Community Policing in Crime Management in Ongata Rongai, Kenya

Clifford Gichaba Okwoyo

Department of International Relations, Conflict and Strategic Studies, Kenyatta University, Kenya

Abstract: Community policing is an approach to policing that brings together the police and local communities to develop local solutions to safety and security concerns. This study sought to assess community policing in crime management in OngataRongai, Kajiado County. The study was guided by three specific objectives; to examine community policing partnerships, to analyze crime intervention techniques and to identify organizational features in crime management in OngataRongai. Broken Windows 'Theory' of Crime was applied in addressing the theoretical background of the study as well as linking it to the study objectives. Descriptive research design was used as the methodology for carrying out research. The target population for this study comprised Kenya National Police Service, State officers from the Ministry of Interior, Government policing agencies, and stakeholders from Religious groups Community-Based Organizations, civil society organizations, business community, the private security industry, the media, Non-Governmental Organizations, special needs groups, educational institutions, youth and women's organizations. Purposive sampling was utilized and the sample size was 100 respondents. The study used questionnaires, guided interview schedules, telephone interviews and focused group discussions. A total of 3 Focus Group Discussions and 4 key informant interviews were conducted. Validity and reliability of the questionnaires were determined by conducting a pilot study in the adjacent sub-county of Ngong. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics while qualitative data was presented through content analysis as obtained from the field exercise. The major findings of the study include; the existing partnerships were not effective due to lack of trust and interest between the police and members of public to CP program in OngataRongai; the introduction of flood lights, mulika platform, marking/naming of streets, regular foot and mobile patrols, KaziMtaani Programmes, installation of CCTV Cameras and zoning of areas had enhanced safety and security by positively contributing to a decrease in crime; LEMELEPO, Ole Kassasi, and OngataRongai CBOs had assisted to bring down levels of crime. These were some of the key recommendations; The police should cultivate a culture of partnership with members of the public by identifying and striving to overcome the problem of long-standing mutual mistrust and suspicion; the government should ensure the police are equipped adequately with the necessary logistics, training, terms and conditions of service and facilitation to enable the them discharge their mandate effectively; members of public should be sensitised on the importance of having good relationship with the police and providing information concerning insecurity and other forms of crime; and lastly the government should create an enabling environment for the conduct of business in the country to prevent the youth from engaging in criminal activities.

Key Words: Community policing, community-police partnership, police, community, citizen contribution, positive interaction, crime, social order.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the last three decades, several philosophies have been advanced to structure efforts to improve policing. This is the result of the developments as well as challenges faced in the security sector. This has necessitated the need for new approaches to deal with insecurity. CP is an example of such a method. (Terpstra 2011) CP is both a philosophy (a way of thinking) and an organizational strategy (a way to implement the philosophy) for the police and the community to work together as a team to solve problems of crime, disorder, and safety issues in their respective communities. Community, and other social order issues are addressed through participation in and partnership with the communities. Community policing aims to shift policing organizations from relying on criminal law and procedure to using consensual extra-legal strategies for problem solving, (Brogden, 2012). CP is built on the premise that the police alone cannot sustain law and order without the input of the community (Mutegi, T. M. (2017). Two American academics, James Wilson and George Kelling, were the first to suggest the idea. They argued that declining neighborhoods resulted in crime and disorder, and that in order to avoid crime, disorder had to be contained (Diphoorn& van Stapele 2020).

Community policing has become the ideal model of policing in most parts of the world. Globally, CP was first started in 1829 in the UK by Sir Robert Peel and George Kelling in the US and later to Africa in the late 90s. Many countries in Europe, the United State of America, and Africa have implemented it to address insecurity and other emerging issues, which are of concern to people and their governments. Community policing has grown in popularity around the world as a viable strategy for improving public security and safety (Diphoorn& van Stapele, 2020). CP is rebranded in France and Spain as 'neighbourhood policing'. Similarly, China implemented community policing in the 1960s. Community policing offers a better approach of restoring trust between the police and the public and enhancing protection in most developed countries due to the negative relationship between the police and the public in most developing countries (Wekesa and Muturi, 2016).

