

**ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE OF NYUMBA KUMI INITIATIVE ON CRIME  
REDUCTION WITHIN KIAMBIO SLUMS, NAIROBI COUNTY, KENYA.**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Nyumba Kumi Initiative is an approach to policing that brings together the police, civil society and local communities to develop local solutions to safety and security concerns. This study sought to assess the role of this Initiative on crime reduction within Kiambio slums, Nairobi County. The study was guided by four specific objectives; to explore the residents perception on Nyumba Kumi Initiative as crime reduction platform, to articulate the influence of Nyumba Kumi Initiative and police partnership on crime reduction, to assess the influence of the Initiative crime prevention strategies on crime reduction within Kiambio slums, Nairobi County and to appraise the role of Nyumba Kumi Initiative in crime mapping and analysis within Kiambio Slums, Nairobi County. Social Disorganization, Normative Sponsorship and Durkheim Anomie Theories were utilized in addressing the theoretical background of the study as well as linking them to the study objectives. Descriptive research design was utilized as the methodology for carrying out research. The target population for this study comprised police officers both junior and senior, non-governmental organizations, the National Crime Research Centre employees, Nyumba Kumi officials and community policing members. Simple random sampling was utilized and the sample size was 159 respondents. The data collection methods that was adopted was both quantitative and qualitative in nature; the questionnaire were administered to the youth while the key informant interviews was*

*conducted among the religious leaders such pastors, bishops, priests and Muslim Imams and Sheikhs within the area, administrative official, NGO representative and youth leaders. The quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics while the qualitative data was presented through content analysis as obtained from the field exercise. The findings of the study show that a larger portion of the households agreed that the police frequently involve households in crime reduction. Additionally the study noted that a great portion of the households that the police are utilizing communication technology as one of the Nyumba kumi initiative in crime reduction. It is recommended by the study further that there is a need to improve detection techniques; employing of more police officers; bettering equipments, using technology, using of equipment for detection and making of proactive arrests in relation to problem solving as strategy for Nyumba Kumi initiative utilized to deal with criminal activities.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Nyumba Kumi Initiative, neighborhood watch, community policing, crime mapping and analysis, police partnership and Crime Reduction*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The idea that a closer partnership between the police and local residents could help reduce crime and disorder began to emerge throughout the 1970s. One of the reasons why this consideration was appealing to police departments was because the recognition that the police and the community were co-producers of police services spread the blame for increasing crime rates (Schönteich & Louw, 2011). An innovative project in San Diego specifically recognized this developing theme by encouraging line officers to identify and solve community problems on their beats (Kelling and Mark, 2013 ).Community-based policing (CBP) is an approach to policing that brings together the police, civil society and local communities to develop local solutions to safety and security concerns.

The Government of Kenya (2008) in the publication ‘ Implementing community-based policing in Kenya’ quotes the Former Secretary General of the UN, Kofi Annan (2008) "There can be no security without development and no development without security, and neither can be sustained in the long term without being rooted in the rule of law and respect for human rights." There is increasing recognition that without security there can be no development. Insecurity hinders socio-economic growth in different ways: threats to physical security, the absence of safe living environments, dangers that prevent people from achieving sustainable livelihoods, and the impact upon health and education services. In Kenya, police reform is a critical issue not only for community safety and economic development, but because there is intense popular demand for reduced crime and better police performance.

The concept of Nyumba Kumi Initiative is gaining momentum in the wake of terror attacks in the country from Alshabbab insurgents. Senior security officers in Nairobi County have welcomed the initiative to the challenges of criminal activities and experienced improved performance within their restricted resources. According to Mapunda (2010), the Government has acknowledged the need of bringing the people back into the law enforcement process by creating a synergy between the public security officers and the neighborhood so that rising criminal activities can be amicably handled. With societal evolution, this is a technique that cannot be under-estimated by any

particular state. Neighborhoods must come together in order to eradicate criminal acts, violence and undermining of the legal frameworks and must show commitment to join hands with the law enforcement agents in maintaining security, crime fear and criminal acts. Chumba, (2012) opines that law enforcement agents on the other side must create positive relationships with the neighborhood they provide services to in order to solve the most urgent grievances of neighborhood members.

