

Effectiveness of Border Security Governance in Preventing Crimes in Nimule Border Post South Sudan

Marial Chanuong Yol

Student, Department of Peace Security Social Sciences
Egerton University Kenya

Samson Wokabi Mwangi

Department of Peace Security Social Sciences
Egerton University, Kenya

Panuel Mwaeke

Department of Peace Security Social Sciences
Egerton University, Kenya

ABSTRACT

This paper uses data collected for an MA Thesis on the effectiveness of Border Security Governance in Preventing Crimes in Nimule Border Post South Sudan. The study assessed the nature of existing border security models at Nimule Border Post –South Sudan; to assessed the influence of administrative structures on border security at Nimule Border Post –South Sudan, established the effect of resource allocation on the quality of border security at Nimule Border Post –South Sudan, and finally determined law enforcement officers perceptions on best practices for border security governance at Nimule Border Post –South Sudan. This study was guided by two theories; The Contingency Theory and The Governance Theory. The study use a Descriptive Research Survey Design to investigate the problem under the study. Questionnaires were used to collect data from 75 senior members of the police and 10 Key Informants. Key informants guide was used to collect qualitative data from the Key Informants. Data was analysed with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and the results presented using tables, bar graphs and pie charts. According to this study the existing border security model is only composed of the local police. This is inconsistent with the new international security model that require a coordinated multipronged approach by other public agencies. This explains the runaway insecurity prevalent in south Sudan and worse in areas around Nimule border itself. This administrative structure is organized in paramilitary style that limit and affect decision making of street officers at the Nimule border and characteristically discouraged free hand in operational contexts thus stifled security operations at the Nimule border. The study also established allocation of very scanty resources that did not support adoption of modern state of the arts border security technology at the Nimule border. According to this study law enforcement perceptions sought for the establishment of; joint border crossing points, international cooperation, border community policing programs, establishment of border communities in border security management and coordinated cross-border patrols and multiagency operations. As a policy matter, the government should bench mark with developed countries of best border

security model which requires a coordinated multipronged approach by other public agencies and conform to it if she is to cut the problem of border insecurity to the nib. Further, decentralize and demilitarize the administrative structure which are a characteristic of hierarchical leadership structures and strict command and give officers on the street a free hand in decision making at the Nimule Border.

INTRODUCTION

Border security as a fundamental principle dates back to the birth of the modern state though it did not fully develop until the 18th century (Agamben, 2001). A requisite for human society (McCrie 2008) posits that security has four interlocking factors which are; physical security measures, public protection forces, private security personnel, technology and individual efforts for protection and maintenance of order.

Security is a pursuit of freedom from threats (Stone, 2009) and consequently is not only a human need but also a human right according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations (1948). McCrae (2007) notes that without security, civilization could not have developed and that without continuance of protection, future progress would be imperilled because of the uncertainty from the danger of loss or harm. However, The World Development Report (2011), asserts that insecurity continue to persist and it has actually become a primary developmental challenge of the present.

Traditionally border control can be defined as measures adopted by a country to regulate and monitor its borders. Border control governs the entry and exit of people, animals and goods across a country's border (Stone, 2009). Border control assists in counterterrorism and detects the movement of criminals across borders. Border control also regulates legal and attempts to illegal immigration, tax collection, and preventing smuggling. The level of border control depends on the country and border concerned (Stone, 2009).

Countries in East Africa are increasingly facing challenges in managing their boundaries and their territorial sovereignty and integrity. These challenges have been more complicated due to increasing need for cross border cooperation and regional integrations through the membership of organizations such as East African Community (EAC), and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). These developments have meant many people working in different countries, having previously unprecedented levels of movements between various borders.

The challenges facing countries in managing their borders are aggravated by globalization which is tearing down traditional boundaries through the advancements in technology and the changing the nature of international relations.

