

Community partnership and crime reduction in Nairobi City County, Kenya

Samson Rukahu Karanja¹
Duncan O. Ochieng²

¹karanjasam95@gmail.com (+254727287434)

²onyango.duncan@ku.ac.ke (+254722447130)

^{1,2}Kenyatta University, Kenya

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ABSTRACT

Community partnership is currently an urgent approach in solving the crime issue and enhancing the security of people, especially in fast-developing cities like Nairobi City County, Kenya. Conventional policing methods have been, in most cases, unsatisfactory in dealing with complicated criminal activities in cities that are associated with high urbanization, joblessness, and social disparities. This paper explored how community partnership plays out in the Nyumba Kumi Community Policing Security Initiative (NKCPSI) as a crime reduction program in Nairobi County. The study was based on the collective efficacy theory and used a mixed-methods research approach combining quantitative and qualitative designs. The target population comprised 1,146 stakeholders who were representatives of the National Police Service (NPS), community leaders, and non-governmental organizations [NGOs]/civil society organizations [CSOs] interested in community policing. Stratified random sampling was used to come up with a sample size of 297 respondents, out of which 270 answers were valid, resulting in a response rate of 95.7. A questionnaire and key informant interviews guide were used to collect primary data. Descriptive statistical analysis indicated that 61.5% of the respondents rated the community partnership level as strong and 11.1% rated it as weak. Moreover, approximately 80 percent of the answers showed that communities are actively involved in law enforcement, as 80% of people reported interacting with police on a weekly basis. In terms of effectiveness, 50% of the respondents rated community partnerships as very effective in reducing crimes such as theft, robbery, and drug-related offenses. The results indicate that organized working of community members and law enforcement agencies would contribute to better trust, sharing of information, and proactive prevention of crime. The research findings indicate that enhancement of community alliances, encouraging frequent interactions between communities and the police, and increasing citizen involvement would be key to the long-term reduction of crime in the Nairobi City County. It recommends strengthening institutional support for community policing structures, promoting citizen participation, and building trust between civilians and law enforcement agencies.

Keywords: Collective Efficacy, Community Partnership, Community Policing, Crime Reduction, Nyumba Kumi, Nairobi City County

I. INTRODUCTION

In order to combat crime and manage social disorders, the police are collaborating with the community under the new idea of Community Policing (CP) (Weerawardhana & Wijewardhana, 2024). This, according to Goldsmith & Sheptycki (2007) is an approach of community sensitization to the importance of crime prevention, instead of waiting for their occurrence and afterwards reporting to the police. One component of Community Oriented Policing (COP) is identifying problems in the community and talking about appropriate 'solutions' that can be put into practice to address the problems. It involves carrying out the necessary steps for the implementation of the solutions that have been discussed in order to successfully address the issues that have been brought to light (Goldsmith & Sheptycki, 2007). Although CP has become a widespread practice, particularly in the Global North, such as in countries like the US, Singapore, the UK, Canada, and Australia, its success in pursuing its goals is still unclear (Hyland & Davis, 2019). Nevertheless, the problems remain even despite the extensive adoption, as the traditional policing measures do not always align with the proactive form of CP, and thus, it is not always clear how it influences crime reduction and clearance rates (Gholz & Sapolsky, 2021). In over a million homicides that happened globally in 2017 (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2019), 38 per cent were estimated to have occurred in Africa, 4 per cent in Europe, 24 per cent in Asia, and 34 per cent in America.

