The effectiveness of humanitarian diplomatic engagement mechanisms in enhancing sustainable community livelihoods in Nairobi (Kenya) and Bujumbura (Burundi)

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ABSTRACT

Humanitarian Diplomacy (HD) plays a critical role in enhancing community livelihoods, particularly in regions facing socio-economic vulnerabilities. It has emerged as a crucial tool in advancing humanitarian objectives globally and has evolved over time, reflecting changes in the global humanitarian landscape. Thus, despite increasing humanitarian interventions in Kenya and Burundi, there is limited empirical evidence on how humanitarian diplomacy contributes to sustainable community livelihoods. Consequently, the effectiveness of diplomatic engagement in enhancing resilience, socio-economic well-being, and long-term development remains insufficiently understood and documented. The objective of this study was to assess the effectiveness of humanitarian diplomatic engagement mechanisms in enhancing sustainable community livelihoods in Kenya and Burundi. The study was underpinned by liberal institutionalism theory, as well as sustainable livelihood framework. The study employed a comparative cross-sectional explanatory sequential mixed-methods design. The target population entailed government agencies and organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), donor agencies, community leaders and local government. The study used both proportionate stratified random sampling and purposive sampling for the key informants. Out of 200 respondents, the study sampled 179 respondents. This way, purposive and stratified sampling techniques were used to ensure a diverse representative of participants in the study area and both the qualitative and quantitative tools of analysis were applied to the responses depending on the type of measurement and information obtained from primary and secondary sources. The study utilized both primary and secondary data collection instruments. Primary instruments were semi-structured questionnaires and interviews while secondary instrument included journals, books and humanitarian briefs. Data was analyzed using quantitative and qualitative analyses, SPSS version 24 and Nvivo version 15. Data was presented using tables, pie charts and bar graphs as well as thematic interpretation. On the mechanisms, the study found that 70.95% cumulatively agreed that social protection programmes and community well-being are effective. Overall, the study concludes the study concludes that humanitarian diplomatic engagement is not merely a mechanism for securing humanitarian access but also an instrument for facilitating community resilience and sustainable livelihoods. The study recommends an integrated programming of immediate relief with long-term development rather than approaching humanitarian activities and development as separate entities. This can be achieved through community participation and improving environmental and infrastructure integration. Additionally, both governments, humanitarian agencies and development partners should establish coordinated and context-based livelihood partnerships.

Keywords: Humanitarian Diplomatic Engagement, Mechanisms, Sustainable Community Livelihoods

I. INTRODUCTION

Across the globe massive humanitarian crises have been witnessed especially in Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen and Syrian, Nepal, Bangladesh (Dewan, 2015). Many people are trapped in political violence and face the risk of exploitation from traffickers and armed rebels. In this light access to humanitarian aid is increasingly challenged in ways that redefine humanitarian diplomacy and the role of humanitarian actors in the Middles East (De Lauri, 2018). The concept of Humanitarian Diplomatic Engagement emanates from the broader concept of Humanitarian Diplomacy (Kovba, 2020). It entails formal and informal interactions undertaken by both state and non-state actors to secure humanitarian access, mobilize resources as well as protecting crisis-affected population (Turunen, 2020). It involves promotion of peacebuilding and strengthening sustainable community livelihoods. Improving access to humanitarian aid in conflict and complex emergencies has always been a major concern for policy makers and humanitarian actors (De Lauri, 2018). In this regard Humanitarianism comes to light as conducted in volatile environment characterized by political, economic, social and environmental upheavals.

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Therefore, Humanitarian Diplomatic Engagement emerges as a concept to persuade decision makers and leaders to act at all times, and in all circumstances in the interest of vulnerable people and with full respect to fundamental humanitarian principles. HDE involves negotiations of presence of humanitarian organizations to allow access to civilian populations in need of protection. It involves monitoring assistance programs that promote respect for international law. HDE entails engaging in advocacy in support of broader humanitarian goals (Minear & Smith, 2007). It involves Political consensus, that is 'leave no one behind '2030 vision. Therefore, HD is an instrumental mechanism for humanitarian interventions. Importantly, underscoring that Diplomacy is characterized by compromise and pragmatic dealings provides an opportunity for seamless humanitarian actions that reflect ideals and universal principles regardless of interests of specific political actors unraveling the complex diplomatic architecture of humanitarian aid (Turunen,2020).

