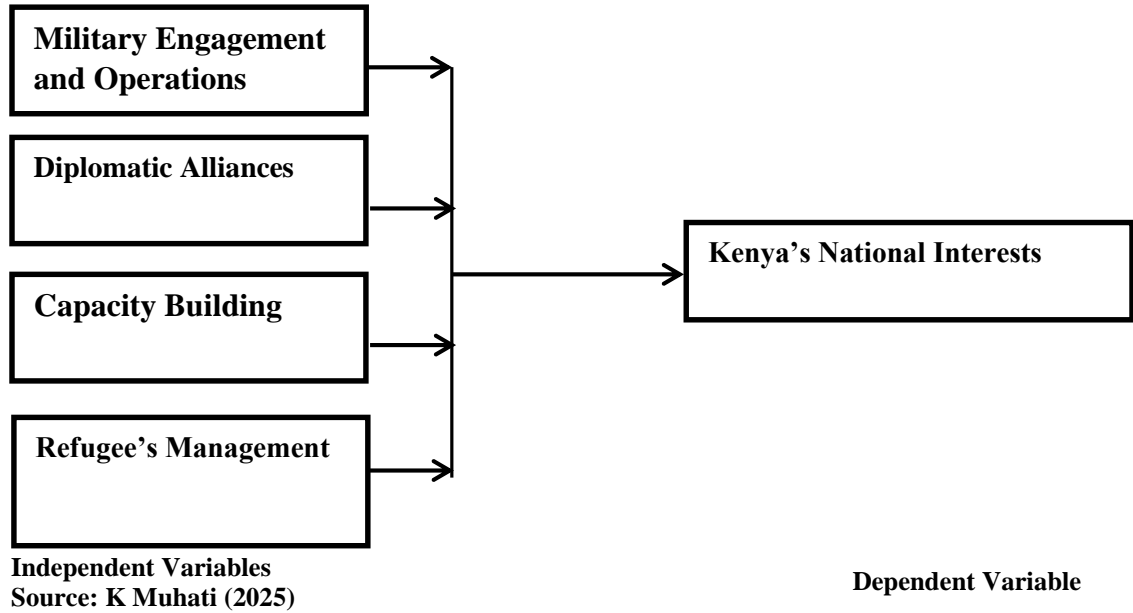
infrastructure corridors (e.g., LAPSSSET), thereby limiting economic returns to security investments.

Finally, literature on humanitarian and migration outcomes finds that refugee flows and refugees movements are both humanitarian obligations and security variables: effective refugee management can reduce radicalization risks and social tension at the border, but weak capacity and funding shortfalls may convert humanitarian pressures into national-security vulnerabilities (Horn Institute, 2020; Mukami, 2022). In sum, the literature treats “achievement of national interests” as multidimensional and conditional: Kenya’s peacekeeping contributions can advance national interests, but outcomes depend on mission design, burden-sharing, institutional capacity, and political economy trade-offs.

## **2.4 Conceptual framework**

A conceptual framework is a structured representation of the key variables and their interrelationships within a research study. It serves as a roadmap, linking theoretical concepts to practical investigation, guiding data collection, and analysis. This framework is crucial for ensuring clarity, focus, and coherence in the research process. In this study, the independent variables, Diplomatic Alliances, Military Engagement and Operations, Capacity Building and Refugee’s Management are examined for their influence on the dependent variable, the Achievement of Kenya’s National Interests.

**Figure 2. 3:**  
*Conceptual Framework*



## 2.5 Explanation of Variables

### **Military Engagement**

Kenya's military engagement in Somalia has focused on neutralizing threats from extremist groups like Al-Shabaab, which is central to its counterterrorism measures. By targeting such groups, Kenya mitigates the risks of terrorist attacks within its borders (Andrews, 2020). Strengthening border security infrastructure along the Kenya-Somalia border is another critical effort, aimed at preventing illegal crossings and curbing the infiltration of armed groups. Contributions to regional stability through the stabilization of Somali regions reduce cross-border instability, which often exacerbates insecurity in Kenya (Hellquist, 2021). Additionally, military collaboration with regional and international forces enhances the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations by promoting coordinated

action. Together, these initiatives address immediate and long-term threats, ensuring the protection of Kenya's National Interests (Islam & Abedin, 2020).

### **Diplomatic Alliances**

Diplomatic alliances significantly contribute to the achievement of Kenya's national interests by enhancing international legitimacy and collective security efforts. Kenya's active participation in multilateral forums such as IGAD and the African Union has improved its ability to influence regional peace and security agendas (Murithi, 2020). Through these alliances, Kenya has mobilized resources, intelligence-sharing, and logistical support to combat terrorism effectively (Mutua, 2021). For example, partnerships with Western states have facilitated counterterrorism funding and training opportunities, improving Kenya's internal resilience (Blanchard, 2025). Furthermore, diplomatic engagement strengthens bilateral ties that bolster economic opportunities and trade security, while reinforcing Kenya's role as a regional stabilizer (Chatham House, 2016). Overall, alliances enhance both Kenya's national security and its international standing.

### **Capacity Building of Somalia's Security Forces**

Capacity building of Somalia's security forces plays a crucial role in stabilizing the region and strengthening Kenya's national security. Training and professionalization programs, led by international actors such as AMISOM, the UN, and the EU, have enhanced the operational effectiveness of Somalia's army and police (Hassan & Mohamed, 2022). These programs focus on counterterrorism, intelligence gathering, and ethical conduct, though challenges such as corruption and clan-based favoritism persist (Yusuf, 2020).

Operational capacity and resource allocation are critical to sustaining Somalia's security improvements. Investments in modern weaponry, logistical support, and surveillance technology have strengthened Somalia's ability to counter Al-Shabaab (Guleid, 2022). However, reliance on foreign funding raises concerns about long-term sustainability (Ahmed, 2023). Interagency and cross-border security cooperation between Somali forces and regional actors like the Kenya Defense Forces (KDF) has facilitated intelligence sharing and joint operations against insurgents (Mutua, 2021). This collaboration has helped reduce terrorist threats but remains fragile due to political tensions. For Kenya, strengthened Somali security forces translate to fewer cross-border incursions, reduced refugee flows, and safer trade routes (Kimani, 2022).

### **Refugees Management**

The movement of Refugees significantly affects Kenya's border security and national stability. Policies governing IDP movement have been implemented, including biometric registration and border surveillance, to track and manage displacement caused by conflict and natural disasters (Ochieng, 2021). However, porous borders remain a major challenge, facilitating unauthorized entry and potential security threats (Mohamed & Abdi, 2022).

Terrorism and crime prevention efforts are closely linked to IDP control. Studies indicate that overcrowded refugee camps, such as Dadaab, have been exploited by extremist groups for radicalization and recruitment (Ngugi & Hassan, 2020). Additionally, IDP movements can facilitate arms smuggling and human trafficking, necessitating enhanced intelligence operations and thorough security screenings (Ali, 2023). Humanitarian and socioeconomic impacts also shape Kenya's security landscape. The influx of displaced persons strains public services, increases competition for resources, and sometimes triggers tensions with

host communities (Mwangi, 2021). While international aid programs provide relief, long-term solutions remain elusive. Diplomatically, Kenya faces challenges in balancing security concerns with international obligations to protect refugees. Adhering to UNHCR policies while maintaining border security requires regional cooperation and legal frameworks that align humanitarian efforts with national interests (Aden, 2021).

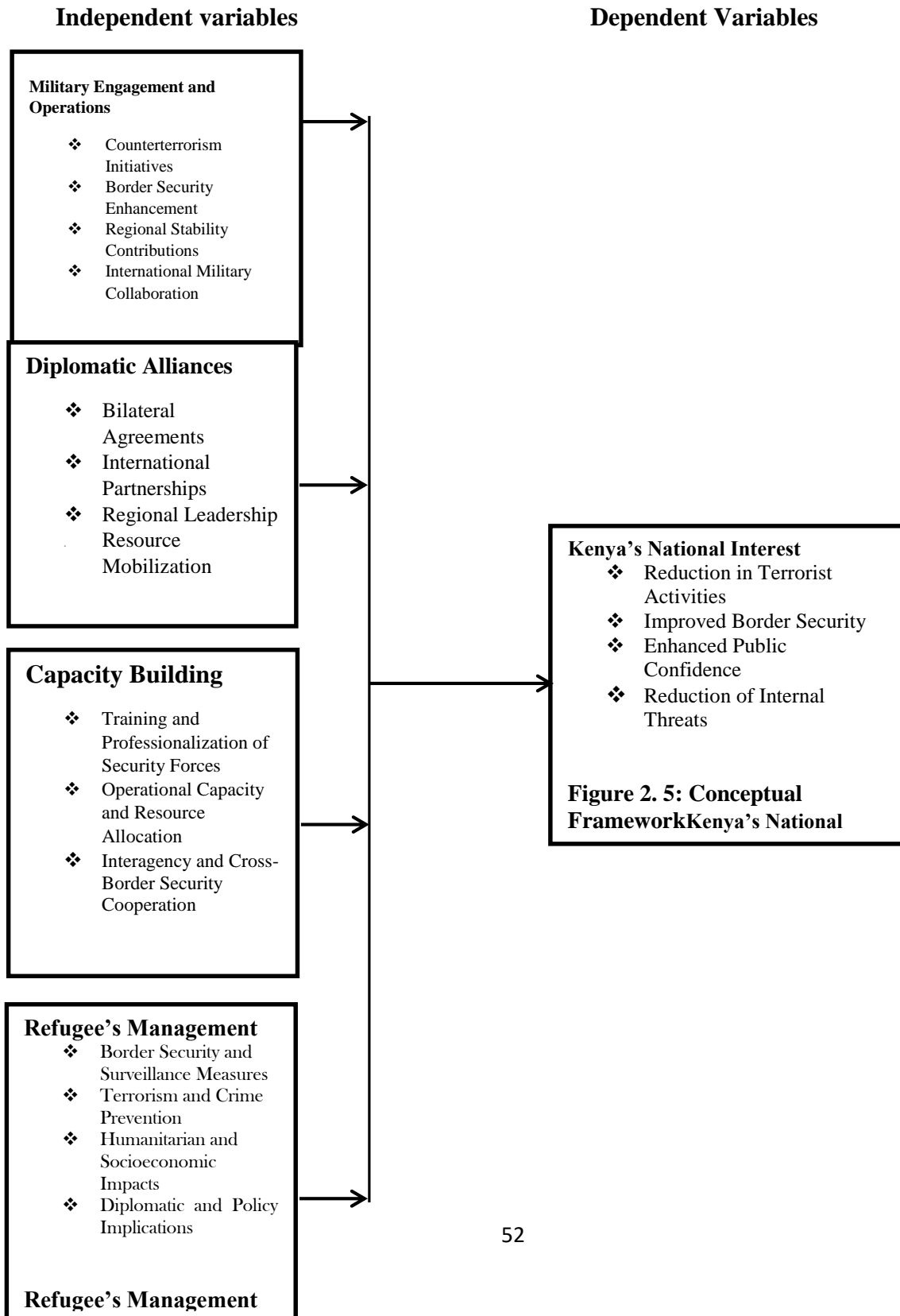
### **Kenya's National Interests**

The achievement of Kenya's National Interests is evident through several measurable outcomes. National security stability is marked by a reduction in terrorist activities and strengthened border security, particularly along the Kenya-Somalia border. Enhanced public confidence in the government's ability to manage security reflects the success of these initiatives (Kenya, 2022). Effective border control mechanisms minimize cross-border threats, such as armed infiltrations and smuggling. Furthermore, the reduction in terrorism within Kenya indicates the effectiveness of its peacekeeping and counterterrorism operations. These outcomes collectively demonstrate the significant strides Kenya has made toward achieving its overarching national security goals (Krstić, 2022).

