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## Effects of Foreign Aid on Developing Countries: Case of Turkana County, Kenya

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# Walden University

College of Health Sciences and Public Policy

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Baraka Akeyo

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2025

Abstract

Effects of Foreign Aid on Developing Countries: Case of Turkana County, Kenya

by

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MS in Criminal Justice, Walden University, 2016

BA in Social Work & Social Administration, Bugema University, 2007

Proposal Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

Public Policy and Administration

Walden University

February 2025

## Abstract

Despite substantial foreign aid investments in road construction projects in Turkana County, Kenya, anticipated benefits of improved access to social facilities, economic development, and rural and urban growth have not been fully realized. This study involved assessing the impact of foreign aid for road construction in Turkana County. Grounded in the social constructivism perspective, the research acknowledges subjective realities shaped by individual and societal experiences. The agency theory served as the theoretical foundation, framing the donor-recipient relationship as one where donors act as principals imposing conditions on recipient communities as agents. The study addressed the central research question: What is the impact of foreign aid investments for road construction on economic development and access to social services in Turkana County, Kenya? Using a general qualitative design, data were collected through interviews, observations, and document analysis. Thematic analysis was employed to process and interpret data, facilitated by MaxQDA software. Findings highlight while foreign aid has contributed to road infrastructure development, significant challenges persist. Recommendations emphasize the need for strategic reforms, ethical leadership, and ongoing civic education. The study underscores the importance of aligning donor objectives with local priorities to maximize the potential of foreign aid. The study also offers actionable insights for policymakers to redefine foreign aid's role in infrastructure development, fostering positive social change by improving livelihoods, empowering disadvantaged groups, and promoting sustainable development in Turkana County.

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## Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to the resilient people of Turkana County, whose stories, challenges, and unwavering determination inspired this research.

I further dedicate this thesis to the loving memory of my father, Pr. Lucas Akeyo, and my mother, Rozaline Akeyo. They would be so proud of me. To my sons Eliakhim and Lucas, to my daughters Madalynn and Adrienne, to my brothers and sisters and my loving family, whose boundless support and encouragement have been my greatest source of strength throughout this journey. To my mentors, who guided me with wisdom and believed in my potential, and to my colleagues and friends, who made this academic path rewarding and fulfilling.

Finally, to all those who work tirelessly to make foreign aid a tool for empowerment, equity, and sustainable development in the world's most vulnerable regions. May this work contribute to a brighter future for developing nations everywhere.

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## Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study

Developed countries provide foreign aid to developing nations for economic, political, or humanitarian reasons. In most economies, foreign aid, foreign direct investments (FDIs), official development assistance (ODA), loans, credits, and grants (all considered types of foreign aid), as well as remittances constitute primary sources of development resources and funds (Self et al., 2021). Foreign aid and remittances are regarded as the most crucial sources of foreign financial inflows that can enhance economic growth and development. Facilitation of economic development in developing countries is highly dependent on foreign aid (Tenforde et al., 2021).

In 2014, it was estimated that \$103.6 billion worth of foreign aid flowed into developing countries of the global South. From 1964 to 2014, an estimated \$2.3 trillion flowed into these countries. Foreign aid from official donors in 2022 reached an all-time high of USD 204 billion, up from USD 186 billion in 2021 (Beletskaya & Ananikov, 2022). Africa has received up to \$568 billion worth of foreign aid since 1983; nevertheless, the per capita growth of the continent's median states remains near zero. Therefore, it is understandable why previous studies have yielded mixed results regarding whether foreign aid facilitates economic growth.

This chapter includes background information regarding the study, problem statement, the purpose of the study, and research question. I also cover assumptions, scope and delimitations, limitations, and the significance of the study.

## **Background**

Turkana County is one of the 47 counties in Kenya and identified as the poorest county in the country, as indicated in a joint survey conducted by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and University of Nairobi in 2020. Located in the northwestern part of the country, Turkana County experiences arid and semi-arid conditions that are characterized by persistent droughts. Nevertheless, the county is currently undergoing an upward economic trend due to ongoing mineral explorations and inventions, donor assistance, and benefits associated with the devolved system of government (Ratemo et al., 2020).

According to the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census, Turkana County had a population of 926,976 people with a population density of 14 people per square kilometer. Turkana has an absolute poverty rate of 79.4%. Poverty is measured in terms of the inability of a household, family, or person to meet basic needs, including food, shelter, safe drinking water, education, and healthcare. These challenging conditions have left Turkana County in a vulnerable state, necessitating support through foreign aid (Agayi & Karakayaci, 2020).

Foreign aid has become a prominent tool employed by developed countries to enhance economic, social, and political systems in less developed countries (Cantarero, 2020). It involves transfer of foreign currency and other resources from one country to another, especially when the foreign currency surpasses the recipient country's balance of payment. Although foreign aid has been used as a tool to



improve lives and eradicate poverty since the postcolonial era, its effectiveness remains a topic of ongoing discussion.

According to Zhan and Santos-Paulino (2021), projects remain tools of choice for policymakers in international development. However, challenges associated with donor assistance persist, including incapacity to use donor funds effectively due to limited infrastructure, unpredictability of donor assistance from year to year, and complex monitoring and evaluation requirements that vary by donor (Haider, 2021). In acknowledgment of these challenges, donor and recipient countries have collaborated to improve harmonization of funding requirements. Performance-based funding is one of the emergent methods to enhance effectiveness of development aid (Mwase et al., 2022).

For developing nations, development of adequate and state-of-the-art infrastructure becomes imperative. Road projects are among the largest donor-funded projects and most significant cause of resettlement (Eboo, 2021). Donor institutions have extensively supported road development as a poverty mitigation instrument, and road construction projects are key to raising living standards. By cutting down on transport costs, roads are expected to generate market activity, affect input and output prices, and nurture economic connections (Heleta & Bagus, 2021). Consequently, the local economy undergoes tremendous change, including boosting of agricultural production, donor investment, cascading effects on income-earning opportunities, increased government revenue, and subsequent redistribution of people across the

country (Guppy & Alnabhani, 2022). Better roads facilitate access to social service facilities, thus enhancing social outcomes (Dong et al., 2020).

In Uganda, donor-aided projects improve production, food security, and household incomes of beneficiaries (Kaihura, 2021). In Cameroon, within the context of development and implementation of reforms, several donors provided finance for consultancy and investments. Joint exercises have influenced and proven effective in developing countries (Carvalho et al., 2022).

Effective involvement of all stakeholders in construction projects, such as project owners, contractors, engineers, and consultants, is critical for ensuring projects are completed within schedule and with minimal or no cost escalations. Profitability of any project mainly depends on whether quality standards are met using the most economical approaches. Mathar et al. (2020) argued efficiency in terms of project delivery is critical, ensuring construction or other projects use minimal resources. Assessing the effectiveness of projects involves reviewing how well project objectives are met. However, achieving these twin objectives is rare in practice, particularly in the construction industry, given they appear as conflicting objectives. Therefore, understanding factors that determine success or failure of project completion in the construction industry, including road construction projects, which make up the bulk of construction projects, is essential.

According to Rosilawati et al. (2022), major causes of delays, poor workmanship, and corruption inherent in road construction projects result from lack

of community involvement, lack of capacity on the part of contractors, and lack of effective procurement. Santoso and Gallage (2020) argued issues arising from monitoring and evaluation of road construction projects also have a significant impact on performance of such projects. Successful completion of road construction projects can be assessed in terms of timely completion, adherence to budgeted costs, and meeting set-out quality standards.

According to Schmidt et al. (2021), key performance indicators (KPIs) are used to identify parameters for benchmarking projects to achieve good performance. Some of these indicators include construction cost, time, defects, client satisfaction with the product and service, promotion of result-oriented thinking, and predictability of construction costs. In my study, I assessed how performance indicators are evaluated in terms of donor-funded construction in Kenya.

The construction industry is the means through which societies realize their urban and rural development (Yin et al., 2022). The construction industry is a very important component of development, with a significant impact on the economy of all countries (Stanny et al., 2021). Despite the importance of the sector, many projects experience extensive delays in terms of project implementation, exceeding proposed time limits due to bad government policies, poor human resources in projects, poor project follow-up, lack of stakeholder involvement, poor procurement processes, and corruption, which is a significant problem as funds meant for projects end up benefiting individuals before any work is done (Akwei et al., 2020).

Exploring causes of delay in terms of implementation of foreign donor-funded projects has become significant for improving construction industry performance. Several studies have considered road construction projects in Kenya. Monitoring and evaluation of road project implementation are paramount in terms of determining successful completion. Mbithi (2020) considered challenges involving managing procurement services at the Kenya Rural Roads Authority and found political interference and inadequate allocations of funds hindered completion of these roads. Donors, including development banks to philanthropic charities, aim to generate economic growth and reduce poverty through financial investments and interventions in the transportation sector, greatly improving economies (Aracil & Gismera, 2021).

Previous studies have concentrated on projects of local contractors. From reviewed literature, no researcher has attempted to carry out studies in Turkana County, Kenya. Also, there is no research on factors impacting implementation of foreign donations. I aimed to bridge this information gap by evaluating factors impacting implementation of foreign donor-funded projects in developing nations, with particular reference to road construction projects in Turkana County, Kenya.

### **Problem Statement**

Despite significant foreign aid investments in road construction projects aimed at fostering economic development and enhancing access to social services in Turkana County, Kenya, intended benefits have not been fully realized, leading to persistently poor or no access to social facilities, a high poverty index, limited market

opportunities, and inadequate rural and urban development for the targeted population.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study was to assess the impact of foreign aid, specifically focusing on road construction projects in Turkana County, Kenya. Interpretations vary based on individual value systems, experiences, biases, and social contexts (Secules et al., 2021). Epistemologically, social constructivism posits knowledge is shaped by cultural characteristics and individual and societal experiences across social contexts (Sabnis & Newman, 2023).

The primary objectives of the study were to examine effects of foreign aid on road construction in Turkana County, Kenya. Specifically, I aimed to assess how roads that were constructed through foreign aid facilitate access to social services for Turkana County residents, describe the extent to which these roads mitigated poverty in the region, assess how well roads address needs of the local community, and explore reasons given by the community for hindrances preventing achieving targeted goals for roads constructed via foreign aid in Turkana County.

My main objectives included examining the extent to which foreign aid provision in the roads sector facilitated access to social services for citizens in Turkana County, evaluating the impact of road development on poverty levels among residents, assessing how road construction generated market opportunities and

nurtured economic connections, and examining the extent to which road construction has contributed to urban and rural development in Turkana County.

### **Research Question**

What is the impact of foreign aid investments on road construction projects that are aimed at fostering economic development and enhancing access to social services in Turkana County, Kenya?

### **Theoretical Foundation**

The study was guided by the agency theory, initially formulated by Alchian and Demsetz and further developed by Jensen and Meckling, which involves where one or more principals engage an agent to perform services on their behalf, delegating decision-making power to the agent (Cheffins, 2021). Donors were conceptualized as principal, and recipient communities as agents, with donors determining allocated funds and setting conditions for implementation (McDonough & Rodríguez, 2020). The theory posits donors can impose conditions based on actions of recipients.

Moral hazards manifest when beneficiaries have incentives to prioritize their interests over donor objectives, while adverse selection arises from information asymmetry favoring beneficiaries over funding agencies (Schmidt et al., 2021). This occurs when beneficiaries, knowing full benefits are not realized, misrepresent the impact of funded projects, leading to a lack of incentives for foreign aid benefactors to address concerns with donor agencies (Clements, 2020).

Agency problems in cooperative organizations are categorized into three types: principal-agent problem, principal-principal problem, and principal-creditor problem, based on contractual relationships between principals and agents (Younas, 2022). The principal-agent problem involves quality and efficacy of ongoing development management during design and construction phases. The principal-principal problem arises from competing interests between major and minor owners, and the principal-creditor problem stems from conflicts between creditors and owners due to funding decisions (Marashdeh et al., 2021).

Cimini and Santini (2021) argued taxpayers (principals) concerned about aid agencies not attending to their interests may channel aid through multilateral organizations. Schulze and Zellweger (2021) emphasized the agency theory is founded on information asymmetries and agent pursuit of self-interests, leading donors to distrust agents and implement mechanisms to align interests and minimize opportunistic behaviors.

This theory informed the study regarding the relationship between donor support for projects and the recipient community, particularly focusing on information asymmetries, self-interests, and mechanisms to align interests within the context of road construction projects in Turkana County, Kenya.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The chosen theoretical framework for this study was Harvey and Lind's dependency concept, which posits dependency and relief efforts may prevent

recipients from finding ways to independently solve problems in their communities. According to Wen et al. (2022), reliance on relief aid can make individuals vulnerable and create dependency. The study involved empirically investigating the degree of dependency in specific contexts and assessing contributions of aid to people's livelihoods. It emphasizes the potential development of a dependency mentality or dependency syndrome, which undermines initiative among individuals (Sabates-Wheeler et al., 2021).

The concept of dependency is often associated with concerns about negative economic impacts, where prolonged assistance may undermine local economies and large amounts of aid can potentially damage local production. While the term dependency is commonly used in the context of economic impacts, it is less frequently applied to the delivery of services such as healthcare or education (O'Dwyer & Unerman, 2020).

The theoretical framework guided data collection instruments, specifically individual interviews and focus group discussions. I addressed how relief aid may contribute to development of dependency syndrome for both individuals and communities, providing a basis for understanding dynamics of aid dependency.

### **Nature of the Study**

I employed a general qualitative method to ensure reliable consistent research. This method ensures data collection and practical analysis aligned with the problem



statement. This was integral to maintaining the research problem as the central focus of the project.

The rationale for selecting the qualitative research and case study methods was multifaceted. Firstly, I aimed to collect primarily descriptive and narrative data which were inherently nonnumerical and qualitative in nature. Secondly, my focus was on capturing lived experiences of a minimum of 20 adults who are 18 and over in Turkana County regarding the impact of roads that were constructed with foreign aid on their lives and livelihoods. I asked questions regarding how well roads address needs of the local community and explore reasons given by this community for not achieving targeted goals for these roads.

The qualitative research design was particularly suited for this study as I relied on firsthand primary data from as observations, interviews, open-ended questionnaires, focus group discussions, participant-observation, recordings in natural settings, and examination of documents and artifacts. Qualitative data were collected mainly through interviews.

### **Definitions**

*Aid:* Voluntary transfer of resources, including funds, from one country to another, which is done at least partly to benefit the receiving side (Blair & Winters, 2022).

*Contractor:* An independent entity that agrees to furnish a specific number or quantity of goods, materials, equipment, personnel, and services that meet or exceed

stated requirements or specifications at a mutually agreed upon price and within a specified timeframe to another independent entity that is the principal or project owner (Raimo et al., 2021).

*Donor-funded projects:* Projects sponsored by external donations, typically provided by countries, international organizations, or development agencies (Custer et al., 2023).

*Donor funding:* A loan or grant to promote sustainable social and economic development and recipient welfare (Bohnenberger, 2020).

*Effectiveness:* The extent to which project objectives are achieved or likely to be completed and factors that influence accomplishment or nonachievement of goals (Kissi et al., 2020).

*Foreign aid:* All grants and loans involving promotion of economic development or welfare as main objectives, and with total grants making up at least 25% of... (Malik et al., 2021).

*Human resources:* People who make up the workforce of an organization, business sector, or economy. Human capital is sometimes used synonymously with human resources, although human capital typically refers to a narrower view (Wright, 2021).

*Moral hazard:* Possibility that a party did not enter into a contract in good faith or gave false information regarding their assets, liabilities, or credit capacity.

Moral hazard can also refer to a party's incentive to take exceptional risks in order to benefit before the contract settles (Guruganesh et al., 2021).

*Project implementation (Project Execution):* When visions and plans become a reality. This follows after evaluating, deciding, envisioning, planning, applying for funds, and finding financial resources for projects (Baduge et al., 2022).

*Road:* A long and narrow stretch with a smoothed or paved surface that is made for traveling by motor vehicle or carriage between two or more points (Yang et al., 2023).

*Stakeholder involvement:* A holistic effort that includes community and national government participation, county government beneficiaries, and the private sector during implementation of infrastructure projects (Kolawole, 2021).

*Stakeholders:* Interested parties in a particular project (Bahadorestani et al., 2020).

### **Assumptions**

The study had several assumptions. Firstly, I assumed participant comprehended anticipated benefits of foreign donor-funded projects in developing nations, specifically in reference to road construction projects in Turkana County, Kenya. Secondly, I assumed participants comprised the targeted population and were willing to provide factual information. Participants were expected to offer accurate information in order for me to address research question and formulate reliable conclusions and recommendations. I also assumed participants provided honest and

truthful responses and t responded to research tools appropriately. Additionally, I assumed responses would be received in a timely manner as per research schedules, without any delays.

### **Scope and Delimitations**

The research was conducted in Turkana County, Kenya, specifically within areas that benefited from road construction funded by foreign aid. The objective was to investigate the impact of foreign donor-funded projects on employees of Turkana County, donors, and residents in areas where roads are funded through foreign aid in Turkana County. Participants included both rural and urban populations of Turkana County. Ideal participants for the study included donors, Turkana County staff, roadworks contractors, residents, and community leaders from beneficiaries of such projects in six sub counties in Turkana County. These individuals were considered optimal participants as they were ultimate targets of benefits from such projects and possessed diverse economic, social, and political information that was relevant to this research.

### **Limitations**

This study included certain limitations, such as potential reluctance from participants to share information. Additionally, Turkana County, as one of the most remote and economically-challenged counties in Kenya, has a population that is among the poorest in the country. This economic vulnerability led the community to

expect compensation for providing information. Moreover, accessing certain roads for necessary information was difficult given the vastness of Turkana County.

Participants' perceptions posed a significant limitation, as some did not take the study seriously and provided misleading information. To address this, I thoroughly explained the study's purpose to enhance understanding and encourage honest responses, thereby improving reliability and validity of data.

### **Significance of the Study**

Findings of my study involved factors influencing implementation of foreign donor-funded road projects in Turkana County, and by extension, Kenya as a whole. This played a crucial role in terms of shaping future policy formulations within the sector, thereby enhancing reliability and efficiency of implementing foreign donor-funded projects.