In the African countries, violent crimes such as murder, in addition to other crimes such as robbery, livestock theft, domestic violence, corruption, rape, abductions and so on are common. This means that there is still room for more study on crime reduction in Africa and why CP has not been as effective as in Europe. The adoption of COP in Africa is a highly diverse process, with the minimum practices implemented in such nations as Libya and Egypt, to the comprehensive national strategies that Morocco and Tunisia have (Katungati, 2021). The CP program of Morocco

focuses on communication as a pillar of community involvement through the creation of a central communication body, which increases trust and respect between citizens and the police who seek services (Alaoui, 2017). Tunisia, conversely, is more concerned with the extensive use of police officers by implementing them in stages, building police posts and local security committees as proactive agents in dealing with security issues at the community level (United Nations Development Programme ([UNDP], 2022). The implementation of COP in Tunisia has resulted in a better security situation and citizens' perception of the security forces

Local Policing Partnership Boards have democratized security in Sierra Leone by engaging citizens in determining and solving security concerns, and building sustainable grassroots efforts (UNDP, 2022). Low safety measures and corruption are also major setbacks, with cases in such countries as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Kenya reporting that mismanagement of funds and corruption are hindrances to their public trust and encouragement in the policing endeavors (Farazmand et al., 2022). Using CP tactics in South Africa, such as sector policing, CP forums, street patrols, and social media use, can help include the community in preventing crime. Several constraints such as the lack of funding to put some of the suggested tactics into practice were noted. This has likely impacted the effectiveness of the initiatives in crime reduction. The CP models rely on public participation and willingness to share with the security agencies matters security. A gap on the implementation and conduct will not bring out the intended purpose. The Tanzanian version of COP known as *ulinzi shirikishi* has been quite effective in the reduction of crime and increasing safety within neighbourhoods. It is a participatory policing where citizens are encouraged to form local security committees, organize neighbourhood patrols, and investigate reported crime. However, police at the local level approach *ulinzi shirikishi* as a tool that enables them to attain local security objectives in the most efficient, effective and economical way possible (Cross, 2013).

In Kenya, CP is institutionalized through the NKCPPI, which operates at household and neighbourhood level. Both state and non-state actors implement CP to enhance public safety and police-community cooperation. The NKCPPI program has entrenched CP at the household level, which aims at making Kenya neighborhoods safe and sustainable, as the police cannot deal with crime alone in Kenya. However, crime trends are at the same point, which casts doubts on the effectiveness of NKCPPI. The city of Nairobi still experiences theft, robbery, and burglary crimes, which have become adaptable to the police (Diphooorn & Van Stapele, 2020). Poverty, lack of jobs, and infrastructural inefficiency within the counties are contributing to high crime rates, which impede the effect of NKCPPI. The initiative has had a hard time responding to deep-rooted grievances behind the violence and crimes trends, which demonstrates its weakness in responding to serious crimes despite local achievements (Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis [KIPPRA], 2019). In Nairobi's informal settlements, gangs like the *Mungiki* often compel residents to pay for protection, while at the same time contributing to insecurity by engaging in activities such as murder, extortion, and racketeering. According to the economic survey in 2024, Nairobi has the highest cases of crimes reported. Despite the close neighbourhood in rentals and in business, crimes are still on the rise in Nairobi city. This study therefore focuses on community partnership as Kenya's variant of CP, to examine its influence on crime reduction in Nairobi City County.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Access to justice, safety, and the right to live free from fear are crucial for everyone in Kenya, especially the poor and marginalized. Reducing crime will lead to better social and economic development, which in turn will boost the Kenyan economy and improve the quality of life for a significant portion of the population. Although the police are essential in securing safety and security, the role played by the Kenyan citizens is also critical. Katungati (2021) notes that the high crime rates in the Nairobi City County, as in other cities, remain a problem despite the use of NKCPPI. Even though the NKCPPI program aims at bringing residents on board by actively participating in crime prevention and reporting processes, it remains inconclusive how far the involvement of the neighbourhood makes a positive contribution towards crime reduction. This means there is a lack of connection between the desired outcomes of NKCPPI, crime reduction, and the persistence of insecurity in Nairobi.