In Africa deepening and complex humanitarian crises are driven by conflict, forced displacement, climate shocks, public health emergencies as well as food insecurity (Ghio *et al.*, 2023). These factors compound humanitarian challenges (Ghio *et al.*, 2023). For instance, over 160 million people need humanitarian assistance across Africa,45 million people are forcibly displaced. Despite the scale and urgency of humanitarian needs, financial gaps persist styming timely and effective humanitarian response. In Sub-Saharan Africa, humanitarian diplomatic engagement has been pivotal in addressing humanitarian crisis driven by extremism, displacement and climate related challenges. In Mali,Niger and Burkina Faso, both governments and the armed groups have negotiated to establish humanitarian corridors to allow humanitarian aid for the vulnerable populations. The process is fraught with difficulties since armed groups hardly yield to negotiation (Suckall et al., 2015).

South Sudan faces the dire consequences of civil war with widespread displacement and famine. Although efforts have been made to implement humanitarian aid programmes,the programmes themselves have overlooked local mechanisms of conflict resolution and social cohesion. Unlike South Sudan, Sahel has made significant humanitarian efforts by addressing escalating humanitarian crisis through collaboration with local community leaders and faith-based organizations. In this regard food distribution has been adopted to reflect dietary preferences and religious practices thus improving acceptance in Central Africa Republic, humanitarian diplomatic engagement has been critical in addressing devastating effects of prolonged conflicts (Minko, 2025). Despite International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations facilitating negotiation between armed groups, aid delivery remains complex (Minko, 2025).

The Horn of Africa is one of the unstable regions (Mengisteab, 2017). It is characterized by rise in insecurity issues, armed conflicts and political turmoil since mid-1950s.The region has been burdened by humanitarian crisis compounded by population shifts (Ouma, 2016). The Horn of Africa and the Red Sea humanitarian security challenges are inextricably interlinked (Boswell, 2026). The Eastern African cost continue to face maritime piracy. It is worth noting that the Horn of Africa contains largest group of pastoralists with Sudan having the highest, Somalia third and Ethiopia fifth. As such the search for water and grazing land becomes intense and competitive (Boswell, 2026;Catley *et al.*, 2016).Further the situation is compounded by weak governance structures, inadequate grazing land, poor resource management policy, political and economic marginalization that create insecurities and augment human vulnerabilities (Setrana & Adzande, 2022). The humanitarian fault lines are not new in the Horn of Africa. It encompass rivalries that make the region politically fraught .HOA sits across the Arabian peninsula on the western shores of the Red Sea and is one of the most tumultuous regions (Boswell, 2026).

Within the Horn of Africa sits Eritrea and the breakaway Somaliland that experience humanitarian crises of different magnitude. Ethiopia on one hand is lurching from one upheaval to another. In the last decade the civil war in Tigray has threatened the stability of Ethiopia and created incessant conflicts between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). This rivalry has led to untold misery, deaths and wanton destruction. The raging war in Sudan portends a serious humanitarian crisis between the Sudanese Army and Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Since the ouster of Omar Bashir, Sudan has been tottering on the brink of collapse with widespread violence witnessed in many parts (Boswell, 2026).

Besides, in the tapestry of humanitarian crises and actions, Kenya is not left behind. The annals of history attest to Kenya's endless role are using humanitarian diplomacy to manage refugee influxes, undertake conflict resolution activities, create access to education and health (Ghosh, 2018). Kenya echoes the pan-Africanist agenda of 2063 (Nyabicha, 2024). Besides, Kenya has mediated in South Sudan, Somalia, Burundi with the aim of improving healthcare and education access for the refugees and host communities.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Kenya and Burundi have had long-standing relations on humanitarian affairs spanning many years. In this light Humanitarian Diplomatic Engagement between these two countries has focused on building humanitarian institutions, negotiating humanitarian access, mobilization of resources, protecting the vulnerable populations and connecting emergency assistance with long-term development (Nyabicha, 2024). However, despite increasing humanitarian interventions in Kenya and Burundi, there is limited empirical evidence on how humanitarian diplomatic mechanisms

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contributes to sustainable community livelihoods outcomes in Kenya and Burundi. Consequently, the effectiveness of diplomatic engagement in enhancing resilience, socio-economic well-being, and long-term development remains insufficiently understood and documented. Kenya and Burundi provide important but contrasting setting in examining the core problem. Although both countries face refugee movements, poverty, climate- related shocks and food insecurity, their institutional capacities, governance environment and livelihood outcomes differ considerably (UNHCR, 2021). By contrast, Burundi continues experience high levels of economic fragility, population displacement and limited operational capacity.