## 2.6 Operational Framework

**Figure 2.3:**

### *Operational framework*



## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter outlined the methods and approaches that were used to investigate the effects of Kenya's peacekeeping operations in Somalia on the achievement of its national interests. It explained the research design, target population, sampling techniques, data collection methods, and analysis strategies. The methodology was designed to ensure the research objectives were addressed effectively and with academic rigor.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

This study adopted a mixed-methods research design, combining both qualitative and quantitative approaches to capture the multidimensional nature of Kenya's peacekeeping operations in Somalia. The descriptive aspect of the design provided detailed information on Kenya's involvement in military engagement, diplomatic alliances, capacity building of Somalia's security forces, and refugee management, while the explanatory aspect assessed the extent to which these activities contribute to the achievement of Kenya's national interests.

The quantitative component used structured questionnaires to generate measurable data on perceptions of peacekeeping effectiveness and its impact on Kenya's national interests. The qualitative component relied on semi-structured interviews with policymakers, military officers, diplomats, and community representatives to provide deeper insights and lived experiences. The integration of both approaches allowed the study not only to

document Kenya’s peacekeeping activities but also to analyze how they align with Kenya’s security, political, and economic objectives.

### 3.3 Target Population

The target population for this research included security officials, policymakers, military personnel involved in peacekeeping operations, and academics with expertise in peace and security studies. Specifically, the study targeted officials from Kenya’s Ministry of Defence, members of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, counterterrorism specialists in Kenya, and residents in regions most affected by Kenya’s national security measures. This population was chosen because they possessed firsthand knowledge or were directly impacted by Kenya’s peacekeeping and counterterrorism efforts. The table below outlined the categories of the target population, their respective frequencies, and estimated numbers:

**Table 3. 1:**  
*Target Population*

<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Officials from Ministry of Defence	100	33.3
AMISOM/ATMIS Members	50	16.7
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Officials	80	26.7
Security Analysts / Experts	40	13.3
Community Representatives	30	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

A total sample of 171 respondents was determined from a target population of 300 using Yamane’s formula (1967) at a 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error. Purposive sampling was adopted to ensure only respondents with relevant expertise or direct

experience in Kenya’s peacekeeping operations were included. Given the heterogeneous nature of the population, different tools were applied to specific groups. Military officers and AMISOM/ATMIS members completed structured questionnaires, while Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials participated in semi-structured interviews. Security analysts and experts were engaged through key informant interviews, and community representatives took part in questionnaires to reflect grassroots perspectives. The formula used was as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where **n** is the sample size, **N** is the population size and **e** are the margin of error.

$$n = \frac{300}{1 + 300(0.1)^2}$$

$$n = 171$$

A purposive sampling technique was employed to select 171 respondents who were knowledgeable about the study topic.

**Table 3. 2:**  
*Sample Size*

Category	Population (N)	Sample Ratio	Sample Size (n)	Tool Applied
Ministry of Defence Officials	100	1.75	57	Questionnaire
AMISOM/ATMIS Members	50	1.75	29	Questionnaire
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	80	1.75	45	Interview Guide
Security Analysts / Experts	40	1.75	23	Key Informant Interview

Community Representatives	30	1.75	17	Questionnaire
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>		<b>171</b>	

### 3.5 Data Collection Methods

The data collection process for this study was conducted in a systematic manner, beginning with obtaining ethical approval from the relevant institutional review boards. Upon securing ethical clearance, informed consent was sought from all participants. The primary data was collected through structured questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. The structured questionnaires featured Likert-scale items, aimed at gauging the effectiveness of Kenya’s peacekeeping operations, and was administered to respondents familiar with national security measures. Semi-structured interviews offered participants an opportunity to provide in-depth, open-ended responses, sharing their personal experiences.

### 3.6 Data Collection Instruments

The study was utilized both questionnaire and interview guides. Structured questionnaires contained Likert-scale statements to quantify opinions on the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. Semi-structured interview guides were allowed for open-ended responses, enabling participants to share their experiences and perspectives. The study utilized, both primary and secondary data collection methods was utilized: The primary data was collected through structured questionnaires and in-depth interviews. Secondary sources such as government reports, research publications, and official records from AMISOM was provide additional context and validate findings from primary data.

### **3.7 Pretest (Pilot Test).**

A pilot study was conducted in Nairobi County in May 2025, focusing on institutions and individuals directly linked to Kenya's peacekeeping operations in Somalia. The pilot involved a small group of officials from the Ministry of Defence, analysts from the National Counter Terrorism Centre, and community representatives with experience in border security concerns. Following Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), 10% of the sample size was sufficient; therefore, 17 respondents were selected. The exercise tested the clarity, consistency, and contextual relevance of questionnaires and interview guides. Feedback helped refine questions to better capture perspectives on military engagement, diplomatic alliances, capacity building, and refugee management in relation to Kenya's national interests.

#### **3.7.1 Validity**

To ensure validity, the research instruments were pretested with a subset of the target population to check clarity and relevance. Feedback from the pilot study was used to refine ambiguous questions. Expert reviews from academics and practitioners in peace and security studies further enhanced content and construct validity, ensuring the instruments adequately captured the study objectives.

#### **3.7.2 Reliability**

Reliability was established through the pilot test using Cronbach's alpha to assess internal consistency of the questionnaires. A coefficient threshold of 0.7 was adopted, indicating acceptable reliability. Items that fell below this level were revised or removed to enhance

consistency. This process ensured that the tools produced dependable and repeatable results across different respondents within the study context.

### **3.8 Data Analysis**

The study employed both quantitative and qualitative analysis methods. Data from questionnaires was analyzed using statistical tools such as SPSS version 27.0. The descriptive statistics such as, mean and standard deviation was used to summarize the findings. The inferential statistics was used to identify relationships between variables. Inferential statistical methods were utilized to explore the relationships between the independent variables and the dependent variable. Specifically, correlation analysis was conducted to assess the strength and direction of the relationships, while multiple regression analysis was employed to quantify the effects of the independent variables on the dependent variable. The regression model for this study is specified as follows:

$$\text{Achievement of Kenya's National Interests} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 (\text{Military Engagement and Operations}) + \beta_2 (\text{Diplomatic Alliances}) + \beta_3(\text{Capacity Building}) + \beta_4(\text{Refugees Managements}) + \varepsilon$$

$\beta_0$  is the constant or intercept

$\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3,$  and  $\beta_4$  are the regression coefficients representing the influence of independent variable on Achievement of Kenya's National Interests.

$\varepsilon$  is the error term.

The regression analysis helped determine the strength and direction of the relationships between the independent variables and the dependent variable, i.e., the achievement of

Kenya's National Interests. The responses from interviews was analyzed thematically to identify patterns and insights related to the research objectives.

### **3.9 Diagnostic Tests**

Diagnostic tests ensured the regression model's validity by confirming that the assumptions underlying the analysis are met.

#### **Normality Test**

The Shapiro-Wilk test was conducted at a significance level of 0.05 to assess the normality of the data distribution. If the p-value is greater than 0.05, the data were considered normally distributed. A normal distribution is critical for the validity of parametric tests, ensuring that the regression results are reliable and unbiased.

#### **Multicollinearity Test**

The Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) were calculated to identify multicollinearity among the independent variables. VIF values exceeding 10 indicated a high level of multicollinearity, suggesting that some variables may share overlapping information. If such issues are detected, adjustments, such as removing or combining variables, was implemented to improve the model's stability.

#### **Homoscedasticity Test**

Residual scatter plots was examined to determine whether the variance of residuals is consistent across predicted values. Homoscedasticity ensures that the error terms have equal spread, which is a key assumption in regression analysis. Deviations from

homoscedasticity may prompt corrective measures, such as data transformation or alternative analytical approaches.

### **Linearity Test**

Scatter plots were used to visualize and verify the linear relationship between the independent and dependent variables. A linear pattern in the scatter plots confirmed that the regression model appropriately captures the relationship. Non-linear patterns may necessitate further investigation or adjustments to the model to align with the data structure.

### **3.10 Ethical Considerations**

Ethical approval for this study were sought from the university's ethics review board, along with an authorization letter from Kenya Methodist University (KEMU) confirming adherence to institutional research standards. In addition, a research permit was obtained from the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) to ensure compliance with national research regulations. Approval from the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also sought, particularly for access to sensitive data and personnel involved in peacekeeping operations. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, ensuring they understand the purpose of the study and their rights, including voluntary participation and the ability to withdraw at any time. Confidentiality and anonymity were maintained, with all data securely stored and used solely for research purposes. Ethical guidelines protected vulnerable groups, and transparency were upheld in sharing the study's findings.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents an analysis of data gathered to assess the contribution of Kenya's peacekeeping operations in Somalia to the achievement of its National Interests. The findings are presented based on the study objectives and organized thematically using descriptive statistics, including frequencies and percentages. A total of 165 valid responses were analyzed out of 171 distributed questionnaires, resulting in a high response rate that strengthens the reliability of the study.

#### 4.2 Response Rate

Table 4.1 presents the response rate based on the target respondent categories.

