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FACTORS THAT ACCOUNT FOR THE PREVALENCE OF INSECURITY IN NYAMIRA TOWNSHIP, NYAMIRA COUNTY

BY

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DECLARATION

I, the undersigned declare that this research project is my original work and has not been presented to any other institution of higher learning for any academic award:

Signature…….Date……..

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

Signature…….Date……..

DR. MIKE CHEPKONG'A

DEDICATION

I dedicate this research work to my Mother Wilkister Nyakambi Machuma for her support throughout my studies. I would also want to dedicate this work to my dear family (My wife Ezinah Nyanchama, children; Rayden Ong'eri and Tyrone Ongaga.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFIDEP	African Institute of Development Policy
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
GoK	Government of Kenya
ILO	International Labour Organization
ISS	Institute of Security Studies
KHRC	Kenya Human Rights Commission
KNPS	Kenya National Police Service
NCRC	National Crime Research Centre
PRI	Penal Reform International
SRIC	Security Research and Information Centre
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNODC	United Nations Office for Crime and Drugs

ABSTRACT

Urban insecurity is on the increase, not only in Nyamira Township, but in many metropolitan areas of Kenya. The increase compromises both the safety of lives and property, hence threatening the general wellbeing of citizens and the country at large. It is therefore critical for the security agencies and related stakeholders to appraise the extent of the problem, so as to craft relevant security measures. This study therefore undertook to assess factors that account for the prevalence of insecurity in Nyamira Township and more specifically, the causes of insecurity, the relationship between youth unemployment and insecurity, the impact of vigilantism on the crime rate and possible intervention strategies. The study sampled 120 respondents using purposive and stratified random sampling techniques. Primary data was collected using a semi-structured questionnaire and was analyzed using descriptive data analysis techniques. The findings showed that there were rampant criminal activities and a high level of insecurity in Nyamira Township. Majority respondents had witnessed insecurity in the month prior to the interview, while the rest of them said they had not. The prevalent crimes included muggings, burglaries, sex-related crimes, robberies, gun crimes and abductions, among others. All these occurred in different frequencies. On the relationship between youth unemployment and insecurity, the study revealed that this was a major contributory factor to insecurity. Forty two percent of the respondents indicated that youth unemployment contributed to insecurity to a great extent whereas the rest said that the effect was to a small extent. On the relationship between vigilantism and insecurity, almost a third of the respondents observed that it contributed to insecurity to a moderate extent. It was also established that there were strategies in place that were meant to mitigate problems of insecurity in the Township. However, the government had not achieved much in terms of addressing insecurity in the town, due a lack of synergy between non-state and state security actors. The study therefore recommended a multipronged approach by the government to arrest the problem of insecurity in the township by, among others, ensuring that there was proper coordination between all the security agencies, with the objective of addressing insecurity from a common front.

CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Insecurity entails lack of objective safety either in a physical sense or based on a general feeling of apprehension (Njoka, 2001). It may also refer to lack of public safety in given neighbourhoods, as manifested by rising crime rates (Van Kasteren, 2007). Insecurity is viewed in relation to safety of both persons and property; and this is how it will be viewed in the context of this study. Insecurity is among the leading social problems globally and impacts on many aspects of life (Musoi, Muthama, Waiya, and Kitiku, 2012). According to the National Crime Research Centre (NCRC), insecurity affects all individuals and institutions regardless of their status or location (NCRC, 2016). As a result, numerous spheres of social life are undermined both in the private and public arena. In fact, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) observes that high level of insecurity poses a huge threat to investments within a country, and also on cross-border business transactions (UNDP, 2014). Consequently, governments and other security stakeholders have made significant efforts to integrate people's security concerns and link them to their socio-economic successes (Meddings, 2011). Unfortunately, globalization with its associated challenges such as human trafficking, drug trafficking, and enhanced communication technology has made it even more difficult to globally deal with the problem of insecurity (Keller, 2012).

Keller (2012) further posits that globalization is intricately linked to insecurity given that both concepts are affected by universal occurrences such as poverty, unemployment, unequal distribution of societal resources and the HIV/AIDS epidemic, among others. Hence, in the last decade, a surge in crime rates has been witnessed globally hence creating a huge security threat (NCRC, 2016). For instance, according to Reiss & Jeffrey (1993), crime rates increased in the US by 40% in 1970-1990. Out of the 500,000 homicides reported globally in 2012, 36% of them were in the US, 31% occurred in Africa and 5% in Europe (UNODC, 2013). Additionally, Numbeo (2015) ranked six of African countries as among the twenty nations with the highest crime rates in the world. These included South Sudan, South Africa, Nigeria, Libya and Kenya. Available crime statistics on Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Egypt, Tanzania and Uganda shows that robbery, corruption, consumer fraud, sexual assault, kidnapping, hijacking, livestock theft, and burglary constitute

common typologies of crime (UNODC, 2013). However, it is not clear whether the same crimes are the cause of insecurity in Nyamira Township.

The effect of insecurity is more devastating in the sub-Saharan Africa where food, financial and health securities have greatly been undermined by crime, thereby leading to an upsurge of localized and national insecurity (World Bank, 2012). Today, more than ever, the threat of crime is widespread and more complex in majority African countries. Cases of malicious cyber attacks and terror activities, among other sophisticated crimes, are on the rise, thus curtailing efforts by governments to maintain peace and public order. Besides, perpetrators of these crimes have become increasingly innovative and determined in pursuing their antisocial goals. In order to reverse this scenario, concerted efforts from all security stakeholders is imperative.

Here in Kenya, the police crime analysis report for the year 2016 shows that a total of 76,986 cases were reported, up from 72,496 cases for the year 2015 (Kenya Police Service, 2016). Of these cases, those pertaining to Nyamira County declined slightly from 1,124 cases (in 2015) to 1,055 cases in 2016. Furthermore, as regards aggravated assaults, Nyamira recorded 49.5% increase, whereas the national figure was 30.3% (NCRC, 2018). A similar trend was observed with burglaries and house breaking where the county recorded 38.4% increase against the national increase of 27.5%. On the same breadth, defilement increased by 17.5% nationally while the county recorded 36.4%. A similar scenario played out with kidnapping and abduction where the county registered 33.3% against 26% nationally. Although there is no specific data on Nyamira Township, it can be deduced from the forgoing county data that insecurity is on the increase in Nyamira. Hence, this poses a major public security threat in the region.

The general implications of insecurity in Nyamira County include interference with running of the businesses and other daily activities of the residents. This is complicated by the prevalence of culturally diverse communities in the township, and the intense competition for the limited resources such as job opportunities, housing, schooling and healthcare services among others (Ochieng, 2012). Furthermore, insecurity in Nyamira Township presents varied challenges to the residents, such as fear and restricted movements thus leading to a decline in social cohesion and a rise in social exclusion.