1.2 Research Objective

The objective of this study was to assess the effectiveness of humanitarian diplomatic engagement mechanisms in enhancing sustainable community livelihoods in Kenya and Burundi.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Humanitarian Diplomatic Engagements, across the globe, persuade decision-makers to act in the interest of vulnerable people while respecting humanitarian principles (Minear & Smith, 2007). According to Turunen (2020) argues that humanitarian diplomacy is both formal and informal, whereby the state and non-states interact to secure access, mobilize resources and protect crisis affected population. However, De Lauri (2018) and Kovba (2020) note that Humanitarian Diplomacy is under-theorized and hard to categorize though it has evolved from access negotiation to advocacy and norm promotion (Fiott, 2018). The concept of access has been contested in Syria, Yemen, Irag, Afghanistan and along Gaza strip. This has redefined the role of humanitarian actors (De Lauri,2018).

In Africa, humanitarian crises stem from displacements, armed conflicts, climate shocks and health emergencies as well as food insecurity (Ghio *et al.*, 2023; Hallegatte & Rozenberg, 2017). These crises reveal persistent funding gaps that undermine humanitarian responses along humanitarian corridors such as the Sahel and the United Nation-brokered access in the Central African Republic (Minko,2025). Minko (2025) argues that access to these corridors remain complex because local ownership is not given adequate attention. In the case of aid in South Sudan, Minko (2025) contest that indigenous conflict resolution was overlooked while engaging community and faith leaders in the Sahel improved acceptance and access. In this light, Akpinar (2013) argued that effectiveness of humanitarian diplomacy is limited where local legitimacy is ignored. Further, Mengisteab (2017) opines that institutional fragmentation and weak resource governance constrain humanitarian aid delivery. The situation is compounded by climate stressors (Suckall *et al.*, 2015).

In the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region, humanitarian mechanisms have been scarcely utilized (Catley *et al*,2016). They argue that pastoral resource competition, weak governance aggravated by marginalization have stymied humanitarian efforts. For instance, conflicts in Tigray and Sudan as well as Red sea are interlinked (Bowell,2026).The situation gets worse when refugees are militarized (Ouma, 2016).Furthermore, Kenya has explored humanitarian mechanisms in refugee management ,mediation efforts in South Sudan ,Somalia and Burundi thus expanding access to health and education (Nyabicha, 2014).While Burundi faces economic fragility ,displacement and limited operational capacity it has not adequately utilized the existing humanitarian mechanisms compared to Kenya (UNHCR, 2021).

2.1Theoretical Review

This study adopts liberal institutionalism theory and Sustainable livelihoods Framework.

2.1.1 Liberal institutionalism

Liberal institutionalism developed prominently during the late 1970s and 1980s.Its intellectual foundations are premised on Keohane and Nye's analysis of complex interdependence and how international institutions facilitate cooperation even in the absence of central global authority (Keohane & Nye,1977;Koehane. 1984).This theory posits that repeated interaction, shared rules, information exchange and institutional arrangements can reduce uncertainty, lower transaction costs and create incentives for sustained cooperation. The theory is appropriate for the study because humanitarian diplomatic engagement involves advocacy, negotiations, partnership-building, resource mobilization as well as norm promotion among actors (Barnett, 2011). This theory underpins this study by explicating how humanitarian actors use institutions, rules and diplomatic mechanisms to facilitate humanitarian access, coordinate programmes, protect vulnerable populations as well as support livelihood recovery. This theory therefore, provides the criteria for assessing the effectiveness of mechanisms such as multilateral coordination, humanitarian advocacy and cross-border cooperation. The strength of this theory lies on explaining why governments continue to work with humanitarian agencies and development partners even when their interests are not identical.

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2.1.2 Sustainable Livelihood Framework

This study also employs Sustainable Livelihoods Framework. This Framework is analytical rather than conventional explanatory. It was developed from the works of Chambers and Conway (1992). It posits that livelihoods comprise the capabilities, assets and activities require for a means of living. Thus, a livelihood is sustained when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain and enhance its capabilities and assets and avoid undermining natural resource base (Chambers & Conway,1992).

