Analysis of the Quality of Peace and Security from the Perspective of Community Policing in Lira city, Northern Uganda

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Uganda faces an ever-upward rate of urban criminality; this has led to continued loss of lives and property. Security officials, especially, the Uganda Police Force have embraced a range of approaches to mitigate, avert and/or evade crime but none appears to yield sustainable outcomes. The decade ending 2020 witnessed the espousal of 'community policing as an innovative approach to detecting and thwarting urban crime. Obtainable literature indicates that community policing is a paradigm shift grounded in the principles of policing by the consent of the community. Consequently, this study aims to analyze the quality of peace and security from the perspective of selected community policing models. Two questions are answered, namely; (a) how does intelligence-led policing enhance peace and security among slum dwellers in Lira city west division? And (b) how does zero-tolerance policing enhance peace and security among slum dwellers in the Lira city west division? A Case study design was adopted in eight purposely selected slums. The participants who were resourceful during data collection are; elected leaders, civil servants, security operatives, retired security officers, and media practitioners. Results suggest that the Intelligence-led policing model has the potential to enhance the protection of security information from unauthorized persons. Thus enabling the Police Force to dislodge organized crime in the slum areas. Also, Zero-tolerance policing model provides efficient management of security investigations since the Police Force can gather evidence to facilitate the prosecution of offenders. Thus, a combination of both models is key in enhancing peace and security among slum areas in Lira City.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This study aims to analyze the possibilities of enhancing peace and security from the perspective of selected community policing models. This is so because recent decades have witnessed rapid urban growth in much of Africa. The rapid urban growth has led to unequaled growth patterns with several low-class citizens resorting to areas popularly known as slums. But considering the pathetic condition of Slums in Africa, which absorb the majority of the urban dwellers, countries such as South Africa are struggling with high levels of both violent- and petty crimes which have hindered peace and security in the country [1]. For example, in the Slums of KwaZulu- Natal, House Breaking Burglary, and theft are experienced at least by 4.7% of the population every year. This high rate of insecurity forced the South African Police Service to change the policing approach to Sector policing which was seen as an implementation tool of community policing philosophy adopted as part of the new order [2]. Uganda has not been spared in the spate of urban crime particularly among the slum dwellers. Consequently, community policing encourages the involvement of the members of local communities to partake in policing their areas through improved community interaction.

In Kenya, the implementation of community policing stems from the constitutional reforms of 2010 and the National Police Service [NPS] Act of 2011 which made community policing mandatory and empowered the Inspector General of Police to issue guidelines on community policing to all police officers and ensure that there is the involvement of the communities in combating crime to ensure peace and security in the country [3]. After the Westgate mall attack in 2013, a country-wide policing initiative was initiated. This was imported from a Tanzanian policing strategy [4]. The system brings security to the level of the 'household' by creating clusters of 10 houses [5]. The stakeholders meet regularly and share security information with each other and provide key information to the police for action.

The term community encompasses social units with common acceptable values and interests [6]. In this study, the term community refers to neighborhoods, or in a few instances, it refers to larger social units, such as slum dwellers in Lira City West Division. Community policing is a philosophy based on the concept that police officers and private citizens can work together in innovative ways to solve modern community problems related to insecurity and physical disorder, which affect peace and security [7]. Consequently, the police as a visible face of government is mandated to create a cordial relationship with the law-abiding citizens in the community and increase their participation in the promotion of peace and security in their localities for the improvement of the general welfare in the community. Community policing is conceptualized and implemented differently and in diversified contexts because it is a philosophy that is geared toward changing the specific security needs of a community. The United States Justice Department's Office of Community Policing Services defines community policing as a philosophy that fosters organizational strategies that promote systematic cooperation and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues namely crime, social disorder, and fear of insecurity.

Community policing is a paradigm shift grounded in the principles of policing a community using a close partnership between the Police personnel and the community [8]. It is a strategy where members of a community are involved in the promotion of peace and security, the Police Force is viewed as active partners in peacebuilding, and members of the community are co-producers of peace and security in societies [9]. In light of this, public involvement in policing activities facilitates sharing of security information, since it is presumed that police alone, as an executive body and the holder of instruments of peace and security, can neither create nor maintain safe communities single-handedly. Slum areas are considered to be one of the breeding grounds for social problems such as youth unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, alcoholism, other drug abuse, misuse of firearms, and peer pressure [10]. The expansion of cities and other urban centers especially in developing countries is not always based on the ability of the urban authorities to sustain the given needs of the human population. This is a number of cases that have led to the urbanization of social problems due to the territorial inefficiency, which prevents the slum dwellers from surviving and developing their capabilities and hence a suitable

ground for criminal activities as a means to an end, resulting in insecurity within a selected community.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Two issues inform the review of literature, namely; the contribution of intelligence-led policing in enhancing peace and security among slum dwellers as well as the contribution of zero tolerance policing in enhancing peace and security among slum dwellers.