Based on the above general account of the level of crime in urban areas in the world today and Kenya in particular, there was need for a detailed study to understand factors that account for the prevalence of insecurity in Nyamira Township, in Nyamira County. This was further justified based on existing statistics which presented Nyamira County as having experienced more insecurity cases than the country's average figure. For instance, while the police crime analysis report for the year 2016 shows that there was a slight decline of reported cases in Nyamira County from 1,124 in 2015 to 1,055 cases in 2016, this trend was not very impressive. Furthermore, some forms of crime in the county recorded higher than the national average, with assaults for instance standing at 49.5% against the national figure of 30.3% (NCRC, 2018).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Rising cases of insecurity in Kenyan urban areas is a major concern for the security agencies. The UN-Habitat indicates that in the recent past more than 60% of urban residents in sub-Saharan Africa have reportedly fallen victim to crime. Furthermore, according to Kenya National Police Service (KNPS) crime report of 2018, there was 15.1% crime rate increase from 81,231 registered in 2017 to 95,721 in 2018. With the rising youth unemployment, especially in the urban areas, coupled with intense competition for limited livelihood opportunities, all sorts of crimes keep on emerging, especially in the fast growing urban areas (UN-Habitat, 2017). Majority crimes associated with urban areas include muggings, gun crime, rape, abduction, and burglary among others. However, what is not clear are the specific causes of the crimes; the effects of the crimes on the urban dwellers; and how to bring down the rising levels of urban insecurity, especially in the fast growing towns of sub-Saharan Africa.

As in other rapidly urbanizing neighbourhoods, Nyamira Township is faced with increasing insecurity. This state of affairs denies the concerned residents peaceful and conducive environment for their daily social and economic activities. Although there are no official statistics on the crime rate in Nyamira Township, KPS crime report for the year 2018 indicated that Nyamira Township recorded about 16% of the total crimes in the country in the previous year (Kenya Police Service, 2018). This trend could, arguably, be on the rise given the rapid rate of urbanization and high level of youth unemployment in majority Kenyan towns, Nyamira included, and its positive correlation with insecurity.

Additionally, Nyamira Township and the larger Nyamira County, is known for vigilante groups popularly referred to as Sungusungu (Masese and Mwenzwa, 2012). However, contrary to taming insecurity, the vigilante groups have allegedly been accused of mutating from community policing agencies to terror gangs that are responsible for several crimes in the township and the entire county (Wabala *et al*, 2010). This allegation is however unproven as yet, hence the need for an empirical study to establish the actual role of the vigilante groups in the respective towns and more specifically in Nyamira County.

1.2.1 Key Research Questions

(i) What criminal activities are commonly associated with insecurity in Nyamira Township?
(ii) Is there a correlation between youth unemployment and insecurity in Nyamira Township?
(iii) Is vigilantism a mitigating or contributory factor to crime commission in Nyamira Township?
(iv) What intervention strategies can mitigate problems of insecurity in the Township?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1.3.1 General Objective

The overall objective of this study was to establish factors that account for the prevalence of insecurity in Nyamira Township, in Nyamira County.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives were as follows:

(i) To establish typologies of crime commonly associated with insecurity in Nyamira Township.
(ii) To assess the correlation between youth unemployment and insecurity in the Township.
(iii) To find out the extent to which vigilantism is a contributory factor to crime commission in the Township.
(iv) To identify intervention strategies for addressing the prevalence of insecurity in the Township.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Urban areas are the leading contributors to the country's GDP. This therefore calls for concerted efforts by law enforcement agencies to safeguard life and property in both rural and urban areas.

The assurance can only be realized if the relevant agencies understand the nature and causes of insecurities confronting urban and rural dwellers, as a step towards addressing the challenges. The study findings may therefore help the security sector agencies in Nyamira Township to formulate a multi-sectoral approach for dealing with insecurity in the township. The results may also help the police and other security agencies to gain insights into the causes of insecurity in urban settings, and thus facilitate strategies for combating the problem in the respective urban jurisdictions.

At the policy formulation level, the findings may guide both the county and the National government on how to craft more practical policy guidelines on insecurity. This research is therefore likely to generate information for that purpose. In addition, the study may serve as a reference material for other scholars and researchers interested in similar studies in future. In this sense, the study will serve as a basis for further research on insecurity in the Kenyan urban areas.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study was conducted in Nyamira Township and examined factors that accounted for prevalence of insecurity in the area. More specifically, the study focused on the nature and causes of insecurity, the correlation between youth unemployment and insecurity, the relationship between vigilantism and crime commission, and insecurity intervention strategies. The study used a qualitative descriptive research design on account of its ability to allow for the collection, summarizing, interpretation and presentation of empirical data. The data and information was elicited from 120 respondents using a semi-structured questionnaire. The sample was derived from 4 clusters of respondents, namely: Law Enforcement Agencies, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Community Policing units, and the Business Community. It is anticipated that the study findings will be generalizable to other similar populations in urban settings, since majority urban areas face similar insecurity challenges.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms and Concepts

Urban insecurity: common occurrence of incidences of specific crimes. These will be viewed in terms of personal crimes, property crimes and commercial crimes.

I**nsecurity**: this refers to a situation of uncertainty in terms of personal safety and that of individuals' property.

Youth unemployment: this refers to unemployment of young people, usually aged 18-35 years. This variable will be analyzed based on poor job skills & training, insufficient job openings, peer pressure, proliferation of small arms, and drug peddling and abuse.

Vigilantism: informal groupings, usually comprising of young men used for community policing. Examples include Sungusungu, Chinkororo, and Amachuma vigilante groups commonly found in Nyamira and Kisii counties. This concept is considered on the basis of poor community policing policy, poor government coordination, political influence, cultural diversity, and infiltration of criminal gangs.

Strategies for addressing insecurity: these refer to the kind of approaches that can be used to tackle issues of insecurity. This variable will be viewed in terms of public isolation, poor community approaches, government coercion measures, and lack of enough resources.

CHAPTER TWO
LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

This starts with the highlight on the relationship between crime and insecurity. The chapter then focuses on a critical review of the relevant literature on insecurity in urban areas. The review consequently is derived from the key study themes, namely: Nature of Urban Insecurity, Causes of Urban Insecurity, Urban Insecurity and Youth Unemployment, Vigilantism and Urban Insecurity, and Responses to Urban Insecurity in Kenya. In addition, theoretical framework is featured, where Structural Strain Theory (Robert Merton 1957) and Broken Window Theory have been adopted to guide the study. Lastly, a conceptual framework is highlighted in the chapter.

2.2 Crime and Insecurity in Kenya

According to the Kenya National Police Service (KNPS), crime remains the greatest threat to individual and public security (KNPS, 2018). Crime is a versatile concept that can be viewed from a legal or non-legal perspective. The National Criminal Justice Statistical Framework (NCJSF) states that from a legal standpoint crime refers to a breach of the criminal laws that govern particular geographic areas and are aimed at protecting the lives, property and rights of citizens within those areas (NCJSF, 2017). This breach may border on criminal attacks directed to individuals or property such as assault, rape, mugging, home invasions, burglaries, abductions, car jacking, and arson among other criminal activities. On the other hand, from a non-legal perspective crime would be viewed as acts that violate socially accepted rules of human ethical or moral behaviour. Some of the moral principles that underpin the notion of crime may be based on the types of behaviour defined by the legal system as criminal. These may include behaviours such as tax evasion or credit card fraud, abortion, attempted suicide and homosexuality among others (NCJSF, 2017).