According to Agamben (2001) and McCrie (2008; 2007) globalization, coupled with changes in the social setup, have made it more acceptable for people to move far beyond the areas that they used to. The Internet has not only made it difficult to manage borders and to tackle cross-border crimes but has also effectively deconstructed borders by allowing imports without the need for going through customs checks. The increase in the cross-border trading and movement of people from their countries of origin in search of greener pastures has put pressure on border control systems. These new realities engender an urgency for East Africa Countries such

as South Sudan to put into place effective border management systems. This is to achieve several aims including minimizes border tensions, increasing joint enforcement and surveillance and also decreasing organized crime activities conducted by syndicates and traffickers in borderlands accessed; IGAD proposed protocol on the free movement of persons in 2019.

Moreover, generating a common understanding of border insecurities and approaches to addressing them, secures a flow of goods and people in the spirit of regional cooperation and development. According to Agamben (2001) and McCrae (2007) the development of essential infrastructure and promoting a sense of security and well-being among the border population enhances communication and information exchange between neighbouring countries, which is critical to avoid obstructing cross border trading and the legal movements of people, that also enable borders to be sources of trust and harmony between neighbouring countries. Based on this border security need, this study will investigate the border security control situation at Nimule South Sudan. South Sudan took its independence on July 9th, 2011 as the outcome of the 2005 comprehensive peace agreement that ended the African longest civil war. According to Sudan 5th national census in 2008, the population of South Sudan ranges from 7.5 to 10 million. With the area of 619,745 sq. km [239285] sq. miles, South Sudan, is bordering six countries; Sudan in the North, Ethiopia in the East, Kenya in the South East, Uganda in the South, DRC in the South West and the Republic of Central Africa in the West. With such absorbent borders; it's become a major issue for the newly established country to control its entry and exit points [Google Maps 2012]. With this porous border, South Sudan is facing a high threat of crimes and terrorist activities as well as the need for the movement of people and goods. Consequently, the researcher wants to assess the effectiveness of border security control in Nimule point, South Sudan with Uganda border point.

PROBLEM ANALYSIS

Border security is a prerequisite for contemporary development all-over the world. However, even though the government of South Sudan has done a lot to mitigate on Border insecurity issues, this problem still persists and likely to be responsible for rising insecurity in the country. Besides, there has never been a systematic analysis and inquiry about this problem, hence the rationale for this study. In South Sudan, though it is the police who are constitutionally mandated to discharge this important role, there seems to be some sort of lethargy at border points in South Sudan that this study assumes may have led to rise of insecurity in the country. At South Sudan Nimule, border post for example, organized criminal groups locally known as the; "Niggers", "Torontos", and "traffickers" have emerged causing deaths and destruction of property in the area. Additionally, this has been the rising trend around all South Sudan border areas, though apparently more aggravated at Nimule, hence, the necessity for this current study. Ideally, border security governance recognizes the respect for human rights and effective enforcement of the rule of law, that are necessary to spur social and economic prosperity of any nation state. These important pillars of development are however lacking at South Sudan Border posts and may potentially stifle the rise of this nation state which is at its critical take off stage of development. It against this back drop that this study intends to carry out a systematic inquiry with a view of informing policy recommendations to avert the problem.

METHODOLOGY

The study used a Descriptive Research Survey Design to investigate the problem under the study because it allows details to be obtained from multiple sources of information and evidence to be verified through in-depth probing. In addition, census sample design census was used to enumerate all the 75 police respondents into the study because the target population was manageable and the respondents were accessed easily Kothari (2014). Ten (10) Key Informants (K.I), from other Security Agencies at the Nimule Border were also enlisted to enrich the study. Questionnaire method was used to collect data from the main respondents while interview method was used to collect data from K.Is who included senior police and immigration officers, Game Warders, CID, Civil Administrators, and the Military intelligence. Quantitative data was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS Version 23) and presented using frequency distribution tables, graphs and pie charts. The qualitative responses were presented using verbatim quotes and selected comments

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher reached 70 out of the 75 targeted respondents as depicted in Table 1. This was attributed to by the fact that those who didn't take part in the study were out on duty. The respondents reached make a response rate of 93.3 % of the expected sample. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) the response rate of more than 70% is very good, 60% response rate is considered good while 50% of the response is considered adequate for analysis. Based on this recommendation the response rate of 93.3% was considered and exceptional for this research.