Nyumba Kumi initiative began as a hot subject of discourses amongst all manners of analysts, and no doubt remained a concept talked about with least implementation because of the haze that clouded it being a model hence confusion on how its implementation into security solutions would happen (David, 2011). Being a model targeting to influence security at the village (Rural Kenya) and estate level (Urban Kenya), majority of the village folks are still in much haze because they have not been adequately educated/ socialized to grasp the mechanics of Nyumba Kumi (Gimode, 2011). Therefore, most people would not understand how the initiative would benefit them as individuals and as those 10 clustered household espoused by the initiative.

Crime rate among the youths within Kiambiu slum is relatively high. This is supported by the findings of National Crime Research centre which indicates that in 2015 the rate of violent crimes within the slum was significantly high (Justus, 2017). However the government through its security agencies has introduced a number of crime reduction measures among the informal settlements in Nairobi County. Some of the measures include, Community policing, hotspot policing, predictive policing, problem-oriented policing and Nyumba kumi initiatives which is the main focus of this study.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The Nyumba Kumi Initiative as a platform to enhance neighborhood safety was initiated by the government to assist the community policing initiative which calls for every individual to ensure his safety and that of his neighbour are well maintained. The *Nyumba Kumi* initiative requires citizens to know their neighbours and the kind of activities they indulge in. This neighborhood security strategy is a kind of an integrated security framework which encompasses active participation of citizens in an attempt to contain any insecurity elements that may spring up in their midst. Nyumba Kumi initiative is a partnership between the national and county levels of government in order to improve public safety and security throughout the country. The initiative is however picking ground in Nairobi County with various stakeholders committing their participation to see it succeed. The public and the private sector, County's security organs, county government have expressed key interest in backing the initiative months after it failed to gain momentum effectively in the region as a result of strong opposition by a section of political leaders from the region who termed it a move towards forming a police state.

### **Empirical Literature Review**

In terms of the urban crimes reported across the world, Africa scores highly on the reported cases. Successive Crime and Victim Surveys (CVS) from 2005-2015 and administered in more than 75 cities from the early 1990s to 2005 determined that both Latin America and Africa experience the highest rates of robbery and assault: 13 percent

of all robberies and 9 % of assaults and threats in the world are committed with firearms in Africa. The highest victimization rates associated with armed robbery in Africa in 2006 were reported in Nairobi (37 %), in specific Mozambican cities (27 %) and the Republic of Congo (21 %). Researchers have often attempted to distinguish type of crimes. For instance, Gimode (2011) distinguishes between overt and covert crimes.

Enforcement-oriented policing with its accompanying centralized, bureaucratic command structure has apparently given way to an inclusive philosophy based on encouraging partnerships between the police and communities in a collaborative effort to solve crime and disorder (Weisheit et al., 2016). Police need to engage with the community in partnerships to deal with crime and related problems, which includes working collaboratively with other public and private agencies (Cordner, 2014). Police and community should work in partnership not only to solve problems, but to reduce the fear of crime, physical and social disorder, and neighborhood decay (Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux, 2015).

According to Mwangi (2012) in her report titled —The need for a national policy on community based policing community partnership means adopting a policing perspective that exceeds the standard law enforcement emphasis. This broadened outlook recognizes the value of activities that contribute to the orderliness and well-being of a neighborhood. For Police officers to be effective in their law enforcement duties, they must create a relationship of trust and confidence with the community. These relationships needs to be based on trust by challenging people to accept their share of the responsibility, which in turn will enable parties to identify priorities, and develop responses to solve their own problems (Trojanowicz & Bucqueroux, 2015).

Roth (2004) states that prevention has, in many ways, been the gateway to community policing, as many of the earliest collaborative interactions with the public have been for prevention. To enhance prevention the police should organize and attend property owners and tenants meetings for purposes of sharing data and information that can be used to reduce and prevent crime. While Sherman and Eck (2016) cite neighborhood watch and community meetings as core strategies in crime prevention more studies need to be conducted to find out the effectiveness of the Nyumba Kumi Initiative crime prevention strategy in reducing crime in Kenya.

