



SPOTLIGHT ON KNOWLEDGE: COMMUNITY BASED CRIME PREVENTION

- ▶ **Nyaura, J. E., Ngugi, M. N. (2014).** *The Benefits and Challenges Emanating from Community Policing in Kenya: A Criminological Perspective.* *International Journal of Innovation and Scientific Research* **Vol. 12 No. 1, pp.13-21**

This review of literature focuses on the role of Community Policing Forum, a group of people in Kenya drawn from the Police and different communities who meet to address the problem of crime. It identifies that CPF results in enhanced partnership which is as an essential component of community policing. The resident nature of community police is found to build familiarity which in turn develops trust, confidence and cooperation among police officers and community members. However, manpower management, mobility of offenders, financial constraints, mistrust, corruption among police officers, and inadequate sensitization among community members are key challenges against the effectiveness of CPF.

- ▶ **Jenkins, S. (2013)** *Securing communities: summaries of key literature on community policing Shaping policy for development.* **Overseas Development Institute. UK.**

Jenkins' (2013) paper is an extensive literature review of articles focusing on community policing. It reviews Alemika and Chukwuma's (2004) study that highlights the conditions stipulated by the Nigerian Police for recognizing informal community-initiated crime watch groups as registration with the Police, screening of the members by the Police, guarantee that members do not bear arms and assurance that the group would refer cases to the Police. Despite the measures, it is noted that community police groups in Lagos lack coordination, they do not represent the community as women, age groups, occupational groups and ethnic groups are often excluded and they still use arms and resort to mob justice.

In Baker (2002), Jenkins (2013) finds that while national and local authorities in South Africa denounced non-state policing groups, the people gave the groups significant supports for the alternative or traditional forms of punishment adopted by the groups and considered them effective in fighting crimes. Baker (2008) assesses the performance of Sierra Leone's community forum initiatives (community policing) in crime prevention and finds "that despite flaws in implementation and design, and despite their over-ambitious objectives, there is evidence to suggest that they are valuable, relevant and sustainable". He finds undemocratic nature of the Board of Community Forum Initiatives, high rate of policemen turnover



and non-accommodation of citizens' views as the major weaknesses of the initiatives.

Some of the studies find that Western model of community policing does not work in transitional societies and suggest that community policing be adapted to crime and crime prevention experiences of countries adopting it. The typology of community policing in different countries identified in the paper are Anglo-industrialised, continental Europe, developing and transitional societies, and centralised regimes. Essentially, the studies reviewed see community policing as moving towards democratic ideals, whatever its shortcomings.

▶ **Nolte, I. (2007).** *Ethnic Vigilantes and the State: The Oodua People's Congress in South-Western Nigeria.* **International Relations, 21 (2), 217-235**

"Vigilantism can be understood as an extension of historically embedded practices and debates concerned with the protection of communities, in which an association with crime is not only understood as a transgression but as an indication of bad character and immorality" (218).

The Oodua People's Congress (OPC) represented a mobilization for Yoruba nationalism. The group has clear administrative structures and procedures at all levels, and it is thereby effective in fighting criminals, restoring law and order, championing change, resenting suffering and declining economy under state brutality, and fighting excesses of both the police and politicians when institutions of state fail to perform. However, violent and extra-legal religious and ethno-regional or sectional interests affect its effectiveness and undermine state's control of security.

▶ **Owen, O., Cooper-Knock, S. J. (2014).** *Between Vigilantism and Bureaucracy: Improving our Understanding of Police work in Nigeria and South Africa.* **Theoretical Criminology pp 1-21**

There is a proven understanding that the police in Nigeria and South Africa have been grossly militarized and politicized as a result of deep institutional legacies of successive regimes and appeal for a continuation of this trend among politicians, the police and the people in general. Because policing in many African countries are characterized with mistrust, politics and poor training, other private, community-based vigilante groups are prominent in actual crime control, engaging with the police only in the bureaucratic capacity (involving in informal regulatory intervention, opening a case file and resolving conflict 'off the books'). However, community-based vigilantism has not reduced public demand for their services as they are utilized and sustained by even the people who condemn them.