The Nature of Existing Border Security Models and their Effect on Security at Nimule Border Post–South Sudan

The first objective sought to establish the nature of the existing border security model and its effect on security at Nimule Border Post–South Sudan. Besides, the study sought to establish; the major components of the existing border security model and their effect on security at Nimule Border Post. The results on the Nature of the Existing Border Security Model are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Nature of the existing Nimule border security model

Border security model.		No	Yes	Total
Local Police Driven	n	0	70	70
	%	0.0	100.0	100.0
Inter-Agency Coordinated	n	70	0	70
	%	100.0	0.0	100.0

Source: Author (2022)

As shown in Table 1, the existing Nimule border security model is only composed of the local police which is however inconsistent with the international border security model that require a coordinated multipronged approach by other public agencies. As argued by Schwartz, (2015) border security is a shared responsibility and an important aspect of national security which requires the police to operate as part of a shared, networked and ideally integrated system of other border security agencies (Schwartz, 2015). Further as suggested by almost all the K.Is, major components of the internationally recognized, Inter-agency coordinated border security

management model are lacking; adequacy of cooperation and adequacy of communication. This may explain why insecurity is prevalent in South Sudan and worse in areas around Nimule border itself.

Insecurity challenges reported at Nimule border include; illegal border crossings, Smuggling of contraband goods, Smuggling of small arm and light weapons (SALW), Human Trafficking, Forged travel or Visa Documents, Transnational disposal of radioactive waste, Illegal transfer of arms and nuclear materials, Smuggling cars, and Transnational disposal of radioactive waste. Prevalence of these crimes at Nimule border may have been attributed to by the limited police driven border management model. Further, on border insecurity, K.I had a very significant contribution. For example, a respondent stated;

“The key factors promoting borderland-related insecurity are poverty and unemployment, corruption among some members of state and non-state agencies in borderlands, poor relations between the community and law enforcement agencies, political instability and weak law and order enforcement in neighbouring countries, poor coordination and information sharing among border control and management agencies, competition and conflicts over natural resources such as water, pasture and extractive resources. In addition, presence of organized criminal gangs in neighbour countries, cultural similarities or differences across the border including ethnic/kinship ties, proliferation of illicit arms and weapons and high illiteracy levels in some border areas (Key informant number 2)

Influence of Administrative Structures on Border Security at Nimule Border Post –South Sudan

As presented in Table 2 administrative structures has had impacts on border management by the law enforcement at Nimule border. The main variables that were assessed include; functional differentiation, spatial differentiation, vertical differentiation and occupational differentiation. Vertical differentiation ranked the highest with 100%, followed by functional differentiation ranked at 92.7%, then spatial differentiation ranked at 85.7% and lastly, occupational differentiation with 57.1%. Vertical differentiation which ranked at 100% was said to affect social and work relationships between the members.

Table 2: Influence of Administrative structures on border security at Nimule Border

Influence of Administrative structures	Yes	No	Total
Functional differentiation	65.0	5.0	70
	92.7	7.3	100
Spatial differentiation	60.0	10.0	70
	85.7	14.3	100
Vertical differentiation	70	0.0	70
	100.0	0.0	100
Occupational differentiation	40	30	70
	57.1	42.9	100

Source: Research data (2022)

As presented in Table 2, whether vertical differentiation, occupational differentiation, functional differentiation or occupational differentiation the general trend is that, these administrative structures stifle security operations at the Nimule border. This is because all these factors may limit such factors such as open door policy, limiting free officers' free hand in decision making. The net effect is increase in crime rates or even in response time with regard to calls for service at the Nimule Border.

As a K.I stated,

"With regard to vertical differentiation, police organizations are organized in para-military style that limit and affect decision making of street officers at the Nimule border if not supported by an order from above. In fact there is no free hand in decision making at the Nimule Border. Further, powerful institutional rules and regulation which are a characteristic of hierarchical leadership structures and strict command structure discourages free hand in operational contexts at Nimule border" (Key informant number 1)

The above findings lend support to what was argued by Cordner, (2007) that effective border management cannot be improved unless the structure of an organisation improves Cordner, (2007), postulate in their study on the administration of police agencies, that while administration impacts the street officer's behaviour, there still exists internal limits on the effect of administrative influence.