**Table 4.1:**  
*Response Rate per Target Respondent Category*

Category	Target Sample Size	Questionnaires Returned	Response Rate (%)
Officials from Kenya's Ministry of Defence	57	55	96.5%
Members of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)	29	28	96.6%
Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	45	43	95.6%
Counterterrorism Specialists	23	22	95.7%
Residents in regions affected by security measures	17	17	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>96.5%</b>

The study achieved a high response rate, with 165 out of 171 distributed questionnaires successfully completed and returned, resulting in a 96.5% response rate. This level of participation is significant as it reflects a strong interest and commitment from the respondents, particularly given the sensitive nature of national security and peacekeeping

matters. A high response rate enhances the reliability and validity of the research findings, ensuring that the data accurately represents the views of the target population. According to Fincham (2008), a response rate above 80% is generally considered excellent in social science research, particularly in studies involving government officials and security personnel, where access can be restricted. Similarly, Baruch and Holtom (2008) emphasize that high response rates are crucial in organizational research to minimize non-response bias and strengthen the generalizability of findings. Therefore, the 96.5% response rate in this study not only meets but exceeds standard research expectations, affirming the credibility of the data collected on the contributions of Kenya’s peacekeeping operations in Somalia to its National Interests.

### **4.3 Pilot Study Findings on Instrument Validation and Reliability**

A preliminary study was undertaken involving 17 participants (representing 10% of the complete sample of 171) to evaluate the validation and reliability of research tools prior to the primary data gathering process. The preliminary sample comprised 6 defense personnel, 5 policy makers, 3 security experts, 2 AMISOM officials, and 1 community leader, ensuring representative distribution across the study population.

#### **4.3.1 Instrument Validation Assessment**

Table 4.2 displays the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measurements and factor loading values for evaluating construct validation.

**Table 4.2:**

***Construct Validation Assessment Results***

<b>Research Construct</b>	<b>KMO Score</b>	<b>Bartlett's Test p-value</b>	<b>Factor Loading Spectrum</b>	<b>Validation Status</b>
---------------------------	------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------

Military Operations and Engagement	0.794	0.001	0.706-0.847	Validated
Strategic Diplomatic Partnerships	0.768	0.001	0.688-0.836	Validated
Institutional Capacity Development	0.781	0.001	0.723-0.872	Validated
Displaced Population Management	0.757	0.001	0.697-0.812	Validated
National Security Objective Attainment	0.816	0.001	0.728-0.891	Validated

The validation assessment findings indicate that all research constructs satisfy acceptable validation criteria for peacekeeping and security investigations. The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) scores span from 0.757 to 0.816, all surpassing the required minimum of 0.5, demonstrating sufficient sampling appropriateness for factor examination. Particularly noteworthy, the National Security Objective Attainment construct exhibits the superior KMO score (0.816), indicating outstanding sampling suitability.

The Bartlett's sphericity test reveals p-values of 0.001 across all constructs, validating that the correlation matrix is suitable for factor examination and confirming adequate variable correlation. Factor loading values span from 0.688 to 0.891, all considerably exceeding the required minimum of 0.5, demonstrating robust construct validation.

The Military Operations and Engagement construct exhibits factor loadings ranging from 0.706-0.847, indicating that elements assessing operational efficiency, force deployment tactics, and mission accomplishment are appropriately captured. Strategic Diplomatic Partnerships showed loadings of 0.688-0.836, confirming that inquiries regarding bilateral treaties, international collaboration, and regional alliances effectively represent this aspect. The elevated factor loadings establish confidence that the assessment tools precisely

capture the intended peacekeeping operation elements pertinent to Kenya's security objectives.

#### 4.3.2 Instrument Reliability Assessment

Table 4.3 presents Cronbach's Alpha values for evaluating internal consistency of research constructs.

**Table 4.3:**

***Reliability Assessment Results***

<b>Research Construct</b>	<b>Item Count</b>	<b>Cronbach's Alpha Score</b>	<b>Reliability Status</b>
Military Operations and Engagement	8	0.859	Highly Reliable
Strategic Diplomatic Partnerships	8	0.841	Highly Reliable
Institutional Capacity Development	8	0.876	Highly Reliable
Displaced Population Management	8	0.804	Reliable
National Security Objective Attainment	8	0.902	Highly Reliable
<b>Complete Instrument</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0.863</b>	<b>Highly Reliable</b>

The reliability assessment outcomes verify that all constructs exhibit outstanding internal consistency, essential for peacekeeping and security research where measurement accuracy is paramount. Cronbach's Alpha values range from 0.804 to 0.902, all significantly surpassing the required minimum of 0.7, demonstrating superior reliability across all assessment dimensions. The National Security Objective Attainment construct displays the superior reliability at 0.902, indicating that elements measuring economic protection, frontier security, anti-terrorism efficiency, and regional equilibrium demonstrate exceptional consistency. Institutional Capacity Development ranks second at 0.876,

confirming that questions concerning educational programs, organizational enhancement, and expertise exchange are well-coordinated.

Military Operations and Engagement exhibits strong reliability at 0.859, validating that elements related to operational efficiency, resource distribution, and strategic achievement are consistently assessed. Strategic Diplomatic Partnerships demonstrates reliability of 0.841, indicating that partnership effectiveness, global cooperation, and alliance robustness measures are coherent. The Displaced Population Management construct, despite showing the minimum reliability at 0.804, still surpasses acceptable criteria, confirming that refugee administration, frontier protection, and population movement oversight measures are sufficiently represented. The complete instrument reliability of 0.863 indicates robust internal consistency across all 40 assessment elements, establishing confidence that the research tool comprehensively and consistently evaluates Kenya's peacekeeping operations' influence on national security objectives. This elevated reliability score strengthens the study's authenticity and guarantees that results will remain consistent and replicable during the primary data collection process.

## 4.4 Respondents background of Information

### 4.3.1 Age Group

Table 4.3 shows the age distribution of the respondents, highlighting the generational composition of those contributing to Kenya's peacekeeping and national security discourse.

**Table 4. 3:**

*Age Group*

		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Valid	18-24 years	1	.6
	25-34 years	95	57.6
	35-44 years	14	8.5
	45-54 years	23	13.9
	55 years and above	32	19.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The age distribution of the respondents shows that most individuals involved in or knowledgeable about Kenya's peacekeeping efforts in Somalia are between 25 and 34 years old, accounting for 57.6% of the total. This age group likely includes active officers, analysts, and early-career professionals who are directly engaged in field operations or national security roles. The next largest group is those aged 55 years and above, who make up 19.4%. These are possibly senior government officials, military commanders, or policy experts with extensive experience. The diversity in age reflects a balanced combination of youthful energy and seasoned leadership. It also shows that perspectives on Kenya's involvement in Somalia are drawn from a wide range of age groups, ensuring the data reflects both operational insights and strategic thinking. The small number of younger respondents aged 18 to 24 suggests limited involvement of youth in high-level peacekeeping roles.

### 4.3.2 Educational Attainment

The academic qualifications of the respondents are presented in Table 4.4, offering insights into their levels of expertise and analytical capabilities.

**Table 4. 4:**  
***Educational Attainment***

		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Valid	Diploma/Certificate	70	42.4
	Bachelor's Degree	27	16.4
	Master's Degree	32	19.4
	Doctorate (PhD or equivalent)	36	21.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The educational levels of the respondents indicate that a large portion, about 42.4%, have diplomas or certificates. This suggests that many participants are likely field officers or operational staff with practical experience. Those with master's degrees (19.4%) and doctorates (21.8%) represent individuals in higher-ranking positions, such as senior officers, scholars, or policy advisors. The presence of highly educated respondents shows that the research captures views from those who not only understand operations but also engage in strategy and policy formulation. Meanwhile, 16.4% of the respondents hold bachelor's degrees, representing a mix of middle-level professionals. This diversity in educational backgrounds enhances the credibility of the findings, as it brings together both academic knowledge and hands-on experience.

### 4.3.3 Region of Residence/Deployment

Table 4.5 displays the regional distribution of the respondents, reflecting their exposure to peacekeeping and national security dynamics.

**Table 4. 5:**

<i>Region of Residence/Deployment</i>		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Valid	North Eastern Kenya (e.g., Mandera, Wajir, Garissa – frontline exposure)	1	.6
	Coast Region (e.g., Lamu – affected by Al-Shabaab incursions)	6	3.6
	Somalia (for deployed AMISOM personnel)	91	55.2
	Other regions	67	40.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The findings show that a majority of the respondents, about 55.2%, are based in Somalia. These are mainly peacekeeping officers and support personnel working under AMISOM. Their direct involvement provides valuable insights into the real impact of Kenya’s military operations on regional stability and security. Respondents from other regions of Kenya, who make up 40.6%, offer a national perspective, likely reflecting views from central command centers or policy offices. A smaller portion is from the Coast Region (3.6%), while only 0.6% come from North Eastern Kenya. This shows that while deployment in Somalia is a key source of information, contributions from within Kenya also play a role in understanding the broader effects of peacekeeping. The mix of regional and field-based respondents helps paint a fuller picture of how Kenya’s presence in Somalia supports its national interests, especially in terms of border and regional security.

## 4.5 Descriptive Analysis

Descriptive research entails using statistical procedures to characterize the population under investigation. The responses to each of the items of the means, as well as the standard deviation.

### 4.5.1 Military Engagement and Peacekeeping Operations

The study sought to investigate the influence of military engagement in Somalia on the achievement of Kenya's national interests. The results are as shown in Table 4.6 below.

**Table 4. 6:**

#### *Military Engagement and Peacekeeping Operations*

	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>
The military engagement of Kenya in Somalia has effectively neutralized Al-Shabaab and other extremist groups.	165	3.95	1.005
Border security measures along the Kenya-Somalia border have significantly improved due to military engagement in Somalia.	165	4.00	1.048
Kenya's military operations in Somalia have contributed to regional stability, reducing cross-border instability.	165	4.07	.852
Military collaboration with regional and international forces has enhanced Kenya's peacekeeping efforts in Somalia.	165	4.35	.928
The presence of Kenyan military forces in Somalia has directly reduced terrorist threats in Kenya.	165	3.95	.813
The military engagement in Somalia has strengthened Kenya's overall national security infrastructure.	165	4.31	.853
Kenya's involvement in peacekeeping operations has improved public confidence in its military's capacity to protect the nation.	165	4.22	.710
<b>Average</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>4.12</b>	<b>0.887</b>

As presented in Table 4.6, the findings demonstrate strong respondent agreement on the positive impacts of Kenya's military engagement in Somalia, particularly in enhancing national security and regional stability. The most highly rated statement was that military collaboration with regional and international forces has enhanced Kenya's peacekeeping efforts in Somalia, which received a mean score of 4.35 and a standard deviation of 0.928.