2.2 Empirical Review

The study shows that humanitarian diplomacy extends beyond access negotiation to livelihood outcomes. For instance, Minko (2025) established that negotiated access and protection in conflict lade African regions weaken when global efforts ignore local needs. Whereas Akpinar (2013) demonstrated limits of humanitarian diplomacy in Somalia a gap on local legitimacy was noted. On water, Ghio *et al* (2023) observed that fragile states lack governance structures to sustain water infrastructure. Besides, Schewe et *al* (2014) demonstrated that climate stressors intensify scarcity. Therefore ,these studies address single sectors and rarely do they link diplomatic humanitarian mechanism to livelihood outcomes. It is against this backdrop that this study investigate the effectiveness of Diplomatic Engagement Mechanisms in enhancing sustainable community livelihoods in Kenya and Burundi.

Table 1

Summary of Theories and Framework

Perspective	Primary analytical level	Study component explained	Key analytical indicators
Liberal Institutionalism	Macro: international and regional	Humanitarian diplomatic engagement	Institutions, negotiations, norms, partnerships, policy coordination, humanitarian access and resource mobilization
Sustainable Livelihoods Framework	Micro, linked to meso-level structures	Sustainable community livelihoods	Livelihood assets, vulnerability context, strategies, food security, income, employment and well-being

III. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study employed a comparative cross-sectional explanatory sequential mixed-methods design to examine humanitarian diplomatic engagement and sustainable community livelihoods in Kenya and Burundi. Mixed-methods design facilitates the systematic integration of quantitative and qualitative evidence. It provided a comprehensive understanding of research problem. The design integrated quantitative and qualitative approaches within comparative case-study framework (Cresswell, 2014). The comparative dimension, therefore, enabled the study to identify similarities and differences in humanitarian diplomatic engagement mechanisms and livelihood outcomes.

3.2 Study Area

The study was conducted in Nairobi Kenya and Bujumbura, Burundi. Both Kenya and the Republic of Burundi, like other many countries in Africa that grapple with humanitarian crises, continue to experience increase in the diversity, intensity as well as the frequency of disasters and or conflicts over the last two decades with many emerging disasters resulting from induced changes such as desertification, floods, torrential rainfalls, droughts as well as epidemics, pastoral and political-related violence.

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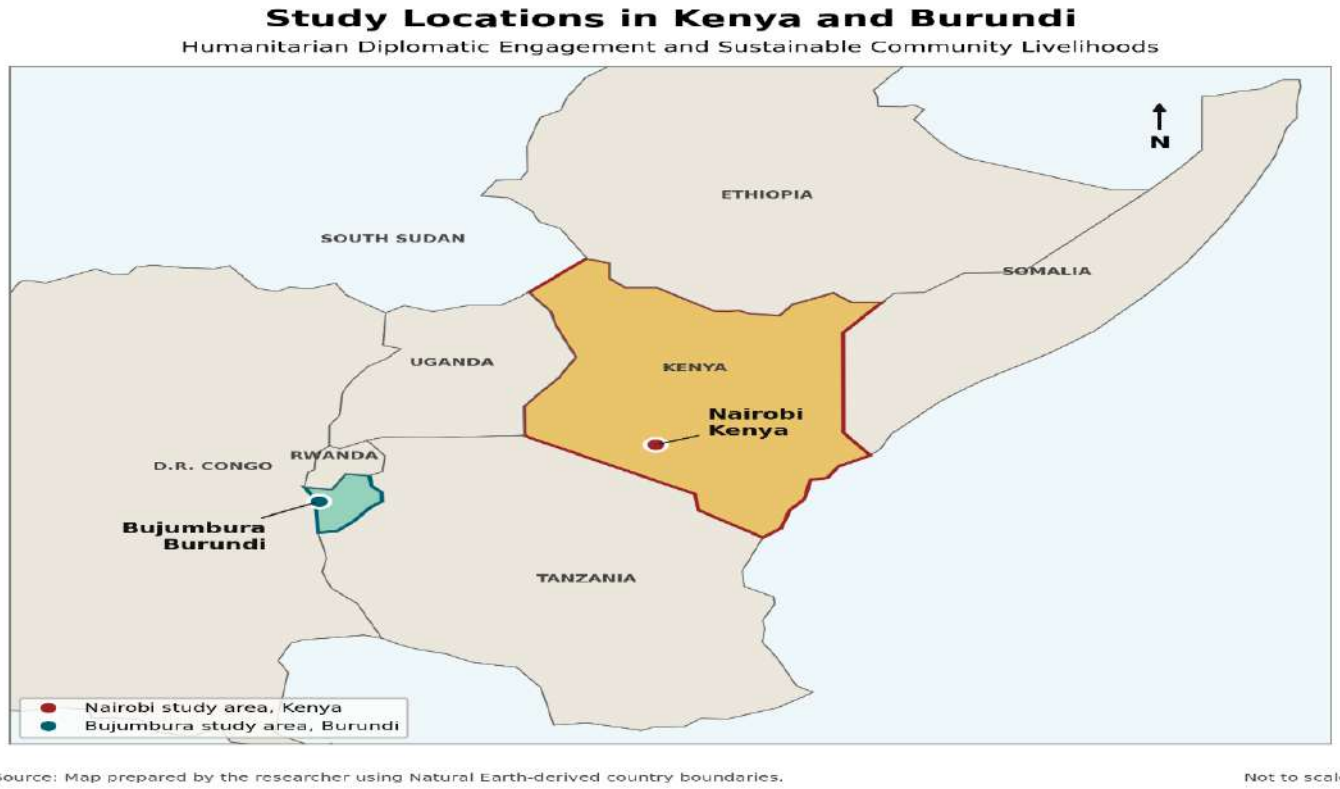