Through this study, I aimed to contribute to a broader understanding of factors affecting implementation of foreign donor-funded projects in developing nations, with a specific focus on road construction projects in Turkana County, Kenya. This knowledge was valuable in terms of addressing an area that may not be well-explored. Additionally, results of the study contributed to scholarly literature on development aid to developing countries, providing insights for other researchers in the field.

### **Significance to Practice**

Findings of this research involved identifying issues that were relevant to practice, guiding development of new frameworks for project funding that benefit

end-users of products. I examined various contextual factors influencing project outcomes, intending to assess the overall impact of foreign aid in developing countries.

My primary focus was on main beneficiaries of these road projects, namely residents of the county, including both rural and urban dwellers. The information from participants played a crucial role in terms of shaping subsequent funding strategies for developed countries and developing nations, ultimately influencing policy formulation.

### **Significance to Theory**

Foreign aid is generally assumed to be necessary for promoting economic development in the least developed countries. The aim of foreign aid programs in these nations is to accelerate economic development until satisfactory rates of growth are achieved. Many developing countries continue to rely on external resources to increase their per capita income, viewing foreign aid as a positive incentive for maximizing national efforts towards growth.

### **Significance to Social Change**

Research serves not only as a means of generating new knowledge but also a powerful tool for instigating social change. Its role is to inform, persuade, and mobilize others to address critical issues in people's lives.

Findings of this study served as a tool for catalyzing social change by providing evidence to support policy recommendations for specific actions. These

findings were instrumental in terms of influencing and inspiring change in approaches to projects targeting resident beneficiaries, involving all stakeholders, including both donor and recipient governments.

Moreover, I aimed to scrutinize experiences of project recipients, identifying issues from different perspectives to help solve problems or achieve aspirations without excessive reliance on donations. My goal was to gain insightful perspectives from recipients on how such funding can be most beneficial to them. These insights, in turn, contributed to shaping government policies, guiding donors, influencing business practices, and inspiring other innovations to benefit and strengthen society. I aimed to cause positive social change in the community by informing policy formulations that ensured effective use of donor resources to improve livelihoods and empower disadvantaged members of society.

### **Summary and Conclusion**

This chapter commences with a brief introduction to the study's topic, discussing background information about Turkana County and foreign aid to developing countries. I addressed past studies on intentions of foreign aid, particularly in the context of road construction. I outlined the current state of the topic and presented the problem statement in terms of the knowledge gap that necessitated this study. I then clearly outlined the research question, theoretical and conceptual framework grounding the study, and a brief description of its nature. Key terms used in the study were defined according to the research context, and key assumptions,

limitations, and delimitations were outlined. This is followed by a brief explanation of the study's significance.

Chapter 2 includes a detailed literature review on what is known about effects of foreign aid and its implications in developing nations based on past studies. I addressed the agency theory and its implications in terms of implementation of public policies, providing grounding for this research. Additionally, tools that were used in previous related studies were discussed. My purpose is to situate the study within the broader context of scholarly literature, aiming to understand connections between literature and practice. Chapter 2 concludes with detailed information about the study area and why this location is crucial to address the research question. Chapter 3 includes information about the research design, guidelines for conducting the study, rationale, research methods, participant selection logic, instrumentation, data collection, and data analysis.



## Chapter 2: Literature Review

Despite many years of foreign aid donor funding in Turkana County, Kenya, the county continues to lag behind in terms of almost all development indicators. Residents of Turkana County in Kenya who are the primary target of benefits from roads construction that is funded through foreign aids continue to experience poor or no access to social facilities, high levels of poverty, poor market opportunities for their products, and less rural and urban development. Therefore, it is necessary to understand why such foreign aid has not translated into substantive economic and social benefits for target populations.

The purpose of the study was to assess the impact of foreign aid in developing countries with particular reference to road construction projects in Turkana County, Kenya. This chapter includes a literature review describing what scholars have addressed regarding the subject matter. More specifically, I addressed the concept of foreign aid, road construction in developing countries, how foreign aid affects social life in terms of access to social services and alleviation of poverty, and economic effects of foreign aid for the target population.

### **Literature Search Strategy**

A To search for literature, I used the following databases: Google Scholar, EBSCOHost, ProQuest, and SAGE Journals. I used the following terms: *construction projects, corruption regarding implementation of foreign donor-funded projects, developing nations, foreign aid, foreign donor-funded projects, effect of foreign aid,*

*impacts of foreign aid, human resources involving implementation of foreign donor-funded projects, implementation criteria, implementation of foreign donor-funded projects in developing nations, key donor funding implementation indicators, project implementation, road construction projects, road construction projects in Turkana County, stakeholder involvement in implementation of foreign donor-funded projects, and critical success factors.* Literature included peer-reviewed articles, books, studies, and dissertations. More than 95% of sources were published between 2020 and 2024.

### **Theoretical Foundation**

I used the agency theory and concept of dependency. The agency theory refers to institutional analysis that involves addressing incentive problems which may occur with foreign aid and result in inefficient aid expenditure. In terms of the donor-beneficiary relationship, the principal is the donor and the agent the beneficiary (Schillemans & Bjurstrøm, 2020). The agency theory involves delegating principals and agents, resulting in imperfect monitoring and uncertainty regarding implemented projects. Recipient compliance with donor agreements is subject to adverse selection and moral hazards (Hossain et al., 2021).

The agency theory served as the study's theoretical foundation. It was first formulated by Alchian and Demsetz and developed further by Jensen and Meckling. It is used to explain relationships wherein one or more persons (principal) engage another person (agent) to do some service on their behalf, and this involves delegating some decision-making power to the agent (Rattanaprichavej, 2023). Donors are called

principals and recipients agents because donors determine funds and set conditions to be met or fulfilled in order to implement donor funding. Donors can put conditions on funded projects based on recipient actions. Obeid (2023) asserted because of information asymmetries and pursuit of self-interests, donors lack the basis to trust agents and look to reduce this mistrust by instituting mechanisms to align their interests and agents and thereby minimize opportunistic behaviors. This theory helped inform my study regarding relationships between donors and expected benefits to recipient communities.

Moral hazards manifest when beneficiaries have incentives to prioritize their interests over donor objectives, while adverse selection arises from information asymmetry favoring beneficiaries over funding agencies (Schmidt et al., 2021). This occurs when beneficiaries, knowing full benefits are not realized, misrepresent the impact of funded projects, leading to a lack of incentives for foreign aid benefactors to address concerns with donor agencies (Bourguignon & Gunning, 2020).

Moral hazards advance in recipient countries where agents who are direct beneficiaries of aid from principals have incentives to portray development projects as making a difference in their lives when they know they do not. Agents believe it is better to get something than nothing, so they will lie about benefits of projects funded by donors. This especially occurs when external sources fund projects. When they realize full benefits of projects are not forthcoming, foreign aid benefactors lose incentives to raise concerns with the donor agencies (Dietrich, 2021).

The theory includes three distinct types of agency problems: principal-agent problem, principal-principal problem, and principal-creditor problem. Distinct agency problem types are determined by limited or unlimited contractual relationships that exist between principals and agents (Davis et al., 2021). The principal-agent problem involves how quality and efficacy of ongoing development management can be affected by decisions made by developers throughout design and construction phases of multi-unit residential developments. The principal-principal problem is predicated on the idea that big and minor owners have competing interests. Major owners are defined as those individuals or groups that possess the majority of company shares, whereas minor owners are those individuals who hold a very small percentage of company shares. Principal-creditor problems are caused when conflicts between creditors and owners results from initiatives and funding decisions that are undertaken and made by shareholders (Zhou et al., 2023).

Plank (2023) argued that when taxpayers feel agents are not attending to their interests in terms of development abroad through funds that were contributed for the purposes of development projects in developing countries, the agency tries to ease the situation by channeling aid through multilateral organizations. Midgley et al. (2023) argued voters in donor countries have biased or inaccurate information about benefits of government aid to agencies that have incentives to misrepresent their impact to donor countries. Multilateral agencies have fewer incentives to appeal to country constituencies.

## **Dependency**

According to Wen et al. (2022), dependency and relief make it harder for recipients to find the ways to solve problems in their communities by waiting for relief aid which makes individuals vulnerable and creates dependency syndrome.

There is a sense in which the degree of dependency can be empirically investigated in particular contexts, and it is possible to assess the contribution that aid makes to people's livelihoods. What is not clear, however, is at what level a household or individual can be said to be dependent on the assistance that they receive. One of the meanings attached to dependency is the idea that the continued provision of aids risks creating a 'dependency mentality' or 'dependency syndrome', which in essence undermines initiative amongst people.

The concept of dependency has tended to be less used in relation to the delivery of services such as health care or education. It is sometimes used as shorthand for a concern with the possible negative economic impacts where prolonged assistance can undermine local economies, and that large amounts of aid can damage local production.

The above theories provided the framework upon which the data collection instrument was used to gather information to answer research questions. Individual interviews as well as focus groups discussions were also used. The theories provided evidence as to why relief aid may pave way for individuals and communities to depend on aid hence dependency syndrome.

### **Literature Review**

Sub-topics were reviewed as a result of finding references to specific authors and studies, such as the rate of donor-funded projects implementation in developing countries and the effects of donor-funded projects. The literature included research on various aspects of foreign donor-funded projects, current and previous studies surrounding foreign donor-funded projects in developing countries, the debates on their effects and the arguments for and against donor-funded projects' effectiveness with the theoretical framework.

The effects of foreign aid to economic development of developing countries have been controversial issues. Some economic studies of foreign aid suggest that it has been successful while other studies find no relationship between growth rates of output and suggest that it also retards economic growth in developing countries by leading to the structural distortions of the economy.

Generally, foreign aid is advocated as necessary for the promotion of economic development in the least developed countries (Spash, 2021). The purpose of foreign aid programs to the least developed countries is to accelerate their economic development up to a point where satisfactory rate growth can be achieved on a self-sustaining basis. Thus, the general aim of foreign aid is to provide in the said countries a positive incentive for maximum national effort to increase the rate of growth. On this basis, many developing countries have continued to depend on such external resources to increase their per capita income. Indeed, foreign aid has played

an important role in the economic development of the least developed countries (Myovella et al., 2020).

### **Challenges with Achieving Economic Objectives**

Some studies have argued that there is almost no increase in growth from foreign aid. They agree that aid and other foreign inflows reduce domestic saving and are used in part to increase consumption. The economic objectives of foreign aid are to alleviate poverty and increase savings, investment and rate of growth in developing countries. However, development assistance has not always succeeded in achieving these objectives because in many cases donor motives for giving aid and recipient motives for accepting it conflict with the economic objectives of foreign aid.

Blair and Winters (2022) argue that there are points on a nation's growth trajectory at which aid inflows drop because of the rules donors use to select recipient countries. They use the substantial changes in aid around this point to evaluate how aid affects growth, and they conclude that aid has a substantial positive effect.

### **Perspectives on Aid Impact in African Economies**

Although aid has had some negative effects on the growth and development of most African countries, research shows that development aid, in particular, does have a strong and favorable effect on economic growth and development. Development aid has a positive effect on growth because it may actually promote long term economic growth and development through promoting investments in infrastructure and human

capital. More evidence suggests that aid had indeed, had a positive effect on economic growth and development in most African countries.

In economics, there are two competing positions on aid. A view pro aid, supported by Jeffrey Sachs and the United Nations, argues that foreign aid will give the big push to break the low-income poverty trap poorer countries are trapped in. From this perspective, aid serves to finance the core inputs to development – teachers, health centers, roads, wells, medicine, to name a few (Akobeng, 2020) and a view that is skeptical about the impacts of aid, supported by William Easterly, that points out that aid has not proven to work after 40 years of large investments in Africa (Tefera & Nicholas, 2020).

### **Multifaceted Dimensions of Poverty**

The idea of poverty sometimes is perceived as a lack of resources in economic terms. It is one of the most commonly used approaches to describe the notion of poverty. In this perspective poverty is described in term of the income measures to the point where some social scientists believe wrongly that poverty is just having low income (Singh & Chudasama, 2020). The concept of poverty may also be described as a standard of living. In this perspective of definition of poverty, the focus is on whether the individual or family level of life in terms of consumption and income is below or above particular standards (Gans, 2020).

Anetor et al. (2020) researched on the impact of official aid on poverty reduction by using the empirical data from 29 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa



between 1990-2017 and the results of the study concluded that foreign aid has insignificant positive influence on poverty reduction. The study recommended that for aid to be successful, the donors and international aid organizations should target specific areas to allocate their aids followed by appraisal and implementation reports. This study therefore tries to assess the level at which such foreign have impacted on the lives of the common citizens whom the project initially was intended for them. Often, the donors and the implementers stop at the point of completion of the project without making an attempt to report the long-term effect of the project.

### **Governance Challenges**

Llorah and Ngwakwe (2021) researched the effect of foreign aid, moderated by governance effectiveness variables, on economic development in sub-Saharan Africa. They concluded that there is need to bridle corruption and to strengthen governance institutions to enable foreign aid to function effectively toward economic growth. In Lagos State Nigeria for instance, foreign aid essentially doesn't reach the intended goal of eradicating poverty due several challenges. Those challenges include misappropriation of foreign aid funds and lack of information on whom or which sector should benefit with the funds. In order for foreign aid funds to achieve the intended goal of eradicating poverty the researchers recommended that the government should strengthen the institutional capacity for monitoring and establish the training programs for staffs monitoring the progress and the application of the funds.

Mahembe and Odhiambo (2021) conducted research about the effect of foreign aid on extreme poverty in Sub-Saharan African countries and concluded that foreign aid statistically has a significant poverty reduction effect in sub-Saharan African countries and insisted on the importance of foreign aid volume and its allocation for it to be effective.

### **Foreign Aid Dilemma**

Asongu and Ezeaku (2022) researched on the efficacy of foreign aid and grants toward poverty reduction and concluded that in the short-term, official development assistance and technical cooperation grants have positive but insignificant impact on eradicating poverty at national level. However, in the long-term, the impact of these variables is negative. This implies that, poverty reduction impact of the policies based on external and foreign aid and grants is debatable and asserts that externally imposed solutions in form of foreign aid and grants do not really solve local poverty problems in a country. To improve performance of such aids therefore, Wanjue (2023) in his dissertation on Local stake holders' involvement in community development projects observed that residents can provide valuable input on the design, implementation, review, and assessment of development projects, but many community development organizations do not involve these individuals in decision-making. During the identification of the projects phase, the community members need therefore to be considered as stakeholders so that their views can be incorporated.

Stakeholders are persons or groups directly or indirectly affected by a project, as well as those who may have interests in a project and/or the ability to influence its outcome, positively or negatively (Nwani, 2021). Stakeholders may include locally affected communities or individuals and their formal and informal representatives, national or local government authorities, politicians, religious leaders, civil society organizations, and groups with special interests (Wanjue, 2023). Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Community based organizations (CBOs) often operate within the communities they serve, creating a unique challenge of promoting ownership and collaboration. Establishing and engaging community-board leadership and a system of community volunteers provide NGOs and CBOs a resource of varied experiences and expertise. This brings a sense of ownership to the communities that they serve (Ouko, 2022).

Nwani (2021) argued that stakeholders have different responsibilities and influence on a project and the need for a contractor to identify the appropriate stakeholders. According to the Project Management Institute (2017), failure to identify the right stakeholders is likely to cause significant challenges to a project. Stakeholders can either have positive or negative control over a project. Stakeholders who oppose a project are often ignored, which could be detrimental to the project's success (Höhl et al., 2020).

Paul et al. (2023) underscored the need to win the support of the negative stakeholders to increase the project's chances of success. Therefore, project managers

should try to ensure that all the interests of the stakeholders are catered for and undertake negotiations to meet the minimum requirements.

Toriola-Coker et al. (2021) noted the need to involve all stakeholders in a project and defined a stakeholder as a person affected by another party's decision, and, thereby, stakeholders in a road construction project could include the host community and government agencies. Amadi et al. (2020) found a need to consider the stakeholders' interests in a road construction project for effective implementation. Given the significant impact of such constructions on the environment and the disruption of other infrastructures such as power lines and public water pipes, it is critical to ensure that stakeholders are involved.

### **Community Development Involvement**

Participation of the community in development influences the success of development projects from the initial stages up to a point when they are left to manage the project. Community participation in monitoring and evaluation is defined as the collective examination and assessment of the program or project by the stakeholders and beneficiaries. One example of community participation by Korir et al. (2021) studied Community Participation in Project Planning: A panacea to improved Performance of Community Water Supply Projects in Kericho County, Kenya. Their assessment of the infrastructure showed that the communities were not fully involved in project planning or technology selection. The project implementation guidelines were not fully understood nor issued to the community on

the commissioning of the project. The Vision 2030 First Medium Plan, 2008-2012, reports that the involvement of local communities in the management of donor-funded project resources through the formation of executive committees has resulted in the rehabilitation of catchment areas and water sources in Kenya.

Mahembe and Odhiambo (2021) studied stakeholders' participation in education projects in Nakuru County, Kenya and noted that the proactive involvement of stakeholders is critical in projects. He however, observed that using a reactive approach where stakeholders are involved when problems have arisen is likely counterproductive. This mainly occurs where stakeholders are not involved on time for complex situations that have far-reaching impacts. In that case, a project is likely to face delays as the problems are resolved, whereas this could be avoided if consultations are undertaken during the project. With regular consultations, a contractor can foresee challenges in the project and plan accordingly, ensuring that activities run smoothly.

Susskind et al. (2022) noted that there is often minimal room for a project's success when disagreements arise among the key stakeholders. Davis et al., (2021) identified key stakeholders to include senior management, project teams, and project recipient stakeholder groups. A major challenge that impacted projects was the lack of agreement amongst the stakeholders regarding the project's success factors, resulting in discontinuity.

### **Social Impact Planning**

Korir et al. (2021) studied the success of construction projects and observed that the social impacts of a project need to be considered well before the project starts. A justification needs to be made, for instance, regarding the impact of a road construction project on social amenities such as water. Construction often interrupts essential services. So, stakeholders must communicate with the affected community to negotiate various aspects of the project, such as scheduling. Further it is recommended that the community should require contractors to bear the cost of rehabilitating the environment once the project is complete. For example, contractors could plant trees.

Michugu (2020) studied a road construction project in Embakasi, Nairobi County, Kenya, and observed that where stakeholders are engaged before a road construction project, there is the likelihood that an appropriate impact analysis will be undertaken. Concerns of all stakeholders should be taken into account during the project's planning phase and thereby avert any possible collision that might occur during implementation.