1.2 Research Objective

The objective of the study was to assess the influence of community partnership within the *Nyumba Kumi* Community Policing Security Initiative (NKCPPI) on crime reduction in Nairobi City County, Kenya.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Review

2.1.1 Theory of Collective Efficacy

The theory of Collective Efficacy, developed by Sampson, focuses on the importance of mutual trust, social cohesion, and readiness of a community to act in the best interest of the community (Sampson et al., 2006). The theory

suggests that crime will not flourish in societies where people know one another, have standard norms, and are ready to act together against deviant behaviour. Communities with high collective efficacy have higher chances of monitoring the open areas, reporting crimes, and avoiding disorderly behaviors. The theory of Collective Efficacy agrees with the community partnership forming informal surveillance and mutual responsibility networks. In NKCPSP, households will be expected to be watchful of one another and report information to the authorities. Collective efficacy is illustrated by the readiness of the residents to participate in suspect operations, which is why community partnerships can help reduce crime.

2.2 Empirical Review

The collaboration at the community level plays an important role in the tackling of crime. McPherson (2021) explained how neighbourhood watch programmes in the US reduced the crime rate, burglary, and even violent crimes. Similarly, Sepanik and Brown (2021) spoke of how community partnership policing in New York City was able to alleviate violent crime while simultaneously improving community-police relations. On the other hand, that same research noted issues such as lack of community sustained long-term participation as well as tensions in social structure which shape and underpin crime rate inequities. There is no question that community partnerships operate on the basis of trust, shared active responsibility, and reciprocity between civilians, the government, and police. Partnerships of this kind can improve the flow of information within the community, enhance the level of vigilance, and encourage CP. What is glaringly missing from the literature is how these partnerships function in urban high crime areas and in situations of social antagonism between the police and the populace.

In a study conducted by Blair et al. (2021) in Global South, stresses that specific community programs that had been developed in the favelas helped to decrease the level of homicide dramatically. The success and failure of these projects can be attributed to the active participation of the community, which led to the creation of a sense of ownership and responsibility in solving the security issues. This explains the importance of community initiative in the implementation of projects that were meant to minimise crimes in places where law enforcement is weak. In her investigation into the changing attitudes of police departments to the rising anti-police sentiment, Albrecht (2024) addresses the phenomenon of redirection of police configuration resources in the large metropolitan areas, which caused a shift in the attitude of police agencies. The study is centered on the NKCPSP approaches that are environmentally oriented and not the standard cut-and-paste policing approach. In addition, the findings made by Albrecht suggest possible misplaced priorities in community policing in which reallocation of police resources can give rise to alternative adverse outcomes, such as low police confidence and trust, which subsequently jeopardize crime prevention activities. These conclusions highlight the significance of strong collaborations, as well as socialization of security, in bringing about a significant crime reduction. This paper discusses the NKCPSP initiative as a model of community partnerships to describe how it helps to reduce crime.

According to Akinyemi (2021), national peace and security is where the success of CP programmes depends. Akinyemi attributes the importance of community engagement, but also mentions the systemic issues of systemic corruption, police brutality, and lack of concern among citizens, including the endemic bribery and political violence. Nigeria has authoritarian leadership that kills the trust in community partnership. This demonstrates the lack of understanding of community partnership, systemic corruption, and its crime-reducing potential. Such problems are not unique to Nigeria, as the case of Kenya shows, where police malpractice is quickly eroding the social contract between the people and the police.

In a study on the strategies for preventing crime in Morocco, Alaoui (2017) noted that the engagement and empowerment of the local population were the pivot to achieving crime prevention. Greater engagement and responsibility of the lower strata were said to mitigate gender-based violence and other petty crimes. This invokes the question of more targeted initiatives of community development that involve community participation and that aim to close the police-public gap of suspicion. Blair et al. (2021) studied the CP programme and concluded that it did not bring about any meaningful changes with relation to crime and the image that the public held of the police's trustworthiness. Moreover, there was no marked change in the community's reports regarding the level of relief or fear of police victimisation. This research aimed at identifying the problems related to the community-police nexus and framed it within the context of poverty, unemployment, and other forms of social deviance. This research further understood how CP was tailored to the specific requirements of Nairobi City County, particularly the crime control issues that arise within the context of *Nyumba Kumi*.