Figure 1
Study Locations in Kenya and Burundi
Source: URT, 2025

3.3 Target Population

The target population comprised 200 respondents drawn from key humanitarian stakeholders, and community livelihoods. They included government agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations, international doner agencies from both Kenya and Burundi.

3.4 Sampling and Sampling size

The study used both proportionate stratified random sampling and purposive sampling for the key informants. Out of 200 respondents, the study sampled 179 respondents.

3.5 Data collection instruments and Procedures

Data collection methods reflects the design of data collection instruments. The study utilized both primary and secondary data collection instruments. Primary instruments were semi-structured questionnaires and interviews while secondary instrument included journals, books and humanitarian briefs. Interview method of collecting data involved presentation of oral-verbal stimuli and reply Secondary data was captured through literature search and document analysis.

3.6 Data Analysis

Data was analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively SPSS version 24 and Nvivo version 15 respectively. Quantitative analysis entailed descriptive analysis while qualitative entailed thematic analysis. Further, data was triangulated using quantitative and qualitative evidences. Further, it enabled the researcher to comprehend and draw conclusions about the phenomenon under study. Qualitatively, the researcher cross-referenced the transcript of all interviews to ascertain accuracy and reliability. A qualitative analysis enabled the researcher to develop themes systematically and arrange data into significant clusters

3.7 Ethical Considerations

The researcher observed ethical considerations such as having informed consent, maintaining confidentiality and anonymity as well as allowing voluntary participation. The researcher believes that ethics is the foundational principle that guides all research endeavors, from the initial conceptualization of project to the completion and dissemination of the final study. Further, relevant authorizations were sought from Directorate of Postgraduate Studies at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology. This served as formal request for research permit and

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authorization from the National Commission of Science and Technology (NACOSTI) and Burudian Authority for approval of conducting research. This study avoided the disclosure of classified operational details and focused on analytical and policy insights. The researcher adhered to ethical principles such as voluntary participation of respondents, seeking informed consent and upholding confidentiality of the respondents before, during and after data collection phase.

IV. FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

4.1 Findings

4.1.1 Humanitarian diplomatic engagement mechanisms and Community livelihoods

Humanitarian diplomatic engagement has a nexus with sustainable community livelihoods; however, its effects are mediated by the nature, availability and sustainability of livelihood mechanisms. This study argues that humanitarian mechanisms in Kenya and Burundi increasingly combine immediate relief with long-term development strategies involving food security and education. HDE mechanisms create opportunities for humanitarian organizations to negotiate access as well resources. Further diplomatic cooperation facilitates livelihood interventions where community outcomes depend on whether assistance creates lasting productive capacity.

Social Protection programmes and community well-being:The study assessed whether social protection programmes enhance community well-being. Out of the total respondents,10(5.59%) strongly disagreed that social protection programmes enhance community well-being,35(19.55%) disagreed that social protection programmes enhance community well-being,7(3.91%) were neutral to the inquiry,98(54.75%) agreed that social protection programmes enhance community well-being and 29(16.20%) strongly agreed that social protection programmes enhance community well-being. The results are illustrated in Figure 2.