Ndung'u (2020) noted that wide consultations were made before the Nairobi Outer Ring Road was constructed with a view to capturing the concerns of stakeholders and parties interested in the project. This involved workshops with stakeholders and public meetings during the drafting of the Environment Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report. Stakeholders during these forums included community representatives,

small-scale traders' associations, and government institutions such as water regulatory bodies like KeNHA and KURA, among others. During these sessions, agreements were reached on how the project could be implemented to provide maximum benefits. Consequently, during the project implementation, stakeholders gave minimal resistance due to their continuous involvement.

### **Foreign Aid and Economic Growth**

Dong et al. (2020) conducted research about the relationship between economic growth and foreign aid in Afghanistan and revealed that, there is a positive relationship between the foreign aid and economic development and that foreign aid contributes positively in eradicating the poverty. Maruta et al. (2020) in their research on foreign aid long-run contribution to growth and development assessed the impact of foreign aid on economic growth, social welfare indicators focusing on poverty and infant mortality and other variables such as education, health, investment, consumption, and agriculture. The researchers concluded that foreign aid stimulates growth, improves social welfare indicators and reduces poverty. Although the results showed that foreign aid effects were insignificant on inequality, it was evident that aids can improve school enrollment, and reduce infant mortality, promote investments and boost life expectancy.

Azam and Feng (2022) researched on the effectiveness of foreign aid that aimed at investigating the effectiveness of foreign aid in reducing income inequality of the developing countries, sub-samples of countries from Africa, South Asia, and

South America, which have socioeconomic and geopolitical similarities. The study concluded that foreign aid is statistically significant but marginally effective in reducing income inequality in most developing countries. The study further suggested that the effectiveness of foreign aid tend to diminish when institutional quality is low. This therefore calls for improvement on monitoring and evaluation during the process of project implementation and after completion.

Foreign aids are said to have stimulated economic growth when freedom, development and access to social services of target population of the developing countries is attained and desirable effect of aid on economic growth is achieved (Abate, 2022). However, there are some vices that compromise these goals and hence needed to be mitigated by all means.

Achievement of positive intentions of foreign aids to the target population in most cases are not realized because of some vices. Many theories and conclusions have been discussed on this topic but suggestions point at some that include corruption and flawed procurement processes.

### **Corruption and Foreign Aid**

Corruption is an umbrella term for bad policies that range from political tactics, such as nepotism, to outright theft. The ineffectiveness of foreign aid in Kenya and Zimbabwe can be traced to neopatrimonialism, which prevents aid from reaching its intended targets, resulting in sustained poverty in both countries. D'orsi (2021) found that while neopatrimonialism is evident in Zimbabwe due to the lack of regime



change, the regime changes in Kenya have made neopatrimonialism more apparent. These results are not exclusive to these two countries but are characteristic of Africa in general. The argument for solving African problems using African solutions is made. Self-interested governments and bureaucratic problems common among international refugee-relief agencies have prevented the two countries from pursuing the development of self-reliant host countries' responses to poverty (Harnois & Gagnon, 2023). While not all regimes suffer from neopatrimonialism, my study examined the effects of perceived corruption on the impact of foreign aid.

Research on the relationship between aid and development focuses on corruption. Dzhumashev and Hailemariam (2021) noted that the association that researchers expect between institutions and aid is likely a result of the positive correlation found between institutions and economic performance, such as economic growth, citing the work of Isaksson and Durevall (2023). Yet, the authors find conflicting results on the connection between institutions and aid. They concede that foreign aid's ineffectiveness can often be attributed to misused or misappropriated funds. The authors found that if aid flows are high enough, the adverse effects of incentives can neutralize the direct positive effects of aid on growth. The authors' theoretical model predicted that aid would become negative due to rent-seeking Song et al. (2021), however, the data does not support that hypothesis.

### **Negative Impact of Foreign Aid on Growth**

Dzhumashev and Hailemariam (2021) used an econometric model to test their theory using a cross-section of 75 aid-recipient countries and found that foreign aid transfers can negatively affect growth due to distortion of individual incentives by encouraging rent-seeking instead of productive activities. Isaksson and Durevall (2023) defined rent-seeking as the socially costly pursuit of winning a contestable prize. Their model distinguished two effects from foreign transfers: a direct positive effect, as higher transfers allow infrastructure financing, and an indirect negative impact, as higher transfers induce rent-seeking competition by self-interested individuals (Dzhumashev & Hailemariam, 2021). Their primary focus is on the distorting effects of aid on private incentives. The results of their statistical analysis show that the net growth effect of aid is substantially smaller than the direct positive effect when considering rent-seeking activities.

Shabbir and Wisdom (2020) determined that this is especially true in recipient countries with sizeable public sectors. The authors contend that this confirms the popular theory that rent-seeking and corruption occur mainly through government activities due to corrupt government officials' effective property rights over the aid transfers they are allocating. This implies that corrupt government officials control aid allocations and can divert transfers based on personal interests. They, therefore, found that the effects of aid on growth can be positive or negative depending on whether aid triggers rent-seeking activities. The authors' findings support arguments of conditional

assistance, where conditionality has to do with the size and the role of the government sector in recipient countries.

Krasniqi and Demukaj (2021) looked at corruption as a proxy for rent-seeking in the empirical model. They argued that corruption is likely highly correlated with other forms of discretionary redistribution and therefore able to capture more than the empirical relationship between aid, corruption, and the political equilibrium. Political equilibrium refers to the ability of a country to make credible policy commitments. Political equilibrium is related to corruption, as corrupt governments find it challenging to engage in credible policy control aid allocations. Political-institutional factors play a role in the effectiveness of foreign aid, specifically, that corruption hinders the positive effects of aid on economic growth and development (Paldam, 2021).

The research presented so far has shown foreign aid is ineffective. Faki and Chen (2021) is not the only researcher to suggest that corruption furthers the cycle of poverty and destitution in Africa. Abate (2022) argued that the relationship between foreign aid and corruption is symbiotic: the two feed off one another; foreign aid leads to corruption, which results in stalled development, and corruption leads to the ineffective use of foreign aid, which results in stalled development rather than improvement. While foreign aid targets growth and development, the product of such contributions is increasing domestic corruption and citizen dependence on international resources. Srivathsan et al. (2021) explained that up to 85% of aid flows

are used for purposes other than that for which they were intended. These flows were often used for unproductive and disadvantageous ventures. Krasniqi and Demukaj (2021) argued that foreign aid does not promote development; foreign aid can be detrimental. By fostering the cycle of corruption that prevents aid from being effective, aid itself hinders development in Africa.

### **Political Factors in Terms of Foreign Aid Impact**

Amuhaya and Degterev (2019) determined that while corruption and poor institutions are somewhat responsible for the lack of impact of foreign aid on inequality and poverty, they are not wholly to blame. Policymakers' preferences might also explain the poor link. Such preferences may be inconsistent with reducing poverty and inequality in developing countries but may instead be linked to considerations either of national security or domestic politics (Faki & Chen, 2021). While Dzhumashev and Hailemariam (2021) do not specifically address democracy, each of the political, institutional factors examined in my study (democracy and corruption) are likely correlated. For example, countries with high levels of democracy are likely to experience lower levels of corruption due to the checks and balances built into their political system. Consequently, low levels of democracy likely correlate to high levels of corruption due to the absence of checks and balances in the political system. This is relevant to the discussion of foreign aid because corrupt political institutions are unlikely to use foreign aid responsibly, meaning that ordinary citizens do not receive aid or receive only a small portion.

### **Efficient Procurement Practices**

Procurement is the acquisition of goods and services. It is a process that involves two parties with different objectives who interact in different market segments. Good procurement practice increases profitability by taking advantage of quantity discounts, minimizing cash flow problems, and seeking out quality suppliers. For this reason, it is standard practice to keep paperwork costs down (Ridwan, 2022).

Procurement is the acquisition of goods, services, and infrastructure at the best possible total cost of ownership in the right quantity and quality, at the right time, in the right place, for the direct benefit or use of governments, corporations, or individuals, generally via a contract Santoso and Gallage (2020). According to WHO (2020), procurement is the entire process of acquiring materials, property, and services required for a particular project. The process starts with the identification of need, followed by a decision on procurement requirements (Ommen et al. 2020). The process continues through risk assessment, identification and evaluation of alternative solutions, contract award, delivery, and payment of the property or service. Johnson et al. (2021) explained that the procurement process ensures that materials are available at the right time, right quantity, for the right client, and at a reasonable price and quality. Fursov and Linton (2022) emphasized that it does not merely entail the act of buying but a wide range of business, operational, information technology, legal systems, safety, and risk management, all undertaken to address an organization's

needs. The ability to satisfy desired needs depends on the speed at which goods are delivered; otherwise, a negative externality is created on the end-users.

According to Albu (2023), donors require the recipient to follow specific rules (procurement guidelines) for identifying the contractor who constructs the road and to set up specific financial management systems to oversee the use of donor funds. These often donor-specific rules and guidelines ensure that donor resources are used efficiently and economically but can lead to fragmentation and aid complexity. If procurement is not managed well, then project aid can be withheld, disbursements can be delayed, contracts can be canceled, and worse still, contractors debarred from doing business with development partners, which can be costly. According to Fazekas and Blum (2021), the critical success factor components of effective procurement are transparency in the procurement, a competitive procurement process, good governance, committed public agency, social support, and thorough and realistic assessment of the cost and benefits.

At the World Bank, high-value contracts are approved by the Regional Procurement Management and might therefore take longer than the low-value contracts. Mensah (2021) suggests that stringent conditions for pre-qualification and tendering, lack of transparency in the procurement of public works, and lack of affirmative policies for the promotion of local contractors as contributing factors to the lack of effectiveness and mediocre performance of donor-funded projects, resulting in unfair competition and corruption. For donor-funded projects in the

construction sector generally focused on infrastructure development and maintenance, procurement management is essential to timely completion, which may sometimes involve several procurement processes to deliver complex construction projects. Lengthy and cumbersome procedures at the project preparation stage often cause delays and have resulted in projects taking several years to come to fruition. As a result, projects were often out of date by the time they began; project objectives were no longer relevant or appropriate; and technology specified in the project design was obsolete. The procedures involved were so lengthy and complex it inhibited those involved from making the necessary changes (Åberg, 2023).

An effective public procurement system is essential for good governance. A poor procurement system results in higher government and public costs. It delays project implementation, which further increases costs, leads to poor project execution performance, and delays the delivery of benefits to the beneficiaries. Procurement problems increase the scope for corruption, generate more complaints, and raise concerns about the integrity of the procurement process. Organizational factors affect ethical standards in public procurement. These factors include the frequency of procurement cycle auditing, procurement professionals' get-rich-quick culture, and a lack of fair competition practices within the procurement cycle (Sitompul, 2022). Poor procurement discourages good firms (national and foreign) from participating in the bidding, thus depriving the country of receiving better prices and goods, works, and services (Alanzi, 2021).

Donors insist on using their procurement system, which implies they do not trust the country's existing procurement laws and guidelines. As evident from the following statement, the World Bank can only allow a few cases as they are consistent with their policies. The Use of Country Systems (UCS) refers to the use of the procurement procedures and methods in the public procurement system in place in the country of the borrower determined consistent with these guidelines and acceptable to the bank under the bank's Use of Country Systems (UCS) Piloting Program. Borrowers may use them in pilot projects that the bank has approved under such piloting program (Wang et al., 2023) This means the use of the country system can only be allowed in minimal cases.

The use of donors' procurement system alongside the country procurement system further lengthens the process and creates confusion in procuring donor-funded projects related items (Iannotta et al., 2023). This is more evident when counterpart funding is involved. In such cases, Government of Kenya (GoK) components should follow the country procurement system as stated by the World Bank in their guidelines for those carrying out a project financed in whole or in part by a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), credit or grant from the International Development Association (IDA), a project preparation advance (PPA), a bank grant, or a trust fund administered by a bank and executed by the recipient, of the policies that govern the procurement of goods, works, and non-consulting services required for the project. The loan agreement regulates the legal



relationships between the borrower and the bank, and the guidelines are made applicable to the procurement of goods, works, and non-consulting services for the project, as provided in the agreement. Finally, they do have their way because we are the people in need.

### **Summary and Conclusion**

This chapter included in-depth explanations of literature regarding various effects of implementation of foreign donor-funded projects in developing nations. Donor funds are channeled to countries that are assumed to not be performing better, hence encouraging policy reform incentives. However, many problems in developing countries are partly or wholly the result of poor policy choices by governments (Abate, 2022).

The literature review included descriptions of expectations of foreign aid in terms of reducing poverty and hence improving living standards of countries where projects have been implemented, improving economic development of citizens and also improving their access to social services. I also looked at vices that hinder achievement of goals of foreign aid like corruption and ineffective procurement processes.

Chapter 3 includes a description of the methodology that guided investigation. I aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the research design, sampling techniques, data collection procedures, and data analysis methods. By adopting a

rigorous and systematic approach, I intended to address valuable insights regarding the research question and contribute to the existing body of knowledge in the field.

### Chapter 3: Research Method

The purpose of the study was to assess impacts of foreign aid on road construction projects in Turkana County, Kenya. In this chapter, I describe the research methodology that was used in this study. I also describe the research design and rationale, my role as the researcher, methodology, participant selection logic, instrumentation, pilot study, procedures for recruitment, participation, data collection, data analysis plan, and issues of trustworthiness.

#### **Research Design and Rationale**

A general qualitative design was used to investigate effects of foreign aid on road construction projects in Turkana County, Kenya. Qualitative data were collected using interviews, observations, and analysis of primary and secondary data sources. The qualitative design was selected for several reasons. First, I collected descriptive and narrative data which were nonnumerical in nature and thus qualitative. Second, I focused on accounts of lived experiences according to the people of Turkana County regarding effects of roads constructed by foreign aid on their lives and livelihoods. Qualitative research was the most suitable approach for the study because I relied on firsthand primary data from observations, interviews, open-ended questionnaires, focus group discussions, participant observations, recordings in natural settings, documents, and artifacts.

### **Role of the Researcher**

I used direct observation and in-depth interviews to collect firsthand information about my study topic. In this case, I was an outsider and used nonparticipant observations.

In qualitative studies, the researcher is an instrument of data collection (Appiah-Otoo et al., 2022). Data are mediated through the human instrument rather than inventories, questionnaires, or machines. Qualitative researchers need to describe relevant aspects of themselves, including biases and assumptions, expectations, and experiences to qualify their ability to conduct research (Bhandari et al., 2023). Qualitative researchers should keep research journals explicating personal reactions and reflections, insights regarding the self and the past in a separate journal, and bracketing (Thomas & Sohn, 2023).

Qualitative researchers should explain if their role is emic or etic. Variations are possible. Researchers start as outsiders and then become members of groups. The reverse can occur if researchers start as a member of a group, then becomes more objective observers (Appiah-Otoo et al., 2022).

I asked probing questions, listened to participants, and asked more probing questions for deeper conversations. I used ideas and theories from a wide variety of sources to find out effects of aid provision on implementation of foreign donor-funded projects in developing nations.

## **Methodology**

Before research begun, the target population was identified and agreed upon. The target population was the entire population that I was interested in researching and analyzing. A sampling frame was then drawn from this target population. In this study, I focused on road construction projects in Turkana County, Kenya, with a focus on donors, Turkana County staff, road works contractors, and community leaders from six sub counties in Turkana County.

### **Participant Selection**

Twenty people participated in the study, although I prepared to interview additional participants if data saturation was not achieved. These participants provided accurate and reliable information since they were directly involved in road construction projects in Turkana County either as implementors or beneficiaries. Participants included one Turkana County minister of roads, one county director of the country's Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), six directors of roads and rural development and five road works contractors from each subcounty in Turkana County, the Turkana County commissioner, two donor representatives, and five members of county assemblies.

### **Instrumentation**

The self-developed interview protocol served as the primary instrument for the proposed study. This semi-structured protocol consisted of eight interview questions which were addressed to all study participants (see Appendix B). Additional

instruments included a notebook for writing observations and audio-recorder to record all interviews for later transcription.

### **Procedures for Pilot Study**

I conducted a pilot study to test accuracy, validity, effectiveness, and appropriateness of research instruments. I conducted the pilot study in Turkana County. Two participants were drawn from the target population, but data were not included in the final study. The purpose of pilot studies is to test whether research procedures and data collection instruments are likely to yield consistent information to answer research questions (Teresi et al., 2022). The interview protocol was checked to clarify unclear or culturally-insensitive questions that needed to be modified before the main study.

### **Procedures for Recruitment, Participation, and Data Collection**

I purposively selected the target population for this study. Purposive sampling involves researchers using their own experiences and selecting the most desirable members of populations for inclusion in studies (Casteel & Bridier, 2021). Selection was based on level of knowledge that participants held regarding the subject matter. Selected participants for this study were directly involved in planning, decision making, implementation and evaluation of road projects for the county as well as beneficiaries of road projects.

Having acquired a research permit, I visited the office of the county commissioner for introduction and to obtain county authorization to conduct research.

After getting the letter of authorization, I proceeded to the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA) and Kenya National Highway Authority (KENHA) offices where I introduced myself and the study to the team. I then obtained an appointment with the director in charge and other road directors. I also visited county public works offices where I met county road engineers and planners that I invited to participate in the study. I visited county offices to identify and engage members of county assemblies from each of the six sub counties.

I collected data from primary and secondary sources. Primary sources of data included firsthand information that was collected through direct observations and in-depth interviews. Secondary sources of data were publications, reports, statistics, and survey data that were available in the offices I visited. Documents included technical reports, the Turkana County Integrated Development Plan for 2018-2022, Economic Survey 2023, and *Socio-Economic Development in Turkana West, Kenya Volume I: Report on Households Socio-Economic Conditions 2022*.

I used semi-structured interview questions to guide in-person interviews. All interviews were recorded using note taking and audio recorders. Audio-recorded sessions were transcribed, hand-coded, and evaluated for thematic development.

