



NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY – KENYA

MA, NATIONAL SECURITY & STRATEGY

**THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY POLICING IN CURBING THE PROLIFERATION OF
ILLCIT ARMS IN KENYA: THE CASE OF KIBRA SUB-COUNTY IN NAIROBI
COUNTY**

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for the award of Masters Degree in National Security and Strategy from the
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DISCLAIMER

The information in this paper is the outcome of my Research. The observations and/or views on this topic is my own. They do not reflect the official position of the Ministry of Defence or that of National Defence College in any way.

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this research work is entirely my original composition. This work has not been previously submitted at any other College or University for examination.

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This project has been presented for examination with my approval as the university supervisor.

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DEDICATION

This Thesis is dedicated to my family, particularly my beloved parents, husband, children, and nephews for their unwavering prayers, moral support, encouragement, and inspiration throughout the duration of my studies. May God reward you in a very special way.

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ABSTRACT

Throughout the course of history, there has been persistent exacerbation of the predicament face by civilians worldwide due the widespread and unlawful proliferation of illicit firearms, which remains a threat to the maintenance of global peace and security. The prevalence of violence and crime continue to pose a significant and enduring challenge to progress and growth everywhere, but especially in metropolitan areas. Notably, the prevalence of illicit firearms derails the fulfilment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Target 16.4 of Objective 16, which aims to stop the flow of illegal weapons and combat organized crime. Since the SDGs are interrelated, attaining this Objective will advance the achievement of the other SDGs. The widespread circulation of illegal weapons poses a severe threat to Kenya's national security as well as the protection of its citizens. Community policing (CP) has become a crucial strategy in tackling the proliferation of illicit arms, even though law enforcement organizations are responsible for doing so. In order to improve human security, CP places a strong emphasis on collaborative relationships between the community and law enforcement agencies. In several countries around the world, including Kenya, the campaign has proved effective in lowering crime rates. CP's efficacy in stopping the spread of illegal armaments, however, is not well-known. From the foregoing, the study set to explore the potential of CP as a strategy to effectively address the issue of illicit arms proliferation in Kenya, with a specific focus on Kibra Sub-County in Nairobi County. This study aims to add to new knowledge to fill in the gaps with regards to the precise manner in which CP can be utilized to promote an illicit gun-free society in Kenya. In its three objectives, the study analyzed CP's contribution to the discovery of illegal weapons, evaluated CP's involvement in the hunt for illegal weapons and assessed its participation in breaking up illegal arms gangs in Kibra Sub-County. This research used systems theory, credited to Ludwig von Bertalanffy (1901-1972), to explain the manner in which community-police relations impact on the efficacy of CP as a strategy for contending with illicit arms problem. The project utilized an exploratory survey as the study design. This research employed both qualitative and quantitative study approaches, thus allow the research to gather a mix of primary and secondary data. Using key informant interviews and survey questionnaires, the primary data were gathered from the study's population, comprising Police officers, CP cluster heads, and National Government Administrative Officials in Kibra Sub-County. The quantitative data were examined using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences, and the qualitative data were reviewed thematically and descriptively, and later documented in form of bar graphs, pie charts, tables, and narratives. Findings from the study indicate that Police officers in Kibra Sub-County face significant challenges in detecting and investigating illegal arms, as well as disrupting illicit weapons' cartels. The study also reveals that the effectiveness of CP has been hampered by inadequate integration and coordination among relevant stakeholders as well as strained relationships between the police and the general public. The study concludes that CP is at the centre of curbing illegal arms proliferations in Kibra, albeit the inherent challenges. As such, the detection and investigation of illegal SALWs as well as disruption on of illicit arms cartels in Kibra Sub-County heavily relies on police and public cooperation. This study recommends that addressing the challenges such as poor integration, strained police-community relationships, and limited resources and public awareness is necessary to enhance the effectiveness of CP in preventing the spread of illegal firearms. Additionally, the study recommends the implementation of reforms within the security sector to support CP efforts. By actively involving and empowering the community, CP can foster trust and cooperation, thereby making significant progress in tackling illicit arms proliferation and enhancing overall safety and security in Kibra.

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ASALs	-	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
AU	-	African Union
CP	-	Community Policing
CPF	-	Community Policing Forum
DRC	-	Democratic Republic of Congo
EU	-	European Union
EUCPN	-	European Union Crime Prevention Network
GLR	-	Great Lakes Region
HOA	-	Horn of Africa
KIIs	-	Key Informant Interviews
NACOSTI	-	National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation
NDC	-	National Defence College
NCRC	-	National Crime Research Centre
NGAOs	-	National Government Administrative Officials
NPS	-	National Police Service
SALWs	-	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SDGs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
SRIC	-	Security Research, and Information Centre
UN	-	United Nations
UNODC	-	United Nations Office of Drugs, and Crime
US	-	United States

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The United Nations (UN) Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, describes illicit arms trafficking as the act of importing, exporting, acquiring, selling, distributing, moving, or transferring weapons, from or through the territory of one State to the territory of another State without the consent of or in violation of the laws and regulations of any of the State concerned.¹

Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) is a global problem that is continuously threatening peace and security for many communities. Illicit arms proliferation has the propensity to derail the attainment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially goal 16, Target 16.4, which aims to reduce the flow of illegal weapons and fight organized crime.² By attaining this goal, progress can be made toward achieving other SDGs, including SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 5 (Gender Equality). This is because the SDGs are interconnected. However, the United Nations Security Council cites that SALWs continue to play a significant role in subverting peace and security on a national, regional, and international scale. This menace has significantly worsened conditions for vulnerable communities already experiencing conflict.³

¹Grassi, Simonetta. "Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition: Implementation Challenges and Responses." Brill Research Perspectives in Transnational Crime 3, no. 4 (2021): 58-77.

²Merz, Fabien. "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: World Drug Report 2017. 2017." SIRIUS-Zeitschrift für Strategische Analysen 2, no. 1 (2018): 85-86.

³Kurath, Tina. "Mandates for Security? How UN Peacekeeping Mandates Address the Level of Postwar Violence after Intra-State Conflicts." (2022).

Even in countries with arms embargoes, warlords and child soldiers frequently employ illegal small weaponry, as do criminals and drug dealers. Statistics on the use and trafficking of illegal small guns are rare and perhaps unreliable due to their unlawful status. Nevertheless, research endeavors are still being made into the problem, and the studies' outcomes have provided insightful information. According to the European Union Crime Prevention Network's (EUCPN) estimates, there were around 640 million illegal weapons were in circulation, equating to an average of unlawful firearm per every 11 individuals residing within the UN's geographical zones.⁴ It is estimated that although approximately 8 million firearms are manufactured annually and legally traded, a significant portion of these firearms end up in illegal markets.⁵

According to the Small Arms Survey, of the 1 billion weapons in circulation worldwide as of 2017, 857 million (or 85%) were in the possession of civilians, 133 million (or 12%) were housed in military armories, and 23 million (or 2%) were the property of law enforcement organizations.⁶ Research studies indicate that civilian holdings, which surged from 650 million in 2006 to 857 million in 2017, are a major factor in the worldwide stockpile's growth over the previous ten years.⁷ Whilst national ownership rates differ greatly depending on factors, including national legislation, a country's gun culture, history, and other considerations, almost all nations show a surge in numbers. Some of the rises are attributable to better data and research techniques. However, a large portion of it results from actual expansion in civilian ownership.⁸

⁴Meijers, Loy, Febe Liagre, and Cindy Verleysen. "Trafficking in Illicit Firearms: a global and European overview." (2015).

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Tar, Usman A., and Sunday Adejoh. "The theoretical parameters of the proliferation and regulation of small arms and light weapons in Africa." *The Palgrave Handbook of Small Arms and Conflicts in Africa* (2021): 41-68.

⁷ Karp, Aaron. "Estimating global civilian-held firearms numbers." (2018): 1-12.

⁸ Ibid

In Europe, Europol has identified the illicit transfer of SALWs as a major security threat. According to the European Union (EU) Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, there were about 500,000 misplaced or stolen weapons in the EU in 2014.⁹ Other estimates claim that "the trade in illegal firearms produces between EUR 125 million and EUR 236 million per year worldwide, which represents between 10% and 20% of the trade volume in legal firearms". The primary source of illegal guns is often traced back to the accumulation of firearms from conflicts and the legal gun trade.¹⁰ Dealers in these illicit weapons adopt a variety of methods, some of which are more sophisticated than others.

The continent of Africa is also facing the challenge of dealing with the proliferation of illegal firearms. According to Wood & Danssaert, the majority of Africa's 54 nations struggle with the issue of illicit arms proliferation due to historical legacies of colonialism, widespread poverty, porous borders, and competition for resources. This has resulted in challenges in establishing effective regulatory frameworks to control the trade of small arms, as well as ensuring lawful ownership and utilization of such ammunition and weapons.¹¹ According to Mules, the weapons that are currently flowing in Africa originate both from within and without Africa's borders. The conflicts in areas of the Middle East have a spill-over effect in the supply of SALWs, which enter the African continent through maritime entry points such as Somalia's Kismayo Port and from there flow into the inland regions.¹²

It is on this basis that the Africa Union (AU) came up with Silencing the Guns by 2020 initiative that was introduced to end all conflicts and violent activities in Africa by the year 2020. The program aimed to uphold security, peace, and stability in Africa by addressing the

⁹ Herd, Graeme P., and Anne Aldis, eds. *Soft Security Threats & Europe*. Routledge, 2014.

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Wood, Brian, and Peter Danssaert. "Africa Armed Violence and the Illicit Arms Trade." "Gun Trafficking and Violence: From The Global Network to The Local Security Challenge" (2021): 189.

¹² Mules, I. "Stemming the flow of illicit arms in Africa." *Deutsche Welle*. <https://www.dw.com/en/stemming-the-flow-of-illicit-arms-in-africa/a-49761552> (2019).

root causes of conflicts, upholding good governance, and promoting socio-economic development. Unfortunately, the initiative did not achieve its goal within the stipulated timeline due to challenges that included inadequate resources and capacity to address root causes of conflicts and implement sustainable peacebuilding initiatives. Despite these challenges, the AU remains committed to achieving the goal of "Silencing the Guns" and has extended the initiative's deadline to 2030.¹³ On the other hand, Africa Agenda 2063 is a continental strategic framework developed by the AU to guide the socio-economic and political transformation of the continent over the next 50 years. It seeks to create a prosperous, integrated, and peaceful Africa, driven by its citizens, and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.¹⁴

Kenya has also signed various national and regional frameworks. These include the National Action Plan on Arms Control, and Management, a framework that seeks to manage and control the proliferation of SALWs in Africa. It draws key principles from the Nairobi Protocol, which is a regional agreement on the control SALWs in East Africa. The National Focal Point of arms and weapons in the Great Lakes Region (GLR) is a body responsible for coordinating initiatives aimed at combating the circulation of SALWs in the region. The GLR includes countries such as Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which have been affected by armed conflicts, and weapons proliferation.¹⁵

The implementation of the Nairobi Protocol has been a gradual process, with some countries making significant progress in managing SALWs while others have been slow to implement

¹³ Teka, Ledet. "Re-imagining the Role of the Humanitarian Agency of the African Union to Encompass Conflict Prevention." (2022).

¹⁴ Okumu, Wafula, Andrews Atta-Asamoah, and Roba D. Sharamo. "Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020: Achievements, opportunities and challenges." Institute for Security Studies Monographs 2020, no. 203 (2020): 1-60.

¹⁵ Ibid

the agreement. This notwithstanding, the agreement has been instrumental in raising awareness about the dangers of SALWs, and promoting regional collaboration in the fight against the proliferation of illegal weapons. These initiatives have largely failed with the expansion of illicit trafficking in SALWs, which has significantly worsened conditions for vulnerable communities already suffering from armed conflict everywhere from the DRC, South Sudan, and Sudan. Between 2015 and 2020, 12 of the bloodiest military conflicts in the affected regions resulted in at least 176,095 civilian deaths. In the year 2020, five civilians per 100,000 people were killed in armed conflicts and of these majority were caused by SALWs (27 %).¹⁶ There are 40 million SALWs in civilian ownership and 11 million that are owned by the government in the Sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁷

Kenya has been affected by the proliferation of SALWs for many years due to its strategic location in the Horn of Africa (HOA) region. The highest number of weapons captured in Africa were recorded in Kenya and Angola.¹⁸ They are commonly used as weapons of violence in acts of terrorism, cattle rustling, robberies, carjackings, and interethnic conflict.¹⁹ Kenya has the greatest quantity of illicit firearms among countries within the HOA, estimated to be around 740,000, based on a 2017 Small Arms Survey.²⁰ Such numbers are undoubtedly alarming for the country due to the negative outcomes. These include high security expenses, lack of development in the predominantly pastoral Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and insecurity occasioned by recurrent resource-based disputes that straddle international borders.

¹⁶ UNSC. *Small arms and light weapons - Report of the Secretary-general (S/2021/839) [En/AR/Ru/Zh]*. ReliefWeb. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/small-arms-and-light-weapons-report-secretary-general-s2021839-enarruzh p1>

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Acholla, Dickson. "Influence of nyumba kumi initiative on neighborhood security in Kaptembwo Ward, Nakuru town, Kenya." Phd Diss., Kenyatta University, 2019.

²⁰ Ibid.

The initiatives introduced by the government have so far not been successful in containing illicit arms proliferation in Kenya. Statistics show that the number of illegal firearms circulating in Kenya has been increasing exponentially.²¹ The strategies used to detect, deter and investigate the proliferation of SALWs have somehow not been exploiting fully the avenue of CP initiatives. This study, therefore, sought to determine if CP can have a significant role in controlling the proliferation of SALWs.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Globally, prevalence of violence and crime are increasingly posing a threat to global growth and development, particularly in urban areas. The occurrence of crimes involving arms is increasing in the informal settlements with each passing year. One of the biggest and poorest informal settlements in the world is located in the Kibra Sub-County. In particular, Kibera slums, due to its poor living conditions and overcrowding is faced with a high crime rate. According to a report from 2019–2020 by Security Research and Information Center (SRIC), theft and violent robbery were the main crimes in Kibra. The report indicated that 41 % of robberies, involved the use of illegal small weapons. Kibra is ranked second out of five areas in the larger Nairobi Metropolitan that are considered unsafe, according to the National Police Service (NPS) Commission's Crime Hot Spot Report on the areas that are the most dangerous due to the prevalence of guns and small weapons as the tool of crime.

The government and the local security teams have used various strategies to address the illicit arms-related crime in Kibra, however, these crimes are still on the rise in the Sub-County. The existing strategies employed so far have not been effective in addressing the high rates of crimes associated with illegal weapons in Kibra. CP, on the other hand, was introduced in

²¹ Wisotzki, Simone. "Efforts to curb the proliferation of small arms and light weapons: from persistent crisis to norm failure?." *Zeitschrift für Friedens-und Konfliktforschung* 10, no. 2 (2021): 247-271.

Kenya to help address crime within the neighbourhood and in Kenya as a whole. Despite this, CP has not been fully utilized to detect, investigate, deter and disrupt the spread of SALWs in Kibra Sub-County. As a result, there exists an implementation gap in using CP as a strategy to address the proliferation of illegal arms in Kibra Sub-County.

1.3 Research Questions

The study sought to answer the following questions:

- i. What is the role of CP in the detection of illicit arms in Kibra Sub-County?
- ii. What is the role of the CP in the investigation of illicit arms in Kibra Sub-County?
- iii. What is the role of CP in the disruption of illicit arms cartels in Kibra Sub-County?

1.4 Objective of the Study

The research was conducted with the following objectives as guiding principles:-

1.4.1 General Objective of the study

The study's overarching goal was to evaluate the role of CP in curbing the proliferation of illicit arms in Kenya.

1.4.2 Specific Objectives

- i. To assess the role of CP in the detection of illicit arms in Kibra Sub-County;
- ii. To examine the role of CP in the investigation of illicit arms in Kibra Sub-County;
- iii. To evaluate the role of CP in the disruption of illicit arms cartels in Kibra Sub-County.

1.5 Literature Review

This section contains a summary of the literature review that is divided into two main categories: theoretical and empirical.

1.5.1 Theoretical Review

Literature review is the process of systematically identifying, locating, and analyzing secondary sources of information related to the research problem being investigated. This helps the researcher to avoid redundant research, create a framework of reference for interpreting research findings, and demonstrate a familiarity with the existing body of knowledge.²² This review examined existing research on the role of CP in curbing the proliferation of SALWs with a particular focus on the case of Nairobi's Kibra Sub-County. This section examined the theoretical and empirical research on the role of CP and how it assists in curbing illegal SALWs. Theories are important as analytical tool in a study. This study hence relied on Constructivism and Motivate-trust theory.

1.5.1.1 Constructivism Theory

Constructivism is a theory that has its foundation in educational psychology, namely in the writings of Jean Piaget (1896–1980), who is widely recognized for his theory of cognitive development. Piaget focused on the process through which people gain meaning from the synthesis of their ideas and life events. He seemed more interested in the way that an individual develops than in how development is influenced by others.²³ Instead of placing an emphasis on the individual, social constructionism has a societal premise. Social

²²Mugenda, Olive Mwhaki, and Abel Gitau Mugenda. *Research methods: Quantitative & qualitative approaches*. Vol. 2, no. 2. Nairobi: Acts press, 2003.

²³ Piaget, Jean. "Psychology and epistemology." (1973).

constructivism is flexible and subjective since it is based on a person's view of their reality rather than being absolute or objective.²⁴

According to Jean Piaget, there are mechanisms by which data from an individual's setting and concepts from the person combine and produce internal structures formed by learners' internal perspective. They ranked assimilation and accommodation highly. According to this theory, accommodation refers to the act of changing one's perception of the outside world in order to account for new experiences.²⁵ We typically fail when we behave with the presumption that the world operates in a particular manner and our expectations are not met. However, by accommodating this fresh perspective and rethinking our model of how the world functions, we are able to learn from our own failures or those of others.

According to the social constructivist perspective, the issue of illicit arms proliferation and CP all together have preconceived understanding from both the police and the community in the Kibra area. Therefore, to address the issue, there would be need to change these preconceptions of information, knowledge and understanding to ensure that CP works. The role of CP in curbing the proliferation of illicit arms in Kibra is multifaceted and requires an accommodated perspective by the police and the community at large.

CP can also play a role in preventing the trafficking of arms into Kibra. This can be achieved through partnerships with other law enforcement agencies and border control officials, as well as with community organizations that work to prevent the spread of illegal firearms. According to a report by the Small Arms Survey, community-based interventions have been effective in reducing the availability of illicit arms in a number of conflict-affected areas.²⁶

²⁴Andrews, Tom. "What is social constructionism?" *Grounded theory review* 11, no. 1 (2012).

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶Republic of Kenya. Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government. "National Policy on Small Arms and Light Weapons." Nairobi, Kenya, 2019.

1.5.1.2 Motive-Based Trust Theory

Motive-based trust theory is an extension of the motive-based model that has been proposed by numerous authors. Among them is Taylor who theorized that when the police are honest and build trust within the communities they serve, then this is more likely to repair the negative presumptions within the community about law enforcement.²⁷ Tyler points out that the motive-based model, which emphasizes trust a lot, demonstrates how trust appears to be a driving force behind the explanation of cooperation. This holds true as it serves as a catalyst for individual initiative, encourages independent action within institutions, and inspires authorities to take proactive measures. In this sense, motive-based trust theory proposes that communities can be motivated to collaborate and cooperate with the police where the police are honest and open.

The public perceptions of the police are very influential in determining how effective the law enforcement professionals are in detecting and curbing criminal activity.²⁸ In addition, in cases such as illicit arms proliferation that do not originate in one area, there is need for this institutional trust to exist between the community and the police. In an area like Kibra where crime rate is high and trust within the community in the police is low, then the effectiveness of law enforcement in dealing with crime is greatly diminished. Motive-based trust theory is applicable to this study as it offers a clear basis of explaining how police can be able to work on discharging their institutional responsibilities without bias or corruption to build public trust and enhance collaboration through CP.

²⁷ Taylor, Ralph B. "The impact of crime on communities." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 539, no. 1 (1995): 28-45.

²⁸ Cordner, Gary W. *Reducing fear of crime: Strategies for police*. Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, 2010.

Both theories - constructivism and motive-based trust - are equally relevant to the study and will be used to support the systems theory which is the main theoretical framework for the analysis.

1.5.2 Empirical Literature Review

In this section a comprehensive overview of relevant literature is provided. The review was carried out with a thematic approach that aligns with the objectives of the study.

1.5.2.1 The Role of CP in the Detection of Crime

According to Balcha the role of police is to prevent and detect crime as a part of their daily dispensation of duties.²⁹ In this study, Balcha examined the function, difficulties, and future potential of CP in Bahil Adarash, Ethiopia. The study included both first-hand and secondary sources of data, and quantitative and qualitative methods were used to examine the data. Both simple random sample and purposeful sampling were used to choose the study's geographic area and CP locations. A methodical sampling process was used to pick a total of 56 police officers. According to the study, 75.83% of participants said that CP was essential to deterring crime. Furthermore, and the majority of respondents agreed that crime rates had declined within the sub-city of Bahil Adarash.

²⁹Balcha, Mesay Fikru. "Assessing The Role of Community Policing in Crime Prevention: Challenges And Prospects. The Case of Bahil Adarash Sub-City, Hawassa, Ethiopia." (2014).