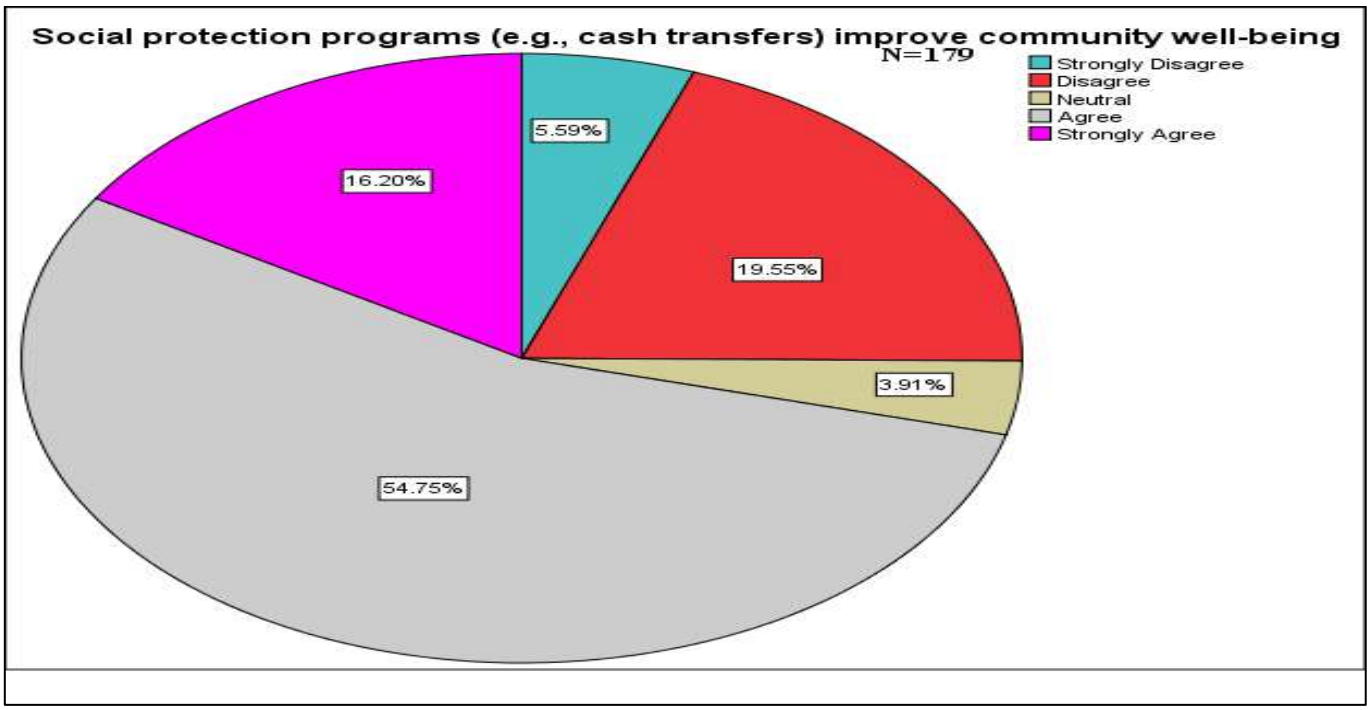


Figure 2

Effects of social protection programmes on community well-being

The findings show a strong consensus that social protection programmes significantly enhance community well-being in both Nairobi and Bujumbura. The overwhelming majority argued that initiatives such as cash transfers, food subsidies and community health insurance schemes are perceived as effective mechanisms for improving livelihoods and reducing vulnerability. Those of contrary view argued that there is lack of funding and community participation to enhance well-being of the people. However, the findings further indicate that when social protection measures are consistently implemented, they create a tangible sense of security and well-being. These findings agree with Chambers and Conway's (1992) sustainable livelihood framework which emphasizes that social nets are critical buffers against shocks such as drought and economic downturn .

In view of the foregoing assertions, one of the key informants stated that:

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"We receive monthly cash transfer from the government. We can pay school fees and buy food when we don't access casual work. Without money from the government we skip meals and our children don't go to school" (Interview with KII,Nairobi,15.8.2026)

The foregoing assertion mirrors United Nation Environmental Programme [UNEP] (2021) findings that predictable cash assistance for vulnerable groups is key for households' consumption and investment in small enterprises. The financing of social protection in Kenya is a multifaceted approach involving various stakeholders, including the government, international partners, the private sector, and local communities. Kenya has developed a multi-tiered approach that aims to ensure that a safety net is available for all Kenyans, particularly those who are most in need. The country has developed a sector investment plan which is not being implemented to the extent and pace anticipated. This presents a unique opportunity for UNEP Kenya and would involve mobilizing actors towards funding commitments and towards diversifying funding options and funding flows.