Although there are also other types of crime which are otherwise referred to as ‘white collar crimes’ such as cyber crimes, terrorism, drug trafficking and human trafficking which are equally a big threat to security, in relatively simple neighbourhoods such as Nyamira Township common crimes pose the biggest risk to the community (KNPS, 2018). Crime analysis report by the police indicates that in 2018 a total of 95,721 cases were reported nationally compared to 81,231 cases registered

in the previous year. This was 15.1% increase in a year. The report further showed that cases of motor vehicle theft increased by 23% while those of damage to property rose by 11% (KNPS, 2018). The overall increase of crime was witnessed in urban areas.

Over the past two decades the concept of safer cities has significantly evolved from just considering crime and violence as threats to security to including safety from disaster and conflicts as a critical element for determining how secure people are in their urban habitat (UN-Habitat, 2012). Lucchi (2013) further adds that besides people being physically hurt in an insecure environment, there are other indirect consequences of insecurity which may include limited mobility to access essential goods and services such as livelihoods and social amenities. Although Kenya has relatively remained generally secure and peaceful from outside aggression as compared to its neighbouring countries, many cases of insecurity have been reported in the recent past, with some of them related to terror-related activities (UN-Habitat, 2012). The wave of criminal violence which began in the country in the mid-1980s has intensified with time hence majorly affecting people living in big cities and other urban areas. Suburban and street crimes are reported to have increased due to political pluralism, economic hardships, and intrusion of the Kenyan borders by organized criminals such as Al Shabaab and other terror-related groups (Mapunda, 2010). Indeed, statistics show that the number of deaths caused by Al Shabaab rose from 30 in 2010 to about 300 in 2014 (Asamoah, 2015). With their attacks increasingly becoming more sophisticated where they are aimed at causing maximum damage to high-end places or targets, terror operatives like Al Shabaab insurgents are some of the most serious threats to human existence in the recent times, not only in Kenya but globally (Institute for Security studies). It has also been argued that the increasing rate of crimes and insecurity in the country connotes the current increasingly hard times where many jobless young people turn to criminal activities for their daily survival (Cohen and Garrett, 2010).

For the past two to three decades, crime has significantly evolved not only in Kenya, but globally. With enhanced spread of the use of technology in almost all key human transactions, issues of cybercrime for instance have been on the increase thus jeopardizing people's lives and endangering the safety of their property (Muchai, 2012). Muchai (2012) further argues that although incidences of the once-common highway banditry experienced in the 1980s and 1990s seem to have gone down, these appear to have been replaced with some sophisticated forms of crime where technology plays a very significant role. The hitherto notorious roadblocks by thugs on the Mombasa/Nairobi

highway to rob motorists and tourists (*Daily Nation*, April 7, 1999) have been largely overtaken by other modern forms of crime, which are being abetted by widespread technological use (KHRC, 2011). Among other reasons, increasing of crime and insecurity in urban areas, and in some rural places, has been attributed to proliferation of small firearms and declining job opportunities which leave a number of young people dangerously armed to earn a living through proceeds of crime. Some of the young people's criminal activities are strongly felt in urban residential areas where they mug and even rob people with wanton impunity (Kimani-Murage, Schofield, Wekesah, Mohamed, Mberu, Ettarh, Egondi, Kyobutungi, and Ezeh, 2014).

Police crime reports in Kenya indicate that in 1997, breakings were the leading form of crime in most urban areas, which recorded 12,619 against 1,050 of rape incidents, as the least prevalent (Police Commissioner's Report, 1997). However, according to the Institute for Security Studies (2015), this trend has since been upset where violent crime is almost taking the lead. Asamoah (2014) further attributes this new tendency to common organized criminal groups such as Mungiki, Sungu Sungu, Chinkororo, Bagdad Boys, 42 Bothers, and the Sabaot land Defence Forces among others which amount to more than 30 in number. Although some of these groups have been subdued or even completely abolished by government security agents, others keep on changing their names and modus operandi so that they can continue with their criminal activities undetected (Galal, Corroon and Tirado, 2010).

Pervasive social marginalization in Kenya has led into ethically-organized criminal groups, which are commonly found in slums such Mathare valley, Korogocho and Kibera informal settlements in Nairobi among other deprived urban neighbourhoods (Kimani-Murage et al, 2014). Due to the vulnerable situations of the young people, who mainly make up these groups, many of these formations are misused by politicians who recruit the youth into the groups so they can run the former's dirty errands (Asamoah, 2015). Associated to politics and the illegal youth groups, is the question of land which unscrupulous politicians tend to exploit for the sole of purpose of ascending to political offices. Many times such groups have been used for political expedience where they seem to challenge – on behalf of powerful politicians – the government over certain territories. In the process there is heightened insecurity.

2.2.1 Typologies of Crime and Urban Insecurity

Viewed as the presence of serious threats associated with criminality and the subjective perception of protection of individuals and their property, urban insecurity is often a serious common societal concern. According to Mapunda (2010), in a broad sense the common urban crimes that greatly contribute to insecurity include personal, property and commercial crimes. In the category of personal crimes, the commonly experienced misconducts may involve robbery, theft and physical assault. Robbery involves the threat to, or actual violence applied to individuals to dispossess them of their belongings. According to UN-Habitat (2008), this is one of the most prevalent crimes committed in urban settings. Theft of personal belongings may not necessarily involve force. Physical assault involves inflicting bodily harm on individuals, usually where this is committed intentionally. There are also cases of muggings, abductions, and gun crimes.

Property crimes may involve household burglary, theft of household or farm equipment, theft of vehicle parts, theft of vehicle or theft of livestock (Mapunda, 2010). The UN-Habitat states that this is also a common category of crime affecting urban residents (UN-Habitat, 2008). Burglary is particularly rampant, where criminals forcefully break into the residents' houses. Commercial crime entails a criminal act on an individual's commercial enterprise. This may include such things as shoplifting, burglaries, assault on employees, credit card fraud, bribery, theft of goods during offloading or loading, and theft from employees among other cases (Mapunda, 2010). This is also a common form of crime that adversely affects people living in urban areas (UN-Habitat, 2008). All the aforementioned crimes cause urban insecurity, hence jeopardizing the lives of individuals and safety of their property.

A report by the UN-Habitat (2012) indicates that urban insecurity is on the increase not only in Kenya bet in most sub-Saharan countries. There are several causes to this problem. For instance, studies have linked insecurity in urban areas to soaring crime rates as a result of massive rural-urban migrations amidst diminishing job opportunities, high levels of unemployment, drug trafficking and abuse among others Kimani-Murage et al (2014). Overcrowding in poor-resource urban neighbourhoods against limited means of livelihood deny the residents decent living conditions thus forcing a number of them to involve in crime in order to eke a living (World Bank, 2013; Kimani-Murage and Ngindu, 2007). This creates a sense of insecurity which hampers people's efforts to operate in a free and peaceful environment.

