

**PROLIFERATION OF SMALL ARMS AND ITS IMPLICATION ON  
SECURITY IN RUMBEK CENTRAL, SOUTH SUDAN**

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**A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate School in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements  
for the Master of Arts Degree in Security and Management of Egerton University**

**EGERTON UNIVERSITY**

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## DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Declaration

This thesis is my original work and to the best of my knowledge has not been presented for examination for award of a degree in any institution or university.

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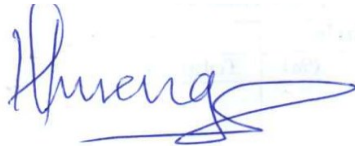
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## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is dedicated to my dear wife Guliba Florence for the patience, love, care and unwavering support she showed me during the entire period of the work.

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Completing this thesis is the culmination of efforts from various institutions and individuals with whom I would like to express my appreciation.

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## ABSTRACT

The proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons remain a challenge to the security sector globally. The availability of these weapons causes political instability, communal conflict, posing a great threat to not only lives and property but also sustainable development. When South Sudan seceded in 2011, it was estimated that there were up to 3.2 million small arms in circulation and two-thirds of these arms were thought to be in the hands of civilians. More arms were believed to circulate during the 2013 and 2016 crisis that took place in the country. The broad objective of this study was to investigate the proliferation of Small arms and its implications on security. Specific objectives of the study were to examine the factors that influence the proliferation of small arms, establish its implications on security and evaluate the measures taken in combating the proliferation of these arms in Rumbek Central, republic of South Sudan. The study was guided by the security dilemma theory. The theory states that no actor is certain of the future motive of those who can harm them. John Hertz, one of the founders of security dilemma theory asserts that; groups or individuals who live alongside each other must be concerned about their security from being attacked by others. A descriptive research design was adopted since this would answer “what” and “how “questions needed in investigating the problem under study. Guided interviews and focus group discussions were used to collect data from a total of 96 respondents who were identified by the use of purposive and simple random sampling techniques. Qualitative data were organized and presented in text form while the quantitative data were processed and presented in tables and graphs. This study found that the proliferation of SALW had led to insecurity in Rumbek Central, affecting people's free movement from one location to another. Areas deep in villages, cattle camps, and along the border with Unity state also remained insecure from cattle theft. Cattle camp youths still possessed their arms despite the disarmament conducted by the state. Some murder cases were delayed and yet they are a source of revenge killings in Rumbek. The proliferation of small arms also led to an increase in crime rate and its associated problem such as rampant killing, looting, raping of women and girls. Although the state government tried to address this by using several measures including disarmament, the civilians in Rumbek continue to arm themselves hence causing challenge to security management. To address the problem, this study recommends the deployment of more security forces to safeguard the people and their property.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ARCSS	Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CEPO	Community Empowerment for Progress
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
DDR	Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration
EAPCCO	Eastern African Police Chiefs Committee
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
GAN	Guardian Africa Network
GWC	Globalization and World Cities Study Group
ICRC	International Committee of Red Cross
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IGAD	Integral Authority on Development
ISB	Internal Security Bureau
JTH	Juba Teaching Hospital
TH	Teaching Hospital
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NSS	National Security Service
PoA	Programme of Action
RECIA	Regional Centre on Illegal Arms
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapon
SAS	Small Arms Survey
SAWG	Small Arms Working Group
SPLA	Sudan People Liberation Army
SPLM	Sudan People Liberation Movement
SRIC	Security Research and Information Centre
SSR	security sector reform
TOCH	The Organization for Children Harmony
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees

UNMAS      United Mines Action Service  
UNPoA      United Programme of Action

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background to the Study

Small arms and light weapons are terms used by organizations such as the Integral Authority on Development (IGAD), the United Nations (UN) and individuals advocating for arms control. Small arms refer to a sub-category consisting of automatic weapons up to 20 mm, including sub-machine guns, rifles, carbines and handguns. The light weapon has been used as a generic term to describe all conventional munitions that can be carried by an individual combatant or by a light vehicle. This encompasses small arms, bazookas, rocket propelled grenades, light anti-tank missiles, and light mortars, shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles and hand placed landmines (Klare,1994). The illicit proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons rank among today's most pressing security threats. Tens of thousands of people are killed or wounded each year in conflicts that are fought primarily with weapons and crime-ridden areas outside the conflict zones (Gikonyo, 2015). The availability of these weapons influences political instability, communal conflict posing a great threat to not only lives and property but also sustainable development (Alaku, 2011). UN report (1999) suggests that the proliferation of small arms affects the intensity and duration of violence and encourages militancy, a vicious circle in which insecurity leads to a higher demand for weapons.

Countries in the Balkan region have had protracted conflicts in the 1990s that led to many deaths and displacement of people, genocide and destruction of property as a result of small arms and Light Weapons. During this period, weapons from Albania were looted by the insurgents and smuggled to Kosovo and Macedonia, the former Yugoslavia Republic (Annan, 1998).

The market for small arms thrives with strong demand and supply undermining stability and threatening fragile peace (O'Brien, 2009). According to Mush (2006), the major source of proliferation remains the stockpiles that were pumped into Africa by the Soviet Union, the United States of America (USA) and their allies to fan proxy interstate wars. Small arms and light weapons (SALW) have also become widely spread and not only threaten security across the world but also undermine the peace and stability of civil society (Tar & Adejoh, 2021).

The Proliferation of illegal Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) is a serious threat to public safety all over the world. The UN Secretary General, in a report to the Security

Council(S/2008/258), recognized the threat posed by SALW by saying: “Small arms facilitate a vast spectrum of human rights violations, including killing, rape and other forms of sexual violence, torture and forced recruitment of children by armed groups or forces. More human rights abuses are committed with them than with any other weapon”. The report continues that, because of being cheap, light and easy to handle, transport and conceal, their excessive accumulation and universal availability tend to aggravate conflicts by increasing the lethality and duration of violence and by increasing the sense of insecurity which leads to a greater demand for weapons (Heinrich, 2006).

Arms are lethal when introduced in both conflict and no-conflict situations. Estimates generated by the Small Arms Working Group (SAWG) show that “illegal arms are directly responsible for an estimated 60-90 per cent of deaths during armed conflicts. The report says that one person dies from illegal arms use every minute, and the rate of firearm injury is even higher. Children are the most affected; they are killed, injured, and psychologically traumatized especially during conflicts. The committee provides statistics to the effect that 20 million children have been displaced, 2 million killed, and one million orphaned, 6 million seriously injured or disabled and 12 million have become homeless because of war during the last decade. (Human Security Baseline Assessment, 2011)

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The proliferation of small arms constitutes a major source of destruction to lives and properties and exacerbates inter-communal tensions leading to full-fledged conflicts (Bashir, 2013). According to Kytomaki (2015), more than 2,000 people are killed daily because of armed violence and 500,000 to 750,000 people are killed annually. The protracted proliferation of small arms and light weapons from around the globe to Africa, especially in Northern Nigeria,

had led to a plethora of social crisis that culminated to insecurity across the region for more than a decade (Sule & Yahaya, 2020).

Africa's Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of illegal Arms and Light Weapons" was shown in the Bamako Declaration. The declaration observed that, small arms sustain conflicts, exacerbate violence, contributes to the displacement of innocent populations, threatens international humanitarian law, as well as fuels crime and encourages terrorism (Bamako Declaration, 2000).

Before the separation of Sudan and South Sudan, it was estimated that there were between 1.9 and 3.2 million small arms in circulation, with about two-thirds of these in the hands of civilians (Skinner, 2012). A primary source of weapons to civilians throughout the civil wars (particularly the Second Civil War) was the government and/or military. For instance, in Lakes State, the SPLA provided weapons to cattle keepers to enable them to protect themselves and their communities from cattle raiders. The arming of these youth groups, known as the Gelweng, allowed the SPLA to shift their focus and efforts from community security to the ongoing war with the north. However, despite the end of the war with the signing of the CPA, the Gelweng retained their weapons (Skinner, 2012).

South Sudan gained its independence on 9 July 2011; two years later, it became embroiled in a civil war. The on-and-off five-year civil war fuelled an unprecedented armed violence crisis and massive national and sub-national insecurity. A peace agreement (the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, ARCSS) was signed in 2015 and revitalised in 2018 after repeated outbreaks of civil war. The agreement's provisions on security arrangements, security sector reform (SSR), and demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration (DDR) of the armed forces are yet to be implemented (Bilali, 2023).

Following the above, Rumbek and other parts of Lakes state became insecure for unarmed civilians to stay in. The proliferation of these arms led to rampant killing, frequent cattle raiding, revenge killings, robberies, communal conflicts as well as fighting over grazing land by the armed youths. The upsurge of these arms is a great challenge to the government as it seeks to address increasing insecurity in the country. For example, according to the 2013 National police statistics, the crime figures reported nationwide increased by 4,954 cases which

is 7% more compared to the statistic of 2012. In Rumbek alone, the crime rate increased by 40% and the proliferation of illegal arms was given as one of the factors that contributed to criminal behaviour; this has led to a decrease in human security. This report is supported by the study conducted at Juba Teaching Hospital (JTH) on injuries caused by illegal arms. Odhiambo et al., (2008) established that there were 717 cases of firearm injury treated at the JTH from January 2004 to December 2005. Four hundred twenty-one (421 or 58.7%) of these were admitted. In 2004, there were 6,300 assault cases recorded of which 6.7% used illegal arms. In 2005 reported assault cases went down by 51% to 3,079, but the use of illegal arms went up to 9.7%. This is a significant increase in one year whose trend could reach alarming levels.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons is one of the major security challenges facing the world, especially developing countries. No nation or region is immune from the danger posed by the proliferation of illegal arms. It is estimated that over 500 million SALW are in circulation globally. Although majority of these arms are used for lawful purposes, a significant percentage are not. These arms pose a great threat to not only lives and property but also sustainable development. When South Sudan seceded in 2011, it was estimated that, there were up to 3.2 million of small arms in circulation and the two-thirds of these arms were thought to be in the hands of civilians. More arms were believed to circulate during the 2013 and 2016 crisis. The proliferation of these arms remains a challenge to the security management of Rumbek Central since it caused insecurity and associated crimes such as rampant killing, looting, raping of women and girls. Although there were measures put in place by the state government to address the problem, the citizens seem to lack trust and confidence on these measures hence they continue arming to protect themselves and their property. Disarming civilians would have reduced the number of weapons available and improved the security of Rumbek Central, but this was not possible without addressing the factors fuelling the demands for small arms. It is against this background that, the study was conducted so that to investigate the proliferation of small arms and their implication on security in Rumbek Central, republic of South Sudan.

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

This section presents both the broad and specific objectives as stated below;

### **1.3.1 Broad Objective**

This study sought to examine the proliferation of Small Arms and its implication on security in Rumbek Central County, South Sudan.

### **1.3.2 Specific Objectives**

- i. To determine the factors that influence the proliferation of small arms in Rumbek Central, republic of South Sudan.
- ii. To establish the implication of small arms on security in Rumbek Central, republic of South Sudan.
- iii. To establish the measures taken to combat the proliferation of small arms in Rumbek Central County, South Sudan

### **1.4 Research Questions**

- i. What are the factors that influence the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Rumbek Central, South Sudan?
- ii. Which implication does proliferation of small arms have on security of Rumbek Central County, South Sudan?
- iii. What are the measures taken to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Rumbek Central County, South Sudan?

### **1.5 Justification of the Study**

It was important to conduct this study due to the following; Firstly, the proliferation of SALW arms is a challenge to security management of Rumbek Central as it caused insecurity and its associated crimes such as rampant killing, looting, raping of women commonly practiced by the armed youth. Secondly, this study is a useful reference to policy makers, by contributing insight on the implications of SALW to security. Thirdly, the study contributes to the existing body of knowledge in the academic field of security management.

### **1.6 Scope and Limitations of the Study**

This study covered areas of Among-piny and Malek Payam of Rumbek Central County, republic of South Sudan. Rumbek Central is one of the eight counties of Lakes state which is located approximately 377 kilometres (234ml) by road northwest of Juba, the capital city of South Sudan with an estimated population of 153,550 (NBS, 2012).

The main economic activity of this area is cattle keeping where majority are pastoralists such as Dinka Agar who are estimated to be 60%, Dinka GoK about 30% while Bongo and Jur Bel

are made up of 6% and 4% respectively. Formerly, cattle raiding between these communities were done by using traditional weapons such as spears where less death and injuries occurred but with the use of small arms, any single attack leads to large number of deaths and injuries.

The limitations of this study include, suspicion from some respondents and personnel of organized forces due to sensitivity of the study topic. However, this was solved by moving with copy of the approval letter from National security service (NSS). There was also language problem since most of the respondents were illiterate, some respondents like in cattle camps were difficult to get. The above limitations were solved by a research assistant recruited from the community. The research assistant was able to get a convenient time to meet with the cattle camp household adults. He also helped to translate in Dinka language or local Arabic the interview guide, although the challenge of losing the meaning in Dinka or local Arabic remained.

## 1.7 Definition of Terms

**Arms:** Weapons especially used by the army, navy or air force.

**Economic Factors;** are factors that influence the economy of a state or country. They originate from political, social, technological, legal or environmental sources. Poverty and enormous economic disparity between the rich and the poor within a Country have been identified as the driving forces behind the proliferation of SALW (Adetiba, 2012). He translates this by saying, that although Nigeria is a leading crude oil producer, only a few have benefited from it. The socioeconomic disparity has increased insurgencies and crimes in the country which indirectly turn out to be a haven for the poor and unemployed youths who are now earning a living through it.

**Light Weapons:** The Economic Community of West African States, (ECOWAS) Convention on Small Arms looks at light weapons as portable arms designed to be used by several persons working together in a team. Light weapon in this context refers to any device, instrument or tool capable of inflicting injury and death on a person or group of persons. Light weapons are those portable weapons designed for use by several persons serving as a crew, heavy machine guns, automatic cannons, howitzers, mortars of less than 100 mm calibre, grenade launchers, anti-tank weapons and launchers, recoilless guns, shoulder fired rockets, anti-aircraft weapons and launchers, and air defence weapons (SADC, 2003). Due to their nature of being light and portable, they are easy to transport and conceal for causing criminal activities and violence hence source of insecurity.

**Political Factors** These refer to the influence and dynamic within the political environment that can impact the businesses and their operations. These include government policies, regulations, political stability and the overall political climate of a country or state. According to Wikipedia, politics is a set of activities that are associated with making decision in groups or other form of power relations among individual. A factor is circumstance, fact or influence that contribute to results or out comes.