In the framework of the NKCPSP, which aims at enhancing the people's involvement in security matters, collaboration with communities is vital in the fight against crime in Kenya. CP in Nakuru has outstandingly controlled the rate of theft and break-ins in lower-class neighbourhoods (National Police Service, 2017). The results obtained by Ronoh and Hamasi (2021) also confirm that CP in Mombasa significantly decreased the number of physical confrontations between the population and the police and improved attitudes toward the police. These studies show that with proper community cooperation, crime and the relationship between the people and the police can be



significantly enhanced. It is unfortunate that the problems that persist in the city, such as Nairobi, still record very high crime rates. The scepticism and indifference towards CP in high crime areas represent the lack of better alternative approaches towards addressing the trust and social control problems in the high crime areas. Voluntary community partnerships with the police through the establishment of relationships and forming bonds of cooperation and mutual trust will result in heightened shared responsibility and decreased crime. Although the NKCPSI partnership model has proved successful elsewhere, its crime reduction effect in Nairobi has not been appropriately studied. This paper attempts to address this gap by examining how community partnerships, such as the NKCPSI, have contributed to crime reduction in Nairobi County.

III. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study adopted a mixed methods approach combining both qualitative and quantitative designs. In this design, quantitative and qualitative data were collected, analysed, and integrated concurrently. The design was structured to maximize efficiency by facilitating simultaneous data collection, capturing subjective experiences and integrating diverse forms of evidence to generate a comprehensive understanding from multiple perspectives. The approach facilitated cross-validation thereby enhancing the credibility and validity of the findings.

3.2 Study Area

Nairobi County was chosen as the study area. It serves as the political, economic, and social capital of the country. It is bordered by Kiambu, Kajiado, and Machakos counties forming a metropolitan region whose area is approximately 696 square kilometers with a population of over 4.3 million people, projected to rise to 5.5 million by 2024 (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics [KNBS], 2024). The city is home to the bustling economic activities that include finance, trade, industrial activities such as manufacturing, and tourism, in addition to a large informal sector.

3.3 Target Population

The target population was the Community Policing Committees (CPCs) in all 17 constituencies in Nairobi County as presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Target Population

Stakeholder Group	Estimated Target Population Size	Description
NPS Representatives	200	Police officers are directly involved in CP through CPCs within the county.
Community Leaders	912	Representatives from households in <i>Nyumba Kumi</i> clusters across Nairobi.
NGOs/CSOs	34	NGO/CSO representatives supporting CP initiatives
Total	1146	

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) Census Data (2024); NPS CP Information Booklet (2017)

Each CPC should have at least 16 stakeholders to represent various groups within the society. These are merged into three key stakeholder groups directly involved in CP efforts which are the National Police Service (NPS) representatives (officers directly involved in coordinating and overseeing CP within the county through CPCs), community leaders/representatives of the general public (members of the community, typically elected or appointed, who represents households within the NKCPSI clusters and are actively engaged in CP activities), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/ Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) which provide training, and advocacy for CP initiatives, working in partnership with both the community and law enforcement agencies to enhance public safety. The study also targeted a set of key informants which included senior police commanders, administrative officers and leaders of some selected NGOs/ CSOs as well. These key informants were not part of the questionnaire sample, as they were deliberately selected and subsequently interviewed to provide expert opinion and validation for the data obtained from the questionnaires.

3.4 Sampling and Sample Size

In all stakeholder groups, representatives were selected using a stratified random sampling technique. This involved splitting the target population into the different strata of representatives. Within each stratum, simple random sampling of the entire population was done to relieve the selection bias, which validated the results better and improved the representativeness of the complete target population. Purposive sampling was used to sample the key informants who have subject matter knowledge and strategic positions when implementing CP initiatives to

corroborate the findings from the questionnaire. Using Yamane's formula as proposed for survey research (Adami, 2020) for sample size determination, the sample sizes for each stakeholder group were calculated as follows:

$$n = N / (1 + N * (e / 100)^2)$$
 Where:

n = sample size

N = population size

e = desired margin of error (in this case, 5%)

Plugging in the values, we get:

$$n = 1146 / (1 + 1146 * (5 / 100)^2)$$

n = 296.56 or 297.

