



Stakeholder Involvement and Sustainability of Peace and Security Projects in Nakuru County, Kenya

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ABSTRACT

Security issues in Kenya continue to present persistent challenges, with recurrent problems affecting multiple regions across the country. Despite the implementation of various projects and programs aimed at strengthening peace and security, many have struggled to sustain their impact over time. The limited continuity of these projects undermines the long-term stability and safety essential for lasting peace. It is within this context that the current study examined the effect of stakeholder involvement on the sustainability of peace and security projects in Nakuru County, Kenya. The study was grounded on the stakeholder theory. A descriptive research design was employed. The target population was the peace and security projects in Nakuru County. A structured questionnaire was used in data collection. In data analysis, descriptive statistical methods including means, percentages, and standard deviations were employed. Further, inferential techniques involving correlation and regression analyses were applied to establish the relationship between project management practices and sustainability of peace and security projects. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software was used for data analysis. Findings were presented through tables. The research findings revealed that stakeholder involvement ($r = 0.541$; $p = 0.000$) had a significant positive relationship with the sustainability of peace and security projects. The regression analysis further confirmed these results, with a coefficient of determination $R^2 = 0.293$, signifying that 29.3% of the variation in project sustainability was explained by the combined effects of the four project management practices. The study concludes that the sustainability of peace and security projects is determined by the degree to which they strengthen local ownership, build mutual trust, and remain responsive to changing community priorities. It further observes that when such projects are anchored in stakeholder involvement, they evolve beyond the confines of project implementation to become integral components of community systems. The study recommends re-envisioning peace projects as adaptive frameworks that advance through inclusivity, transparency, and shared accountability. It also recommends that project managers institutionalize reflective and learning-oriented practices to enhance adaptability, ensuring that peace and security projects remain relevant, resilient, and sustainable over time.

Key Words: Peace and Security Projects, Stakeholder Involvement, Sustainability.

1. INTRODUCTION

Project management involve orchestration of interdependent processes aimed at optimizing performance within dynamic operational ecosystems (Aigbavboa, Aliu, & Thwala, 2023). It operates as a structured governance framework where temporal, financial, and human resources are synchronized to deliver outputs that align with strategic intent. The discourse surrounding project management situates it within an adaptive systems perspective where contextual volatility, stakeholder heterogeneity, and institutional pressures continually redefine managerial imperatives. In recent times, project management has transcended its procedural confines, morphing into a strategic lever that mediates complexity through methodological rigor (Breutigam & Fortier, 2019). It embeds predictive, adaptive, and hybridized methodologies that enable iterative learning, risk mitigation, and value realization. Within this epistemic evolution, the managerial function assumes a facilitative rather than directive orientation cultivating

synergy among knowledge domains, fostering stakeholder co-creation, and reinforcing sustainability. According to Ehiane, Shulika, and Vhumbunu (2024) the management of peace and security projects operates within an inherently dynamic ecosystem, where conventional project management paradigms intersect with the imperatives of conflict sensitivity, diplomacy, and institutional reconstruction. It encapsulates a governance-oriented practice that orchestrates inter-agency coordination, policy coherence, and strategic realignment within volatile operational theatres. These projects demand managerial dexterity that transcends procedural adherence, emphasizing adaptive leadership, contextual negotiation, and multi-level stakeholder harmonization (Ibrahim, Wario, & Ali, 2025). Their management framework is often shaped by hybrid structures integrating governmental, intergovernmental, and community-based actors each wielding distinct mandates, resource capacities, and legitimacy claims. This polycentric arrangement necessitates calibrated control mechanisms and flexible operational logics capable of reconciling diverse strategic interests while maintaining accountability and alignment with peace building.

Stakeholder involvement within peace and security projects manifests as a strategic convergence of multi-actor participation, legitimacy construction, and governance synchronization (Rodríguez & Rosen, 2022). It functions as a catalytic interface that bridges political authority, community agency, and institutional frameworks, ensuring that interventions remain contextually grounded and socially responsive. In such environments, engagement extends beyond procedural inclusion emerging as a negotiated continuum where influence, trust, and accountability are dynamically recalibrated to sustain operational legitimacy amid volatility (Iskandarani, 2023). The participatory architecture underpinning these projects is inherently fluid, reflecting the complex interplay of state institutions, local leadership, civil society entities, and external partners. Within this interactive matrix, decision-making evolves through co-production mechanisms that reconcile divergent mandates, align peace imperatives with local realities, and foster a collective sense of ownership over stabilization outcomes (Aigbavboa et al., 2023). Stakeholder involvement thus transforms into a governance mechanism that operationalizes inclusivity while mitigating fragmentation through structured dialogue and iterative consultation.