**Proliferation:** Proliferation is defined as a sudden increase in the number of arms and weapons beyond that need for legitimate national security.

**Security Implication:** The security implications refer to activities that involve the ability to protect lives and properties of individuals in a given geographical location (Oxford Dictionary, 2005). Where the government has failed to provide this protection adequately, the citizens will provide their own protection by arming themselves. This in turn will cause insecurity where there is no regulation to control the acquisition and usage of the small arms.

**Small Arms:** The United Nations (UN) Panel of Government Experts on small arms define small arms as ranging from knives, clubs and machetes to weapons particularly below the calibre of 100mm. According to Best Practice Guidelines for the Implementation of the Nairobi Declaration and the Nairobi Protocol on Small Arms and Light Weapons, small arms are weapons designed for personal use and shall include light machine guns, including machine pistols, fully automatic rifles and assault rifles and semi-automatic rifles. Small arms have led to increased death and injuries especially during armed conflicts (UN, 2013).

**Social and Cultural Factors;** According to Psychology Dictionary, these are factors that affect people thoughts and behaviours in social situations. As part of their social setup, pastoralist communities see gun ownership as a symbol of power and pride. This is due to the communal security practised. Conflict over land and water resources including issues of use, distribution, and ownership are some of the key drivers of demand for SALW in many areas occupied by pastoralists (Skinner, 2012).

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

The proliferation of small arms undermines peace and greatly hinders development. The uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons (SALW) is considered a direct threat to human security (Bouchard & Alcalde, 2007). This chapter reviewed the literature on factors that influence the proliferation of small arms, assessed its implication on security and established measures taken to combat the proliferation of these arms. It also discussed the theoretical framework of the study and the relationship between the variables investigated.

#### **2.2.1 Factors that Influence the Proliferation of SALW**

The UN (2006) reported that one factor bearing on the availability, circulation, and accumulation of small and light weapons in many conflict areas is their earlier supply by Cold War opponents. Small arms remain a factor in armed conflict, displacement of people, organised crimes and acts of terrorism, thereby undermining peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable social and economic development (Alimaba, 2017).

Since the production of SALWs does not necessarily involve sophisticated or hi-tech capacity, there are a lot of producers and suppliers all over the world hence making them cheap to procure. For example, a brand-new AK-47 rifle can be purchased from a Russian factory at 240 US Dollars. In some parts of Africa where supplies are plentiful, it can be bought for 30 USD. In some places in Angola, it could be bought between 13 to 20 USD (Nte, 2011).

Since the independence of Sudan in 1956, the Southern Sudanese region has been confronted with multiple episodes of violence, either on a national scale or locally. The first civil war (1955- 1972) and the second civil war (1983-2005), which opposed the Southern Sudanese rebellion movement, also known as the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), to Sudan, laid the foundation for the widespread possession of SALWs by non-state actors in the region. As a legacy of these civil wars, the ownership of SALWs became a perceived necessity for survival not only among the main warring parties - the Sudanese State and the SPLA - but also among tribal groups, local militias, and civilians (Bilali, 2023).

In non-conflict areas, small arms may be used in criminal violence or may be used in homicides, suicides, and accidents. And they are frequently the primary tools of terrorists bent on sowing chaos and discord (Stohl & Hogendoorn, 2010). Motivations acquisition of small arms include

political, economic, social and cultural reasons. These motivations are dynamic and wide-ranging from a need for personal or collective self-defence to a culture of hunting and sport shooting, the pursuit of social status, or predatory behaviour (Christine, 2012).

**Economic Factors;** are factors that influence the economy of a state or country. They originate from political, social, technological, legal or environmental sources. Economic factors, such as high rates of unemployment and low incomes, may cause people to turn to crime using SALW as a means of survival. This could mean becoming involved in gangs, militias or other armed groups that bring some economic benefits. Young people may be particularly vulnerable in these situations. Meanwhile, conflicts over land and water resources – including issues of use, distribution, and ownership – are a key driver of demand for SALW in many regions (Christine, 2012). For example, in Nigeria, the socioeconomic disparity has increased insurgencies and crimes in the country which indirectly turn out to be a haven for the poor and unemployed youths who are now earning a living through it. Therefore, the high rate of unemployment among the youths is a factor that drives them to acquire firearms to engage in criminal activities that have monetary value (Adetiba, 2012).

According to the United Nations press (2021), economic marginalization may lead to youth radicalization, violent, extremism which fuel the demand for illegal weapons (UN, 2001).

**Political Factors** These refer to the influence and dynamic within the political environment that can impact the businesses and their operations. These include government policies, regulations, political stability and the overall political climate of a country or state. Under political factors, weak security sectors are notable drivers of demand for SALW. More than half the world's SALW are in the hands of civilians who consider them to be valuable means for security and protection. The 1997 UN Panel of Experts Report noted that, when the state loses control over its security functions and fails to maintain the security of its citizens, the subsequent growth of armed violence, banditry and organised crime increases the demand for weapons for self-defence by citizens seeking to protect themselves and their property from the security sector, criminals, former enemies or vengeful community members (Christine, 2012).

Weakened governments sometimes supply small arms to select groups of their own citizens to use against traditional rivals who are also threatening the state. However, the supply of weapons to one group can generate new demand from others for instance the weapons might also be used for other purposes, like cattle raiding, which then prompts neighbouring groups to arm as well. Similar pressures to arms occur when states supply arms to political insurgent

groups in neighbouring states as part of destabilisation tactics related to regional dynamics and competition. In both of these instances, surplus weapons inevitably find their way into economically depressed and socially unstable environments (Christine, 2012).

During the first civil war (1955- 1972) and the second civil war (1983-2005), which opposed the Southern Sudanese rebellion movement, also known as the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), to Sudan, laid the foundation for the widespread possession of SALWs by non-state actors in the region. One of the means of arms procurement over the years has been the capture of weapons from the armed forces of the government of Sudan. Another source of arms is the supply of SALWs by neighbouring countries, such as Uganda (Bilali, 2023).

Despite a moment of unity among Southern Sudanese political and military actors during the transition period (2005-2011) when they focused on achieving national independence, the spread of SALWs persisted through various means, including imports of conventional arms, cross-border weapons trade, and proxy arming of local commanders (Bilali, 2023).

In December 2009 the Small Arms Survey estimated that, there were 2.7 million small arms and light weapons in Sudan, more than two-thirds of which were circulating outside the state-controlled stockpiles. Widespread arms proliferation among non-state actors has long been identified as a critical factor leading to the outbreak and escalation of armed violence and conflict in Sudan and South Sudan. Non-state actors obtain these weapons through direct contributions from governments, leakage from government stocks, captures on the battlefield, and cross-border (Leff & LeBrun, 2014). It is therefore certain that, a few years before the South Sudanese independence, the proliferation of SALWs, and the presence of non-state armed groups greatly contributed to insecurity and a potential resurgence of widespread acts of violence (Bilali, 2023).

**Social and Cultural Factors;** According to Psychology Dictionary, these are factors that affect people thoughts and behaviours in social situations. As part of their social setup, pastoralist communities see gun ownership as a symbol of power and pride. This is due to the communal security practiced. Conflict over land and water resources including issues of use, distribution, and ownership are some of the key drivers of demand for SALW in many areas occupied by pastoralists (Musau, 2016). In some cultures, the display of weapons is seen as important. This is often referred to as a 'gun culture'. 'Macho' cultural norms may prevail, in which both males and females place symbolic social value in the armed male as a source of status and security. Women can also play an instrumental role in motivating and encouraging young men to

perpetrate acts with weapons, for example, to go out on cattle raids (Christine, 2012). However, this would have been minimized if there was a strong security sector capable of protecting the citizens and their property.

### **2.2.2 The Implication of Small Arms and Light Weapons on Security**

Small arms play a significant role in determining the winners and losers of conflicts, and in the commission of crimes. Other than legitimate use for security management, misused or illicitly transferred, small arms have only had negative effects on the communities affected and largely affect innocent people (Neumayer, 2004). Small arms remain a factor in armed conflict, the displacement of people, organised crimes and acts of terrorism, thereby undermining peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable social and economic development (Alimba, 2017). They increase the severity of conflicts and extend their duration. One of the major impacts of illicit small arms is the displacement of people.

In Africa, much of research work points out that, small arms and light weapons proliferation affects many African countries and their citizens in three main broad ways; first, they affect human rights and international humanitarian law, second social/economic development and third governance. The proliferation of small arms, both through legal and illegal channels, has been identified as a major contributing factor to the exacerbation of social problems in the country. This assertion is supported by the research conducted by Phillip and Healla (2020), which highlights the negative impact of easy access to firearms on the safety and security of individuals and communities. The logic behind this argument is straightforward: when firearms are readily available to individuals, it increases the likelihood of acts of violence and crime occurring. This, in turn, can lead to a range of social problems, including but not limited to, increased levels of fear and anxiety among citizens, higher rates of injury and death, and reduced trust in law enforcement agencies. Therefore, measures must be taken at both the national and local levels to address the issue of small arms proliferation and ensure the safety and well-being of all citizens.. For example, Research in northern Kenya indicates that small arms fuelled pastoralist violence and displaced more than 160,000 people by 2003. Small arms also fuelled conflicts over resources or livestock (Njuguna, 2020). The widespread proliferation of small arms is contributing to alarming levels of armed crimes especially in marginalized rural and urban areas. It exacerbates the ever-existing cattle rustling and tribal conflicts in pastoralist areas. The use of these arms has also made conflict deadly and crime easier, feeding cultures of retribution and downward spirals of violence around the world (Chacha, 2004).

According to Louis (1995), the cultural effects of the proliferation of small arms and light weapon is that, it weakened family ties, the stresses caused by war and famine, together with the social consequences of injuries sustained, they have contributed to the erosion of family life. The danger posed is that families are unable to return to their homes after conflict, leading to severe stress and depression for those affected. In addition, where adults are killed, their children are often left destitute. The spouses may be amputated as the result of the conflict and may eventually abandon their husbands or wives to seek more productive, able-bodied partners.

The proliferation of small arms also leads to forceful recruitment of children into army. It is estimated that, more than 300,000 children are taking active part in the military in sub-Saharan Africa (Kaul, 2020). In Northern Uganda, abduction rates reached record levels in late 2002 and 2003 as over 8,000 boys and girls were forced by the Lord's Resistance Army to become soldiers, laborers, and sexual slaves. In the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where all parties to the armed conflict recruit and use children, some as young as seven, the forced recruitment of children increased so dramatically in late 2002 and early 2003 that observers described the fighting forces as "armies of children." (Becker, 2004).

In South Sudan, the effects of small arms supply, and misuse have long been felt throughout South Sudanese society. For example, according to Odhiambo et al., (2008), there were 717 cases of firearm injury treated at Juba Teaching Hospital (JTH) from January 2004 to December 2005. Four hundred twenty-one (421 or 58.7%) of these were admitted. In 2004, there were 6,300 assault cases recorded of which 6.7% had illegal arms used. According to the National police statistics, 2013, crime figures reported nationwide increased by 4,954 cases which is 7%, as compared to the year 2012 (Odhiambo et al., 2008). In Rumbek alone, the crime rate increased by 40% and the proliferation of illegal arms was one of the factors that contributed to this criminal act.

A UN report (1999) suggests that "the proliferation of small arms affects the intensity and duration of violence and encourages militancy, a vicious circle in which insecurity leads to a higher demand for weapons" (Muggah & Berman, 2001). Estimate generated by Small Arms Working Group (SAWG) shows that "illegal arms are directly responsible for 60 to 90 percent of deaths during armed conflicts. One person dies from illegal arms use every minute, and the rate of firearm injury is even higher" (Naboth, 2014). The Proliferation of illegal Arms and Light weapons (SALW) is a serious threat to public safety all over the world. The UN Secretary General, in a report to the Security Council (S/2008/258), recognized the threat posed by

SALW by saying: “Small arms facilitate a vast spectrum of human rights violations, including killing rape, and other forms of sexual violence, enforced disappearance, torture and forced recruitment of children by armed groups or forces. More human rights abuses are committed with them than with any other weapons” (Heinrich, 2006).

The report continues that, because of their characteristic of being cheap, light and easy to handle, transport and conceal, their excessive accumulation and universal availability tends to aggravate conflicts by increasing the lethality and duration of violence, sense of insecurity which leads to a greater demand for weapons (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/29). This is exactly what was happening in Rumbek where the increasing insecurity and armed violence increased demand for weapons.

### **2.2.3 Measures in Combating the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons**

Weapon collection and destruction, stockpile management, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs, resource mobilization, capacity-building, and import/export controls are some of the measures use to control the proliferation of small arms and light weapons globally (Christine, 2012). Although the 2001 UN conference on the illicit Trade in Small Arms was unable to reach the consensus on specific international norms, nevertheless, there have been important initiatives at the international, regional and national level to strengthen regulation over civilian possession and states’ responsibility regarding weapons issued by them as well as the control mechanism (Miller & Watson, 2002). As a way of strengthening the international norms, the UN PoA puts a strong commitment to ensure sufficient controls on possession of SALW. These includes among others record keeping and tracking of illicit SALW. However, in practice, the inadequate controls on civilian possession and trade of SALW undermines the efforts to prevent the proliferation of SALW in many countries or regions. There is a need to strengthen such controls at international, regional as well as national level (Brauer & Richardson, 2023).

A draft version of the PoA adopted during the UN 2001 Conference on the illicit Trade in Small Arms has directed states to regulate civilian possession and use of small arms. Unfortunately, this part has been removed during the final version of the PoA. Hence the obligations contained in PoA cannot be easily fulfilled without appropriate control over the illegal possession of small arms. To respond to calls for comprehensive regulation of firearms and physical security and stockpile management, South Sudan adopted the National Policy on SALW 2012, the Firearms Act of 2016 and the Firearms Regulations of 2017 (Ayuba, 2014). These policies and

regulations provided a comprehensive framework to regulate arms export, import, brokering and stockpile management, as well as marking and record-keeping. The Firearms Act of 2016 further details offences relating to firearms and ammunition and prescribed punitive measures against those found guilty (Alcalde, 2014). However, the above legislations are yet to be implemented in Rumbek Central as the civilians are still acquiring small arms to protect themselves and their property.