2.1 The Contribution of Intelligence-led Policing in Enhancing Peace and Security among Slum Dwellers

Since its inception in the early 1990s, intelligence-led policing is one of the most enduring strategies used in the promotion of peace and security by the Police Worldwide. It involves the use of criminal intelligence when planning for security operations by police. It is grounded on a more objective approach when considering priorities and allocating resources. This helps Police to be strategic, future-oriented, and targeted in their approach to curbing insecurity. The intelligence analysis is fundamental in prioritizing crime hotspots, prolific offenders, and criminal groups. As such, it facilitates the reduction of both crime and harm, disruption and prevention through strategic and tactical management, deployment, and enforcement which enhance peace and security among urban dwellers.

The introduction of intelligence-led policing in the 1990s became significant in the promotion of peace and security in the global arena. The policing strategy requires police to be smarter in the exercise of their unique authority and capabilities [11]. The strategy emerged at a time when the threat of insecurity had become difficult to manage due to the infiltration of organized criminal groups across the world. In 2000 Canada and New Zealand committed to intelligence-led policing, and in 2002, a group of criminal intelligence experts called for a national policing plan in the United States to facilitate the implementation of intelligence-led policing. In the United Kingdom, the concept was enshrined in legislation that demanded all forces adopt the National intelligence model by April 2004. Therefore, intelligence-led policing has become an operational tactic that reduces insecurity through proactive policing by removing resources from reactive, crime investigations departments to proactive units to facilitate greater intelligence gathering and analysis.

In Africa, the perceived threat of insecurity causes discomfort in society by reducing people's quality of life due to loss of life and property. Zimbabwe is one of the victims that took relevant steps to implement intelligence-led policing so as to minimize incidences of insecurity in society [11]. In an attempt to fight the growing level of criminality, the Zimbabwe Police Force launched intelligence-led policing in the year 2000 in all districts as a policing response to crime in society. A few countries in Africa also embraced intelligence-led policing notably, South Africa, Nigeria, and Kenya. Uganda has in the recent past experienced a unique wave of insecurity ranging from violent murders using rudimentary weapons such as machetes, axes, and terrorism to economically motivated kidnaps. The government responded by reshuffling top security leaderships in security agencies and deploying local defense patrol units and installing cameras on major city roads among other reactionary interventions. While these were good in raising public confidence, they are not sustainable solutions to manage transnational threats to national security [Solomon, 2020]. Thus, a more sustainable solution would be in the realignment of the intelligence-led systems with realities of non-traditional threats. Unfortunately, the Uganda government is prioritizing investment in the traditional hard military and policing systems while neglecting intelligence-led services to the peripheral despite the fundamental role it is playing in the promotion of peace and security across the globe.

Intelligence-led policing (ILP) empowers the Police Force to be more strategic, visionary, and accurate in detecting and/or thwarting peace and security in various communities. This model involves the collection and analysis of information regarding security so as to obtain intelligence outputs that can be used to direct investigations as well as mounting logical responses by targeting numerous violators of security [12]. As a consequence, the analysis of intelligence data facilitates strategic security decision-making and the allocation of resources in the promotion of peace and security. Therefore, ILP uses analysis of security situations to understand the offenders, victims, and circumstances, in order to prioritize resources on the basis of the intelligence to promote peace and security in the community.

The ILP model strives to move away from a reactive and punitive philosophy of policing to a more proactive style of community policing, which embraces change from reacting to individual incidents and threats, to one that appeals to the entire community [13]. This is often achieved by deploying crime intelligence to gather security details ahead of decisions concerning the promotion of peace and security in the community. The notion of ILP plays a positive role in the international arena by dislodging transnational organized crimes such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, and terrorism [14]. Cross-border intelligence sharing among various countries is a cornerstone of transnational ILP efforts globally. As a consequence, it can be stated that the aim of ILP appears focused on pacifying acts of insecurity as well as reducing the magnitude of social disorder in communities. But while the model can be a strategic management tool directed towards detecting elements of insecurity in the community, community-based information may not be an adequate reason deter given that a lot of information may not be credible thus calling for deeper analysis.