According to UN-Habitat (2008), about 62% of urban residents in Sub-Saharan Africa live in congested slums characterized by deprived livelihood opportunities, shanty structures, inadequate water, sanitation and healthcare service provision as well as poor education prospects for school age going children. Furthermore, common disaster incidents such as fire outbreaks which usually cause untold losses to informal urban settlement inhabitants leave most of them desolate and vulnerable. This is a recipe for heightened insecure living environments as depressed residents try to device inappropriate means for earning a living.

Urban centers are known for cash-based economies where almost all the residents access basic needs through the market. This therefore means that income is very critical for wellbeing of individuals and households. However, recent analysis of household expenditure in urban poor settings indicates that most people live on less than a dollar a day, which is mostly spent on food (Amendah, Buigut and Mohamed, 2011). Most of the urban poor depend on wage labour, with men employed in menial casual jobs in industries or construction sites and women engaged in domestic work and operating small businesses such as grocery shops. This leads to very low income; which often immerses the residents into criminal activities hence heightened insecurity (Cohen and Garrett, 2010).

Studies have further indicated that there is a growing shift of poverty and malnutrition from rural to urban areas (Kimani-Murage et al, 2014). This has been as result of a number of factors, including overdependence on purchased food items, lack of employment, reduced peripheral agricultural land and impacts of unfavourable climatic conditions (Galal et al, 2010). Lack of formal safety nets among the poor urban residents who form the majority makes the situation worse thus forcing individuals to involve in criminal activities so that they can make ends meet. Vulnerability of most individuals and households in urban areas against insufficient political will and limited expansion of the economy worsens security as people use unorthodox means to eke a living (Martin-Prevel, Becquey, Tapsoba, 2012). Empirical evidence further indicates that on the face of food insecurity people will tend to use any available means so that they can address their hunger problems (Cohen and Garret, 2010). Unlike their rural counterparts, urban residents have very limited available options of staple foods when prices go up. With generally small and scattered retail market outlets in urban areas, the urban poor end up paying higher prices per unit as they usually purchase groceries on a daily basis (Ruel et al, 2011).

According to UN-Habitat (2007), poverty plays a central role in influencing crime and violence in urban areas. This implies that crime is often viewed as a likely alternative survival means, especially by the youths who make majority of unemployed populations. Associated to poverty phenomenon is the question of soaring levels of unemployment among young people in Kenya. The World Bank estimates that over 75 million young people between the ages of 15 and 24 remain without formal employment, making about 41% of all jobless people. Studies have further indicated that unemployed young people are more likely to be perpetrators of crime or victims of crime and violence (Nyaura and Ngugi, 2014). The growing wealth disparity between the rich and the poor in urban centers has often contributed to common crimes such as violence. Statistics indicate that variations in cases of violence are often linked to neighbourhood income levels, age and gender (Okoro, 2010). Property-related violence are therefore commonly experienced in more prosperous areas as opposed to severe violence which is generally more concentrated in lower income areas (Briceño-León and Zubillaga, 2002). Similarly, the growing vehicle robbery, which poses greater risks of victims being killed in the process, has heightened insecurity among wealthier members of the community, especially in urban areas. Moser and McIlwaine (2004) further argue that young men are mostly affected by insecurity, especially as either victims or perpetrators of violence.

Many studies have tended to categorize violence in terms of political, institutional, economic and social violence (Okoro, 2010; Nyaura and Ngugi, 2014; Chinguta, 2012). Political violence may be perpetrated by state or non-sate actors in form of political conflict among political competitors, political assassinations, guerilla warfare, and paramilitary conflict among others. On the other hand, institutional violence may be manifested through extrajudicial killings by the police or through community/state-directed social eradication of criminal gangs or lynching of criminal suspects (Chinguta, 2012). Economic violence may viewed in terms of organized crime, delinquents, business interest or robbery incidents which leave the victims traumatized (Moser and Winton, 2002). According to Moser and McIlwaine (2004), these are further manifested through intimidation and violence, street theft, small-arms dealing, assaults and killings, and robberies among other forms. Moser and Winton (2002) further posit that gender-based violence, physical and sexual abuse, and psychological abuse among others often define social violence which is common among urban dwellers.

2.2.2 Urban Insecurity and Youth Unemployment

Statistics by the International Labour Organization (ILO) shows that between 1998 and 2008 the rate of youth labour force participation decreased globally from about 54% to 50% (ILO, 2010). Youth unemployment especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean keep on rising (AFIDEP and PAI, 2012). In Southern Africa for instance, research findings indicate that employment opportunities for the youth are diminishing everyday (Mkandawire, Sikhitha and Mkhatshane, 2011). In Zambia specifically, Chinguta (2012) states that an insignificant proportion of the youth aged 15-25 years were formally employed in 2012 while a paltry 25% were self-employed. More than 70% of them said they did not have any form of income. The situation is the same in most sub-Saharan countries, including Kenya.

High levels of unemployment and increasing vulnerability among young people are some of the common factors associated with the rising crime which is a precursor for insecurity (Muchai, 2012). The job market discriminates against young people who do not have relevant skills and training, and this ends up creating an environment for crime to thrive (ILO, 2010. Faced with the reality of this emerging trend, urban areas are becoming a safe haven for the idling youth who often engage in criminal activities for their own survival and end up as a security threat to the public. In order to address this situation, a multipronged approach is imperative where all security agencies and other stakeholders need to come together for a common purpose.

In Kenya studies indicate that majority of the youth living in urban slums are unemployed, giving them leeway to engage in criminal activities and jeopardize public security (Kimani-Murage et al, 2014). Moreover, poverty and pessimism push the young people in towns and cities to participate in lawlessness so as to make up for what their state of unemployment cannot provide. Low levels of education which is also associated with poverty has been attributed to high crime rates and hence insecurity. National longitudinal surveys on the relationship between criminal behaviour of the youth and their level of education revealed that there was a direct link between economic condition and individual involvement in crime (UN, 2011).

Based on a United Nations report on the employment status of the youth in Africa, it emerged that high level of unemployment has led to increase in crime among young people (UN, 2012). The impact was most dire in urban centers where proliferation of small arms and high cases of violent

crimes were reported. Idleness sent young men to engage in violent crimes while young women commonly indulged in sex for money. Rampant cases of theft put all residents in apprehensive mode hence denying them the freedom to go about their businesses unperturbed. A study done in Mathare slum of Nairobi revealed that most of the criminals who were involved in theft of such things as household items were the youth (UN, 2011). These findings agreed with the revelations by Chinguta (2012) who found out that lack of livelihood opportunities for the young people had led to formation of criminal gangs, especially in urban Zambia. This created security threat not only to the young adults involved in crime but also to the general urban population and the country at large.

Drug peddling and abuse was also common among idle young people in towns and cities. Ojo (2012) states that some of the young people moved to urban areas for lack of guardians either due to broken families or death of parents. Subsequently they would start engaging themselves in petty crimes for their own survival. This included acting as middlemen or conduits for major drug peddlers, eventually this initiating them into big criminals and a major security threat. This state of affairs is exacerbated by the fact that there is a continuous trend of rural-urban migrations for young people who are eager to move to towns or cities in search of better job opportunities (Ojo, 2012).