Sustainability of peace and security projects represents the continuity of outcomes and the retention of project benefits within established operational systems (Sharifi, Candelaria, Simangan, & Kaneko, 2024). It reflects the extent to which institutional mechanisms, stakeholder partnerships, and governance structures remain functional, ensuring that objectives achieved during implementation continue to yield measurable impact. Within project management discourse, this phase signifies the transition from managed execution to autonomous continuity, emphasizing the reinforcement of systems that can self-sustain without external dependency (Maijo, 2020). The sustainability process integrates elements of capacity strengthening, institutional embedding, and structured knowledge transfer. It ensures that operational frameworks, coordination mechanisms, and monitoring instruments developed during implementation remain active and responsive to contextual dynamics. In Kenya, peace and security projects have largely adopted community-rooted and rights-based approaches (Macharia, 2020). While these projects have achieved some positive outcomes, they have struggled to deliver lasting impact within the communities they serve. The Peace and Rights Project led by Free Pentecostal Fellowship of Kenya (FPFK) operated from 2009–2022 across Mt. Elgon and Muhoroni, employing dialogue, mediation, training, reconciliation, advocacy, and stakeholder reviews. By 2020, over 40 community peace groups had been launched, equipped with volunteer advocates; 80% of targeted communities demonstrated improved conflict resolution capacities and collaborative decision-making (Norad, 2023). Although the evaluation affirmed that these local structures remained functional post-funding, with volunteers independently organizing peace forums and church leadership sustaining engagement, it also identified gaps. These included the need for further training and stronger organizational systems to ensure long-term continuity.

Inuka project, spearheaded by Search for Common Ground in Coastal Kenya (2016–2018), aimed to prevent violent extremism (Njiru, 2020). The project facilitated over 120 community–police dialogues and granted youth-led events such as sports tournaments and public forums; post-implementation surveys indicated a 30% increase in youth trust toward security actors and a 25% decline in reported radicalization cases. However, several local CSOs reported limited capacity in monitoring outcomes and securing finance, which constrained continuity and scaling despite evident community acceptance. Nyumba Kumi, community policing model initiated in 2013. A study in Nakuru County by Andhoga and Mavole (2017) found that while 60% of residents were aware of the initiative's goals, only

20% felt sufficiently informed about operational structures, and participation levels remained low (<15%) due to inadequate training and follow-up. Despite its potential to enhance collective surveillance and deter petty crime, these sustainability challenges highlight persistent deficiencies in policy implementation, institutional support, and community preparedness.

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The National Police Service Annual Report (2021) indicated a 16.7% rise in crime rates compared to 2020, with the Rift Valley region, where Nakuru County is located, registering the highest crime levels nationally. Within this region, Nakuru ranked fourth among counties with the most reported incidents during the same period. As noted by the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA, 2024), the community security initiative was introduced to strengthen collaboration and trust between local communities and law enforcement, thereby enhancing preventive approaches to crime. These community-based security structures were designed to align local leadership with formal government mechanisms to sustain security, particularly in areas where state presence remains limited. Nonetheless, the continued rise in crime casts uncertainty on the effectiveness and durability of peace and security interventions. Pinto and Mantel (2020) further observe that approximately 70% of projects globally fail to achieve their intended outcomes, underscoring the persistent challenge of sustaining project results over time. Nevertheless, various studies have been done examining the relationship between project management practices and project performance, with little information on the link between stakeholder involvement and sustainability of peace and security projects. A study by Ogendo 2021 assessed the monitoring and evaluation practices and implementation of community policing initiatives in Nairobi City County Kenya. Chimba and Muna (2021) examined the effects of community policing on local security management practices in Kwale county Kenya. However, hardly are there any studies linking stakeholder involvement and sustainability of peace and security projects. Therefore this study examined the effect of stakeholder involvement on sustainability of peace and security projects in Nakuru County, Kenya.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To establish the effect of stakeholders involvement on sustainability of peace and security projects in Nakuru County, Kenya.