UN Security Council Resolution 2428 (2018) demands that, all member states take the necessary measures to prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer arms, military equipment and related materials of all types to the territory of South Sudan. According to the resolution, main reason for the above arms embargo is the high risk of arms diversion from South Sudanese authorities to non-state armed groups and civilians in the country (UN, 2013).

## **2.3 Theoretical Framework**

This section presented theoretical basis of the study. Small arms proliferation is a term used by organizations and individuals advocating for the control of small arms and their trade.

### **2.3.1 Security Dilemma Theory**

This theory was developed by John Hertz and Herbert Butterfield in 1951. The theory states that, the relationship between a mutual trust and fear of each military motive may exacerbate or cause a state of military tension which may escalate into conflict (Annan, 1998).

John Hertz who originally coined the term “security dilemma” elaborated as follows: “Groups or individuals who live alongside each other without being organized into a higher unity must be concerned of their security being attacked, subjected, dominated or annihilated by other groups and individuals.” Striving to retain their security from such attack, they are driven to acquire more and more power to escape the effects of the power of others. This in turn makes others to feel more insecure hence compelling them to prepare for the worst which leads to the state of kill first or risk being killed. There is actor or state can feel entirely secure in such a world of competing units; power, competition ensues, and the vicious circle of security and power accumulation is on. “Whether man is by nature peaceful and cooperative or aggressive and domineering, is not the question but it is the uncertainty and anxiety as to his neighbours’ intentions that places man in this basic (security) dilemma” (Schroeder & Peter, 2006).

This theory helped to explain the factors to proliferation of small arms in Rumbek Central. The inability of the government to guarantee security to life and property has created security vacuum (security dilemma) that encouraged the citizens to develop a copying mechanism

through self-defence and vigilant group which has now created new forms of insecurity (UN, 2013). This is what was happening in Rumbek Central. To attain their security, the community of Rumbek Central acquired small arms in protecting themselves and their property from external attack.

### **2.3.2 Regime Theory**

The study used Regime theory to identify how legal action and structures of cooperation can help in solving the proliferation of small arms and its associated problems. Regimes are explicit or implicit principles, norms, rules and decision-making procedures around actor expectation converge in a given issues or area. The theory explains how systems of cooperation develop and operate in the international community.

The function of regime is to facilitate cooperation by building structures that encourage or enforces compliance to the obligation set out. Where the regimes fail or become weak, the compliance is affected. For example, in South Sudan, the 2008 the Community Security and Small Arms control Bureau that was established to promote and coordinate community security in the country has struggled to fulfil its mandate (Ryle, 2018). In 2016, the public warehouse Bill was enacted. This Bill states that, no arms deposited in public warehouse shall be withdrawn except in accordance with a permit issued by the public officer. In addition to the public warehouse Bill was the 2016 firearms Act. The act states that, the private ownership and use of small arms are subject to licence that is valid for a period of one year and limited to people with no criminal records (Saferworld, 2011). However, these Acts are yet to be implemented in many parts of South Sudan including Rumbek.

The above two theories complement each other in addressing the study problem. For example, the Regime theory helps to build cooperation needed in addressing the problem of uncertainty and anxiety develop among the people living near each other. The cooperation can be in form of legislation or structure to enforce compliance to the obligation set.

## **2.4 Conceptual Framework**

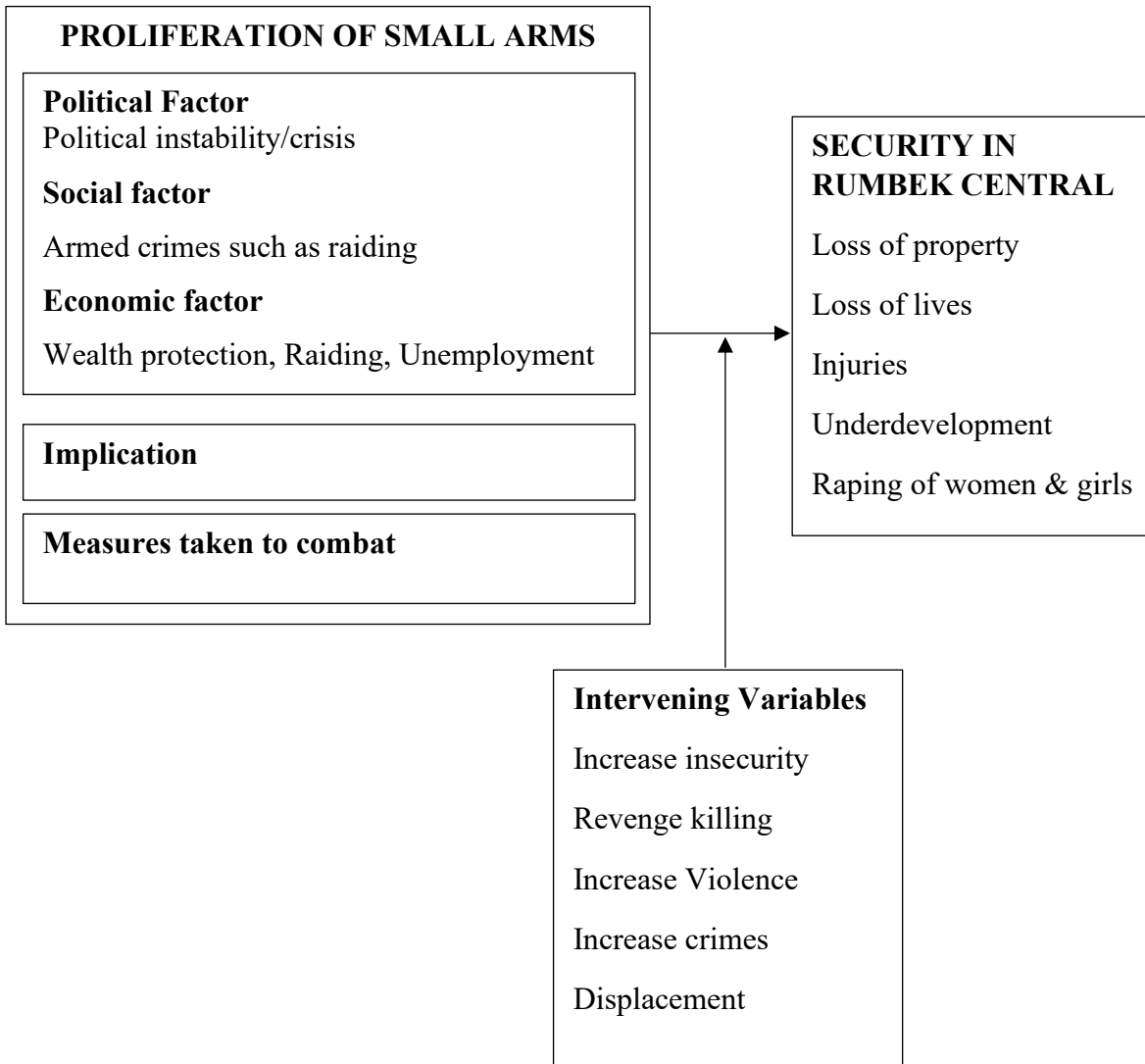
This section presents an explanation of the relationship between variables under investigation.

### **Figure 1**

*Conceptual Framework*

**Independent Variables**

**Dependent Variable**



The framework illustrated in Figure 1 explains the summary of the implication of small arms proliferation on security. Where there exist political, social, and economic issues, the desire for possession of illegal arm rises hence increasing insecurity, crimes, violence, death rate as well as displacement of people which in turn leads to underdevelopment, loss of lives, loss of property, injuries, raping of women and girls. The underdevelopment, loss of lives, loss of property, injuries, become independent variables that are triggered by unsolved political, economic and social issues. The increase insecurity, crime, violence become the intervening variables that connect the independent variables with dependent variables.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter described the methodology used to find answers to the research questions. The chapter covered research design, study area, target population, sampling procedure, data collection procedure, data analysis and ethical considerations.

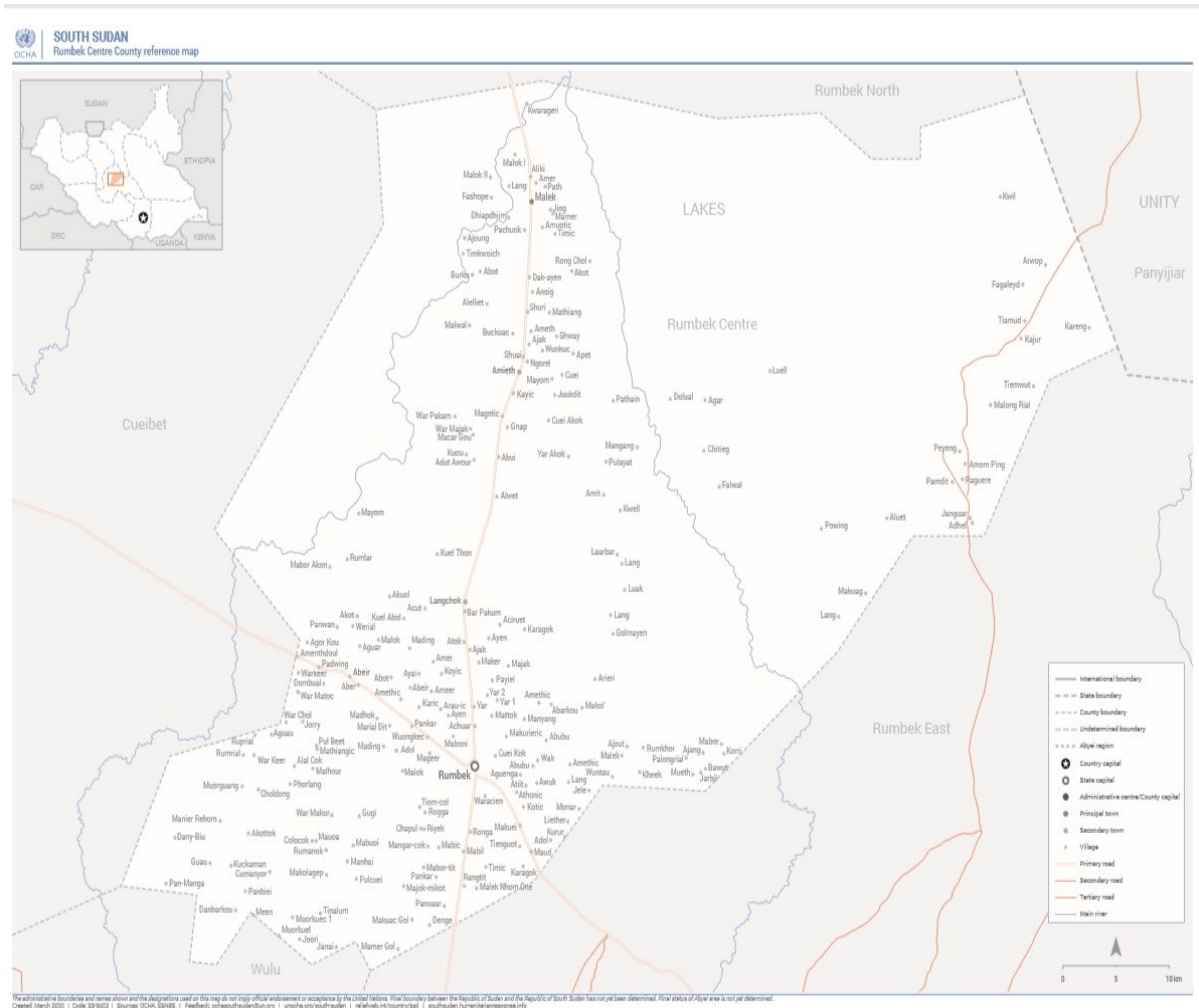
#### **3.2 Research Design**

Research design is a plan structure and strategy of investigation conceived to obtain answers to research questions (Ogula, 2013). A descriptive research design was used since it answers “what” and “how” questions needed in investigating problem studied. This research design focuses on description and interpretation of data to understand a condition as it exists.

#### **3.3 Study Area**

The study was conducted in Amongping and Malek Payams of Rumbek Central County (see Figure 2 below). Rumbek Centre is one of the eight (08) Counties of Lakes state. Rumbek is located approximately 377km north west of Juba with an estimated population of 153,550 (NBS, 2012). The main economic activity of this area is pastoralism. Majority of the population are pastoralists such as Dinka Agar, who are estimated to be 60%, Dinka Gok about 30% while Bongo and Jur Bel are made up of 6% and 4% respectively. Formerly, cattle raiding between these communities were done by using spears where less death and injuries could be recorded but today with the use of small arms, there is higher level of injuries and death. Hence such attacks give rise to revenge attacks, thus creating a vicious cycle of violence (Skinner, 2012).