- ▶ **Lambert, E., Wu, Y., Elechi, O.O., Jiang, S. (2012).** *Correlates of Support for Community-Police Partnerships in Policing among Nigerian and US College Students: An Exploratory Study.* **International Criminal Justice Review, 22 (3), 276-296**

According to Wu et al. (2011), cited by Lambert, Wu, Elechi and Jiang (2012:277) “the community side of community policing is important because the extent to which community members are willing to render support in solving problems, provide input in policymaking, and participate in various crime prevention programs can significantly affect the establishment, sustenance, and effectiveness of community policing programs.” In a comparative survey among Nigerian and US College Students, they (the respondents) supported a partnership between the community and the police with attachment to the society and confidence in the police as reinforcement for the support. However, the level of support is higher among Nigerian students and gender was also a factor among them. Attachment to the society and public confidence in the police influenced the perception of support.

- ▶ **Irungu, P. (2001)** *Formalisation of Village Peace Committees in the Karamoja Cluster: Pastoral Community Harmonisation (PCH) Initiative: A Consultancy Report for The Organization of African Unity Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources Community-based Animal Health and Participatory Epidemiology Unit (CAPE).*

Irungu (2001) says that though nomadic livestock production is the backbone of the economy of pastoral communities in the Karamoja cluster, widespread and uncontrolled livestock raiding is currently threatening the success of this enterprise. He reports that CAPE Unit of OAU-IBAR facilitated dialogue between cross-border neighbours in what has come to be referred to as ‘border harmonisation meetings’, but for time constraints, restricted the activities along the Kenya-Uganda border involving the Turkana, Karimojong and Pokot. Other restrictions include insufficient funding and poorly integration of these committees into the formal conflict resolution structures.

- ▶ **Saferworld (2008).** *Implementing community-based policing in Kenya: SAFERWORLD. London. UK.*

Saferworld (2008) CBP is both a philosophy (a way of thinking) and an organisational strategy (a way of carrying out the philosophy), that allows the police and the community to work together in new ways to solve problems of crime, disorder and safety issues to improve the quality of life for everyone in that community. It places local communities at the centre of its approach. CBP approach involves consultations, setting up of taskforce, creation of a 20-member Steering Committee of key stakeholders, training, a joint police-community forum, and police open day and medical camp. Public trust and confidence in the police



services are some of the problems encountered. Others include delays in creating a national vision for CBP, Blockages elsewhere in the justice sector, capacity gaps, staff rotation, institutional resistance to change, poor oversight, resource limitations, low public trust in the police, low morale and reliance on traditional justice system.

▶ **Otieno, S., (2013). Evaluation Report For Violence Prevention And Emergency Response Project (Vpp).**

Otieno (2013) reports on the prevention of violence during elections and promotion of ethnic cohesion in counties with multi-ethnic presence of Trans-Nzoia and Bungoma tribes. It was reported that the community is now more aware of some of the issues that are likely to cause conflicts in their community, and overall change of attitude in the way the community perceives their leaders and neighbors. These were achieved through these activities: tension reduction and crisis management workshops; training of journalists in conflict sensitive reporting; and Radio talk shows /political debates. However, he concludes that the police should be keen with their responsibilities.

▶ **Morgan, A., Homel, P. (2011). A model performance framework for community based crime prevention. AIC Reports, Technical and Background Paper, no. 40. Camberra, Australia.**

The material presented in the report may assist communities to measure the progress of local partnerships, as it is relevant to community-based crime prevention programs involving regional, local and non-government organizations nationally. The framework that has been developed may also be applicable to local crime prevention planning activity in other jurisdictions, either it is led by local government or some other stakeholder, and assist in monitoring the operation and impact of crime prevention activity in local areas, either individually or collectively.

▶ **Berg-Seligson, S., (et al.) (2014). Impact Evaluation of USAID's Community-Based Crime and Violence Prevention Approach in Central America: Regional Report for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama. Vanderbilt University, USA.**

The evaluation is part of a broader effort to determine the effectiveness of community-based crime prevention, in contrast to the traditionally more common law enforcement, or "iron fist", approach to addressing the widespread crime and violence permeating Central America. The crime prevention approach attempts to address the root causes of crime, rather than deal with crime after it has become endemic.

The multi-method, multi-country, multi-year evaluation was designed to contribute to an understanding



of the effectiveness of USAID's community-based crime and violence prevention approach. This package of interventions – that is, the “treatment” in this impact evaluation – includes activities such as planning by municipal-level committees; crime observatories and data collection; crime prevention through environmental design; programs for at-risk youth; and community policing.