4. LITERATURE REVIEW

Stakeholder involvement represents a dynamic interface between project intentions and the multifaceted interests, expectations, and influences of actors who are either directly or indirectly affected by project results (Iskandarani, 2023). It extends beyond acknowledgment of stakeholder presence to encompass a structured, iterative process of inclusion across planning, decision-making, and evaluative dimensions. This deliberate engagement not only strengthens project legitimacy but also enhances adaptability through the integration of diverse insights that refine strategic focus and implementation flexibility (Elly, 2023). Within this framework, stakeholder mapping emerges as a systematic tool for delineating and prioritizing stakeholders according to their relative influence, interest, and potential to shape project trajectories. Techniques such as power-interest grids, salience models, and stakeholder matrices facilitate analytical clarity, enabling project teams to anticipate relational dynamics and tailor communication strategies to evolving stakeholder contexts (Addae-Mensah, Aubyn, & Frimpong Baffour, 2024). The mapping process remains fluid, continuously adapting to changes in authority structures, stakeholder perceptions, and contextual shifts that redefine engagement priorities.

Regular stakeholder meetings function as a cornerstone of sustained collaboration, fostering transparency, trust, and continuous learning throughout the project's operational phases (Tyshchenko, 2022). These convenings provide structured opportunities for progress dissemination, clarification of emerging uncertainties, negotiation of competing interests, and collaborative problem-solving. The efficacy of such interactions is contingent upon the regularity, inclusiveness, and facilitation quality of the meetings; overly rigid formats may constrain authentic dialogue, while sporadic or poorly managed engagements risk disengagement and diminished stakeholder confidence (Addae-Mensah et al., 2024). A well-calibrated engagement model that integrates structured communication with participatory reflection strengthens cohesion and collective ownership of project outcomes. Active participation signifies the advanced embodiment of stakeholder engagement within the project governance ecosystem (O'Hair & Woods, 2024).

It encapsulates shared decision-making, joint strategizing, and the co-design of interventions that reflect contextual realities and stakeholder aspirations. This participatory depth transforms engagement from procedural compliance into a process of collective innovation and accountability. The extent of such participation mirrors the project's institutional openness and its commitment to inclusive governance and legitimacy (Huxley, 2025). When effectively institutionalized, active participation repositions stakeholders as co-architects of impact rather than passive recipients, reinforcing sustainability through mutual accountability, adaptive learning, and long-term relational continuity.

The sustainability of peace and security projects is anchored in the continuity of structures, behaviors, and institutional arrangements that preserve the stability achieved through earlier interventions (Iskandarani, 2023). It reflects the extent to which project outcomes evolve into self-sustaining systems embedded within community and governance frameworks. A sustainable peace environment is further evidenced by the observable reduction in conflict occurrences and the establishment of responsive systems for early warning and mediation. These trends indicate the internalization of conflict prevention practices within social structures and administrative frameworks. The emphasis transitions from external facilitation to endogenous problem-solving, where communities independently mobilize resources, information, and collective will to manage emerging disputes (Elly, 2023). Such reduction in conflict frequency reflects not only stability but also the operational maturity of peace infrastructures sustained beyond external support. The integration of peace policies within institutional mandates marks the culmination of sustainability efforts, embedding peacebuilding principles into formal governance mechanisms. Policy alignment ensures coherence between community-based initiatives and administrative processes, promoting consistency and long-term adaptability. Through integrated policy frameworks, the gains of prior interventions are transformed into enduring governance practices, supported by structured monitoring and resource allocation (Tyshchenko, 2022). Hence, sustainability in peace and security projects represents an ongoing consolidation of structures, relationships, and governance instruments that maintain operational stability, strengthen institutional resilience, and ensure that the essence of peace building remains active, adaptive, and embedded within the socio-political fabric. Stakeholder theory presents the idea that projects should account for a broad range of actors who are influenced by, or have influence over, project actions. It moves beyond narrow operational priorities to incorporate the concerns of various parties whose interests intersect with the outcomes being pursued (Büyüktanır & Ekşi, 2022). The approach promotes structured engagement, where fairness, transparency, and responsiveness shape interactions with both internal and external groups. It maintains that lasting outcomes are more achievable when diverse viewpoints are reflected in both planning and decision processes.