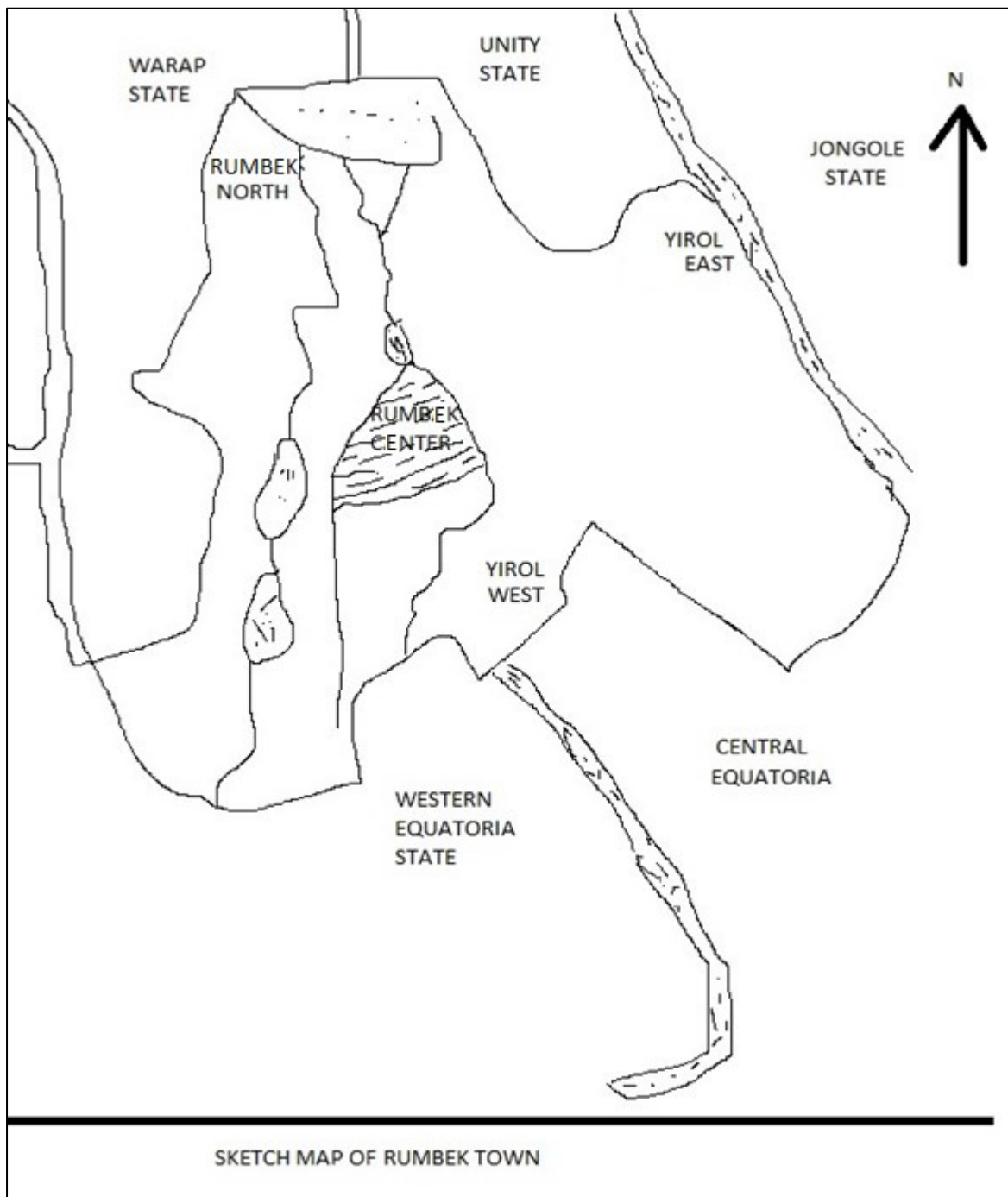
**Figure 2**  
*Rumbek Centre Reference Map*



Source: Ocha, South Sudan (2024).

**Figure 3**

*Map of the Study Area*



### **3.4 Population and Sampling Procedure**

This section presented the study population and sampling procedure used in the study.

#### **3.4.1 Target Population**

According to Willie (2023), target population refers to a specific subset or segment within the larger population that is the primary focus of a study. Target population as a complete set of individuals or object with some common characteristics (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). According to the (National Bureau of Statistics, 2012) the population of Rumbek Central is estimated to be 153,550. Majority of them are pastoralists such Dinka Agar who are estimated to be 60%, Dinka Gok about 30% while Bongo and Jur Bel are made up of 6% and 4% respectively.

#### **3.4.2 Sampling Procedures**

A sample is a smaller group obtained from the accessible population. Sampling is the process of selecting a number of individuals for study in such a way that the individuals selected represent the large group from which they are selected (Mugenda & Arther, 2003). This study used simple random and purposive sampling techniques to select the respondents. Household adults from the various Bomas of Rumbek Central County were selected using simple random sampling while the members of security organs, chiefs and community-based organization were purposively selected. Simple random sampling refers to choosing individuals from a larger population in which each individual is chosen randomly and entirely by chance. This technique was useful to the study because it was not bias.

Purposive sampling is a technique in which subjects are selected because of some characteristics (Ngechu, 2004). Purposive sampling allows the researcher to zoom in an area or people which have good grounds in which they believe can be critical for the research.

#### **3.4.3 Sample Size**

A sample size between 10 and 30% is a good representation of the target population (Omona, 2013). The Sample Size of this study was 96 respondents. Eighty (80) household adults, five (05) community leaders, six (06) CBOs and five (05) from the County Security sector. These were the categories of people that provided the desired information.

### **3.5 Unit of Analysis**

The unit of analysis of this current study comprised of the respondents of household adults, chiefs and CBOs. These are the categories of people those provided the desired information for the study.

### **3.6 Methods of Data Collection**

Primary and secondary data were collected to answer the research questions. The primary data were collected from the sample size of 96.

Interview guide and focus group discussion guide to address the problem was be designed. The study used face to face interview to the collect data from household adults and community leaders. An interview is a method of data collection that involves two or more people exchanging information through a series of questions and answers. This method of data collection was suitable to the study because it allowed probing on relevant information that enriched the data collected. It was also useful for a sensitive information that needed clarification from the respondents. The interviews were administered by the research assistants trained on the principles of data management.

Focus group discussion was used to collect data from Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and County security sector. A focus group discussion is an interaction between one or more experts with the intention of gathering data. This method was important because it helped the group to share their common experience over the topic investigated.

Secondary data were gathered from documents that talk about proliferation of illegal arms and its implication on security. These materials included text books, journals and other publications found in libraries, in universities, government offices and internet.

### **3.7 Reliability and Validity of the Instrumentation**

This sub-section presents the validity and the reliability of the research instruments.

#### **3.7.1 Validity**

Before the actual data was collected, the researcher conducted pilot study of 20 households in the neighbouring western Equatorial County, South Sudan, who were not included in the final study population. According to Orodho (2011), expert opinion is an effective way to improve the content validity of an instrument. It's good to hear that the researcher used expert judgment from supervisors at Egerton University in Kenya to assess the validity of the data collection tools. This approach helped to ensure that the research instruments accurately measured, which was crucial for the success of this study.

#### **3.7.2 Reliability**

To ensure the reliability of the instrument used in the study, the researcher employed the test-retest method during the pilot study. The reliability of the research instrument was established using Cronbach's Alpha. A reliability coefficient of 0.7 was obtained, which is a commonly

used benchmark value for Cronbach's Alpha. This coefficient indicates that the items in the research instrument were sufficiently consistent to suggest that the measure was reliable. According to Mohajan (2018), values close to 0.7 are typically considered minimally acceptable and reflect the internal reliability of the instruments. In this regards, the researcher analysed the pilot study questionnaire and obtained a Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.82. which is above the minimum Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.7. This approach helped to ensure that the research instrument was reliable and could be used to collect accurate and consistent data for the study.

### **3.8 Data Analysis**

This study collected both qualitative and quantitative data that were analysed separately in three main stages namely; data reduction, data presentation and conclusion drawing.

Qualitative data collected were summarized and coded. The coded data were filtered and organized in different thematic and further described through text and respondents' verbatim. Quantitative data collected were summarized in different thematic areas, coded, typed and analysed. The findings were presented through bar charts and statistical graphs.

### **3.9 Ethical Considerations**

There were certain ethical protocols the researcher followed; First, the researcher obtained a letter of introduction from the university to show that the study is purely academic. The introduction letter was used to acquire an approval letter from National Security service (NSS) that allowed the research to conduct the study. Secondly, the researcher got informed consent from the respondents by clearly explaining to them the purpose of this study and promised confidentiality during and after the interviews.

Thirdly, the researcher did not force the respondents to participate against their will during the data collection but made them to understand that, the study was purely academic. Fourthly, the researcher also checked the accuracy of encoding of the responses to ensure that, the statistics generated from the study are truthful and verifiable for the integrity of the data.

The study therefore complied as much as possible with national policy guidelines on fundamental ethical principles regarding protection of human rights.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter presented results and discussion of the study findings. The purpose of this study was to investigate the proliferation of small arms and its implication on security in Rumbek central, republic of South Sudan. The study objectives were; to determine the factors that influence the proliferation of small arms, establish the implication of small arms on security in Rumbek and the measures taken to combat the proliferation of small arms.

Data was collected using interview guides and FGDs and analysed using descriptive statistics. The findings were presented inform of Figures and Tables. The results from each of the themes drawn from the objectives were interpreted.

#### **4.2 Demographic Information**

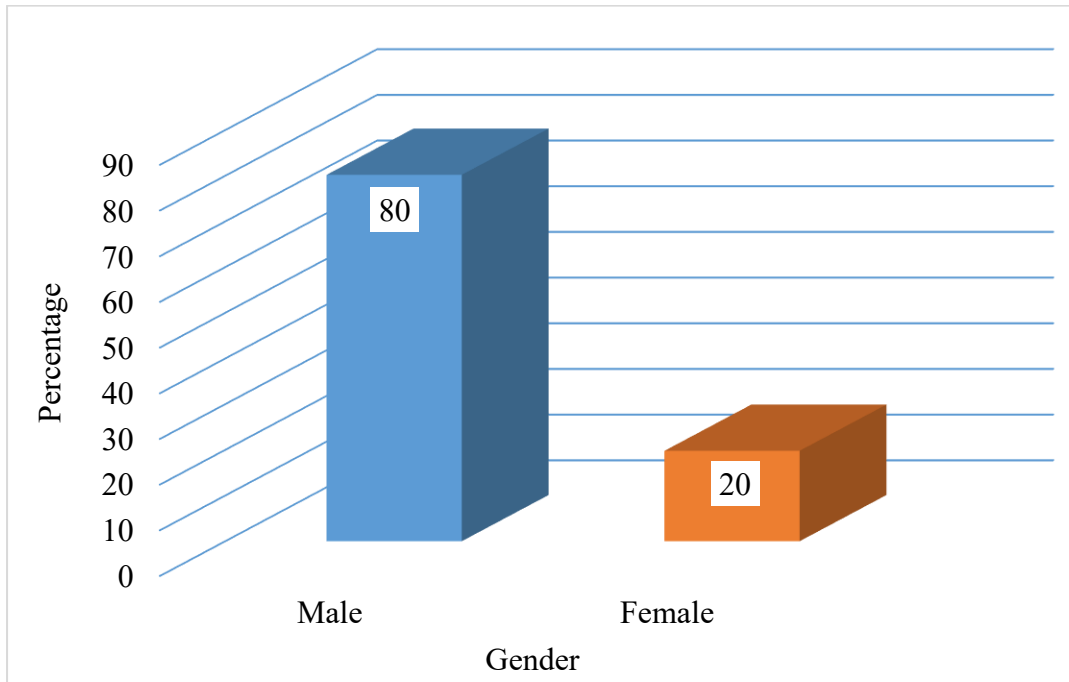
This sub-section presents a summary of the respondents' demographic information. These include respondents' gender, respondents' age group, respondents' level of education, respondents' duration of stay in Rumbek Central, South Sudan, FGDs' composition and the respondent's security situations.

##### **4.2.1 Respondents' Gender**

The study found out that, 80 percent (77) of the respondents were men while 20 percent (19) were women. This came due to the sensitivity of the study topic which most women think was the responsibility of men to answer. The summary of the findings is in Figure 4.

**Figure 4**

*Respondents' Gender*

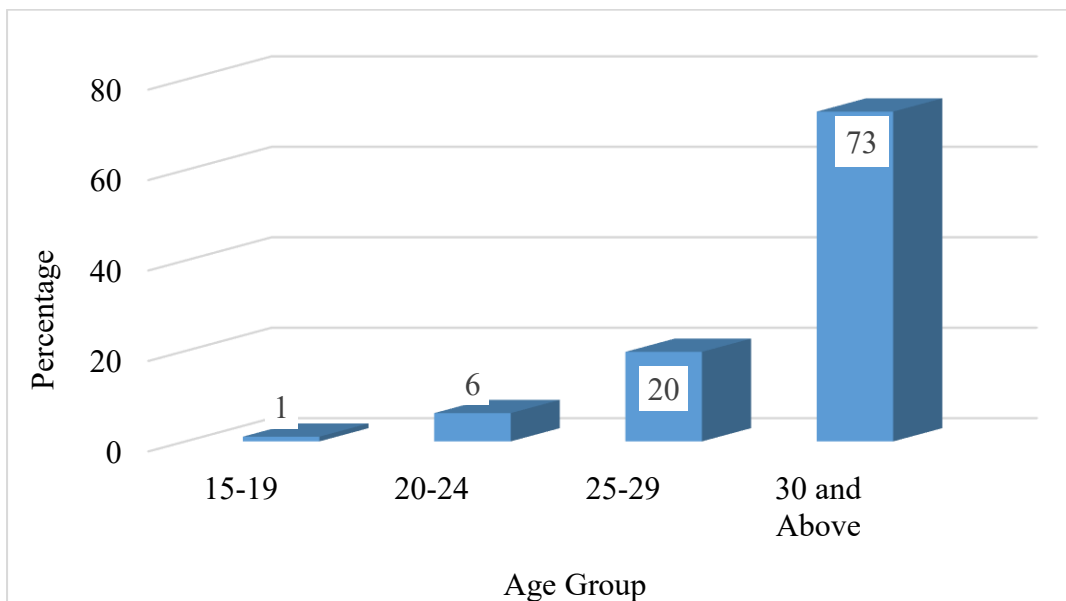


#### **4.2.2 Respondents' Age Group**

This study also established the respondents' profile according to Age group. The collected data was analysed and the study findings are as shown in Figure 5.

**Figure 5**

*Respondents' Age Group*



From the findings, 73% percent (70) of the respondents were from the age of 30 years and above, Twenty percent (19) were between 25-30 years, while 6 percent (6) were between 20-24 years while 1 percent (1) was between 15-19 years.