### **Data Analysis Plan**

I analyzed qualitative data using thematic analysis. Taherdoost (2022) characterized data analysis as a complex aspect of a qualitative study that needs thoughtful discussion. Thematic analysis is a qualitative method used to identify,

analyze, and report data patterns. Thematic analysis is a systematic process with a number of steps which are; familiarization with the data, coding, generating of themes, reviewing of the themes and finally defining and naming the themes in an easily understandable way (Ibrahim et al., 2020). The advantage of using thematic analysis was that it was flexible and could be modified to fit the need of my study, thus provided rich data. The data analysis used content analysis for in-depth data review. The data were cleaned, thematically coded, and visualized using MaxQDA version 2024. I transcribed the interviews verbatim to get a more accurate representation of the participants' words. I then coded the transcripts using MaxQDA to manage my data and to identify patterns in the data more easily (Chimeva, 2022). I generated themes by looking for patterns in the codes. I also used an inductive approach to identify themes that were not explicitly been stated in the data. I reviewed the themes to make sure that they are clear, distinct, and supported by the data. I revised the themes and if the objective were not met then I added new comprehensive themes. I wrought up my findings, presented my themes, supported them with evidence from the data, and discussed their implications (Morgan & Nica, 2020).

### **Issues of Trustworthiness**

Ethics in research is about the appropriateness of the researcher's behavior and the rights of those who become the subject of a research project or who are affected by it and protecting them from harm (Brittain et al., 2020). To advance knowledge and find solutions to problems, it is often necessary to impinge on the rights of



individuals, and the researcher must give consideration to such ethical issues (Davison et al., 2022). Research ethics are guidelines that assist the researcher in conducting ethical research and comprise three areas: (a) the relationship between society and science (b) professional issues, and (c) treatment of research participants (Drolet et al., 2023).

Research misconduct includes fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research. The study observed the beneficence and no maleficence principles, which stand for doing good and doing no harm, respectively (Kirkcaldy, 2020). Research ethics in my study was guided by standards of ethical behavior widely accepted in the research community, namely voluntary participation, informed consent, and confidentiality. Due care and attention were paid to protect the identity of participants. The study's objective was made clear to all respondents and confidentiality assured in their responses. The questionnaire did not require personal details of the respondents but only information about the study objectives.

This investigation satisfied the requirements of a Doctor of Philosophy Public Policy and Administration and can be shared with developing nations. I ensured full adherence to the NACOSTI's research conduct regulations governing research work and research data. I respected all participants and ensure that all respondents understand the nature and purpose of the research. No one was forced to respond to questions. Participants were allowed to leave the study at any time. I ensured that

participants were safeguarded from any harm that may result from this research and made sure no one regretted their participation in the study (Omutoko et al., 2023).

### **Credibility**

The credibility of this research on the effects of foreign aid on developing countries such as Kenya was robustly established through various methodological strategies. I ensured transparency about the background and potential biases, enhancing the credibility of my study. Methodological rigor was evidenced in the systematic and meticulous design and execution of the research process, instilling confidence in the reliability of the findings.

I implemented data triangulation, involved multiple data sources, that enhanced my study credibility by validating and strengthening the conclusions drawn. I checked, reviewed and verified participants for accuracy of their input which contributed to the study's trustworthiness.

I incorporated detailed description, providing rich and detailed context, aids in the comprehensive understanding of the research findings. Peer reviewed, where experts in the field critically evaluated the study, added an additional layer of credibility through external validation.

Consistent findings across different stages of the research process strengthened the reliability of the results. Finally, transparent reporting, clearly detailing the research design, methods, and outcomes, further solidifies the credibility

of this study on the effects of foreign aid on developing countries (Azam & Feng, 2022).

### **Transferability**

The transferability of the research on the effects of foreign aid on developing countries was buttressed through meticulous attention to factors that enhanced the applicability of findings beyond the immediate study context. Detailed contextualization provided a thorough understanding of the specific conditions and nuances within the studied environment, allowing readers to assess the relevance of the findings to their own contexts.

Diverse participant representation ensured that a wide range of perspectives and experiences were considered, increased the likelihood that the research outcomes could be generalized to various settings. The inclusion of participants from different demographics, geographic locations, or socioeconomic backgrounds enriched the study's transferability by capturing a more comprehensive view of the impact of foreign aid.

The utilization of theoretical frameworks went beyond merely explaining observed phenomena; it provided a conceptual lens that transcended the particulars of the studied context. By employing robust theoretical foundations, I offered insights and principles that could be applied across diverse settings, reinforcing the transferability of the study.

Overall, the combination of detailed contextualization, diverse participant representation, and strong theoretical frameworks collectively strengthened the transferability of this research, making it a valuable resource for understanding the effects of foreign aid on developing countries in a broader and more universally relevant sense (Hays & McKibben, 2021).

### **Dependability**

The dependability of this research on the effects of foreign aid on developing countries was underscored by a meticulous and well-thought-out research process. Carefully planned, from the formulation of the research question to the design of data collection methods, laid a robust foundation for the study, ensuring that the research was methodologically sound and capable of producing reliable results.

Consistency in data collection practices was a crucial aspect contributing to dependability. I maintained a uniform approach throughout the data collection phase, minimizing variations that could compromise the reliability of the findings. This consistency fostered a sense of reliability and trustworthiness in the research outcomes.

Transparent reporting played a pivotal role in establishing dependability. The research process was documented and communicated in a clear and comprehensible manner, allowing readers to follow the logical progression of the study. Transparent reporting not only enhanced the research's credibility but also facilitated the

replication of the study by other researchers, further contributing to the dependability of the research (Adler, 2022).

### **Confirmability**

Confirmability in the research on the effects of foreign aid on developing countries was fortified through a deliberate and thorough application of data triangulation. By incorporating multiple data sources and methods, such as interviews and participant observations, I mitigated the risk of bias associated with relying solely on a single source of information.

Data triangulation involved cross-verifying information obtained from different sources or through different methods, contributing to the credibility and trustworthiness of the research findings. Interviews allowed for nuanced insights from participants, participant observations provided a firsthand, experiential understanding of the studied phenomenon.

The use of multiple data sources not only enriched the data but also enabled me to capture more comprehensive and multifaceted view of the effects of foreign aid on developing countries. This diverse range of perspectives enhanced the conformability of the findings, as patterns and consistencies across different data sources bolster the reliability of the research outcomes (Stahl & King, 2020).

### **Ethical Procedures**

This research adhered to stringent ethical procedures aimed at ensuring protection of participants' rights and wellbeing while upholding the highest standards of ethical conduct in research.

Prior to participation, participants were provided with comprehensive information about the study's purpose, procedures, and potential risks and benefits. Informed consent was obtained voluntarily, and participants were assured of their right to withdraw at any stage without repercussions.

The research rigorously maintained the confidentiality of participants' identities and responses. All personal information was handled with the utmost discretion, and pseudonyms were used to protect participants' anonymity in reporting.

Participants' privacy was safeguarded throughout the research process. Interviews or observations were conducted in private settings to ensure confidentiality, and data was securely stored with limited access to authorized personnel.

The research design prioritized the well-being of participants. Any potential harm or discomfort was minimized, and steps were taken to ensure that the benefits of participating in the study outweighed any potential risks.

Participants were provided with a debriefing session or information post-participation, clarifying any queries they might have and offering additional resources or support if needed.

The research protocol underwent ethical review by relevant institutional review boards or ethics committees, ensuring that the study met or exceeded ethical standards in research.

The study adhered to transparent reporting practices, allowing readers to assess the ethical considerations and procedures implemented. This transparency builds trust and accountability in the research process (Pietilä et al., 2020).

### **Summary and Conclusion**

This chapter included information about the research methodology that governed the study as well as insights regarding the chosen research tradition, design, and qualitative methods. I used a qualitative paradigm, with in-depth interviews as the primary method for data collection and thematic and content analysis.

I used a qualitative approach, emphasizing a nuanced understanding of the phenomenon. Qualitative research is suitable for exploring intricacies, meanings, and subjective experiences that quantitative methods may not fully capture. By addressing the depth and context of participants' perspectives, I aim to generate rich and detailed insights.

I used in-depth interviews as the primary means of data collection. In-depth interviews facilitated a profound exploration of participants' viewpoints, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of their experiences and perspectives related to effects of foreign aid on developing countries. The dynamic and interactive nature of

interviews enables researchers to probe deeper into participants' narratives, capturing the complexity of their lived experiences.

Upon data collection, thematic and content analysis were employed as qualitative methods for data analysis. Thematic analysis involved identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns or themes within data, providing a systematic and interpretative approach to understanding participants' narratives. Content analysis involves focusing on systematically categorizing and interpreting textual data, offering a structured means of uncovering key themes or patterns. Chapter 4 includes results.



#### Chapter 4: Results

The primary objective of the study was to examine effects of foreign aid on road construction in Turkana County, Kenya. Specifically, I aimed to assess how roads that are constructed through foreign aid facilitated access to social services for Turkana County residents, describe the extent to which these roads mitigated poverty in the region, assess how well roads address needs of local communities, and explore reasons given by communities for not achieving targeted goals.

Data collection tools were interviews and one focus group discussion protocol. Participant interviews and focus group discussions were used to provide an understanding of the topic under study. I employed open-ended questions to address effects of aid provision on developing countries and Turkana County in terms of road construction projects, challenges that developing countries face when complementing road construction projects, how foreign aid helped to overcome socioeconomic challenges in Turkana County, best practices for road construction projects in Turkana County, and identification of specific road construction projects funded by foreign aid in this county.

This chapter includes data collection procedures and analysis processes, as well as a summary of results from key participant interviews and focus group discussions within six sub counties in Turkana County.

### **Pilot Study**

I conducted a pilot study to test accuracy, validity, effectiveness, and appropriateness of research instruments. I conducted the pilot study in Turkana County. Two participants were drawn from the target population, but data were not included in the final study. The purpose of this pilot study was to test whether research procedures and data collection instrument were likely to yield consistent information to answer the research question. The interview protocol was checked to clarify unclear or culturally-insensitive questions that needed to be modified before the main study.

### **Research Setting**

This study was conducted to understand effects of aid provision to developing countries on road construction projects in Turkana County, Kenya. I interviewed 20 participants. All interviews were conducted at the convenience of participants. Interviews were done in Kiswahili and English. Some were predominantly Kiswahili speakers, mainly community members, and some in mixed languages. I conducted all interviews through face-to-face interview sessions. Length varied from 30 to 58 minutes. Before each interview, I reminded participants that their participation was voluntary and asked if they still wanted to complete interviews. Participant identities was kept confidential as I used the pseudonyms P1 to P20 to identify them during data analysis. Pseudonym numbers reflected the order in which interviews were conducted. I accumulated sufficient data to reach saturation after 20 interviews, although data

began to be redundant after the 17th interview. I also had one focus group discussion composed of 12 members purposively selected from 20 participants in order to give more detailed data regarding some issues that emerged.

### **Demographics**

Participants came from various backgrounds. Some were serving as representatives of donors, while others represented road contractors. I also had community members, members of the Turkana County Assembly, representatives of the police and security team, and top management representatives of the Kenya Roads and Highways Authority and Kenya Rural Roads Authority. These were experts in road construction as well as beneficiaries of such projects. Some were not just experts but also vocal publicly having expressed spoken and/or written opinions about the topic. Experiences and knowledge of the phenomenon motivated purposive selection. Some participants, had over 35 years of experience regarding the topic under discussion. All participants had at least a degree qualification up to and including PhDs. As planned, I interviewed a sufficient number of target participants. I collected data from participants including policy and development experts, county and national elected leaders, senior administrators, county government ministers and local communities.

**Table 1***Participants' Demographic Characteristics*

Participants /Code	Expertise/Skill	Language	Length/minutes
P 1	Member of County Assembly Member of Committee on Roads and Infrastructure Policy expert	100% English	55
P2	Member of County Assembly Member of Committee on Roads and Infrastructure Policy expert	100% English	48
P3	Community Member A women group leader Road user	100% English	40
P4	Community Member A business person Road user	English/Kiswahili	42
P5	Community Member A youth representative Road user	English/Kiswahili	35
P6	Community Member An elder Road user	100% Kiswahili	58
P7	Community Member A Police officer Security expert and Road user	100% English	44
P8	Community Member Opinion leader Road user	English/Kiswahili	40
P9	Minister of Roads, Turkana County County Official and expert	100% English	53
P10	Minister of Finance, Turkana County County Official and expert	100% English	37
P11	County Roads Engineer, Turkana County County Official and expert	100% English	39
P12	County Director, Public Works, Turkana County County Official and expert	100% English	40

P13	Director, Kenya National Highways Authority (KENHA), Turkana County Policy, Roads and Development expert	100% English	53
P14	Director, Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA), Turkana County Policy, Roads and Development expert	100% English	50
P15	KENHA Consultant Policy, Technical and Development expert	100% English	58
P16	Road Contractor Road construction expert	100% English	55
P17	Road Contractor Road construction expert	100% English	57
P18	Representative, World Bank (JICA) representative Donor	100% English	40
P19	Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Donor	100% English	58
P20	Representative, China Roads and Bridge International Donor and Contractor	100% English	45

Among the 20 participants, three were foreigners, but the rest were Kenyans, and all were residents in Turkana County.

### **Data Collection**

From August to 7, I made several calls and contacts by email and WhatsApp calls to establish connections and make preliminary logistical arrangements, and to identify the potential study participants. I was able to talk to 35 potential participants. I shared with them copies of my research permit, the tools for data collection and the consent forms. I was also able to book appointments for a face-to-face interview with the 28 participants who also responded "I consent" to the email. However, I ended up interviewing 20 of them. Some participants agreed to the interview but never turned up for the session because of various reasons. Others responded to the invitation email

but never responded to my request to schedule a date and time for the interview, although I insisted that I was very flexible. I initially planned to carry out the interviews within two weeks. I concluded them within almost four weeks. I continuously called and wrote the participants messages to remind them of the planned interview. Some of the participants kept on shifting the time for even one week. One candidate texted me for days following his interview consent. He informed me that “he had to travel to Nairobi for work related activities”. A week later is when he called me again to tell me that he was ready for the interview. Although I had reached out to 28 candidates, I started to reach saturation at around interview number 18 and at participant 20, I completed my interview sessions. Fortunately, I had no communication challenges in terms of internet and WhatsApp network connectivity. I also had a peaceful data collection period despite my initial security fears because of what I had read earlier about safety in Turkana County. The interviews were done in mixed languages, English and Kiswahili. Sixteen were almost exclusively English, three were about fifty-fifty, and two were in Kiswahili only.

### **Data Analysis**

Qualitative data analysis is the process of organizing, analyzing, and interpreting non-numeric, conceptual information, and user feedback—to capture themes and patterns and answer research questions (Nassaji, 2020). I employed codes and themes to analyze the transcripts from the interviews. I facilitated the data

organization for in-depth study, contrast, and collection of thoughts and opinions to create an exhaustive and comprehensive representation of what happened.

Coding was crucial to analyzing, classifying, and categorizing the data (Saldaña, 2016). I used manual coding to retrieve accurate information from each interview and identify and locate concepts, themes, events, and examples within the transcripts (Rubin & Rubin, 2011). I used words and short sentences as code, as Marcus (2016) and Saldaña (2016) prescribed. I combined the utilization of memos (Marcus, 2016) and sticky notes (Saldaña, 2021) for hand-coding. According to Burkholder et al. (2020) repeating interaction with the data is the best practice to facilitate the emergence of patterns and categories from the data. The repeating interactions helped me immerse myself in the data to comprehend the meaning and capture the emerging nuances fully.

Data were coded following Saldaña's (2021) hand-coding principle, which stipulates starting first coding on hard-copy printouts because manipulating qualitative data and writing codes on paper permits more rigorous control over the data and the ownership of the work (Saldaña, 2021). In the Word document transcript, the coding process helped me to determine patterns and similarities in meaning, features, or context. In selecting the codes, I focused on attributing codes, the first cycle coding method entitled "Theming the data" for deciphering broader patterns of meanings to generate themes (Saldaña, 2021, p.69). I categorized the themes for analysis or pattern coding for categorizing "coded data as an initial analytic strategy"

(Saldaña, 2021, p. 74). The data analysis helped me uncover the knowledge generated by the participants and answer research questions. It also facilitated the detection of patterns, building connections, and presenting the findings.

### **Data Reassembly: Coding Themes**

Coding is the tool that researchers use to label and organize data to identify different themes and relationships between them (Mahojan & Mohajan, 2022) to capture the meaning of the data collected in the interviews. I manually developed the codes from the raw data in a Microsoft Word document. I developed the codes after extensive reviews of the questions and participants' responses. I searched for similarities and replications to categorize according to salient ideas from the participant's point of view. Then, as I continued to immerse myself in the raw data, I repetitively polled the initial codes to situate them in the relevant categories. Based on the participants' perspectives, I synthesized similar codes into categories (Saldaña, 2021). The themes that emerged from the classification of the codes corresponded to the research and the overarching research questions. I repeatedly reviewed the themes to ensure that they captured the thoughts and experiences of the respondents regarding the effect of aid support on road construction projects in Turkana County.

Once convinced that the themes appropriately summarized the participants' viewpoints, I constructed the concepts to fit the interview questions. Some particular codes, categories, and themes came into sight from the data comprised socio-economic benefits, socio-economic and political challenges, economic benefits, social



benefits, socio-environmental costs, technical challenges, social-economic challenge, political challenges, environmental challenges, prudent management and leadership, participatory approach, administrative and political challenges, implementation of best Management practices, and provision of enabling environment.

The codes developed based on the interview data were converted to categories, and the themes emerged from them. The themes allowed the reproduction of the participants' points of view on the phenomenon under study. The codes, categories, and themes addressed the research questions. They provided in-depth insights related to the research problem, which centered on the effects of foreign aid on road construction projects and how that was changing the socio-economic situation in Turkana County.

### **Evidence of Trustworthiness**

To have a societal impact, research must respond to quality indicators (Burkholder et al., 2020). During the data collection and analysis process, I adopted a transparent approach to describing the research process and notifying the readers that this study was trustworthy because I conducted the survey to minimize bias (Dodgson, 2017). Trustworthiness guided the study throughout the process, from conception, literature review, data collection, and analysis to conclusion. It reinforced the evidence of the findings in conformity with the quality of the data sources and the appropriate methods. I strove to obey credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability criteria by adopting a transparency and meticulous approach during the

recording of the interviews, followed by a rigorous transcription process. The review and assimilation of the transcript ensured that the data were accurate and free of errors, allowing the coding and categorization of the data, which led to the emergence of themes consequential to data quality. I repeated the mechanism of reviewing the transcript multiple times at different phases of the data collection, including coding and categorization. I also relied on my field notes to ensure that I rigorously captured the meaning and perspectives of the participants. The endpoint was to validate the accuracy of the findings from the viewpoint of the researcher, the participants, and the target audience of the research (Rose & Johnson, 2020). After 17 interviews, the information started to become repetitive. However, I had already scheduled three more interviews. I did conduct these two interviews to reach saturation.