The most frequent barriers to the implementation of CP in preventing crime were identified as follows: individuals harbouring criminals, the proliferation of both traditional and modern liquor establishments, chaotic environment in nightclubs, instances of police corruption, the influx of individuals migrating from rural areas to urban centres, the rise of illegal drug consumption, including *Khat* and the prevalence of extreme poverty. Balcha's research examined the contribution of CP in detecting illicit arms. However, this study looked at its role in the detection of illicit arms in Kibra Sub-County.

Muchira opines that crime rates in Kirinyaga County within Central Kenya have been rising over the past few years in spite of the existence of the “Nyumba Kumi” Initiative, which practices CP.³⁰ Hence, the main topic of study for the research by Muchira was the employment of CP as an effective strategy aimed at reducing crime rates in Central Kenya’s Kirinyaga County. The researcher used both a qualitative and a quantitative strategy while conducting a descriptive survey study. Through the use of cluster sampling, government security agents were employed to choose the respondents. Qualitative information from Focus Group Discussions (FDGs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) was combined with quantitative data to generate a triangulated analysis. The results showed that *vigilante* organizations, community courts, and combined police-community patrols have all helped to reduce crime in Kirinyaga County. The justice system was deemed to be the least effective of the three areas of attention. While the study by Muchira reveals how CP is useful in preventing crime, it does not specifically highlight the role it plays in the detection of illicit arms.

In a study on illicit arms trafficking and the limits of rational choice theory, Arsovska and Kostakos sought to use the Balkans as the case study to find out what motivates the criminal

³⁰Muchira, Joseph Mwaniki. "The role of community policing in crime prevention: Kirinyaga county, Central Kenya." PhD diss., Mount Kenya University, 2016.

business of arms trafficking. The study relied on existing literature and public discourse. The three main areas of concentration were trafficking in weapons for financial gain, arming criminal-terrorist organizations, and state-sponsored illicit arms trade. The study reveals that the illicit arms industry in the region is framed by various cultural, social, and political challenges even though economic incentives frequently appear to be strong.³¹ Therefore, the illicit trafficking of arms across the Balkan nations is not primarily profit-oriented but, the motivations are multifaceted. This study focuses on the Balkans which may not represent the case for Kenya. In addition, this study only focuses on the illicit arms market side of the issue leaving out the CP aspect of detecting arms flows.

There is still a lot of research to be done on the efficacy of CP as a means of crime reduction because researchers have been unable to identify it as a successful type of police.³² Johnson conducted a correlational study to investigate whether there was statistical significance between community-oriented policing, crime rates, and crime clearance rates in nine municipalities located in Carteret County within North Carolina in the US. The quantitative analysis using Spearman's rho and a chi-square test for independence revealed that there was a significant correlation between violent crime rate, violent crime clearance rate, and property crimes. While the study revealed that CP was an effective crime detection method, it failed to reflect on the issue of small arms proliferation and how CP could apply. This study was also conducted in the US which may not reflect the same crime rate data as that of a country like Kenya.

Lira's research tests the influence of collaboration ability on innovation performance as translated by collaborative behavior using mixed methods and a non-linear methodology.

³¹Arsovska, Jana, and Panos A. Kostakos. "Illicit arms trafficking and the limits of rational choice theory: the case of the Balkans." *Trends in Organized Crime* 11 (2008): 352-378.

³²Johnson, Elizabeth Wrenn. *Community-oriented policing and crime rates and crime clearance rates in North Carolina*. Walden University, 2017.

This makes it possible to study all three elements at once.³³ The study results of using mediation analysis to test cross-sectional and longitudinal data point to a causal mechanism in which police officers' collaborative tendencies partially transfer the effect of organizational collaborative potential on performance over longer periods but mediate it over shorter periods. Qualitative research built on this finding posited additional causes, such as institutional characteristics, may offer additional mediating variables as the direct cause for cooperation capacity to transmit its influence across extended periods.³⁴ Lira's study, however, reflected on the theme of collaboration through CP while the researcher sought to look at CP as means to detect arms proliferation.

Alaraby conducted a research to look into the illegal arms trade in the HOA. The study was done to examine some of the recent entrants into the region's SALW trade.³⁵ The research incorporated both primary and secondary sources of data, adopting a survey research methodology as its method of investigation. The investigation revealed that the HOA still receives weapons from Western powers to date. In recent years, However, there have been some newcomers in the proliferation of arms that are the origin source. The study finds that China, and countries in the Middle East Region such as Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Saudi Arabia are now supplying the largest arms flows to the HOA. The leading source of domestic arms flows in the region, include the diversion of arms from formal channels facilitated by weak governance structures, and policing mechanisms. While Alaraby traces the origins of arms flows in the HOA region it fails to adequately highlight the role of CP as a method of detecting the proliferation of arms.

³³Lira, Leonard. "The effect of collaboration on performance in public management: evidence from community policing." PhD diss., University of Kansas, 2016.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵Alaraby, Muhammad. "Illicit Arms Trade in the Horn of Africa: Fostering a More Effective Roadmap." IAI Research Studies 3 IAI R: 89.

In Moses and Ngomba's study, they aimed to assess the proliferation of SALWs in the 21st Century, specifically focusing on the context of Nigeria. The study was a qualitative in nature and was conducted using secondary sources of data. Moses and Ngomba posit that the spread of SALWs is a significant security problem for Nigeria in the early 21st Century.³⁶ The study shows that the internet, particularly the dark net, remains a game-changer and has redefined the terminology of arms proliferation in the early 21st Century. This puts security agents at a serious disadvantage because they are unable to successfully permeate such internet sites to keep up with and track these activities. This study reflects on the specific case of Nigeria and recommends CP as a solution to illicit arms proliferation in the country. The study by the researcher, on the other hand, highlight the role of CP in detecting arms proliferation with a focus on the case of Kibra Sub-County.

Boye conducted a study to assess the relationship between the community and the police in a case study of the Paynesville ELWA community in Montserrado County within Liberia. The study used primary sources of data to gather information, which was complimented by secondary sources of data. In his study, Boye adopted a mixed methods methodologies, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative techniques in data collection. Descriptive and grounded theory techniques were employed in the data analysis. The entire population chosen was 400, however, the study sample size was 40, which was 10% of the whole.³⁷ The findings revealed that the majority of the respondents believed that there was a relationship between the community and the police was good and that CP activities were active.³⁸ While the study reflects on the benefit of community-police relationships in enhancing the effectiveness of CP for crime reduction, it does not look at the issue of arms proliferation. In

³⁶ Moses, John M., and Julius L. Ngomba. "Small arms and light weapons proliferation in the early 21st century: The Nigerian case." *International Journal of Development and Sustainability* 6, no. 11 (2017): 1638-1652.

³⁷ Boye, Nicodemus S. "Community-police relationship (community policing) in Liberi." PhD diss., University of Rwanda, 2019.

³⁸ Ibid.

addition, the findings are only reflective of a small region in Liberia which may not represent the case for Kenya, especially Kibra Sub-County.

Muthike conducted a study on the impact of illicit arms on security with a special focus on cattle rustling in Northern Kenya. As opposed to a quantitative design, the study used a qualitative research approach. In addition, the study relied on both secondary and primary sources of data. The study reveals the northern parts of the nation have suffered insecurity as a result of the commercialization of livestock raiding and the availability of SALWs in the hands of local herders. This has had adverse effects on the local community and development.³⁹ Muthike adds that the factors that precipitate increased proliferation of SALWs are the poor policing of borders and non-adherences to the rule of law by the local police officers among other issues.⁴⁰ The study concludes by offering recommendations that include application of CP, early warning mechanisms, improved policing institutions, civilian-military cooperation, and the role of civil societies in educating the local populations. This study represents the situation in Kenya's ASALs, dominated by pastoral communities, which may not be the same as that of city dwellings like Kibra Sub-County.

Chimba and Muna's study sought to determine how CP affected neighborhood security practices in Kwale County, Kenya.⁴¹ The target group of 200 respondents was subdivided into strata and stratified at random to provide a sample size of 100 respondents. A descriptive case study approach was used. The survey instrument used was semi-structured questionnaires. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze quantitative data. According to the research, local security management techniques were impacted by CP

³⁹Ndambuki, M., "The Impact of Illicit Arms on Security: Case Study of Cattle Rustling in Northern Kenya." PhD diss., University of Nairobi, 2016.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Chimba, Nicodemus Dalu, and Wilson Muna. "Effects Of Community Policing On Local Security Management Practices In Kwale County, Kenya: A Case Study Of Kinango." *International Research Journal of Social Sciences, Education and Humanities* 2, no. 2 (2021).

members' mindsets, information exchange about CP, and knowledge of the initiative among residents.⁴² The study by Chimba and Muna reflects on CP however, it does not highlight the issue of arms proliferation as a theme in its analysis. This study examined the CP's efficacy in detecting illegal arms proliferation.

1.5.2.2 The Role of CP in the Investigation of Crime

Zakhali notes that CP is a strategic issue for modern policing, especially as police organizations around the world look for more affordable and long-lasting ways to fight crime. The community and its leaders are acknowledged as equal partners in the prevention and reduction of crime under the notion of CP.⁴³ The study by Zakhali aimed to assess the function of traditional leaders in Chief Madliwa, Nkayi District, Zimbabwe, in terms of neighborhood policing and crime prevention. The research's conclusions showed that CP is a successful approach to preventing crime and that traditional leaders are essential to its accomplishment. Traditional leaders play a pivotal role in the recruitment processes of the Neighbourhood Watch Committee members, and help foster cooperation between the police and the business community.⁴⁴ While Zakhali's study reflects on the role of CP in investigation of crime, it shows findings contextually relevant to Zimbabwe and only focuses on the role of local leaders. The researcher examined the role of CP in the investigation of illicit arms in Kibra Sub-County, Kenya.

Samir highlights that to solve security operations' operational problems in a systematic and collaborative manner, CP strives to advance organizational strategies. It aims to proactively

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Zikhali, Whitehead. "Community policing and crime prevention : Evaluating the role of traditional leaders under Chief Madliwa in Nkayi District, Zimbabwe." *International Journal for Crime, Justice, and Social Democracy* 8, no. 4 (2019): 109-122.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

address issues like crime, social unrest, and their negative implications on public safety.⁴⁵ As such, he conducted a study on the CP strategies and their effectiveness in crime management in Dadaab refugee camp. According to the study, the most successful CP techniques used in Dadaab Refugee Camp were neighborhood watch, neighborhood town meetings, citizen education, and decentralized police power. The outcomes also showed a favorable and significant relationship between crime control in Dadaab Refugee Camp and the application of CP tactics. Nevertheless, lack of support from police administration, dishonesty among the officers, and an inadequate understanding of CP activities were the main obstacles to the use of CP.⁴⁶ The study by Samir reveals that the use of CP in crime investigation is effective in Dadaab refugee camp. However, this study examined the part played by CP in the Kibra Sub-County investigation of illicit armaments.

Amadi conducted a qualitative analysis of CP in the US.⁴⁷ From the study objectives, he sought to trace the historical emergence of CP as a concept, the framework of CP in the US, and the impact of CP on traditional police functions. Through its three main components - a refocused police approach, partnerships with residents, and problem-solving; CP has greatly extended and altered the professional form of policing in the US. The study reveals that the effectiveness of CP is based on its combination of proactive and reactive approaches to policing and thus effectively deals with crimes while at the same time maintaining the public's respect and trust in law enforcement. However, Amadi's study focuses on CP as a strategy alone and does not reference its role in investigating illicit arms flows in the US. The study was based in a Western nation that may not necessarily reflect the situation in a third-world nation like Kenya.

⁴⁵ Yunus, Samir Adhuman. "Community Policing Strategies and their Effectiveness in Crime Management in Dadaab Refugee Camp, Garissa County, Kenya." (2021) [master's thesis]. Kenyatta University.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Amadi, Emmanuel N. "A qualitative analysis of community policing in the United States." *American International Journal of Contemporary Research* 4, no. 1 (2014): 19-26.

Koorey *et al* conducted a study investigating the channels of arms proliferation in Asia-Pacific using a multi-channel small weapons supply-chain model. Instead of focusing on light weapons, their research focused on small arms, especially when they were kept or sold illegally.⁴⁸ Even though they thought the model had global relevance, they restricted the research to a brief overview of a few important characteristics of illegal small weapons stocks and movements in the Asia-Pacific before presenting some policy implications for the area. According to the research, a single-channel arrangement would provide a government the highest chance of succeeding in its goal of halting the supply of small arms to undocumented owners. The proliferation of illicit small arms is frequently an indication or consequence of underlying issues or conditions.⁴⁹ The findings from this study highlight the arms proliferation issue in Asia-Pacific whereas this researcher investigated the case of Kenya's Kibra Sub-County. In addition, the study does not highlight the role of CP in investigating these channels of proliferation.

The main aim of Audu's study was to evaluate the effects of CP in Nigeria as managed by the United Kingdom Department for International Development. The research aimed to investigate the existence of a trust gap between the police and the general public.⁵⁰ The study used an interpretive framework to gain insight into the significance of CP from the viewpoints of the stakeholders. The empirical portion of the study took a qualitative approach and involved the police and locals in Kogi State in north-central Nigeria in FDGs and one-on-one in-depth interviews. The findings showed that the introduction of CP policy had not achieved the expected positive effect.⁵¹ This is as a result of the disparate relationship between the police and the general public in Nigeria. While the role of CP is critical in the

⁴⁸ Markowski, Stefan, Stephanie Koorey, Peter Hall, and Jurgen Brauer. "Channels of Small-arms Proliferation: Policy Implications for South and Southeast Asia." (2008).

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Audu, Aminu Musa. *Community policing: Exploring the police/community relationship for crime control in Nigeria*. The University of Liverpool (United Kingdom), 2016.

⁵¹ Ibid.

investigation of crime, the study shows that corruption in the police has greatly affected trust in their credibility. This study represents findings that deal with gaps in CP and does not represent data on the investigation of arms proliferation.

The Uganda Police Force (UPF) released a CP Strategy in 2017. Divon opines that the strategy's goal is to offer a framework for the country's implementation of CP. In Uganda, CP is considered both an organizational strategy and a philosophical approach to fostering new relationships between the police and the community.⁵² Consequently, Divon used a qualitative research design to examine the CP approach as a theory and practice in Gulu, Uganda. The bulk of the applications, according to findings are "old wine in new bottles" and do not meet the criteria for initiatives to forge fresh ties between the public and the police.⁵³ The information gathered postulated that the general population still perceives the police as an unpredictable, violent and dishonest agency. While Divon's study reflects on the application of CP it fails to highlight the role it plays in other areas such as the investigation of arms proliferation and only highlights the situation in Uganda.

The majority of countries, including Kenya, started implementing CP as a 21st-century strategy. Despite the concept's implementation, Mombasa County and other parts of Kenya continue to witness high crime rates.⁵⁴ As a result, Ronoh and Hamasi investigated how CP affected Mombasa's crime control. The study's examination was carried out using a descriptive research approach. From a population of 692 police officers and "Nyumba Kumi" household members, the investigation concentrated on a sample of 69 individuals selected through stratified random sampling.

⁵² Divon, Shai Andre. "Police, Policing, and the Community: Community Policing in Theory and Practice in Gulu, Uganda." (2021).

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ronoh, V., and L. H. Hamasi. "Community Policing and its Effect on Crime Management in Mombasa County, Kenya." *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies* 5, no. 3 (2021): 68-80.

The primary data was gathered using a mix of structured and open-ended questions, and the information gleaned from the respondents, used both quantitative and qualitative approach. The findings revealed that CP reduced conflicts between the community and police, reduced property crime, and had positive attitudes towards police work. This study, however, does not highlight the theme of arms proliferation and how CP can investigate this case.

Kenya is on its way to becoming a middle-income nation, so more needs to be done to increase the security of its people and their property through CP.⁵⁵ The goal of Ogoti's study was to evaluate the efficiency of CP and citizen participation in Ongata Rongai, Kajiado County, Kenya. The study employed an exploratory research design. Systematic sampling was employed to choose the study's sample. Structured questionnaires were used to collect data from 353 local residents in the 16.50 square kilometer within Ongata Rongai who resided in a 16.50 square kilometer. A sample of 10 police officers who took part in an interview procedure was taken using the snowballing method. The results showed that there are community-police collaborations, established tactics in the CP projects, and a variety of problem-solving techniques.⁵⁶ While this study highlights the use of CP, it does not look at its role in investigating arms proliferation.

Adambo sought to investigate how more community involvement by the police might lead to better outcomes in combating crime in Nairobi. He notes that the study looks at and analyzes the social, economic, and political aspects that support CP's effective operation.⁵⁷ The study also looks at and analyzes institutional elements that are important for the success of CP implementation. The research adopted a qualitative design that relied on secondary sources of data. Content analysis of data revealed that a problem-oriented approach is reflective of the

⁵⁵Naomi Geke. "Citizen's Participation Effectiveness and Community Policing Scenario at Ongata Rongai in Kajiado County, Kenya." Unpublished Thesis (2018).

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Adambo, Evariste N. "Community policing as a tool for combating insecurity: A study of Nairobi Province." PhD diss., 2005.

importance of intelligence gathering over reactive approaches and that the true challenge facing many of the police in the city is that their active participation with civil society is lacking.⁵⁸ While Adambo's study is focused on the case of Nairobi, it was generalized to CP for crime prevention while this study looked at role of CP in the investigation of illicit arms proliferation.

1.5.2.3 CP in Disrupting Criminal Networks

Chege conducted a study in Makina Village in Kibra Sub-County on the use of CP in the disruption of criminal activities and their effective prevention.⁵⁹ The study used a combination of secondary and primary sources of data with a cross-sectional study design. The researcher selected local residents to participate in the study using a simple random sampling technique and convenience sampling to choose police officers as respondents. The study's findings indicated that police personnel employed diverse strategies to implement CP, including establishing community partnerships, placing informational boxes in strategic locations, increasing awareness, and receiving training on CP from government and civil organizations. According to the study, obstacles to CP include insufficient training, inadequate financing, harassment, bribery, poor community participation, sluggish criminal response, low civic education, and insufficient street lighting. Although Chege's the study was conducted in Kibra, it only focuses on CP as method of crime disruption while this study assessed how CP can be applied in the disruption of illicit arms cartels in the Kibra Sub-County area.

Ayazma undertook a study to investigate the effects of citizens' perceptions of CP on societal beliefs regarding terrorism fear, preparedness for a potential terrorist attack, and contentment

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Chege, Ezekiel Ndukui. "Community policing as a crime prevention management strategy in Makina Village, Kibera, City of Nairobi." PhD diss., University of Nairobi, Kenya, 2012.

with the law enforcement agents amid fresh terrorism.⁶⁰ The study used a survey methodology that was carried out in Arlington and Frisco cities within Texas in the US. Using the Amazon Mechanical Turk platform, the survey was made available to the entire public. Based on a CP scale that was created with the help of the Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, cities for the study were chosen. The findings point to a substantial relationship between CP perception and, correspondingly, terrorism fear, resilience, and police satisfaction. According to the study, CP is a proactive method to fight terrorism.⁶¹ The study does not highlight the issue of arms proliferation. In addition, it was conducted in the US, which may not represent the case of Kenya.

The latest high-profile episodes of police brutality have illuminated abuse tendencies that have existed ever since the beginning of modern policing. Numerous people have called for police reform, which in many nations has manifested itself in increasing police involvement with communities.⁶² The findings of a significant experiment evaluating the efficacy of this strategy across six Southern Hemisphere nations; namely Philippines, Brazil, Colombia, Pakistan, Liberia, and Uganda were reported by Blair *et al.* To lessen bias and increase the generalizability of the results, tests were carried out in various contexts and 18,382 civilians and 874 police officers were surveyed. They discovered that such community involvement did not boost public confidence in law enforcement or lower crime.⁶³ The study concluded that CP cannot work on its own. This study adopted an experimental approach and only focused on CP in crime reduction and does not highlight weapon proliferation, including disruption of illicit arms cartels in the countries studied.

⁶⁰ Ayazma, Tayfun. "Examining the Impact of Community Policing on Public Attitudes Toward Fear of Terrorism, Resilience, and Satisfaction with Police in the Face of New Terrorism." PhD diss., University of North Texas, 2019.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Blair, Graeme, Jeremy M. Weinstein, Fotini Christia, Eric Arias, Emile Badran, Robert A. Blair, Ali Cheema et al. "Community policing does not build citizen trust in police or reduce crime in the Global South." *Science* 374, no. 6571 (2021): eabd3446.

⁶³ Ibid.

The goal of Mlomo's study was to statistically determine whether the Community Police Forum (CPF) project is the best method for creating partnerships to reduce crime in Fortgale and Southernwood located in South Africa's Eastern Cape.⁶⁴ The researcher combined descriptive and exploratory research methods in her study. It included the non-probability sample and one brief case study from the pre-experimental design. The sample size was 300 respondents, of whom 150 were chosen from each of the two study locations. The results showed that the CPF is a perfect instrument for preventing crime, and its efficacy is pretty obvious. It is also clear from the results that the public in both locations is well-informed about CP.⁶⁵ However, this study does not reflect on CP as a deterrence to illicit arms proliferation and is conducted in South Africa which may not represent the same findings for Kenya.