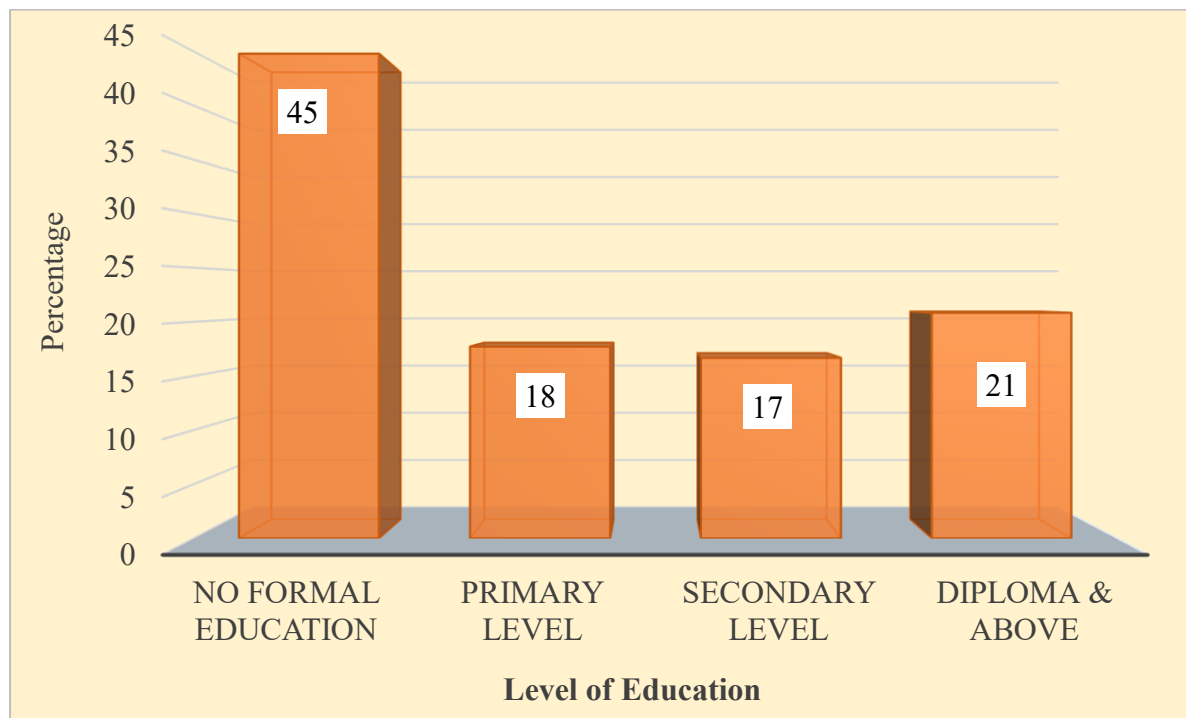
Majority of the respondents targeted were adults (age 30 years above) due to the nature of the study topic. However, the other age groups (15-19 and 20-25) were also adults found in seventeen (17) households during the time of the data collection.

#### 4.2.3 Respondents' Level of Education

Respondents' Level of Education was analysed and the study findings were as shown in Figure 6 below.

**Figure 6**

*Respondents' Education Level*



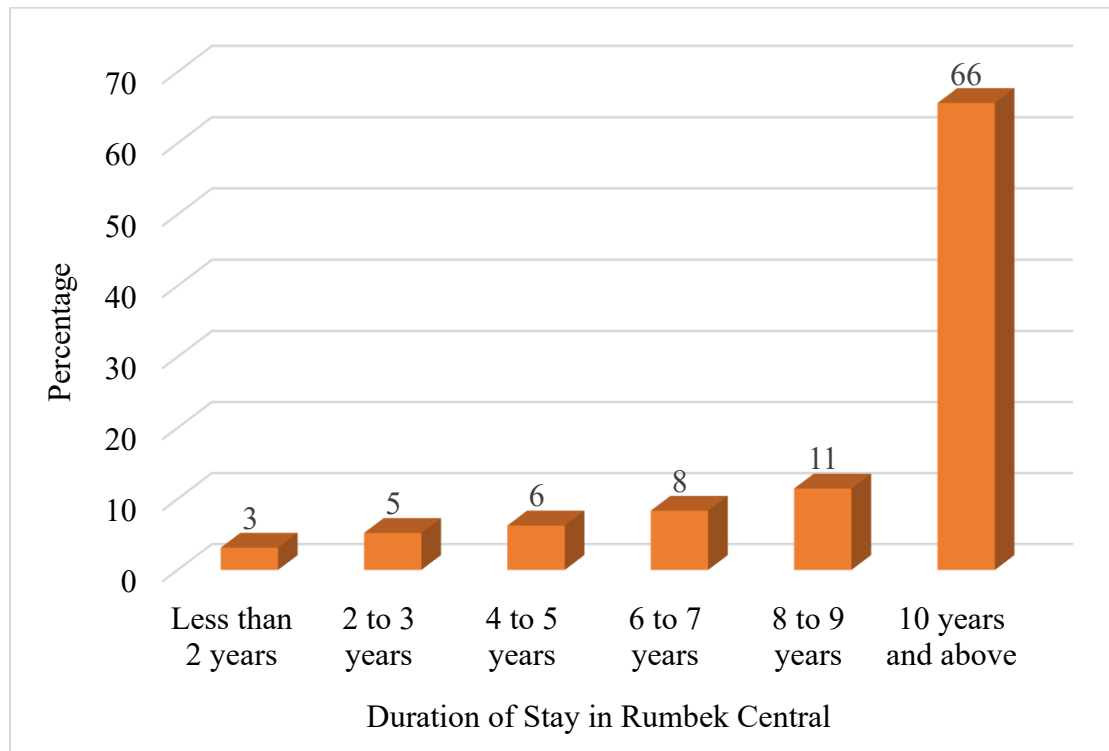
As shown in Figure 6, the study established that, 45 percent (43) of the respondents had no formal education, 20 percent (20) had Diploma and above, seventeen percent (16) completed secondary level while 18 percent (17) had attained primary school. Majority of the respondents picked were had no formal education due to their availability in households during the data collection period.

#### 4.3.4 Respondents Duration of Stay in Rumbek Central, South Sudan

This study asked the respondent about their duration of stay in Rumbek Central, South Sudan. Their responses were analysed and the results are as shown in Figure 7’

**Figure 7**

*Respondents’ Duration of Stay in Rumbek Central, South Sudan*



As shown in Figure 7, the study established that, 66 percent (63) of the respondents had resided in in Rumbek Central, South Sudan for 10 years or above, 11 percent (11) been in the region for a period between 8 to 9 years and 8 percent (8) had resided in the region for a period between 6 to 7 years. In addition, 6 percent (6) had been in Rumbek Central, South Sudan for duration between 4 to 5 years, 5 percent (5) had stayed in the region for the period between 2 to 3 years while 3 percent (3) had been resident for less than two years. Majority of the respondents picked were had stayed in Rumbek Central, South Sudan for more than three years, hence the information gathered represented the true situation of people of Rumbek Central, South Sudan.

#### 4.3.5 FGDs’ Composition

This study used two FGDs to collect data on the security situation in Rumbek Central due to the following reasons; they are sampled areas and some of them locations are inaccessible.

A total of 11 members were selected from both CBOs (six) and county security sectors (5) were used in the two discussion groups that were formed in Malek and Amongpiny Payam.

### **FGD 1 with Malek Group**

This FGD was conducted on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022. It composed of 5 group members namely 2 from CBOs and three from the county security sector (2 female police and one male SSPDF)

### **FGD 2 with Amongpiny Group**

This was conducted on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022 and composed of 6 members. 02 from security sector (SSPDF) and four from CBOs (one female and three male)

#### **4.2.6 The Security Situation of Rumbek Central**

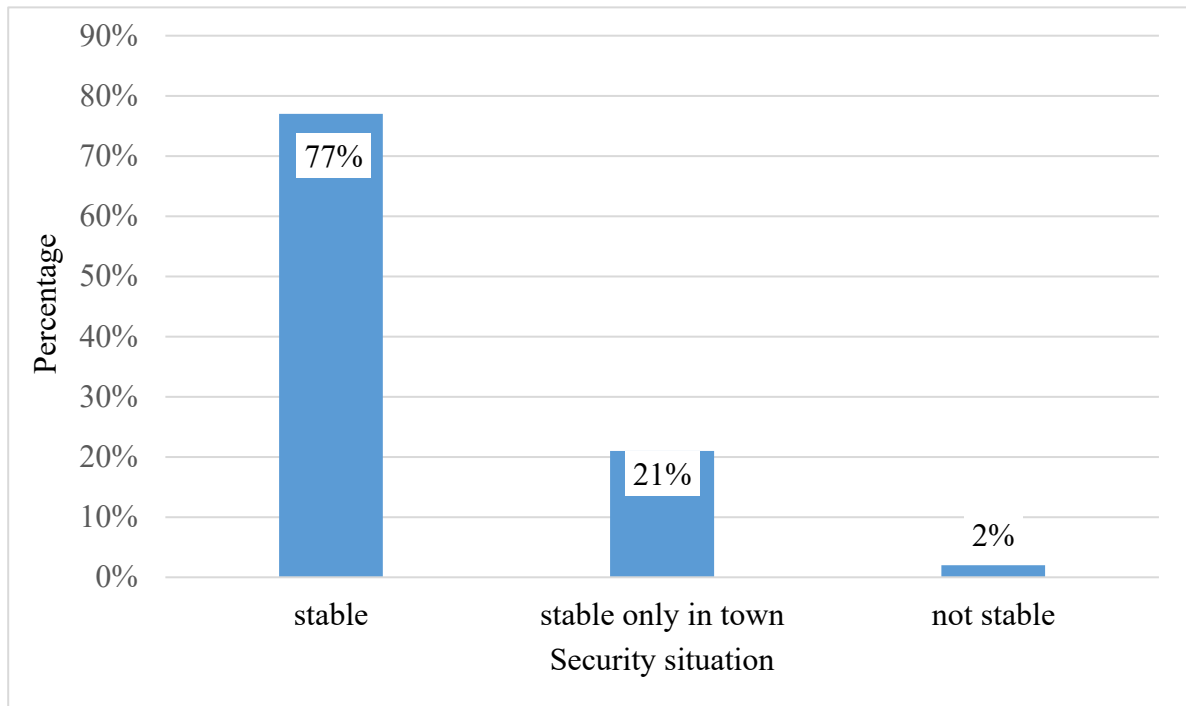
Since the signing of CPA in 2005, the former Western Lakes state remained the most insecure areas of South Sudan. These insecurities led to increased loss of lives, displacement, armed robberies, agricultural and water disputes. Along the main roads, it prevented consistent humanitarian access and had impact on local markets whose operation depends on road transport for their supply. The insecurity also led to high level of inter-communal violence. For example, conflict between Malek and Rumbek North Pakam community, Amongpiny with Panyijar community of Unity. These disputes were often driven by competition over grazing land, cattle rustling and revenge attacks when cattle thieves are killed. However, with the appointment of Gen Ring Tueny as a Governor of Lakes state in 2021, the above situation had greatly improved. Gen. Ring used several measures including disarmament of civilian, peace dialogue, rule of laws in improving the security situation of Rumbek Central and Lakes state at large. This was revealed by 78% of the household heads interviewed. Although 16% of them did not share the same view by saying that, situation is improved only in Rumbek town while deep in villages, cattle camps, and areas bordering Unity state, there is still insecurity, the killings which used to be rampant had stopped. People and humanitarian assistants move freely without being attacked along the main roads. The above view is also supported by the two FGDs conducted.

When asked “Do you feel secure in terms of security in Rumbek Central County? Out of the 11 FGD members, 09 responded “yes” and the reason given was that, the security situation has greatly improved after the appointment of Gen. Ring as the governor of Lakes state. Two (02) of the 11 FGD members responded “No”

When asked to explain what makes them feel insecure? They responded that, the security situation in Rumbek Centre is only stable in town but in remote areas, cattle youth are still possessing small arms, looting and armed raiding is still being practiced, some murder cases not settled. With the above they could not assure their security. This is illustrated in Figure 8

**Figure 8**

*Security situation of Rumbek Central*



#### **4.2.7 Views of Household Adults on the Security situation of Rumbek Central County**

Out of the 80 household heads interviewed, 79 percent (63) of them said that, the security situation in Rumbek is relatively calm. Twenty percent (16) said that, the situation is stable only in town but deep in village, cattle camps and areas along the border with Unity, there still fear of cattle theft. People still fear to move freely without arms. One percent (1) of them said that, the security situation is still not stable since there are still cattle thefts, cattle camp youth not yet disarmed, some murder cases not handled by the state high court. Although there are still some security challenges experienced on those isolated areas, the killings that used to be rampant in Rumbek have stopped. This was also confirmed from the five chiefs interviewed and was also supported by the FGD conducted in Malek and Amongping.

This was also confirmed by the Hon. Commissioner and the Executive officer of Rumbek central although they are not part of the planned respondents to the study, their respond helped to enrich the data collected.

**Table 1**

*Views of Household Heads on Security situation in Rumbek Central*

	Frequency	percentage
Stable	63	79
Stable only in town	16	20
Not stable	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

### **4.3 Factors that Influence the Proliferation of Small Arms**

This sub sections presents the results of the analysed data the factors that Influence the Proliferation of Small Arms in South Sudan. The factors includede economic, political social and geographical.

In Sudan, the first civil war (1955- 1972) and second civil war (1983-2005) laid the foundation for the widespread possession of SALWs by non-state actors in the region including South Sudan. As a legacy of these civil wars, the ownership of SALWs became a perceived necessity for survival not only among the main warring parties - the Sudanese State and the SPLA - but also among the tribal groups, local militias, and civilians (Bilali, 2023). The above is further influenced by the porous boundaries with no fence or wall to separate the countries. For example, the porous border between South Sudan and the neighbouring countries like DRC, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda all have contributed immensely to the movement of small arms into the country.

Apart from the above, the inadequate security measures in many countries of Africa as well as weak institutions that are responsible for security have made the environment conducive for the arms to thrive. For example, African governments rank among the weakest in terms of arresting corruption in the security sector, which diminishes public trust in government and threatens national and regional security (Kuwali & Viljoen, 2017). The manufacturers of arms want a ready market for their product which is normally got in this kind of situation. It is argued that, the motivation for the acquisition of small arms is partly constructed and imbedded in

various social practices and cultural forms. These include the economic, political, social and geographical factors.

### 4.3.1 Economic Factors

The main economic activity of the people in Rumbek is livestock keeping. Since security among the pastoralists is the responsibility of every community member, most of them acquired small arms to protect their cattle. According to the study, 59 percent (47) of respondents stated that they obtained small arms to safeguard their resources, particularly their cattle which is their primary source of income, due to the government's failure to provide adequate protection. 26 percent (21) of the household heads in Amongpiny Payam revealed that, they acquired small arms to protect their cattle since the government forces lack access roads to reach their areas. Other economic demands mentioned include unemployment forcing the youth to loot the property of other communities. Soldiers with economic problem sell guns to address their economic problem although it is prohibited by law. It was revealed that, small arms become commodity to trade for across the border by arms dealers normally from Unity or western Equatoria state.

The study analysed data on the influence of economic factors on the proliferation of small arms and the results are as presented in Table 2.

**Table 2**

*Economic Factors that Influence Proliferation of Small Arms*

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>percent</b>
Protection	47	59
To loot property of other people	21	26
To conduct road ambushes and robberies	4	5
Sold by soldiers with economic problems	3	4
Sold by arm dealers	3	4
Unemployment	2	3
Total	80	100

Tables 2 show that 59 percent (47) held the small arms for protection, 26 percent (21) to loot the property of other people, 5 percent (4) for conducting road ambushes and robberies, 4 percent (3) sold by soldiers with economic problems and also sold by arm dealers, while unemployment constitutes of 3 percent (2). From the findings, it can be concluded that, the

possession of firearms in Rumbek is strongly linked to the perceived need for protection. Where there exist political, social or economic issues, the demand for small arms always increases. The results concur with Wepundi et al., (2012) that, there is a close inter-relationship between insecurity and increased desire for firearms ownership for protection purposes. This was also confirmed by the current study.