Reforestation and land restoration initiatives:This study assessed whether reforestation and land restoration initiatives support local income generation. Of the total respondents,179,11(6.15% strongly agreed that reforestation and land restoration initiatives support local income generation,47(26.6%) disagreed that reforestation and land restoration initiatives support local income generation,9(5.03%) were neutral to the question,81(45.25%) agreed that reforestation and land restoration initiatives support local income generation and 31(17.32%) strongly agreed that reforestation and land restoration initiatives support local income generation. The results are illustrated in Figure 3.

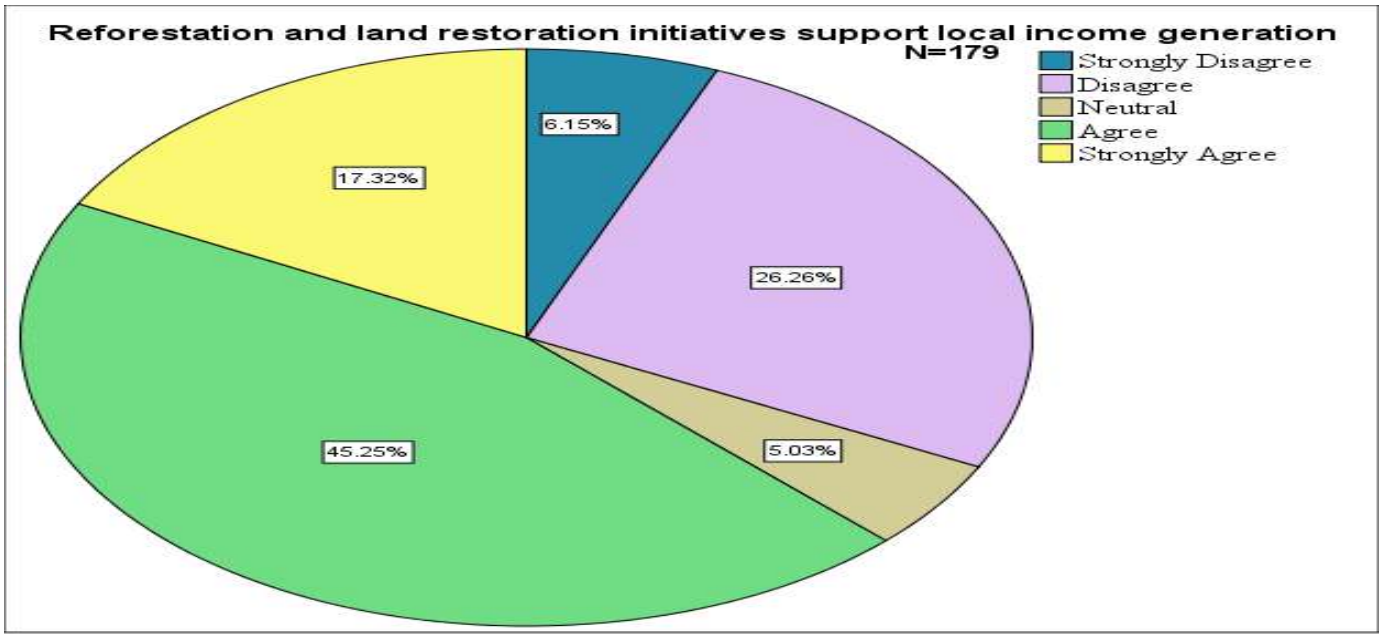


Figure 3
Reforestation, land restoration initiatives and local income generation

The foregoing results reveal a predominantly positive outlook, 62.57% of the respondents recognize a direct or indirect benefit. They argued that reforestation and land restoration create employment opportunities. This implied that these initiatives provide income-generating activities through tree planting, seedling production, land rehabilitation and the maintenance of restored areas. Further, they reasoned that environmental restoration strengthens sustainable community livelihoods. They argued that restoring degraded land and increasing tree cover support long term livelihood sustainability. On the contrary, minority of respondents remained unconvinced reflecting uneven implementation and access of such programmes. They argued that economic benefits are not equally accessible to all community members. The neutral responses indicated uncertainty about livelihood benefits. This suggests limited experiences with the initiatives. The findings are consistent with the framework's emphasis on natural capital as foundation for sustainable livelihoods.

The foregoing resonates with one of the key informants who stated that:

"We began planting fruits tree with small grant. We have expanded and we now sell mangoes and avocados at the market.We pay our children's fee because we no longer depend on unpredictable casual labor" (Interview with KII ,Nairobi,16.8.2025).