Mussa conducted a study with a focus on Zanzibar to evaluate the value of CP to Tanzania's police force's efforts to reduce crime.⁶⁶ Both qualitative and quantitative research methods were applied in a descriptive research design. The data collection techniques employed were in-depth interviews, focus groups, questionnaires, non-participant observations, and documentary evaluations. Four-hundred (400) people constituted the sample size. The study's findings demonstrated the value of community police programs and interventions in Tanzania's fight against crime.⁶⁷ The interventions made by citizen security patrol units were more effective than others. According to the study's findings, community social welfare and

⁶⁴ Mlomo, Patricia Noma. *"Partnership building in public policing: communities' perceptions towards the role of community policing forums in crime prevention in Mthatha (Eastern Cape)." PhD diss., 2019.* [Unpublished doctoral dissertation]. University of Kwazulu-Natali.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Mussa, Mussa Ali. *"Assessment of Community Policing as a Crime Reduction Strategy by the Police Force in Tanzania: The Case of Zanzibar."* PhD diss., The Open University of Tanzania, 2019.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

CP are closely related.⁶⁸ This study highlights the role of CP in crime prevention however, does not thematically include the issue of arms proliferation.

Khamisi and Mange investigated whether CP and police cooperation may improve security in Kwale County. The descriptive survey design was used for the investigation. Convenience sampling was used to choose twenty (20) people from the general public and twenty (20) police officers from the Diani Police Station. Additionally, ten (10) members of the station-level CP Committee were chosen using the snowballing sampling technique.⁶⁹ Utilizing questionnaires and interviewing guide materials, the data was gathered. To address the objectives of the research, data was analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively. The findings showed how successful the collaboration between the police and the CP program is. Participants all agreed that the relationship has contributed to a decrease in neighborhood crime.⁷⁰ While this study highlights the effectiveness of CP in improving security it does not look at its role in the deterrence of arms proliferation.

Mohamed undertook a study to evaluate CP's contribution to the fight against terrorism.⁷¹ A descriptive survey design of Garissa County's Ijara Sub-County provided the qualitative and quantitative data that were collected. A multistage sampling procedure was adopted. To collect primary data using questionnaires, general households and "Nyumba Kumi" representatives were chosen. Five experts were chosen through a purposeful sampling process and were involved in KIIs. According to the findings, CP is essential in the fight against crime and other security-related problems. The analysis showed widespread resource

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Khamisi, S. N., and D. Mange. "Partnership between the police and community policing on enhancing security in Kwale County, Kenya." *International Academic Journal of Law and Society* 1, no. 2 (2020): 46-67.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Mohamed, Amina. "Role of community policing in combating terrorism activities in Ijara Sub County, Garissa, Kenya." PhD diss., Africa Nazarene University, 2021.

mismanagement and corruption among the police.⁷² This renders the endeavor useless and unable to fight terrorism.⁷³ There is little community involvement in CP initiatives. The study does not look into arms proliferation and is conducted in ASALs of Kenya which may not be representative of an urban area such as Kibra Sub-County.

Oenga's sought to identify obstacles to the successful implementation of the CP concept in Kenya's metropolitan regions, particularly in Nairobi's Kibra Sub-County.⁷⁴ The research design for the study was one of the mixed methods. The study focused on 650 ordinary police officers, 12 members of CP committees, and seven (7) commanding officers. The method of simple random stratified selection was employed to choose police officers. According to the results of the study, poor training and sensitization among police officers and residents have resulted in low levels of comprehension of CP concept between the two groups.⁷⁵ The study also identified sociocultural challenges, structural and administrative problems, and the absence of local enforcement resources as barriers to the adoption of CP.⁷⁶ While the study was conducted in the same area as this one, it fails to reflect on the issue of arms proliferation and its deterrence.

1.5.3 Limitations of the Literature

Thematic gaps in the literature evaluation were discovered in accordance with the objectives of the study. A survey of the literature revealed that the bulk of discussions regarding the proliferation of illicit weapons across the world are cogent. It is correct to conclude that the issue of weaponry proliferation in local communities' hands is growing in importance notwithstanding the passage of international regulations and treaties. The research currently

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Oenga, Daniel M. "Challenges facing the implementation of community policing strategy in the urban areas: a case study of Kibra sub-County, Nairobi, Kenya." PhD diss., University of Nairobi, 2015.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

available failed to effectively and conclusively highlight the role of CP as a method of controlling the spread of illicit arms from other nations into local communities. The majority of the research in Kenya focused on the ASALs, which are predominantly occupied by pastoral communities and are characterized by inter-ethnic clashes and cattle-rustling wars. Where the research had been conducted in urban areas it failed to reflect on arms proliferation and the role of CP in deterring it. Therefore, this study sought to fill these gaps in the literature by assessing the role of CP in curbing the proliferation of SALWs in the case of Kibra Sub-County.

1.6 Hypotheses

The study tested the following hypotheses

H01: Community policing does not play a significant role in the addressing the prevalence of illicit arms in Kibra Sub-County, Kenya.

H01: Community policing has not reduced the prevalence of illegal firearms in Kibra Sub-County, Kenya.

H1: Community policing has significantly reduced illicit arms prevalence in Kibra Sub-County, Kenya

1.7 Justification of the study

The desktop review demonstrated that there has been little research conducted on the utility of CP as a strategy to combat the spread of illicit weapons throughout the world. The issue of the proliferation of illicit firearms poses serious threats to human security, social stability, and economic growth not just in the Kibra sub-county but across Kenya too and in the world as a whole.

The prevalence of illicit firearms in the hands of non-state actors, including criminal gangs has led to an increase in armed robbery, kidnapping, extortion, and other violent crimes, thereby creating a sense of insecurity and fear among the residents. Therefore, there is a pressing need for policymakers and researchers to proffer sound policy and academic recommendations that can help reduce the supply and demand for illegal firearms, enhance law enforcement capacity, and address the underlying socio-economic factors that drive individuals to engage in criminal activities.

1.7.1 Policy Justification

In terms of policy justification, this study aims to stir policy debate on the utility of CP in combating the proliferation of illicit arms in informal settlements. Furthermore, this study aims to develop a framework that can inform policymakers in coming up with innovative ways to involve CP in addressing the issues of illicit arms proliferation in informal settlements. The study provides more information and findings to policymakers regarding the role CP can play in combating illicit arms.

In particular, this research offers information that can guide the administration of Kibra Sub County by providing a deeper understanding on how CP models impact security management. This information can be used to develop effective strategies based on CP structures that will help address illicit arms-related crime in Kibra. To the national government and policymakers in Kenya, the study offer recommendation that can inform policy formulation and review in regard to CP structures in responding to the rampant crime and illicit arms in Kibra.

1.7.2 Academic Justification

The role of CP is to help in security management and eliminate crime. However, there is limited study on the role that CP can play in eliminating illicit arms which is a major security threat in most informal settlement areas. This study is therefore necessitated by the limited information and knowledge gap on the role CP can play in the elimination of illegal weapons. It also contributes to the corpus of literature on CP policies and security management. The study provides content that can be used as a source of reference and guide future research for intellectuals and academicians researching CP structures and security management.

1.8 Theoretical Framework

The system theory serves as the framework for the analysis in this study. Systemic social work theory is widely credited to Ludwig von Bertalanffy (1901-1972). Von Bertalanffy, a theoretical biologist who was born and trained in Austria, increasingly became weary of the way cause-and-effect, linear theories described how living things grow and evolve. In stark contrast to the beliefs of his time, he believed that change might be caused by interactions between the components of an organism.

Several generations of sociological theory were born from comparing the structure of society to a biological organism, and the systems theory was also established as a result.⁷⁷ One may compare general systems theory to a science of wholeness. According to Von Bertalanffy (1968), "an organismic perspective in biology that stressed evaluation of the organisms as an entire unit or a system" is what biology should be based on.⁷⁸ He believed that the identification of grouping qualities that could be used to analyze organisms at multiple levels

⁷⁷ Leighninger Jr, Robert D. "Systems theory." *J. Soc. & Soc. Welfare* 5 (1978): 446.

⁷⁸ Bertalanffy, L. von. (1968). *General system theory: Foundation, development, application*. New York: George Braziller. p. 12.

was the primary goal of the biological sciences. The underlying presumption that "the whole is far greater than the sum of all of its parts" resulted from this.⁷⁹

People gain control over their life by taking part in choices such as reducing crime through community policing. Even while involvement can take on a broad variety of forms, actual actions encounter considerable barriers. Since they can only have a small impact on policy outcomes and little ability to influence final decisions, public engagement frequently falls short of being truly participatory.⁸⁰ According to the systems approach, in order to accomplish the intended outcomes, all four factors—decision making, civic education, awareness, and defense - should be effectively integrated. This is especially the case for Kibra area where community police relations are likely to affect how effective community policy as a strategy can be in dealing with illicit arms.

1.9 Research Methodology

This section describes the methodology used to conduct the study. This includes the research design, target population, sampling design and procedures, sample size, data collection tools, validity and reliability of the data collection instruments, and data analysis techniques.

1.9.1 Research Design

To assess the impact of CP in curbing the proliferation of illicit arms in Kenya, this study used the exploratory research design. Exploratory research is a form of study that is used to investigate research problems that are not yet fully understood or that have not been researched in detail. Exploratory research is especially helpful in conditions in which there is

⁷⁹ Ibid. p. 18.

⁸⁰ Mwaura, Richard M. "Factors that affect effective implementation of community policing in kenya: a case of kajiado north Police division." PhD diss., University of Nairobi, 2014.

a paucity of prior knowledge or information regarding a subject, or in circumstances in which the research question is both general and multifaceted.⁸¹

The survey technique chosen is relatively cheap and easy to use. Besides, it allowed for the triangulation as the study employed a mixed-methods research design, including qualitative and quantitative techniques as well as secondary and primary data sources. The collected primary data from a sample of the targeted population through questionnaires, and interviews conducted over a period of time in the study area. A semi-structured questionnaire allowed for the gathering of substantial amounts of data from the respondents, which was reviewed quantitatively.

This was supplemented by the KIIs which provided valuable qualitative data. This allowed the researcher to probe responses critically to gain more information where the questionnaires proved vague or ambiguous. Furthermore, the qualitative data obtained through interviews provided an explanation, meaning, and understanding of the information received through quantitative analysis.

Books, journals, and pertinent reports were used as secondary sources of information. In order to supplement primary data, secondary sources of information were examined using content analysis. In order to generate strong evidence for a comprehensive presentation and debate on the function of CP in restricting the spread of illicit weaponry in Kibra Sub-County, the study used quantitative and qualitative techniques.

⁸¹ Stebbins, Robert A. *Exploratory research in the social sciences*. Vol. 48. Sage, 2001.

1.9.2 Area of Study

The study was conducted in Kibra Sub-County (Appendix I) which is one of the seven sub-counties in the Nairobi County area. The population area chosen for this study consists of five wards namely; Woodley/Kenyatta Golf Course, Makina, Lindi, Laini Saba, and Sarang'ombe. According to the 2019 census, the whole Kibra Sub-County by sex comprised 94,199 males and 91,569 females bringing the total population in the sub-county to 185,768.⁸² Kibra Sub-County has a total area of 12.1 square kilometers with a population density of 15,311 people per square kilometer.⁸³

The choice of the study area was informed by previous research on the areas of crime in the Kibra area which has shown that it is a highly crime-prone area.⁸⁴ In addition, the study area has the characteristic of being the location of Nairobi's largest slum dwelling and the second-largest slum in the whole African continent after South Africa's Soweto slums. Kibra is inhabited by people from diverse ethnic backgrounds and faces a myriad of challenges including and low-income levels, poor housing structures, and low employment levels, which increases the levels of criminal activities engaged in to earn a living.⁸⁵ According to research by the NPS, Kibra Sub-County is ranked as the second highest area for crime prevalence among the top five slum areas in the country rivalled only by the Kiandutu slums in Kiambu County.⁸⁶ Kibra Sub-County was, therefore, an excellent case for investigating how CP can be used to reduce the spread of illegal weapons.

⁸² Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. "2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census Volume III: distribution of population by age and sex." (2019).

⁸³ Ibid

⁸⁴ Muia, Diana. "Analysis of Community Contribution towards Community Policing in Makina Village of Kibra Sub County, Nairobi County." PhD diss., University of Nairobi, 2019.

⁸⁵ Kubendei, Humphrey Sanders. "Factors Influencing Crime In The Urban Informal Settlements. A Case Study Of Kibra." PhD diss., University of Nairobi (2018).

⁸⁶ Musoi, Kyalo. "A study of crime in urban slums in Kenya: The case of Kibra, Bondeni, Manyatta and Mishomoroni slums." (2014).

1.9.3 Target Population

The scope of this study encompassed a target population consisting of officers from the police, key officials from the CP heads and National Government Administrative Officials (NGAOs) from the Kibra Sub-County area. The choice of these specific officials was informed by the fact that they are the most likely to possess relevant information on the proliferation of illicit arms in the study areas as well as valuable opinions on the issue of crime in the Kibra area.

The inclusion criteria for this study was specific to officials who are above the legal age of 18 years and who consented to participate in the study. In addition, the individuals chosen for participation must have worked (in the case of key informants) in the study area for more than two years prior to the time of this study. The basis of this assumption is that key informants in a study acquire a deeper understanding of the subject matter the longer they remain in the study location and actively participate in policing activities.

Table 1.1 Study Area Population Distribution

Target Population	Population	Proportion (%)
Police	270	54%
CP Cluster Heads	208	42%
NGAOs	20	4%
TOTAL POPULATION	498	100%

Source: Researcher, 2022

1.9.4 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure

Stratified random sampling was used to select the respondents for the study. The formula was used to calculate the sample size due to the time and resources available to complete the

study. Thus, for this study which focused mainly on the Kibra Sub-County area, all five constituencies were included for the calculation of an appropriate sample size. The targeted population size for this study was 270 police officers from Kibra Sub-County; namely Capital Hill, Jamhuri, and Kibra. The CP cluster heads (208) and the NGAOs (20) were also included. As such, this number was taken through a mathematical formula to generate a manageable population size that represented the whole.

The sample size for this study was arrived at using the Cochran formula.⁸⁷ The maximum variability is assumed to be 50% (p=0.5) with a 5% margin of error and a 95% level of confidence. Thus,

$$n_0 = \frac{z^2 pq}{e^2} = \frac{(1.96)^2 (0.5)(0.5)}{(0.05)^2}$$

Where:

n_0 = Sample size

e = Margin of error 5%

p = Proportion of the population with the required attributes

q = Proportion without the required attributes

z = Critical value at 0.05 which is 1.96

This was then adjusted for the finite population for this target population of 498 as follows:

⁸⁷ Kothari, C. "research methodology methods and techniques by CR Kothari." *Published by New Age International (P) Ltd., Publishers* 91 (2017).

In the given formula, the adjusted sample size (n) is calculated considering the initial sample size n_0 and the target population (N). Therefore, the sample size is:

$$n = \frac{n_0}{1 + \{(n_0 - 1)/N\}} = \frac{385}{1 + \{(385 - 1)/498\}} = \underline{217.514} \text{ rounded off to } \underline{\mathbf{218}}$$

Two hundred and eighteen (218) respondents constituted the entire sample size for this study. They were chosen using stratified random sampling to take part in filling out the study questionnaires and being part of the interviews.

The table below illustrates the distribution of the sample size amongst different categories:

Table 1.2 Table of Sample Size of the Study

Target Group	Population	Sample Size
Police	270	117
CP Cluster Heads	208	92
NGAOs	20	9
TOTAL POPULATION	498	218

Source: Researcher, 2022

1.9.5 Data Collection

To conduct this study, a combination of secondary and primary data of both qualitative and quantitative in nature was gathered. In order to gather primary data, a questionnaire and a key informant interview schedule were used. Using content analysis, information from secondary sources, such as journals, books, and reports was gathered and analyzed.

1.9.5.1 Questionnaires

The primary tool for data collection instrument in this inquiry was a questionnaire. The data collection questionnaires comprised both open-ended and closed-ended questions (Appendix II). This ensured that quantitative examination of questionnaire responses was possible. After some of the respondents revealed that they did not understand English, the questions in the questionnaire were verbally translated into Swahili.

1.9.5.2 Key Informant Interviews

The questionnaire was accompanied by KIIs questions (Appendix III). An important component of qualitative research is in-depth interviewing. The majority of the time, qualitative, in-depth interviews resemble discussions considerably more than they do formal events with predetermined response categories. In order to better comprehend the participant's viewpoints, the researcher had to look into a few broad subjects, but otherwise they had to accept how the participant's frames and organizes their comments. The CP personnel, namely NPS representatives, NGAOs and local police officers in charge of implementing CP initiatives in their spheres of influence adopted this technique. Each key informant was required to respond to an open-ended structured questionnaire, and the interviewer would then fill up the responses.

1.9.5.3 Piloting of Data Collection Tools

Piloting was conducted on a small sample of respondents to test data collection instruments prior to the actual research. The researcher undertook a pilot study within Kibra Sub-County in Nairobi County, six weeks before the actual study. The questionnaire was then administered to nine randomly selected respondents who were not part of the sample selected for the actual study. To test the interview guide, the researcher interviewed five members of

NDC Course 25 of 2022/2023, mainly drawn from Ministries, Departments and Agencies given that they dealt with security-related issues in the course of their duties. The inputs, suggestions, opinions, and comments from respondents targeted, were incorporated to enhance the quality of the research tools to ensure the appropriateness and accuracy of the collected data.

1.9.6 Validity and Reliability

This section describes the validity and reliability of the research instruments.

1.9.6.1 Validity of the Research Instruments

The research conducted an assessment to ensure the accuracy and precision of the data gathering methods. This was completed prior to the trial starting. The extent to which the data in the tools accurately represents the relevant material is known as content validity. Is the subject matter consistent with what we say the test will cover? Content validity frequently depends on the expertise of the subject-matter specialists because there is no statistical approach to verify whether a measure accurately covers a topic area or appropriately represents a construct. The supervisor and other subject-matter experts debated the findings and applied professional judgment to determine the content validity of the instruments. The questionnaire and the protocol for key informant interviews were all initially tested to assure consistency and clear up any misconceptions. This guarantees that the questionnaire being used is objective in the questions it poses to the study's respondents.

1.9.6.2 Reliability of the Research Instrument

The level of consistency that a research instrument produces after numerous trials is known as its reliability. To ensure this, a pilot study is a small-scale experiment created to evaluate

the suitability of the research concept and the instruments to be utilized for data collection.⁸⁸ While the interview guide was given to two key informants from the NPS, the questionnaire was piloted and administered to 18 respondents from the study area to determine the research's dependability. After two weeks, the questionnaires were gathered, and the process was repeated. This made it possible to compare responses and check for internal consistency. Only one focus group discussion included in the process of reliability testing.

1.9.7 Procedure for Data Collection

The collecting of data was carried out in a systematic manner. Before beginning to collect data, the researcher informed the Deputy County Commissioner about the intention to conduct the study and received the Deputy County Commissioner's approval as well as his support. With the help of a research assistant, the researcher visited the sampled respondents and distributed the questionnaires with the assistance of a research assistant. The respondents were handed questionnaires to complete within three days after getting instructions on how to answer and guarantees of anonymity. Every day, the completed questionnaires were double examined to make sure they fulfilled the standards.

During the process of questionnaire administration to the respondents, they were asked whether or not they could read or write in English or Kiswahili. After which the questionnaires were administered to them. In the interviews, the respondents were probed in a more in-depth manner in a relaxed and conducive environment allowing for comfort. In addition, the interviews each last approximately one hour and allowed for spontaneous discussion of pertinent issues to the study while still sticking to the interview guide. Documents relevant to the topic of study were also examined through content analysis giving

⁸⁸ Ibid

way to corroborate the claims and responses obtained through the primary data collected from questionnaires and interviews.

1.9.8 Data Analysis and Presentation of Findings

v Both the qualitative and quantitative data was produced by the study. A variety of statistics was used to assess quantitative data, including measures of central tendency like mean, mode, and median as well as distributional statistics like percentages and frequencies. The qualitative data obtained from respondents' feedback and documented information was analyzed using the technique of content analyses, which involved systematic examination of the meanings and implications derived from the data.

Bar charts, pie charts and tables were used to display the study's results. Additionally, information gathered from documents and interviews conducted underwent a topical examinations and transcription process. Subsequently, the data was categorized as deemed relevant and necessary, providing valuable support to the researcher in their exploration, identification, and interpretation of the studies objectives and research questions.⁸⁹

1.9.9 Ethical Considerations

The research was carried out at Kibra Sub-County, which is located within Nairobi County in Kenya. In order to get permission to carry out the study, the researcher applied to and was granted it by the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI). The researcher obtained authorization from the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) to conduct the study.

⁸⁹ Ibid. p. 95

The respondents' privacy and confidentiality were safeguarded by keeping the information provided private. Prior to administering the questionnaire and conducting the key informant interviews, the respondents were briefed and consent for voluntary participation sought. The benefits of the study findings were also communicated to the respondents, and all funding sources used for its execution were made public. The participants were also told that they could decline to participate in the study at any time and would not suffer any consequences for their decision.

1.10 Definition of Terms

Community Policing: This is the approach to policing that recognizes voluntary participation of the local community in the maintenance of peace and which acknowledges that the police need to be responsive to the communities and their needs. In Kenya, CP is based on the principle of partnership between the police and the community, where both parties work together to identify, prioritize, and address local crime and safety issues.

Community: This is a group of people, living in the same geographical area or sharing the same beliefs, attitudes, aspirations, and goals in life.

Curbing: Curbing refers to reducing or preventing something from happening, such as the proliferation of illicit arms.