#### **4.3.2 Political Factors**

During the first and second civil war era in Sudan from 1956 onward, there was a deliberate distribution of small arms and light weapons to non-state actors and local militia, tribal group and civilians by both parties. Another source of small arms is through the neighbouring countries, such as Uganda (Bilali, 2023). Arms proliferation continued even after the signing of 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) with conventional weapons imports and cross-border trafficking. With the recent political crisis of 2013 and 2016, it became very difficult to control the flow of arms to the hands of civilians. With a weak security sector where most lack professional competence security vacuums were created that gave opportunity for the criminals or gangs to cause insecurity. With lack of adequate protection in areas settled by pastoralist, arming themselves is the only option in providing protection to themselves and their property. UN Panel of Expert (1999) reports say that, when a state loses control over its security function and fails to maintain the security of its citizens, the subsequent growth of armed violent, bandit, and organized crimes increase the demand for weapons by citizens seeking to protect themselves and their property (Christine, 2012). This was confirmed by the current study where, 78 percent (62) of the household adults revealed that, they acquired small arms to protect themselves due to the failure of the government to crackdown criminals who normally attack and killed the innocent people. The law enforcement agencies have failed to deal with the criminals causing insecurity deep in villages and cattle camps, said some of the households interviewed. Fifteen percent (12) of the respondents revealed that the proliferation is due to lack of arms control by the state government. The state government has failed to put measures against the acquisition and misuse of small arms. According to South Sudan firearms Act 2016, the private ownership and use of small arms are subject to licence that is valid for a period of one year. It is limited to people over 45 years of age and with no criminal record. However, in Rumbek Central, this act is yet to be implemented since many people including those under 18 years are still possessing small arms deep in villages and cattle camps. Eight percent (6) of the household adults interviewed said that, some people especially the youth

acquired small arms due to political insecurity caused by the recent political crisis in the country.

**Table 3**

*Political Factors that Influence Proliferation of Small Arms*

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
To protect themselves	62	78
Lack of arms control	12	15
Political instability	6	8
Total	80	100

### **4.3.3 Social and Cultural Factors**

Socially, the pastoralist community see gun ownership as a symbol of power and pride. Among the pastoralists, security is the responsibility of all the members. This is due to the communal security practiced. Conflict over land and water resources including issues of use, distribution, and ownership are some of the key drivers of demand for SALW in many areas occupied by pastoralists (Musau, 2016). From the finding of the current study, forty three percent (34) of the household heads revealed that, they acquired small arms to revenge against their dear ones killed by other community members. They further said that, revenge killings happened when the law had failed to take its course. Lack of justice makes the family of those killed to take the law into their hands. Twenty one percent (17) of them said that, they acquired small arms to raid the cattle of other communities. Fourteen percent (11) said that, they acquired small arms to conduct a communal fighting which normally occurs inform of land disputes, girl elopement, revenge attack. Ten percent (8) said that, they acquired small arms to raid cows for traditional marriages. Six percent (5) revealed that, they acquired small arms to fight over the grazing land. Four percent (3) said that, most of the youth acquired small arms because of being modern and they feel proud of them, while three percent (2) had acquired the small weapon for pride of carrying modern weapon.

**Table 4***Social and Cultural Factors that Influence the Proliferation of Small Arms*

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Revenge Killing	34	43
Cattle rustling	21	26
Communal fight	12	15
Fight over grazing land	8	10
Pride of having advance weapon	3	4
Pride of carrying modern weapon	2	3
Total	80	100

**4.3.4 Geographical Factors**

The geographical factors such as terrains, borders and the distribution of people also play an important role in proliferation of small arms in South Sudan and Rumbek in particular. geographical factors were analysed and the results are as presented in Table 5.

**Table 5***Geographical Factors that Influence the Proliferation of Small Arms*

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Fear from cross border attacks	50	63
Cross border arm dealers	30	38
Total	80	100

From Table 5, the findings of the study indicate that 63 percent (50) of the households interviewed said that, they acquired small arms due to the frequent attacks from Panyajar community of Unity State. They revealed that, the above community normally cross the border and attack them in Amongping Payam of Rumbek Central. A member of the household adults interviewed revealed that, they acquired small arms to protect themselves since it is difficult for the security forces to reach their areas deep in village due to lack of accessibility. Thirty eight percent (30) of them said that, arms are traded across the porous border by arms dealers coming from Unity and Western Equatoria state.

#### 4.4 Views of Chiefs on the Proliferation of Small Arms

Political views of Chiefs on the Proliferation of Small Arms were analysed and the results were as shown in Table 6.

**Table 6**

*Political views of Chiefs on the Proliferation of Small Arms*

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
To protect themselves against external attack	3	60
Rebellion in the country forces young men to acquire arms	2	40
<b>Total</b>	5	100

Table 6 indicate that, politically, the role of every state is to protect the citizen and their property and when the state loses this function, insecurity increases as the citizens arms themselves to provide their own security. From the findings, out of the five chiefs interviewed, three (60%) revealed that, they acquired small arms to protect themselves from external attacks normally triggered by revenge killings, fighting over grazing land and other related social issues. Two (40%) of them said that, they acquired small arms due to the insecurity caused by the recent crisis (rebellions in the country).

On economic questions, the chiefs' views were analysed the results were as presented in Table 7

**Table 7**

*Economic views of Chief on Proliferation of Small Arms in Rumbek*

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Protection of property such as cattle	4	80
Loot the property of other people	1	20
<b>Total</b>	5	100

Table 7 indicate that, economically, 80 percent (4) of these chiefs said that, many families acquired arms to protect their cattle from raiders. Twenty percent 20 percent (1) said that, some acquired small arms to loot the property of other people.

**Table 8***Social views of chiefs on proliferation of small Arms*

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Protection of property such as cattle	3	60
Loot the property of other people	2	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100</b>

Socially, 60% of the five chiefs said that, many people of Rumbek acquired small arms due to the fear of revenge attack while 40% said that, they acquired arms to raid cows for their traditional marriages. The view is in line with that of household adults and confirmed by majority of the FGDs members in Malek and Amongpiny. It should however be noted that, most of the demands emerged due to lack of security to the people and their property.

When asked why the civilians in Rumbek armed themselves?

Nine (09) of the eleven (11) FGD members revealed that, they acquired small arms to protect themselves from external aggression since the government had failed to protect the people and their property. Two (02) of the members said that, the other demands for small arms like cattle rustling, revenge killing, occurred due to lack of adequate protection from government.

A member of civil society in Malek group said that, some of the arms infiltrated into the country during the 2013 and 2016 political crisis. With the stability brought back by the current state government, the rampant killings, cattle thefts have stopped.

#### **4.5 Views of Household Heads on Why Civilians in Rumbek Arm themselves**

When asked why civilians in Rumbek arm themselves, the responses from respondents were analysed and the results were as shown in Table 9.

**Table 9***Views of Household Adults on Civilian Possession of Small Arms*

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Protection	60	75
Revenge killing	11	13
Fear of revenge attack	7	9
Lack of rule of law	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 9 indicate that, out of the 80 household heads interviewed, 75 percent (60) of the household heads reported that, they acquired small arms to protect themselves and their property. The reasons given for these acquisitions include the threats pose by community coming from Rumbek North and Panyijar community of Unity state. “*With this you cannot live here in Rumbek without having a gun*” said one of the household heads interviewed. Thirteen percent (11) of them said that, they acquired small arms to revenge their relatives killed sometimes back by other communities. Five percent (13) of the household heads said that, they acquired small arms due to fear of revenge attack from other community. Nine percent (7) said that, they acquired small arms because the government had failed to control the acquisition and use of small arms in Rumbek while three percent (2) said that acquired small arms due to lack of rule of law. This lack of law created security gap where many criminals use it to achieve their interests. “We therefore, armed ourselves to protect us from these criminals”, said some of the household heads interviewed. It should however be noted that without a credible machinery to enforce the law and resolve disputes, people resolve to violence and illegal means (Rhode, 2004).

#### **4.6 Other Ways to the Proliferation of Small Arms**

The study established if there were other ways that led to the proliferation of small arms in Rumbek. The data was analysed and the results were as shown in Table 10.

**Table 10**

*Other Ways to the Proliferation of Small Arms in Rumbek Central*

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Arm dealers/traders	28	35
By government official	21	26
Resale from the collected stock disarmament	14	18
Sell by soldiers with financial problems	10	13
Porous border	7	9
Total	80	100

From Table 10, the study findings indicate that out of the 80 household heads interviewed, Thirty five percent (28) said that arms enter Rumbek Central through the border with Unity or Western Equatoria state. This trade has been in existence for over a decade without being noticed by the government. Twenty six percent (21) of the household heads said that some of these arms were smuggled by relatives to some corrupt government official. Eighteen percent

(14) of them said that some soldiers sell back arms that were collected from civilians during the disarmament process to get money or cows although it is against the regulation. Thirteen percent (10) said that soldiers with economic problems also sell arms to solve their problems. The porous border specially between Rumbek Central and Unity has also provided a suitable ground for the proliferation of small arms in the County. This was revealed by nine percent (7) of the household heads interviewed.

#### 4.7 Views of Household Adults on the Implication of Small Arms to Security

On the question about the implications of the proliferation of small arms on security in Rumbek Centre, the analysed data is shown in Table 11.

**Table 11**

*Views of Household Adults on the Implication of Small Arms*

	Frequency	Percent
Caused insecurity	41	51
Increased crimes	28	35
Affected local trade	5	6
Intimidation and harassment	3	4
Lack of respect to law enforcement	2	3
Displacement of people	1	1
Total	80	100

From Table 11, fifty one percent (41) of the household heads interviewed revealed that the presence of small arms led to insecurity, which affects the movement of people from one location to another. Criminal activities such as road ambushes, rampant killings, looting, raping of girls and women became common because of the presence of these arms. Thirty five percent (28) of the respondents revealed that the insecurity led to poverty and starvation since many people fear going to farm. Education was affected since parents fear to send their children to school due to insecurity in their areas. Six percent (5) of the respondents said that that the presence of the small arms affected trade, four percent (3) of the respondents said that it led to intimidation and harassment, three percent (2) said that it led people peoples failure to respect the law while one percent (1) said that it led to the displacing of people.

This was also confirmed by the five chiefs interviewed. They said that, the insecurity made many people especially those in remote areas and cattle camp live with fear. Fifty four percent

(54%) of the household adults said that, the presence of these arms led to loss of lives and property. Forty-one (41%) of them said that, it increased the rate of crimes leading to rampant killings, looting, road ambushes, raping of women and girls. This was also confirmed by the five-chiefs interviewed and supported by majority of FGD members. Other implications mentioned include; intimidations by armed youths, loss of social fabric, displacement of people as well as lack of respect to the law enforcement agents by armed youth.

The above view was also supported by members of FGDs conducted in Amongpiny and Malek Payam of Rumbek Central. When asked about implication of the illegal arms on security of Rumbek Central County, 08 of the 11 FGD members said that, these arms led to increased crime such as revenge killings, cattle raiding, looting, road ambushes as well as night attacks. Out of the 11 FGD members, 05 said that, the presence of small arms led to increased insecurity that affected the movement of people and humanitarian assistant from one location to another. One of the CBO members said that, these arms created enmity among the people that were living together for a decade. She also added that, the presence of small arms in hands of youth makes them not to respect local authorities hence making it difficult to enforce rule of law. The illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons ranks among today's most security threats. Tens of thousands of people are wounded or killed each year in conflict that are fought primarily with these weapons and in crime ridden areas outside conflict zones (Gikonyo, 2015).

The results concur with Muggah & Berman (2001) that small arms facilitate the creation of "cycles of violence", that ratchet up the scale and severity of violence - disrupting social networks within communities and the public institutions that are supposed to serve them. Small arms become tools of other forms of violence, such as criminal activity, ethnic and political rivalries, and interference with efforts to deliver food, medicine, and supplies to people in dire need of relief. The presence of these arms facilitates a vast spectrum of human rights violations, including killing, rape and other forms of sexual violence, Torture, and forced recruitment of children by armed groups.

More human rights abuse was committed with them than any other weapons(S/2008/258). Among the pastoralist community of South Sudan, the proliferation of these arms led to increased incidents of cattle raiding and instability throughout the states of Warrap, Jonglei and Upper Nile state (Bilali, 2023). With the above findings, small arms are indiscriminate, and their effects are devastating regardless of age, gender, religion or ethnicity. Hence, apart from the legitimate use for security management, the misuse or illicit transfer of small arms has

negative effects on the communities affected. They increased the displacement of people, contributed to a high crime rate, especially in marginalized rural areas as stated by Wepundi et al., (2012).

#### 4.8 Views of Chiefs on the Implication of Small Arms to Security

The study asked the chiefs about the implication of proliferation of small arms on the security of Rumbek central. The data was analysed and the results were as presented in Table 12.

**Table 12**

*Views of Chiefs on the Implication of Small Arms to Security*

	Frequency	Percent
Cause insecurity	4	80
Affects developmental activities	1	20
Total	5	100

Table 12 demonstration that 80 percent (4) of the chiefs said that presence of Small Arms to Security of Rumbek Central caused insecurity which makes people to live with fear, especially in remote villages and cattle camps which affected their movement from one location to another. Twenty percent 20% (1) said that, it affected developmental activities in the region.

#### 4.9 Views of Household Adults on Measures to Proliferation of Small Arms

The study collected data on views of adults household heads concerning the measures to proliferation of small arms. The data was analysed and the results were as shown in Table 13

**Table 13**

*Views of Household Adults on Measures to Proliferation of Small Arms*

	Frequency	Percent
Yes, measures taken to combat the proliferation of small arms	70	88
No, measures taken to combat the proliferation of small arms	2	3
Not aware	8	10
Total	80	100

Table 13 indicate that, eighty eight percent (70) of the household heads interviewed said that there were measures taken to combat the proliferation of small arms. The measures listed include; voluntary disarmament process, implementation of rule of law such as blood

compensation, crackdown of criminals, ban of illegal arms in town, security checks in all the entry points and borders, high court to handle appeal case in case of murder as well as deployment of more security forces, those who were not aware constitutes of ten percent (8), while those who said there were no measures that had been taken to combat the proliferation of small arms were three percent (2).