Further, another key respondent stated:

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"We gain a lot of skills in nursery management and sustainable farming when international partners come. They support land restoration. However, when projects end our income drops and many young people lose motivation" (KII, Bunjumbura,26.8.2026).

The findings demonstrate that reforestation and land restoration initiatives have supported local income generation as well as strengthened sustainable community livelihoods (Kimaiyo *et al.,* 2026). These findings are in tandem with International Labor Organization [ILO] (2021) which documents how land restoration initiatives in Turkana County have created job opportunities through conversion of prosopis into marketable products. The findings also agree with UNEP (2021) report on social and economic benefits associated with ecosystem restoration.

Access to clean water and sanitation priorities: The study assessed whether clean water and sanitation is prioritized in livelihood planning. The study found that, of 179 respondents,8(4.5%) strongly disagreed that clean water and sanitation is prioritized in livelihood planning,91(50.8%) disagreed that clean water and sanitation is prioritized in livelihood planning,9(5.0%) were neutral,47(26.3%) agreed and 24(13.4%) strongly agreed that clean water and sanitation is prioritized in livelihood planning. The results are illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2

Access to clean water and sanitation

Access to clean water and sanitation is prioritized in livelihood planning					
		Frequency	**Percent**	**Valid Percent**	**Cumulative Percent**
Valid	Strongly Disagree	8	4.5	4.5	4.5
	Disagree	91	50.8	50.8	55.3
	Neutral	9	5.0	5.0	60.3
	Agree	47	26.3	26.3	86.6
	Strongly Agree	24	13.4	13.4	100.0
	Total	**179**	**100.0**	**100.0**	

From the foregoing findings majority of respondents indicated that clean water and sanitation are not prioritized in livelihood planning. The findings suggest that water and sanitation needs are not adequately integrated into livelihood planning in Nairobi and Bunjumbura. Inadequate integration of water and sanitation undermine sustainable livelihoods. Further, findings suggest that insufficient prioritization of these services constrain communities' capacity to sustain their livelihoods. The high level of disagreement indicates gaps in the integration of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions into humanitarian programmes. On the other hand, a minority of respondents acknowledged the prioritization of clean water and sanitation. They recognized efforts to incorporate water and sanitation into community support programmes though such efforts are not consistent (Vujcic & Joseph, 2018). Respondents who were neutral had either differing experiences or limited information on whether access to clean water and sanitation is prioritized in livelihood planning. The findings show a nexus between public health and economic resilience. The researcher argues that limited prioritization of clean water and sanitation increases waterborne diseases and raises household expenditure on healthcare. Therefore, integrating WASH services into livelihood programmes is key.

In light of the foregoing findings one of the key respondents remarked:

"We scramble for water every dry season. Whenever there is water shortage NGOs bring tanks.Once the emergency is over ,the taps begin to run dry. It's not sustainable to have clean and safe water" (KII, Nairobi,25.8.20265).

The preceding account aligns with another key informant who stated that:

"Whenever there is an outbreak of cholera that's when we are told of sanitation. Hardly does the current budget sustain the boreholes or building of permanent latrines. The investments are not sustainable and the situation is worsened by climate change" (KII, Bunjumbura,24.8.2025).

The preceding assertions reflect findings by Ghio *et al* (2023) that fragile states lack structures for resource governance needed to sustain clean water infrastructure. Schewe *et al*. (2014) while assessing water scarcity under climate change, find that access to water is compounded by climate change. This is the situation in Bunjumbura which has gravely been affected by harsh realities of climate change.

V. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

The findings demonstrate that humanitarian diplomatic engagement has a significant nexus with sustainable livelihoods. Humanitarian diplomatic engagement mechanism are manifested through social protection and the capacity to build support resilience among the residents of Nairobi and Bujumbura. The study underscores that environmental

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and land restoration are crucial for sustainable livelihoods. Water and sanitation are crucial sectors of a resilient community. In light, the study concludes that humanitarian diplomatic engagement is not merely a mechanism for securing humanitarian access but also an instrument for facilitating community resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

5.2 Recommendations

The study recommends an integrated programming of immediate relief with long-term development rather than approaching humanitarian activities and development as separate entities. This can be achieved through community participation and improving environmental and infrastructure integration. Additionally, both governments, humanitarian agencies and development partners should establish coordinated and context-based livelihood partnerships.

Declaration of Interest

The authors declare that they do not have any known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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