This was then distributed proportionately in the Stakeholder groups according to percentage proportion. The sample size for the study denoted as n=297, was proportionately distributed across NPS representatives, NGOs/CSO and Community Leaders based on their percentage of the total population. Table 2 presents the calculated sample sizes for each group.

Table 2

Sample Size

Stakeholder Group	Population Size	% of N- Population	Calculated Sample Size (% of N x 297)
NPS representatives	200	17.45%	52
Community Leaders	912	79.58%	236
NGOs/CSO representatives	34	2.97%	9
Total	1146	100.00	297

3.5 Data Collection Procedure

For quantitative data, questionnaires were administered to the respondents. Questions gauged the occurrence rate of community engagement, organizational decentralization, and quantifiable crime outcomes. The qualitative data were gathered using open-ended questions and key informant interviews, wherein the same was done by sharing perceptions, challenges, and success stories about the NKCPSI. The statistical and thematic analysis of data was conducted; the results were compared and incorporated. The researcher took the research assistant through training on the administration of the questionnaires. The questionnaires were designed and hosted digitally for a simplified and broader access by the respondents. The questionnaire link was sent to the target population via email and WhatsApp platforms, where the respondents had to answer the questions at their own pace. The method resulted in the submission of data on time despite the fact that the respondents were not in the same geographical locations. The interviews targeting key informants were carried out face-to-face, where they worked or at any other location that was considered to be comfortable according to their working hours and preferences.

The experts vetted the instruments for face validity and content accuracy and pinpointing anything that was irrelevant and inappropriate in achieving the objectives of the study and ascertained whether the questions that were included were outstanding, meticulous and measured the objectives as required. The instruments were tested for reliability and were found to be acceptable within the scales of $\alpha = 0.84$ exceeding the 0.70 threshold. This was achieved through a pilot study of 27 respondents, drawn from Kiambu County which is 10% of the sample population, which coincides with the Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) recommendation of using 10% of the population as a sample for pre-test purposes. Kiambu County is similar in both geographic and socio-economics attributes to Nairobi, mitigating any possible biases or discrepancies in the findings that could arise when using untested instruments.

3.6 Data Analysis

Data were systematically analysed to determine meaningful insights pertaining to the effect of the community partnership on crime reduction in Nairobi City County. Quantitative data collected through the closed-ended items in the questionnaires were analysed statistically through descriptive statistics (frequencies and percentages) using SPSS and Excel. Descriptive statistics were produced to capture the respondents' views on community partnership and crime reduction. Cross-tabulations were used to determine the patterns, trends and relationships that exist between the independent and the dependent variables.

3.7 Ethical Consideration

The highest ethical considerations and adherence to the rights and welfare of the respondents was observed through informed consent anonymity and confidentiality as all identifying information were excluded. Ethical clearance was obtained from the Kenyatta University Ethics Committee and the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI).

IV. FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 3 presents the demographic characteristics of respondents. The completeness in responses, which also allows for proper statistical analysis, generalization of the results, and the overall balance of the data collected, was commendable.

Table 3
Demographics

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	157	58.1
	Female	113	41.9
Age	Under 35	26	9.6
	35–44	68	25.2
	45–54	122	45.2
	55–64	54	20.0
Stakeholder Group	Community Leaders	194	72.0
	NPS Officers	65	24.0
	NGOs/CSOs	11	4.0
Experience	<1 year	41	15.0
	1–3 years	108	40.0
	4–6 years	68	25.0
	7–10 years	27	10.0
	>10 years	27	10.0
Education	Primary	14	5.0
	Secondary	54	20.0
	College/University	135	50.0
	Bachelor+	54	20.0
	Masters+	14	5.0

Gender diversity of the respondents aids in the perception of the inclusiveness and potential biases of the respondents towards community partnership. This depicts the fact that the gender disparity is peripheral and that there are more men than women who were active in the community security roles. Women's active security participation in peace and safety constructions cannot be underestimated. As noted by Ronoh and Hamasi (2021), there is a need to discuss the gender gap in CP, particularly in the activities that are centred on women and children as victims of crimes. The balance is effective in eliminating gender bias in the process of security decision-making, as the strategies to curb crime are made not only fair but also effective.