In peace and security projects, stakeholder theory offers practical insights for aligning project goals with the realities of those most impacted by insecurity (Mabuku & Olutola, 2023). It emphasizes collaboration with local actors as essential for effective risk management and contextual relevance. In sensitive environments, this approach fosters trust and minimizes resistance by ensuring communities feel recognized and involved. Establishing structured feedback mechanisms and clear accountability grounded in stakeholder relationships strengthens both legitimacy and flexibility (Iskandarani, 2023). Such integration enhances local credibility and provides the strategic resilience required to navigate volatile conditions. The theory underpins stakeholder involvement in project management by stressing the identification, engagement, and ongoing interaction with all individuals or groups influencing or affected by the project (Büyüktanır & Ekşi, 2022). It promotes inclusive participation to ensure project aims resonate with stakeholder needs, boosting legitimacy, commitment, and joint decision-making across the project's duration. This foundation aids in proactively managing expectations and resolving conflicts, which are vital for achieving project success and long-term sustainability. Figure 1 depicts the relationship between stakeholder involvement and sustainability of peace and security projects:

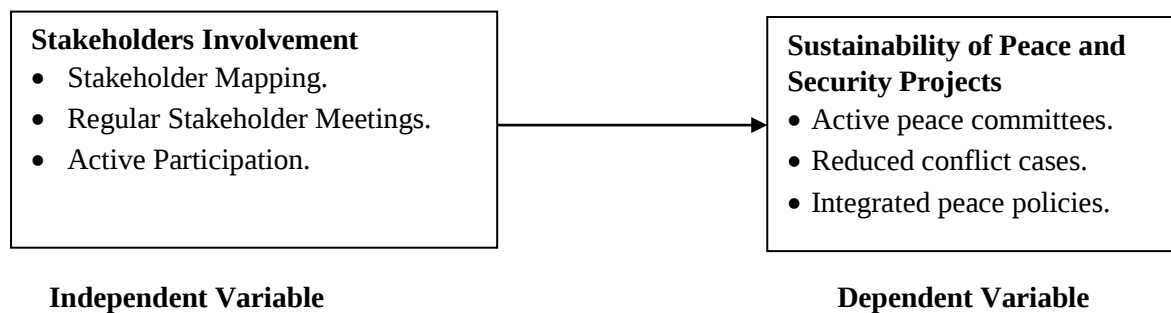


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Empirical studies relating to stakeholder involvement as a practice of project management and sustainability of peace and security projects have been reviewed. Juma (2020) assessed the institutional factors influencing implementation of peace building projects in Turkana County, Kenya. 72 individuals from 18 NGOs were involved. They comprised project managers, M&E leads, communication specialists, and grant managers. Findings established that stakeholder involvement, project planning, competency of the staff, and M&E influence the implementation of the projects. It was revealed that stakeholder involvement positively influenced the implementation of peace building projects. Active participation by community members, local leaders, and other actors enhanced ownership and reduced resistance during execution. Their engagement ensured that project activities were contextually relevant and aligned with local needs. Cvijović, Obradović, and Todorović (2021) examined the stakeholder management and project sustainability. They employed a qualitative case study approach considering the Serbian small hydro power plant project. The findings indicate that external stakeholders employed all four influence strategies in varying combinations to shape project outcomes and sway decision-makers. In the small hydropower plant case, distinct patterns emerged between the strategies used, their intensity, and directional focus. Notably, environmental concerns served as a strong motivator driving stakeholder engagement. Mulwa (2023) examined the effects of stakeholders' participation on project sustainability among donor funded projects in Kenya taking a case of the Kenya innovation engine. The study sought to establish the effect of donor engagement, implementers' engagement and beneficiaries' engagement on project sustainability among donor funded projects in Kenya. The study adopted a descriptive research design with a target population of 214 respondents. A sample of 67 staff members in this organization was chosen as respondents. Both primary and secondary data was used in the study. Primary was collected using structured questionnaire. The study established that donor engagement, implementers' engagement and beneficiaries' engagement all have a positive and statistically significant effect on sustainability of projects. A study by Kariuki (2024) examined project management practices and sustainability of water projects in Kiambu County, Kenya. The study assessed the effect of a range of project management practices, such as stakeholder engagement, resource allocation, management commitment, and digital inclusion, on the sustainability of projects toward more sustainable outcomes in Kiambu County. The study adopted a descriptive research design with a target population constituting 20 projects and 200 participants or members or employees comprising team leaders, project managers, community representatives, and managers. The sample size was 105 respondents drawn using stratified random sampling. The study established that stakeholder involvement significantly influenced project sustainability. As such, the study concluded that by involving every stakeholder in decision-making processes, cost-sharing, and process monitoring will increase the sustainability of a project.