Effect of Resource Allocation on the Quality of Border Security at Nimule Border Post – South Sudan

The third objective established the effect of resource allocation on the quality of border security at Nimule Border Post –South Sudan. The variables that were used to measure resource allocation were adequacy of resources and availability of resources. The impact of resource allocation on service delivery was also assessed. Two variables were also used to measure impact of resources were; Efficiency and Effectiveness. Aspects of effectiveness measured include crime rates along Nimule border, response rate, and level of detection. The results are presented below;

Table 3: Resource allocation

		No	Yes	Total
Adequacy of resources	n	70	0	70
	%	100.0	0.0	100.0
Availability of Resources	n	35	35	70
	%	50.0	50.0	100.0

Source: Field Data (2022)

As indicated in Table 3 scanty resources were allocated to facilitate border management at the Nimule border. The implication is that proactive service delivery that apply targeted proactive policing initiatives such use of advanced border surveillance technology may suffer. This is inconsistent with established norms that traditionally, police agencies have allocated resources in response to their operational demands or requirements, with the majority being allocated to political demands and public calls for service reactively, responding to whatever the current ‘threat’ may be (DenHeyer, 2014). Beside, this greater emphasis on proactive policing, including a shift from centralised control, underlines the need to analyse the utility of resources in dealing with modern pressures and demands where demand for police services is rising but expenditure on resources is constrained by budgetary restrictions, the process of managing and allocating resources becomes crucial (Stockdale et al. 1999).

According to the study, there was a boomerang effect of under resourced police operations. As a Key informant stated,

“We cannot balance resources and service delivery or rather carryout proactive police operations. Collecting intelligence for example requires colossal amount of money that we don’t have. Police operations are just reactive only making crime prevention very difficult. Leave alone buying modern state of the art border security equipment, border security equipment are not there.” Ideally, crime depends on police deterrent levels that require heavy financial support. (Key informant number 9)

Further, another respondent stated,

There is a tripartite causation between crime rates, police deterrent efforts, and resources availed to the police. The more the resources, the more the deterrent efforts, and the lesser the crimes. Consideration must now be given to how funding will be allocated in the future and how that funding supports more efficient arrangements for efficient border policing services. (Key informant number 4)

The above finding lends support to findings by Benson et al. (1994) that the “crime rate depends on police deterrence efforts, police deterrence efforts depend upon the level of police resources, and the level of police resources depends on the crime rate”. Faced with a problem of simultaneous causation: a given factor or variable will simultaneously contribute to the determination of another and be determined by it (Carr-Hill & Stern, 1979).

Law Enforcement Perceptions on Best Practices for Border Security Governance at Nimule Border Post –South Sudan

The fourth objective presented Law enforcement perceptions on best practices for border security governance at Nimule Border Post –South Sudan. The results are presented in Table 4.

Table 4 Perceptions on best practices for border security governance

Practices	Yes	No	Total
Establish Joint Border Crossing Points.	70	0	70
	100	0.0	100
Conduct effective risk analysis assessments	60.0	10	70
	85.7	14.3	100
Establish international cooperation	70	0	70
	100.0	0.0	100
Develop Border Community Policing programs. border area surveillance programs.	70	0	70
	100.0	0.0	100
Engage border communities in Border Security Management.	70	0	70
	100.0	0.0	100
Coordinated cross-border patrols and multiagency operations	70	0	70
	100.0	0	100

Source: Research data (2022)

As shown in Table 4 the general trend are law enforcement perceptions that sought for the establishment of; Joint border crossing points, international cooperation, border community policing programs, establishment of border communities in border security management and coordinated cross-border patrols and multiagency operations. Also important frequent effective risk analysis assessments. Whereas these are some of the established international border security standards, they are lacking in Nimule Border Post –South Sudan.

According to this study, coordinating border surveillance activities between neighbouring states is crucial for effective cross-border cooperation. Besides, there were increased perceptions that joint patrols have long proved useful and at the same time are a visible sign of good cooperation and mutual trust. Mixed patrolling was however perceived in sharing expertise and information, in building trust and in developing cross-border cooperation between law enforcement authorities.