Middle-aged and older adults are more likely to have the social gravitas and the respect of the people in the community, and these are important resources for the kinds of mobilization, (Sepanik & Brown, 2021). The age distribution also shows that the initiative is not focusing exclusively on the youthful, and confirms that community partnership is primarily relying on the maturity and social responsibility of older adults, instead of the youthful impulse, which adds to the reliability of their crime prevention advocacy. The varying lengths of involvement in CP help in the diversification of the data findings. This presents a balanced experience and mix which is a sign of a dynamic initiative. Community engagement, as demonstrated by Alaoui (2017), fosters trust as well as improved crime reporting. Engagement within the various age brackets may help to minimize institutional fatigue.

A significant percentage possessed one to three years of experience in community policing, and their education was at an advanced level. This distribution implies that the respondents were experienced enough and knowledgeable enough to give credible information on the topic of community partnership and crime reduction. According to Blair et al. (2021), education enhances community capacity to co-develop and enforce localized crime solutions. This educated profile reduces manipulation and misinterpretation thereby strengthening the credibility of the community partnership.

4.1.1 Level of Community Partnership

Respondents were asked about the level of partnerships with the community, and the results were summarized in Table 4. The levels of community partnership in the NKCPSP framework were clustered as strong, moderate, and

weak reflecting the perceived intensity of collaboration between community members and law enforcement. This helps understand how functional the NKCPST structures are in Nairobi City County.

Table 4

Level of Community Partnership and its Influence on Crime Reduction

Level of Community Partnership	Frequency	Percentage
Strong	166	61.5
Moderate	74	27.4
Weak	30	11.1
Total	270	100.0

Majority (61.5%) of the respondents perceive the level of community partnership in their vicinity as strong, while 27 per cent view it as moderate, and 11.1 per cent see it as weak. This shows that a majority of the community members have embraced collective security and established a working relationship with law enforcement officers. That is also indicative of the fact that community-based efforts such as NKCPST are establishing themselves and assisting communities to own their security. This community partnership rating is also credible in crime prevention. According to Albrecht (2024), partnership programs are seen to increase the level of trust and security. Respondents also stated that there was a reduction in the distance between the members of the community and the police. This was partly credited to the rise in the number of joint meetings and the creation of the joint decision-making structures. One of the key informants said,

“We normally sit with the chief and the police to iron out problems; this unites us. (Respondent 5, 25/06/2025)”

Another one commented,

“We have the police in our clusters, and they do not have time to be everywhere, but when the neighbours point out strangers or suspicious movement, we can arrive in time. We have stopped several house break-ins last year due to timely alerts shared by locals. This has created a culture in which individuals consider themselves as the frontline in the fight against crime. (Respondent 19, 02/07/2025)”

Another informant said,

“Before, we feared the police. They are now part of our barazas (meetings) and listen to what our concerns are. (Respondent 11, 26/06/2025)”

Many of the respondents admitted to the partnership that exists between the law enforcement officers and the community in the NKCPST. Such alliances were in the form of cooperation in community gatherings, police patrols, and regular contacts that were made to report violence and crime. The partnerships were described by the respondents as bringing about a feeling of vigilance and collective responsibility in crime reduction. The community partnerships also help in building trust and partnerships that result in crime reduction. Respondents reported better collaborative work on joint offender identification, crime spotting, and intelligence sharing, and also behavior deterrence before escalation. This is consistent with a study by McPherson (2021), in which, in the US, community partnership resulted in lowering the level of burglary due to the heightened informal surveillance. The active partnerships in NKCPST as explained by Weerawardhana and Wijewardhana (2024) also resulted in considerable crime reduction in the cases of theft and house break-ins.