### **Credibility**

Qualitative research scholars agree that qualitative inquirers must determine their studies' credibility. Credibility refers to the accuracy and truth value of a research finding (Cope, 2014). The credibility of this research started with purposively selecting knowledgeable respondents capable of enhancing the value of the subject matter under study. The contributors were well-informed about the research concerns, had credentials that might convince the reader, and had addressed the topic from experience (Rubin & Rubin, 2011). The credibility continued while I ensured that the presentation of the conclusions and findings were evidence based (Cope, 2014). I triangulated my field notes with the interviews, accessible literature

materials and Figureic evidence to generate trustworthy findings. Triangulation is a great mechanism to mitigate bias and improve the reliability of the research results (Creswell & Miller, 2000; Fusch et al., 2018). During the interviews, I ensured that my beliefs, subjectivity, or bias did not influence the participants' views. During the interviews, I often recapitulated their idea to ensure I clearly understood and expressed their position before moving to the following questions.

### **Transferability**

I strove to present a credible generic qualitative approach study to ensure transferability and that the findings are practical and replicable in disparate environments and circumstances with varied populations. Transferability is a criterion that measures how applicable a study's findings are to other contexts, settings, or respondents (Herrera, 2019). I utilized purposive sampling to select the participants based on their field of experience or study, expecting to collect the best information to inform the analysis and understand the effect of foreign aid support for road construction projects on socio-economic situation in Turkana County. I provided ample information regarding the interviews. I presented direct citations from the respondents to offer a thick description (Creswell & Poth, 2016) to ensure the significance of the study to public policy and administration scholars, public administrators, elected officials, and the public in general.

**Dependability**

Dependability refers to the strengths of the research findings (Stahl, & King, 2020). To ensure that the study is dependent, I presented an audit trail of the research design, the collection, and data analysis. I shared the outcomes of the findings with the respondents for confidence building and review of the results to ensure the reliability of the research results. The participant's quality and experiences guaranteed the data's sturdiness. I collected the data in adherence to the ethical standard of confidentiality and anonymity. I used pseudonyms to identify the participants and ensure that the participants were presented as gender-neutral when gender could be a determining factor that could reveal the participant's identity. I documented the entire research process to facilitate future review of the study.

**Confirmability**

This is the objectivity of a research study (Stahl & King, 2020). I provided an audit trail of the research process to confirm the study's findings. I repeatedly listened to the recording and reviewed the transcript to ensure that I captured and represented the participants' views to permit the readers, based on comprehensive methodological descriptions, to establish whether the data and concepts that evolved from the research were acceptable or satisfactory. For the confirmability of the research, I used a straightforward and transparent process of purposive sampling as the instrument to select the participants based on their experiences or their expertise on the

phenomenon with the expectation of getting the best information to inform the analysis.

## **Results**

The first objective of the study was to establish how roads constructed through foreign aid have facilitated access to social services in Turkana County. To this end, the study started by highlighting the various roads that have been constructed by foreign aid; identify best practices that had ensured that foreign aid is effective in supporting road construction projects in Turkana County; and assessing the socio-economic effects of foreign aid provision on road construction in Turkana County.

### **Theme 1: Road Projects Funded by Foreign Aid in Turkana County**

A specific question was asked, what are some of the specific road construction projects that have been funded by aid in Turkana County? During data collection, it was shared that Turkana County was one of the most remote counties in Kenya, with less connection to other parts of the country. Similarly, many of the roads that were in existence since independence were either dilapidated and/or of poor standards. A key informant for instance observed that “in the year 2018 for instance, Turkana County ranked the poorest county in Kenya with 88% of its population living below poverty level, compared to the national average of 45%.” At around 2010, this background triggered many foreign aid donors to intervene especially in promoting infrastructural development targeting major road projects in order to connect the County to the rest of the world. By the time of the study, there were two levels of road projects that had

been constructed using foreign aid in Turkana County. The urban roads within Lodwar Town, being the headquarters of Turkana County, and the major highways that link Turkana to the rest of Kenya and southern Sudan.

The urban roads within Turkana County were the Turkana municipality road network and the Lodwar town feeder roads. They included Lodwar Lodge-Kilimanjaro streets, Nakwamekwi-Soweto Street and St. Kevin Secondary Road. These are roads under the municipality and within the jurisdiction of the County Government of Turkana. Through the support of African Development Bank and the World Bank, these roads have been fully tarmacked and upgraded to the expected standards of roads within an urban setting in terms of their width, road signage, water drainage, safety measures and quality of materials used. By the time of the study, all the roads within Lodwar town, being the headquarters for Turkana County, were fully tarmacked under this program.

The second categories of roads were the major highways connecting Turkana County to the rest of the world. These are roads that consumed the greatest infrastructural investment resources in the County. They are indeed milestone projects and big in scale. The roads link Turkana County with all the major neighboring counties and countries. These roads were funded under the support of World Bank and they remain monumental to the landscape and aesthetic status of Turkana County. The roads include Lokichar-Lochwaa Angikamtak road, Lochwaa-Angikamatak road, Lodwar - Kakuma-Lokichogio-Nakodae road, Lokichar-Southern Sudan (A1) road,

Lodwar-Nadapal road, Lokichogio -Nakodok (240km A1) road, Lokichar-Morphus (A1) road, and the giant Eldoret - Kitale-Lodwar-Nadapal -Kapoeta-Juba Corridor Road Project.

The highway roads are constructed to meet international standards and have iconic bridges, signage, elevations, pavement, parking, bumps and many stop-over provisions. They also have several security utilities including police roadblocks and county access points. The roads are wide and provide a unique scenic view of the county. These roads took long time to be completed. Some took three years, while others over five years before completion (see Figure 1).

### **Figure 1**

*Section of Kitale-Lodwar A1 Highway*

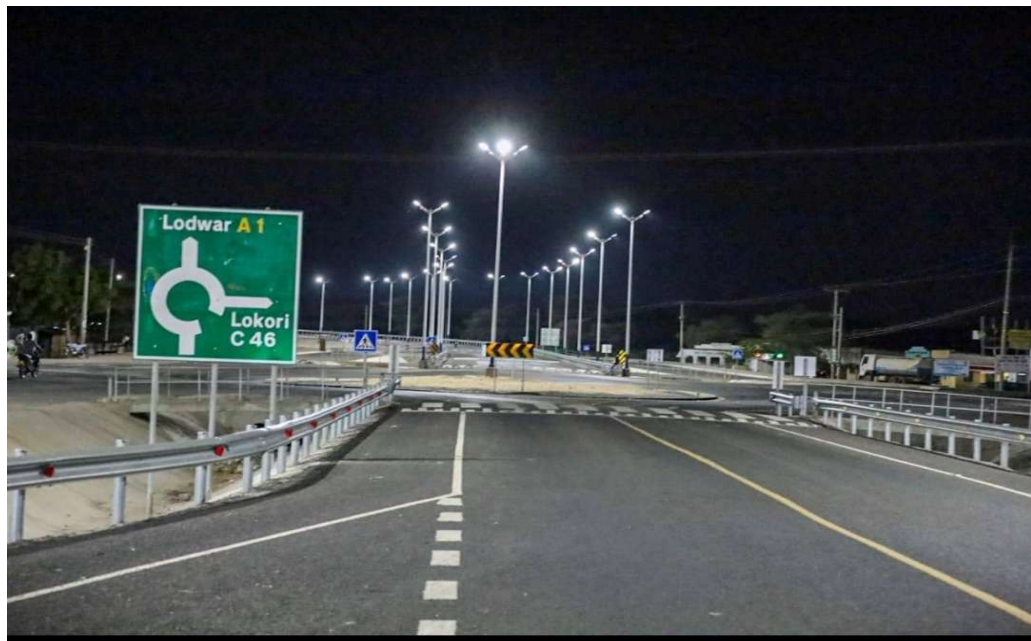


Figure 1 shows the current status of a section of the Kitale-Lodwar road that is completed and operational. This road is classified as A1 Road. One can see the finishing with clear road signage, markings, side-gauge, lighting and drainage that meet the expected international standards of a road of a similar class.

### **Theme 2: Best Practices During Road Construction in Turkana County**

Respondents were asked to name some of the best practices for ensuring that foreign aid provision was effective in supporting road construction projects in In Turkana County. To achieve successful delivery of the road construction projects in Turkana County, it emerged that there were several preliminary and subsequent logistics that were to be implemented in order to realize a smooth operation and for positive outcomes. These constituted what the researcher called “best practices” and they included participatory approach, best management practices and provision of enabling environment.:

#### ***Theme 2a: Participatory Approach***

Just like any other development project, needs assessment and engagement of the stakeholders were critical ingredients for the road construction projects funded by foreign aid in Turkana County. Various participatory strategies were applied including formation of local committees. These involved teams made up of membership from the local community, professional bodies like Kenya Highway Authority and the Kenya Urban Roads Authority, the county public works officers, and the local leadership. This was important in order to resolve issues like



compensation of displaced families along the road ways, deciding on the road designs, acquisition of the necessary certifications and approvals, and conducting of environmental and social audit.

At some point, public participation and stakeholder engagement involved harnessing local resources for proper management of the project, and involvement of county government, community leaders, civil societies and the local community in some decision making and implementation process. Participatory approach was also critical for effective and efficient communication in terms of reporting, public notices and mass media updates. The use of local languages in road signs and bill boards were also critical for adherence. For instance, the signpost on HIV-AIDS, which was warning members of the public against risk sexual behavior during road construction was written in local languages with equivalent translation in English. Participation of the local community was also important for security purposes. Turkana County is largely a pastoralist County with myriads of attacks by cattle rustlers, which compromises the general security. Therefore, the significance of engaging the local community could not be underscored.

#### ***Theme 2b: Management Practices***

Best management practices were largely administrative and control measures that were put in place to ensure that the road construction projects were on course successfully. These included human resource issues, financial controls and administrative controls with regard to foreign aid. In terms of financial controls, there

was a comprehensive budget that guided all the expenditures during design, implementation and handing over of the road construction projects. This was possible because during the preliminary stages, there was a comprehensive engagement of all the stakeholders that culminated into itemizing all the possible issues that would derail the project and making budgetary provisions for them. For instance, the budget was able to cater for acquisition of land and compensation of the affected families where applicable, payment for all approvals, hiring of workers, and provision of security. The budget also had provision for inflation and all bills of quantities were well enumerated and costed.

During implementation phase, there was prudence use of resources and the expenditure was strictly tied to the budgetary provisions. Financial controls including checks and balances during approvals for expenditure were done through experts that had been hired in the projects. There was also accountability, regular financial reporting and audit of the finances, which was important for the smooth operation of the projects.

In terms of administrative controls, the hiring of experienced personnel into the project ensured that there was proper adherence to timelines. That the implementation of the various project activities was based on the activity and budget schedules that were also followed as per the implementation plan that had been drawn in advance. According to one of the key informants interviewed, who was a Kenya Highways Authority (KENHA) engineer, he observed that “being strict to our action

plan was the game changer. We were able to work within our time-frame because we strictly followed the action plan as had earlier been designed.”

Another critical administrative strategy was the continuous monitoring and evaluation of the project as had been scheduled in the work plan. It was evident during the project implementation that there was a budget for monitoring and evaluation team. The road projects had a team of experts led by the road engineers who were also facilitated with vehicles and other equipment that allowed them to monitor the daily operations and engaged in scheduled evaluations at each stage of the road construction. During the focused group discussion, one of the participants noted that “we could not move from one phase of implementation to the next without the necessary approvals by the monitoring and evaluation team who would also engage in laboratory tests to gauge the strength and validity of the materials being used. They must drill and take samples of the finished work for laboratory testing.”

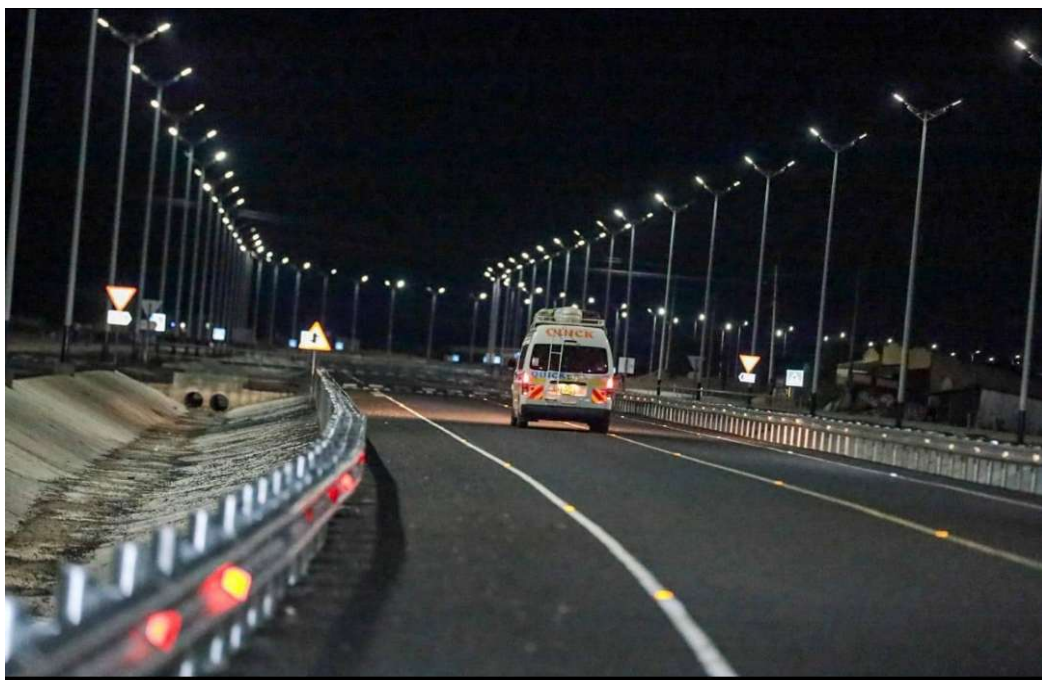
There were also the human resource aspects that involved hiring policies. The road construction projects became a major source of employment for the local community. This was because during the preliminary stages, it was undertaken that only specialized tasks were taken by outsiders. However, all that basis jobs would be for the local community members from where the roads were passing through. This ensured that there was the goodwill from the members of the local community who provided security for the project and also gave useful information during the

implementation stage on how the project would best suit the needs of the local community.

Accordingly, there were several corporate social responsibility programs that were designed to go along with the road construction projects. For instance, the improvement of social amenities like schools, health centers, police check points, access points, and shade for motorcycle riders along the highway. One of the key informants pointed out that “schools like Todonyang Primary School, health facilities like the Nadapal Health Center were roofed by the contractors of the road projects. Communities were also supplied with water by the boozers from the project. All the police control points along the highways were done by the road constructors. You can see the lights along the road that have now enhanced security for the general public at night.” All these enhanced positive co-existence between the road construction projects and the local community needs (see Figure 2). Figure

## **Figure 2**

*Section of the Kitale-Lodwar Highway at Night*



It is evident from Figure 2 that the road construction projects have enhanced security to allow night transportation. One can see a public vehicle with passengers travelling at night on a well-lit road. Previously, one would not travel on this road alone at night without police escort from Kapenguria to Lodwar, where they would also move in a convoy of vehicles for security purposes.

***Theme 2c: Provision of Enabling Environment***

For any project to be successful, there must be a supporting environment in the broadest sense. Specifically, the political goodwill. It was evident from the local leadership that were engaged during data collection that road construction projects were properly supported by the local politicians in terms of making the necessary legal and policy frameworks that would enhance such activities. They also provided the necessary political approvals for the projects at the county assembly. Politicians also played a key role in mobilizing community participation and were also part of the oversight committee through the Turkana County Assembly Committee on Roads and Infrastructure. According to one of the Member of County Assembly (MCA) interviewed, “road construction projects have been our main trigger for development. We as the leaders are proud of the World Bank for the good work they are doing in our great County. Turkana is now connected to the rest of Kenya and the world. It is our people that are benefiting from jobs, businesses, tourism and security brought by these road projects. That is why we must support our development partners by all means possible.”

The office of the County Commissioner was also very instrumental in provision of security for the road contractors, their property and equipment, as well as provision of security for the general public during the implementation phase. They deployed police officers to guard the roads, the materials, equipment and personnel. According to the Officer Commanding Station at the Lodwar Police Station, “our work was to secure the road infrastructure as a critical government installation. We secured the road, the personnel, the equipment and the general public. We did not allow vandalism and if one is found, it is a criminal act under the law on economic sabotage.” The County Commissioner's office was also categorical that they were to enforce the hiring policy. They ensured balanced employment parameters between the locals and the non-locals and this managed the risk of antagonism and conflicts between the community and the road project managers.

It was also evident that the road construction projects had borrowed a lot from the best practices that had been implemented in other developing countries. For instance, independent oversight during the road construction. It was found that there were several public and private organizations like the Kenya Highways authority, the Kenya Construction Authority, the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), the Turkana County Assembly Committee on Roads and Infrastructure and the World Bank, which provided oversight roles during the various phases of the road construction projects. One of the EACC officers observed that “throughout the implementation of the road construction projects, we had several measures in place

including but not limited to public notices showing clearly that the project was a *No Corruption Zone* and that we encouraged whistle-blowers and witness protection to encourage reporting of mal-practices.”

Competitive bidding was also implemented. It was observed by most of the participants during data collection that merit superseded other criteria when it came to recruitment of workers, suppliers, contractors and all other stakeholders in the project. At some point, some of the technical teams had to undergo on-job re-tooling to enhance their efficiency in delivery of tasks. Because hiring was done based on merit, there was high level of financial integrity and prudent use of resources for the project, accountability and transparency, and working within the budgetary allocation. All these accounted for the success of the road construction projects in Turkana County.

### **Theme 3: Socioeconomic Benefits of Road Construction Projects in Turkana County**

Participants’ thoughts were sought on the effect of aid provision to developing countries and in Turkana County Kenya, in particular, on road construction projects. The ultimate outcomes of the road construction projects were their impacts on the social lives of the local community in Turkana County. There were several social effects that were reported by the informants. These included Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects like renovation of health centers, schools, construction of police posts along the for-road patrol security and supply of water to the local communities along the highways in Turkana County.