This was confirmed by the five chiefs interviewed and supported by all the members of FGD. 08 (eight) of the 80 household adults interviewed were not aware of any measures taken by the government. 2% of them said that, there were no measures taken. However, despite of the above measures taken by state government, there were still security issues reported especially in remote areas, cattle camp and areas along the border with Unity. The disarmament that was meant to collect the illegal firearms from hands of civilians of Rumbek did not reach to the remote areas and cattle camp due to lack of accessibility hence leaving the cattle camp youth to retain their arms. According to the South Sudan firearms Act 2016, the private ownership and use of small arms are subject to licence that is valid for a period of one year and it is limited to people over 45years of age and with no criminal record.

Globally, there are several measures put in place to control the illegal trafficking and proliferation of small arms. For example, in 2001, countries adopted the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects (PoA). In this instrument, governments agreed to strengthen stockpiles management to ensure that weapons are properly and reliably marked, to improve cooperation in weapons tracing to engage in regional and international cooperation and assistance.

Within the framework of PoA, the General Assembly also adopted the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) in 2005, a global instrument for weapons tracing which is now part of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development.

In 2019, a resolution dedicated to the African Union's flagship initiative "***Silencing the Guns in Africa***" was adopted. This also aim at the effective implementation of relevant arms control instruments and regimes related to small arms and light weapons. It is to illustrate the credibility of tracking illicit arms to achieving a conflict free Africa.

At regional level, Bamako Declaration (2000), required countries at national and regional level to deal with small arms problem. Nairobi Protocol (2010) for prevention, control and reduction of small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa.

In South Sudan, the 2016 Public Warehouse Bill states that, no arms deposited in the public warehouse shall be withdrawn except in accordance with a permit issued by the public warehouse authorized official. This was also confirmed by the current study where 70 (88%) of the 80 household heads interviewed. In Rumbek Central, this law is yet to be implemented since most of the firearms are illegally acquired even without considering the age limit and criminal record. Although the killings that used to be rampant have now stopped, there is still need for the state government to do more to realize a total peace in Rumbek Central and Lakes state at large.

#### **4.9.1 Views of Male Household Adults on Measures to Proliferation of Small Arms**

The study sought the views of the male household adults and the results are shown in Table 14.

**Table 14**

*Views of Male Households on Measures to Proliferation of Small Arms*

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Measures taken to combat the Proliferation of small arms	56	85
Measures not taken to combat the proliferation of small arms	3	5
Not aware	7	10
Total	66	100

From Table 14 the findings indicate that eighty five percent (56) of the male household heads agreed that there were measures taken by the state government to combat the proliferation of small arms. These include, voluntary disarmament, community peace dialogue, night curfews, implementation of rule of laws such as the crackdown of criminals. Ten percent (7) of them were not aware of any measures taken by the state or national government, while 5 percent (3) said that no measures had been taken by the state government in combating the proliferation of small arms.

#### **4.9.2 Views of Female Household Adults on Measures to Proliferation of Small Arms**

The study also sought the views of the female household adults and the results are shown in Table 15.

**Table 15***Views of Female Households on Measures to Proliferation of Small Arms*

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Measures had been taken to combat the Proliferation of small arms	9	64
No measures taken to combat the Proliferation of small arm	2	14
Not aware	3	22
Total	14	100

From Table 15, the study findings show that sixty four percent (9) of the female household respondent also confirmed that, measures had been taken by the state government in combating the proliferation of small arms in Rumbek. These measures listed include; deployment of more security forces to safeguard the people and their properties, initiation of community peace dialogue to reconcile those fighting each other, use of rule of laws, intensified night patrol by organized forces, arrests and detention of criminals, ban of carrying illegal arms in towns or along the main roads. Twenty two percent (3) of them were not aware of any measures taken by the state or national government, while Fourteen percent (2) said that no measures had been taken by the state government in combating the proliferation of small arms.

#### **4.9.3 Views of Chiefs on Measures to Proliferation of Small Arms**

On the question of measures put in place by either state or national government to combat the proliferation of small arms in Rumbek Centre, the chiefs' responses were analysed and the results were as shown in Table 16.

*Table 16 Views of Chiefs on Measures to Proliferation of Small Arms*

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Measures taken to combat the proliferation of small arms	5	100
No measures taken to combat small arms	0	0
Not aware	0	0
Total	5	100

From the study findings, Table 16 show that all the chiefs responded agreed that there were measures taken to combat the proliferation of small arms. The measures included the voluntary disarmament of civilians, implementation of the rule of laws, crackdown of criminals, return

to the rightful owners' properties raided/looted, conduct of community dialogue to reconcile the communities in conflict.

It should be noted that, several attempts were made by both the government and NGOs to combat the proliferation of small arms in Rumbek Central. In 2013, for instance, the UN Human Rights Council expressed 'deep concern at the fact that arms transfer to those involved in armed conflicts may seriously undermine the human rights of civilians, especially women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups (Alcalde, 2014).

In South Sudan, disarming civilian has been the most favoured approach by the government when dealing with surplus of weapons in the hands of civilian. For example, in 2000, three Brigades of SPLA were deployed in Lakes state to forcefully disarm the clashing armed cattle keepers. Another disarmament was done in 2006 and 2007 targeting *Gelweng* cattle camp youth where about 3600 weapons were collected (Bilali, 2023).

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2010, the President of South Sudan also issued a republican decree announcing a six-month disarmament period in all the ten states in South, However, the decree did not provide direction on how the process should be organized. Therefore, each state carried out the process using different strategies resulting variation in outcomes. In Lakes state, the former state Governor decentralized the order to all the county commissioners and created a state-level disarmament committee to oversee the process. The local chiefs were tasked with the collection of these weapons and the process was purely voluntary. However, few weapons were collected, and cattle camps were left largely untouched (Bilali, 2023). This was also noted by the current study where it was revealed that, the recent disarmament process did not reach to remote places like cattle camps due to lack of mobility. This clearly indicated that, control of the proliferation of small arms requires a multi facet approach that include among others, improvement in communication system, deployment of more security forces to areas where there are security gaps as well as use of law to control the illegal arms in hands of civilians.

#### **4.9.4 Opinions of Household Adults on how to Improve the Security Situation of Rumbek**

This study also asked the 80 household heads interviewed this question if they were in-charge of security in Rumbek Central, what they would have done to improve the security situation of the County. Their responses were analysed and the results were as shown in Table 17.

**Table 17***Opinions of Households on how to Improve the Security Situation of Rumbek*

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Extensive disarmament	30	38
Use of laws	15	18
Community peace dialogue	10	13
Intensify patrol	9	11
Night curfew	7	9
Deployment of more security forces	5	6
Rotation of security forces	2	3
Security search/checks at entry point	1	1
Construction of feeder roads	1	1
Total	80	100

Table 17 show that 30 percent (38) of the households proposed the use of extensive disarmament process covering all the areas including the neighbouring counties. Eighteen percent (15) encouraged use of laws in controlling the acquisition and misuse of small arms, thirteen percent (10) were in support of the already initiated peace dialogue and asked the state government to extend to remote places such as cattle camps. Eleven percent (9) of them proposed intensified patrolling both day and night time to crackdown the criminals that are still in hiding. Nine percent (7) proposed the use of curfew at night and early morning. Six percent (5) proposed the deployment of more security forces to protect people and their properties, especially in areas that are still having security challenges. Three percent (2) proposed to have a rotational system of security deployment to prevent the forces from having good relationship with the criminals, one percent (1) were of the opinion of conducting security search in every entry point to avoid the proliferation of small arms into the county, while another one percent (1) proposed for the construction of feeder roads to provide access to security organs in case of any incident.

#### **4.9.5 Views of Male Household Adults on how to Improve the Security of Rumbek**

This study also analysed the responses from the 66 male household respondents. The responses were analysed and the results were as shown in Table 18.

**Table 18***Opinion of Male Household Adults on how to Improve Security of Rumbek*

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Extensive disarmament	23	35
Use of laws	11	17
Community peace dialogue	9	13
Intensify patrol	7	10
Night curfew	6	9
Deployment of more security forces	4	6
Rotation of security forces	3	5
Security search/checks at entry point	2	3
Construction of feeder roads	1	2
Total	66	100

From Table 18, the findings reveal that thirty five percent (35) of the male household heads interviewed were of the opinion of using extensive disarmament process to collect all the arms illegally possessed by civilians in Rumbek County. Seventeen percent (11) of them said that, they would use the rule of law to bring to book all the criminals destabilising Rumbek Central. Further, 13 percent (9) said they would use community dialogue to reconcile the communities in conflicts, 10 percent (7) of them proposed for an intensify patrol by the organized forces to crack down the criminals. Others proposed the use of night curfew, rotation of security forces to avoid building trust with the notorious criminals.

#### **4.9.6 Opinions of Female Household Adults on how to Improve the Security Situation of Rumbek Central**

This study analysed the responses from the 14 female household respondents and the results were as shown in Table 19.

**Table 19***Opinions of Female Households on how to Improve the Security of Rumbek*

	Frequency	Percent
Extensive disarmament	6	43
Deployment of more security forces	4	29
Community peace dialogue	2	14
Intensify patrol	1	7
Night curfew	1	7
Total	14	100

From Table 19, the findings reveal that the majority forty three percent (6) of the female adult respondents said that, they would use a extensive disarmament process that will cover the whole county of Rumbek central including the remote areas and cattle camps. Twenty nine percent (4) of the respondents said that, they would deploy more security forces to protect the people and their properties. Fourteen percent (2) said that, they would initiate community peace dialogues to reconcile the communities. Seven percent (1) proposed to intensify patrol and night curfews.

#### **4.9.7 Opinion of Chiefs on how to Improve the Security Situation of Rumbek Central**

This study also sought the opinion of the chiefs on how to improve the security situation of Rumbek Central. The chiefs' responses were analysed and the results were as shown in Table 20.

**Table 20***Opinion of Chief on how to Improve the Security of Rumbek Central*

	Frequency	Percent
Crackdown of criminals	3	60
Community peace dialogue	1	20
Extensive disarmament	1	20
Total	5	100

Table 20 reveal that sixty percent (3) of the chiefs said that, they would crackdown the criminals that kills and loot the property of innocent people. Twenty percent (1) of the chief

interviewed said that he /she would continue with the initiated peace dialogue to reconcile the communities in conflict with one another. Twenty percent (1) of the chief interviewed said that he /she would initiate extensive disarmament process to collect all the arms illegally possessed by civilians in Rumbek County.

#### **4.9.8 Opinion of FGD on how to Improve the Security Situation in Rumbek**

This study sought the opinion of FGD members on how the security of can be improved. Below is summary of the findings;

**Table 21**

*Summary on How to Improve the Security Situation in Rumbek*

<b>Category</b>	<b>No. of FGD members</b>	<b>Date of Conducting</b>	<b>Opinions of the members</b>
FGD 1 with Malek Group	05 members	21/09/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Three proposed for rule of law</li> <li>- One proposed used extensive disarmament</li> <li>-One proposed for deployment of more forces</li> </ul>
FGD 2 with Ampongpinny Group	06 members	23/09/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Three proposed disarmament process</li> <li>-Two proposed rule of law</li> <li>-One proposed for the deployment of more forces</li> </ul>

#### **Narrative of the Findings**

FGD 1 that comprised of 5 members from Malek Payam held on 21/09/2022 was with the opinion that, rule of law, disarmament as well as the deployment of more security forces are some of the ways of improving the security situation in Rumbek Central.

FGD 2 that comprised of 6 members from Amongpinny Payam proposed the use of extensive disarmament, rule of law and deployment of more security forces as some of the measures to the security situation in Rumbek Central County. The views of above two FGDs confirmed the findings from the household adults interviewed where majority of them were with the opinion that, the use of massive disarmament would help to collect the illegally acquired small arms in

hands of civilians. However, the other members of FGDs supported the views of the thirty-two percent (32%) of the household adults that proposed rule of law to bring to book the criminals that are destabilising the county.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a summary of the key research findings of the study, conclusions and recommendations. The broad objective of this study was to examine the proliferation of small arms and its implication on security in Rumbek Central, republic of South Sudan. The study sought;

- i. To determine the factors that influence the proliferation of small arms in Rumbek Central, South Sudan.
- ii. To establish the implication of small arms on security of Rumbek Central County.
- iii. To establish the measures taken to combat the proliferation of small arms in Rumbek Central County.

The study collected primary and secondary data on various aspects to address the three specific objectives of the study. The study collected primary data using face to face interview and Focused Group Discussion (FGD). The study selected a sample of 96 respondents namely eighty (80) household adults, six (6) from local CBOs, five community leaders, and five (5) from county security sector. The study also collected secondary data from existing relevant documented sources about the topic under study. These materials include textbooks, journals and other publications found in libraries, universities, government offices and internet.

#### 5.2 Summary of the Key Findings

Based on the specific objectives of the study, the following are the key findings of the study.

##### 5.2.1 Factors that Influence the Proliferation of Small Arms

The study found out that, out of the 80 household heads interviewed, 59% (47) said that they acquired small arms to protect themselves and their property. The reasons given for these acquisitions include the threats pose by community coming from Rumbek North and Panyijar community of Unity state. Twenty (20) of them said that, they acquired small arms to revenge their relatives killed sometimes back by other community. Thirteen (13) of the household heads said that, they acquired small arms due to fear of revenge attack from other community. Five percent (5%) said that, they acquired small arms because the government had failed to control the acquisition and use of small arms in Rumbek majority of the household adults in Rumbek acquired small arms to protect themselves and their property.

### **5.2.2 The Implication of Small Arms on Security of Rumbek Central County**

The study established that, 60% of the household heads interviewed revealed that, the presence of small arms led to insecurity which affected the movement of people from one location to another. Education was also affected since parents fear to send their children to school due to the insecurity in the areas.

This was also confirmed by the five chiefs interviewed. They said that, the insecurity made many people especially those in remote areas and cattle camp live with fear. Fifty four percent (54%) of the household adults said that, the presence of these arms in Rumbek led to loss of many lives and property. Forty-one (41%) of them said that, it increased the rate of crimes leading to rampant killings, looting, road ambushes, raping of women and girls. However, with the appointment of Gen. Ring as the Governor of Lakes state in 2021, the security situation had greatly improved and the killings that used to be rampant have stopped although deep in village and areas along the border with Unity, there were still fear from cattle thefts.