4.1.2 Perceived Efficacy of Community Collaboration

Regarding the perceived efficacy of community collaboration, the agreement levels of the respondents and the perceptions regarding the level of crime reduction that community partnership could help were measured. Approximately 50 per cent of the respondents rated community partnership as very effective in reducing crime, 35 per cent rated it as fairly effective, and 15 per cent rated it as ineffective. This impression shows that the majority of the respondents believe that community partnership as part of NKCPST program is bearing fruit in curbing insecurity. The result implies that there is a high degree of satisfaction with the communities being targeted by the strategies of community engagement, which justifies the measure of the effectual collaboration indicator. The results are consistent with a study by Katungati (2021), who recorded comparable community trust and efficacy in Brazilian favelas because of good local ownership. The perceived effectiveness was registered by key informants. According to one of the key informants;

“The place was a hideout of drug peddlers, which NKCPST reported and the drug peddlers were arrested. The inputs received by the police were quite precise, such as the exact position of the suspects. The most striking fact was the boldness of the community members, as it is usually dangerous to report drug-related crimes, given that it may result in threats by the peddlers. Such a partnership brought back some level of security in that community. (Respondent 16, 27/06/2025)”

This demonstrates that resident intelligence played a direct role in facilitating an enforcement measure of drug distribution, a type of crime which is also reported by respondents as lessening. In support, an informant said;

“One theft case was solved in a few hours, and that was due to team work. In this particular case, a trader’s motorbike was stolen. When the issue was reported, members of NKCPsi passed the information throughout the cluster. The stolen motorbike had been repossessed within several hours, and the suspect was arrested with the assistance of the police officers. (Respondent 01, 25/06/2025).”

This underscores the fact that a well-planned reaction in a NKCPsi accelerates the process of solving crime cases such as theft. The other key informant remarked:

“Now that we have begun to work with the leaders of the NKCPsi and the police, we feel secure as a group of people. There is no longer the fear of approaching the police officers. (Respondent 15, 26/06/2025).”

This imply that the majority of the respondents believed that the community partnership of NKCPsi was practical or very effective in helping to create community safety. This was because of the trust that the household had in the initiative as well as its significance in addressing crimes. This was attributed to the partnerships, which the respondents reported assisted in the quick detection of suspicious activity, flow of information within and out of the community, as well as response times of the police. The perceived effectiveness of a community partnership is essential as it shows residents willingness to support NKCPsi activities, which in turn help keep crime reduction efforts active. Alaoui (2017), observed in Morocco that, the public’s trust in CP partnerships was positively linked to a decrease in antisocial behaviour and street crime. In the same way, Ronoh and Hamasi (2021) established that Mombasa communities with significant trust in NKCPsi systems experienced declines in robberies and burglaries.

4.1.3 Crimes Reported as Reduced

Respondents indicated which crimes they felt had lessened due to CP, and the study findings in Table 5 noted crimes such as theft, drug-related offenses, robbery, assault, and burglary as having decreased in terms of occurrence rate. The most frequently mentioned crime reduced because of CP was theft (70.0%), drug-related offences at 60.1 per cent, robbery at 55.1 per cent, assault at 39.9 per cent, and burglary 35.1 per cent. These results indicate that NKCPsi is most effective on easily controllable crimes that can be tracked through community monitoring.

Table 5

Crime Reported as Reduced

Crime Type	Frequency	Percentage
Theft	207	70.0
Drug-related Offenses	178	60.1
Robbery	163	55.1
Assault	118	39.9
Burglary	104	35.1

It can be appreciated that having members of the community present can act as a deterrent for minor and more visible crimes. The study findings are consistent with a study by McPherson (2021) in the US in which neighbourhood watch groups contributed to a reduction in the incidence of burglaries and theft. One of respondents reported that;

“Our NKCPsi group convenes on a weekly basis. If police are not forthcoming, we normally engage them. (Respondent 10, 27/06/2025).”

The sentiment of the planned meetings, along with the invitation of the police, implies a coordinated, cooperative type of crime control. Alaoui (2017) experimented and discovered that there is increased safety among the population when there is a lot of dialogue in Morocco.

Another key informant stated that;

“Currently you can no longer rob in our neighborhood. A person will notice you and make immediate reports. (Respondent 3, 25/06/2025).”