Several countries in Africa have customized community policing programs similar to those used in developed countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom. However, the strategies vary based on the background of the region (Bayerl et al., 2017). For example, Nigerian community policing has made an impact on the context of policing by transforming the military and paramilitary structures. Ordu and

Nnam (2017) denoted that their policing programs are regionalized, thus enhancing convenience, ease contact, effective cooperation with grass-root communities, engaging in tactics that target specific problems identified by the whole community, working in partnership with other private organizations, and continually evaluating their strategies (Okafor&Aniche, 2018).

South Africa became a democracy based on Apartheid, many policemen who served Apartheid continued to operate so that the police were introduced as a way of legitimizing and supervising the police (Diphoorn& van Stapele, 2020). It was essential to establish dynamic relationships between the public and the police to deal with crime. In Tanzania, a national-wide grassroots system known as *Nyumba Kumi* was introduced. This ensured that police and immigration agents knew who stayed at the hotel, who rented and lived in the building, who owned the property, and who moved into and outside the villages. No strangers had to rent a house in Tanzania, stay in a hotel, or come to the village in 24 hours without the knowledge of immigration and the police.

Community policing in Kenya started with the formation of CP units in Kibera, Ziwani, and Isiolo. Vera, the Kenyan Police Force, UN-Habitat, 'Saferworld,' and the National Association of the Nairobi Central Business District were teamed up on this project. These units gained valuable knowledge and experience in the development and operation of Community Policing Forums (CPFs). The implementation of a national manual for educating communities in policing and police facilities has bolstered the units even further (Skilling, 2016). The then-President of Kenya, H.E Mwai Kibaki, officially begun Community Policing in 2005. It has had varying levels of successes and failures. Despite the adoption of CP in Kenya, there is a debate on its impact on community-police relations and partnerships, crime rates and police behaviour. As a result, the aim of the study was to assess community poilicing strategy in crime management in OngataRongai.

II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Broken Windows Theory

'Broken windows' was used by Wilson and Kelling (1982) as a sign for disorder within neighbourhoods. The theory links disorder within a community to subsequent occurrences of serious crime. Kelling and Bratton (1998) state that disorderly behaviour needs to be dealt with early to prevent the cycle from accelerating and perpetuating, they believe waiting until serious crimes occur to intervene is too late. The Broken Windows Theory argues that minor disorders decrease crime fear, informal social control, and increase crime if not addressed. As a result of social incivilities (public urination and drunkenness, drug abuse, prostitution, loitering teens, and panhandling) and physical incivilities (vacant buildings, empty lots, junk and trash, graffiti, and abandoned cars), make communities deteriorate. This theory has been adopted by police departments as a means of reducing serious crimes by controlling minor disorders. Several empirical studies have backed the broken window theory. Evidence shows that broken windows theory has had an effect on policy in community policing despite the fact there are variants of the disorder (Taylor, 1999). Based on its description of the evolution of crime within a community, which community policing programs aim to address, this theory was selected to guide this study.

Statement of the Problem

Like most African countries, Kenya has continued to suffer from increasing crime rates. In Kenya, the police citizen ratio is 1:1150, as opposed to 1:450 (UN). The government of Kenya adopted Community Policing initiative for crime management. The purpose of this policy is to recognize the community's voluntary participation in maintaining peace and security with the police. Despite the initiative of CP, increasing crime rates have continued to adversely affect citizens across the country from the statistics indicated in the next paragraph - that needs an inquiy.

Crime cases reported to the police in 2020 reduced by 25.4% to 69645 from 93,411 in 2019 (Kenya National Focal Point on Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons). The study shows that the reduction in the number of offences could be attributed to Covid – 19 containment measures, the restrictions and curfews led to the reduction of crimes committed as well as reporting to the police. However there were significant increases in cases such as murder, rape, defilement, homicides Child trafficking, FGM, child pregnancy and cases of internally displaced children. Nairobi, Kajiado, Kiambu, Nakuru, Machakos, Meru, Kisii, Kisumu and mombasa jointly accounted for 40.1% of all the crimes reported. Ongata Rongai just like other areas in Kenya had recorded an increase in criminal activities. Out of the 69,645 cases, 1,435 were in Ongata Rongai Sub County (The Kenya Police Annual Crime Report 2020).