Detection: Detection is the process of identifying and locating the presence of these weapons. The goal of detection is to prevent the illegal flow of SALWs, disrupt the supply chains of illicit arms traffickers, and ultimately reduce the risk of armed violence and conflict.

Investigation: Investigation refers to the process of gathering information and evidence on the illicit manufacturing, trafficking, and use of these weapons. The goal of investigation is to identify the sources and channels of SALWs proliferation, gather evidence to support legal action against individuals or groups involved in illicit activities, and provide insights into the root causes of SALWs proliferation.

Disruption: Disruption refers to the process of interfering with or dismantling the operations of these criminal organizations. The goal of disruption is to reduce the supply of illicit weapons, disrupt the operations of illicit arms cartels, and ultimately reduce the harm caused by the proliferation of SALWs.

Illicit Arms: These are unauthorized and unlicensed weapons acquired from dubious sources with the sole purpose of committing crime.

“Nyumba Kumi”: This is a strategy of anchoring CP at the household level or any other generic cluster that can comprise an estate, a block of houses, a manyatta, a street, a community of concern, a gated community, or a village.

Proliferation: Proliferation refers a rise in quantity that occurs quickly and widely, such as the proliferation of illegal weapons in a certain area or region.

1.11 Chapter Outline

The study was divided into a total of five chapters. The first chapter included an overview of the study, including its context, a concise statement of the research problem, clearly defined study objectives, an extensive literature review, a theoretical framework, and a detailed outline of the research methods. Chapter 2 explains how CP helps with the detection of illicit arms in Kibra Sub-County, chapter 3 examines how CP aids in the investigation of illegal

weapons in Kibra Sub-County and chapter 4 describes how CP helps with the disruption of unauthorized weapons cartels in Kibra Sub-County. Finally, chapter 5 discussed the study's conclusion, recommendations, and potential future research areas.

CHAPTER 2

THE ROLE OF CP IN THE DETECTION OF ILLICIT ARMS

2.1 Introduction

When viewed in comparison to many of its neighbours in the East African region, Kenya is relatively secure and stable. However, even in its strengths, the nation is faced with a plethora of political, ethnic, and socio-economic challenges that threaten its security and stability as well as the safety of its people. Kibra Sub-County is strategically located in the county of Nairobi, where Kenya's capital city is situated. This puts it as one of the most affected areas by the availability of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs). This coupled with the other issues mentioned previously, makes the situation in Kibra Sub-County all the more volatile. The availability of SALWs contributes to the growth of a culture of violence that endangers public safety. Therefore, this chapter sought to expound further on the role that CP plays in the detection of illicit arms in Kibra Sub-County.

2.2 Demographic Characteristic of the Respondents

The primary objective of this data collection was to provide a comprehensive analysis of the demographic characteristics of the sampled cohorts and evaluate their impact on the findings of the research. The demographic variables considered in this investigation encompassed gender, age, education level, as well as names of the institution, organization or occupation associated with the participants.

2.2.1 Response Rate

The target population was 218 respondents. As such 218 questionnaires were sent out. The response rate was 71% which was fairly good. One hundred and fifty-four (154)

questionnaires were returned from the 218 that were sent out. A 71% response rate shows that a significant proportion of the intended population actively participated in the research. Mugenda & Mugenda, state that a response rate of 50% or higher is considered satisfactory for conducting a thorough data analysis. Specifically, a 50% response rate is termed acceptable, 60% is considered good and a response rate exceeding 70% is classified as exceptional.⁹⁰

2.2.2 Place of Work

The respondents were asked to state their state of work, their organization, department, or institution. This was important to the study to distinguish the opinion of different respondents in line with their experience in their respective organizations or institutions.

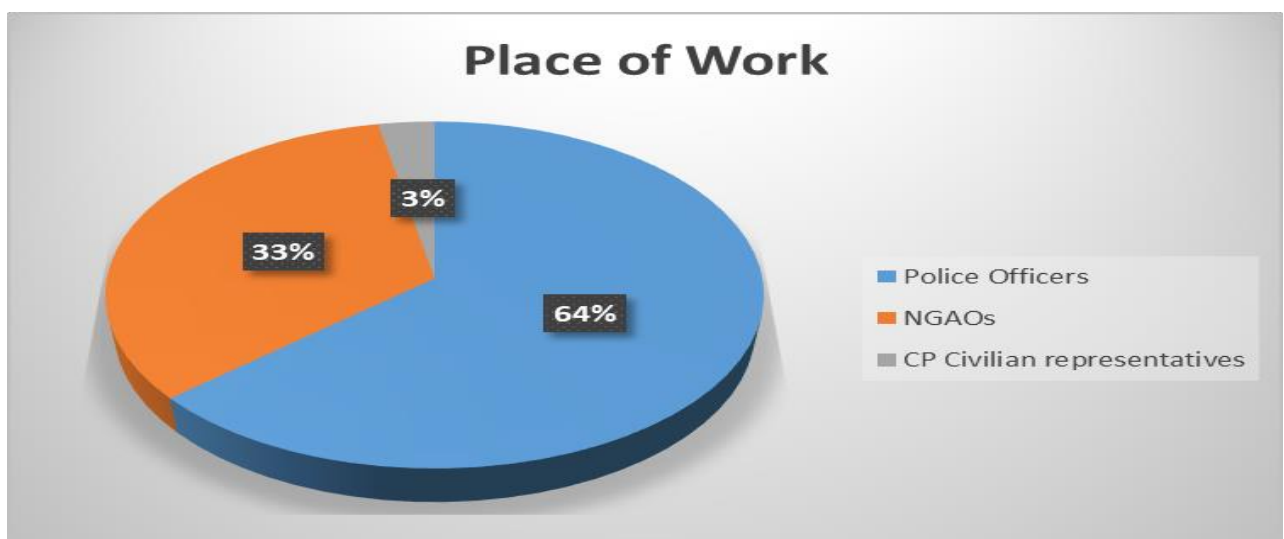


Figure 2.2 Place of Work

The findings showed that 63% of the respondents were from Kibra's NPS, which comprised the majority of the sample. Thirty-three percent (33%) were from NGAOs while 4% were individuals some civilians closely working with CP in Kibra Sub-County.

⁹⁰ Ibid

2.2.3 Gender

The survey participants were requested to disclose their gender by selecting one of the options: male, female or prefer not to disclose. The results indicated that identified as female, while the majority, constituting 58.8%, identified as male, as displayed in Table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1 Gender of the Respondents

		Frequency	Percentage	Valid in percentage
Valid	Female	63	40.9	41
	Male	91	59.1	59
	Total	154	100.0	100.0

The gender composition of the survey respondents yielded varied results. Understanding the gender dynamics is crucial in this study, as each gender might hold distinct perspectives on the role of CP in addressing SALWs in Kibra.

2.2.4 Age

The survey participants reported their age by selecting the appropriate age range they belonged to. Table 2.2 below, presents the distribution of respondents across different age groups, including those below the age of 30, from 31 to 40, between 41 and 50, as well as those above 50.

Table 2.2 Age of the Respondents

Age in Years	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage
19- 30	41	26. 6	27
31-40	50	32.4	32
41-50	54	35.1	35
above 50	9	5.9	6
Total	154	100.0	100.0

According to the table 2.2 above, 26.6% of survey participants were between the ages of 19 and 30; 32.4% were between the ages of 31 and 40; 35.1% were between the ages of 41 and 50; and 5.9% were beyond the age of 50. The findings indicate that the largest proportion of respondents fell within the 50 50 59 age range, which is typically associated with a greater level of professional experience. The consideration of age was integral to this study as individuals in different age groups may hold different perspectives and possess varying levels of firsthand experience related to CP and the enduring problem of illicit arms in Kibra.

2.2.5 Academic Qualification

The participants were requested to specify their highest level of education attained during the period of this study. The response obtained from the participants were categorized into five levels: secondary school, tertiary college, undergraduate, post-graduate, and any other. The distribution of responses received is depicted in The table 2.3 below, illustrating the frequency of each category.

Table 2.3 Highest level of Education

What is the Highest level of Education?			
	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage
Valid Certificate	33	21.5	22
Diploma	90	58.4	58
Degree	21	13.6	14
Master's degree	8	5.1	5
PhD	2	1.3	1
Total	154	100.0	100.0

Based on the data presented in Table 2.3 above, the results demonstrated that a majority of the participants, accounting for 58.4%, held a Diploma as the highest level of education. This was followed by 21.5% of the respondents who indicated having obtained certificates. Those with Degree were 13.6% and Masters stood at 5.1% The least number of respondents were those who had PhD at 1.3%. These results indicate that the research sample was sufficiently educated and knowledgeable to comprehend and respond to the questions contained in the questionnaire.

2.3 Status of Illicit Arms Proliferation in Kibra Sub-County

This chapter looked at the role that CP played in the detection of illegal weapons in Kibra. Thus, the respondents were requested to indicate their level of agreement regarding the role of CP in discovering illegal weapons in Kibra.

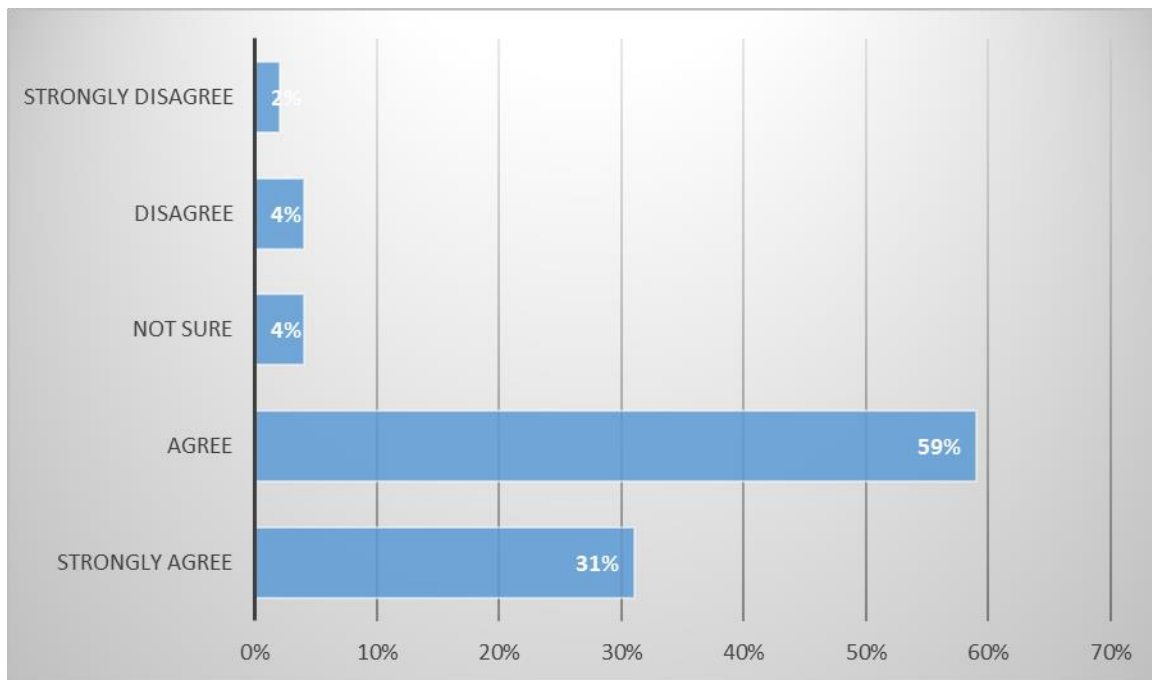


Figure 2.2 The Role of CP in Detecting Illicit Arms

According to the results of the survey, 59% of respondents agreed that CP had, in fact, played a part in the detection of illegal guns in Kibra. Thirty-one percent (31%) strongly agreed whereas 4% were not sure while a further 4% disagreed and 2% strongly disagreed.

This was in line with literature that showed the slow decline in illicit arms in Kibra. Proliferation of SALWs accelerates the spread of violence and amplifies its deleterious impacts, which considerably increases the likelihood of infringements of human rights and breaches of international humanitarian law in armed conflict situations. The extensive availability of firearms in post-conflict nations adds to high crime rates and makes the transition to a durable peace more challenging.⁹¹ The easy accessibility of these weapons impairs security (including in terms of crime), jeopardizes development potential, adds to societal disintegration, and increases the likelihood of resorting to violence, which is more lethal.

⁹¹ Small arms proliferation in Kenya. (2002). Human Rights Watch. <https://www.hrw.org/reports/2002/kenya/Kenya0502-01.htm>

Kibra Sub-County is a unique case owing to its location in Nairobi County, which houses the capital of the nation and the presence of the largest urban slum dwelling in the country and the second largest in the continent. Characterized by people of various ethnic backgrounds, low-income levels, high unemployment levels, and poor housing, Kibra Sub-County faces numerous challenges when it comes to insecurity and crime. The levels of violence in the area are influenced not just by the socio-economic hardships that the people face but also by the influence of a political culture that promotes violence in these hardship areas.⁹² These characteristics of Kibra follow through the systems theory where the social structures and systems in Kibra are poor and failing thus allowing increased crime. These issues have all contributed to the rise of illicit arms proliferation across the Kibra Sub-County area which further exacerbates the culture of violence and conflict in the region.

The CP structures provide an avenue upon which the community can take their safety into their own hands and work in tandem with law enforcement. However, before we can understand how CP plays a role in detecting illicit arms used in inciting crime and violence, we must first evaluate the source of SALWs. In so doing the questions of who sources these weapons, where are they sourced, and how they find their way to Kibra Sub-County will be answered.

2.3.1 Sources of Illicit Arms in Kibra

Armed violence and its negative effects on the most vulnerable groups within the affected community are among the greatest indicators of human insecurity. Various outcomes of armed violence include loss of lives, injury, sexual violence, food insecurity, property damage, and displacement of population.⁹³ Urban areas are characterized by increased cases

⁹² Ibid

⁹³ Ibid.

of armed violence and armed criminal activities that worsen the security situation. The people most hit by these incidences are those living in impoverished dwellings such as those in Kibra.⁹⁴ The perpetrators of these atrocities are armed with SALWs that are obtained through nefarious means. The number of illicit arms flowing into the urban regions of the country has been increasing over the years.⁹⁵

The sources of the majority of the arms in Kenya cannot be pinpointed to one definite nation-state or supplier. Kenya's history with illicit arms dates back to the days of colonialism. During this period the possession and use of firearms were not regulated. The first regulation on this was introduced in 1954.⁹⁶ Wairagu notes that the enactment of regulation was done following the heist of 660 precision firearms by the Mau uprising from British soldiers and security personnel. This marks the first instance of arms being in the hands of the civilian population at a volatile time in the country.⁹⁷

Since then, the country's civilian population has gained significant access to firearms. According to the minor Arms Survey, the diversion of weapons from government stockpiles has made a small but significant contribution to the quantity of weapons in hands of civilians.⁹⁸ These diversions occur when the security officials put in charge of them are corrupt and take advantage by redirecting these arms on transit to their actual destinations, particularly to neighbouring countries. These diverted illicit arms are then sold and find their way into the city dwelling such as Kibra where they are used to commit crimes and perpetrate

⁹⁴ Elfvérsson, Emma, and Kristine Höglund. "Violence in the city that belongs to no one: urban distinctiveness and interconnected insecurities in Nairobi (Kenya)." *Conflict, Security & Development* 19, no. 4 (2019): 347-370.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ Kamenju, Jan, Francis Wairagu, and Mwachofi Singo. "Private security in Kenya." Nairobi: Security Research and Information Centre [SRIC] (2004).

⁹⁸ Ibid.

violent acts. According to the study, Kenya Defense Forces ammunition accounts for almost 40% of all ammunition sold illegally.⁹⁹

In the study by Wepundi *et al*, they highlight that one of the major sources of SALWs within Kenya's borders infiltrates from neighboring countries. The illicit arms that are in circulation are from illegal arms traders who operate transnationally and take these arms to medium-volatile and extremely volatile nations.¹⁰⁰ The majority of arms that are smuggled across the borders come from Somalia. However, it is important to note that other neighboring nations such as South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Uganda are also contributors of SALWs that make their way into Kenya. Arms are concealed in cargo and livestock trucks that transport other goods into the country. the traffickers use their connections in border regions to smuggle the arms in and through corruption they can travel to the capital city undetected.¹⁰¹

The porous nature of the border between Kenya and her neighbors is making the situation even worse. The porosity of the border makes it much easier for firearms to make their way into the country through the refugee population and merchant traders moving daily across the borders. Kubende's study findings indicate overwhelmingly that the Kenya's porous boundary with Somalia is where the majority of the weapons that the youth population in Makadara and Embakasi owns come through.¹⁰²

The presence of an unstable government in Somalia has over the years encouraged the illicit trade of contrabands and illicit weapons contribute significantly to the problem of arms proliferation. Kubende adds that the youth aged between 21 and 30 years are the ones most

⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ Wepundi, Manasseh, et al.. Availability of small arms and perceptions of security in Kenya: an assessment. Geneva: Small Arms Survey, 2012.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² Kubendei, Humphrey Sanders. "Factors Influencing Crime In The Urban Informal Settlements. A Case Study Of Kibra." PhD diss., University of Nairobi, 2018.

involved in trafficking these arms through the refugee camps and to the urban areas in Nairobi.¹⁰³

This is reaffirmed by a key informant who stated:

“The majority of arms circulating the Kibra area can be traced back to smuggling routes along the porous Kenya-Somalia border. This border’s porosity has been a major security concern making the tracking of illicit arms difficult once they are in the country.”¹⁰⁴

However, the common perception among people is police officers are the ones who have access to and handle firearms. However, in many cases where there are corrupt and complaisant police officers, their government issue firearms are found in the possession of criminals on the streets. According to a Small Arms Survey conducted in Nairobi, the findings show that the number of firearms found in the possession of criminals in the county’s urban dwellings is from the police force.¹⁰⁵ This happens in form of sharing agreements where corrupt police officers give their firearms to criminal gangs for a limited period in exchange for payment. Such agreements add to the sense of lack of trust of the civilian population in the law enforcement officers tasked with the job of ensuring their safety. A CP cluster head stated:

“The guns in the hands of our youth in Kibra are sometimes government issued firearms. This situation has greatly affected our community policing efforts. There is corruption among the police who are meant to protect us.”¹⁰⁶

2.4 CP and its Role in Gun Crime Prevention in Kibra

The cases of gun-related crime incidences in the Kibra area have been on the rise owing to higher victim reporting rates and unrest in the population that resides in this area. In the last

¹⁰³ Ibid. p. 30.

¹⁰⁴ Interview with key informant in police service. 09/01/2023. Nairobi.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ Interview with community policing cluster head. 10/01/2023. Nairobi.

decade, the number of robberies, burglaries, home invasions, and sexual violence cases have increased exponentially with statistics from the World Bank highlighting Nairobi has one of the highest crime rates in Africa due to this.¹⁰⁷ Increased cases of gang activity related to these criminal incidences have also created a situation where the crime is coordinated and deliberate. These gangs can recruit youths into doing criminal acts by supplying them with guns and a promise of a better life. The high poverty rates in the low-income settlements of Kibra have played a major role in motivating youths to engage in crime through gangs.¹⁰⁸ The low-income households of this area are also disproportionately affected by crime and insecurity due to their high vulnerability. The fact that the police force is underfunded, highly corrupt, and ineffective has made the situation even worse.¹⁰⁹

To understand how grave, the situation in Kibra is, SRIC carried out a research on the rates of criminality in the urban slum dwelling of Kibra. Based on the study findings, the results are beyond alarming with 98.8% of respondents expressing that they had at one point in the three months prior to the study been physically assaulted or had witnessed an act of crime being committed.¹¹⁰ Other insights into the crime rate in Kibra show that in the last few years, there has been growing access to guns among youths, which is increasing the rate of crime and the violence.¹¹¹ Felson notes that the poor population residing in the slum dwellings of Kibra are grappling with this problem more because of the understanding among criminals that the poor

¹⁰⁷ World Bank. (2011). *Violence in the city: Understanding and supporting community responses to urban violence*. <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTSOCIALDEVELOPMENT/EXTCPR/0,,contentMDK:22801148~menuPK:407746~pagePK:64020865~piPK:51164185~theSitePK:407740,00.html>

¹⁰⁸ OECD. (2011). *Linking security system reform and armed violence reduction: Programming note. Conflict and Fragility*. Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. <http://www.oecd.org/development/incaf/47942075.pdf>

¹⁰⁹ Skilling, L., & Rogers, C. (2017). "Crime prevention and coping mechanisms in neighbourhoods: insights from Kibera, Nairobi." *Crime Prevention and Community Safety*, 19 (2017): 103-121.

¹¹⁰ SRIC. (2014). *A study of crime in urban slums in Kenya: The case of Kibra, Bondeni, Manyatta and Mishomoroni slums*. Security Research and Information Centre. <http://www.srickenya.org/images/publications/slum%20Crime%20Survey%20Report.%20Thur.pdf>

¹¹¹ Ibid.

are more likely to carry their money on hand compared to the middle and higher-income populations. Thus, they form easier targets for these gun-wielding criminals.¹¹²

Communities are now realizing the need to take their security and safety into their hands. Community policing tactics are especially important in this context for guaranteeing citizens' adherence to the law. The systems theory is critical in this case because it shows that without a community that is united with the police in eradicating illicit arms proliferation and its related criminal activity, then the whole system fails. The goals of CP are prevention of crime and promotion of better police relations with the communities they serve. The work that comes with community policing however does not come by just saying but by doing the work. This essentially means that community policing relies on a trained, organized, aware, competent community and police force who work in coordination with one another to prevent crimes that involve gun violence and deaths.