2.2 The contributions of Zero Tolerance Policing in Enhancing Peace and Security among Slum Dwellers

Zero tolerance policing (ZTP) is a replication of the Broken Windows theory which holds that a lack of early intervention in the prevention of minor crimes and social disorder will result in a breach of peace and security in society. Therefore, assertive policing to cease the progress of minor crimes and social disorder will curtail violent crime and reduce insecurity in the urban areas. This model of policing involves rapid field interrogations and the use of technology in the surveillance and monitoring of security situations to increase intelligence, deter and apprehend offenders, and improve the citizen's sense of security. In every community, community policing underpins the social contract between the Police and the community to aid in identifying and solving the recognized problems of insecurity [15]. This is so because Police collaborate with the communities they serve and gather security-related information that affects peace and security, and the community depends on the Police to help in emergencies and curb disorder. However, the scope of this relationship has increased to the extent that Police and community have begun to expect more from

each other as they realize they must operate as partners.

The notion of ZTP arose in New York City in the 1990s with aggressive policies aimed at controlling minor crimes that negatively affected the quality of life of the inner cities. The selective intolerance of deviant behavior was rapidly exported to the United Kingdom and the rest of Europe through media campaigns and later via legislation [16]. The transition to quality life policing and zero tolerance strategies of urban control in New York City became a paradigm shift that constituted a new wave of regulations of behavior in the public sphere. The aim was not to fight the origin of the discontent such as the economic crisis and unemployment but the crude manifestation in creative cities and make the impoverished neighborhood more habitable. The ZTP strategy is used to subdue complex forms of insecurity in the community through the incorporation of technologies in the surveillance and monitoring of security situations in the community by the police [17]. As a consequence, several operational military technologies such as digital cameras and telephones are used as offensive forms of policing to counter insecurity. These technologies help in the search for information to create situational awareness so as to facilitate social control in the urban community. ZTP stresses the need for strict enforcement of the law to revoke the increasing tolerance of minor offenses emphasized by the broken window theory in the community.

The ZTP emphasizes a move away from a reactive style of policing to a policing model which faces insecurity directly. It stresses flexibility in the police bureaucratic system to allow rapid risk assessment of security threats to promote peace and security in the community [18]. This is achieved through vigilance supported by technologies that produce and transmit information regarding insecurity such as terrorism and other social disorder in the community which disrupts peace and security [19]. This policing model also underpins stop and search philosophy and incarceration measures to eliminate habitual peace violators in the community. The ZTP also supports public-private partnership for the application of surveillance and monitoring technologies that promotes control of social disorder to enhance peace and security in the community. For instance, the use of CCTV cameras by Police and private agents with analytical image interpretation that can produce statistics and concentration of insecurity is aimed

at integrating information from a different database. Due to its effectiveness, ZTP has been constituted as a global security model that provides technical solutions for security planning and crowd monitoring to counter insecurity and promote peace in various communities.

In Uganda, there was a tremendous increase in the number of crimes between 2015 and 2017. This period registered the highest number of crimes including murders of women in parts of Wakiso district especially Entebbe and Nansana municipalities along with government officials and Muslim clerics who became victims of motorcycle-riding criminals. These incidences forced the government to take a drastic step by installing over 5000 CCTV cameras in all the major towns and highways so as to aid in monitoring the security situation across the country as well as facilitating the implementation of ZTP to improve peace and security in the affected communities. Despite the numerous contribution made by intelligence-led policing in ensuring peace and security across the globe, the Uganda security system has not yet been developed to handle the serious global security threats. On many occasions, they have depended on foreign intelligence such as the United Kingdom and the United States intelligence-led systems to avert global terror. The established intelligence units in the Uganda police force such as the crime intelligence is underfunded by the government which makes it hard to carry out intelligence-led policing. This is a glaring gap in the literature that needs to be covered to have effective intelligence-led policing in Uganda. Upon critical assessment of the contribution of ZTP in the provision of peace and security, it is observed that the use of technology such as CCTV cameras in monitoring security situations is central to this policing strategy. However, in Uganda, these technologies are still limited due to the cost involved in both procurement and maintenance. Since the time Uganda Police Force adopted the ZTP model to enhance peace and security in the country, there has been limited success seeing that the number of urban crimes being registered, annually, is skyrocketing. However, this contradiction does not mean that the ZTP model is not effective hence, this research.

3. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

This study aimed to examine the contribution of community policing towards enhancing peace and security in Lira city, northern Uganda. Two

questions guided the study: (a) how does intelligence-led policing enhance peace and security among slum dwellers in Lira city west division? And (b) how does zero-tolerance policing enhance peace and security among slum dwellers in the Lira city west division?

4. METHODS AND MATERIALS

4.1 Study Design

A Case study research design was adopted given its potential to add a new dimension to the investigation that cannot be obtained through the measurement of variables alone. This enabled the researchers to study different categories of participants since criminality affects every category in the community. Qualitative research produces holistic understandings of rich, contextual, and generally unstructured, non-numeric data by engaging in conversations with the research participants in a natural setting [20,21]. It describes the processes, individual or group behavior in its total setting, and the sequence of events in which the behavior happens.

4.2 Study Population

The study population comprised slum dwellers in Lira City West Division in the slum areas of Teso bar, Ojwina, Jinja camp, Barogole, Tee-Atat, Tee-Omodo, Ober Kampala, Ober Entebbe, and Odokomit, elected leaders, civil servants, security operatives, retired security officers and media practitioners. This study population was selected because they have the information, knowledge, experience, and ideas about insecurity in Lira City West Division. The study covered 84 participants who were expected to be interviewed, and the research was conducted in the slum areas of Teso bar, Ojwina, Jinja camp, Barogole, Tee-Atat, Tee-Omodo, Ober Kampala, Ober Entebbe, and Odokomit in Lira City West Division.

4.3 Scope of Study

The study was conducted in the Lira City west division which is located in the Lango sub-region of Northern Uganda. It covered the City West division, especially the slum areas of Teso bar, Barogole, Jinja Camp, Tee-Atat, Tee-Omodo, Ober Kampala, Ober Entebbe, and Odokomit. The City is selected due to the fact that for the third consecutive year, it had the highest level of insecurity registered in a single year compared to other urban areas, making the city the most

dangerous urban area to live in Uganda. The study covered a period of five years, that is, from 2015-2019. This was the period when there was a high level of insecurity in the former Lira Municipality. Accordingly, obtainable studies [21,22] maintain that effective implementation of community policing would have a positive contribution toward peace and security among slum dwellers in the Lira city west division. This would in turn result in political stability, freedom from fear, ownership of property, and access to basic needs by the slum dwellers. Conversely, poor implementation would have negative consequences on peace and security among slum dwellers. The positive attitude of the community towards police would facilitate the participation of the community in community policing activities such as community meetings, sharing of security information, and community forums, and this would bring about peace and security among the slum dwellers. Nonetheless, the negative attitude of some members of the community towards police would have a negative effect on the implementation of community policing and result in a lack of trust, and limited participation in community policing activities, and it would negatively affect peace and security among slum dwellers in the division.

4.4 Data Collection and Analysis

Four focus group discussions were conducted at Teso bar, Jinja camp, Odokmit, and Ober Kampala among slum dwellers. Accordingly, four focus group discussions are sufficient to identify a range of issues [22,23]. Of the four, two FGDs comprised eight male participants, and two FDGs comprised eight female participants. The FGDs were used to collect information on the contribution of community policing in enhancing peace and security among slum dwellers in the Lira City West Division. FGDs provided a wide opportunity to explore in-depth information relating to the study variables. Also, the documentary review was used to generate information from secondary mainly Police Reports on; community policing, crime, the status of National security, Human rights violations, Domestic related crimes, and International global security. Others were published materials and abstracts of scholars. All information was analyzed thematically during and immediately after collection.

4.5 Bio-data of Participants

The participant's gender, ages, marital status, and level of education are illustrated below, and

the study participants are arranged as follows. The first group was the slum dwellers, and in this category, the researcher sought the views of the slum dwellers who are the victims of insecurity within Lira City West Division without considering their socioeconomic status in society. Their views were sought on the contribution of community policing in enhancing peace and security within their area. In the second group, the views of the professional civil servants were sought by the researcher on the contribution of community policing in enhancing peace and security among slum dwellers. The third group was the elected leaders both at the lower local level and City level because they represent the interest of the slum dwellers who are affected by the insecurity within their various localities. The fourth group was the police officers who are involved in the implementation of the various models of community policing. Their views were sought to find out the extent to which community policing has contributed to peace and security in the slum areas, the challenges they are facing in the implementation of community policing, and their recommendations to improve the implementation of community policing in the urban setting.