Crime mapping is the process through which crime analysts and researchers use location information about crime events to detect spatial patterns in criminal activity. Early crime mapping efforts typically involved placing physical markers, such as pins, on maps to designate the locations where crimes occurred. Patterns of criminal activity were determined primarily through visual inspection of these maps (Mukinda, 2010). With the advances in computing, geographic information system (GIS) software, such as MapInfo and ArcGIS, enables researchers to convert geographic information (addresses or global positioning system [GPS] coordinates) into coordinates used with virtual maps. Researchers and crime analysts can then use a number of analytic software packages to examine and detect patterns of criminal activity from these virtual maps.

### **Theoretical Framework Social Disorganization Theory**

The intended study will be based on the theory of social disorganization. This theory was developed by Shaw & McKay (1969). It is based on the notion that disorganized communities cause crime because informal social controls break down and criminal cultures emerge. They lack collective efficacy to fight crime and disorder. Using spatial maps to examine the residential locations of juveniles referred to Chicago courts, Shaw and McKay discovered that rates of crime were not evenly dispersed across time and space in the city. Instead, crime tended to be concentrated in particular areas of the city, and importantly, remained relatively stable within different areas despite continual changes in the populations who lived in each area. In neighborhoods with high crime rates, for example, the rates remained relatively high regardless of which racial or ethnic group happened to reside there at any particular time, and, as these previously crime-prone groups moved to lower-crime areas of the city, their rate of criminal activity decreased accordingly to correspond with the lower rates characteristic of that area. These observations led Shaw and McKay to the conclusion that crime was likely a function of neighborhood dynamics, and not necessarily a function of the individuals within neighborhoods. For police the insight of social disorganization is that they are called on to address minor quality of life occurrences and incidences of social disorder to prevent more serious crime and they must take specific steps to increase the capacity of communities to exert informal social control.

### **Normative Sponsorship Theory**

The study will also be based on the Normative Sponsorship Theory by Tiedke, Freeman, Sower and Holland, (1957). The theory categorically postulates that a significant number of people have goodwill and that cooperation becomes a necessary factor towards building a harmonious community. It postulates that a Nyumba Kumi programme will be supported only if it is “within the limit of established standard” to all people (Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux, 2015). Simply it states that, the police cannot achieve any positive transformation without the support of the public. It’s important to note here that society is divided into strata and classes, with common interests in some areas and conflicting interests in many fundamental areas. As a result of the inequality in access to societal resources, those who have access to resources will want a change in the structure and this is the basis of conflict in society and thus the death of goodwill. Conflict perspective therefore argued, that the police were not created to ‘serve society’ or ‘people’ but to serve some parts of society and some people at the expense of others (Brown, 2015).

### **The Durkheim’s Anomie Theory**

Emile Durkheim’s, structural-functionalism, emphasizes the norms, which societies develop and instill to hold themselves together. Functionalism views society as a system that is a set of interconnected parts which together forms a whole. Society has needs which must be met if it is to continue to exist. These basic necessary conditions of existence are sometimes known as functional prerequisites of society (Durkheim: 1964). Emile Durkheim’s views are that society is a set of interconnected parts which together form a whole. Durkheim emphasis the importance of viewing society as a whole and interrelationships of society in term of the functions they perform. Emile Durkheim

defined the term anomie as a condition where social and/or moral norms are confused, unclear, or simply not present.

Emile Durkheim closely connects crime as that shocks the conscience collectively;

"We must not say that an action shocks the conscience collectively because it is criminal, but rather that it is criminal because it shocks the conscience collectively.