Several studies, such as Gichobi & Odhiambo, (2020) and Amuya, (2017) have focused on CP programs that have been undertaken to reduce crime, particularly among informal settlements in city centers. However, none has addressed the critical issues involved in the relationship between police and citizens. This study sought to assess gaps in CP that have made it more of wishful thinking than a reality rendering a good and well-intended strategy not useful.

Aim of the Study

The purpose of the study was to explore community policing in crime management in Ongata Rongai, Kajiado County.

Research Questions

This study was guided by the following research questions:

- 1. What are the public partnerships for crime management in Ongata Rongai?
- 2. What are the crime intervention techniques for crime management in Ongata Rongai?
- 3. What are the community policing organizational features for crime management in OngataRongai??

Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the study were to:

- 1. Examine public partnerships in crime management in Ongata Rongai.
- 2. Analyze crime intervention techniques in crime management in Ongata Rongai.
- 3. Identify implementation of community policing organizational features in crime management in Ongata Rongai.

Research Methods

The study used descriptive research design. This study style was chosen because it aims to accurately and systematically describe various aspects of the phenomenon under study. Also, it is suitable since there is no variable being manipulated. The descriptive research was effective to analyse the non quantifiable topics and issues of the phenomenon. This allowed collection of data on multiple variables at a single time point, which was then analyzed for correlation patterns.

Table 1: Study Sample

Category	Population	%	Sample Size
Kenya Police Service	300	33%	100
State Officers	25	40%	10
Government Policing Agencies	10	40%	4
Other Stakeholders	50	40%	20
Total	385	35%	134

Source: Researcher, 2021

Stratified purposeful sampling was used in selecting low ranking officers, members of the community policing committee (CPC) as well as members of the community in order to increase precision and representativeness. This technique was chosen in order to identify and select information-rich cases related to the phenomenon under study. The unit of analysis was the Kenya National Police Service, OngataRongai. The researcher obtained a list of commissioned police officers from relevant offices in OngataRongai. From that list 100 respondents were selected using the systematic random sampling. The study used questionnaires, guided interview schedules, telephone interviews and focused group discussions. A total of 3 Focus Group Discussions and 4 key informant interviews were conducted. Validity and reliability of the questionnaires were determined by conducting a pilot study in the adjacent sub-county of Ngong. To analyse and interpret data, the study employed both qualitative and quantitative methodologies.

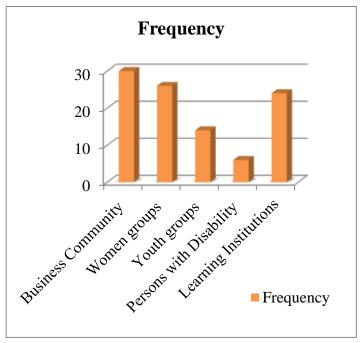
III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Public partnerships

The existing partnerships were not effective due to mistrust between the members of public and the police. The was general lack of interest by both the public and the police to CP. The results are an indication that Police forge partnerships with people who live and work in the community. Despite the existence of these partnerships, there were still high levels of crime in most areas, a sign that the partnerships were not effective. Where such partnerships never existed, various reasons were advanced such as: lack of interest by the public and the police, Community members not being cooperative, lack of clarity in the roles of the police and the community. It was further noted that the gap between the rich and the poor people had a negative impact on partnership in the community.

It was also noted that there was still mistrust between the members of public and the police, with some local r esidents shying away from discussing security issues and off the topic as the express brushing constitutional mandate of the government. Both parties view each other negatively leading to dis-trust. The nature of police enforcement role tends to attract a degree of negative interaction. Law enforcers are not always seen in the positive light in the course of their work. That is why it is suggested that police should take every opportunity at their disposal to engage in positive and constructive interaction with all parts of the community (Saferworld, 2008). Findings also reveal that community engagement mechanisms in CP are not well established. Rarely do the police organize meetings with the pubilc and in case of such meetings; they are poorly attended by the citizens therefore making it difficult for the police to know the expectations of the community. With both sides blaming one another for the strains relations, then working in partnership would be dealt a big blow. Results confirmed that the community-police partnership is low since the residents feel withdrawn from CP and see it as being theoretical. The results are as shown in Fig 1.