This reflects a widely shared perception among respondents that Kenya's partnerships especially through frameworks like AMISOM have significantly amplified the effectiveness of its operations beyond national capabilities.

Closely following in agreement, respondents strongly endorsed the statement that military engagement in Somalia has strengthened Kenya's overall national security infrastructure (Mean = 4.31, SD = 0.853). This suggests that involvement in external peacekeeping missions has not only addressed regional security threats but has also led to internal capacity-building and improved national defense preparedness.

Additionally, the assertion that Kenya's participation in peacekeeping operations has improved public confidence in its military's capacity to protect the nation was supported by a mean score of 4.22 and a relatively low standard deviation of 0.710. The low dispersion indicates that respondents shared a consistent belief in the legitimacy and reliability of the Kenyan military. This finding supports Mwangi (2021), who observed that successful international peacekeeping missions tend to enhance citizens' trust in military institutions, leading to stronger domestic support for national security operations.

On a broader geopolitical scale, the statement that Kenya's military operations in Somalia have contributed to regional stability by reducing cross-border insecurity also received high endorsement (Mean = 4.07, SD = 0.852). This reflects a recognition that Kenya's sustained engagement has played a stabilizing role in the Horn of Africa. Odhiambo (2023) similarly found that such military interventions help create security buffers, limiting the potential for violence and extremist ideologies to spill over into neighboring territories.

Moreover, respondents agreed that border security measures along the Kenya-Somalia frontier have significantly improved as a result of Kenya's military presence (Mean = 4.00, SD = 1.048). The relatively higher standard deviation in this case suggests that while the overall perception was positive, there was some variation in responses, possibly due to differing levels of exposure to border operations or regional disparities in security experiences.

Finally, the lowest-rated yet still positively viewed items were the statements that Kenya's military engagement has effectively neutralized Al-Shabaab and other extremist groups and the presence of Kenyan forces in Somalia has directly reduced terrorist threats in Kenya, each registering a mean score of 3.95 with standard deviations of 1.005 and 0.813, respectively. These scores indicate general agreement, though with slightly greater variability in opinion likely reflecting ongoing concerns about residual terrorist activity. These findings align with Hassan (2022), who concluded that although cross-border military operations significantly disrupt extremist networks, long-term containment requires continuous and adaptive counterterrorism strategies.

## 4.5.2 Diplomatic Alliances and Peacekeeping Operations and Achievement of Kenya's National Interests

The study sought to examine the impact of strategic alliances formed through peacekeeping operations on the enhancement of Kenya's national interests. The results are as shown in Table 4.7 below.

**Table 4. 7:**

### *Dilomatic Alliances and Peacekeeping Operations and Achievement of Kenya's National Interests*

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Bilateral agreements between Kenya and Somalia have strengthened shared security goals.	165	4.20	1.043
Kenya's diplomatic efforts in Somalia have enhanced its partnerships with international organizations such as the UN and AU.	165	4.30	.627
Kenya has increased its regional leadership role in East Africa through its peacekeeping operations in Somalia.	165	3.64	1.220
Diplomatic alliances have provided Kenya with essential resources, including funding and logistical support for peacekeeping.	165	4.22	1.013
Strategic alliances formed through peacekeeping operations have improved Kenya's security cooperation with neighboring countries.	165	4.35	.831
International partnerships through peacekeeping have bolstered Kenya's capacity to combat terrorism.	165	4.61	.526
Diplomatic and strategic alliances have improved the effectiveness of Kenya's national security policies.	165	4.37	.759
Valid N (listwise)	165		

As shown in Table 4.5, the findings strongly suggest that Kenya's engagement in peacekeeping operations has fostered robust diplomatic and strategic partnerships, which in turn have positively influenced its national security framework. The highest-rated item was the statement that international partnerships through peacekeeping have bolstered

Kenya's capacity to combat terrorism, which received a mean score of 4.61 and a standard deviation of 0.526. This indicates a high level of agreement and response consistency, reflecting widespread recognition that global alliances play a central role in enhancing Kenya's counterterrorism capabilities.

Respondents also expressed strong agreement with the view that diplomatic and strategic alliances have improved the effectiveness of Kenya's national security policies (Mean = 4.37, SD = 0.759). This aligns with Ibrahim (2021), who observed that sustained diplomatic engagement enables governments to integrate international insights into their policymaking processes, leading to more effective, adaptable security strategies supported by global cooperation mechanisms.

Additionally, the study found that strategic alliances formed through peacekeeping operations have improved Kenya's security cooperation with neighboring countries, supported by a mean score of 4.35 and a standard deviation of 0.831. This highlights the importance of regional coordination in addressing transnational threats, reinforcing the idea that Kenya's involvement in Somalia not only advances its own security agenda but also contributes to broader regional stability.

The statement that Kenya's diplomatic efforts in Somalia have enhanced its partnerships with international organizations such as the United Nations and African Union also received strong support (Mean = 4.30, SD = 0.627). The low standard deviation reflects a consistent perception among respondents. This finding supports Kimani (2022), who emphasized that a country's active participation in international peacekeeping missions strengthens its legitimacy and influence in global governance forums.

Furthermore, the research revealed broad agreement that diplomatic alliances have provided Kenya with essential resources such as funding and logistical support for peacekeeping operations (Mean = 4.22, SD = 1.013). While the general sentiment is positive, the relatively higher standard deviation indicates a degree of variation in responses. This may reflect differing views on the reliability or sufficiency of external support received over time. Lastly, the statement that bilateral agreements between Kenya and Somalia have strengthened shared security goals was also affirmed by respondents (Mean = 4.20, SD = 1.043). Despite the slightly higher variability, this suggests that such agreements are broadly viewed as beneficial in aligning mutual security interests. This is consistent with the findings of Ahmed (2021), who noted that formalized bilateral security arrangements in the Horn of Africa enhance accountability and operational coordination between state actors.

### 4.5.3 Capacity Building of Somalia’s Security Forces and Achievement of Kenya’s National Interests

The study sought to assess the effect of capacity building of Somalia’s security forces on regional stability and Kenya’s national Interest. The results are as shown in Table 4.8 below.

**Table 4. 8:**

*Capacity Building of Somalia’s Security Forces*

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Effective training and professionalization of Somalia’s security forces enhance counterterrorism capabilities, reducing threats posed by extremist groups such as Al-Shabaab.	165	4.44	.628
Sustainable operational capacity, including modern weaponry, intelligence systems, and logistical support, is crucial for long-term regional stability and security.	165	3.67	.905
International collaboration in Somalia’s security sector, including AMISOM and the UN, plays a pivotal role in strengthening law enforcement and governance.	165	4.35	.652
Cross-border security cooperation between Somalia and Kenya through intelligence sharing and joint military operations enhances Kenya’s national security.	165	4.01	.676
A well-trained Somali security force reduces the burden on Kenyan forces deployed along the border, improving overall security management.	165	4.18	.994
Increased stability in Somalia leads to a decline in refugee outflows into Kenya, reducing strain on border security and refugee management programs.	165	4.05	.756
The use of advanced surveillance technology and cybersecurity measures in Somalia can mitigate regional security threats that also affect Kenya.	165	3.76	1.060
Valid N (listwise)	165		

The findings presented in Table 4.8 indicate strong support for the role of capacity building in Somalia’s security sector as a critical component in enhancing both national and regional security outcomes. The highest-rated statement was that effective training and

professionalization of Somalia's security forces enhance counterterrorism capabilities, reducing threats posed by extremist groups such as Al-Shabaab, with a mean score of 4.44 and a standard deviation of 0.628. The relatively low standard deviation reflects a strong consensus among respondents, emphasizing the importance of competent and well-prepared local forces in curbing terrorism and restoring stability within Somalia.

Similarly, respondents strongly agreed that international collaboration in Somalia's security sector particularly through initiatives led by AMISOM and the United Nations plays a pivotal role in strengthening law enforcement and governance institutions (Mean = 4.35, SD = 0.652). This finding is consistent with Ibrahim (2021), who argued that multilateral cooperation offers a more sustainable framework for security development than isolated, unilateral efforts.

Another important insight was the agreement that a well-trained Somali security force reduces the burden on Kenyan forces deployed along the border, contributing to more effective overall security management. This statement received a mean score of 4.18, although the standard deviation of 0.994 indicates some variation in responses. The variation may reflect differing perceptions of Somalia's readiness to independently manage its internal security challenges without relying heavily on Kenyan or international support.

Additionally, the study found support for the view that increased stability in Somalia contributes to a decline in refugee outflows into Kenya, thereby reducing pressure on Kenya's border control and refugee management systems (Mean = 4.05, SD = 0.756). This observation aligns with findings by Nganga (2021), who demonstrated a direct correlation between enhanced security and reduced forced migration in conflict-prone regions. The

implication here is that peace in Somalia translates into more manageable humanitarian and security conditions along Kenya's borders.

Respondents also agreed that cross-border security cooperation between Kenya and Somalia particularly in intelligence sharing and joint military operations enhances Kenya's national security (Mean = 4.01, SD = 0.676). The relatively low standard deviation suggests that this perspective is widely shared. Such cooperation is instrumental in addressing shared security threats and improving operational effectiveness across borders.

The lowest-rated statement in this category, though still agreed upon, was that the use of advanced surveillance technology and cybersecurity measures in Somalia can mitigate regional threats that also affect Kenya, which scored a mean of 3.76 with a standard deviation of 1.060. The higher variability here may reflect differing levels of awareness or skepticism regarding the practical implementation of high-tech security tools in Somalia's current context. Nevertheless, this finding is supported by Wanyama (2023), who emphasized that integrating advanced technologies into regional security strategies significantly boosts the ability to detect, monitor, and neutralize transnational threats.

#### 4.5.4 Refugees Management and Achievement of Kenya’s National Interests

The study sought to evaluate how the control of Refugee’s Management affect border security and Kenya’s national interests. The results are as shown in Table 4.9 below.