We do not condemn it because it is a crime, but it is a crime because we condemn it."(Vinzant and Lane, 2014)

The contribution of this theory to this study therefore is the fact that there is a possibility that the different slums have different structural patterns that would regulate behaviour such as crime. Other theories have given reasons for this. For example areas with poor cultural integration structures are seen to be more prone to crime.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

This study employed a descriptive survey research design. Descriptive statistics utilized data collection and analysis techniques that yielded reports concerning the measures of central tendency, variation, and correlation. The combination of its characteristic summary and correlation statistics, along with its focus on specific types of research questions, methods, and outcomes is what distinguishes descriptive research from other research types.

### **Target Population**

The target population for this study comprised police officers both junior and senior, non-governmental organizations, the National Crime Research Centre employees, Nyumba Kumi officials and community policing members.

### **Sampling Techniques and Sample Size**

According to Mugenda & Mugenda, (2003), sampling is the selecting a given number of objects from a defined population as a representative of that population. The study used both purposive sampling and snowballing methods due to the complexity of the subjects under study. Yamane (1967), provides a simplified formula to calculate sample size as shown below.

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where  $n$  is the sample size,  $N$ , the population size, and  $e$ , the level of precision or margin of error at 5% (standard value of 0.05). The formula gives

$$n = \frac{260}{1+260(0.05)^2} = 158$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Percentage of the sample size} &= \frac{\text{Sample Size}}{\text{Target Population}} \times 100\% \\ &= \frac{158}{260} \times 100\% \\ &= 61\% \end{aligned}$$

Using Yamane formula, the study drew 61% of in each category to come up with sample population. The sample size for each population was derived from Yamane formula

**Table 1 Sample Population**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Target Population</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>
Police officers	50	31
Kenya Crime research Centre officials	50	31
Nyumba Kumi representatives	100	61
Community Policing Members	10	4
Non-governmental organizations	50	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>159</b>

**Source: Author, 2019**

### **Research Instruments**

There are several methods of data collection including, interview, email questionnaire, posted questionnaire, self administration, drop and pick or telephone administered questionnaire

#### **Questionnaire**

This study widely utilized questionnaire as a data collection instrument since they require minimal resources in terms of human resources, cost as well as time. A well-structured set of questions was adopted for every independent variable. The questionnaire utilized majorly a five point Likert scale since the study under investigation is deemed to be sensitive and confidential since it touches on a crucial security management and crime prevention aspect.

#### **Interview Schedule**

The study also employed interview schedule for Nyumba Kumi officials and community policing officials at Kiambio slums

#### **Case Files and Reports**

A secondary data collection sheet was used to record and measure the security level within Kiambio slums. This secondary information was collected from case files and occurrence books of the areas under Makadara Police Division.

#### **Data Analysis**

The researcher used quantitative and qualitative methods to analyze data. The quantitative data collected were summarized and analyzed by using cross tabulations and descriptive statistics such as measure of central tendency. The results of data analysis were presented by the use of tables to display the information obtain from the respondents. On the other hand the qualitative data was grouped into similar themes and analyzed so as to display the opinion of the respondents. The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS version 21) was used to compute proportions and presentation of data through Pie chart and bar graphs. Qualitative data was analyzed through content analysis.

## Findings and Results

### Community Partnership and Crime

The frequency of household involvement in policing practices through Nyumba Kumi platform is presented below in table 2

**Table 1: Frequency of the Involvement of the Community in Policing Practices**

	Frequency	Percent
Very Often	24	18.8
Often	41	32.0
Occasionally	24	18.8
Rarely	39	30.5
Total	128	100.0

*Source: Field Data, 2019*

The findings in table 2 above revealed that majority of the 41(32%) indicated that they often involve in Nyumba Kumi policing practices. Likewise a significant number of the respondents indicated that they engage in Nyumba Kumi Initiative rarely 39(30.5%), very often 24(18.8%) and occasionally 24(18.8%). The findings on whether the households work with the police towards a common interest is represented in table 4.3 below.