From the forgoing arguments, it is clear that a number of challenges lead young people to engaging in criminal activities such as violent crimes which end up compromising security not only for those involved in crimes but also for the entire public. However, given different dynamics in every urban area which can create unique environmental predispositions, it may not necessarily follow that there are similar crime trends in Nyamira Township. It is anticipated that at the end of this study it will be clear to what extent youth unemployment was contributing to insecurity in this area.

2.2.3 Vigilantism and Urban Insecurity

Borrowed from the Spanish word ‘vigilante’ which means watchman or guard, vigilante is a concept that refers to groups commonly used to complement police in addressing insecurity, especially at the community level (Masese and Mwenzwa, 2012). The increase of criminal activities and heightened insecurity amidst many challenges experienced by the police lends credence to this group as a community policing strategy. In urban areas in particular, this concept is buttressed by

the fact that community members are in a better position to know who their neighbours are and understand their activities, and thus enhance their own safety (Nyaura and Ngugi, 2014).

One of the good examples of African countries which have embraced the concept of vigilante groups in community policing is Nigeria. Owing to its many subtribes and diversity in culture, civilian groups such as the Borno vigilantes were in 2013 integrated into the government's official counter-insurgency to fight Boko Haram. Other similar groups for dealing with insecurity include the Bakassi Boys, Oudua People's Congress, the Hisbah, and Egbesu Boys among others. Although some of these groups may be facing imminent ban by the government, generally they have been embraced by the local communities and the government as a panacea to insecurity, especially at the community level (Chikwendu, Nwankwo and Oli, 2016).

In a study done on the emergence of vigilante groups in Anambra state in Nigeria, Chukwuma (2011) asserts that the failure by the police to effectively contain crime and protect lives and property led to the need by the community members to form vigilante groups to complement formal security agencies. On the other hand, Okoro (2010) argued that the public took this initiative based on the declining public confidence in the police. The waning public trust on the police was also bolstered by alleged rampant corruption and brutality among the service.

Over time, vigilante groups have been hailed for helping to reduce crime rates by arresting and handing over criminals to the police, protecting lives and property, assisting in incidents of natural disasters, and providing intelligence information to the police (Chikwendu *et al*, 2016). In a study conducted in Ondo State of Nigeria on vigilante groups and their role in policing, Adegbusi (2009) discovered that the services of these groups were very crucial in crime prevention and control, especially through their partnership with the police to combat crime and enhance public security.

In another study by Fleisher (2000), Sungusungu vigilante group amongst the Kuria of Tanzania was depicted as an effective mechanism through which to end cattle rustling and enhance security among this community. Similarly, Heald (2005) argued that Sungusungu vigilante group was a sure way of ceding some power to the community and empowering them to take charge of their own security matters. However, there are controversies linked to vigilante groups. While some studies have portrayed them as important community policing groups, others have depicted the groups as

criminal gangs which masquerade as community security agents while they terrorize and steal from the public.

Over the last decade, youth vigilante groups thrived in Kenya; all in the name of complementing the police in their work. Common names included Mungiki, Sungusungu, Bagdad Boys, Kamjesh, Jeshi la Mzee, Jeshi la Embakasi, Amachuma, and Chinkororo among others. While some of these groups were viewed as avenues for providing employment opportunities to the unemployed and idle youth, they later turned into organized criminal gangs which ran extortion rings and exploited the public (KHRC, 2011). The Mungiki sect was for example notoriously linked to forceful female circumcision and extortion from public transport sector among other criminal activities. Chinkororo, Amachuma and Sungusungu were some of such formations which were commonly associated with the larger Gusii region (Omari, 2011). Although the popularity of Chinkororo and Amachuma seems to have diminished over time, Sungusungu vigilante group is still in existence in the area.

According to the Human Rights Watch (2013), Sungusungu is an important community vigilante group which helps in addressing insecurity and provides the youth with an opportunity to stay active hence avoiding criminal acts. These sentiments are corroborated by Masese and Mwenzwa (2013) and Heald (2013) who view this as an important grassroots law and order organization. On the other hand, Otieno (2014) considers the group as a criminal outfit whose members often commit crimes, ranging from alleged torture to innocent members of the public and stealing among other criminal acts. This position is supported by the Institute of Security Studies (ISS) and Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) which consider vigilante groups as criminal organizations with telling human rights violation history (ISS, 2009; KHRC, 2011).

The concept of Sungusungu is thought to have emerged in the larger Kisii region in the late 1990s with the original intent of curbing cattle rustling in the area (Heald, 2007; Masese and Mwenzwa, 2012). Masese and Mwenzwa (2012) further argue that the concept of Sungusungu emerged due to increased crime rates in Kisii region as a result of high levels of unemployment and poverty. In this sense the group was meant to fill the gap created by allegedly ineffective public security and protection by the police. However according to Heald (2007), the group later mutated into a criminal gang which came to be associate with all sorts of criminal activities hence ironically becoming a

public threat. Often the group members were accused of taking law into their own hands, severely punishing suspected criminals and even killing a number of them. In the worst case scenario, Sungusungu turned into a 'militia for hire' (Open Democracy, 2009), running politicians' dirty errands.

In Nyamira County and the larger Gusiiland, one of the roles of Sungusungu organization when it began was arbitrating on cases involving land disputes, debts, domestic conflicts, sexual crimes, and punishing alleged witches (Masese and Mwenzwa, 2013). The 'security men' were justified in manhandling, assaulting and even torturing the suspects so as to force them reveal evidence or own up to what they were being accused of. According to Freedom House (2013), to some community members this was commendable since justice was seen to be served on time as opposed to when police was involved in handling conflicts and other criminal cases at the community level. However, sometimes this has degenerated into a witch-hunt where some members of the community are accused of crime they did not commit.

Based on the enacted Prevention of Organized Crimes Act (2010), the government launched a crackdown on criminal gangs, including Sungusungu. Yet according to Masese and Mwenzwa (2013), the government still relies on Sungusungu for community policing albeit to a smaller extent compared to some years back. The group is however still involved in controversies where it has been accused of using extrajudicial means when handling suspects. Often people have been killed and others maimed in the hands of the vigilante group. Similarly, some residents have been barred from burying their loved ones following accusations that the deceased were criminals. Furthermore, some relatives of the deceased are said to have received warning letters instructing them to relocate from their ancestral land because their dead kin were allegedly witches or criminals (KHRC, 2011).