**Table 4. 9:**

***C Refugee’s Management***

	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>
Enhanced border surveillance and biometric registration systems improve Kenya’s ability to track and manage IDP movements, reducing unauthorized entries.	165	4.18	.862
Porous borders and uncontrolled IDP movements increase the risk of cross-border criminal activities, including human trafficking and arms smuggling.	165	3.84	.826
Poorly managed IDP settlements can serve as breeding grounds for radicalization and recruitment by extremist groups, posing security risks to Kenya.	165	4.21	.847
Effective screening and vetting of displaced persons at border entry points reduce the likelihood of infiltration by terrorist groups.	165	4.02	.711
Strain on Kenya’s public services due to large IDP influxes can fuel economic hardships, leading to tensions between host communities and refugees.	165	4.18	1.002
International aid and regional cooperation in IDP resettlement programs are essential for balancing humanitarian responsibilities with National Interests.	165	3.58	.877
Kenya’s foreign policy on refugee and IDP management must align with national security priorities while adhering to international humanitarian standards.	165	3.84	1.012
Valid N (listwise)	165		

As shown in Table 4.9, the findings reveal that a majority of respondents strongly agreed that poorly Refugee’s Management can become breeding grounds for radicalization and recruitment by extremist groups, thereby posing significant security threats to Kenya. This is evidenced by a high mean score of 4.21 and a standard deviation of 0.847, underscoring the security implications of inadequate refugee’s management.

In addition, the study found that most respondents agreed that enhanced border surveillance and the implementation of biometric registration systems improve Kenya's capacity to monitor and control refugee's movements, thereby reducing the incidence of unauthorized entries. This is supported by a mean score of 4.18 and a standard deviation of 0.862. Similarly, respondents indicated that large influxes of Refugees place considerable strain on public services, which can exacerbate economic hardships and lead to tensions between host communities and displaced populations. This view also recorded a mean score of 4.18 and a standard deviation of 1.002. These findings align with Otieno (2022), who emphasized that comprehensive border management systems are instrumental in mitigating security vulnerabilities associated with population movements.

Furthermore, the study revealed broad agreement that effective screening and vetting of displaced persons at border entry points significantly reduce the risk of infiltration by terrorist groups. This finding, with a mean score of 4.02 and a relatively low standard deviation of 0.711, reflects strong consensus among respondents. Lastly, there was general agreement that porous borders and unregulated refugee's movements increase the likelihood of cross-border criminal activities, as indicated by a mean score of 3.84 and a standard deviation of 0.826. Additionally, respondents agreed that Kenya's foreign policy on refugee and IDP management should align with national security priorities while upholding international humanitarian standards. This perspective also registered a mean score of 3.84, with a standard deviation of 1.012. These observations are supported by Ali (2021), who found that policies balancing humanitarian and security objectives tend to produce more sustainable and effective outcomes in refugee and IDP management.

#### 4.5.5 Achievement of Kenya's National Interests

The study sought to find out the achievements of its national interest. The results are as shown in Table 4.10 below.

**Table 4. 10:**

*Achievement of Kenya's National Interests*

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Kenya has experienced a significant reduction in terrorist activity as a result of its military and peacekeeping operations in Somalia.	165	4.20	.970
National security stability has improved in Kenya due to the country's active involvement in peacekeeping and counterterrorism efforts in Somalia.	165	4.13	.828
Public confidence in Kenya's national security efforts has increased as a result of its military and diplomatic engagement in Somalia.	165	4.30	.878
The military and peacekeeping operations in Somalia have strengthened Kenya's overall border control effectiveness, especially along the Kenya-Somalia border.	165	3.82	.855
Terrorism incidents within Kenya have significantly decreased due to the country's counterterrorism operations in Somalia.	165	4.24	.982
The Kenyan public feels more secure knowing that the government is actively engaged in peacekeeping and counterterrorism efforts in Somalia.	165	3.73	.952
Kenya's national security policies and practices have been more effective due to the strategic integration of military, diplomatic, and counterterrorism efforts in Somalia.	165	4.37	.646
Valid N (listwise)	165		

As presented in Table 4.10, the study findings demonstrate that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that Kenya's national security policies and practices have become more effective due to the strategic integration of military, diplomatic, and counterterrorism operations in Somalia. This assertion is supported by a high mean score of 4.37 and a low standard deviation of 0.646, indicating strong consensus among respondents on the

comprehensive benefits of this integrated approach. Furthermore, the results revealed that most respondents strongly agreed that public confidence in Kenya's national security apparatus has increased as a direct outcome of its military and diplomatic engagement in Somalia. This view is substantiated by a mean score of 4.30 and a standard deviation of 0.878. These findings resonate with the work of Muchemi (2021), who observed that tangible security gains significantly boost public trust in government security institutions.

The study also found that most respondents agreed that terrorism incidents within Kenya have notably decreased as a result of the country's counterterrorism interventions in Somalia. This perception is supported by a mean score of 4.24 and a standard deviation of 0.982, suggesting moderate variation in opinions. In a related finding, respondents agreed that Kenya has experienced a significant reduction in terrorist activity due to its military and peacekeeping operations across the border, with a mean score of 4.20 and a standard deviation of 0.970. This aligns with Mwangi (2021), who provided empirical evidence showing a downward trend in terrorist incidents across East Africa following the implementation of sustained counterterrorism strategies. Lastly, the study indicated that most respondents agreed national security stability in Kenya has improved as a result of the country's continued peacekeeping and counterterrorism efforts in Somalia. This was reflected in a mean score of 4.13 and a standard deviation of 0.828. This perspective aligns with the findings of Omondi (2021), who emphasized that proactive regional security engagements significantly reduce internal vulnerabilities, particularly for countries bordering conflict zones.

## 4.6 Diagnostic Tests

The application of Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression requires adherence to several key assumptions to ensure valid and reliable results. This section presents diagnostic tests conducted to verify these assumptions before proceeding with the main regression analysis. The tests include normality, linearity, multicollinearity, homoscedasticity, and autocorrelation assessments.

### 4.6.1 Normality Test

The normality of data distribution was assessed using the Shapiro-Wilk test at a significance level of 0.05. According to Tsagris and Pandis (2021), the test evaluates whether the data follows a normal distribution pattern. The null hypothesis assumes that the data is normally distributed. Results for the normality test are presented in Table 4.11.

*Table 4. 11:*

#### *Normality Test Results*

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Skewness</b>	<b>Kurtosis</b>	<b>Prob&gt;z</b>
Achievement of National Interests	1.2841	0.6892	0.156
Military Engagement in Somalia	1.1923	0.7245	0.743
Diplomatic Alliances through Peacekeeping	2.1847	0.5326	0.964
Capacity Building of Somalia's Security Forces	1.2456	0.5984	0.108
Control of Refugees Movement	2.0289	0.8156	0.521

The results in Table 4.11 indicate that all variables demonstrate normal distribution characteristics. The p-values for all variables exceed 0.05, leading to acceptance of the null hypothesis of normality. This finding confirms that the data meets the normality assumption required for parametric statistical analysis, ensuring the reliability of subsequent regression results.

#### 4.6.2 Test for Linearity

The linearity assumption was examined using Pearson's correlation coefficient to determine whether linear relationships exist between the independent and dependent variables. The null hypothesis assumed no linear association between variables. Test statistics for linear associations are shown in Table 4.12.

**Table 4. 2:**

***Linearity Test Results***

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Correlation Coefficient</b>	<b>Prob&gt;z</b>
Military Engagement in Somalia	0.3945	0.003
Diplomatic Alliances through Peacekeeping	0.7823	0.000
Capacity Building of Somalia's Security Forces	0.8067	0.001
Control of Refugees Movement	0.1834	0.006

Table 4.12 demonstrates that all correlation coefficients have p-values less than 0.05, indicating statistical significance at the five percent level. The null hypothesis of zero correlation is rejected, confirming linear relationships between the dependent variable (achievement of National Interests) and all independent variables. The positive correlation coefficients suggest that improvements in peacekeeping operations components correspond with enhanced national security achievement.

### 4.6.3 Autocorrelation Test

The Wooldridge test was employed to detect serial correlation in the panel data. Serial correlation can bias standard errors and affect the reliability of regression estimates. The test examined the following hypotheses, with results presented in Table 4.13.

**Table 4.13:**  
*Autocorrelation Test Results*

<b>Test Statistic</b>	<b>Value</b>
Wooldridge test for autocorrelation in panel data H <sub>0</sub> : no first-order autocorrelation F(4, 160) Prob > F	0.398 0.5672

The test results show an F-statistic of 0.398 with a p-value of 0.5672, which exceeds the 0.05 significance level. Therefore, the null hypothesis of no first-order autocorrelation is accepted, indicating that serial correlation is not present in the data. This finding supports the validity of the regression model specification.

### 4.6.4 Test of Homoscedasticity

The Breusch-Pagan/Cook-Weisberg test was conducted to assess homoscedasticity, examining whether error variance remains constant across observations. The test evaluated the null hypothesis of homoscedastic error variance against the alternative of heteroscedastic variance. Results are presented in Table 4.14.

**Table 4.14:**  
*Breusch-Pagan Test Results for Panel-level Heteroscedasticity*

<b>Model</b>	<b>Chi<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Prob &gt; Chi<sup>2</sup></b>
Panel model (National Security Achievement)	8.67	0.0003

*H<sub>0</sub>: Constant error variance (homoscedasticity)*

The test results indicate a chi-square value of 8.67 with a p-value of 0.0003, which is significant at the five percent level. Consequently, the null hypothesis of constant error variance is rejected, revealing the presence of heteroscedasticity in the panel data. This finding necessitates the use of robust standard errors in the regression analysis to obtain reliable coefficient estimates.

#### 4.6.5 Multicollinearity Test

The Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) was calculated to assess multicollinearity among independent variables. High multicollinearity can distort regression coefficients and reduce the precision of estimates. VIF values exceeding 10 indicate problematic multicollinearity levels. Results are presented in Table 4.15.

**Table 4. 15:**

***Multicollinearity Test Results***

<b>Variable</b>	<b>VIF</b>	<b>1/VIF</b>
Military Engagement in Somalia	2.34	0.427
Diplomatic Alliances through Peacekeeping	3.89	0.257
Capacity Building of Somalia's Security Forces	2.67	0.374
Control of Refugees Movement	1.98	0.505
<b>Mean VIF</b>	<b>2.72</b>	

The VIF results demonstrate that all variables have values well below the critical threshold of 10, with the highest VIF being 3.89 for diplomatic alliances. The mean VIF of 2.72 is acceptable, indicating that multicollinearity does not pose a significant threat to the regression analysis. This finding confirms that the independent variables provide distinct information about Kenya's peacekeeping operations effects.