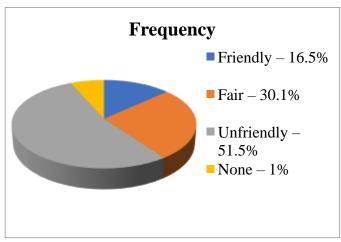
Fig 1: Community Policing partnerships with various stakeholders



Source: Field work, 2021

Fig 1 above reveals that the level of partnership between the police and community in community is still dismal. The findings on Figure 1 show that 30.0% of the officers noted that they had existing partnerships with the Business Community. The findings also show that 26% of the officers said they had existing partnerships with Women groups while 14.0% said they had existing partnerships with the Youth. Only 6.0% said they had existing partnerships with persons with disability. 24% showed they had existing partnerships with Learning Institutions. When two key players in community policing frown upon each other and they will not work collaboratively for the success of community policing. Such kind of relationship and questionable linkages, affect the success of community policing. The smaller percentage that works with the police may include police friends and informers within the community whereby the majority perceive the police as dangerous to relate with. Despite the presence of community policing partnerships, the public was found to be unwilling to cooperate with police in providing critical information to aid in crime prevention.

Fig 2: Relationship between police officers and the residents



Source: Field work, 2021

According to Fig 2, the nature of the relationship the police and the residents rated as "unfriendly" by the majority of the interviewed population (51.5 %). The residents' continued fear of the police was linked to several issues, including; dishonesty, harassment, incompetence, unresponsive and among other things, they cannot be trusted by the locals. On the other hand, 6.5% of the interviewees believe that residents and police have a friendly relationship. This was attributed to a various factors including public satisfaction with their services, police commitment to their work, and community-police collaboration, among others.

Crime intervention techniques

The introduction of various crime intervention techniques had enhanced safety and security. This was however limited to selected areas various crime intervention techniques had enhanced safety and security in their areas by positively contributing to to a decrease in crime rates. These include: Use

of flood lights to light up the dark alleys frequented by criminals, mulika platform to reports incidents of crime, introduction of marking/naming streets and residential gates to make it easy for the police to locate them in cases of emergencies, Kazi Mtaani Programme, installation of CCTV Cameras, Zoning areas and assigning them to specific policemen who are answerable to the crime rates in the areas, conducting foot and mobile patrols, communicating and developing a good rapport with the local opinion leaders. The results are as shown in Table 2.

The study established that community members who live in gated community do not embrace community policing. They assert that they are able to employ their own private security guards and that they pay taxes to the government to provide security. Those who reside in gated communities restrict entry to other citizens to their homes for security reasons, they maintain gatemen and or electric fence. This leads to impediments in successful CP as they view it as a system for the poor or the less privileged persons. This collaborates with Maina (2014) findings.

Table 2: Performance of "SARA" Model in intervention techniques

Performance of "SARA" Model in crime intervention techniques	Frequen cy	Percentage
Enhanced officers' capacity to Proactively identify problems	23	95.8
Enhanced officers' capacity to Develop innovative responses to crime	72	91.6
Enhanced officers' capacity to develop lasting solutions to curb crime	65	83.3
Enhanced reduction of crime in the community	60	75.0
Addressed community concerns and needs	8	50.4
Enhanced reporting of suspicious activities	7	19.5
Enhanced accountability	6	39.6
Enhanced investigations	9	58.3
Enhanced patrolling	8	50.4
Use of mulikauhalifu platform	6	48.7

Source: Field work, 2021

The

study findings show that 95.8% of police officers feltthat the"SARA" Model of crime intervention techniques enhanced their capacity to Proactively identify problems. It was also found that 91.6% of the officers felt that it enhanced their capacity to develop innovative responses to crime while 83.3% felt it enhanced their capacity to develop lasting solutions to crime. study findings also showed that 75.0% of the officers opi ned that the "SARA" Enhanced reduction of crime in the community. The study found out that 50.6% of the respondents were in agreement that the Kenya police addressed community concerns and needs. This was evidenced by the number of instances where police officers responded promptly to crime scenes and/ or issues. Only 19.5% of respondents according to the study had reported a suspicious action person to the police in the spirit of community

This implies that the majority of respondents (80.5%) had nev er reported incidents to the police. They blamed the police's failure on a lack of late response, demands for bribes, and "the fear of the u nknown," in which civilians fear the police will reveal th e information to the suspect(s), putting their lives in danger. A headteacher from Nkarimunya noted the following,

"Some of the proactive crime intervention techniques responses for crime prevention entail; more street lighting and visible police patrols within the neighbourhood".

