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**CONTRIBUTION OF POLICE COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIP IN CRIME MANAGEMENT AMONG  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS ALONG THE THARAKA  
TIGANIA BORDER, KENYA****Silas Kariuki Mitugo\*, Christopher Nkonge Kiboro & Monicah Buyatsi Oundo**  
Chuka University, Department of Social Sciences, P. O. Box 109-60400, Chuka, Kenya**\*Corresponding Author****ABSTRACT**

*The necessity for safe neighbourhoods and peaceful communities is a basic need as enshrined in the constitution of Kenya and as such, the police and communities have partnered to manage crime in the country. However, community members along Tharaka Tigania border in Kenya continued to contend with sporadic crimes in form of robberies, poaching, burglary, violence, among others. Therefore, this study sought to examine the contribution of police community partnership in crime management among community members along the Tharaka Tigania border in Kenya. The descriptive survey research design was employed on a population of 33,472 constituting of community members, police officers and chiefs. A sample of 405 respondents was selected by use of purposive, proportionate and simple random sampling techniques. Questionnaires and interview guide were tools utilized for data collection. The data were analyzed descriptively via the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences version 26 and presented on frequency distributions. The findings indicated that police community partnership contributed in varied ways to management of crime along the Tharaka Tigania border in Kenya. It was recommended that elaborate structures and policies be put in place to reinforce sharing of crime data, patrol functions, investigations and support for victims of crime by both the police and the community.*

**KEY WORDS:** *Border security, Crime management, Peace, Police community partnership, Violence.*

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Community policing is an acknowledged law enforcement method which is an approach to law enforcement that recognizes the independence and mutual responsibility of community members and law enforcement agencies in creating and sustaining safe communities (Ruteere, 2011). This approach paves the way for a two-

way dialogue on community safety and crime prevention, as well as the formulation and execution of solutions in a collaborative manner. Community policing seeks to incentivize members to reduce crime through the launch of anti-crime initiatives, awareness campaigns and legislative measures. In reference to Kenya Police Service (2018), community policing involves fostering mutual understanding between law enforcement and the community regarding their role in preventing crimes, augmenting police patrols with the help of private guards and neighborhood watch groups, and providing education, capacity building, and enhancement to both Kenya police officers and community members to facilitate positive involvement in tackling crime issues. Additional strategies for community policing in Kenya include setting up victim support centers, training response teams, giving special attention to vulnerable groups like women and children who are more likely to become victims, delegating tasks and making decisions jointly, and continuing the police and community's ongoing commitment to needs pertaining to safety and security, among other.

According to Flynn (2017), the degree to which the community and police officers trust one another will determine the extent to which they collaborate. Policing at its best is impossible if the people do not have faith in law enforcement. The police-people collaboration is essential, and other agencies at all levels must work with the police because they are just one agency entrusted with resolving community concerns (Kappeler and Gaines, 2012). This collaboration enables members of the community to share concerns, problems, tactical knowledge, and ideas for reducing and preventing crime with the police. Members of the public can report suspicious circumstances, places, crimes, offenders, and stolen goods to the police (Farrell & Pfeffer, 2014). On the subject of crime fear and neighborhood satisfaction, the general consensus is that police-community cooperation can provide positive results (Goldberg, 2017). According to Lewis (2012), community policing can only be effective if it is overseen by members of the community. Addressing adolescent misbehavior early on can help prevent more major problems later on and when the more seasoned members can guide the less seasoned ones in understanding their importance and how they can contribute to making the group a safer place for everyone can enhance crime management.

Macharia (2016) posits that the primary motivation of community policing is the development of relationships, which improve people's quality of life and offer ongoing feedback. To accomplish this, there is need to pool and bolster resources like the police force, public and private organizations, individuals, businesses, and neighborhoods. Working together, the police and the community can keep everyone safe while still acknowledging and respecting each other's authority and responsibility. The objective is to establish a fair and cooperative relationship between the community and law enforcement so that people can talk about crime and public safety issues and work together to find solutions. In order to encourage positive community involvement in addressing crime issues, Kenya Police Service (2018) states that community policing comprises educating the public and Kenya police officers about their respective roles in preventing crimes, enhancing police patrols with the help of private security firms and neighborhood watch groups, and offering training, development and enhancement to both groups. Establishing victim support centers for community policing, educating response teams, providing extra care to vulnerable populations like women and children who are more likely to become victims, assigning responsibilities and reaching decisions collaboratively, and maintaining a steady commitment from the police and the community regarding needs related to safety and security are some other strategies.