The other category interviewed were the retired police officers who were once part of the community policing implementation team and contributed to the provision of peace and security in various communities in Uganda. The final group was the media practitioners who are always involved in the coverage of security incidences, community policing activities such as crime prevention talk shows, and community meetings with police, and they always interact with both the police and the community on issues related to security within the slum areas of Lira City West Division. This presentation of data is arranged by themes as they emerge from the transcriptions of the interviews and discussions with the literature.

5. RESULTS OF THE STUDY

5.1 The Contributions of ILP in Enhancing Peace and Security among Slum Dwellers in Lira City West Division

The study findings indicate that ILP has contributed to the protection of security information from those who need not know. This has helped police to dislodge many organized crimes or insecurity such as robberies, theft, and murders within the slum areas of Lira City West Division. This finding is in agreement with the

different studies [13] that intimated that the protection of security information is often achieved under intelligence-led policing by deploying crime intelligence officers to gather security details ahead of decisions concerning the promotion of peace and security in various communities. In a focus group discussion interview conducted in Jinja Camp, participants observed that "there are people in our community who are criminals but we may not know them. But police always have information about such people without our knowledge through their intelligence. They are always arrested without us knowing." *(FGD-R).*

The ILP model can facilitate in identification of criminal hotspots and the culprits involved in the commission of the breach of peace and security, leading to their arrest and prosecution. The intelligence officers gather security information from the community and they analyze them before making tactical deployment to have those who breach public peace and security arrested, and it has helped in the reduction of several criminal gangs within the study area. This finding relates to other studies [12] which observed that the model involves the collection and analysis of information regarding security to obtain intelligence outputs that direct investigations and logical responses aimed at minimizing insecurity by targeting serious security violators from their hideouts. As a consequence, the analysis of security data helps in strategic security decision-making and the allocation of resources in the promotion of peace and security. As noted by one participant "using intelligence, we have always increased vigilance in such areas within the slum to prevent the escalation of insecurity using our intelligence officers, and this has improved peace and security among slum dwellers of Lira City West division". *(Participant, K).*

The ILP helps in the protection of suspects from mob actions, which may otherwise end their lives before important information is extracted from them. The slum areas are known as hideouts for criminals due to a lack of social controls, and it is always hard for police to carry out operations and arrest peace violators through the traditional model of policing. Therefore, ILP helps in targeting those hard-core peace violators because police gather relevant information about them and they are arrested with limited knowledge of the community. This reduces the reprisal from those affected by the actions of the perpetrators. This is a new finding of the research established during the study which other scholars have not had a chance to bring out in their research findings.

In another FGD conducted at Ojwina, participants stressed the need for increased intelligence and they observed that "The use of secret police has helped police to arrest suspects whom we don't have the capacity to handle like robbers who have guns. Sometimes we only see police arresting a person whom we have never known that he is a dangerous person in the community. This has helped to solve some of the insecurity within our areas." *(FGD-Q).*

The model of ILP helps the actors to create ample time to analyze security-related information before taking action. Whenever there is suspicion about any matter related to security, the police always investigate using crime intelligence officers before conducting an arrest, and such a perpetrator will not know the person who could have reported him or her to the police. This always helped the police to come up with the rightful decisions aimed at curtailing the activities of the peace violators within the study area. This finding supports other studies [13] that underscored that intelligence-led policing strives to move away from a reactive and punitive philosophy of policing to a more proactive style of community policing, which embraces change from reacting to individual incidences and threats, to one that appeals to the entire community. Also, a media practitioner in an interview said that "whenever police socialize with the community during their intelligence gathering, it will not create suspicion and the criminals will not know that he/she is being investigated. The police officers are able to carry out secret intelligence and gather security-related information about each criminal group in these slum areas, and this has helped police to dislodge most of the criminal groups within the slum area of Lira City West Division." *(Participant, G).*

The ILP has helped in tracking down the criminals who breach peace and security within the study area. The police normally profile and track the movements and activities of peace violators, and they also get to know where they stay. This has helped in easy identification of suspects and subsequent arrest and prosecution of the habitual peace violators which has promoted peace and security within the study area. This technique used by the police has also been adopted by the local council leaders within

these slum areas by ensuring that all details of the residents within their jurisdictions are captured on record so that if there is any member of the community who commits a breach of public peace and security, it would be easy to identify them and have them arrested and handed over to the police for investigations. This is a new finding by the research which the study participants said has promoted peace and security within their areas.