“Community policing is not a new strategy in the efforts to beef up security in the Kibra area. It has been a key strategic move that has in its rights improved public perception of the police. I have seen the changes it has brought through community cooperation with police officers in the area.”¹¹³

CP plays a key role in uniting two groups of the population that is police and residents against one bad entity which is criminality. This is much needed in an area that is grappling with an ever-growing crime rate and increased deaths related to gun crimes.

In contrast to traditional policing, CP depends on the trust and cooperation of the two groups to function. Therefore, CP is crucial in developing the idea of human rights-based crime prevention, as Wanjohi hypothesizes. This is because it relies on the coordination of actions

¹¹² Felson, Marcus, and Rachel L. Boba, eds. *Crime and everyday life*. Sage, 2010.

¹¹³ Interview with police officer. 09/01/2023. Nairobi.

with input from the community on decisions that affect them.¹¹⁴ By working closely with the community, police are in a unique point to defend the rights of all individuals and especially the most vulnerable members of the population. On the flip side, the community can monitor the police presence and call them out on the violations of their rights.

CP has the role of being an operational strategy that police rely on to beef up already existing operations to prevent gun crime. This strategy operates under the assumption that law enforcement work cannot exist in isolation from other challenges that affect the community.¹¹⁵ For lasting change to be realized, partnerships, problem-solving, and policy formulation must happen in the presence of those they affect. Ruteere *et al* note that CP provides police with a strategy that goes beyond the prevailing assumption in many criminals' minds that the community could work with the police.¹¹⁶ This notion applies especially to the Kibra area where police-community relations have been known to be rocky. In this case, CP applies a strategy that is unexpected and new and that stands to make the most gains in gun crime prevention in Kibra.

2.5 CP Strategies for Detecting Illicit Arms in Kibra

CP is not a new concept in the world of policing and security. However, it has become more prominent now than ever before. According to the NPS booklet on CP, the description of CP states that it

¹¹⁴ Wanjohi, Dominic M. "Influence of community policing on crime reduction in Kenya: A case of Machakos County." PhD diss., University of Nairobi, 2014.

¹¹⁵ Ruteere, Mutuma, Patrick Mutahi, Becky Mitchell, and Jeremy Lind. Missing the point: Violence reduction and policy misadventures in Nairobi's poor Neighbourhoods. No. Evidence Report; 39. Institute of Development Studies (IDS), 2013.

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

“...is the approach to policing that recognizes voluntary participation in the maintenance of peace acknowledging Police need to be responsive.... Its key element being joint problem-identification and problem-solving...”¹¹⁷

From this NPS description, it is evident that the approach to the detection of crime and prevention of the same is through “soft approaches of policing”¹¹⁸ that rely on collaboration and community-oriented responses. In addition, this description highlights that the police and the community both have a role to play for the strategies to work. Essentially, a shift from a top-down approach to a more people-centric horizontal approach. The approaches to CP in Kenya have revolved around two main models; the “Nyumba Kumi” initiative spearheaded by the President and the CP Committees led by the NPS.

Under the Community Policing Authority, the NPS has created a committee that operated from the sub-county level to the county level. At each committee meeting, the civilian members and police officers present are required to create reports on their proceedings and present these findings to the committee next in rank above.¹¹⁹ In every committee, there is a chairperson (civilian) and a vice chairperson (police officer).¹²⁰ As noted in the description by the NPS, membership in CP initiatives is voluntary and does not garner any reimbursement. The civilians and police officers appointed to these positions are in place for two years after which they are not subject to renewing their positions.¹²¹ The point behind the creation of these committees is to provide a platform upon which community concerns can be aired and solutions to these issues are found by working together with the police force.

¹¹⁷ Gjelsvik, Ingvild Magnæs. "Police reform and community policing in Kenya: The bumpy road from policy to practice." *Journal of Human Security* 16, no. 2 (2020): 19-30.

¹¹⁸ Pendleton, Michael R. "Policing the park: Understanding soft enforcement." *Journal of Leisure Research* 30, no. 4 (1998): 552-571.

¹¹⁹ Pendleton, Michael R. "Policing the park: Understanding soft enforcement." *Journal of Leisure Research* 30, no. 4 (1998): 552-571.

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ Ibid.

Kenya's President, Uhuru Kenyatta, introduced the "Nyumba Kumi" project during his first term in office in response to the terror attack on the nation at the Westgate shopping mall in 2013. The strategy was created to fight the threat of terror and insecurity in the country through community-police partnerships.¹²² The *Swahili* expression "Nyumba Kumi" " refers to ten households where each resident should be familiar with at least ten of their neighbors. However, in Kenya, this phrase is not taken in the literal sense but rather implies individuals and organizations in a cluster.¹²³ According to the guidelines it

*"...is a strategy for anchoring community policing at the household level.... bringing Kenyans together in clusters ... by physical locations, felt needs and pursuit of common ideals..."*¹²⁴

The "Nyumba Kumi" initiative aims at ensuring that the community knows each other better to enable swift and decisive action against members who are involved in criminality targeted at the locals. This strategy relies on cluster leaders who are elected democratically by cluster members and serve for a two-year period after which they can be re-elected. The clusters through their leaders can relay information and ideas to the police officers. However, in this structure, the police are not formally part of the clusters.¹²⁵ Furthermore, much like the NPS CP committees, the "Nyumba Kumi" initiative also encourages the members of clusters to participate voluntarily that is not subject to any form of compensation.¹²⁶

The two strategies though similar in many aspects are still different from one another. Nonetheless, the same goal still holds that they are meant to improve the safety and security

¹²² Koigi, Bob. "How Kenya's Ten Houses Concept is Tam-ing Crime and Terrorism." *Fair Planet* 27 (2016): 1-2.

¹²³ *Draft Guidelines for Implementation of Community Policing – Nyumba Kumi*. (2015). Republic of Kenya. <http://www.communitypolicing.go.ke/docs/draft4.pdf>

¹²⁴ Ibid.

¹²⁵ Ibid.

¹²⁶ Ibid.

of the communities in Kenya. According to Wambugu, the public's participation in crime detection shortens the time it takes to identify and stop a crime from taking place. Through CP strategies, the goals are to increase detection capabilities and essentially prevent crime by stemming it before it even occurs.¹²⁷ The proliferation of illicit arms in neighborhoods of many Kibra residents is threatening the very security and safety that these strategies are meant to guard against. The implementation of these two strategies has thus come under scrutiny with many doubting the effectiveness of the strategies combined and individual efficacy in addressing the rise in gun crime and violence in metropolitan areas.

2.5.1 Effectiveness of CP in Detecting Illicit Arms

Borovec, Vitez, & Mraović, argue that according to the traditional model of policing, the effectiveness of the police is measured through decreased crime levels.¹²⁸ Therefore, it can be deduced from this that where there is a steady increase in crime and illicit arms in the population then that means that the strategies in place are failing to reach their optimal service delivery requirements. Tilley theorized that in providing an effective CP strategy, it is important to consider that the community-police partnership cannot succeed in its strengths alone. It must involve inter-agency and inter-governmental collaborative efforts to share information and intelligence involving lost shipments of arms, suspected criminals, and security hotspots likely to be targeted based on studies and surveillance data.¹²⁹

As with any strategy, CP is subject to resistance and backlash from both sides of the aisle. Therefore, the effectiveness of any CP strategy is predicated upon the achievement of its goals externally and the implementation of necessary changes within the organizational

¹²⁷ Wambugu, J. M. "Evaluating community policing strategy: a case study of Kenya police." PhD diss., 2005.

¹²⁸ Borovec, Krunoslav, Drazen Vitez, and Irena Cajner Mraovic. "Police Effectiveness as the Influencing Factor of the Community Policing Strategy on Citizens' Sense of Safety in Croatia." *Revija za kriminalistiko in kriminologijo* 65, no. 4 (2014): 259-271.

¹²⁹ Tilley, Nick. *Crime prevention*. Routledge, 2014.

structure involved. The overall effectiveness of CP is measured as per the strategy's cost-effectiveness, its impact on the community perceptions, and the police organization's success in its mandated activities.¹³⁰ So then the question of whether the existing strategies in CP have been successful in detecting and preventing illicit arms in Kibra comes up.

The efficacy of CP approaches in detecting illicit arms in Kibra has come into question owing to higher cases of crime and arms in the possession of youths. It has come to light that the two strategies in CP have similar goals but experience friction upon their implementation. At the local level, the efficiency of CP strategies under the "Nyumba Kumi" initiative and the CP Committee are undermined greatly by a lack of proper implementation.¹³¹ In addition, a general looming cloud of confusion about the differences between the two strategies and their guidelines and pillars has setback CP's effectiveness. The misconception that the civilian members of the NPS-led CP committees are police informants has also created a sense of fear among the public. Fear comes into play because the community members are afraid of the information reaching gang members or culprits who may then target them.¹³²

According to studies on the issue, the findings show that when asked about it, community members involved in the initiatives are either skeptical or refuse to take part altogether. In the majority of the instances, the committee or cluster members do not even show up for the scheduled meeting.¹³³ All these issues come from a place of fear and reluctance to engage in CP activities for fear of becoming targets for the criminals and gang members operating in their communities. Muchira and Maroko highlight that during their research, participants

¹³⁰ Ibid.

¹³¹ Kiprono, W. (2007). *Challenges Facing the Implementation of Community Policing in Kenya: A Case of Kibera, Nairobi* [Master's thesis]. <http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke/bitstream/handle/11295/19546/>

¹³² Transparency International Kenya. (2016). *Kenya Police Service Satisfaction Survey and Needs Analysis Report, 2016. A focus on Kisumu and Nairobi Counties*. <https://tikenya.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Kenya-Police-Survey-2016.pdf>

¹³³ Muchira, J. M., & Maroko, G. C. (2020). Title Community Policing and Crime Prevention in Kirinyaga County –Kenya. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science (IJRISS)*, 4(10), 330-341. <https://www.rsisinternational.org>

highlighted that the safety of committee and cluster representatives were a major challenge because they immediately become soft targets for the criminals in their area.¹³⁴ These findings are consistent with the current study where a key informant stated:

“The community policing initiative under Nyumba Kumi has failed to reach its intended goals due to a reluctance among communities in the Kibra area to take part in the initiative. The refusal to take part is mainly due to the notion that the police are corrupt and nothing can change that situation.”¹³⁵

The effectiveness of CP strategies in illicit arms detection is greatly hindered by the limited resources, inadequate training, and poor working conditions for police officers. According to Jackson *et al*, the public or community in this case often evaluates the police in terms of their ability to respond quickly and decisively to criminals and illicit arms traffickers in their neighborhoods. This informs their perceptions of the effectiveness and trust they should give to the police.¹³⁶ However, in the Kibra area, the problem of inadequate resources and equipment needed for police officers to dispense their duties has greatly undermined the public’s trust and collaboration with them through CP initiatives.¹³⁷

From the perspective of governance, the police are known to be one of the most corrupt security agencies in the country. The NPS's reputation precedes its efforts to establish CP committees. The public views this strategy as ineffective and therefore is unwilling to assist the police in their work. Thus, the committees under the NPS strategy are less effective

¹³⁴ Ibid.

¹³⁵ Key informant interview. 09/01/2023. Nairobi.

¹³⁶Jackson, Jonathan, Ben Bradford, Betsy Stanko, and Katrin Hohl. *Just authority?: Trust in the police in England and Wales*. Routledge, (2012).

¹³⁷ Ibid.

compared to the “Nyumba Kumi” initiative. Deniz Kocak contends that establishing CP requires the presence of fundamental bureaucratic police expertise and capabilities.¹³⁸

This issue is further exacerbated by the committee members who go in with their separate agendas and exploit the platform provided through CP to conduct their business aside from the required ones. Muchira and Maroko report that in their study, respondents highlighted that chiefs appointed to lead the “Nyumba Kumi” initiatives would use this as an avenue to advance their vested interests. Furthermore, they would even go to the point of bribing community members to provide false information that the clusters were working well and without any challenges.¹³⁹ The selfish use of CP platforms greatly undermines their effectiveness in dealing with the serious issues of crime and illicit arms in the communities. A cluster head interviewed affirmed that:

“Community policing in Kibra is greatly affected by the corruption in the police and the Nyumba Kumi initiative itself. Authorities appointed have in the past used their positions to exploit members of the community and instill fear in them. Though arrest and prosecution of these individuals are easier said than done.”¹⁴⁰

2.6 The Mapping of Illicit Arms through CP in Kibra

Mapping of illicit arms much like it sounds is the presentation of statistics on illicit arms flows according to geographic location, time, and place through graphical and pictorial representations. These statistics enable stakeholders to understand where these arms are coming from, where they are currently, and where they are headed to, based on hotspots indicated through mapping. Although there is a political push on the international and regional levels to stop the flow of illicit guns, the opacity of this trade and its intricate,

¹³⁸ Kocak, Deniz. Rethinking community policing in international police reform: Examples from Asia. Ubiquity Press, 2018.

¹³⁹ Ibid.

¹⁴⁰ Interview with Community policing cluster head. 10/01/2023. Nairobi.

diverse, and context-specific characteristics make it difficult to track progress in this direction.¹⁴¹ However, mapping illegal weapons held by criminals and insurgents is more difficult than it sounds.

Illicit arms trafficking, trade, and use are against the laws of Kenya and stand as a threat to the safety and security of the people. Moreover, it perpetuates a culture of criminality and violence in volatile areas. In the country, crime mapping is facilitated through the National Crime Research Centre (NCRC). As per the goals of this organization, it leads, supports, and coordinates the national and county-level responses to crime challenges through crime mapping in all the 47 counties. The objectives of more public involvement in security problems have become a source of concern as a result of this, in addition to the requirements in the 2010 Constitution.

Accordingly, illicit arms mapping benefits come from its ability to assess crime, its contributing elements, and its environment while providing police and other stakeholders with information on illicit arms detection and prevention. Nevertheless, it is not without drawbacks, such as the potential of misrepresentation through the process of data collection itself or during the analysis or presentation of the data. The mapping may highlight some crimes while underreporting others. The anecdotal and historical nature of the data collection is one of the drawbacks of illicit arms mapping. This could indicate that the statistics do not reveal current dynamics, or, at the very worst, that policing or other activities concentrate on old issues rather than brand-new ones.¹⁴²

Detection and prevention of illicit arms trafficking into the urban areas of Nairobi such as Kibra have been lagging significantly. According to the NCRC, which performed a study on

¹⁴¹Ibid.

¹⁴² *Benefits and disadvantages of crime maps*. Hubpages. (2016) <https://hubpages.com/politics/Benefits-and-Disadvantages-of-Crime-Maps>

the general public's view of crime trends and patterns in the country, crime prevention and detection are dependent on timely and effective data gathering for crime mapping.¹⁴³ This presents an accurate and cost-effective avenue for policing structures to access information on criminals and arms traffickers. However, the challenge is that there is currently a paucity of data collection for crime mapping in the country. This paucity in the mapping of crime data means that there are currently out-of-date information sources on illicit arms numbers or flows.

“Mapping of illicit arms in the Kibra area is nearly impossible. This I can blame on the fact that the community lacks trust in the police officers in the area and their ability to provide security and protection for them. Especially so, the youth population in Kibra is most affected by the flow of arms as they are easily influenced by the proliferation and use of these firearms. However, they are not willing to cooperate with the police out of fear for their safety.”¹⁴⁴

There exists a collaborative aspect between CP and crime mapping that makes the two reliant on each other to be effective in the detection of crimes happening at any given time. The collection of data on illicit arms flows in communities depends on the ability and awareness of the community members as well as their courage to come forward with information to the relevant authorities.¹⁴⁵ Here CP plays a pivotal role in the mapping of illicit arms flows across various neighborhoods through detection and enables fast and quick response to prevent crime. Therefore, for there to be accurate and up-to-date data and information on the number of illicit arms in Kibra and where they are sourced from, there is a need for established and functioning CP structures across the various neighborhoods.

¹⁴³ National Crime Research Centre. (2017). *National Crime Mapping Study: Public Perceptions on Crime Patterns and Trends in Kenya*. <https://crimeresearch.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/National-Crime-Mapping-Study-Public-Perceptions-Of-Crime-Patterns-And-Trends-In-Kenya-1.pdf>

¹⁴⁴ Interview with community policing cluster head. 10/01/2023. Nairobi.

¹⁴⁵ Mwangangi, Mathews Kituku, Matthew Mwangi Theuri, and Wycliffe Nyachoti Otiso. "Assessment Of The Role Of Nyumba Kumi Initiative On Crime Reduction Within Kiambio Slums, Nairobi County, Kenya." (2020).

According to Florquin et al., there are overlaps in the illicit arms supply networks that allow them to work in providing arms across various channels. Mapping the flow of arms across various illicit channels creates a valuable avenue upon which to leverage information. However, the lack of awareness of the public and communities about the CP initiatives active in their vicinity makes the process of illicit arms mapping even harder.¹⁴⁶ The study findings reveal that in Kibra, the lack of trust and belief in the intentions of police officers means that mapping illicit arms in the communities is nearly impossible to do. Yet this is an integral part of the process of fighting illicit arms trafficking and trade.

2.7 Conclusion

This chapter reveals that the detection of illicit arms by police officers in Kibra Sub-County has proved to be difficult. The sources of arms in the regions range from diversions to cross-border trafficking, and even from the police themselves. The analysis reveals that in Kenya, two main models of CP exist which are “Nyumba Kumi” and CP Committee. The findings show that while these strategies both showed promise at the beginning, a lack of streamlining of the two models has made them ineffective. In addition, the public and police relationships are straining the effectiveness of these initiatives. Mapping crime using CP shows promise. However, a lack of awareness in the public on mapping crime and a lack of resources to do the same has rendered the process ineffective.

¹⁴⁶ Florquin, Nicolas, Sigrid Lipott, and Francis Wairagu. "Weapons Compass: mapping illicit small arms flows in Africa." Small Arms Survey Report (2019).

CHAPTER 3

ROLE OF CP IN THE INVESTIGATION OF ILLICIT ARMS

3.1 Introduction

The proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) has been described in the previous chapters as a major security challenge not just in the ports or border towns but in the inland regions, such as the major cities. The availability of these illicit weapons has become much easier than before, making the challenges that come with this phenomenon even harder to contend with. It increases the cases of crime, impairs the work of security providers, slows down the development potential of an area, and leads to social disintegration. All these issues show just how crucial the investigation, collection, and repossession of illicit arms circulating within the population is. Placing a special lens on the situation in Kibra Sub-County, this chapter looks at how CP as an initiative can be used in the investigation of illicit arms in the area.

3.2 Roles of CP in Investigating Illicit Arms in Kibra

The respondents who participated in the survey were asked about the role of CP in investigating illicit arms in Kibra.

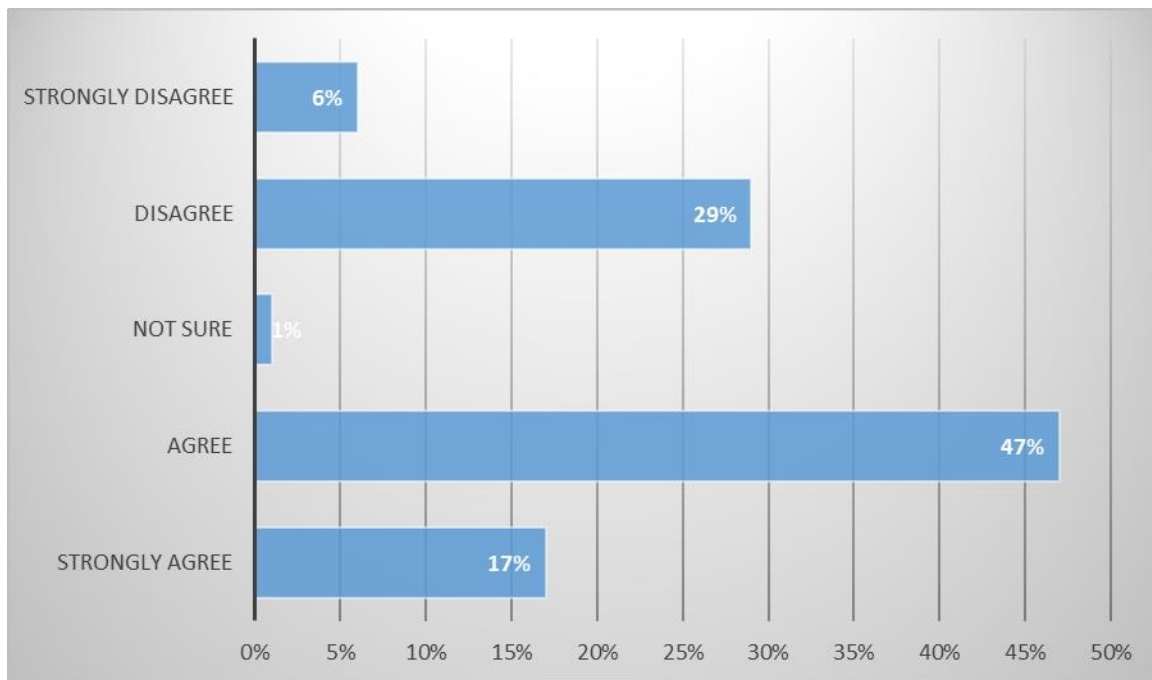


Figure: 3.1 Role of CP in Investigating Illicit Arms

The survey shows that 47% of the respondents agreed that CP has been used effectively in investigating illicit arms in Kibra, 29% on the other hand, felt that CP has not played a big role in investigating illicit arms in Kibra. Further, 17% of those who participated in the survey agreed strongly, 6% strongly disagreed, and 1% were not certain.