Amina (2020) examined the influence of non-governmental organizations activities on sustainability of peace building projects among the pastoral communities in Kenya a case of Marsabit County. The study sought to establish the influence of resource mobilization, mediation, peace education and capacity building on sustainability of peace building projects in Marsabit County. Descriptive research design was used with a target population of all the eight NGOs and communities in Marsabit County. Krejcie and Morgan Table was used to select a sample of 384 respondents from within the community. Questionnaires and interview guides were used to collect the primary data. The study established that all the independent variables (resource mobilization, mediation, peace education and

capacity building) had significant influence on sustainability of peace building projects. A study by Wangari and Minja (2021) assessed the determinants of project sustainability in Kiambu County in Kenya. The study targeted the PMC members, project beneficiaries, the sub-county departmental heads, and chief officers' in charge of the devolved functions. The study, therefore, targeted a total population of 100 respondents who included 30 PMC members, 50 project beneficiaries, ten head of departments and ten chief officers who in this case were engaged in the implementation of CFPs and they were, therefore, believed to possess relevant knowledge on the sustainability of the projects. The study adopted a descriptive research design. The instruments for data collection were semi-structured questionnaires and an interview guide. The study established that project monitoring is the key determinant of county-funded projects. The government of Kiambu County, through the relevant stakeholders, should ensure that all the county-funded projects are properly monitored to ensure that they are sustainable and beneficial to the locals.

The review of prior studies highlighted several methodological and conceptual gaps concerning the influence of project management practices on the sustainability of peace and security projects. Earlier research acknowledged the relevance of stakeholder involvement but failed to establish systematic approaches for identifying, categorizing, and engaging stakeholders in a structured and continuous manner. Moreover, the absence of frameworks addressing regular stakeholder forums and sustained communication limited understanding of how long-term participation enhances project endurance. Previous works also tended to focus on other development sectors, such as environmental management, thereby overlooking the complex stakeholder dynamics and contextual sensitivities unique to peace and security interventions. Critical elements such as inclusive dialogue, participatory conflict resolution, and feedback-driven engagement were either underexplored or omitted entirely. Similarly, few studies incorporated multidimensional sustainability perspectives that integrate social, institutional, and governance dimensions relevant to fragile settings. The current research addressed these gaps by centering on stakeholder involvement as the primary determinant of project sustainability. It operationalized stakeholder mapping to ensure comprehensive identification and inclusion of all relevant actors, institutionalized regular stakeholder meetings to enhance communication and coordination, and emphasized active participation to foster trust, shared accountability, and long-term ownership. Through this integrative framework, the study bridged existing gaps by demonstrating how structured stakeholder engagement mechanisms contribute to the sustained effectiveness of peace and security projects.

5. METHODOLOGY

The study utilized a descriptive research design, which is suitable as it enables comprehensive data collection and thorough description of project management practices alongside sustainability of peace and security projects. This design was appropriate for generating actionable insights to improve the undertaking of peace and security projects. The target population was the 4 peace and security projects in Nakuru County. They include Accelerated Response Initiative Against Extremism (ARIVE), Reducing Insecurity and Violet Extremism (REINVENT), Violence Prevention (IUV) Programme, and Youth-led Peace, and Social Cohension, Mental Wellness through Sports. These projects were the unit of analysis and the unit of observation was the 97 project managers, M&E Officers, field officers, community leaders, Teachers Service Commission (TSC), Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KMA), Media Council of Kenya (MCK), religious, and security representatives. This research utilized questionnaires due to their efficiency in collecting uniform data that can be systematically analyzed to derive meaningful conclusions. The descriptive and inferential statistics were utilized in data analysis. Descriptive statistics included means, percentages, and standard deviations, while inferential techniques involved correlation and regression analyses. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software was used for data analysis. The regression analysis was conducted using the following model:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \varepsilon$$

Where:

Y = Sustainability of Peace and Security Projects

β_0 = Constant

β_1 = Beta Coefficient

X_1 = Stakeholder Involvement

ε = Error Term

6. RESULTS

This chapter presents the findings and discussion on the influence of stakeholder involvement on project sustainability. It specifically outlines both the descriptive and inferential statistical outcomes. A total of 97 questionnaires were distributed to the target population, of which 79 were properly completed and returned. This yielded a response rate of 81.4%, which was deemed adequate and dependable for subsequent data analysis.