In recent past, common incidences linked to Sungusungu include contravening community policing mandate by for instance arbitrarily arresting and detaining suspects in illegal holding cells before trying them in Kangaroo courts. The group has also been associated with assaults, issuance of threats to innocent community members, disappearance of some community members for one reason or the other, sex crimes such as rape and exchanging sex for protection, and generally enforcing illegal parallel justice system (Human Rights Watch, 2013). According to Institute of Security Studies (2007), it has also often emerged that vigilante groups such as Sungusungu were

colluding with the police and criminals to sabotage justice. Organized criminality has often had a devastating impact on security hence endangering the lives of individuals and safety of their property (Human Rights Watch, 2013). For instance, extortionist rings and kidnapping gangs have impacted the community's security where people are always living in fear being attacked. Insecurity has also led to limited movements and travels, forcing people to look for alternative means of mobility and which often turn to be very expensive. Under such circumstances it also difficult for people to be maximally productive due to common interruptions in their daily endeavours. From the foregoing arguments, it is clear that vigilante groups – and in this case Sungusungu – are two-faced. As much as they are considered as imperative for dealing with insecurity, they are at the same time viewed as a stumbling block to security or perpetrators of crimes hence a big threat to security.

2.2.4 Community Responses to Urban Insecurity

Public institutions are traditionally tasked with the responsibility of protecting citizens from crimes, thus guaranteeing them security. Both at the national and local levels, government security agencies ensure respect for the rule of law, respond to crime incidents, and protect and secure lives and property (Human Rights Watch, 2013). However, policing challenges in urban areas amidst scarce government resources makes it imperative for the public to often fill the void.

Community-based approaches to fighting crime and enhancing security has worked in many jurisdictions, including in South Africa where anti-crime campaigns in townships were initiated by civil organization about three decades ago (Shaw, 2005). According to Penal Reform International (PRI), similar approach was used in Malawi years later where the government partnered with non-government groups to deal with insecurity (PRI, 2000). In Kenya the concept of community policing was initiated in 2003 where partnership between the police and the public was encouraged. Despite the challenges encountered, Van der Spuy and Röntsch (2008) state that this approach has generally worked. This made it easier for detection and prevention of crimes hence maintaining security for the public.

Security experts have further argued that security initiatives by the public have generally complemented the efforts by government security agencies, hence making it easier to contain crime and guarantee peace and stability for the public (UN-Habitat, 2013). The public has been credited with the benefit of being able to easily identify pertinent local security issues and craft effective local solutions. Moreover, redefining rules of co-existence amongst members of the community is thought to be better addressed by the locals, based on their unique social and political circumstances (Kabiru, Mojolam, Beguy and Okigbo, 2013). Although urban crime is a universal phenomenon, empirical studies indicate that social, economic and geographical environments of urban locations dictate the patterns of crime. According to Ellis and Walsh (2005) for instance, property crimes tends to be most prevalent in bigger cities or more developed neighbourhoods in most urban areas. Furthermore, research findings have indicated that the larger the population of a city, the higher the rate of crime and victimization. Such scenario often leads to common homicide cases. The geographical location and crime patterns from external environments, the existing law, common cultural practices, and approaches to crime also affect people's response to criminal activities. For instance, some people have opted to keep silent about crimes following threats from powerful individuals who may be associated with certain criminal activities.

Based on the dictates of Broken Window Theory, some researchers have argued that there is a strong relationship between patterns of urban life and the patterns of crime. For instance, there is a common argument that economic crimes dominate in cities because of the vibrancy of city life, which attracts criminal opportunities. Furthermore, the UN (2006) posits that the adverse social situations such as high levels of poverty, relatively easy availability of firearms and other weapons, and drug addiction among others may often affect urban dwellers. Nonetheless, the overall quality of city life is affected by crime and there is evidence of links between minor crimes, efforts to control them and the prevalence of more serious crime in major cities (UN, 2006). Urban areas are usually the engines of economic growth and centers of social change and socio-cultural diversity. Given their vibrant nature, most urban centers serve as focal points both internal and external migrations as well as numerous economic activities. This means that the rapid transformations experienced in these areas makes it difficult to plan and manage their expansion hence making it more complicated to contain crime and insecurity. This has made most individuals feel threatened staying in urban areas.

Hostile living conditions, high population densities as well as other rapid social changes can be detrimental to the lives of urban inhabitants as these lead to unpredictable crime patterns. Although many of what would be called 'war on crime' initiatives has often been launched by both public and private security agencies, insecurity has tended to persist over time. According to Kabiru et al (2013), many migrants into the urban areas are running away from poverty in rural areas, but poverty is also a common phenomenon in urban centers. This scenario has put cities in constant struggle to improve the residents' level of standard of living. Youth unemployment is however one of the serious factors that make it very hard for cities to make their environments safe for living since most unemployed young people are commonly turning to crime as a form of survival tactic.

According to Hagedorn (2005), criminal gangs have seriously invaded urban areas, and this has made it extremely difficult for security agencies to contain crime and ensure residents of their safety and security of their property. A gang has been described as anything from a locally organized criminal group of a few school children to a sophisticated organization whose operation cuts across age groups, profession, regions, and religious affiliations among other characteristics (Ellis and Walsh, 2005). Since most of these groups happen to originate from the localities in which they operate, often it becomes a big challenge for security agents trying to contain or dismantle them. According to Morash (2010), urban youth gangs embody certain common characteristics such as recurrent regrouping, defined territory, tautological labels such as 'youth gang', and are also defined on the basis of specific activities. They gangs also tend to have some form of internal hierarchy which defines their members' roles. All these characteristics make it very difficult for the government to fight their existence. In any case, given that most of them operate in familiar turfs, it always complicates matters even more in terms of dismantling them.

2.2.5 Institutional Responses to Urban Insecurity

The risk of crime and insecurity has serious implications on governance and development. Tackling crime and addressing insecurity therefore is a top priority for any administration. One strategy of addressing this would be through effective and relevant policy formulation to address youth unemployment (Mapunda, 2010). Three approaches have in the past been used in dealing with urban crime, including voluntary initiatives, coercive measures and compliance-oriented measures (Kabiru et al, 2013).

Coercive measures entail forcefully inducing searches and seizures so as to locate criminals and mete appropriate punishment to them. This requires applying such methods as patrol cars, involving more police in patrols, and enforcing curfew where possible. According to Moser (2009) however, this strategy works in the short-term and may not be sustainable in combating crime and addressing insecurity consistently. The measure also requires enough resources and well-trained personnel. But in the Kenyan local scenario where police to population ratio is almost 1:1000, this approach may be farfetched since Kenya still has a long way to go before reaching international policing population standards (KHRC, 2011).

Compliance-oriented intervention is geared towards enhancing legislation and initiatives that advocate for crime prevention rather than looking forward to addressing the aftermath. Relevant legislation makes it clear on how to dissuade crime-prone groups from participating in criminal activities. Voluntary initiatives are directed at strengthening of local institutions and dealing with stigmatization of what would be viewed as deviant behaviours. Moser (2009) further argues that a multipronged approach where the three strategies are applied would be more effective. This implies that a strong partnership is encouraged between state and non-state agencies in the fight against crime and enhancing security.