Intelligence-led policing has helped police to avoid excessive mistakes during operations because it provides officers with better clues about insecurity and the perpetrators. This is because before police carry out any operations, intelligence is gathered, and analyzed before going into action. This has helped to avoid both civilian and personnel causalities when conducting arrests of the peace violators in these crowded slum areas of Teso bar, Jinja camp, Barogole, Tee Atat, Tee Omodo, Ober Kampala and Entebbe, and Odokmit. This finding was also observed by other researchers [12] who argued that intelligence-led policing enables the Police to be more strategic, visionary, and accurate in the promotion of peace and security in various communities through the analysis of information for logical responses aimed at minimizing insecurity by targeting serious security violators.

5.2 The Role of ZTP in Enhancing Peace and Security among Slum Dwellers of Lira City West Division

The study reveals that the ZTP model has helped the Police to acquire efficient management of security investigations whenever incidences of insecurity occur. The Police are able to gather both virtual and printed evidence to facilitate the prosecution of the offenders, and this has scared away the criminals from destabilizing peace and security in most of these slum areas where cameras are situated. Accordingly, other studies [17] agreed with the research finding and stressed that the strategy is significant to subdue complex forms of insecurity in the community through the involvement of technologies in the surveillance and monitoring of security situations. As a consequence, several operational military technologies such as digital cameras and telephones are used as offensive forms of policing to counter insecurity. These technologies help in the search for information to create situational awareness so as to facilitate social control in the urban setting. One of the study participants interviewed and a media practitioner

said that "these cameras are like police officers in uniform that alerts the public that in case anyone commits any act of insecurity here, he/she will be arrested. As a result, it has scared away criminals from committing a crime within the coverage of these cameras, and has helped to reduce insecurity within the slum areas." *(Participant, E).*

The findings also revealed that zero tolerance policing has facilitated detection and quick responses to insecurity within these slum areas through visualized camera systems and mobile communications. The police are able to watch all activities of people in the slum areas, identify the perpetrators, trace their movement through virtual images or through Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and call data, and has quickened the arrest of peace violators. This has helped to subdue criminal groups that have been operating in Lira city. In fact, studies [18] contend with the study finding and emphasized that ZTP has promoted a move away from a reactive style of policing to a model which faces insecurity directly through rapid risk assessment of security threats to promote peace and security in the urban community. In a focus group discussion moderated by the researcher at Ojwina, participants said that "we all fear these cameras when we are doing something which may not be right, and very few people commit crime this day close to where these cameras are planted because police are able to monitor and identify people who have committed crime leading to their arrest." *(FGD-Q).* Another participant also expressed a similar experience and said that "There has been robberies and other insecurity in Lira City which could take place during day time. But the introduction of cameras within the City Centre and the slum areas have reduced these criminal activities because the Police are able to trace the activities of the peace violators leading to their subsequent arrest." *(Participant, G).*

Another research finding revealed that the use of technology in the fight against insecurity has influenced private individuals and businesses to take security as a priority in daily life, and they have installed cameras on their premises to monitor and capture those who come into contact with them and provide virtual images in case of any security incident. This has resulted in security partnerships between the police and the urban community. This finding is supported by other studies [23,20] which reiterated that ZTP supports public-private partnership for the purpose of surveillance and monitoring of

security situations to promote control of social disorder in the communities. For instance, the use of CCTV cameras by Police and private agents with analytical image interpretation produces statistics and concentration of insecurity and integrates information from a different database by monitoring crowded places to counter insecurity in various communities.

In a discussion held in Odokmit, participants noted that "In some of the prominent public places within the slum areas of city west division here like the bars, restaurants, shops, disco halls, petrol stations, and residences, the owners of these places have installed security cameras that they use for monitoring the activities of their customers. This is meant to keep the identity of the people who come to their premises and in case of any security incident, they can connect with the police and provide the footage to help in investigations."(FGD-N).