6.1 Descriptive Statistical Results and Discussions

The study sought to determine the effect of stakeholder involvement on sustainability of peace and security projects. The descriptive result are presented in Tables 1 and 2:

Table 1: Effect of Stakeholder Involvement on Sustainability of Peace and Security Projects

	N	SA 5	A 4	N 3	D 2	SD 1	Mean	Std. Dev.
	Percentage (%)							
1. Stakeholder mapping improves the efficiency and sustainability in peace and security projects.	79	34.2	60.8	5.1	0	0	4.29	0.558
2. Early identification of stakeholders promotes collaboration and sustainability of peace and security projects.	79	36.7	38	20.3	5.1	0	4.06	0.882
3. Assessing stakeholder facilitates focused engagement in promoting sustainability of projects.	79	39.2	49.4	6.3	5.1	0	4.23	0.784
4. Frequent stakeholder meetings contribute to clearer project alignment and sustainability.	79	39.2	44.3	15.2	1.3	0	4.22	0.745
5. Regular consultation with stakeholders strengthens accountability in peace and security projects.	79	25.3	59.5	13.9	1.3	0	4.09	0.664
6. Joint planning with stakeholders enhances adaptability in resolving conflicts through peace and security projects.	79	31.6	35.4	22.8	8.9	1.3	3.87	1.005
7. Active involvement in project activities ensures timely resolution of community conflicts.	79	30.4	46.8	19	3.8	0	4.04	0.808
8. Regular updates and feedback from stakeholders enhance sustainability.	79	32.1	41	20.5	5.1	1.3	3.97	0.825
9. Timely sharing of project updates strengthens transparency and builds stakeholder confidence.	79	39.2	48.1	11.4	1.3	0	4.24	0.755

According to the descriptive analysis, 34.2% of respondents strongly agreed and 60.8% agreed, totaling 95% agreement (Mean = 4.29; Std. Dev. = 0.558), that stakeholder mapping enhances the efficiency and sustainability of peace and security projects. This indicates that identifying key stakeholders early enables effective coordination and

structured collaboration. Stakeholder mapping strengthens the institutional memory and operational continuity of peace structures, thereby reinforcing the sustainability of peace and security projects within communities. Additionally, 36.7% strongly agreed and 38% agreed, totaling 74.7% agreement (Mean = 4.06; Std. Dev. = 0.882), that early identification of stakeholders promotes collaboration and sustainability. Recognizing key actors from the outset encourages joint ownership and sustained cooperation. This proactive involvement ensures that peace and security projects continue to receive community support and remain relevant beyond the project cycle. Furthermore, 39.2% strongly agreed and 49.4% agreed, giving 88.6% total agreement (Mean = 4.23; Std. Dev. = 0.784), that assessing stakeholders facilitates focused engagement that supports sustainability. Understanding stakeholders' interests, capacities, and influence allows for meaningful participation and shared accountability. Such focused engagement enhances local ownership and trust, both of which are critical for the long-term sustainability of peace and security projects. Similarly, 39.2% strongly agreed and 44.3% agreed, totaling 83.5% in agreement (Mean = 4.22; Std. Dev. = 0.745), that frequent stakeholder meetings promote clear alignment and strengthen sustainability. Regular meetings provide opportunities to review lessons learned and reaffirm commitments among peace actors. These interactions ensure that peace and security projects remain aligned with community priorities and sustain their relevance in addressing emerging peace and security concerns.

Moreover, 25.3% strongly agreed and 59.5% agreed, resulting in 84.8% agreement (Mean = 4.09; Std. Dev. = 0.664), that regular consultation with stakeholders reinforces accountability and supports sustainability. Ongoing consultation builds transparency and trust, which in turn encourage continued community oversight and responsible stewardship of peace structures. Enhanced accountability contributes directly to the legitimacy and sustainability of peace and security projects. However, 22.8% were neutral (Mean = 3.87; Std. Dev. = 1.005) that joint planning with stakeholders enhances adaptability in sustaining peace and security projects. This suggests that inclusive planning helps communities adjust peace strategies to local dynamics, ensuring that projects evolve to meet emerging challenges while maintaining their relevance and longevity. The analysis further indicates that 30.4% strongly agreed and 46.8% agreed, totaling 77.2% agreement (Mean = 4.04; Std. Dev. = 0.808), that active involvement of stakeholders promotes continued community cooperation and sustainability. Stakeholder participation nurtures a sense of ownership that sustains peace structures even after external support ends. Such involvement embeds peace efforts within community systems, ensuring their persistence. Additionally, 32.1% strongly agreed and 41% agreed, totaling 73.1% agreement (Mean = 3.97; Std. Dev. = 0.825), that regular updates and feedback from stakeholders strengthen transparency and sustainability. Feedback mechanisms allow communities to monitor and learn from past interventions, maintaining transparency and adaptability necessary for sustained peace. 39.2% strongly agreed and 48.1% agreed, giving 87.3% total agreement (Mean = 4.24; Std. Dev. = 0.755), that timely sharing of project updates builds stakeholder confidence and promotes sustainability. Keeping stakeholders informed reinforces trust and ongoing commitment to peace structures. Transparent communication ensures continued collaboration and community endorsement, which are vital for maintaining the long-term sustainability of peace and security projects.