**Table 4.3 Household Interest in Solving Crime As Compared to Police**

	Frequency	Percent
Agree	60	46.9
Disagree	49	38.3
Strongly disagree	19	14.8
Total	128	100.0

*Source: Field Data, 2019*

The results presented in table 4.8 above indicates that a larger percentage of the respondents agree 60(46.9%) that the households have great interest in solving crime and insecurity challenge facing Kiambio slum compared to the police. Subsequently, 49(38.3%) of the respondents disagreed while 19(14.8%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. The findings on whether households have forums for discussing crime issues within Kiambio slum are represented in table 4.4

**Table 4.4 Response on Trust between Police and Households in Crime Reduction**

	Frequency	Percent
Agree	62	48.4
Disagree	36	28.1
Strongly disagree	30	23.4
Total	128	100.0

*Source: Field Data, 2019*

The data presented in table 4.4 above shows that majority of the households agreed 62(48.4%) that there is trust between households and the police in relation to crime

reduction. However, 36(28.1%) of the respondents disagreed while 30(23.4%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. These findings indicate that there are good public relations among the police and households within Kiambio slum.

**Table 4.5 Community-Based Intelligence is shared with the Police**

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	11	8.6
Agree	51	39.8
Neutral	25	19.5
Disagree	25	19.5
Strongly disagree	16	12.5
Total	128	100.0

*Source: Field Data, 2019*

The findings presented in table 4.5 above shows that community based intelligence is shared by the police as indicated by the majority of the households who actually agreed 51(39.8%), 11(8.6%) of the households strongly agree, 25(19.5%) of the respondents were neutral, 25(19.5%) of the households disagreed while 16(12.5%) of the respondents strongly disagreed.

### **Conclusion of the Study**

From the findings of the study it clearly indicates that majority of the households further agreed that Nyumba Kumi initiative ideology has significantly assisted in crime reduction after increase in criminal activity patterns within Kiambio slum informal settlements. Some of these strategies for prevention entail; more street lighting and visible police patrols within the neighborhood. The findings back-up Peak and Glensor (2012) findings that neighborhood crime prevention has in a number of ways been the gateway to Nyumba Kumi Initiative as many of the earliest collaborative interactions with the community have advocated for crime prevention and Sherman and Eck (2006) findings that declare that neighborhood watch and household meetings are core strategies in prevention of crime. The findings of the study indicated that Nyumba Kumi Initiative plays a paramount role in problem solving. The justification for these include; analysis of information, sharing of information with the public, carrying out of proactive arrests, the need to enhance technology, police are regarded to be reactive to the crimes and as well the inadequacy of technology for intelligence analysis purpose.

### **Recommendations for Policy and Practice**

The study recommends that there is a great emphasis on increase in funding; community police forums; coming up with more police posts; and police posts which are accessible in as far as partnership in Nyumba Kumi Initiative policing is concerned so as to achieve long term household partnership to combat crime within Kiambio slum informal settlements .The study also recommended that there is a need for utilizing patrols, using contract persons for information, using watch programmes, using watch programs, sharing of information; effective utilization of door to door contacts; increasing of patrols; improving of hotline responses; employing of police officers who are familiar with an area and reducing the time of response to crime incidences in regard to Nyumba Kumi Initiative policing preventive measures employed to reduce crime rates within Kiambio slum informal settlements.

It is recommended by the study further that there is a need to improve detection techniques; employing of more police officers; bettering equipment, using technology, using of equipment for detection and making of proactive arrests in relation to problem solving as strategy for Nyumba Kumi initiative utilized to deal with criminal activities. The study further recommends for the need to strengthen the relationship between the members of the public and police officers as there is a high level of mistrust particularly by public members towards the police. National and County Government should furthermore create policies to improve on how the two levels of the Government interact with regard to Nyumba Kumi policing initiatives.

### **Recommendations for Further Research**

This research sought to determine the impact of Nyumba Kumi Initiative on reduction of crime within informal settlements in Nairobi City County trying to bridge the knowledge gap that existed. Although the study attained its objectives, it mainly looked at one informal settlement within Nairobi City County (Kiambio slum). There is a need to conduct the study in other informal settlements in other cities in Kenya such as Kisumu and Mombasa with a bid to make comparative analysis of the study findings. There is also a need to carry out a similar study which will try to find out the Nyumba Kumi Initiative policing challenges being faced by informal settlements in Kenya.

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