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Embracing ILP to Enhance Peace and Security among Slum Dwellers

The intelligence-led policing has facilitated the protection of security information from those who need not know. This has helped police to dislodge many organized crimes such as robberies, theft, and murders within the slum areas of Lira City, and consequently promoted peace and security within the study area but this calls for changes in key organizational aspects as suggested in the maturity model from the view of Denmark [24]. The use of intelligence-led policing has played a big role in the identification of crime hotspots and the culprits involved in the commission of the breach of peace and security within the study area leading to their arrest and prosecution. As earlier hinted [25], this is achieved through intelligence information from the community resulting in the tactical deployment of police officers which has helped to reduce the number of criminal gangs within the study area and hence promotes peace and security as maintained in a study Australian fraudulent identity [26]. The policing strategy has reduced mob actions against the perpetrators of peace and security by targeting hard-core peace violators resulting in their arrest with limited knowledge of the slum dwellers. This has reduced the reprisal from those affected by the actions of the perpetrators and has improved peace and security within the study area.

The paradigm shift from reactive and punitive philosophy of policing to a more proactive style of policing being achieved through regular intelligence gathering was underscored in a number of studies [27,28,29]. The strategy has promoted tracking down criminals who breach security within the study area. The police officers profile and track the movement and activities of peace violators and they get to know where they stay. This has helped in the arrest and prosecution of habitual peace violators which has promoted peace and security in the study area. ILP has facilitated police to avoid unnecessary mistakes during operations because it provides officers with better clues about insecurity and the perpetrators. Before police conduct any operation, intelligence is gathered, analyzed and a decision made including the hard-core criminals [30]. This has helped to avoid both civilian and personnel casualties when conducting the arrest of peace violators in the crowded study area.

6.2 Espousing ZTP to Enhance Peace and Security among Slum Dwellers

The introduction of technology such as cameras, and sim-card registration in the management of security has improved investigations of crime whenever it occurs within the study area. The Police are able to gather both print and virtual evidence captured by cameras, and this has facilitated the prosecution of the peace violators and thereby improved peace and security within the study area. The technology has further facilitated detection and quick responses to security incidences within the study area. This has been achieved through visualized camera systems and mobile communication global positioning system that allows tracking of the perpetrators and their subsequent detection and arrest, which has played a big role in reducing the numbers of peace violators within the study area. Finally, the ZTP model has promoted security partnerships between the police and the private individuals within the study area [31,23,20]. The business fraternity and other abled individuals have taken up the individual security initiative on-premises to aid in monitoring the activities of the people as a means to raise vigilance.

7. CONCLUSION

The study investigated the contribution of community policing in enhancing peace and security among slum dwellers in the Lira city

west division. The results suggest that reduction in the number of peace violators, acted as dispute resolution centers, fostered the spirit of consultation between the police and the community, promoted sensitization of slum dwellers on security issues, and facilitated sharing of security information between slum dwellers and the police, improved community participation in the fight against insecurity, fostered the protection of security information from those who need not know, reduced unnecessary mistakes by police officers during operations, improved investigations through the use of technology, hastened detection and responses to security incidences, and promoted security partnership between the police and the slum dwellers through the installation of security cameras. These have improved peace and security within the study area, which is a cardinal principle of community policing in the world. This infers that a combination of intelligence-led policing and zero-tolerance policing is key in enhancing peace and security among slum areas of northern Uganda.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

a) The Inspector General of police is encouraged to develop clear guidelines so as to streamline community policing by integrating all departments in its implementation

b) There is a need for limited political interference in the mandates of the police force of protecting life and property, and maintenance of law and order, so as to facilitate the promotion of peace and security in various communities.

c) There is a need to eliminate corruption in the police force and facilitate the police better in the execution of their role through deeper intra-Police awareness.

d) There is a need to create a joint intelligence system to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of ILP that brings both the community and the police together by linking up with other security organs.

e) The government needs to increase the budget for technologies that can facilitate scientific investigations and also improve the coverage of the Cameras to include the newly created urban centers to ensure proper security monitoring to curb insecurity in Uganda.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The rights of every participant were observed by seeking informed consent before any FGD. Also, the privacy of participants was observed by ensuring that the information generated was treated with the utmost confidentiality. This involved protection of the identity of every participant using the coding system. Moreover, every Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) set by the Ministry of Health adhered to avoid the spread of the Virus to the researcher and the participants. Therefore wearing face masks and hand washing or sanitizing was adhered to during the data collection exercise.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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