According to Skogan (2006) and Segrave and Ratcliff (2004), there are no sufficient empirical research in the field of community policing which makes quantifying the impact of police-community partnerships challenging. In support of this argument, Kappeler and Gaines (2012) point out that previous assessments of the function of police-community partnerships in crime management have mostly depended on anecdotal evidence. Similarly, Segrave and Ratcliffe (2004) assert that, despite having more specific goals than just lowering crime, researchers analyzing crime prevention approaches have tended to center their attention on traditional measures like crime statistics. Macharia (2016) states that forming partnerships is crucial for community policing, acting as the main driver for the program, enhancing quality of life, and providing continuous feedback. To accomplish these goals,

it is crucial to strengthen and improve resources like the police department, active public and private engagement, citizen involvement, the business sector, and community participation. The police and the community work together to implement community policing as a crime prevention method (Heald, 2007). Several structures have been established and are in operation along the border of Tharaka and Tigania to accomplish this. Partnerships between the police and the community are one tactic being used and despite this, there have been security lapses, a rise in crime, and an uneasy security atmosphere. Because of this, it is crucial to investigate how the public and police officers view the role that the police-community relationship plays in crime prevention. Therefore, this study aimed to determine the contribution of the police-community partnership in crime management along the border of Tharaka and Tigania in Kenya.

## **2. RESEARCH OBJECTIVE**

This study sought to examine the contribution of police community partnership in crime management among community members along the Tharaka Tigania boarder in Kenya.

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

The study adopted the descriptive survey research design on a population of 33,338 community members, police officers and the chiefs along Tharaka Tigania boarder in Kenya. Purposive, stratified random, and proportionate sampling methods were used to select a sample of 402 respondents. To protect the respondents from harm, ethical clearance was done, research permit sought, permission to collect data obtained from relevant authorities while voluntary and informed consent considered from the respondents. Confidentiality was promised to the respondents and maintained throughout the process of the study. Data were collected by use of questionnaires and interview guide and analyzed through SPSS version 22 using Chi-square test statistic and percentages. Qualitative data from the interviews were organized through thematic analysis. The results of data analysis were then presented in tables and prose narration.

## **4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

The following were the results and discussions of the study:

### **4.1 Demographic Characteristics of the respondents**

To determine the nature of respondents, the study sought to examine the demographic characteristics in terms of gender, age and the highest level of education. The findings on gender of the respondents indicated that 40.5% of the respondents were male while 59.5% of respondents were female. The results showed that the respondents aged below 29 years old were 15.3%, 30-39 years were 41.2%, 40-49 years were 30.4%, 50-59 years were 11.6%, and those aged above 60 years were 1.5%. Regarding the highest level of education, 11.1% attained a primary level, 52.4% secondary level, 31.7% bachelor's degree, 4.3% masters while 0.5% any other category. This implies that majority of the respondents had attained secondary level of education.

### **4.2 Chi Square Test Statistic Results on Contribution of Police-Community Partnership in Crime Management**

The study sought to test the hypothesis that there is no statistically significant difference between contribution of community partnership and Crime management among community members along the Tharaka Tigania boarder in Kenya. The Chi Square test statistic was conducted to test the hypothesis at a significance level of  $\alpha=0.05$ . the findings were represented in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Chi Square Test Statistic on Contribution of Police-Community Partnership in Crime Management**

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	200.027 <sup>a</sup>	224	.004
Likelihood Ratio	182.018	224	.002
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.210	1	.037
N of Valid Cases	398		

The findings in Table 1 reveal that the p-value for the Chi-square test was 0.004 which is less than  $\alpha=0.05$  the significance level at which the hypothesis was tested. Consequently, the null hypothesis was rejected. This means that the Chi-square test results indicated that there was a statistically significant difference between the police-community partnership and crime management among community members along the Tharaka Tigania border in Kenya. To determine the direction of the difference, descriptive statistics were computed.

#### 4.3 Descriptive Statistics on Contribution of Police-Community Partnership in Crime Management

The study analyzed the descriptive statistics on the contribution of police-community partnership in crime management among community members along the Tharaka Tigania border in Kenya. Respondents were required to indicate their level of agreement with statements on the contribution of police-community partnership in managing crime along the Tharaka-Tigania border. The results were presented in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Descriptive Statistics on Contribution of Police-Community Partnership in Crime Management**