This implies that the presence of residents within a particular area can serve as a deterrent to crime or it will be the coalition of actions by the police that will be a deterrent. The situational guardianship and co-production of security are the major contributors to the observed reductions in crime. The results indicated that when the community was involved in surveillance and intelligence sharing, it would be hard to have criminals operating without being detected, especially in communities that had good partnerships. The study findings are similar to those by Diphorn and Van Stapele (2020), who found that watchful neighborhood networks in Nairobi also helped to achieve visible decreases in property crimes. Similarly, the same has been observed by Katungati (2021) who discovered that community policing significantly reduced violent crimes. This demonstrates the effectiveness of NKCPsi in lowering crime in Nairobi since certain groups of crimes are actually reduced by effective community partnerships.

4.1.4 Interactions between Community and Law Enforcement

One of the main characteristics of maintaining trust and prompt reaction in NKCPsi activities is regular interaction. The rate of contact between the community and the law enforcement was determined, and Table 6 encapsulates how the respondents interact with law enforcement in terms of the activity of NKCPsi. Nearly half (45%) of the respondents indicated that they had weekly contact with law enforcement. This was followed by 35.1 per cent stating that they interacted monthly, 14.9 per cent stating that they interacted quarterly, and 5.1 per cent said that they interacted rarely.

Table 6

Frequency of Community–Police Interactions on Crime Reduction

Interaction Frequency	Frequency	Percentage
Weekly	120	45.0
Monthly	91	35.1
Quarterly	44	14.9
Rarely	15	5.1
Total	270	100.0

The implication is that ongoing contact enhances early detection of crime and strengthens the proactive nature of the community partnership variable under the engagement frequency indicator. These results coincide with those of Alaoui (2017), who documented better policing processes in Morocco because of the creation of regular dialogue mechanisms. The rhythms of interaction, which the key informants stated, support the study findings. One of the key informants said;

“Nowadays, our police officers come to us every week, attend barazas, and provide help to resolve conflicts in their initial stages (Respondent 6, 25/06/2025).”

This directly addresses the weekly mode as indicated in Table 5, and that frequency is associated with early problem resolution. Another key informant added;

“We regularly communicate crime trends and find solutions to them among ourselves through our meetings as NKCPsi every week. In the presence of the police, they participate and lead us, but even when they are not around; we proceed with the meetings and inform them about what we have decided to do. (Respondent 4, 25/06/2025).”

This demonstrates the social demands of some regular interaction and consistency, even when the police shift patterns change. The research result adds more weight to the opinion that the rate of interaction establishes the rapport and is the core of sustaining cooperative security provisions. The statistics show that the program of the NKCPsi has enhanced cooperation and partnership between the community and the police, leading to enhanced trust, shared responsibility, and proactive control of crimes. The interaction between police and the community during the weekly and monthly meetings is an indicator of the working local policing model that is socially based and respectful towards the community. Blair et al. (2021) proved that CP programmes in the UK made communities more trusting and collaborated better in crime reporting. According to McPherson (2021), the local consortia play a crucial role in creating social capital, which is required in crime prevention in the city.

V. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

This research determined community partnership as one of the pillars in boosting crime reduction activities in the Nairobi City County in the Nyumba Kumi Community Policing Security Initiative. The results show that the process of collaboration between the representatives of the community and law enforcement agencies enhances their trust, increases the sharing of information, and fosters proactive crime-fighting. The research supports the idea that security is best achieved when it is co-produced by the active participation of citizens and supported by institutions. Community partnership, therefore, offers a long-term model in dealing with urban crimes.

5.2 Recommendations

The study suggests that the government and other stakeholders should enhance community policing systems by allocating more funds and institutional capacity to community policing programs like the *Nyumba Kumi*. Police officers must increase the frequency of interactions with the communities to earn their trust and cooperation. It is also necessary to encourage inclusive involvement through the engagement of youth, women, and marginalized groups in community policing. Training and capacity-building need to be introduced to enable community members with the

required skills engage in crime prevention effectively. Future research should examine the sustainability and scalability of community partnership models over time, in other urban settings.

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