During a focus group discussion, A security professional and manager in the area, said everybody needs to be involved in security matters. "Many people employ unskilled persons as security guards, security training is highly recommended for guards; people also need to be educated to be observant in their surroundings since security starts from an individual. CCTVs Cameras need to be fitted in some of the town's high buildings since they are one of the best methods of dealing with crime," he said,

"I have received information that thugs use the unfinished buildings to sell drugs," said a police constable from Kandisi Police Station".

The erection of flood lights is aimed at improving security in the constituency which has in the recent past seen an increase in the rate of crime. According to a businessman from Kware area, the erection of floodlights will serve a large number of businesses who operate up to late hours. "The street lights will help in reduction of crime rates within OngataRongai." It has become almost impossible to walk in this area at night because there are incidents of mugging every night," he said.

Concerning corrective measures to eradicate crime, An official from the Ministry of Interior commented as follows; "The government came up with Kazi Mtaani Programme in April 2020 to cushion the youth and vulnerable citizens in the informal settlements from the effects of COVID -19 pandemic. The beneficiaries operate on two shifts, each working for 11 days a month".

Community Policing organizational features

LEMELEPO, Ole Kassasi, and Ongata Rongai CBOs had assisted to bring down levels of crime in their areas. There was however general lack of sensitization, capacity building activities to enhance the police and community in addressing crime. However crime rates were high in areas that had no established CBOs. This situation was also attributed to the exponential growth and expansion of Ongata Rongai Sub County especially by the middle class, who have built palatial homes and set up thriving businesses, but lack the supportive security infrastructure. However the study found out that inadequate police staffing, capacity, funding and lack of public confidence rigidity and bureaucratic police's organisations factors affected the success of CP program in Ongata Rongai

Table 3: Community Policing organizational features in crime management.

Community Policing organizational features in crime management	Frequen cy	Percentage
Adequate training was conducted	36	46
Civic education programmes for the community	64	80.9
Adequate ofresources were available	17	21
Availability of community policing structures	26	34
Station was involved in Community Policing	70	89.5
Aware of the existence and operation of a Community Policing Committee	61	78.4
Availability Information Systems and Technology	6	39.6
Use of identification badges	24	32

Source: Field work, 2021

According to the findings of the study, 46% of police officers believe that adequate training was provided. Through 'Chief Barazas,' OngataRongai is informed of community policing, while the government and civil society also host seminars to provide training on civic education programs. The study observed that two 'Chief Barazas' happen each year to help in the dissemination of community policing information through focused group discussions. Despite the fact that "Barazas" are not a formal avenue for effective CBP and are only held on rare occasions, they provide a platform for the community to discuss specific security and safety concerns with local government and security agencies and come up with collective solutions.

Concerning OngataRongai residents' awareness of community policing through civic education programs organized by the government or civil society, the study found out that the vast majority of respondents (80.9 %) stated that no civic education programs had ever been held, as shown in Table 3 above. Community members admitted in focus group discussions that a lack of awareness is linked to a failure to provide citizens with background facts and principles guiding community policing, as well as the National Police Service's laxity in providing the resources needed for civic education.

It was also found that 21% of the officers felt that Adequate resources were available while 34% felt community policing structures were adequate. A Police officer at OngataRongai Police Station indicated the following:

"Lack of adequate police officers in communities was discovered to be a barrier to the success in community policing".

The Officer Commanding (OCS) of Ongata Rongai Police Station stated that the number of available police posts was insufficient to serve the large region. He highlighted that this was worsened by insufficient communication and transportation infrastructure. The Chief for Nkarimunya Location also noted the following;

"The number of police officers in Ongata Rongai are not adequate to cover the region. Currently, no police officers

are attached to me. When responding to an incident, I have to request for assistance from the OCS, the process takes time since he has to recall officers from other duties".

