THE INTERFACE BETWEEN SECURITY AND THE REFUGEE CRISIS IN AFRICA: A CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS OF THE DADAAB REFUGEE CAMP IN KENYA

by

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APPROVAL

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In accordance with Daystar University policies, this thesis is accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Arts degree.

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THE INTERFACE BETWEEN SECURITY AND THE REFUGEE CRISES IN AFRICA: A CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS OF THE DADAAB REFUGEE CAMP IN KENYA

I declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been submitted to any other college or university for academic credit.

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16-190
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL ........................................................................................................................................... ii
DECLARATION .......................................................................................................................................... iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ...................................................................................................................... v
TABLE OF CONTENTS ........................................................................................................................ vi
LIST OF TABLES .................................................................................................................................... vii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACCRONYMS ................................................................................ viii
ABSTRACT ............................................................................................................................................. ix

CHAPTER ONE ............................................................................................................................... 1
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY ............................................................ 1
  Introduction ........................................................................................................................................ 1
  Background of the Study ..................................................................................................................... 1
  Statement of the Problem ................................................................................................................... 5
  Objectives of the Study ...................................................................................................................... 7
  Research Questions .......................................................................................................................... 7
  Assumptions of the Study ................................................................................................................ 7
  Justification of the Study ................................................................................................................. 8
  Significance of the Study .................................................................................................................. 8
  Scope of the Study ............................................................................................................................ 9
  Limitations and Delimitations of the Study .................................................................................. 9
  Definitions of Terms ...................................................................................................................... 9

CHAPTER TWO ............................................................................................................................ 12
LITERATURE REVIEW .................................................................................................................. 12
  Introduction ................................................................................................................................. 12
  Theoretical Framework ................................................................................................................ 12
  General Literature Review ........................................................................................................ 15
  Empirical Literature Review ..................................................................................................... 30
  Conceptual Framework ............................................................................................................... 33
  Summary ...................................................................................................................................... 34

CHAPTER THREE ........................................................................................................................ 35
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY ....................................................................................................... 35
  Introduction ................................................................................................................................. 35
  Research Design ........................................................................................................................ 35
  Population ................................................................................................................................... 35
  Target Population ....................................................................................................................... 36
  Sample Size ............................................................................................................................... 36
  Sampling Techniques ................................................................................................................ 37
  Data Collection Instruments ..................................................................................................... 37
  Data Collection Procedures ....................................................................................................... 37
  Pretesting ..................................................................................................................................... 38
  Data Analysis Plan ...................................................................................................................... 38
  Ethical Considerations ................................................................................................................ 38
  Summary .................................................................................................................................... 40

CHAPTER FOUR .......................................................................................................................... 41
DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION ...................................................... 41
  Introduction ................................................................................................................................. 41
  Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation .................................................................................... 41
  Summary of Key Findings ........................................................................................................... 63
  Summary ..................................................................................................................................... 65

vi
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Five</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions, Conclusions and Recommendations</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion of Key Findings</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusions</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Areas for Further Research</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendices</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix A: Interview Guide for Respondents</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix B: Ethics Clearance</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix C: Anti-plagiarism Report</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix D: Introduction Letter</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix E: Research Permit</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF TABLES

Table 4.1: Gender of Respondents ................................................................. 42
Table 4.2: Age of Respondents ................................................................. 42
Table 4.3: Level of Education ................................................................. 43
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACCRONYMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPA</td>
<td>Comprehensive Peace Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOK</td>
<td>Government of Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Identification Card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGAD</td>
<td>Inter-Governmental Authority on Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commission for Refugees</td>
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<td>US</td>
<td>United States</td>
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ABSTRACT

This study sought to examine the interface between security and the refugee crises in Africa with a focus on Dadaab Refugee Camp in Kenya. The objectives of the study included; to examine the contextual background of the refugee crises in Kenya, to evaluate the impact of the refugee crises in Dadaab Refugee Camp on Kenya’s national security and to assess the intervention measures by the Government of Kenya in response to Dadaab refugee crises and national security. The study was qualitative in nature and adopted a descriptive research design. The study also adopted a case study approach. An interview schedule was used to collect data from the respondents. The study established that that among the key problems which are faced by the refugees including separation from their family members, high level of both physical and mental insecurities, lack of proper shelters, food insecurity, lack of proper education, health care and employment for their children. The study has also indicated that the presence of the Dadaab refugee camp has been responsible for the rising cases of insecurity both within the camp and outside the camp. This was because, inside the camp, cases of rape were reported on a daily basis, inter-clan infightings, burglary, as well as smuggling of contraband goods and hiding in of small arms. The study concluded that there were groups of criminals that took full advantage of refugee crises to trade in small arms and hide amongst refugees to camouflage their activities. The Kenya-Somalia boarder was plagued by insecurity that was attributed internally to banditry, illicit firearms, cattle rustling and inter-clan conflict. Refugees were also regarded as a group of vulnerable people who needed protection. The study recommends that in order to address the problem of illegal immigrants, the government should be provided with additional support by UNHCR and donors in
order for it to increase the number of trained security personnel assigned to the Kenya-Somali border.