According to Nairobi Annual Crime Observatory Report 0f 2011/2012, there was a strong relationship between crime occurrence and the general environment in which the crime actually takes place. For instance, urban slums were more prone to criminal activities and insecurity than well planned rich urban neighbourhoods (KHRC, 2011). This has more to do with the fact that in wealthy residential areas individuals can better invest in security around their property and be able to take good care of their personal security (UN-Habitat, 2003). The UN-Habitat (2003) argues that under such circumstances, various players in security matters need to come on board to strongly deal with crimes in a more organized manner. Studies have further indicated that organized groups at the local level stand a better chance of addressing insecurity than individuals or the government entities. For instance, civil society organizations (CSOs), District Peace Committees (DPCs), Community Policing Committees (CPCs), and private security organizations are known to be more effective in marshaling their respective troops behind the common goal of addressing insecurity issues (Mapunda, 2010). Their level of organization also makes these groups better influence policy formulation on crime alleviation as well as practice.

Studies have indicated that there are numerous organized criminal gangs in poor urban areas such as crimes (Musoi, Muthama, Waiya and Kitiku, 2012). Musoi et al (2012) further argues that such criminal groups as Mungiki, Bagdad Boys, Siafu, sungu sungu and the Mombasa Republican Council (MRC) among other shadowy organized criminal groups commonly live in slums. This makes it difficult for government agencies to deal with them unless the local communities are involved for easier identification of these groups. According to Ndikaru (2011), some of these criminal groups were politically connected, and therefore needed well-organized community policing strategies to address them. Often these groups were ready for hire to perform dirty political works for violent politicians hence they enjoyed high levels of protection. Based on the tenets of Broken Windows Theory, conditions in slums create a certain level of disharmony amongst the community members hence forcing some of them to engage in lawless activities and anti-social behaviour as a way of reclaiming their positions in society. The situation may portray such members as lacking a sense of social cohesion due to their involvement in criminal activities.

According to KHRC (2011), ineffective coordination between different national security organs made it difficult to deal with insecurity in a decisive manner. For instance, KHRC (2011) argues that it was common knowledge that the Kenya Police was working almost independently with the Administration Police Service and yet the two institutions are constitutionally mandated to work collaboratively since they together form the National Police Service. This kind of co-existence was likely to jeopardize further the inter-agency relationships on security matters hence creating a security gap. Furthermore, uncoordinated working relationship between security agents poses challenges in sharing information and carrying out joint policing activities (Musoi et al, 2012). Different approaches have been applied to address the issue of insecurity in urban areas. However, this problem is still common in many towns and cities hence calling for a critical scrutiny. This study aims at also looking into strategies that can be used to best deal with insecurity in towns, with a specific focus on Nyamira Township.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

This study is guided by Structural Strain Theory (Robert Merton 1957) and Broken Window Theory (Philip Zimbardo 1969).

2.3.1 Structural Strain Theory (Robert Merton 1957)

Insecurity is often associated with people's behaviour in relation to their environment as they pursue their life goals. Developed in 1957 by Robert Merton, structural strain theory sought to explain the circumstances that lead people to be strained in their social environment, including feeling insecure. According to Merton (1957), people in every society experience strain whenever there is a mismatch between the culturally accepted goals and conventional or institutionalized means of achieving those goals. The social and cultural structures of society entails defined or culture goals and the means or modes through which to achieve these goals. The cultural goals should be recognized and valued as worth striving for. Examples of such goals may include wealth or material possessions. However, people who cannot achieve these goals will always resort to the use of shortcuts hence infringing on the rights of others in the process.

Related to insecurity, this theory attempts to explain how those who commit crimes are pushed to do so by their strenuous social environments. Under such circumstances, those who own more materials possessions will feel most insecure because they are worried of losing their wealth through criminal activities. This implies that the pursuit for customary accepted goals and the means to achieving those goals is no mean task.

Merton (1957) further asserts that in the course of achieving culturally accepted goals, there emerge five categories of people. These include what Merton calls conformists, ritualists, innovators, retreatists and the rebels. The theory explains that innovators are the strand of individuals that desire to achieve the cultural goals through whatever methods including using unconventional means. Examples of these groups may include robbers, drug dealers and generally thieves who acquire their goals through unsavory means. As innovators device their alternative means of achieving success, they jeopardize the general good of the public. This is because they employ unacceptable ways which result to criminal activities thus leading to insecurity to those who the theory refers to as conformists. A good example can be given of the youth who dutifully go to school expecting to be employed afterwards only to graduate and find that there are no job opportunities. The next move would be to device ways of acquiring survival means and this leads them to indulging in criminal activities. In such a situation the affected youth could invent kidnapping or mugging as ways of survival; which is a serious threat to public security.

The structural strain theory clearly portrays the relationship between the social environment and the level of insecurity in the society. It helps to explain both the reason behind committing crimes which result into insecurity and how those who are most affected by the state of insecurity may react to the situation.

2.3.2 Broken Window Theory

Propagated by Philip Zimbardo (1969), broken window theory is used to illustrate the relationship between informal policing and crime control as a measure to attaining security. The theory postulates that prevention and control of crime in the community through internal mechanisms was more practical and effective than employing external means. In this sense, it would imply that using vigilante groups in maintaining security in the community can work better than involving the police and official security agencies (Zimbardo, 1969). This theory views involving of police in maintaining security and order as an attempt to engage 'strangers' who do not understand the real security issues confronting the community they purport to police for.

Broken window theory further states that community members are best placed to safeguard their own security. Since these members come from the community, they can work and watch over the collective security all the time. This is unlike the police who may not have time to fully understand crime trends in area especially given the nature of their work as government officers where they are often reshuffled through transfers. Furthermore, based on knowledge of their neighbours and their social behaviours, community security members would be in a better position to tell of potential criminals and how to contain them.

This theory advocates for the principle of informal policing structure where there is constant maintenance of law and order by members of respective communities. At the centre of broken window theory is the notion that constant policing structure denies room to potential criminals to thrive hence maintaining a high sense of collective security. This line with this line of argument is the view by Palmiotto (2000) who argues that increased presence security agents and enforcement of informal rules can keep the community safer and encourage its members to go about their businesses freely. Broken window theory is relevant in explaining the concept of informal policing where concerted efforts by the vigilante groups and the police can yield better results in terms of