The study also discovered that committees were formed at all levels, from the village to the Sub-County level. According to the findings, 89.5 % of the police officers interviewed were aware that their station participated in Community Policing. Again, 78.4 % were aware of the Community Policing Committee's existence and operation. However, where such a committee did not exist, a number of reasons were given, including community members' unwillingness to cooperate, police resistance, and a lack of clarity in the duties of the police and the committee.

Regarding methods to increase community policing implementation, the OCS for Ongata Rongai Police Station stated;

"The County government should budget and offer certain incentives for community police." This will help with resources such as vehicles and member allowances. Police officers' public image should be improved through improved relationships, and mutual trust should be encouraged. The relationship between the police and the APs, as well as the chiefs, should be strengthened through joint meetings. Meetings of the community policing forum should be held more frequently, particularly in churches and other public places".

The Chief for nkarimunya also noted that Nyumba Kumi associations should not just focus on criminal activities but should include other issues related to security such as cleanup activities and festivals.

According to the results of the study, 39.6% of the office staff opined that Information Systems and Technology were well established. The use of technology was critical to providing accurate information on communities and enhancing two-way communication. One of the elements of effective community policing is information. In order to identify and analyze problems/issues, systems are essential (Coquilhat: 2008). To become more responsive, establish a toll-free emergency telephone number, make police stations and police posts easily accessible to encourage requests for assistance, assign competent, well-trained staff to telephone and police station reception duties, and keep members of the public informed about the status of their cases and requests on a regular basis (Bayley: 2005)

The study findings show that 32% of police officers felt that use of identification badges helped promote publicizing community policing initiative. The Chief for Ole Kassasi also noted that increasing police officers and buying of patrol vehicles need to be done to improve security in the area.

"Rongai is now densely populated, the ratio of police to residents is too low, we need more police officers here and area police to patrol," he said".

IV. CONCLUSION

The study findings did indicate that the success of community policing is dependent on the principle of police-community cooperation. For the success of CP, the community should improve on crime reporting, collaborate with police in identifing the common problems in the community. The community should cooperate with the police as witnesses or victims so as to reduce the rate of crime in OngataRongai Sub-County. However the study found out that the existing partnerships were not effective due tomistrust between the members of public and the police and general lack of interest by both the public and the police to CP program in OngataRongai.

Concerning crime intervention techniques on community policing, the study found that introduction offlood lights, mulika platform, marking/naming of streets, regular foot and mobile patrols, Kazi Mtaani Programmes, installation of CCTV Cameras and zoning of areas had enhanced safety and security by positively contributing to a decrease in crime. Also, the police should at all stages of community policing, have the community in mind. Police officers should know the region and residents that they are serving so as to increase awareness and connect with the residents that they serve.

In relation to organizational features on community policing, LEMELEPO, Ole Kassasi, and OngataRongai CBOs had assisted to bring down levels of crime in their areas. The study further concludes that curbing disorder, fighting crime and personal safety requires commitment from both the police and the residents.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. The Kenya National Police Service (NPS) will sensitize and cultivate a collaborative attitude with members of the public by identifying and addressing the issue of long-standing mutual mistrust and suspicion.
- 2. Government (National and County governments) should ensure the following:
 - a. The government, through the Ministry of Interior, should ensure that the police are fully provided with the required logistics, training, terms and conditions of service, and facilitation to carry out their duty effectively and efficiently. This includes allocating more cars, effective communication devices, and enough fuel to police in order to increase patrols and ease police movement.
 - b. It is necessary to teach the members of public about the necessity of keeping strong relationships with the police and providing information about insecurity and other sorts of crime.
 - c. The Government through the Ministry of Youth and Gender to create an enabling environment for the conduct of business in the country to prevent the youth from engaging in criminal activities.

Further research areas

It is suggested that more studies be done on why the public are reluctant to embrace the Community Policing Program. As it was observed in the study majority are unwilling to give information to the police or are not interested in the program. Arrest can only be made and prosecution successfully completed only when members of the public are willing to give evidence in court as witnesses. This has been a major problem as only a small percentage of the public are willing to avail themselves when needed by the police. Hence more research needs to be undertaken in this area.

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