Koorey et al. opined that small arms proliferation and use in crime is often a symptom of an underlying issue in society that needs to be addressed first.¹⁴⁷ Mending the divide that exists between the community and the issues they are facing with the law enforcement officers is an identified way of building trust between the two groups. This creates an open line of communication and makes the investigation of crime easier. In this sense, CP places several key roles in the investigation of illicit arms flows across the Kibra Sub-County area. These include: intelligence gathering, marking of small arms, source investigation, tracking and

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

monitoring of illicit arms movement, and investigation of crimes related to illicit arms that are in circulation in the area.

3.2.1 Gathering Small Arms Intelligence through CP in Kibra

Singo et al.,¹⁴⁸ posit that Kenya has traditionally served as a transit for weapon shipments intended for conflict-afflicted nations surrounding it. In the process, these weapons have in small numbers found a local market that has been slowly growing over the years. The illicit market for these weapons continues to thrive as the criminal market for them grows as well. The effect of even these small amounts of guns being redirected to the local market is being felt. These weapons, which are employed in crimes like attacks on farms, robberies in cities, and conflicts among pastoral groups, are frequently illegally transported across the nation. Because of this, violence has become ingrained in society and has become a way of life.

The most guarded criminal offence in Nairobi and in Kenya, in general, is the use of a gun. Gun in the hands of criminals is one of the highly rated crime in Kenya today. The government of Kenya through the police and the legislation have this crime as the worst. There is a special force, a highly trained section of the police who are mandated to deal with it. In Kira sub county is no exception to such and a lot of community effort is put towards investigations, prosecution and eradication of the crime of use of small arms. Almost all sectors who are involved in security matters have a hand in the prevention of this particular crime. The intelligence received by officers are dealt urgently in order to avoid such lethal information to fall in bad hands before action is taken. A special unit of the police referred to as Strategic Prevention Framework are mandated to deal with such cases, such information is provided by members of CP.

¹⁴⁸ Kamenju, Jan, Mwachofi Singo, and Francis Wairagu. Terrorized citizens: Profiling small arms and insecurity in the north Rift region of Kenya. Security Research and Information Centre, 2003.

Those who provide the most needed intelligence towards the discovery and arrest of such criminals are given lots of respect and protection by the government. In several instances, the members of the CP, have given the police in Kibra very useful intelligence on the hideouts of criminals who use small arms to cause havoc in Kibra. The most used arms by criminals in this region are different types of pistols. The pistol is one of the smallest guns in the market and of course, the most abused by criminals. They are easy to acquire, transport, and hide. According to police officers, most of their successful intelligence from members of CP have led to discovery of pistols and arrests, in other times the suspects escape the ambush by police. On locating where such suspects stay and whether they are in their houses, members of the CP have come handy in assisting the police with such crucial information and without member of CP such monitoring of such criminals would be impossible. The success in reducing the misuse of firearms in Kibra is largely credited to the mutual relationship between the police force and community members. The police demonstrate trust in the information they receive, which in turn helps to build confidence and trust among the public towards the law enforcement agencies.

Herein, there is need for precise and accurate investigation of illicit arms flows from the moment they enter the country to the time they are traded into the arms of community members. An essential component of several investigations involves gathering information about weapons and ammunition in the field. Material evidence of particular types of weapons and ammunition might offer strong proof that certain actors have (or have not) actively engaged in interesting actions, such as illegal arms trade, diverting weapons, violating human rights, or committing crimes. Additionally, it can assist investigators in figuring out how the occurrences under investigation came to be. The gathering of such material frequently reveals

information on the military prowess of the belligerents as well.¹⁴⁹ Investigators have a long road ahead in the fight against small arms proliferation across the country.

According to Chivers, both successful and unsuccessful investigations of illicit arms flow in any area yield a lot of information for law enforcement officials. Such investigations provided law enforcement with a view of what is happening on the ground, enable closer engagement with the community, create new leads on criminal activity, and facilitate better planning for the future.¹⁵⁰ Any investigation into illicit arms flows in the Kibra Sub-County area requires a clear plan of action that is cognizant of the possible risks involved in such an investigation. This preparation entails getting to know the community leaders and residents, learning about the kinds of weapons and ammunition that are likely to be used, learning how to navigate to security hotspots, and acquiring and using personal protective equipment (like body armor) and communications instruments properly.¹⁵¹

“Collection of intelligence on illicit arms flows in the area of Kibra relies heavily on the cooperation and trust built within the community policing clusters already established. These clusters provide an avenue for the common mwananchi to provide valuable information on the flow of arms within their residential areas. Ultimately, this has greatly aided in the credible intelligence collection by the police.”¹⁵²

Proper investigation of criminal and gang activity that is most prevalent in the Kibra area requires meticulous planning and execution with the help of accurate and actionable intelligence. However, this intelligence is only accurate where there is an element of community involvement in the investigation process. As an area that has increased cases of gun-related crime, a deliberate and decisive approach to investigation is required. This

¹⁴⁹ Shanley, Jack, and F. Mick. "ARES." (2021).

¹⁵⁰ Christopher John. "What a Crate in Syria Says About Saudi Help to the Rebels." At War. Notes From the Front Lines (New York Times blog) 11 (2012).

¹⁵¹ Ibid.

¹⁵² Interview with community policing cluster head. 10/01/2023. Nairobi.

involved information and intelligence gathering from the people who are affected the most. This follows through the assumptions of the systems theory because the systems are only as strong as the sum of its parts thus, community members must be able to provide police with information for the police to effectively discharge their duties. CP offers an open channel of communication that allows for effective information sharing between law enforcement and the residents of the Kibra area. Essentially, this bridges the divide and mends the long years of suspicion between the police and the locals, thus making the process more seamless.

3.2.2 Use of CP in Small Arms Marking in Kibra

In Kenya, the movement of illegal weapons takes place in a labyrinth. Small-time traffickers are used to move weapons into Kenya's black market. When combined, they show a steady inflow of weapons. As previously noted, the small arms circulating across the world are the most of the time weapons that have been stolen from legal weapons stockpiles. Bevan claims that the main source of illegal weaponry in circulation is weapon diversion. The primary objective of guns labeling is to foreclose (or at the very least impede) diversion. Diversion is the loss, theft, or sale of firearms from legitimate users, such as the military, law enforcement, and civilians, to unauthorized users.¹⁵³

Marking has two uses in terms of counter-proliferation. First, it discourages authorized users (such as troops) from reselling weapons into black markets for fear of being recognized as the "diverting party." Second, it makes it possible to track down the people or organizations in charge of transporting weapons into black markets after they have been diverted. This showed that for a marking initiative to be effective, records on the firearms and their operators must be comprehensive, available, and searchable in addition to being tagged so

¹⁵³ Bevan, James. "Arsenals adrift: Arms and ammunition diversion." Small Arms Survey. Small Arms Survey (2008): 42-75.

that they can be uniquely identified.¹⁵⁴ Using these special markings, law enforcement officials investigating illicit arms flows and users can identify where a firearm is from and who it may have belonged to, be it a local official or a foreign official.

While the marking of firearms is the onus of the government and its law enforcement agencies, the role of CP in the issue cannot be overlooked. Marking enables law enforcers to trace the origin and movement of a firearm(s) used to commit crimes in the Kibra area. This can only take place where the residents can identify and report identified arms in their local area. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) highlights that firearm tracing is not an indicator that the person of interest has done an illicit activity; it is simply designed to serve as a pathway of evidence for investigative fact-gathering. To pinpoint the exact moment the firearm became the focus of the investigation or inquiry or when it was made illegal, extra research will frequently be needed.¹⁵⁵

Kibra is not a very easy place that police can deal with criminals without members of CP. The police stay at their police station or posts and only go around when on certain mission. The people who are ever present in Kibra are members of CP, hence it's them who must or should be used for marking and tracking of small arms movements. It's them who call the police whenever they hear of gun shots. Such quick information to the police will inform the police action, whether it's them the police who are in action or the handlers of small arms for their criminal activities. This has called for occasional or period meetings between the police and members of the public.¹⁵⁶

“Firearms with markings are easily identifiable. This has been a way that police investigators can track where, who and how a firearm has been used. However, the lack of

¹⁵⁴ Bevan, James. "Making a Mark: Reporting on Firearms Marking in the RECSA Region." (2013).

¹⁵⁵ UNODC. (n.d.). *Firearms module 8 key issues: Firearms as evidence*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/firearms/module-8/key-issues/firearms-as-evidence.html>

¹⁵⁶ Ibid

*knowledge on firearm marking within the Kibra community has been a major challenge to community policing initiatives in the region. This calls for increased community awareness raising on how to identify firearm markings and to report the same.*¹⁵⁷

Bevan and King opine that through the principles provided in the International Tracing Instrument effectively tracing illicit arms happens under three main pillars; marking, record-keeping, and cooperation between stakeholders. Marking, along with precise record-keeping, makes it possible to identify a legitimate user of a weapon. Afterward, cooperation makes tracking easier by giving people a way to exchange information.¹⁵⁸ Often information used by law enforcement in investigating illicit arms flows comes from the community at the grassroots level. Here, they can get tips on their hotlines, direct messages, and official statements on firearm-related criminal activity in the local area. The study findings show that CP enables accurate investigation of credible cases of illicit arms through the marking present on the rifles.

3.2.3 Investigating the Source of Illicit Arms

Any successful investigation of illicit arms flowing across the Kibra Sub-County area requires a clear understanding of the source of these weapons. How these weapons are making their way into the hands of the local youth population is among the first steps to investigating how this criminal enterprise operates. As already noted, this study has found that pinpointing a specific source of all the illicit arms in the country is nearly impossible. These illicit arms in circulation come from different sources some of which may be related and some may not be. In addition, the process of identification of the source is made even harder when one weapon has exchanged hands severally and been used in different kinds of crime.

¹⁵⁷ Interview with police officer. 09/01/2023. Nairobi.

¹⁵⁸ Ibid.

While the majority of the illicit arms in the country are attributed to porous borders and the illicit market of these firearms in conflict-affected border communities, there are also firearms circulating especially in city dwellings from government stockpiles. Small Arms Survey reports that the diversion of government stockpiles of firearms is attributed in part to the corrupt nature of law enforcement officials tasked with the responsibility of record-keeping and tracking.¹⁵⁹ Oftentimes, the firearms used in crime across the Kibra region are government issue weapons that should not be in the hands of the civilian population. This further aggravates an already delicate situation between the local community in the Kibra area and the law enforcement officers tasked with fighting crime.

An investigation by Musoi on the sources of illicit arms in the urban areas of Makadara and Embakasi offers a clear picture that there are a variety of sources such as government diversions, individual firearm theft, cross-border trade, and refugee-related proliferation.¹⁶⁰ In the realization of the role that the community plays in helping law enforcement investigate illicit arms-related crime, Kenya National Focal Point has been playing a key role in the investigation of SALWs proliferation. Wepundi et al. note that through awareness raising and educating the community, Kenya Action Network on Small Arms has been at the forefront. The use of the chief's barazas and workshops have been cited as two major methods of creating awareness and educating the community on SALWs and their possible sources.¹⁶¹

“Community policing in Kibra has not been developed as much as it should. In the past, however, it has proven useful in the limited capacity that it has been implemented in the area. Among the major ways that it has been used is in the provision of tips and information on

¹⁵⁹ Ibid.

¹⁶⁰ Musoi, Leonard K. "Factors influencing proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in Makadara and Embakasi divisions, Nairobi east district, Kenya." PhD diss., University of Nairobi, 2015.

¹⁶¹ Ibid. p. 76.

firearms being used in crime in the area. Upon further investigation, the police have found a correlation to corruption and firearms being diverted from government arms.”¹⁶²

Investigation of illicit arms in the Kibra region therefore may aptly benefit from such an approach. The education of local community members on illegal arms sources through such meetings provides an avenue for CP strategies to thrive. In addition, this approach creates a space where the community and law enforcement officials interact personally and forge relations that build trust. These relationships, according to the research findings, work for the benefit of both law enforcement and the community as they mend old grievances and enable a faster flow of information on possible illicit arms movement and use in the Kibra region. This is especially relevant in an area where police officers and generally and stereotypically regarded as corrupt and untrustworthy by the general populous of the Kibra area.

3.2.4 Tracking and Monitoring the Movement of Illicit Arms in Kibra

For coordinated and successful crime prevention and law enforcement action against the problem of illicit arms, it is essential to identify and monitor the scope, trends, and players involved in and affected by illicit weapons trafficking and its ties to other kinds of crime. The systematic gathering and assessment of information and data that can be used to build an evidence foundation are necessary to fulfill these requirements. By enhancing the intelligence foundation for tactical actions against crimes using firearms, this evidence base can in essence help decision-makers at the operational and strategic levels.¹⁶³ However, the UNODC finds that the tracking and monitoring of illicit arms in many nations have been easier said than done.

¹⁶² Interview with community policing cluster head. 10/01/2023. Nairobi.

¹⁶³ Ibid

Enhancing governments' and key stakeholders' awareness of the effects of small arms control programs entails data gathering, monitoring, and evaluation. These processes also involve finding ways to improve development initiatives and optimize successful small-arms control accomplishments.¹⁶⁴ Kenya as a nation at the heart of the East African region is faced with the disadvantage of being at the center of all the action in the black-market trade and proliferation of illicit arms. The corruption and mismanagement of government stockpiles are detrimental to the country. All these factors work together to undermine the efforts to track and monitor illicit arms movements across the major urban areas.

Adherence to international protocols, treaties, and agreements is the first step in tracking and monitoring as it offers a clear road map to follow in the process. However, as the UNODC highlights in a recent report, adherence to all these initiatives is not enough. Programs to tackle the socioeconomic and security requirements of communities where weapon ownership and trafficking are common should go hand in hand with these initiatives. Equally, more work should be done to improve the criminal justice system as a whole and the public institutions' resistance to corruption.¹⁶⁵ Therefore, the role that communities play in the process of tracking and monitoring illicit arms cannot be ignored.

“Tracking of small arms in Kibra shows that there is quite a number that comes from local police officers who loan their government issue firearms to criminals for a fee. A kind of business that has led to increased insecurity. Community policing is greatly hampered as people know this is happening but are fearful of coming forward with information on it.”¹⁶⁶

In Kibra area, the use of illicit arms to commit crimes has been on the rise, especially when using weapons diverted from law enforcement. Therefore, a shift in strategy to combat crime and illicit arms use must be taken to include CP strategies that enable the community to take

¹⁶⁴ Okumu, Willis, Tadesse S. Metekia, and Mohamed Daghar. "Illicit arms flows in the Karamoja Cluster." (June 2022)

¹⁶⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶⁶ Interview with administrative officer. 11/01/2023. Nairobi.

part in the process of investigation. According to Wepundi et al., monitoring and tracking should also involve creating a multi-stakeholder reporting and collaboration system with a large scope for early warning and early response mechanisms. Community leaders must also be involved in stopping illegal arms trafficking by identifying gunrunners, trafficking methods, and weapon marketplaces.¹⁶⁷ The research study concludes that such a strategy takes full advantage of CP in the investigation of unauthorized weapon movements in the Kibra area.

3.2.5 Investigating Small Arms Related Crime in Kibra

The majority of the residents living in the Kibra area are slum-dwellers. This implies that they make up the majority of the population that faces inequality due to poverty. Kubendei postulates that in many cases these people are excluded from taking an active role in the issues that most affect them be it financial, security, resources, or even education. Often being considered last and getting the bare minimum in all these aspects. This has perpetuated a notion that the people who reside in these underprivileged areas do not have a say in their leadership and security yet they are the most at risk from the increase in illicit arms-related crime.¹⁶⁸

For any successful operation against the use of small arms in Kibra, the police need the citizens who perform the duty of CP. Without the assistance of CP, the police are unable to effectively prevent crime and conduct investigations on their own. Local residents in Kibra volunteer critical information on when and where the criminals appear in their midst, they assist the police monitor their minutely movements, more so when the police are set to conduct what is called sting operation. Such successful operation in Kibra are courtesy of the

¹⁶⁷ Ibid. p. 93-94.

¹⁶⁸ Ibid.

members of CP. The peace-loving people of Kibra who desire to leave uninterrupted life. They desire to keep away from their midst the criminals and their criminal activities.

The end game of such attempt to eradicate use of small arms in Kibra, the members of the public may time and again be called upon to give their evidence in court. It's the most critical stage in a successful conclusion of a case involving the use of small arms. It involves life risks as the members of CP are not armed hence unable to effectively defend themselves in case of any retaliatory attack by members of a gang who are still at large. Thus, the members of CP who brave it up to prosecution stage are considered heroes by the police and the local residents. Reaching the apex of getting a very deterrent sentence from the court is what is desired by the peace-loving members of the police and the community.

Second, in the list of five most dangerous areas in the whole County, Kibra is in a precarious position in terms of illicit arms. Crime and violence in the area are increasingly being described as development and growth challenge. While these cases of crimes involving guns do not occur by chance, they have been on the rise more so recently appearing in the news more frequently. However, the marginalization of the community that can help in the investigation of these crimes, as indicative of systems theory's propositions, does no good for law enforcement officers fighting the war on illicit arms proliferation. According to Chege, police officers find it difficult to operate in slum areas due to overcrowding. Therefore, this leaves security in the hands of the residents.¹⁶⁹

“Crime investigation in the biggest slum in the country is not a walk in the park. Kibra is quite literally one of the most crime-prone areas in the whole Nairobi region. The investigation of crimes in the slum requires coordination of both community and law enforcement officials for any progress to be made. The progress in this front though lacking

¹⁶⁹ Chege, D. (2015). *Slum security is almost only imaginable*. Kenya insecurity on our radar. www.onourradar.org/kenya/2015/09/09/slum-security-is-almost-only-imaginable/

*shows great promise in investigating and capture of criminals operating in the area using firearms.*¹⁷⁰

The situation in Kibra goes to show that the divide between security officials and the community serves both sides no good. This brings in the important role that CP places in advancing the investigation of crimes related to illicit arms. When the community shares information with the police, then they can work on actionable intelligence on crimes tracking down perpetrators and even possibly preventing crimes at the same time. The study findings demonstrate that CP enables people to take part in the process of crime investigation while at the same time remaining safe by letting the police do the security aspect of the job. In addition, it prioritizes the needs of the most marginalized members of the population and builds their trust in the government and its security apparatus.

3.3 Conclusion

CP is an important tool in the arsenal of security officials in the investigation of illicit arms in the Kibra Sub-County area. It gives law enforcers a strategic advantage over criminal gangs operating in the area while also reducing the barrier between the local residents, and law enforcement agents. Through CP, intelligence gathering, marking, tracing, monitoring, source investigation, and crime investigation are made possible. However, the findings from this chapter reveal that more needs to be done to offer the marginalized people of Kibra a voice to speak out and engage actively with law enforcement.

¹⁷⁰ Interview with police officer. 09/01/2023. Nairobi.

CHAPTER 4

ROLE OF CP IN THE DISRUPTION OF ILLICIT ARMS CARTELS IN KIBRA

4.1 Introduction

Having looked at the crucial role how CP plays in the investigation of illicit arms in the Kibra Sub-County area, this chapter will delve into its role in the disruption of illicit arms cartels across the Sub-County. Effectively, detecting and investigating these small arms movements can only go so far. There is a need to identify and implement surefire ways of disrupting the market for illicit arms, and stem the problem from further spreading in the future. Essentially, this means breaking the cycle of the illegal arms trade, reducing the crimes involving illicit arms, makes the area more secure in the future. This chapter will therefore, assess some of the ways through which CP aids in disruption that include eliminating the demand for these weapons, interdicting weapons at points of entry, disrupting the supply chain for illicit arms, reporting and exposing smugglers, and crime management through CP.

4.2 Eliminating the Demand for Illicit Arms

The study was interested in identifying the role of CP in disrupting illicit arms cartel in Kibra.