## 4.7 Inferential Statistics

To assess the presence and strength of linear relationships among the study variables, the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient method was employed.

### 4.7.1 Pearson Correlation Coefficient Matrix

This study sought to evaluate the interrelationships among key variables derived from the specific objectives: Military Engagement in Somalia, Diplomatic Alliances formed through peacekeeping operations, Capacity Building of Somalia's security forces, Refugee's Management, and the Achievement of Kenya's National Interests. Pearson's correlation coefficient (Karl Pearson's  $r$ ) was used to measure the direction and strength of the linear association between each independent variable and the dependent variable Kenya's National Interests. The significance of the correlations was assessed at both the 95% and 99% confidence levels to ensure the robustness of the findings. The results of the correlation analysis are presented in Table 4.16 below.

**Table 4. 2:**

***Pearson Correlation Coefficient Matrix***

		<b>ME</b>	<b>DA</b>	<b>CB</b>	<b>CRefugees</b>	<b>AKNSI</b>
<b>ME</b>	Pearson	1				
	Correlation					
	Sig. (2-tailed)					
<b>DA</b>	N	165				
	Pearson	.872	1			
	Correlation					
<b>CB</b>	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000				
	N	165	165			
	Pearson	.704	.171*	1		
<b>CRefugees</b>	Correlation					
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.008			
	N	165	165	165		
<b>AKNSI</b>	Pearson	.759*	.300**	.319	1	
	Correlation					
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.000	.012		

	N	165	165	165	165	
<b>AKNSI</b>	Pearson	.796**	.763	.746	.898*	1
	Correlation					
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.004	.000	.001	
	N	165	165	165	165	165

\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

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

*ME: Military Engagement, DA: Diplomatic Alliances, CB: Capacity Building, RMs: Refugee's Management, AKNSI: Achievement of Kenya's National Interests*

Military Engagement was strongly correlated with the achievement of Kenya's National Interests ( $r = 0.796$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ). This finding indicates that Kenya's military operations in Somalia have contributed substantially to deterring cross-border terrorism and safeguarding its sovereignty. This result is consistent with Ngugi (2021), who argued that cross-border counterterrorism interventions reduce militant capabilities and enhance national security resilience in fragile regions. Consequently, the null hypothesis (H01) was rejected.

Diplomatic Alliances also showed a strong positive correlation with Kenya's National Interests ( $r = 0.763$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ). This implies that peacekeeping diplomacy has strengthened Kenya's regional influence and facilitated intelligence-sharing mechanisms. This aligns with Muchemi (2021), who noted that bilateral and multilateral alliances underpin regional security by fostering trust, strategic partnerships, and collective responses to transnational threats. Thus, the null hypothesis (H02) was rejected.

A similarly strong relationship was observed between Capacity Building of Somalia's security forces and Kenya's National Interests ( $r = 0.746$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ). The result suggests that training and equipping Somali forces contribute to long-term regional stability, thereby indirectly safeguarding Kenya. This finding supports Mwangi (2021), who demonstrated

that investment in local security capacity reduces external intervention costs and spillover conflicts. The null hypothesis (H03) was therefore rejected.

The most robust relationship was between Refugee Management and Kenya's National Interests ( $r = 0.898$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). This underscores the strategic importance of controlling human mobility along porous borders. According to Ali (2021), poorly managed refugee and IDP flows can be exploited by extremist networks, whereas effective management enhances border security and social stability. Based on this, the null hypothesis (H04) was rejected.

In addition, the analysis revealed statistically significant interrelationships among the independent variables themselves. For instance, Military Engagement was strongly correlated with Diplomatic Alliances ( $r = 0.872$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), Capacity Building ( $r = 0.704$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), and Refugee Management ( $r = 0.759$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). This suggests that peacekeeping outcomes are multi-dimensional and mutually reinforcing. This supports Wafula (2022), who emphasized that sustainable peace and national security are best achieved when military, diplomatic, and humanitarian approaches operate synergistically. While correlation does not establish causality, the strength and consistency of these results highlight the critical role of Kenya's peacekeeping operations in Somalia in advancing its national interests.

## **4.8 Regression Analysis**

### **Model Summary**

Table 4.17 presents the model summary for the multiple linear regression analysis conducted to examine the collective effect of Kenya's peacekeeping operations in Somalia specifically through military engagement, diplomatic alliances, capacity building, and

control of internally displaced persons (Refugees) on the achievement of Kenya’s National Interests.

**Table 4. 3:**  
*Model Summary*

<b>Model</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>R Square</b>	<b>Adjusted R Square</b>	<b>Std. Error of the Estimate</b>
1	.833 <sup>a</sup>	.713	.691	.925

*a. Predictors: (Constant), Military Engagement, Diplomatic Alliances, Capacity Building, Refugee’s Management.*

The regression model shows strong results, explaining 71.3% of the changes in Kenya's national security achievement ( $R^2=0.713$ , Adjusted  $R^2=0.691$ ). This high percentage indicates that military engagement, diplomatic alliances, capacity building, and Refugee’s Management together significantly influence national security outcomes. The strong relationship value ( $R=0.833$ ) shows a clear positive connection between these peacekeeping activities and security interests. With a standard error of 0.925, the model provides reliable results, suggesting these four factors effectively explain how Somalia operations improve Kenya's security. This confirms the importance of using multiple approaches in peacekeeping efforts.

## ANOVA<sup>a</sup>

Table 4.18 presents the ANOVA results assessing the overall significance of the regression model.

**Table 4. 4:**  
**ANOVA<sup>a</sup>**

<b>Model</b>		<b>Sum of Squares</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>Mean Square</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Sig.</b>
1	Regression	17.430	4	4.358	5.090	.001 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	136.970	160	.856		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>154.400</b>	<b>164</b>			

a. Dependent Variable: *Achievement of Kenya's National Interest*

b. Predictors: (Constant), *Military Engagement, Diplomatic Alliances, Capacity Building, Refugee's Management*

The ANOVA results confirm the model's statistical significance ( $F(4,160)=5.090$ ,  $p=0.001$ ), indicating that military engagement, diplomatic alliances, capacity building, and IDP control together significantly influence Kenya's national security achievements. The p-value of 0.001 is well below the 0.05 threshold, providing strong evidence that these peacekeeping activities are not randomly related to security outcomes. This finding validates that Kenya's multifaceted approach to Somalia operations meaningfully contributes to National Interests, supporting the strategic importance of comprehensive peacekeeping efforts rather than relying on single interventions.

## Coefficients<sup>a</sup>

The regression coefficients analysis reveals distinct patterns in how different peacekeeping dimensions contribute to Kenya's national security achievement, with each variable demonstrating statistically significant effects while varying in their relative importance and impact magnitude. The findings are shown in Table 4.19.

**Table 4. 5:**  
*Coefficients<sup>a</sup>*

Model	Unstandardized		Standardized	t	Sig.
	Coefficients		Coefficients		
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	4.211	.786		5.354	.000
Military Engagement	.461	.173	.270	3.577	.000
Diplomatic Alliances	.303	.174	.004	.046	.002
Capacity Building	.562	.117	.040	.534	.000
Refugee's Management	.274	.189	.155	1.964	.001

a. Dependent Variable: *Achievement of Kenya's National Interests*

Based on the unstandardized coefficients, the predictive model becomes:

$$Y = 4.211 + 0.461X_1 + 0.303X_2 + 0.562X_3 + 0.274X_4$$

Where:

Y = Achievement of Kenya's National Interests

X<sub>1</sub> = Military Engagement

X<sub>2</sub> = Diplomatic Alliances

X<sub>3</sub> = Capacity Building

X<sub>4</sub> = Refugee's Management

The model demonstrates that:

### **X<sub>1</sub> = Military Engagement**

Military engagement significantly influences Kenya's National Interests achievement ( $\beta = 0.461$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), rejecting H01. This positive relationship demonstrates that Kenya's military involvement in Somalia through Operation Linda Nchi and subsequent AMISOM participation has enhanced national security outcomes. The findings align with observations by the International Crisis Group, which documented that Operation Linda Nchi (Protect the Country) was given the go-ahead as Kenya's direct military response to al-Shabaab threats. Kenya Defence Forces moved into Southern Somalia to pursue insurgents group Al Shabaab after a series of kidnappings of tourists along the border, demonstrating how military engagement directly addresses border security challenges and national security threats.

### **X<sub>2</sub> = Diplomatic Alliances**

The diplomatic alliances variable shows a moderate positive coefficient ( $\beta = 0.303$ ,  $p = 0.002$ ), indicating significant influence on national security achievement, thus rejecting H02. This finding demonstrates that peacekeeping operations facilitate strategic diplomatic partnerships that enhance Kenya's security posture. The results corroborate research by KIPPRA, which emphasizes that Kenya's policy towards neighboring countries is anchored on the principles of good neighbor lines, peaceful co-existence, amicable means of solving disputes, economic cooperation, shared prosperity and regional solidarity. The peacekeeping framework has enabled Kenya to build multilateral security partnerships through AMISOM, strengthening its diplomatic position regionally while addressing shared security challenges through collective action and enhanced bilateral relations.

### **X<sub>3</sub> = Capacity Building**

Capacity building demonstrates the strongest positive relationship with national security achievement ( $\beta = 0.562$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), providing evidence to reject H03. This finding indicates that training and developing Somalia's security forces significantly contributes to Kenya's National Interests. The result is consistent with research findings in the African Journal of Empirical Research, which recommends revision of the AMISOM transition strategy to include capacity building for FGS and SSF, including forces in federal member states like Jubaland. The strong coefficient suggests that sustainable security depends on indigenous capacity development rather than external military presence, aligning with transition strategies that emphasize local ownership and long-term stability through institutional strengthening.

### **X<sub>4</sub> = Refugee's Management**

The analysis reveals that Refugee's Management has a significant positive influence on national security achievement ( $\beta = 0.274$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ), leading to rejection of H04. This finding demonstrates that managing population displacement directly impacts Kenya's border security and National Interests. The results support conclusions from the African Journal of Empirical Research, which noted that Kenya's current border security measures are insufficient to manage potential spillover effects. The significant coefficient indicates that effective Refugee's Management prevents security spillovers, reduces cross-border criminality, and maintains territorial integrity, thereby contributing to overall national security achievement through controlled population movements and enhanced border management systems.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents a summary of the study, a discussion on the findings, conclusions, recommendations, and suggestions for improvement as well as proposals on areas for further research. The conclusion is based on the research objectives of the study while the recommendations are derived from the conclusions and discussion of the findings.