Statements	SA	A	U	D	SD
Data sharing partnerships help in crime management	10.6	70.6	16.8	1.8	0.3
Community crime mapping partnerships are important in crime management	8.8	68.8	20.1	1.8	0.5
Partnership in utilizing geographic information systems (GIS) technology assist in crime management	9.8	64.3	19.3	5.0	1.5
Coordinated community-police response taskforce contribute in crime management	14.3	70.6	13.3	1.8	0.0
Police-community partnerships created to support victims of inter-ethnic violence contribute to crime management	9.3	72.9	14.3	2.8	0.8
Law enforcement officers meet with community representatives on a regular basis to control crime	12.1	66.3	16.3	4.8	0.5
Law enforcement officers mobilize people to conduct round the clock patrols at night for crime management	15.8	68.6	14.3	1.3	0.0
Police and the communities work together to solve crimes and issues associated to crime.	12.2	66.6	18.3	2.5	0.3
Promoting collaborative relationship by co-optation of some community members in maintaining security	12.8	70.6	14.1	1.8	0.8
Drafting formal letters of agreement between police and community leaders assist in crime management	16.8	66.6	13.1	2.8	0.8
Combined police-community investigative and patrol functions are vital in crime management	11.6	63.8	19.8	3.5	1.3
Establishing relationships with opinion makers in the community play a role in crime management	18.8	67.8	17.8	2.3	0.3

SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, N = Neutral, D = Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree

Information in Table 2 represents findings on the contribution of police community partnership in crime management views by the respondents of the study. The findings show that majority of the respondents (81.2%) agreed or strongly agreed that data sharing partnership was of help in crime management. This finding is in support of Ruteere (2011) suggestion that community policing is a law enforcement strategy that recognizes the independence and shared responsibility of both the police and the community in ensuring a safe environment for all inhabitants. Further, 77.6% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that Community crime mapping partnerships were important in crime management. This was confirmed by a chief who resounded *“In this locations, data sharing partnerships has largely contributed in crime management. This partnership is significant to every citizen especially the residents of both locations since it serves to ensuring a safe and secure environment for all.”* On whether partnership in utilizing geographic information systems (GIS) technology has contributed in crime management, those who agreed and strongly agreed were 74.1%. Based on this finding, it is evident that embracing and utilizing technology helped in crime management.

On whether the law enforcement officers meet with community representatives on a regular basis to control crime, majority of the respondents (78.4%) agreed or strongly agreed. These meetings serve as a forum for the sharing of issues and the search for solutions specific to each community. The significance of this discovery is validated by Heald's (2007) study, which reveals that community policing is a collaborative endeavor between the police and society. A respondent affirmed that *“One of the methods used in crime management is conversations between police and community leaders. In return, the police receive information from the community regarding concerns, worries, tactical know-how, and recommendations for reducing and preventing crime. The public provides information to the police concerning problem areas and locations, reported crimes, wanted persons, and stolen stuff.”* This is consistent with Farrell and Pfeffer's (2014) findings about the expansion of information exchange in partnerships for community policing. Considering what the police officers said, this makes sense. Another respondent resounded, *“As a matter of fact, in our location, constant meetings between us and the community leaders and members has greatly enhanced giving information on the frequent crimes in their location. This in turn has reduced crime commissions as there are constant patrols in the places we consider hotspots”.* These results were consistent with those of the Kenya Police Service (2018), which states that community policing involves educating the public about the police's role in preventing crime, bolstering police patrols with the help of neighborhood watch groups and private guards, and improving both Kenya police officers and community members to allow for positive engagement in solving crime-related issues. Most respondents (84.4%) agreed or strongly agreed that law enforcement officers mobilize people to conduct round the clock patrols at night for crime management.

The findings revealed that 78.8% of the respondents confirmed that the police and the communities work together to solve crimes and issues associated to crime. Heald (2007) supports these results by demonstrating that community policing is a crime prevention technique that involves cooperation between the police and the general public. In addition, Meško and Lobnikar, (2005) assert the importance of involving the elderly and young people in security management processes since the senior members are in a good position to guide and teach the younger members on the vital part they may play in improving a safe and secure atmosphere for their fellow members. Regarding whether combined police-community investigative and patrol functions was vital in crime management, 75.4% of the respondents were affirmative. Additionally, majority of the respondents 86.6% agreed or strongly agreed that establishing relationships with opinion makers in the community played a role in crime management. The results are consistent with Macharia (2016) who puts emphasis on relationships between law enforcement officers and community members as program enablers, quality of life enhancers and sources of ongoing feedback which were perceived as a critical aspect of community policing. This means that it is essential to the perception and level of support that police officers and community members have for community policing initiatives determines how much of an impact it has on reducing crime.

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Policy makers may need to design programs that mitigate crime within the context of the community participation.
2. The community leaders such as chiefs, religious leaders, nyumba kumi among others need to cooperate with the police in crime management by reporting suspicious cases and risky spaces in the neighbourhood.
3. The law enforcement officers may consider co-opting community members in crime management and supporting vulnerable victims of crime.

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