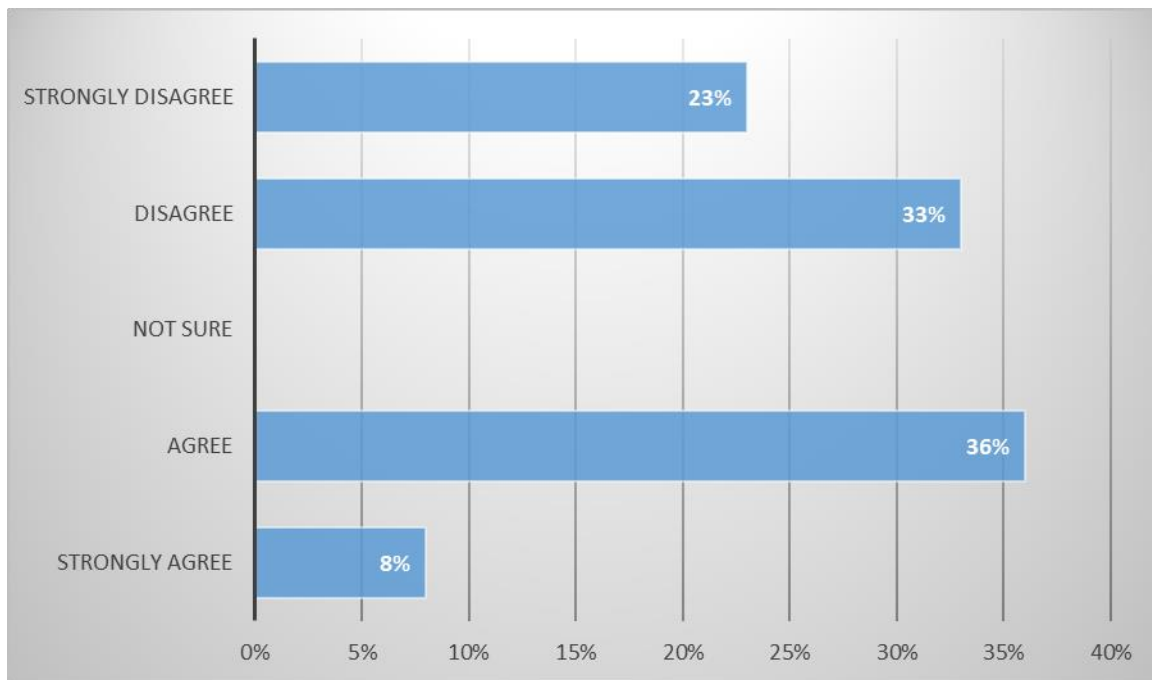


Figure 4.1 Role in Disrupting Illicit Arms Cartel in Kibra

Going by the responses, 36% of the participants agreed that CP plays a critical part+ in disrupting illicit arms cartels in Kibra. Thirty-three percent (33%) of the respondents disagreed, 23% strongly disagreed while 8% of the respondents strongly agreed.

Many questions have been raised in the past few years over why small arms remain in circulation in Kenya even under a period of relative peace and why the disarmament strategies employed in the past have borne little fruit. Onyango contends that the reason is that illicit firearms have become a part of many people's regular daily life as a tool to increase options rather than as a remnant of unusually violent times. Consequently, eliminating firearms from communities is not the answer; rather, the goal should be to alter how the community views itself and its security to make the need for the weapons superfluous.

Illicit firearms in the area have developed into instruments to protect one's rights and give the possessor the ability to use force to obtain material possessions and political advantage.¹⁷¹

This is in line with Kubendei's research on the Kibra area which found that the security of people in the area falls into the hands of the people who often resort to illegally acquired firearms to protect themselves from would-be aggressors. Often increasing the demand for these firearms in the hands of ordinary people.¹⁷² Ultimately, the increased use of firearms in the hands of the civilian population only makes the spread of such arms harder to control and keep track of. This all goes to show that the notion that illicit arms are only being used by a criminal to perpetuate crime is misguided. The number of firearms in circulation is just as high in normal community households remains significant and is on the rise, as individuals seek to safeguard themselves against potential criminal as well as persons and groups that may pose a threat to their well-being.¹⁷³

So, what does the term demand, as used in the context of illicit arms, refer to? According to Weiss, demand, as opposed to producers and suppliers, generally refers to the 'buyer' side of the firearms industry. Individuals, gangs, armies, militias, and criminal organizations are among the buyers. State inability to provide ample security, civil unrest, institutional violence, and the availability of firearms are demand variables that affect consumers. It is assumed that supply cannot be effectively controlled to stop proliferation as so long as demand is unrestrained.¹⁷⁴ Demand-reducing strategies and measures play a key role in the disruption of illicit arms movement in the Kibra Sub-County area.

¹⁷¹ Onyango, S. (2010). *East Africa: Eliminating small arms without firing a single shot*.

ReliefWeb. <https://reliefweb.int/report/kenya/east-africa-eliminating-small-arms-without-firing-single-shot>

¹⁷² Ibid.

¹⁷³ Karp, Aaron. "More Guns, More Crime? Not in These Towns." *The New York Times*, November 12, 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/12/us/gun-ownership-mass-shootings.html>.

¹⁷⁴ Weiss, Taya. "Guns in the borderlands. Reducing the demand for small arms." *Institute for Security Studies Monographs* 2004, no. 95 (2004): 116.

Weiss contends that demand is influenced by the availability of weapons. Small arms are very hard to get rid of since they are strong, resilient, and reusable. Once they enter a country, they frequently stay there, either promoting crime or crossing borders to support local conflicts. Demobilization, Disarmament, and Reintegration (DDR) programs have the goal of seizing and eliminating small guns from circulation.¹⁷⁵ Guns start a self-sustaining loop that results in an internal arms race. The more instability spreads and fuels increased demand, the more individuals believe that having access to firearms is essential for their survival and economic growth. Small arms proliferation slows down development, gives conflict economies room to expand and solidify, and adds to an increase in the number of refugees and internally displaced people.¹⁷⁶

In addition, Kibra has been grappling with contestation over land for many years, hence the government has an added incentive to reduce illicit arms proliferation that continue to incite violence and insecurity. In line with systems theory, Kibra is a complex system of interconnected factors, including land tenure, economic inequality, illicit arms proliferation, violence, and criminal enterprises, which can lead to violence and destabilization. The issue of land tenure is particularly relevant in this context, as it can exacerbate economic inequality and contribute to social unrest. When people do not have secure land tenure, they may be hesitant to invest in their homes or businesses, which can limit economic growth and exacerbate poverty. This is affirmed by a key informant who stated in an interview:

“Kibra community is mainly made up of a majority of people living in poverty and facing high unemployment levels. The slum dwellings are indicative of a major issue of inequality in income, employment opportunities, and development. Put together these circumstances have

¹⁷⁵ Ibid. p.107.

¹⁷⁶ Ibid. p.108.

increased insecurity and crime in the area prompting a rise in the demand for illicit arms both by criminals and the local community. Thus, demand goes high and supply as well.”¹⁷⁷

CP comes in where the community leaders chosen to represent the needs of the people can present the needs and requirements of their communities to the relevant authorities and be heard. Herein a demand-reducing measure of trading guns for increased community development is the best strategy, especially in an urban dwelling characteristic of slums like Kibra. The study concludes that the two-way relationship facilitated by CP offers a win-win scenario that promoted illicit arms disruption while at the same time improving the living conditions for the people. This is further made easier by the incorporation of Civil Society Organizations, including Non-Governmental Organizations, Community-Based Organizations, and Faith-Based Organizations that can act as the exchange mechanism in the trade of arms for development.

4.3 Interdicting weapons at the point of entry, sale, or distribution in Kibra

The illicit firearms transfer in Kenya frequently occurs through clandestine means and this presents a challenge in terms of monitoring and surveillance of such weapons. The vast majority of illicit weapons destined to Kenya's black bazaars for firearms seems to come in gradually and being transported by small-time traffickers. Kenya's border is porous, and much of it is dry and sparsely populated. Even though the main Kenyan entry sites have minimal customs checkpoints, there are several trafficking routes along the rest of the borders, which are rarely checked. Sales on the black market to criminal organizations, rebels, or individuals are also not unusual.¹⁷⁸ To disrupt the flow of illicit arms in the inland regions and cities such as Kibra Sub-County, a more nuanced approach that stems the problem at the root should be taken. This approach involves tracing weapons to their

¹⁷⁷ Interview with administrative officer. 11/01/2023. Nairobi.

¹⁷⁸ KNFP. (2012). *National Data on illicit arms flows and impact on policy*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. https://www.unodc.org/documents/firearms-protocol/2020/KNFP_presentation.pdf

common points of entry into the country and interdicting them before they even find their way to the urban areas.

Apart from the entry of arms through the borders, there is a thriving market for arms in the country. The sale of these arms also much like its entry happens in a clandestine nature and is not easy to track. Often even when a weapon is acquired legally, it may be distributed illegally from one person to another. Schroeder describes this kind of distribution as straw purchasing, where someone who can lawfully purchase and use a firearm does so for someone else who is not authorized to do so.¹⁷⁹ Essentially, this perpetuates the flow of licit arms illicitly. The mode of weapon trafficking constantly changes to adapt and respond to counter-measures instituted by law enforcement agencies, due to among other things advancements in contemporary technology like the internet and other digital communication tools.

This unlawful industry poses a problem and affects weapons trafficking, which is more closely related to a larger criminal environment where people obtain a small number of firearms unlawfully.¹⁸⁰ Both the national and local community levels need to confront this problem. It is necessary to implement corresponding organizational, capacity-building, and technical measures that recognizes the crucial part that CP plays in effectively preventing the entry, sale, and distribution of illicit weapons.

“Distribution of arms in Kibra is a combined effect of both corruption and increased insecurity. These factors together have worked to reinforce one another. Communities, however, have in the past shown resolve in working to provide information when they see

¹⁷⁹ Schroeder, Matt, and Small Arms Survey. "Captured and counted: illicit weapons in Mexico and the Philippines." *Small Arms Survey 2013: Everyday Dangers* (2013): 283-317.

¹⁸⁰ Paoli, Giacomo Persi. UNODA Occasional Papers No. 32, October 2018: *The Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons on the Dark Web*. United Nations, 2018.

something is amiss in their area. Therefore, community policing is an effective way to disrupt illicit arms flows in Kibra.”¹⁸¹

In Kibra, the majority of the entry, sale, and distribution of illicit arms is taking place through everyday people who take this as an easy way to make money from criminal gangs. In addition, it may be forced or coerced onto them with the use of threats of harm to them and their families. The study findings show that the disruption of the entry points of firearms into the local community in the Kibra area starts by first fostering better CP initiatives that allow people to feel safe and protected by coming forward with information. Such an approach also makes the task of relevant law enforcement agents a step easier in the curbing of illicit arms proliferation.

4.4 Disrupting the Supply Chain of Illicit Arms

Complex, and involving both legal and illegal parties, is the supply chain for illegal weapons. A firearm may leave the legal system and enter an illicit one at any of the points in the transfer chain, occasionally with the assistance of those who are acting legally. Among other illegal operations, such as the trafficking of people or drugs, organized criminal groups in some nations deal in the trafficking of firearms. When people traffic in arms for their use, they become more powerful, or they trade them for other goods like narcotics. The sale of arms may be a byproduct of other primary operations that take advantage of established channels and routes. Major participants in the black market include transportation firms. They frequently provide by train, road, or air to the end destination.

A probabilistic multi-channel supply chain model was created by Markowski et al. to illustrate the trade in illegal small arms. They introduced the concepts of tie and cut set, which indicated the bare minimum of parts needed to connect and separate the supply chain,

¹⁸¹ Interview with community policing cluster head. 10/01/2023. Nairobi.

correspondingly, to demonstrate the robustness of the supply chain.¹⁸² Beyond these occurrences, little is known regarding the quantity or kinds of firearms supplied using Dark Web platforms, their prices, or the operating procedures used to deliver bought commodities to customers. Examinations of conventional physical markets for illicit arms, however, contend that they can be viewed as a conventional supply chain for goods.¹⁸³

Governments must fully understand how guns are supplied and unauthorized stockpiles build to design an effective strategy to curb the spread of illicit arms in developing nations. The interruption of this illegal activity is exceedingly challenging due to the structural intricacy of small arms supply chains. Multiple supply routes present significant obstacles for the Kenyan government, which is aggressively attempting to stop the flow of small guns into illicit stocks. This is especially the case in slum dwellings such as those in Kibra where the majority of the population lives in insecurity and takes this upon themselves by securing guns. This follows through in the views presented by a police officer in an interview:

“Community policing is a valuable tool when taken full advantage of especially by us police officers tasked with ensuring the public’s safety and security. This is particularly important because supply chains for illicit arms are harder to track as it is. However, with the help of the general public, the task is made easier. This, however, calls for public support and awareness raising.”¹⁸⁴

The role of CP in this sense is indispensable. Owing to the complex nature of these supply chains, identification, tracking, tracing, and capture of suppliers require actionable intelligence that is gathered from credible sources. Oftentimes, there are very few of these sources going around. Therefore, where law enforcement has created good relationships with community members in the Kibra area for this case, residents feel safe and secure to come

¹⁸² Ibid

¹⁸³ Ibid.

¹⁸⁴ Interview with police officer. 09/01/2023. Nairobi.

forward with information on supply routes and procedures. The findings from this research reveal that such information goes a long way in reducing the long chain of illicit arms supply across security hotspots and in the country as a whole. This is especially true because supply routes are interconnected across the country.

4.5 Reporting and Exposing Small Arms Suppliers and Smugglers

In the twenty-first century, small arms trafficking is a truly global enterprise.¹⁸⁵ It seems obvious that efforts to stop the spread of illicit guns are failing, but why? Stohl opines that the failure to comprehend the structure of the connections (between suppliers and brokers) that law enforcement is attempting to disrupt is the cause of the problem. In the shadows of globalization, these sophisticated and inventive networks have emerged and are keen to exploit the established, authorized global routes, processes, and infrastructure. They are also eager to invent new ones where none already exist.¹⁸⁶ As a result, it is essential to start thinking about how intricately linked these shadow networks are to both one another and to the entire world economy. We will then be able to begin developing a comprehensive plan for tackling the illegal weapon trade.¹⁸⁷

Arms trafficking is a complex and illegal activity that involves a variety of individuals and organizations from different countries. These players may include arms dealers, brokers, manufacturers, smugglers, transporters, corrupt government officials, and criminal organizations. These diverse networks have a worldwide cast of personalities and operate in numerous nations. These networks serve as distribution channels for a wide range of products and services, always remaining one step ahead of law enforcement. Human trafficking, illegal trading in non-renewable resources, and drug trafficking are all connected to the trafficking

¹⁸⁵ Buzan, Barry. "New patterns of global security in the twenty-first century." *International affairs* 67, no. 3 (1991): 431-451.

¹⁸⁶ Stohl, Rachel. "The tangled web of illicit arms trafficking." (2005).

¹⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

of firearms.¹⁸⁸ According to the Global Organized Crime Index 2021, arms trafficking was ranked the third most widespread illicit market globally. The illegal trade in weapons poses a significant danger to institutions and hinders capacity building efforts in vulnerable communities, as it provides impetus for organized crime and various criminal enterprises to thrive.¹⁸⁹

Small arms suppliers and smugglers rely on the network of criminal groups and activities in their arsenal to evade capture and continue their business unabated. In this same light, law enforcement needs to rethink its approach to curbing illicit arms trade in the Kibra Sub-County area. A new approach that takes full advantage of information and access to the community and public will enable the creation of new networks and links that can better favor their objectives. These networks of information can only be created in a situation where law enforcement has a good relationship with the local community of the area and can rely on the information being given to them.

CP as already aforementioned is a key tool in the creation of such lasting and credible relationships that allow for information and intelligence gathering direct from the general public. Essentially taking advantage of the adage ‘see something, say something’. Reporting and exposing suppliers, brokers, and smugglers through directly giving information to law enforcement ensures that firearms trafficking is effectively disrupted in transit. CP, however, cannot be relied on to achieve results on its own. It must be incorporated together with other strategies to combat supply and distribution such as anti-corruption, technological advances, and development initiatives.

¹⁸⁸ UNODC. (2020). *Global Study on Firearms Trafficking*. https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Firearms/2020_Global_Study_on_Firearms_Trafficking_Executive_Summary.pdf

¹⁸⁹ GI-TOC. (n.d.). *Arms trafficking*. The Organized Crime Index. https://ocindex.net/rankings/arms_trafficking?f=rankings&group=Continent

*“Reporting of illicit arms use and supply in the Kibra area is not as easy as it seems. People are fearful and lack trust in the credibility of the police officers in the area especially. Thus, they are not cooperative in the reporting of criminals selling and distributing arms in the area. Ultimately, this has greatly hampered community policing as a strategy to stop the use of illicit arms.”*¹⁹⁰

Nonetheless, reporting together with CP can only work where there is no corruption among law enforcement agencies. According to Stohl, corrupt officials are complaisant in providing suppliers and smugglers an easy way into the local markets through forging documents, accepting bribes, and allowing passage across transport routes.¹⁹¹ Arms trafficking, like other illegal markets, is made possible by corruption and an absence of oversight at various government agencies.¹⁹² Raising governments “standards for criminal investigation and prosecution is necessary to combat the state and commercial institutions” complicity in arms trafficking cartels at their source.¹⁹³ Therefore, the study aptly reveals that CP is integral in ensuring that communities are provided with an avenue that is safe for them to report illicit arms flows and crimes related to them in their area.

4.6 Role of CP in Making Kibra an Illicit Arms and Crime-Free Area

4.6.1 Eliminating Crime

Armed clashes between criminal organizations, the expansion of criminal domains, and new illegal operations are all made possible by the use of firearms. Illegal weapon supplies and accessibility have made it easier for crimes like kidnapping, blackmail, aggravated robbery, murders, and poaching to occur. The spread of firearms also contributed to an increase in

¹⁹⁰ Interview with community policing cluster head. 10/01/2023. Nairobi.

¹⁹¹ Ibid.

¹⁹² Odongo, J., Factors influencing the spread of illicit firearms in Kenya. *Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice Research*, 3(2), 17-30.

¹⁹³ del Mercado, G. V. (2022, August). *Arms trafficking and organized crime*. GI-TOC. https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/GI-TOC-policy-brief_Arms-trafficking-web-1.pdf

deadly violence as well. A firearm was used in 54% of killings worldwide in 2017.¹⁹⁴ In Kenya, there is a correlation between the rise in crime and violence—especially inter-ethnic violence—and the accessibility of firearms.

CP provides an avenue for the elimination of crime. Where crime is reduced or eliminated, the chances of a thriving market for illicit arms are greatly reduced if not eradicated. According to del Mercado, affected communities' insights should be combined with those of academic, government, and business sector specialists who can offer context-based responses to illicit firearms transfers.¹⁹⁵

“Community policing enables state and law enforcement stakeholders to develop a more in-depth understanding of the intricate relationships that exist between the illegal sale of firearms and other black-market activities to modify laws, regulations, and operational processes to fit the various domestic and local criminal environments.”¹⁹⁶

4.6.2 Creating Awareness and Sensitization to the Residents

Illicit arms trafficking is a major global challenge that has contributed significantly to increased crime rates, violence, and insecurity in affected communities. Creating awareness in communities most affected by illicit arms is at the heart of any CP strategy. This involves engaging community members through education and awareness campaigns, providing them with information on how they can contribute to the process of fighting illicit arms. By doing so, community members become active participants in the process, working with law enforcement agencies to identify and report suspected cases of illicit arms trafficking. Where the members of the population are not aware of how they can contribute to the fighting against proliferation of illicit arms, the process remains stagnant and flawed. Godnick

¹⁹⁴ UNODC. (2019). Global study on homicide. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/global-study-on-homicide.html>

¹⁹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁹⁶ Interview with a police officer. 09/01/2023. Nairobi.

contends that any initiative to decrease crimes related to illicit arms cannot work in isolation but rather must be worked in one strand of the larger strategy to increase community security and safety overall.¹⁹⁷

Moreover, CP strategies that focus on reducing crimes related to illicit arms must be integrated into a larger strategy to increase community security and safety overall. This includes addressing other underlying social problems that contribute to increased crime rates, like poverty, unemployment, and inequality. By addressing these issues, community members are unlikely to engage in criminal activities, thereby reducing the demand for illicit arms.

“Efforts towards awareness raising in the Kibra area will go a long way in fostering better community-government trust and cooperation that will ultimately disrupt the illicit arms markets in the area and the nation as well.”¹⁹⁸

4.6.3 Youth Education and Empowerment

The issue of youth arming themselves through illicit channels is a complex one and cannot be attributed to a single cause. Rather, it is influenced by various factors such as political instability, social inequality, and economic hardship. According to Makumbe,¹⁹⁹ the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Africa is a significant security concern, and it has resulted in an increase in youth involvement in armed violence. A broader assessment of why youths are increasingly being armed through illicit channels reveals that political, social, and economic factors play a role in this. Therefore, today there are increasing numbers of youth being armed in non-conflict regions. The state of youth rights in a given community serves as a benchmark for how well the government, the state, and the allocation of key resources are all operating as a whole. If the family, society, and state fail to provide the

¹⁹⁷ Godnick, W. Community policing strategies to combat illicit arms trafficking. *Policing: An International Journal*, 41(2), (2018) 190-200. doi: 10.1108/PIJPSM-11-2017-0173

¹⁹⁸ Interview with administrative officer. 11/01/2023. Nairobi.

¹⁹⁹ Makumbe, J., The proliferation of small arms and light weapons and its impact on Africa's security. *African Security Review*, 27(3), (2018) 261-276. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10246029.2018.1515951>

protection, education, and opportunity needs of children and teens, those demands may transform over short or long periods to include a demand for weapons.²⁰⁰

However, this phenomenon is not limited to conflict zones, as Ndiaye points out.²⁰¹ There has been a rise in the number of young people arming themselves in non-conflict regions as well. The reasons for this are multifaceted, but one crucial factor is the state of youth rights in a given community. The level of protection, education, and opportunities available to children and teenagers reflects how well the government, the state, and the allocation of resources are functioning.

When young people are not adequately protected, educated, and provided with opportunities, they may turn to arms to demand their rights. This situation is particularly acute in areas where young people face economic hardships, social inequality, and political instability. Therefore, to prevent the proliferation of youth armed with weapons, it is necessary to address the root causes that lead them to arm themselves. This includes the provision of education, employment opportunities, and social services that support young people's rights and well-being. The issue of youth arming themselves through illicit channels is a multifaceted problem that requires a comprehensive approach. Addressing the underlying causes of this phenomenon, such as political instability, social inequality, and economic hardship, is crucial to prevent young people from resorting to violence as a means of demanding their rights.