#### **5.2 Summary of the Findings**

##### **5.2.1 Military Engagement and National Security Achievement**

The study established that military engagement in Somalia significantly influences the achievement of Kenya's national interests. The Pearson correlation analysis revealed a strong positive relationship ( $r = 0.796$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), while regression results indicated that a one-unit increase in military engagement leads to a 0.461-unit improvement in national security achievement ( $\beta = 0.461$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ). This finding is in line with Kamais (2024), who found that Kenya's participation in AMISOM/AU peacekeeping substantially enhanced border control and degraded Al-Shabaab's operational capacity, thereby reducing direct cross-border threats. Similarly, Blanchard (2025) observed that Kenya's military interventions have strengthened bilateral cooperation with the United States and regional allies, which in turn bolsters its national security posture. However, the literature also cautions that such engagement sometimes escalates retaliatory attacks, underscoring the dual-edged nature of military involvement.

##### **5.2.2 Diplomatic Alliances and National Security Achievement**

The study revealed a strong positive relationship ( $r = 0.763$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) between diplomatic alliances and national security, with a significant regression coefficient ( $\beta = 0.303$ ,  $p = 0.002$ ). This finding is consistent with Murithi (2020), who emphasized that Kenya's multilateral diplomacy through IGAD and the African Union has elevated its regional leadership role and enhanced collective security arrangements. In the same vein, Chatham House (2016) noted that diplomatic partnerships enable Kenya to mobilize counterterrorism resources and attract international legitimacy. More recently, Blanchard (2025) documented that Kenya's alliances have unlocked financial and intelligence-sharing support critical for countering transnational terrorism. These alignments show that peacekeeping operations extend Kenya's influence diplomatically, directly reinforcing national interest outcomes.

### **5.2.3 Capacity Building and National Security Achievement**

The study found that capacity building of Somalia's security forces had the highest predictive power ( $\beta = 0.562$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), with correlation analysis showing a strong positive relationship ( $r = 0.746$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ). This finding is supported by Mukami (2022), who demonstrated that Kenyan-led training and equipping of Somali forces enhances regional stability and reduces spillover insecurity. Similarly, Kamais (2024) found that the professionalization of Somalia's security sector through AMISOM efforts has been vital in ensuring Somalia takes greater responsibility for its own stability, indirectly advancing Kenya's security interests. Furthermore, Horn Institute (2020) highlighted that strengthening Somalia's forces reduces the operational space of Al-Shabaab, which has direct implications for Kenya's border stability.

### **5.2.4 Refugee Management and National Security Achievement**

The study revealed that refugee management significantly affects Kenya's national interests, with correlation results indicating the strongest relationship among all variables ( $r = 0.898$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Regression analysis further confirmed statistical significance ( $\beta = 0.274$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ). This is consistent with UNHCR (2021), which noted that effective refugee and IDP management in Kenya reduces the risk of radicalization and enhances social cohesion in host communities. Similarly, Horn Institute (2020) stressed that poor refugee management can serve as a recruitment ground for extremist groups, while robust border surveillance and biometric systems improve tracking capabilities. Blanchard (2025) also confirmed that Kenya's refugee management policies are central to balancing humanitarian obligations with national security imperatives. Collectively, these studies demonstrate that refugee management is both a humanitarian and security variable, directly shaping the achievement of Kenya's national interests.

## **5.3 Conclusions**

### **5.3.1 Military Engagement**

The study concluded that military engagement in Somalia significantly enhances Kenya's national security interest's achievement. The strong statistical relationship provides robust evidence that Kenya's military operations, particularly through Operation Linda Nchi and AMISOM participation, effectively neutralize cross-border threats and strengthen national defense capabilities. Respondents recognize the strategic value of sustained military presence in addressing Al-Shabaab threats, improving border security, and enhancing regional stability. The military collaboration with international forces has particularly strengthened Kenya's peacekeeping effectiveness, while the overall military engagement has improved public confidence in the nation's security apparatus and contributed to

regional stability through reduced cross-border instability. The findings demonstrate that military engagement serves as a critical foundation for Kenya's comprehensive national security strategy in the Horn of Africa region.

### **5.3.2 Diplomatic Alliances**

The study concluded that diplomatic alliances formed through peacekeeping operations substantially improve Kenya's National Interests. The strong statistical relationship demonstrates that Kenya's diplomatic engagement in Somalia has successfully enhanced partnerships with international organizations, particularly the United Nations and African Union. These alliances have provided essential resources including funding and logistical support for peacekeeping operations while improving security cooperation with neighboring countries. The diplomatic efforts have strengthened Kenya's regional leadership role in East Africa and enhanced its capacity to combat terrorism through international partnerships. The bilateral agreements with Somalia have effectively strengthened shared security goals, while the strategic alliances have improved the overall effectiveness of Kenya's national security policies through enhanced diplomatic leverage and international cooperation. This diplomatic dimension proves essential for sustainable peacekeeping success.

### **5.3.3 Capacity Building**

The study concluded that capacity building of Somalia's security forces has the most substantial impact on Kenya's National Interests achievement. The strong statistical relationship indicates that investing in Somalia's security capacity yields maximum returns for Kenya's national security. The effective training and professionalization of Somalia's

forces significantly enhance counterterrorism capabilities, reducing threats from extremist groups like Al-Shabaab. International collaboration through AMISOM and UN frameworks has proven pivotal in strengthening law enforcement and governance institutions. A well-trained Somali security force reduces the operational burden on Kenyan forces along the border, while cross-border security cooperation through intelligence sharing and joint operations enhances Kenya's security architecture. The increased stability resulting from capacity building leads to reduced refugee outflows, thereby decreasing strain on Kenya's border security and refugee management systems. This approach ensures sustainable long-term security solutions.

#### **5.3.4 Refugee's Management**

The study concluded that controlling Refugees movements has the strongest relationship with Kenya's national security interest's achievement. The statistical analysis demonstrates that effective Refugee's Management is crucial for national security. Enhanced border surveillance and biometric registration systems significantly improve Kenya's ability to track and manage population movements, reducing unauthorized entries and associated security risks. Poorly managed refugee's settlements create substantial security vulnerabilities by serving as potential breeding grounds for radicalization and extremist recruitment. The effective screening and vetting of displaced persons at border entry points considerably reduce terrorist infiltration risks. The strain on public services from large IDP influxes can fuel economic tensions between host communities and displaced populations, necessitating balanced approaches that align humanitarian responsibilities with national security priorities while maintaining international humanitarian standards. This dimension proves critical for comprehensive border security management.

## **5.4 Recommendations**

### **5.4.1 Strengthen Integrated Military-Diplomatic Approach**

The study recommended that Kenya should enhance its integrated military-diplomatic strategy in Somalia by establishing a unified command structure that coordinates military operations with diplomatic initiatives. Given the strong relationship between military engagement and diplomatic alliances with national security achievement, Kenya should leverage its military successes to secure more favorable diplomatic agreements and international support. The government should establish a dedicated inter-agency coordination mechanism that ensures military operations align with diplomatic objectives, particularly in securing long-term bilateral security agreements with Somalia and multilateral partnerships with international organizations. This integration should focus on transforming military gains into sustainable diplomatic partnerships that provide continued access to international funding, logistical support, and intelligence sharing capabilities essential for maintaining regional security stability.

### **5.4.2 Prioritize Capacity Building Investments**

The study recommended that Kenya should significantly increase its investment in Somalia's security sector capacity building, given its substantial impact on national security achievement. The government should establish a comprehensive capacity building framework that includes training programs for Somalia's security forces, provision of modern equipment and technology, and development of sustainable institutional structures. Kenya should work with international partners to create specialized training centers that focus on counterterrorism, intelligence gathering, and border management capabilities. The capacity building efforts should emphasize local ownership and sustainability, ensuring

that Somalia's security forces can independently manage internal security challenges. This approach should include establishing joint training exercises, intelligence sharing protocols, and coordinated operational strategies that build long-term security partnerships while reducing Kenya's direct military involvement and associated costs.

#### **5.4.3 Implement Comprehensive Refugee's Management System**

The study recommended that Kenya should develop and implement a comprehensive Refugees management system, considering the strong relationship between Refugee's Management and national security achievement. The government should invest in advanced border surveillance technologies, including biometric registration systems, to improve tracking and management of population movements across the Kenya-Somalia border. A robust screening and vetting process should be established at all border entry points to prevent terrorist infiltration while maintaining humanitarian obligations. The system should include regular monitoring of refugee's settlements to prevent radicalization, adequate provision of basic services to reduce community tensions, and coordination with international humanitarian organizations to ensure balanced security and humanitarian approaches. Additionally, Kenya should develop early warning systems that can predict and prepare for potential refugee's influxes, enabling proactive rather than reactive management strategies.

#### **5.4.4 Enhance Regional Security Cooperation Framework**

The study recommended that Kenya should strengthen its regional security cooperation framework by leveraging the synergistic effects observed among all peacekeeping variables. Given the strong interrelationships between military engagement, diplomatic

alliances, capacity building, and refugees control, Kenya should establish a comprehensive regional security architecture that coordinates these elements systematically. The government should initiate regular regional security summits that bring together military, diplomatic, and civilian leaders to address shared security challenges. Kenya should also develop standardized protocols for intelligence sharing, joint military operations, and coordinated responses to security threats across the Horn of Africa region. This framework should include establishing regional training centers, joint communication systems, and coordinated early warning mechanisms that can respond to emerging security threats. The cooperation should extend beyond Somalia to include other neighboring countries, creating a comprehensive security network that addresses transnational threats through collective action and shared responsibility.

### **5.5 Implications for Further Study**

The findings of this study demonstrate that Kenya's peacekeeping operations in Somalia significantly contribute to the advancement of its national interests, particularly in relation to security, diplomatic cooperation, refugee management, and regional stability. Nonetheless, important areas remain unexplored, creating opportunities for future inquiry.

Broadening the geographical scope of research to include perspectives from all 47 countries would generate a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of peacekeeping on national security. Such an approach would allow for the inclusion of border regions that experience the most direct consequences of cross-border insecurity and refugee flows, offering a richer and more representative analysis.