Table 2: Sustainability of Peace and Security Projects

	N	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean	Std. Dev.
	Percentage (%)							
1) Well-structured peace committees facilitate ongoing community-led initiatives that sustain project objectives.	79	44.3	38	12.7	5.1	0	4.22	0.857
2) Regular capacity-building for peace committees enhances their ability to manage conflicts effectively over time.	79	36.7	49.4	5.1	8.9	0	4.14	0.873
3) Collaboration among committee members strengthens coordination and continuity of peace and security efforts.	79	22.8	49.4	20.3	7.6	0	3.87	0.853
4) A decline in community disputes reflects the long-term effectiveness of peace interventions.	79	41.8	48.1	8.9	1.3	0	4.30	0.686
5) Assessment of conflict trends allows for targeted strategies that maintain peace in communities.	79	39.2	45.6	11.4	3.8	0	4.20	0.791
6) Effective conflict prevention measures demonstrate the sustained impact of peace projects beyond their initial implementation.	79	40.5	31.6	27.8	0	0	4.13	0.822
7) Embedding peace projects into local policies ensures their continuation and institutional support.	79	31.6	51.9	16.5	0	0	4.15	0.681
8) Policy-driven frameworks provide guidelines that safeguard project achievements from regression over time.	79	31.6	51.9	13.9	2.5	0	4.13	0.740
9) Strong governance structures within peace policies enhance accountability and reinforce project sustainability.	79	41.8	40.5	13.9	3.8	0	4.20	0.822

The findings from the descriptive analysis show that 44.3% of the respondents strongly agreed and 38% agreed, making 82.3% in agreement (Mean = 4.22; Std. Dev. = 0.857), that well-structured peace committees facilitate community-led initiatives that sustain peace and security projects. It was also established that 36.7% of the respondents strongly agreed and 49.4% agreed, hence 86.1% were in agreement (Mean = 4.14; Std. Dev. = 0.873), that regular capacity-building for peace committees enhances their ability to manage conflicts effectively over time. In addition, 20.3% of the respondents were neutral (Mean = 3.87; Std. Dev. = 0.853) on the statement that collaboration among committee members strengthens coordination and continuity of peace and security projects. Moreover, 41.8%

of the respondents strongly agreed while 48.1% agreed, giving a total of 89.9% in agreement (Mean = 4.30; Std. Dev. = 0.686), that a decline in community disputes reflects the long-term effectiveness of peace and security projects.

Further, 39.2% of the respondents strongly agreed and 45.6% agreed, resulting in 84.8% agreement (Mean = 4.20; Std. Dev. = 0.791), that assessment of conflict trends allows for targeted strategies that maintain peace in communities. The findings also revealed that 40.5% strongly agreed and 31.6% agreed, with 27.8% neutral (Mean = 4.13; Std. Dev. = 0.822), that effective conflict prevention measures demonstrate the sustained impact of peace projects. Similarly, 31.6% of respondents strongly agreed and 51.9% agreed, giving 83.5% agreement (Mean = 4.15; Std. Dev. = 0.681), that embedding peace projects within local policy frameworks ensures their long-term continuity and strengthens institutional support for sustained impact. It was also observed that 31.6% strongly agreed and 51.9% agreed, hence 83.5% in agreement (Mean = 4.13; Std. Dev. = 0.740), that policy-driven frameworks provide guidelines that safeguard project outcomes. Additionally, 41.8% of the respondents strongly agreed and 40.5% agreed, thus 82.3% in agreement (Mean = 4.20; Std. Dev. = 0.822), that strong governance structures within peace policies enhance accountability and reinforce project sustainability. Overall, the findings revealed that stakeholder involvement has an effect on the sustainability of peace and security projects. Engaging diverse actors through mapping, consultation, and participation ensures that community perspectives are integrated into project decisions, fostering local ownership and legitimacy. This inclusivity strengthens accountability mechanisms and promotes collective responsibility, which sustains peace structures long after the initial interventions. When communities feel represented and valued, they are more likely to protect and uphold the gains made, ensuring continued relevance and support for established peace frameworks.