“Community policing plays a key role in disrupting illicit arms markets by giving youth an avenue to gain education and empowerment on their rights and how they can take part in

²⁰⁰ McIntyre, Angela, and Taya Weiss. "Exploring small arms demand. A youth perspective." Institute for Security Studies Papers 2003, no. 67 (2003): 11.

²⁰¹ Ndiaye, M. "Dakar: youth groups and the slide towards violence." *The Urban Age* 1, no. 4 (1993): 7.

*ensuring they keep their community safe by collaborating with law enforcement. However, it has yet to be implemented to this level in the area of Kibra.*²⁰²

4.7 Conclusion

In this chapter, the analysis reveals that disruption of the illicit arms trade is essential in eradicating this menace to society. Various avenues have been shown to show promising results, especially for an area as vulnerable to arms proliferation as Kibra Sub-County. Eliminating the demand for illicit arms, interdicting weapons at points of entry, sale, and distribution, disrupting supply chains, reporting suppliers, eliminating crime, creating awareness, and educating the youth are all valuable avenues through which CP enhances anti-arms trafficking efforts. However, it is evident that for CP to work, there are reforms that are needed in the security sector such as anti-corruption, adequate record-keeping, and tracking of arms both legal and illegal.

²⁰² Interview with administrative officer. 11/01/2023. Nairobi.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Introduction

This chapter concludes the study. The chapter provides a summary of the Study's findings, gives a conclusion and recommendations for the study. The summary, conclusion, and recommendations are provided in conformity with the objectives of the study.

5.2. Summary of the Findings

The conclusions of the study are derived from a combination primary and secondary sources of information. The primary objective of the research was to assess how effective Community Policing (CP) is in preventing the spread of illegal firearms in Kenya. The findings are summarized according to the three primary objectives, which were to evaluate the role of CP in the detection of illicit arms, examine the role of CP in the investigation of illicit arms in, and evaluate the role of CP in the disruption of illicit arms cartels in Kibra Sub-County.

5.2.1 The Role of CP in the Detection of Illicit Arms in Kibra Sub-County

In line with the first objective, the findings of the study were that police officers in Kibra Sub-County face significant challenges in detecting illicit arms. The sources of these illegal weapons in the HOA and Kenya specifically, include diversions, cross-border trafficking, and even from within the police force itself. The analysis further reveals that there are two main models of CP in Kenya, namely Nyumba Kumi and the Community Policing Committee. These models are designed to help promote collaboration between the police and the community members to enhance their safety and security.

The study reveals that although both “Nyumba Kumi” and Community Policing Committee initially demonstrated the potential in enhancing for enhancing CP, their efficacy has been hampered by a lack of integration and coordination between the two. Additionally, strained relationships between the police and the public have further hindered their effectiveness. Furthermore, mapping crime using CP approaches has been identified as a promising strategy. However, the lack of public awareness and limited resources available for crime mapping has resulted in CP being ineffective.

5.2.2 The Role of CP in the Investigation of Illicit Arms in Kibra Sub-County

As per the second objective, the findings show that CP is an important tool in the arsenal of security agents in the investigation of illicit arms in the Kibra Sub-County. CP gives law enforcers a strategic advantage over criminal gangs operating in the area while at the same time breaking down the barrier between the local residents and law enforcement agencies. Through CP, intelligence gathering, marking, tracing, monitoring, source investigation, and crime investigation are made possible. However, the findings from this chapter reveal that more needs to be done to offer the marginalized people of Kibra a voice to speak out and engage actively with law enforcement.

The findings also showed the pivotal role which is played by the members of CP in Kibra. This involves full cooperation and trust, which the police and members of CP give to one another in achieving a very successful and sending a strong signal to the users of small arms in their area Kibra. The goal of CP is to ensure that any observations, information, or suspicions made by CP members are promptly communicated to the police in an efficient manner.

5.2.3 The Role of CP in the Disruption of Illicit Arms Cartels in Kibra Sub-County

The data reveals that disruption of the illicit arms trade is essential in eradicating this menace from society. Several avenues have been identified to show promising results, especially for an area as vulnerable to arms proliferation as Kibra Sub-County. These approaches include eliminating the demand for illicit arms, interdicting weapons at points of entry, sale, and distribution, disrupting supply chains, reporting suppliers, eliminating crime, creating awareness, and educating the youth. However, it is evident that for CP to work, there are reforms that are needed in the security sector such as anti-corruption, adequate record-keeping, and tracking of arms both legal and illegal.

The findings showed the importance of identifying the sources of such illegal arms in order to facilitate proper mapping of their distribution routes to Kibra and identify the factors that enable the free flow of such weapons. The study revealed that the primary source of these arms was traced back to Somalia through Eastleigh. The survey also shows that people believed that reporting such illegal activity to the authorities was the best approach to combat such criminal cartels and gangs. Since the cartels are armed and the local residents at Kibra are unarmed, the best strategy was to work closely with the police, who possess equal or even superior firepower and boast of numbers.

5.3 Conclusion

The study concludes that CP has the potential to play a key role in the detection of illicit arms in Kibra Sub-County. However, more needs to be done to make CP an effective tool in detecting illicit arms in Kibra. On CP's role in the investigation of unauthorized weapons in Kibra, the research concludes that the investigation of illicit arms in Kibra heavily relies on

police and public cooperation. CP hence it at the centre of investigation of illicit arms in Kibra.

5.3.1 To Assess the Role of CP in Detection of Illicit Arms in Kibra Sub-County

CP in Kibra has a gigantic task of creating awareness of the dangers of Small Arms and Light Weapons(SALWs) in Kibra area. A well-aware and well-sensitized community will be very beneficial to the government and the citizenry in general. Over and above, the members of the public must be made aware that such arms are of no good, they are never meant to protect the people of Kibra. The police through members of CP must help the public to understand that the purpose of the guns the police carry and which they carry openly are to protect them while the small arms in the hands of errand individuals are meant to harm them.

5.3.2 To Examine the Role of CP in the Investigation of Illicit Arms in Kibra Sub-County

CP has the potential to not only investigate but to completely expose the illicit arms and criminal cartels in Kibra. Members of CP ought to inform residents within Kibra that any concealed weapons found in houses or toilets are intended to cause harm to them and should identify and report the perpetrators at all costs.

Additionally, the people of Kibra need to be aware that the arms circulating in their locality are often obtained from the Nairobi black market, and it is their responsibility to expose these criminals. The members of CP should put more effort into sensitizing the youths to shun crime. A more vibrant youth population working against the criminals and the cartels could bring some critical impetuosity in winning the fight against illicit arms. The youths would then know the importance of peace in any development.

5.3.3 To Evaluate the Role of CP in the Disruption of Illicit Arms Cartels in Kibra Sub-County

For effective disruption of the illicit arms supply chain, it is crucial to identify the source of the weapons. Kenya, particularly Nairobi, has been identified as vulnerable to the sales of arms, with neighboring war-torn Somalia with Kenya's porous border facilitating the free entry of SALWs into the country. Human trafficking through clandestine means such as motorbikes, lorries, and cars, including bribery of Kenyan police for lax checks, has made it easy for criminals to transport weapons to Nairobi, particularly to the urban refugees in Eastleigh. The arms traffickers find refuge in Eastleigh due to housing provided by their Kenyan clansmen, the vastness of the expanding Eastleigh shopping hub, and the prevalence of corruption among Kenyan security forces and government officials. This corruption often compromises national security in favor of monetary gains.

The study also concludes that the role played by CP in the disruption of illegal arms cartels in Kibra Sub-County has not yet been fully explored. This is despite the fact that most illicit arms cartels are well known by the local people who can easily work with police to disrupt these cartels. There is low trust between the locals and the police, something that has hindered the effectiveness of CP in disrupting illicit arms in Kibra.

This study utilized the systems theory as the guiding theoretical framework for the study. The idea behind the theory was that the whole system of a society is similar to that of a living organism. Hence, the organism must function as whole instead of individual parts doing different functions without an end goal. In this case, the Kibra community comprising of both the residents and the law enforcers in the area represent this organism that must function as system. CP in this case is the unifying force or mechanism. This is the aim of CP in addressing crime such as the proliferation of illicit arms in informal areas like Kibra.

Communities can be organized by meeting with local business owners to learn about their issues and concerns, visiting citizens in their homes to give security advice, and assisting in the planning and support of neighborhood watch groups and frequent community meetings. In order to avoid major crimes, police are required to address minor issues that undermine the quality of life and engage with the local Kibra community through information gathering and forging of good relations with them. This eliminates stereotypes and ensures they all work together as a whole.

In line with the hypotheses, CP improves detection of illicit arms in Kibra Sub-County. The detection of illicit arms in Kibra has improved through CP. CP so far has not adequately aided in the investigation of illicit arms in Kibra Sub-County. The investigation of illicit arms remains poor despite the potential of CP in ensure speedy investigations. CP assists in disruption of illicit arms cartels in Kibra Sub-County. The collaboration between the community and police can and has in some instances helped disrupt illicit arms cartels.

5.4 Recommendations

The study findings highlight the crucial role of CP in detecting and disrupting illicit arms in Kibra Sub-County. To further enhance the effectiveness of CP in dealing with this problem, several recommendations are put forth.

First, the study revealed the need for public sensitization on the importance of their role in assisting the police in fighting crime and ensuring security. To achieve this, education and awareness initiatives, both in person and through online platforms, can be implemented. By increasing public awareness and engagement, community members can become proactive partners in detecting and reporting illicit arms activities, thereby creating a strong collaborative effort between the community, and the police.

The report also stresses how crucial it is to use technology to investigate illegal weapons in Kibra. This includes the registration of licensed guns using technology to track the movement and ownership of firearms. Creating a live and real-time communication channel between the public and the police can also facilitate timely reporting of suspicious activities related to illicit arms. Additionally, the study recommends the establishment of an anti-illicit arms security team that can swiftly respond to alarms raised by the community, utilizing technology for prompt and effective action.

In addition to detection, disruption of illicit arms cartels in Kibra Sub-County also requires strengthening of public, police, and court relations. This involves creating a safe and confidential environment where the public can provide information and evidence to the police and the court, without fear of reprisal. Building trust between the community and the law enforcement agencies is essential for effective information-sharing and successful prosecution of illicit arms cartels. This can be achieved through community engagement initiatives, building positive relationships, and ensuring protection for informants.

5.5. Areas for Further Research

The study findings highlighted several areas that warrant further research to advance the understanding of CP and illicit arms-related crimes in Kibra Sub-County.

First, the study recommends exploration of the role of technology in enhancing CP efforts in addressing arms-related crimes. This could involve investigating the use of advanced technologies such as data analytics, artificial intelligence, and surveillance systems to improve the detection, tracking, and prevention of illicit arms activities. Additionally, the research could focus on the use of internet particularly social media, and other mobile

applications as tools for engaging the public and facilitating community participation in reporting and preventing arms-related crimes.

Second, the study underscored the need to investigate the impact of national police restructuring on the effectiveness of CP, particularly in rural areas. Changes in the organizational structure and operational strategies of the national police may have implications for CP practices and outcomes. Understanding the dynamics of police restructuring and its impact on CP efforts can help identify potential challenges and opportunities for improving the effectiveness of CP in addressing arms-related crimes in both urban and rural areas.

Furthermore, the study recommended research on the gendered impact of arms-related crimes related to arms, such as sexual and gender-based violence as well as human trafficking. Therefore, there is a need for research that specifically examines gender-sensitive responses to the issue of illicit arms proliferation. This could involve investigating the unique challenges and vulnerabilities faced by women and girls in relation to arms-related crimes, as well as evaluating the effectiveness of gender-sensitive interventions and policies in addressing these challenges.

Lastly, the study stressed the need to consider future research on the complex relationship between illicit arms, crime, and terrorism. Exploring the multifaceted nature of this nexus can provide valuable insights into the underlying drivers and dynamics of illicit arms proliferation and its implications for crime and terrorism. This could involve interdisciplinary research that draws on criminology, sociology, political science, and international relations, among other fields, to comprehensively understand the complexities of the illicit-crime-terrorism nexus.

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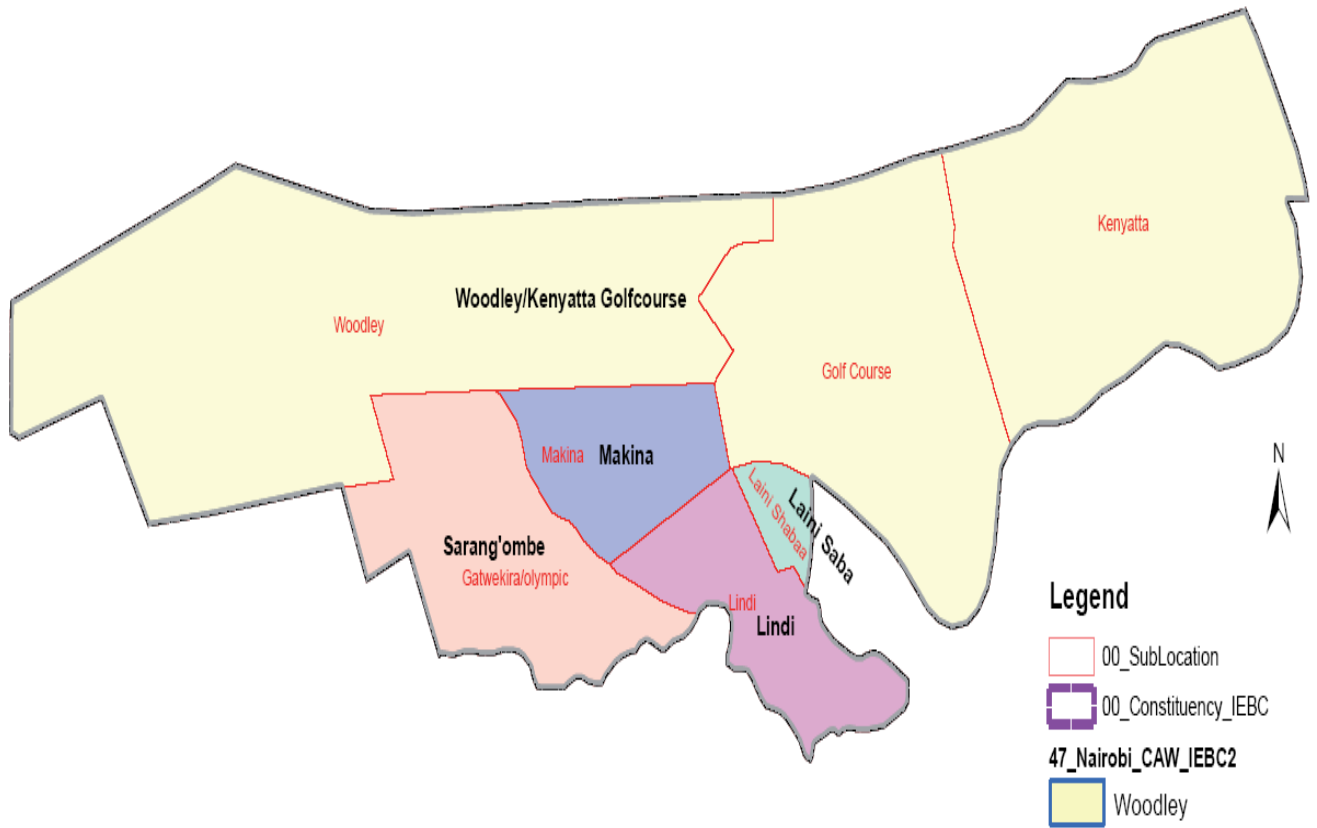
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Appendix I – Map of Kibra Sub-County



Appendix II: Questionnaire

Dear respondent,

I am pursuing a Master of Arts degree at the National Defence University-Kenya as a graduate student. The topic of the study I am conducting is titled “The Role of Community Policing (CP) in Curbing the Proliferation of Illicit Arms in Kenya: The Case of Kibra Sub-County.”

I kindly request you to take part in this study. The findings and recommendations of this study will contribute to knowledge aimed at enhancing the application of CP in the detection, investigation, and disruption of illicit arms in Kibra sub county

The information provided will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Section One: General information

1. Please state your organization/Ministry/Department/Agency/Institution

.....

2. Please specify your gender:

Male Female

3. Kindly indicate your Age:

19-30 Years 31-40 years 41-50 years Above 50 years

4. What is the highest qualification in education?

Certificate Diploma Degree Master's Degree PhD

Others (Specify)

Section two: The role of CP in the detection of illicit arms in Kibra Sub-County

1. What is the extent of the proliferation of illicit arms in Kibra?

Minimal [] Moderate [] Extreme [] Not sure []

2. Are the measures currently being used to curb the proliferation of illicit arms in Kibra adequate?

Strong [] Weak []

Kindly explain.....

3. Has CP played an active role in detecting illicit arms in Kibra?

Yes [] No []

If yes, please explain.....

.....

4. To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

Statement	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	Not Sure (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)
Illicit arms are prevalent in Kibra					
Illicit arms are the main cause of insecurity in Kibra					
The strategies used in the detection of illicit arms have been effective					
Community policing is a key feature of security management in Kibra					
Community policing has been adequately used to detect illicit arms in Kibra.					

Section Three: The role of CP in the investigation of illicit arms in Kibra Sub-County

5. Has CP played a role in investigating illicit arms in Kibra?

Yes [] No [] Don't know []

Please explain.....

.....

6. Is there adequate police public collaboration in investigating illicit arms in Kibra?

Yes [] No [] Don't know []

Please explain.....

.....

7. Does the lack strong CP framework contribute to illicit arms?

Yes [] No [] I don't know []

Please explain your answer.....

.....

8. To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

Statement	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	Not Sure (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)
There is good citizen collaboration with the police in investigating illicit arms in Kibra					
Community policing has been effective in investigating illicit arms in Kibra					
Illicit arms in Kibra can be eradicated through the effective application of community policing					
There existing challenges in combating illicit arms through community policing					

Section four: The role of CP in disruption of illicit arms cartel in Kibra Sub-County.

9. What are the existing strategies for disrupting illicit arms cartels in Kibra?

.....

Have these strategies been effective? Yes [] No []

10. What role can /has CP played in the disruption of illicit arms cartels in Kibra?

.....

11. What are the challenges faced in the disruption of illicit arms cartels through, CP, how can these challenges be addressed?

.....

12. To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

Statement	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	Not Sure (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)
The proliferation of illicit arms in Kibra is fueled by arms cartels					
Community policing has disrupted illicit arms cartels in Kibra					
Community policing if effectively applied can disrupt illicit arms Cartel in Kibra					
There exist challenges in the disruption of illicit arms cartels through community policing.					

13. Give any policy and/or academic recommendations on the subject.

.....
.....
.....
.....

Thank you

Yours sincerely,

Ms Askah Parmeres

APPENDIX III: Key Informant Interview Guide

Dear respondent,

I am pursuing a Master of Arts degree at the National Defence University-Kenya as a graduate student. The topic of the study I am conducting is titled “The Role of Community Policing in Curbing the Proliferation of Illicit Arms in Kenya: The Case of Kibra Sub-County.”

I kindly request you participate in this research. The findings and recommendations of this study will contribute to knowledge aimed at enhancing the application of CP in detection, investigation, and disruption of illicit arms in Kibra sub-county

1. How often do you engage the police in addressing crime and incidences in your Kibra sub-county?
2. What role does the community play in detecting illicit arms in the Kibra sub-county?
3. What role does CP play in investigating illicit arms in Kibra Sub County?
4. What role does the community play in the disruption of illicit arms cartels in Kibra Sub County?
5. What are the most common strategies you know that have been employed to ensure coordination on CP partnerships to eliminate illicit arms in Kibra Sub County?
6. What challenges have you encountered in using CP in the detection, investigation, and disruption of illicit arms and illicit arms cartels in Kibra Sub County?

Thank you

APPENDIX IV: NDC Introduction Letter

RESTRICTED

Telephone: 254-2-3884036

Fax: 254-2-3884036

E-Mail: info@ndc.go.ke



National Defence College

71 Warai North Road

P.O Box 24381-00502

Karen – Nairobi

Ref: NDC/A/141

November 2022

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**FACILITATION FOR MS ASKAH JEPTOO PARMERES ADMN
No.ND601/0043/2022**

The above Senior Officer is a course participant at the National Defence College and has been admitted for Masters of Arts in National Security and Strategy, under the National Defence University- Kenya Programme.

As part of academic requirements, Ms Askah Jeptoo PARMERES is required to undertake a research project in partial fulfillment of MA degree programme she is enrolled in. Her approved research topic is "The Role of community Policing in Curbing Proliferation of Illicit Arms in Kenya: A Case of Kibra Sub - County".

The purpose of this letter is to kindly request your office to facilitate the Officer as she conducts her research project.

Submitted for your kind consideration and facilitation.



Mr F M MABEYA

Head of
Programme for
Commandant

APPENDIX V: Research Permit from NACOSTI


REPUBLIC OF KENYA


**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION**

Ref No: **935938** Date of Issue: **04/January/2023**

RESEARCH LICENSE



This is to Certify that Ms. ASKAH JEPTOO PARMERES of National Defence University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Nairobi on the topic: The Role of Community Policing in Curbing Proliferation of Illicit Arms in Kenya: A Case of Kibra Sub-County for the period ending : 04/January/2024.

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See overleaf for conditions

Askah Jeptoo Parmeres

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