With regard to joint multi-agency and interdisciplinary operation exercises, a Key informant stated,

“Joint operations between border law enforcement agencies, at the national as well as cross-border level, are vitally important as they provide opportunities for efficient coordination and effective cooperation. Accordingly, such exercises demonstrate the importance of robust inter-agency cooperation at the national level and across borders in order to effectively respond to serious security incidents

and showcase the importance of effective communication among the command and control structures” (Key informant number 2)

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

According to the study, the existing border security model at Nimule is local police driven, but is however inconsistent with the international border security model that require a coordinated multipronged approach by other public agencies. As a result, insecurity challenges have been reported at Nimule border; illegal border crossings, Smuggling of contraband goods, Smuggling of small arm and light weapons (SALW), Human Trafficking, Forged travel or Visa Documents, Transnational disposal of radioactive waste, Illegal transfer of arms and nuclear materials, Smuggling cars, and Transnational disposal of radioactive waste. As established by the second objective; administrative structures has had impacts on border management by the law enforcement at Nimule border. Characteristically, there is no free hand in decision making at the Nimule Border. Further, powerful institutional rules and regulation which are a characteristic of hierarchical leadership structures and strict command structure discourages free hand in operational contexts at Nimule border. The implication is that whether vertical differentiation, occupational differentiation, functional differentiation or occupational differentiation the general trend is that, these administrative structures stifle security operations at the Nimule border. The third objective established the effect of resource allocation on the quality of border security at Nimule Border Post –South Sudan. This affected proactive service delivery that apply targeted proactive policing initiatives such use of advanced border surveillance technology have greatly suffered. Lastly, this study established law enforcement perceptions that sought for best practices for border security governance. These include establishment of; Joint border crossing points, international cooperation, border community policing programs, establishment of border communities in border security management and coordinated cross-border patrols and multiagency operations which are lacking at Nimule Border Post

With regard to recommendations, the government should; bench mark with developed countries for best border security model which requires a coordinated multipronged approach by other public agencies and conform to it if she is to cut the problem of border insecurity to the Nib; Decentralize and demilitarize the administrative structure which are a characteristic of hierarchical leadership structures and strict command and give officers on the street a free hand in decision making at the Nimule Border; Aallocate more funding for efficient border policing services.

References

- Agamben, G.C & Zahle, S (2001). *On Security and Terror*: Frankfurt: Allgemeine Zeitung
- Benson, B. L., Rasmussen, D. W., & Kim, I. (1998). Deterrence and public policy: Trade-offs In the allocation of police resources. *International Review of Law and Economics*, 18(1), 77-100.
- Carr-Hill, R.A. & Stern, N (1979). *Crime, the police and criminal statistics: an analysis of Official statistics for England*. London Academic Press, Inc.
- Cordner, G (2007). *Administration of police agencies, theories of*. *Encyclopaedia of Police Science*. 3rd edn. Edited by Jack R Greene 29-31. New York: Routledge
- DenHeyer, G. (2014). Examining police strategic resource allocation in a time of austerity. *Salus Journal*, 2(1), 63–79.
- McCrie, R (2007). *Security Operations Management*. Boston and Oxford: Butterworth Heinemann

- Mccrie, Robert. (2008). Security Operations Management.10.1016/B978-0-7506-7882-7. X5038-3.
- Mugenda, O. N & Mugenda, A.G. (2003). Research Methods: A Quantitative and Qualitative Approach. Nairobi: ACTS press.
- Schwartz, M (2015) Policing and (in) security in fragile and conflict affected settings: A Review of perspectives of policing in sub-sahara Africa. Ghana. Global Centre on Cooperative Security
- Stone, M (2009). Security According to Buzan. A Comprehensive Security Analysis. Security discussion papers series 1, 1-11
- Stockdale, J., & Whitehead, C. (2003). Assessing cost-effectiveness. *Crime reduction and Problem-oriented policing*, 217-251.
- United Nations. General Assembly. (1949). *Universal declaration of human rights* (Vol. 3381). Department of State, United States of America.
- World Bank. (2011). *World development report 2011: Conflict, security, and development*. The World Bank.