4. CONCLUSION
Livestock rustling remains a major cause of insecurity and conflict among the pastoral communities in the ASAL of Kenya. Since 2000, we have seen a transition from use of crude weapons such as rings, machetes, bows and arrows to use of more sophisticated weaponry, specifically firearms that have led to loss of lives, property and displacement. The factors found to influence cattle rustling and raiding include political disputes, poverty, unemployment and interaction among the youth, cultural motivations and environmental conditions such as drought.

As a result, the government has more efforts by increasing law enforcement resources, implementation of Borough Declaration, increasing awareness raising and sensitization, research and knowledge generation and increasing patrols by the government military forces. Even though the government has been in the forefront in curbing livestock rustling menace, it has been more reactive than proactive. An example is the March 2012 massacre of Barojo of Sautia Valley in Turkana. Community police, consisting of more than 38 police officers were killed by cattle rustlers. Therefore, the government has not prioritized resolution of cattle rustling and related conflict in its development agenda. One of the reasons is limited information due to lack of a comprehensive study that addresses the social and economic costs of cattle rustling in qualitative and quantitative terms, with clear implications on the local and national economy. Therefore, the findings of this study address this gap. Thus, the information generated will serve as a negotiation tool to lobby the government, development partners and other relevant stakeholders to combat the menace in order to create a conducive environment for the affected communities to be engaged in sustainable livelihoods.

5. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
The findings of this assessment, on the social and economic costs of cattle rustling, provide evidence for effectiveness in supporting the following:

- Peace building process among counties in Northern and Northwest Kenya while improving their role in ethnic conflict resolution
- National institutions remain central in creating peace, security law and order with the roles being community policing and conflict management and not just law enforcement
- The counties with livestock rustling should create a database on the deaths, losses and injuries. Data should be used for monitoring and evaluation of trends and difficulties.
- Strengthening of surveillance within county boundary and requests for pasture should be prudent and hence the need to develop protocols for cross border use.
- There is need for civil education by the government, non-governmental organizations and civil society groups to pastoral communities. Vocational and technical skills should be offered to the youth who take part in cattle rustling.
- Initiation of a “bait of shame” among politicians and prominent pastoralists who incite the youth for political interests and their disqualifications from seeking or holding any political and public office in Kenya.
- Exploration of new income generating activities in the affected counties to minimize the idleness and unemployment of youths through creation of job opportunities.
- There is need to set up new best practices such as upgrading of the local and wild breeds. According to the Kenya National Agency for pastoralist’s livestock marketing centers are moving closer to the Barojo herders because of their love to the traditional breeds.
- Resource centres should be established for awareness raising on livestock rustling, especially the youth while ensuring formal education for them.
- A need to conduct massive recruitment for youth to the National Youth Service would enable them to acquire alternative skills to earn a living.

4.1. INTRODUCTION
Livestock rustling is one of the causes of insecurity resources use conflicts and poverty among the pastoral communities occupying the rangelands of Kenya. In the last two decades, there has been a tremendous increase in incidences of livestock rustling using sophisticated and complex weapons, which have not only become a major security threat to the lives of the pastoral communities but also a key threat to their livelihoods, primarily linked to large herd sizes. Furthermore, easy access to and proliferation of weapons have threatened the security of the country as a nation, the East African Community and the Greater Horn of Africa.

Cattle rustling is defined as forcible occupation of cattle from one community by another using guns or other weapons and in turn taking behind closed doors of peaceful people and loss of lives. This concept should be understood against cattle raids which involve stealing livestock from one community by another without destroying property or killing people. Traditionally, cattle rustling/raid involving smallscale violence and theft of the livestock or raiding of animals through drought or disease, and was sanctioned and controlled by elders. Therefore, it was used as a coping mechanism by pastoralists to redress their hatred of traditional and/or marriage communities. Recently, due to the proliferation of illegal or formal and commercialized cattle rustling, there is an emergence of large-scale violent cattle raiding between neighboring pastoral communities in Kenya. It has over time evolved into a big commercial criminal enterprise, leading to increased incidence of violence, conflicts, loss of lives and thefts. Violence and displacement linked to cattle rustling in the central Kenya districts of Laikipia and Samburu have forced this, of people to flee and to the closure of 12 schools leaving about 2.5 million people without access to. Cattle rustling in Kenya is common in the northern and the rift valley regions; however, there is limited information on the social and economic costs of cattle rusting on the pastoral systems, leading to inadequate policy and institutional support for the systems. The main objective of this policy brief is to address the above-mentioned issues.

4.2. Social and Economic Costs of Cattle Rustling at National Level
Livestock rustling/raid risks the rangelands in the country are categorized as hotspots of violence, moderate or mild, depending on their intensity and frequency as shown in figure 3. A total of 27 counties face one or the other of the three levels of risk, five counties fall under the category of high-potential areas, five semi-arid areas and 17 areas fall under low risk. Two counties fall under moderate level, one under low and 24 areas fall under the category of low risk. Of the 17 counties, about 14 counties are affected by about 48 raids with 188 human deaths and 699 human injuries. The costs associated with livestock rustling include loss of human lives, crops, livestock, drought assistance, medical care, economic losses and limited access to grazing resources. More than 90% of the interviewed respondents reported that they had experienced livestock losses.

The total cost associated with loss of livestock among the 17 sampled households in the country was estimated at Ksh 28,199,000 (US$ 28,158). To recover from the livestock losses, the communities in the semi-arid areas used various methods such as donations and gifts from family and friends, purchase from own savings, self-recovery mechanisms and/or local organizations. According to the focus group discussions, wealthy individuals including prominent personalities with access to sophisticated arms and weapons are the ones below 30 years to steal livestock from the communities and to transport them to drought-stricken areas in counties, after which they receive portion of the stolen animals either in cash or kind as a reward.