### **5.2.3 Measures to Proliferation of Small Arms**

The study established that, there were several measures taken by the state government to combat the proliferation of small arms. These include; disarmament, use of laws to compensate those killed in cold blood, crackdown criminals, handle murder cases, ban illegal arms in town, returned to rightful owner the property/cattle looted. Other measures given include, deployment of more security forces to protect the people and their properties, community dialogue that brought together the communities in conflict. However, 10% of the respondents were not aware of measures taken while 2% denied that, there were measures taken against the proliferation of small arms since there were still insecurity of cattle theft deep in village, cattle camp and areas along the border with Unity state.

## **5.3 Conclusions**

This section presents the study conclusions based on the research findings. The conclusions are in two parts namely: theoretical conclusions and empirical conclusions

### **5.3.1 Empirical Conclusions**

This study concludes that, the proliferation of small arms remained a challenge to security management of Rumbek Central County as it led to insecurity that affected movement of people from one location to another. Increased rate of crimes leading to rampant killings, looting, road ambushes, raping of women and girls, conflict over water and other resources. Although the state government tried to address this through disarmament, rule of law,

community peace dialogue, the areas deep in village, cattle camp and areas bordering Unity remained insecure from cattle thefts. Based on the summary of the key findings, the study draws the following conclusions;

- i. The need to protect oneself and property constitute a major factor to the proliferation of small arms in Rumbek Central. Other demands for small arms like revenge killing, looting, road ambushes, raping of women and girls emerged due to lack of adequate protection to the people and their property.
- ii. The proliferation of small arms was a source of insecurity in Rumbek Central County. These arms led to increase crime rate leading to rampant killing, looting, armed raiding, raping of women and girls. Although the state government tried to address this through disarmament, community peace dialogue and rule of law, the areas deep in village, cattle camps and areas along the border with Unity remained insecure from cattle theft.
- iii. Although the state government tried to address the problem of proliferation of small arms through disarmament, community peace dialogue and rule of law, the areas deep in village, cattle camps and areas along the border with Unity still remained insecure from cattle theft. Secondly, during the disarmament exercise that was conducted by the state, the forces did not reach to some areas like cattle camps due to lack of accessibility hence leaving the youth in those areas to retain their arms. Thirdly, the process of disarmament did not reach to other neighboring states such as Unity. Disarming civilians in all the areas bordering Rumbek Central would have reduced the number of weapons available and improved the security of the County.

### **5.3.2 Theoretical Conclusions**

This study on proliferation of small arms and its implication on security in Rumbek Central, South Sudan, was guided by two theories; security dilemma theory and Regime theory.

The security dilemma theory states that the relationship between a mutual trust and fear of each military motive may exacerbate or cause a state of military tension which may escalate into conflict. This theory helped to explain the factors to proliferation of small arms in Rumbek Central, South Sudan. This study argued that the inability of the government to guarantee security to life and property has created security vacuum (security dilemma). This has encouraged the citizens to develop a copying mechanism through self-defence and vigilant groups creating new forms of insecurity.

This first theory was complimented by the Regime theory. The regime theory was used to identify how legal action and structures of cooperation can help in solving the proliferation of small arms and its associated problems.

Regimes are explicit or implicit principles; norms, rules and decision-making procedures around actor expectation converge in a given issues or area. The regime theory explains how systems of cooperation develop and operate in the international community.

The function of regime is to facilitate cooperation by building structures that encourage or enforce compliance to the obligation set out. Where regimes fails or become weak, the compliance is affected. For example, in South Sudan, the 2008 the community security and small Arms Control Bureau that was established to promote and coordinate community security in the country has struggled to fulfil its mandate (Ryle, 2018). In 2016, the Public Warehouse Bill was enacted. The Bill states that no arms deposited in public warehouse shall be withdrawn except in accordance with a permit issued by the public officer.

However, the Acts are yet to be implemented in many parts of South Sudan including Rumbek. The above two theories complemented each other in addressing the study problem. The Regime theory helped in exposing the need to build cooperation needed in addressing the problem of uncertainty and anxiety among the people living near each. It was clear that the cooperation can be in form of legislation or structure with a hope of enforcing compliance to the obligation set

## **5.4 Recommendations**

Given the above conclusions, this study made the following policy and future research recommendations on the proliferation of small arms and its implication on security in Rumbek Central:

### **5.4.1 Policy Recommendations**

The study made the following policy recommendations from the above conclusions;

- i. The study revealed that, the need for protection by the citizens of Rumbek central constituted a major factor influencing the proliferation of small arms. Although there were measures put in place by the state government to improve the security in the county, there were still security challenges of cattle theft experienced in remote areas,

cattle camps and areas along the border with Unity state. To address this, the study recommends for the deployment of more security forces in the areas with security gaps to protect the people and their property.

- ii. The second objective was to establish the implication of small arms on security. It was found out that, the common implication was the insecurity which affected the movement of people as well as displacing some people to Rumbek town. The study also revealed that, the present of small arms in Rumbek had led to increase in crime rate leading to rampant killings, road ambushes, raping of women and girls. Although with the effort of the current Governor the killing that used to be rampant had stopped, there were still cattle thefts experienced in remote areas, cattle camps and areas along the border with Unity. The cattle camp youths are still possessing their firearms. The study therefore recommends that, there should be an extensive disarmament exercise covering all the areas including the cattle camps and communities bordering Lakes state to ensure safety and security of the people in Rumbek Central County.
- iii. The third objective set was to establish the measures taken in combating the proliferation of small arms. From the findings, it was confirmed that, there were several measures taken by the state government to combat the proliferation of small arms. These include; disarmament of civilians, rule of laws in cracking down criminals, compensating those killed in cold blood, handle murder cases in high court, ban movement with firearms in town. The state government had also used community dialogues to bring together the conflicting communities. Despite of the above measures, there are still report of insecurity of cattle theft in remote areas, cattle camps and areas along the border. To achieve a total peace, this study recommends that, the state government should deploy more security forces in areas where there are still security gaps to protect the people and their property. The government should also conduct an extensive disarmament exercise covering all the areas including the communities bordering Lakes state to ensure the safety and security of the people of Rumbek Central County. The state government should also construct more roads to provide accessibility to security agents.

#### **5.4.2 Recommendations for Further Research**

Based on the findings of this study, the study recommends the following areas for further research;

- i. The study determined the factors that influenced the proliferation of small arms. From the research discussions, areas for further studies were identified. It was confirmed that, majority of the citizens in Rumbek acquired small arms to protect themselves and their properties. The insecurity of cattle theft deep in village, cattle camps and areas bordering Unity state is due to lack of adequate security. Therefore, there is room for a future scholar to examine the factors that influence proliferation of small arms in Rumbek Central, a case study cattle camp.
- ii. On the implication of small arms, the study revealed that, there is a closed relationship between small arms proliferation and security. Although the current study has confirmed this, a future scholar can still study the impact of small arms on the people of Rumbek Central.
- iii. On the measures taken to combat the proliferation of small arms, there is still a room for a future scholar to research on measures to proliferation of small arms in South Sudan.

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**APPENDICES**

**Appendix A: Interview Guide**

**Interview Schedule No.....Date.....**

1. Gender (*interviewer to note the gender of interviewee*)
  
2. Which one of the following age brackets do you fall in?
  - a) Below 15
  - b) 15-19
  - c) 20-24
  - d) 25-29
  - e) 30 and above
  
3. What is your level of education?
  - a) Primary level
  - b) Secondary level
  - c) Diploma & above
  
4. How long have you been working or residing in this area?
  - a) Less than 2 years
  - b) 2 to 3 years
  - c) 4 to 5 years
  - d) 6 to 7 years
  - e) 8 to 9 years
  - f) 10 years and above
  
5. Kindly give a brief background on the security situation of Rumbek Central County.  
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6. Studies have shown that Rumbek is prone to illegal arms proliferation. Kindly explain why civilians arm themselves?  
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7. Are there any other ways that lead to the proliferation of small arms apart from the above mentioned in Qn.6?

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8. What implication does the proliferation of small arms have on security in Rumbek Centre, South Sudan?

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9. Are there any measures put forward by either state or national government to combat the proliferation of small arms in Rumbek Centre?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Don't know
- d) None of them

10 If your answer is yeas; kindly list them

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11. If you are in-charge of security in Rumbek Central what would you do to improve the security situation of the County?

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## Appendix B: Focused Group Discussion Guide

### Focused Group Discussion for CBOs And County Security Sector

#### Introduction

1. Do you feel secure in terms of security in Rumbek Central County?

a) Yes

b) No

c) I don't know

d) None

2. If your answer is No, then explain what makes you feel insecure?

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3. Kindly give a brief background on the security situation of Rumbek Central County

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4. Studies have shown that Rumbek is prone to proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Kindly explain why civilians arm themselves?

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5. What implication does these illegal arms have on security of Rumbek Central County?

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6. Are there any measures put forward by either state or national government to combat the proliferation?

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7. If you are in-charge of security what would you do to improve the security situation of Rumbek County?

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## Appendix C: Request for Research Permit

**EGERTON**

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### OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GRADUATE SCHOOL

Ref:.....**AME21/19055/17**.....

Date:.....**2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2022**.....

Mr. John Alfred Kuyu  
Dept. of PSSS  
Egerton University  
P.O. Box 536  
**EGERTON**

Dear Sir/Madam,

#### **RE: INTRODUCTION OF JOHN ALFRED KUYU - AME21/19055/17**

This is to introduce and confirm that the above named student, registration number **AME21/19055/17** is in the Department of Peace, Security & Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, Egerton University.

He is a bona-fide registered M.A student in this University. His research topic is **"Proliferation of Small Arms and Its Implication on Security in Rumbek Central, South Sudan."**

He is at the stage of collecting field data. Am therefore kindly requesting you to grant John Alfred Kuyu permission to access the data for further analysis.

Please accord him any assistance he may require. For further clarification, kindly don't hesitate to contact [bpsgs@egerton.ac.ke](mailto:bpsgs@egerton.ac.ke).

Yours faithfully,

A blue circular stamp from the Director, Board of Postgraduate Studies, Egerton University, dated 05 SEP 2022. The stamp contains the text: DIRECTOR, BOARD OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES, EGERTON UNIVERSITY, P.O. BOX 536 - 20115, NJORO, KENYA.

**Prof. George M. Ogendi, Ph.D.**  
**DIRECTOR, BOARD OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES**


GMO/vk

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Transforming Lives Through Quality Education

## Appendix D: Research Permit

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN


In any correspondence on this subject, please quote No **RSS/NSS/DG/ISB/J/ 258 /22** Date: **19 Sept. 2022**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

**Re: Data Collection on Small Arms and its Implication on Security in Lakes State.**

This is to inform all whom it may concern that, Internal Security Bureau (ISB) has **No Objection** to the request for Data Collection on Small Arms and its Implication on Security in Lakes State by a South Sudanese citizen/KUYU JOHN ALFRED as one of the requirements for his Master Degree.

Best regards,



**Gen. Akol Kopt Kuc**  
Director General  
Internal Security Bureau (ISB)  
National Security Service (NSS)

19/9/2022

CC: Minister of NSS  
CC: Governor of Lakes State  
CC: Inspector General of Police  
CC: Deputy Director General for Intel OPS  
CC: Chief of Military Intelligence  
CC: Chief of States Security Division  
CC: File

# Factors Driving the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Rumbek Central, Republic of South Sudan

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**Abstract:** *The proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons remains a challenge to security sector globally. The availability of these weapons influences political instability, communal conflict, posing a great threat to not only lives and property but also sustainable development. When South Sudan seceded in 2011, it was estimated that, there were up to 3.2 million of small arms in circulation and the two-thirds of these arms were thought to be in the hands of civilians. More arms circulated during the 2013 and 2016 crisis that took place in the country. The objective of the study was to examine the factors that influence the proliferation of small arms in Rumbek Central, republic of South Sudan. A descriptive research design was adopted to answer questions needed in investigating the problem studied. Guided interview and focus group discussion were used to collect data from a total of 96 respondents that were identified using purposive and simple random sampling techniques. The findings on the factors that influence the proliferation of small arms indicated that, 76% of the household adults in Rumbek acquired small arms to protect themselves and their property. Other demands for small arms such as revenge killing, cattle raiding, fight over grazing land aroused from lack of enough security to the people and their property. With this, the study recommended deployment of more security forces to the area experiencing insecurity to address the problem.*

**Keywords:** implication, proliferation, small arms, security, Rumbek Central, South Sudan

## 1. Introduction

Small arms and light weapons are terms used by organizations such as Integral Authority on Development (IGAD), United Nations (UN) and individuals advocating for the arms control. Small arms refer to a sub-category consisting of automatic weapons up to 20 mm, including sub-machine guns, rifles, carbines and handguns (Krause K. 2002). Light weapon has been used as a generic term to describe all conventional munitions that can be carried by an individual combatant or by a light vehicle. This encompasses small arms, bazookas, rocket propelled grenades, light anti-tank missiles, and light mortars, shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles and hand placed landmines (Klare, 1994 and Philippe, 2001).

The illicit proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons rank among today's most pressing security threats, tens of thousands of people are killed or wounded each year in conflicts that are fought primarily with weapons and crime-ridden areas outside the conflict zones (Matt & Stohd, 2003). The availability of these weapons influences political instability, communal conflict posing a great threat to not only lives and property but also sustainable development (Ngonawari, 2011). The proliferation of these arms is

source of its proliferation remains the stockpiles that were pumped into Africa by the Soviet Union, the United States of America (USA) and their allies to fan proxy interstate wars. Badmus (2005) maintains that, Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) have become widely spread that, not only threaten security across the world but also undermine the peace and stability of civil society.

The Proliferation of illegal Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) is a serious threat to public safety all over the world. The UN Secretary General, in a report to the Security Council (S/2008/258), recognized threat posed by SALW by saying: "Small arms facilitate a vast spectrum of human rights violations, including killing, rape and other forms of sexual violence, torture and forced recruitment of children by armed groups or forces. More human rights abuses are committed with them than with any other weapon". The report continues that, because of being cheap, light and easy to handle, transport and conceal, their excessive accumulation and universal availability tends to aggravate conflicts by increasing the lethality and duration of violence and by increasing the sense of insecurity which leads to a greater demand for weapons (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/29).

Arms are lethal when introduced in both conflict and no-

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