6.2 Inferential Statistical Results and Discussions

Inferential analysis was undertaken to assess the relationship between stakeholder involvement and the sustainability of peace and security projects. Both correlation and regression models were utilized to establish the nature and magnitude of the association.

6.2.1 Correlation Analysis Results

The correlation analysis sought to determine the strength and direction of the association between the study variables. This offered critical insights into the interconnectedness between stakeholder involvement and the sustainability of peace and security projects. The summarized findings are presented in Table 4:

Table 3: Correlation Analysis Results

		Project Sustainability
Stakeholder Involvement	Pearson Correlation	.541**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000
	N	79

The findings revealed a significant positive relationship between stakeholder involvement and the sustainability of peace and security projects, with a correlation coefficient ($r = 0.541$; $p = 0.000$). This indicates that effective involvement of stakeholders greatly enhances project sustainability. Specifically, stakeholder mapping ensured that all relevant groups were identified and included, fostering inclusivity in peace projects. Regular stakeholder meetings promoted continuous dialogue, strengthened collaboration, and encouraged mutual understanding among community members and authorities. Additionally, active participation by stakeholders enhanced ownership and accountability, leading to more sustainable peace and security projects in Nakuru County.

6.5.2 Regression Analysis Results

Regression analysis was conducted to predict sustainability of peace and security projects based on variation in stakeholder involvement. Tables 4, 5, and 6 show the findings:

Table 4: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.541 ^a	.293	.284	.35412

a. Predictors: (Constant), Stakeholder Involvement

The findings show that the coefficient of determination was ($R^2 = 0.293$). This means that shows that 29.3% of the variation in project sustainability was explained by stakeholder involvement. This implies that stakeholder involvement enhances the sustainability of peace and security projects.

Table 5: ANOVA^a

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	3.996	1	3.996	31.863	.000 ^b
Residual	9.656	77	.125		
Total	13.652	78			

a. Dependent Variable: Project Sustainability

b. Predictors: (Constant), Stakeholder Involvement

The Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) results revealed an F-value of 31.863 with a corresponding p-value of 0.000 at the 95% confidence level, indicating that the linear regression model was statistically significant. This implies that stakeholder involvement significantly predicts the sustainability of peace and security projects in Nakuru County.

Table 6: Regression Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	1.352	.497		2.718	.008
Stakeholder Involvement	.680	.120	.541	5.645	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Project Sustainability

The linear regression model was expressed as: $Y = 1.352 + 0.680X_1 + 0.497$. The results indicated that the beta coefficient for stakeholder involvement was 0.680, implying that a one-unit change in stakeholder involvement leads to a 0.680-unit increase in the sustainability of peace and security projects. The t-value ($t = 5.645$; $p = 0.000$) was significant at the 95% confidence level. It was therefore concluded that stakeholder involvement has a significant effect on the sustainability of peace and security projects.

7. CONCLUSION

The study concludes that stakeholder involvement is crucial for the sustainability of peace and security projects. Through comprehensive stakeholder mapping, project managers are able to identify relevant actors whose participation strengthens the formation and functionality of active peace committees, ensuring that local voices and concerns are consistently represented. The study further finds that regular stakeholder meetings enhance coordination, reduce misunderstandings, and build consensus, which contributes to a measurable reduction in conflict cases by addressing emerging tensions promptly. Additionally, active participation of stakeholders fosters community ownership and engagement, facilitating the adoption of integrated peace policies that are embedded within local governance structures. Overall, the stakeholder involvement promotes accountability, transparency, and community commitment, all of which indicate sustainability of peace projects.

8. RECOMMENDATION

The study recommends that project managers of peace and security projects prioritize continuous engagement of stakeholders throughout the projects to ensure sustained participation and ownership. They should institutionalize mechanisms for regular consultations and involvement of local actors to strengthen the functionality of active peace committees. Incorporating stakeholder input into policy integration will ensure peace projects are locally relevant and sustainable.

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