From several reports shared by key informants at the KENHA offices in Lodwar and collaborated by data from the office of the roads engineer at the Turkana County Roads office in Lodwar, who were the main local agents implementing foreign aid funded road construction projects, they revealed that there were so many Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs that had been established along construction of the major roads and other infrastructure in the Turkana County. For instance, in 2020 leaders from Turkana County, representatives from the World Bank and the Kenya National Highway Authority (KENHA) met to validate KES 2.9 billion social amenity projects that were implemented in the region as part of the Authority's corporate social responsibility. The social amenity projects were implemented in the six constituencies of the County where the authority was constructing a KES 38 billion, 338 km road from Lokichar to Nakodok, at the Kenya-South Sudan border. According to one of the directors "KENHA also constructed the fiber optic cable that costed KES 1.1 billion along other social amenities that costed KES 2.9 billion. Water provision took about 40% of the entire amount provided. Other projects were construction of markets, parking bays, health sector, food security, education among others."

The other social benefit of the road construction projects to the local community was increased participation of the locals in community development matters, particularly touching on infrastructure. The construction of roads occurred in several phases. During the preliminary phases, there were a lot of community



sensitization, engagement and collaboration with the development agencies. During this phase, the local communities were taken through elaborate civil education on the benefits and implications of road construction projects and how they were to impact on the lives in the whole County. The locals were also asked to give their opinion on the best ways of working together with the contractors. The community were also engaged by being hired as workers in the project, suppliers for materials, provision of security and being part of the local oversight teams. All these activities raised the level of awareness among the locals and also created the impetus for them to seek for what were rightfully theirs.

Road construction projects have also been responsible for improving the local scenery and aesthetics. Turkana County was once a massive community land that was characterized by large grazing lands, shrubs and drylands. The establishment of road networks in the county has really changed this scenery through man-made beautification that has really changed the topography and landscape in many of the areas where the roads have bypassed. The ones dull natural settings have now been complemented with beautiful road designs, markings, bridges, drainage, viewpoints, markets places, all of which have combined to renew the face of the County. Figure 3 below illustrates an example of a plain land that has been beautified by construction of a highway road.

**Figure 2**

*Section of a Highway That Transformed Lodwar Town*



Despite the many social benefits highlighted above, there were also several social challenges that were brought about by the road construction projects. According to a report shared during data collection by KENHA (2015) on Reviewed and Updated Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for the Proposed Rehabilitation of Lodwar-Lokichogio-Nakodok Road (A1), 240 Km (Package 3), there have been several social costs associated with road construction projects. The report provides an example of the rehabilitation of Lodwar-Lokichogio-Nakodok Road (A1) covering a total distance of 240Km, which was part of the South Sudan-Eastern Africa Regional Transport, Trade and Development Facilitation Program (SS-EARTTDFP). The entire

road is located within Turkana County starting from Lodwar and running in a north-westerly direction to Lokichogio and into Southern Sudan at Nakodok. The road route traverses urban towns of Lodwar, Kakuma, and Lokichogio. It also affected the rural Turkana settlements areas and rural shopping centers of Nasiger, Duka Moja, Makutanao Gold, Nakalale, Lokore, Komotongai, Kalobeyei, Natira, Nakururum, Songot and Lomidat. The project impacts arising from acquisition included disruption of livelihood, loss of structures for business, loss of trees and crops, loss of communal facilities (boreholes) loss of cemeteries and loss of pastureland. Unfortunately, the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) report of 2014 had indicated that most of the Project Affected People (PAP) were staying on Right of Way (ROW) meaning they had no legal ownership over the land which they have erected their structures.

The PAPs were however informed during the consultations that for as long as they were on the ROW they had no right to compensation for land and would only be compensated for structures, crops and other assets. This was very disruptive to thousands of households that were affected. The direct impacts included loss of commercial/residential land currently belonging to private individuals and government institutions, manyattas and commercial/residential houses, disruption of residential accommodation, relocation of cemeteries, interruption of the community social systems, disruption of businesses, interruption of income streams, loss of community land, destruction of pastureland, exposure of local communities members

and cattle to accidents, and displacement of squatters who had erected their manyattas and other semi-permanent structures on the way-leave area.

#### **Theme 4: How Roads Mitigated Poverty in Turkana County**

The second objective of the study was to interrogate how the road construction projects had mitigated poverty in the larger region of Turkana County. During key informant interviews, the researcher was able to access some critical documents as shared by the informants on population and poverty in Turkana County. According to the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census (KNPHC) report, Turkana County population was 926,976 (478,087-51.57% male and 448,868-48.42% were female) (KNBS, 2019). According to Turkana County Integrated Development Plan 2023-2027 (2023), the monetary poverty rate for Turkana was 78.5%, which was twice the national rate of 35.7% with approximately 727,408 people in Turkana being monetarily poor. Turkana had a multidimensional poverty rate of 86.3%, which was 8-percentage point higher than the monetary poverty rate of 78.5% with a total of 800,217 people being multidimensionally poor. When dis-aggregated by age groups, 86.2% of children in Turkana were multidimensionally poor. This was 34-percentage points higher than the national average of 52.5%. Among the youths, 80.9% were multidimensionally poor compared to a national average of 48.1%, while for the elderly population, 97% were multidimensionally poor compared to a national average of 55.7% (Turkana County Integrated Development Plan 2023-2027, 2023).

The participants' thoughts were sought in regards to provision of foreign aid for road construction projects and how such investment had mitigated poverty in the larger region of Turkana County. Two themes emerged, the theme of socio-economic benefits and the economic outcomes of road construction projects.

***Theme 4a: Socioeconomic Benefits***

One of the direct benefits of the road construction projects in Turkana County on reduction of poverty was creation of job opportunities for the local communities. Road construction projects provided several employment opportunities to the local communities. Directly, over 60% of all workforce that was required for road construction projects were acquired from the local communities. This included expertise such as engineers, accountants, administrators, clerks of works and wage laborers. Road projects also created jobs for suppliers of various materials and equipment that would be locally sourced. Technical teams like consultants were also employed especially in carrying out environmental impact assessment, needs assessments, developing road design, and other technical assignments.

Indirectly, there were several value chains of other opportunities that emerged, which created more employment to the local population. These included small scale traders, food vendors and general supplies for basic goods and services. All these jobs were both short-term and long-term jobs. Short-term employment opportunities ended with the completion of the road project, while long term employment opportunities have continued to accrue even after the roads were completed. For instance,

transporters have absorbed many youths as drivers and loaders, public transport touts, shops have been established along the roads employing many locals. Many businesses have also developed at the market centers established by the road contractors. All these have had long term employment benefits to the local communities.

Road construction projects also led to enhanced regional connectivity. This opened up and connected Turkana County to the rest of the interior and exterior parts of the country and beyond. From the road networks mentioned including Lokichar-Lochwaa Angikamatak road, Lochwaa-Angikamatak road, Lodwar - Kakuma-Lokichogio-Nakodae road, Lokichar-Southern Sudan (A1) road, Lodwar-Nadapal road, Lokichogio -Nakodok (240km A1) road, Lokichar-Morphus (A1) road, and the giant Eldoret - Kitale-Lodwar-Nadapal -Kapoeta-Juba Corridor Road Project, Turkana was now accessible from all sides of the County. According to discussants from the focused group discussion, “10 years ago, one could not access Turkana easily. There were very few major roads and they were all unsafe to use. Turkana County is a vast region and one would take a whole day on the road moving from one end to the next.” What this meant was that the road construction projects in Turkana County had eased transportation thus, boosting supply and availability of agricultural products to markets, enhanced security in the County and thus, boosting food and physical security in a previously insecure County. A key informant was able to demonstrate this by saying that “the road construction projects had reduced and

shortened travelling time. For instance, the Lodwar Kitale distance of over 300Kms is now 4 hours from the previous 12 hours journey.”

During data collection, it was evident that Kitale-Lodwar-Juba Road was the busiest road connecting Turkana to the rest of Kenya and was now a common source of food products from Trans-Nzoia and Uasin Gishu Counties, the food basket counties of Kenya. This had a positive effect by easing access and availability of basic food resources and thus, reducing the high cost of food prices in Turkana County.

The other social benefit of road construction projects was that foreign aid support for road construction projects in Turkana County had led to successful construction of roads and realization/actualization of road infrastructural projects. This not only boosted the social image of Turkana County, but also reduced pressure on both National and County governments’ budget on infrastructural development. The outcome of this was that the construction of roads was also associated with rapid urbanization process in Turkana County. Roads have been linked to mushrooming of many small towns. Kakuma Town is an example of such a town. This kind of growth has had positive impact on the local economy and allied services like markets, healthcare, education, provision of utilities like water and electricity. An example of such towns was Kakuma Town. Kakuma in Kiswahili Language means “nowhere”: a dry place on desolate land with a few trees-a place of no hope (see Figure 4).

**Figure 3**

*Section of Kakuma Town Along the Dual Road on the Lodwar-Lodwar-Kakuma-Lokichogio-Nadapal Road*



It is evident from Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 that Support from foreign aid has increased quality of roads constructed, improved status of towns and their aesthetics, and led to accelerated urbanization by emergence of many other urban centers along the new major roads. This had boosted the general growth of towns within Turkana County. This was possible because provision of foreign aid enabled Turkana County to save money for road construction and use it in alternative development projects like health and education, thus, accelerating the development process. The researcher was able to access two Figures for KENHA office showing Kakuma before the road was constructed and Kakauma after the road had been constructed. These Figures were



evidence of how road construction projects had transformed Turkana County. Figure 5 shows Kakuma before road construction.

**Figure 4**

*Section of Kakuma Road Before Construction of the Current Road*



Figure 5 shows a rural-isolated road passing through wilderness. In Figure 6, I show the current state of the same section of the road after being upgraded by KENHA through foreign aid support.

**Figure 5**

*Figure Showing a Section of Kakuma Road after it was Upgraded and Commissioned by the KENHA in 2021*



The two figures were a clear demonstration of how foreign aid support for road construction projects in Turkana County had transformed the Turkana County.

***Theme 4b: Economic Outcomes***

Out of the many social benefits of foreign aid support for road construction projects in Turkana County, there were several economic outcomes that were visible during the study. Foreign aid support for road construction projects in Turkana County had enabled establishment and completion of critical roads in the County. These were better quality roads by local and international standards. The roads were all tarmacked, widened, with better standards of bridges, signage and drainage

system. The roads had stimulated economic growth by creating employment opportunities for the local population, improving efficiency and access to basic amenities including markets, health, and education, improved communication and transportation of goods and services, and saved time that was previously wasted in long travelling hours due to bad roads (see Figure 7).

**Figure 6**

*Road in Lokichar Town, Turkana South Suanb-County*

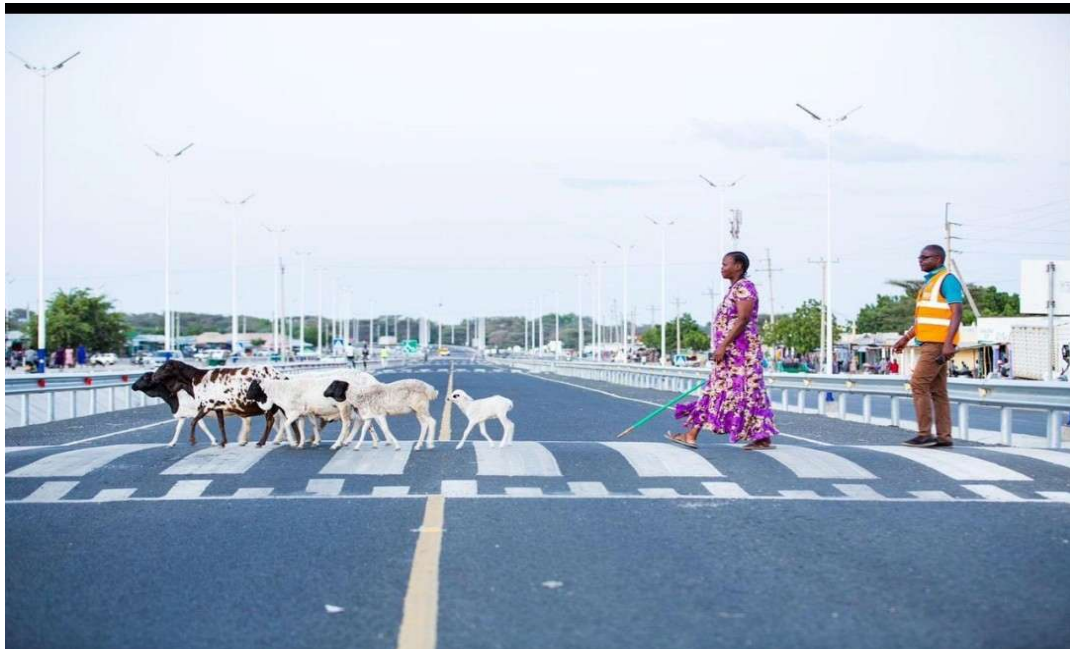


Figure 7 represents the new-look Lokichar town that has really been transformed to become an urban center because of the Lodwar-Lokichar road.

### **Theme 5: Socioeconomic Challenges Addressed by Road Construction Projects**

Several issues came up during the study: the issues of security, inadequate County budget, socio-economic backwardness, and inadequate social facilities. With regards to security, it was shared by all the study participants that Turkana County being largely inhabited by pastoralist communities was at the center of inter-community feuds due to cattle rustling from within and even across in Southern Sudan where some of the attacks emanate.

One of the key findings in the study was that through the support from foreign aid, most of the major roads that had been constructed provided safe havens for residents that were previously under greater risk of attacks. As earlier observed in this work, construction of road projects had improved security surveillance by police in Turkana County. Foreign aid support has been used to establish more police patrols and check points along major roads and thus, improving security. The roads have also allowed ease of access to places that were previously hard to access by motor vehicles. According to one of the Members of the County Assembly interviewed, “the roads have reduced response time by police. Thus, scaring away attackers because they would easily be traced. The police have made so many recoveries of stolen livestock and so discouraged cattle rustling activities in Turkana County.”

With regard to inadequate county budget leading to slow development in Turkana County, it was found that Turkana County having been one of the ‘marginalized’ Counties in Kenya: Counties in the hardship areas that were for many

years politically neglected in terms of budgetary support and had suffered from effects of prolonged marginalization since independence in 1963. Consequently, with the coming of devolution in 2010 and establishment of County Governments in Kenya, it was the first time that such Counties were getting their first fare-share of the budget yet inadequate for the myriads of development challenges that had prolonged since interdependence. Therefore, support from foreign aid for road construction projects was described as a major boost in jump-starting a County that was financially stuck.

According to one of the leaders interviewed, Turkana County Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2024/2025, was valued at KSh. 19,760,257,779/55, of which on KSh. 251,956,760 was dedicated for road maintenance. The leader was very specific that “all the major roads in Turkana County were fully funded by foreign aid especially from World Bank and the African Development Bank.” This had helped to overcome the budgetary deficit that would have slowed down other development projects in the County. The foreign aid also helped to ease the burden on County debt by offering an alternative mode of funding for a critical budget-item.

The problem of socio-economic backwardness. By the year 2022 Turkana County had a poverty index gap of 67.5% placing it at the tail end of position 47 compared to the rest of the counties in Kenya. For many years, the County lacked most of the infrastructure to an extent that they regarded themselves as not being part of Kenya. According to one of the Key informants interviewed, “it was common to hear one saying I am going to Kenya; whenever they traveled outside Turkana

County.” Meaning that Turkana was not part of Kenya since the rest of Kenya had experienced development and growth. This issue has been resolved by the creation of new roads and improvement of the existing ones. Through these roads several jobs have been directly and indirectly created, leading improved economic standards in the County. Good roads attract the concentration of human population leading to development of towns and cities in areas that were previously rural or peri-urban. Increased urbanization activities mean more revenue for Turkana County government.

Regarding inadequate social facilities, Turkana County had for many years been ‘neglected’ especially by the national government. This was political. In fact, the Catholic Church was like the government in Turkana County, providing all the major social amenities through their missionary activities. This was severally highlighted during the focused group discussion where discussants observed that “from construction of the major schools and hospitals to provision of water and even the airstrip in Lodwar town the role the catholic church has played in provision of social amenities in Turkana County cannot be underscored.” This scenario started to change with the establishment of the County government in 2010 and the massive road projects. Through KENHA and in collaboration with the County Government of Turkana, there have been so many social amenities that have been either constructed from the ground or improved as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility by KENHA as detailed earlier in this chapter. This has helped to improve access to social amenities by majority of the population in the County and thus, overcome the

challenge of access to clean water, education, health services and security. It is therefore evident that through the provision of foreign aid support for construction of roads in Turkana County, many of the socio-economic challenges are being addressed as demonstrated above.

### **Theme 6: Challenges During Implementation of Road Construction Projects in Turkana County**

One of the research questions was the specific challenges that have been encountered in implementing road construction projects in Turkana County. Despite the many benefits highlighted in the earlier sections of this chapter, there were several issues that motivated the community protest against foreign support for road construction projects.

#### ***Theme 6a: Technical Challenges***

The first and most common issue was to do with technical challenges. These included poor road designs, poor workmanship, lack of spatial plan, and long bureaucracies by donors and government agencies. Regarding road design, there were roads that had either delayed or stopped for some time because of design issues. Some road designs were seen by the community as so restrictive, while others were dangerous as they exposed the lives of the people and that of livestock to high accident-risks. These included sections of the Todonyang Road, Nadapal Road and Lokichar Road that took two more years beyond the project time because of design issues.

In other cases, some of the contractors had done poor work leading to tear and wear of the roads even before they were handed over to the government. These had been occasioned by allegations of corruption that money meant for the roads were shared among key stakeholders and only a small portion left for the actual work. This is what compromised the quality of roads and thus, attracting public outcry. At the county level, it was reported that there was poor record keeping with lack of a county spatial map, making it difficult to have a proper development of infrastructure. Donor conditionality on employment of road workers has also led to resistance by the locals when they are denied some types of jobs that can be done by the locals but instead, given to foreigners. When the under-utilization of local resources including contractors, skilled manpower and materials from local suppliers is politicized, it becomes a source of antagonism between the local community, the donors and the road contractors.