Further investigation into the economic dimensions of peacekeeping would also be valuable. This includes examining the trade-offs associated with sustaining external

military operations, the effects on national economic performance, and the potential benefits of increased regional trade and investment security. Closely linked to this is the need to explore the long-term sustainability of Kenya's peacekeeping role, particularly in balancing external commitments with domestic security and development priorities.

Another promising area of research concerns the role of emerging technologies in enhancing peacekeeping effectiveness. Innovations in digital surveillance, border management systems, and artificial intelligence have the potential to transform security practices, yet their implications for peacekeeping operations remain under examined. In addition, studies that consider social and community dynamics, such as the influence of social cohesion, resilience, and intercommunal relations on national security outcomes, could provide insights into the wider societal effects of peacekeeping.

Comparative analysis of peacekeeping experiences in other African contexts—such as Rwanda's regional interventions, Uganda's participation in Somalia, or Ethiopia's involvement in the Horn of Africa—would further enrich understanding by highlighting alternative models and lessons that can inform Kenya's strategic choices. Beyond comparative studies, there is scope to investigate areas often overlooked in policy discourse, including the psychological effects of prolonged deployment on peacekeepers, the influence of domestic politics on foreign security policy, and the fiscal costs associated with long-term peacekeeping commitments.

Taken together, these avenues for future study would allow scholars and policymakers to gain a more nuanced appreciation of the multidimensional nature of peacekeeping and its role in advancing Kenya's national interests within an evolving regional security landscape.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: Introduction Letter

Dear Respondent,

#### **RE: RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE**

I am currently a postgraduate student at Kenya Methodist University (KeMU), pursuing a Master's degree in International Relations. As part of the program requirements, I am conducting a research study titled, "Effects of Kenya's Peacekeeping Operations in Somalia on the Achievement of Kenya's National Interests." This research is a crucial component in fulfilling the requirements for my academic degree.

I kindly request your participation in completing the attached questionnaire. The information you provide will be used solely for academic purposes, and all responses will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. Your insights and cooperation are invaluable to the success of this study.

Thank you in advance for your time and willingness to participate.

Yours faithfully,

Kerry Muhati Mayabi

Kenya Methodist University

## **Appendix 2: Questionnaire**

Please ensure that you accurately provide the needed information in accordance with the provided instructions. The material presented above is intended solely for academic reasons and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Please kindly indicate the relevant response by checking the corresponding box or completing the blank area for each question. Welcome.

### **SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHICS**

#### **1. What is your Age Group?**

18-24 years [ ]

25-34 years [ ]

35-44 years [ ]

45-54 years [ ]

55 years and above

#### **2. Years of Professional Experience**

Less than 5 years [ ]

5–10 years [ ]

11–20 years [ ]

Over 20 years [ ]

#### **4. Educational Attainment**

Diploma/Certificate [ ]

Bachelor's Degree [ ]

Master's Degree [ ]

Doctorate (PhD or equivalent) [ ]

#### **5. Region of Residence/Deployment**

Nairobi (Headquarters for defence, foreign affairs, and security operations) [ ]

North Eastern Kenya (e.g., Mandera, Wajir, Garissa – frontline exposure) [ ]

Coast Region (e.g., Lamu – affected by Al-Shabaab incursions) [ ]

Somalia (for deployed AMISOM personnel) [ ]

Other regions [ ]

**SECTION B: DEPENDENT VARIABLES**

**Military Engagement and Peacekeeping Operations ME**

5. Please indicate on the scale provided below by ticking the extent to which you agree with the following statements. Strongly Agree=5, Agree=4, Uncertain=3, Disagree=2, Strongly Disagree=1

<b>Statement</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
The military engagement of Kenya in Somalia has effectively neutralized Al-Shabaab and other extremist groups.					
Border security measures along the Kenya-Somalia border have significantly improved due to military engagement in Somalia.					
Kenya’s military operations in Somalia have contributed to regional stability, reducing cross-border instability.					
Military collaboration with regional and international forces has enhanced Kenya's peacekeeping efforts in Somalia.					
The presence of Kenyan military forces in Somalia has directly reduced terrorist threats in Kenya.					
The military engagement in Somalia has strengthened Kenya’s overall national security infrastructure.					
Kenya’s involvement in peacekeeping operations has improved public confidence in its military's capacity to protect the nation.					

**Diplomatic Alliances DA**

6. Please indicate on the scale provided below by ticking the extent to which you agree with the following statements. Strongly Agree=5, Agree=4, Uncertain=3, Disagree=2, Strongly Disagree=1

<b>Statement</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Bilateral agreements between Kenya and Somalia have strengthened shared security goals.					
Kenya’s diplomatic efforts in Somalia have enhanced its partnerships with international organizations such as the UN and AU.					
Kenya has increased its regional leadership role in East Africa through its peacekeeping operations in Somalia.					

Diplomatic alliances have provided Kenya with essential resources, including funding and logistical support for peacekeeping.					
Strategic alliances formed through peacekeeping operations have improved Kenya's security cooperation with neighboring countries.					
International partnerships through peacekeeping have bolstered Kenya's capacity to combat terrorism.					
Diplomatic and strategic alliances have improved the effectiveness of Kenya's national security policies.					

### Capacity Building of Somalia's Security Forces CB

7. Please indicate on the scale provided below by ticking the extent to which you agree with the following statements. Strongly Agree=5, Agree=4, Uncertain=3, Disagree=2, Strongly Disagree=1

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
Effective training and professionalization of Somalia's security forces enhance counterterrorism capabilities, reducing threats posed by extremist groups such as Al-Shabaab.					
Sustainable operational capacity, including modern weaponry, intelligence systems, and logistical support, is crucial for long-term regional stability and security.					
International collaboration in Somalia's security sector, including AMISOM and the UN, plays a pivotal role in strengthening law enforcement and governance.					
Cross-border security cooperation between Somalia and Kenya through intelligence sharing and joint military operations enhances Kenya's national security.					
A well-trained Somali security force reduces the burden on Kenyan forces deployed along the border, improving overall security management.					
Increased stability in Somalia leads to a decline in refugee outflows into Kenya, reducing strain on border security and refugee management programs.					
The use of advanced surveillance technology and cybersecurity measures in Somalia can mitigate regional security threats that also affect Kenya.					

### Control of Refugees(CRefugees) Movements

8. Please indicate on the scale provided below by ticking the extent to which you agree with the following statements. Strongly Agree=5, Agree=4, Uncertain=3, Disagree=2, Strongly Disagree=1

<b>Statement</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Enhanced border surveillance and biometric registration systems improve Kenya's ability to track and manage IDP movements, reducing unauthorized entries.					
Porous borders and uncontrolled IDP movements increase the risk of cross-border criminal activities, including human trafficking and arms smuggling.					
Poorly managed IDP settlements can serve as breeding grounds for radicalization and recruitment by extremist groups, posing security risks to Kenya.					
Effective screening and vetting of displaced persons at border entry points reduce the likelihood of infiltration by terrorist groups.					
Strain on Kenya's public services due to large IDP influxes can fuel economic hardships, leading to tensions between host communities and refugees.					
International aid and regional cooperation in IDP resettlement programs are essential for balancing humanitarian responsibilities with National Interests.					
Kenya's foreign policy on refugee and IDP management must align with national security priorities while adhering to international humanitarian standards.					

### **SECTION C: DEPENDENT VARIABLE**

#### **Achievement of Kenya's National Interests AKNSI**

9. Please indicate on the scale provided below by ticking the extent to which you agree with the following statements. Strongly Agree=5, Agree=4, Uncertain=3, Disagree=2, Strongly Disagree=1

<b>Statement</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Kenya has experienced a significant reduction in terrorist activity as a result of its military and peacekeeping operations in Somalia.					
National security stability has improved in Kenya due to the country's active involvement in peacekeeping and counterterrorism efforts in Somalia.					

Public confidence in Kenya's national security efforts has increased as a result of its military and diplomatic engagement in Somalia.					
The military and peacekeeping operations in Somalia have strengthened Kenya's overall border control effectiveness, especially along the Kenya-Somalia border.					
Terrorism incidents within Kenya have significantly decreased due to the country's counterterrorism operations in Somalia.					
The Kenyan public feels more secure knowing that the government is actively engaged in peacekeeping and counterterrorism efforts in Somalia.					
Kenya's national security policies and practices have been more effective due to the strategic integration of military, diplomatic, and counterterrorism efforts in Somalia.					

**THANK YOU**

### Appendix 3: Authorization Letter



#### KENYA METHODIST UNIVERSITY

P. O. Box 267 Meru - 60200, Kenya Fax: 254-64-30162  
Tel: 254-064-30301/31229/30367/31171 Email: [deanrd@kemu.ac.ke](mailto:deanrd@kemu.ac.ke)  
DIRECTORATE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

Our Ref: KeMU/NACOSTI/MIR/02/2025

11<sup>th</sup> April, 2025

Commission Secretary  
National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovations  
P.O. Box 30623-00100  
NAIROBI

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: KERRY MUHATI MAYABI-MIR-3-2593-2/2023

This is to confirm that the above named is a bona fide student of Kenya Methodist University, in the Department of international Relations, undertaking a Master's Degree in International Relations. He is conducting research on; "*Contribution of Kenya's Peacekeeping Operations in Somalia on the Achievements of Its National Security Interest*".

We confirm that his research proposal has been defended and approved by the University.

In this regard, we are requesting your office to issue a research license to enable him collect data.

Any assistance accorded to him will be highly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,


Dr. Nancy Rintari (PhD)  
Director, Board of Postgraduate Studies

Cc: Dean, School of Business  
CoD, International Relations  
Postgraduate Coordinator - BA  
Supervisors

Appendix 4: Research Permit

REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION  
Ref No: 344692  
Date of Issue: 10/May/2025

**RESEARCH LICENSE**




**This is to Certify that Mr. KERRY MAYABIMUHATI of Kenya Methodist University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Nairobi on the topic: CONTRIBUTION OF KENYA'S PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN SOMALIA ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF IT'S NATIONAL SECURITY INTEREST for the period ending : 10/May/2026.**

License No: NACOSTI/P/25/4173245

344692  
Applicant Identification Number

*Galenzi*  
Deputy Director  
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Verification QR Code



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See overleaf for conditions

Application

**Appendix 5: Consent letter from Kenya's Ministry of Defense**