▶ **National Crime Prevention Centre (2000). A manual for community based crime prevention: Making South Africa safe. CSIR, Pretoria.**

This manual is a guide for the design of future crime prevention strategies based on the community. The first section explains what crime prevention is, what is expected in terms of the latest government policy and legislation, and what kinds of structures are needed at the local level to support a sound strategy. The second section provides you with a step-by-step guide to analyzing crime in your community, to designing a strategy and to carrying out the projects selected.

▶ **ICPC (2010). International report on crime prevention and community safety: trends and perspectives, 2010. ICPC, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.**

The report issued, every two years on the evolution of prevention and community safety around the world: the evolution and outcomes of public policies, strategies and practice. The 2010 International Report is the second edition in this series. For that year report they were able to draw two key findings: In 2010, crime prevention policies are no longer limited to reducing rates of crime, but also aim to improve the quality of community life and our ability to live together; although there has been considerable progress in the development of prevention policies, they are still marginalized within the broader scope of public safety policies.

▶ **Ribeiro, L., Maitre, R. (2010). *La Prevención del delito y la participación comunitaria en América Latina: Algunos aportes*. Serie Documentos de Trabajo, no. 2. Consorcio Global para la Transformación de la seguridad. Santiago de Chile.**

The study is divided into 5 sections. The first one presents the citizen security concept and shows how the development of this concept required important changes and new initiatives directed to reduce criminal rates. In a second point presents diagnose on the violence in the region, considering the information sources their reach and their limitations, to be able to compare between countries. The third section presents the principal community-based crime prevention strategies. The fourth section is dedicated to get in detail some of the experiences that had a greater success in terms of their methodology and their



mechanisms of implementation. The last part proposes some guides of action for the Latin-American countries might adapt to achieve a greater institutionalization of the citizen security policies.

▶ **UNODC (2010).** *Handbook on the Crime Prevention Guidelines: Making them work.* **Criminal Justice Handbook Series. UNODC. Vienna.**

The Handbook offers a concise overview of the main considerations to be taken into account in planning and implementing crime prevention strategies and interventions. It also recognizes that there are some major differences between regions and countries in terms of the challenges posed by crime and victimization and the importance of adapting programs to local contexts. The main emphasis is on how crime prevention strategies based on the guidelines developed by the United Nations can be entrenched and sustained over time.

▶ **Bellis, M.A. (2010).** *Preventing and Reducing Armed Violence What Works?* **WHO.**

The paper provides an overview of the scale of armed violence, its impacts and the risk factors associated with it. It examines both direct approaches to preventing and reducing armed violence, and indirect approaches that do not address armed violence as their primary aim, but target risk factors for violence. Most scientific evidence currently comes from developed countries which generally have greater capacity and resources for designing, implementing and reporting the results of rigorous evaluations. However, the evidence-base from low- and middle-income countries is increasing, and this paper also provides examples of emerging evidence from around the world.

▶ **CESC (2004).** *+ Comunidad + Prevención. Proyecto de Apoyo y Difusión de Programas de Prevención Comunitaria del Delito.* **Boletín N° 1, octubre de 2004. CESC, Santiago de Chile.**

The article provides and insight on the community role on Crime Prevention, also a clear view on the new tendencies to Prevent Crime that are giving the Community a major involvement for the success of said interventions. In the first part of the article is a conceptual framework on crime prevention and community. In the last part the article presents a number of tools to create, diagnose and assess a community based crime prevention intervention.



▶ **Gaskin-Reyes, C. (2012).** *Where Do We Go From Here?: Assessing the USAID Crime and Violence Prevention Project in El Salvador and Understanding its Effects on Participating Communities.* **Latin American & Hemispheric Studies Capstone.**

The Paper presents a assessment carried on the USAID Crime and Violence Prevention Project in El Salvador, the project had a major community-based component, primarily the research focused on To what extent has the project accomplished its goals established? Does the project fall in line with effective strategies for youth violence prevention in Latin America set forth by various researchers on the subject? To what extent is the local implementation of the project community-led? Do projects adequately address the root cause of violence? Do they respond to locally recognized needs and risk factors? What impact has the project had on the communities, parents, and young people involved with the program?

▶ **Guerra, N. (2005).** **Youth Crime Prevention. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / World Bank, Washington, DC, USA.**

The study discusses the problem of youth violence in Latin America and the Caribbean. It examines changes in youth violence rates over the '90 and '00 decades, with examples from the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. We will review some of the major causes and consequences of youth violence and describes best practices and effective programs. Finally, it explores local efforts to develop comprehensive strategies for youth violence prevention. Presents two case studies and focuses on prevention rather than control measures.



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