***Theme 6b: Community-based Challenges***

Challenges emanating from the community have also been a source of resistance and destruction to donor funded road projects. Destruction and/or stealing/vandalizing of road signs, some locals putting up structure on road reserve that prevent works from going on, community hostility and resistance from local community especially when the contractor does not yield to their demands, displacement of people, increased road accidents and underpayment of women. Two examples were cited by members of the focused group discussion. These were



vandalism and displacement of the locals. In most of the occasions, road signage is vandalized and the metal posts sold to scrape dealers.

Meanwhile, most of the road reserves are already occupied illegally by people. When the road construction begins, there is conflict, violence and outright resistance by those residing in the road reserves as they claimed compensation, yet they are on a way leave. Ordinarily, there is no compensation for such lands along the way leave, except for property destroyed during displacement. Foreign aid support has therefore, been associated with social disruption and displacement of people to pave way for expansion of roads and thus, the resistance in some places.

***Theme 6c: Socio-environmental Challenges***

I also encountered socioenvironmental challenges. Turkana county has two major environmental disasters. The county is generally very dry and hot. However, when it rains, the County is immediately flooded. Perennial flash floods destroy road infrastructure making it very costly to repair whenever destroyed. This eats into the County Budget for other development issues and so the community react by demonstrating why all monies are being dedicated to road construction. Other environmental hazards include un-rehabilitated construction sites along the roads, which have been associated with drowning of children and adults in quarry wells. This has witnessed community demonstrations against road construction projects in Turkana County.

In other occasions, discrepancies in payments between locals and foreigners has been a major source of discomfort from the community. It was shared by one of the community leaders interviewed that “a major source of conflict between the community and foreign donors is payment-related issues. Locals felt highly underpaid yet they do the greatest part of the work compared to foreigners. They prefer that the same standards are applied for all employee’s remuneration.” This was related with employment of foreigners for jobs that could easily be done by the locals and thus, creating an outcry from the community. In some cases, Chinese foreigners working as road contractors have been blamed for mishandling the locals including cases of physical assault and verbal abuses, which are against work ethics.

Another social issue was insecurity. The roads were also used by criminal elements and therefore associated with increased criminal behavior like robberies with violence and even death. This has witnessed protest from communities against road construction projects because they expose the locals to danger and risk of continuous attacks from boarder communities like the *Pokot*.

Foreign aid support for road construction injects a lot of financial resources into the local community. This has had its own negative implications. For instance, these foreigners or donor-funded projects have been associated with increase in promiscuity and commercial sex activities and their consequences including the spread of diseases like HIV-AIDS, and unwanted pregnancies. The foreigners working on road projects have been blamed for using their financial influence to lure

men and women into sex expeditions that have resulted into unexpected consequences. Twice in Lodwar town, there were demonstrations in the year 2023 against some Chinese contractors over such allegations.

***Theme 6d: Administrative and Political Challenges***

Corruption by government officials leading to embezzlement of funds meant for road construction was a major administrative issue that has resulted in community demonstrations against foreign aid support for road construction since it was seen as benefiting just the few in government and allied service providers. Several reports have been released showing how millions of monies have been used in bribery. Form one of the key informants, “the greatest corruption cases in Turkana County are related to County Government and roads. That is where the money is.” Out of corruption and political interest, there has been lack of political goodwill to support some of the road projects because the politicians were not directed going to benefit. This has also resulted in a lack of effective joint coordination between local and national governments, and limited budget and budgetary allocations. All these challenges create an administrative project in Turkana County and political environment that cannot support foreign aid resources for road construction.

**Summary**

In this chapter, I described how this qualitative study was implemented and findings that emerged from analysis. I sought to establish how roads that were constructed through foreign aid facilitated access to social services in Turkana

County. Analysis of data from interviews revealed all major roads in Turkana County were constructed using foreign aid. Based on interviews, foreign aid support for road construction had several socioeconomic benefits for local communities in Turkana County. However, implementation of road construction projects was not without challenges.

In this chapter, I addressed the research process and description of themes. I concentrated on demographic characteristics of participants as well as collection and analysis of data. Data emerged from 20 participants. Chapter 5 includes examinations of findings, limitations of the study, recommendations for future engagement with foreign aid support for road construction projects, and effects of foreign aid support best practices for road construction projects.

## Chapter 5: Discussion, Conclusions, and Recommendations

I sought to better understand the impact of foreign aid on road construction projects in Turkana County, Kenya, particularly in the context of socioeconomic outcomes that such infrastructure projects can lead to. Despite the crucial role that infrastructure construction plays in the development of any region, many projects, especially in developing countries, are marred by significant delays, budget overruns, and poor execution. Challenges that were identified in this study include ineffective government policies, insufficient skilled labor, poor project oversight, lack of stakeholder engagement, a flawed procurement process, and corruption where funds intended for development projects are diverted for personal gain without any tangible outcomes.

The objective of this study was to gain insights regarding views of key stakeholders including donors, road contractors, elected leaders, road experts, local administrators, and community members on effects of foreign aid on road construction in Turkana County. I aimed to explore not only successes and challenges associated with these projects but also broader socioeconomic impacts on the people of Turkana. By doing so, I sought to offer a comprehensive understanding of the role foreign aid plays in infrastructure development, particularly road construction, in one of Kenya's most remote and underserved regions.

Chapter 1 introduced the background of the study, outlining the need to investigate the topic. This chapter also included the problem statement, research

questions, significance, and scope. Chapter 2 included an extensive literature review regarding the role of foreign aid in infrastructure projects in developing countries, particularly focusing on road construction. I also addressed the theoretical framework that guided this research, offering a lens through which data could be interpreted. In Chapter 3, the research design was described in detail, including the rationale for using a qualitative approach, data collection protocol, and justification for the chosen methodology. Chapter 4 included information about the research process, coding methods, key themes that emerged from data, and the analysis process.

This study was driven by insights from literature, which highlighted the critical role of project management on the success or failure of infrastructure projects. Attention to project management factors can mitigate project failure and losses (;Al-Meshekeh & Langford, 2014; Brock, 2016; Hideaki et al., 2015; Mir & Pinnington, 2014; Spencer, 2014). Given these findings, I aimed to address the gap in literature regarding the specific impact of foreign aid on road construction projects in Turkana County. I also sought to explore best practices, challenges, and socioeconomic outcomes of such initiatives, contributing new knowledge regarding transformative effects of foreign aid on Turkana County.

Findings of this study align with existing literature regarding challenges of foreign aid-supported infrastructure projects, particularly in remote regions like Turkana County. The agency theory was a useful framework for understanding dynamics between donors and recipient communities. This framework was used to

explain challenges associated with ensuring aid is used effectively and in line with intended objectives. The study underscores the importance of mitigating risks associated with agency problems, such as information asymmetry and misalignment of interests between donors and local agents.

### **Interpretation of the Findings**

Empirical observations were gathered during the study to provide a comprehensive understanding of transformative effects of foreign aid-supported road infrastructure projects in Turkana County. These findings include clear evidence of positive social and economic impacts such projects have had on local communities, as well as the county's overall aesthetic and developmental outlook. Completion of road projects funded by foreign aid has visibly enhanced accessibility and connectivity of previously remote areas, contributing to improvements in quality of life of residents. However, despite these evident advancements, there are significant challenges associated with implementation of such projects which warrant further attention.

Data from key participant interviews and a focus group discussion included valuable insights regarding participants' perceptions of foreign aid and road construction projects in Turkana County. These insights helped me understand not only tangible benefits but also challenges that emerged during the project implementation phase. Participants expressed mixed reactions regarding road projects, acknowledging positive outcomes while also highlighting issues such as delays, budget overruns, and occasional resistance from local communities due to concerns

about environmental impacts or lack of community involvement in the planning process.

Importantly, findings are consistent with the literature review in Chapter 2. The agency theory is relevant in terms of understanding dynamics between foreign aid donors, local government authorities, and recipient communities. Donors seek to ensure proper use of funds, while agents work to implement projects within the framework of local realities and priorities.

Study findings also underscore the importance of adopting best practices during implementation of road construction projects. One key observation is the need to reduce resistance from local communities, which often stems from misunderstandings or insufficient involvement in planning and execution stages. Resistance could be mitigated through increased community engagement, transparency during decision-making, and greater consideration of local needs and concerns.

New knowledge generated by this study has the potential to raise awareness about the necessity for better planning, more inclusive decision-making, and prioritization of local interests in future foreign aid projects. Insights may also serve as a guide for policymakers, development agencies, and local administrators, providing a framework for overcoming challenges that can hinder the success of road infrastructure projects in remote and underserved areas like Turkana County.



Findings were organized around key themes that emerged during the data analysis process. These themes reflected the multifaceted nature of road construction projects, which are not just about infrastructure development but also social transformation, economic growth, and addressing historical marginalization. Research questions guided both data collection and formulation of interview questions, ensuring gathered data were relevant and comprehensive.

In terms of the research methodology, this generic qualitative research approach allowed for collection of rich and detailed data that captured diverse experiences of various stakeholders involved in the project. A total of 20 participants were interviewed, including representatives from foreign aid organizations, road experts from the Kenya National Highways Authority and Kenya Urban Roads Authority, local community members, elected leaders, and local administrators. These varied perspectives contributed to a deeper understanding of complexities of road construction projects in Turkana County.

### **Theme 1: Road Projects Funded by Foreign Aid in Turkana County**

All 20 participants identified either one or several roads that had been constructed with support from foreign aid. These roads were either those within the Lodwar municipality and/or those that connected Turkana County to the rest of the world. The roads included Lodwar Lodge-Kilimanjaro streets, Nakwamekwi-Soweto Street and St. Kevin Secondary Road in Lodwar Town. They also included the Lokichar-Lochwaa Angikamtak road, Lochwaa-Angikamatak road, Lodwar -

Kakuma-Lokichogio-Nakodae road, Lokichar-Southern Sudan (A1) road, Lodwar-Nadapal road, Lokichogio -Nakodok (240km A1) road, Lokichar-Morphus (A1) road, and the giant Eldoret - Kitale-Lodwar-Nadapal -Kapoeta-Juba Corridor Road Project. Through the support of African Development Bank and the World Bank, these roads had been fully tarmacked and upgraded to international standards in terms of their width, road signage, water drainage, safety measures and quality of materials used. By the time of the study, all the roads within Lodwar town, being the headquarters for Turkana County, were fully tarmacked under this program.

In relation to literature the findings agree with literature by Jensen & Meckling (2011) and Nakitare, (2018) who emphasized the role of external funding in successful completion of projects. The findings also agree with the agency theory by Alchian and Demsetz (1972), as well as ideas by Nakitare, (2018) who argued that the donor can be called the principal and the recipient community the agent because the donor determines the funds allocated and sets the conditions to be met or fulfilled for donor funding implementation.

### **Theme 2: Best Practices During Road Construction in Turkana County**

To achieve successful delivery of the road construction projects in Turkana County, there were best practices that were implemented in order to realize successful completion of the roads. These practices included participatory approach, best management practice and supportive working environment. Participatory approach involved formation of local road committees, public participation fora and stakeholder

engagement, involvement of county government, community leaders, civil societies and the local community in decision making, compensation of the displaced persons and in implementation of the road construction projects.

Best management practices were also emphasized during implementation of road construction projects. These practices included human resource issues regarding employment of foreigners versus the locals, financial controls and administrative controls that ensured inclusive and prudent use of resources, as well as strict adherence to budgetary provisions. Accordingly, there were several corporate social responsibility programs that were designed to go along with the road construction projects. For instance, the renovation and/or construction of schools, health centers, police check points, access points, and shade for motorcycle riders along the highway. Drilling of water was also part and parcel of giving back to the community.

The other best practice was provision of an enabling environment. There was political support and goodwill for road construction projects. This involved politicians' role in mobilizing community participation that were also part of the oversight committee through the Turkana County Assembly Committee on Roads and Infrastructure. There was also the provision of security for the road contractors, their property and equipment, as well as provision of security for the general public during the implementation phase. There were several public and private organizations like the Kenya Highways authority, the Kenya Construction Authority, the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), the Turkana County Assembly Committee on

Roads and Infrastructure and the World Bank, which provided oversight roles during the various phases of the road construction projects. These were important for monitoring and evaluation of the projects and ensuring value for money. There were also measures to mitigate corruption including whistle-blowers hotline and witness protection to encourage reporting of mal-practices. Competitive bidding was also implemented where recruitment of workers, suppliers, contractors and all other stakeholders in the projects were based on merit. All these accounted for the success of the road construction projects in Turkana County.

The majority of literature on project management stresses the importance of best practice techniques in achieving project objectives (Kerzner, 2013; Meredith, 2016). They stress that the successful implementation of strategies contributes to a successful project. Mir & Pinnington, (2014) claimed that project management is an essential part of project success. Mir & Pinnington, (2014) argued that project management failure could be avoided by paying attention to the project management factors which caused the loss.

### **Theme 3: Socioeconomic Benefits of Road Construction Projects in Turkana County**

Through corporate social responsibility (CSR), road construction projects enabled renovation of health centers, schools, construction of police posts and markets along the road, and supply of water to the local communities. During the preliminary phase, the local communities were taken through elaborate civil education

on the benefits and implications of road construction projects and how the projects were to impact on the lives in the whole County. Consequently, community members were hired as workers in road projects, suppliers for materials, provision of security and being part of the local oversight teams. These actions did not just create jobs but also raised income for individuals and households in Turkana County. The establishment of road networks in the county had changed the local scenery through man-made beautification that became a tourist attraction as people visited to see and experience road trips as they enjoyed the scenic view. Similarly, the establishment of roads created markets places along the highways, improved the land value, created jobs, increased transportation activities and generally led to establishment of new urban centers that generated more revenue for the county government.

These findings are in tandem with Zhan and Santos-Paulino (2021), who in their argument on success of construction projects. They observed that the social impacts of a project need to be considered well before the project starts. A justification needs to be made, for instance, regarding the impact of a road construction project on social amenities such as water. Construction often interrupts essential services (Macharia, 2016). So, stakeholders must communicate with the affected community to negotiate various aspects of the project, such as scheduling. Further its recommended that the community should require contractors to bear the cost of rehabilitating the environment once the project is complete Zhan and Santos-Paulino (2021), For example, contractors could plant trees.

#### **Theme 4: How Roads Mitigated Poverty in Turkana County**

Road construction projects in Turkana County had two major ways they had helped to mitigate poverty: through socio-economic benefits and by economic outcomes witnessed during the study. Socio-economic benefits were employment opportunities to the local communities where directly, over 60% of all workforce that was required for road construction projects were acquired from the local communities. Indirectly, there were several value chain activities, which included small scale traders, food vendors and general supplies for basic goods and services. Many businesses had developed at the market centers established by the road contractors. Road construction projects had led to enhanced regional connectivity. This had opened up and connected Turkana County to the rest of the interior and exterior parts of the country and beyond. Thus, easing transportation, boosting supply and availability of agricultural products to markets, enhancing food and physical security in the County. The successful construction of roads not only boosted the social image of Turkana County, but also reduced pressure on both National and County governments' budget on infrastructural development. The outcome of this was rapid urbanization process in Turkana County.

In terms of economic outcome, foreign aid support for road construction projects in Turkana County had enabled establishment, improvement and completion of critical roads in the County. The roads had stimulated economic growth by creating employment opportunities for the local population; improving efficiency and access to

basic amenities including markets, health, education; improved communication and transportation of goods and services; and saved time that was previously wasted in long travelling hours due to bad roads.

These findings were consistent with literature from Economides et al. (2013) who had anticipated a positive correlation between development of infrastructure and economic performance. Citing the work of Mauro (2012) and Knack and Keefer (2015), road construction projects were stimulants for urbanization and comprehensive economic growth and development.

#### **Theme 5: Socioeconomic Challenges Addressed by Road Construction Projects**

Before the successful completion of road construction projects, Turkana County was faced with limited and poorly maintained road networks, insecurity, poverty and joblessness, high food prices, limited access to basic social amenities, and inadequate County budget. Foreign aid support for road construction had enabled completion of significant roads traversing the whole county and connecting it to the rest of the world. It had created jobs, provided social amenities, reduced travel time, enhanced markets and transportation of good and services, addressed insecurity challenges, and provided access to many socio-economic opportunities. This had an overall reduction in poverty levels from about 80% to the 72% in Turkana County by the time of the study.

These findings are in line with the literature review citing the works of Moyo (2014) who argued that if foreign aid does not promote development to mitigate

poverty, then foreign aid can be detrimental. The findings also agree with Schoppert (2016) who hypothesized that foreign aid should aim to break the cycle of poverty and destitution in Africa. Indeed, foreign aid support for road construction in Turkana County has made its significant input in mitigating poverty in the study area as evident in the above findings.

### **Theme 6: Challenges During Implementation of Road Construction Projects in Turkana County**

There were several issues and incidences that made the community to protest against foreign support for road construction projects in Turkana County. They included technical challenges, community-based challenges, socio-environmental challenges, administrative and political challenges. Technically, poor road designs, poor workmanship, lack of Turkana County spatial plan, and long bureaucracies by donors and government agencies. At the community level, destruction and/or vandalizing of road signs; erection of illegal structures on the road reserve; displacement of people, increased road accidents and underpayment of women were a major source of antagonism between the community and the road contractors. Regarding socio-environmental issues, anthropogenic activities that exacerbated drought and floods activities in Turkana County posed the greatest risk to road infrastructure. Administrative and political challenges occurred in the form of corruption leading to embezzlement of funds meant for road construction.



The findings resonated well with literature borrowing from ideas of Svensson (2015) who argued that corruption was likely highly correlated with other forms of discretionary redistribution and therefore, able to capture more than the empirical relationship between aid, corruption, and the political equilibrium. This argument was further highlighted by Knack and Keefer (2015) who conceded that foreign aid's ineffectiveness can often be attributed to misused or misappropriated funds.

### **Analysis in Context**

In this study, I applied the agency theory to analyze the impact of foreign aid on road construction projects in Turkana County, Kenya. Originally formulated by Alchian and Demsetz and later expanded by Jensen and Meckling, the theory involves relationships between two parties: a principal, who delegates authority to an agent, and the agent, who is entrusted with performing a task on behalf of the principal. The principal grants decision-making power to the agent, relying on the agent to act in their best interest (Jensen & Meckling, 2011). In the context of this study, borrowing from Nakitare, (2018), the donor can be considered the principal, while the recipient community, tasked with implementing the project, functions as the agent. The donor allocates funds and sets the conditions for the successful execution of the project, while the recipient community must adhere to those stipulations.

This theoretical framework suggests that the relationship between the principal and agent is often fraught with challenges, particularly due to the inherent asymmetry of information. While the principal has limited knowledge of the agent's actions, the

agent possesses greater information about local conditions and the project's progress. This asymmetry may lead to conflicts, with the agent possibly pursuing their own interests rather than fulfilling the principal's objectives. Therefore, donors, as principals, must implement mechanisms to mitigate these risks and ensure that the agent acts in alignment with their goals.

Agency Theory identifies three distinct categories of agency problems in an organizational context: the principal-agent problem, the principal-principal problem, and the principal-creditor problem. These categories arise from the nature of the contractual relationship between the principal and agent, and whether this relationship is limited or unlimited (Panda & Leepsa, 2017). The principal-agent problem is the most commonly discussed issue within Agency Theory. It centers on the conflict that arises when the agent's actions diverge from the principal's interests. For instance, in the context of road construction, the recipient community may prioritize their own interests over the efficient and effective use of donor funds, leading to delays, cost overruns, or substandard work.

In a similar vein, the principal-principal problem emerges when there are competing interests among different principals (e.g., multiple donors or local stakeholders), leading to conflicts that can hinder the project's progress. In a situation where multiple donors are involved in funding a project, each donor may have different objectives, creating tension between them regarding the direction of the project. For example, one donor may prioritize environmental sustainability, while

another focuses on rapid completion, leading to disagreements on project timelines and methods.

The principal-creditor problem involves conflicts between the principal (the donor) and creditors (contractors or suppliers) that may arise during the project's execution. These conflicts often occur when creditors feel their interests are being undermined by the terms set by the principal, such as delayed payments or changes in project scope. This type of agency problem is particularly relevant when external contractors are hired to carry out road construction and are subject to donor-imposed conditions, potentially affecting their financial incentives and project outcomes (Panda & Leepsa, 2017).

Walker (2012) further explains that Agency Theory is based on the asymmetry of information between the agent and donor, coupled with the agent's pursuit of self-interest. This creates a situation where the donor, acting as the principal, may distrust the agent and seek to implement monitoring mechanisms that align the agent's objectives with their own. Such mechanisms might include detailed contractual agreements, regular progress reports, and performance audits. By doing so, the donor can reduce the likelihood of opportunistic behaviors, such as misallocation of funds or suboptimal project execution, which are detrimental to the overall success of the project (Keng'ara, 2013).

This application of Agency Theory to the study of road construction projects in Turkana County highlights the complexities inherent in foreign aid-supported

development initiatives. The theory underscores the challenges of ensuring that the recipient community acts in the best interest of the donor and the project's success, especially in the context of Turkana's unique local conditions, such as logistical difficulties, political dynamics, and community expectations. Understanding the principal-agent dynamics provides valuable insights into how donors can design more effective aid strategies, incorporate appropriate safeguards, and reduce the risks associated with foreign aid implementation in the region.

### **Limitations of the Study**

Limitations signify inherent weaknesses in a study that may affect its outcomes and the validity of its conclusions Zaidi et al., (2018). Recognizing these constraints is critical to presenting findings with transparency and acknowledging areas for potential improvement.

As highlighted in Chapter One, this study encountered several anticipated and unanticipated limitations. First, there was reluctance among some participants to disclose information during interviews. This hesitation stemmed from fears of victimization, concerns about confidentiality, and mistrust of how the data would be used. To address these challenges, I employed strategies such as ensuring anonymity, reiterating the ethical protocols of the study, and building rapport with participants. However, these efforts required additional time and resources, which prolonged the research process.

Another limitation arose in accessing relevant information from government and institutional offices. Some officials were reluctant to provide documentation due to concerns about breaching confidentiality or revealing potential inefficiencies. Overcoming these required persistent interventions, including formal requests and leveraging local networks for introductions and endorsements. While successful in some instances, the process was time-consuming and financially taxing, extending my stay in the study area and increasing the overall cost of the research.

The methodological approach itself presented further limitations. This study utilized a qualitative research design, which, while valuable for exploring subjective perspectives and lived experiences, has inherent constraints. One such limitation is the potential for selection bias. Respondents were purposefully chosen based on their knowledge and relevance to the research topic, which may have inadvertently excluded other voices or perspectives. As suggested by Morse (2016) and Rudestam and Newton (2014), such handpicking can introduce biases that may influence the depth or breadth of findings. To mitigate this, I ensured the study's reliability and validity by adopting rigorous data collection and analysis procedures, triangulating findings, and critically examining my assumptions.

Additionally, the reliance on a generic qualitative approach focused on participants' perceptions and subjective views. This design, while effective in capturing the essence of individual experiences, inherently reduces emphasis on cultural and contextual factors that may influence these perceptions. Scholars such as

Ellis and Hart (2023) and Levitt et al. (2022) note that this approach often emphasizes individual interpretations over broader systemic or structural insights. As a result, the study may have overlooked nuanced socio-cultural dynamics that could further explain the observed phenomena.

Another constraint was the generalizability of the findings. This study concentrated on Turkana County and may not fully reflect the experiences or impacts of foreign aid on road construction in other regions of Kenya or other developing countries. The unique socio-economic and cultural context of Turkana County means that caution should be exercised when applying these findings to different settings. Future research employing comparative studies across multiple counties or regions would address this gap and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the issue.

Lastly, logistical challenges in conducting fieldwork in Turkana County added complexity to the research process. The region's remote location, underdeveloped infrastructure, and harsh climatic conditions posed significant difficulties, including limited mobility, unreliable communication networks, and heightened research costs. These factors restricted the frequency and scope of data collection efforts, necessitating adaptive strategies to maximize available opportunities.

Despite these limitations, the study provides valuable insights into the transformative impact of foreign aid on road construction projects in Turkana County. By transparently acknowledging these challenges, this research contributes to ongoing

discourse on best practices in foreign aid initiatives and lays the groundwork for future studies to build upon and refine its findings.

## **Recommendations**

### **Recommendations for Practice**

Many participants insisted, and the literature review acknowledged, the need for continuing education and civic education for the local community to help them understand their roles, responsibilities, and obligations in supporting road construction projects in Turkana County. This will go a long way in mitigating vandalism of roads. The research also revealed a misunderstanding or antagonism between the community and road construction contractors concerning issues like encroachment of road reserves by residents, controversies in compensation of those genuinely displaced by road construction projects, and the employment of locals in road construction projects. Continuous civic education involving all stakeholders should be embraced and emphasized.

To ensure sustainable project success, civic education programs should not only be periodic but also structured to address specific concerns at each stage of the project lifecycle. This can include interactive workshops, dissemination of project information in local languages, and accessible platforms for community feedback. Building trust and understanding between stakeholders will foster collective ownership and reduce conflicts.

Public participation should be integrated as a core component at every phase of road construction projects. From planning and design to implementation and evaluation, engaging the local community will ensure that their needs and concerns are addressed. This will mitigate technical challenges such as poor road designs and substandard workmanship. Additionally, creating community liaison committees could act as a bridge between contractors and residents, ensuring transparent and inclusive communication.

In addressing corruption, the study strongly recommends the establishment of anti-corruption measures such as whistleblower protection programs and incentives for reporting malpractices. Regular audits and public disclosure of project finances and progress reports can further enhance accountability. Training programs for contractors and local administrators on ethical practices should also be prioritized.

Capacity building for local contractors and workers is another critical recommendation. By offering skill development and certification programs, the project can improve local employment opportunities and reduce dependency on external labor. This not only empowers the community but also aligns with broader socio-economic goals.

Finally, fostering collaboration between donors, government agencies, and the community is essential. Regular review meetings, joint decision-making processes, and shared responsibility frameworks will ensure that all stakeholders are aligned and committed to the project's success.



### **Recommendations for Further Study**

I selected a qualitative research design for this study to comprehend the effects of foreign aid support for road construction projects in Turkana County, Kenya. Scholars differentiate explicit criteria to evaluate quantitative and qualitative research quality. Scholars have introduced quantitative research as an objective and experimental approach in contrast to qualitative research, designated as subjective, lenient, and anecdotal science (Burkholder et al., 2020). This study could be duplicated using a quantitative research design or mixed-method design.

During the literature review and from a couple of participants, I discovered that not many empirical studies had been done on the effects of foreign aid on road construction projects in Kenya. I suggest that more projects could be conducted in different counties and/or that existing dissertations be compiled to appreciate the national perception of the effects of foreign aid on road construction projects.

I applied agency theory (Alchian & Demsetz, 1972) for this study and analyzed the effect of foreign aid support on road construction projects in Turkana County. The theory explains the relationship wherein one or more persons (principals) engage another person (agent) to perform some service on their behalf, which involves delegating some decision-making power to the agent (Jensen & Meckling, 2011). Borrowing from Nakitare, (2018), the donor can be called the principal, and the recipient community the agent because the donor determines the funds allocated and sets the conditions to be met or fulfilled for donor funding implementation. This

theory holds that the donor can put conditions on funded projects based on the recipient's actions.

This study could be replicated using Max Weber's theory of rationalization. Max Weber's theory of rationalization posits that modern, industrial society is increasingly organized around means-end rationality. In this context, rationalization would underpin decision-making and provide the logic behind actions taken by donors, contractors, and the community as clients.

### **Implications for Positive Social Change**

The findings of this study revealed that foreign aid support for road construction in Turkana County has yielded both positive and negative effects, with the positive outcomes outweighing the negatives. The research underscored that foreign aid for road construction serves as a transformative catalyst for development, driving rapid urbanization and socio-economic growth. Key factors for achieving successful project outcomes include active stakeholder involvement, community education on the utilization of foreign aid, and the strengthening of administrative and political goodwill. Decentralizing decision-making processes enhanced service delivery to the population (Khambule, 2021) and fostered socio-economic development and integration (Casséus et al., 2022).

This study bridged a significant gap by demonstrating how best management practices contribute to the successful completion and delivery of foreign aid-supported road construction projects. It also highlighted challenges arising from

community resistance, which often impeded project progress. These findings lay a foundation for improved understanding of the impacts of foreign aid on road construction projects in Turkana County. Notably, the entrenched perception of corruption leading to embezzlement of funds and project failures was debunked through the adoption of best management practices and supportive administrative and political frameworks. This new approach emphasizes positive behaviors, social responsibility, and ethical conduct, fostering positive social change and encouraging policymakers to embrace reforms that diversify the political and cultural landscape.

Challenges identified in the study included technical, socio-environmental, community-based, administrative, and political obstacles. Participants pointed out systemic bureaucracies, corruption, unresolved compensation issues for locals displaced by road projects, and bribery allegations as significant barriers to progress. The lack of continuous stakeholder engagement further compounded these challenges. To address these issues, the study proposed actionable recommendations for policymakers.

The study's implications for positive social change extend to convincing policymakers to adopt reforms that foster ethical behavior, citizen responsibility, and responsiveness. These reforms can revitalize the outcomes of foreign aid-supported projects and reverse the negative perceptions surrounding foreign aid.

As a contribution to the broader discourse, this study encourages public policymakers and stakeholders to utilize its findings and recommendations to design

impactful, long-term policies that deliver tangible benefits to society. By embracing these insights, policymakers can establish frameworks that not only address existing challenges but also lay the groundwork for sustainable progress.

Further, the findings highlight the necessity of reshaping societal attitudes towards foreign aid by promoting transparency, accountability, and stakeholder inclusivity. This comprehensive approach is instrumental in overcoming resistance and fostering community buy-in, which are critical for the success of future foreign aid initiatives.

Finally, this study aspires to ignite a shift in policymaker attitudes, prompting a reevaluation of current anti-foreign aid sentiments. By demonstrating the transformative potential of well-managed foreign aid, the research offers a pathway for sustainable development that prioritizes equity, socio-economic integration, and community empowerment in Turkana County and beyond.

### **Conclusion**

In initiating this study, it was hypothesized that foreign aid support had a significant impact on road construction projects in Turkana County. Data analysis confirmed this, showing that all major roads in the county were constructed with foreign aid support. Interviews indicated that foreign aid while not without challenges proved to be a noble initiative with profound socio-economic benefits for the local communities. It has addressed various socio-economic issues, reduced poverty levels, and inspired rapid urbanization and growth.

Although the implementation of these projects faced technical, administrative, and social hurdles, the challenges were deemed manageable. Contrary to popular assumptions, corruption's impact on these projects was not as severe as often perceived, as best management practices played a crucial role in mitigating such issues. This study emphasizes inclusion and advocates for ethical and efficient management approaches, not just for Turkana County but also for other developing regions.

The literature review corroborates the findings, showing that effective project management is vital for project success. Project failures are often preventable when management factors are prioritized. This study fills a critical gap by exploring the effects of foreign aid on road construction projects and documenting best practices, challenges, and their impact on local communities. It contributes significantly to the body of knowledge on the transformative effects of foreign aid, offering actionable insights for policymakers and stakeholders.

Ultimately, the study reinforces the importance of strategic reforms, ethical leadership, and community engagement to maximize the potential of foreign aid in fostering sustainable development. Policymakers are encouraged to adopt these findings to redefine foreign aid's role in infrastructure development and propel Turkana County and similar regions towards a brighter and more integrated future.

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## Appendix A: Interview Protocol

Effects of Aid Provision on Road Construction Projects in Turkana County,  
Kenya

Date:

Venue of interview:

Interviewer:

Interviewee:

Position of interviewee:

Brief Description of Study

Questions:

1. What are your thoughts on the effects of aid provision to developing countries on road construction projects?
2. Have you seen any positive or negative effects of aid provision on road construction projects in Turkana County?
3. What are some of the challenges that developing countries face in implementing road construction projects?
4. Do you think that aid provision can help to overcome these challenges? If so, how?
5. What are some of the best practices for ensuring that aid provision is effective in supporting road construction projects in developing countries?

6. What are some of the specific road construction projects that have been funded by aid in Turkana County?
7. What are some of the specific challenges that have been encountered in implementing these projects?
8. What are some of the best practices that have been used to ensure that aid is effective in supporting road construction projects in Turkana County?

### Appendix B: Recruitment Letter

From: Baraka Akeyo

To:

Subject: Request for Participation in Research on Effects of Aid Provision on Road Construction Projects in Turkana County, Kenya

Dear

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Baraka Akeyo, and I am a Doctor of Philosophy PPA student at Walden University. Currently, I am conducting research on the "Effects of Aid Provision to Developing Countries on Road Construction Projects," with a specific focus on Turkana County, Kenya.

Your valuable insights and experiences play a crucial role in enriching the findings of my research. Therefore, I kindly request your participation in responding to a set of questions designed to gather relevant information on the topic.

This research aims to analyze the impact of aid provision on road construction projects in Turkana County, Kenya. Your firsthand knowledge and experiences will contribute significantly to the depth and accuracy of the study.

I want to assure you that all responses provided will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. Your personal information will not be disclosed, and the data

collected will be used exclusively for academic purposes as required by Walden University.

- The questionnaire is attached to this email.
- Kindly complete the questionnaire by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024.
- If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me at [baraka.akeyo@waldenu.edu](mailto:baraka.akeyo@waldenu.edu)

Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and you are free to withdraw at any stage. Your contribution is immensely appreciated, and it will significantly contribute to the academic rigor of this study.

I would like to express my gratitude in advance for your time and willingness to participate. Your insights are invaluable, and I look forward to receiving your responses.

Thank you for being a part of this important academic endeavor.

Best Regards,

Baraka Akeyo

Walden University

[Baraka.akeyo@waldenu.edu](mailto:Baraka.akeyo@waldenu.edu)

## Appendix C: Informed Consent

### CONSENT FORM

Title of research: Effects of Aid Provision to Developing Countries on Road Construction Projects in Turkana County, Kenya

Instructions: Read the participant information before filling in the consent form.

Tick where applicable

#### **1. What is the research study about?**

You are invited to take part in this research study. The aim of this research is to investigate the Effects of Aid Provision to Developing Countries on Road Construction Projects in Turkana County, Kenya.

#### **2. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria**

Before you decide to participate in this research study, I need to ensure that it is ok for you to take part. The research study is looking to recruit people who meet the following criteria:

Must be 18 years and above; serve as donors, Turkana County staff, road works contractors, or community leaders from the six sub counties in Turkana County; and must be willing to participate voluntarily in the study. Participants who will not meet these specific criteria will be excluded from the study.

#### **3. What will happen to information about me?**

By signing the consent form, you consent to allow me to collect and use information you provide for the research study. No names will be used.

The information about you will be stored in a: de-identifiable format where any identifiers such as your name, address, date of birth will be replaced with a unique code.

#### **4. What if I want to withdraw from the research study?**

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. You can do so by completing the ‘Withdrawal of Consent section’ which is provided at the end of this document, or you can ring the research team and tell them you no longer want to participate. If you decide to leave the research study, I will not collect additional information from you.

### **Consent Form – Participant Providing Own Consent**

#### **Declaration by the Participant**

- I understand I am being asked to provide consent to participate in this research study
- I have read the Participant Information Sheet, or someone has read it to me in a language that I understand;
- I understand the purposes, study tasks and risks of the research described in the study;
- I understand that the research team will audio record the interviews/focus groups; I agree to be recorded for this purpose;
- I provide my consent for the information collected about me to be used for the purpose of this research study only.



- I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with the answers I have received;
- I freely agree to participate in this research study as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the study and withdrawal will not affect my relationship with any of the named organisations and/or research team members;
- I understand that I will be given a signed copy of this document to keep.

**Optional Consent for Reuse of Data and Future Research:**

- I provide my consent for the information collected about me to be made available to other researchers as described at section 6 of this document.
- I provide my consent to be identified in publications relating to this research
- I provide my consent for my name and contact details to be retained in a register so I can be contacted about other research projects in the future.

**Participant Signature**

Participant code	
Signature of Research P participant	
Date	

I wish to **WITHDRAW** my consent to participate in this research study described above

- I am withdrawing my consent and I would like any identifiable information collected about me which I have provided for the purpose of this research study withdrawn.
- I am withdrawing my consent to participate in further components of this research and provide my permission for the research team to retain and/or use information collected about me which I have provided for the purpose of this research.
- I am withdrawing my consent and I understand that any information already published and/or not linked to my identity cannot be withdrawn from the research.