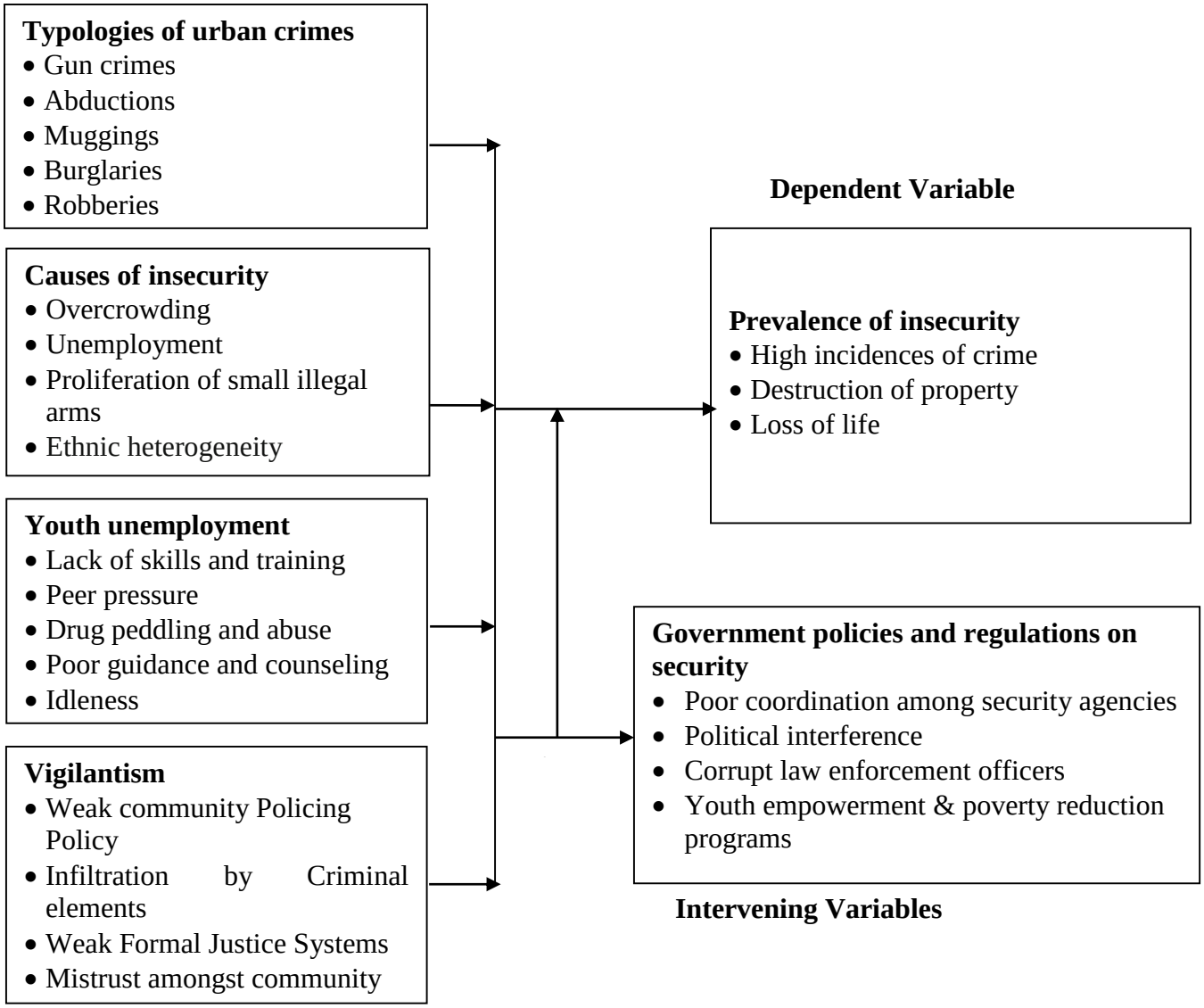
fighting insecurity. In this sense, the police and community members view one another as partners in combating crime and enhancing security.

The broken window theory further asserts that if there was an occurrence of any crack (crime) in the community and goes unnoticed or unaddressed by anyone then this would lead to serious repercussions to the members of the society. The assumption of this theory is that often neighbourhood crimes are committed by offenders who reside next to where the victims reside. This notion portrays crime as a local problem, which can be best addressed locally. Related to vigilant groups and maintenance of security, it is true that proximity to where crimes potentially occur and constant interactions with community informed the philosophy of community policing. However, based on alleged involvement of vigilante groups in criminal activities by colluding with criminals may point to the idea of familiarity leading to complicity. Thus this negates this line of thinking and defeats the purpose of community policing (Odinkalu, 2005; Odekunle, 2005).

2.4 Conceptual Framework

The study aims to establish factors that account for prevalence of insecurity in Nyamira Township, Nyamira County. Specific objectives include establishing the nature and causes of insecurity, assessing the relationship between youth unemployment and insecurity, finding out if the operations of vigilante groups have some influence on the crime rate, and identifying intervention strategies for addressing the prevalence of insecurity in Nyamira Township. Figure 2.1 presents a conceptual framework of the study, showing a pictorial connection between independent variables (factors) and the dependent variable (outcome). As illustrated in figure 2.1, there are four independent variables which are presented as nature of insecurity (X_1), causes of insecurity (X2), youth unemployment (X_3), vigilantism (X_4), and limiting urban insecurity (X_5) that can be used to address insecurity (Y). All the independent variables have a connection to the prevalence of insecurity in Nyamira Township. There are intervening variables which include government policies.

Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework



CHAPTER THREE
METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter outlines the methodology used in the study which comprises the site description, research design, units of analysis and units of observation, target population, sampling procedure, data collection methods and tools, validity and reliability of the research instruments, data analysis techniques and ethical considerations.

3.2 Site Description

This study was conducted in Nyamira Township in Nyamira County. As one of the forty seven counties in Kenya, Nyamira County covers about 900 square kilometres with a population of about 700,000. The county borders Kisii County to the west, Bomet County to the south, Kericho County to the east and Homa Bay County to the north (GoK, 2015). The Township falls within Nyamira sub-county, one of the five sub-counties in Nyamira County and it covers an area of about 179 km^2. Furthermore, Nyamira Township is one of the 3 major towns in the county; the others are Nyansiongo and Keroka. Based on KPS (2016) report, the rate of insecurity is high in Nyamira County where it accounted for 49.5% increase of crimes in 2016 as compared to 30.3% at the national level. Figure 3.1 is an illustrated map of the study site.

Figure 3.1 Administrative Location of Nyamira County in Kenyan Map

***Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS, 2013*)**

3.3 Research Design

According to Kothari (2013), any scientific study must be conducted within a well-understood framework that gives it a proper direction. A research design therefore is a blueprint that is intended to guide on how to generate answers to the research questions. It further guides on how the process of data collection, data analysis and data presentation is conducted.

This study used a descriptive research design for collecting and analyzing data, so as to elicit appropriate answers to the study problem. According to Orodho (2002), this kind of design is suitable for allowing the researcher to collect, summarize, interpret and present information clearly so as to address the research questions. Based on this framework, the researcher is able to collect data on specific characteristics of the study population and develop a report without manipulating any of the variables. This is because descriptive studies explain phenomena based on their social reality. Given the study's objective of explaining inferences or causal relationship between independent variables and levels of insecurity in Nyamira Township, this design assisted by eliciting crucial information on the study phenomenon, which was then collated and used to generate information on the study topic.

3.4 Unit of Analysis and Units of Observation

Units of analysis entail a group of elements from which an investigator can make certain inferences (Orodho, 2002). All the subjects in a target population must have some common observable features which are distinctive from other populations. Consequently, the unit of analysis was prevalence of insecurity in the area of study. Whereas the units of observation were: law enforcement agencies, CBOs, Community Policing Units, and Business Associations within the township.

3.5 Target Population and Sample Size

The study target population was interest groups in Nyamira Township that were directly or indirectly involved with public security. The units were identified purposively and spread in a representative manner. Details on the mode of selection, their number, and distribution are presented in the subsequent section. They were identified as law enforcement agencies, CBOs, Community policing units, and Business Community.

3.6 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure

A sample is a constituent of the general population, which is representative of that population. It is a subset of the population to which the researcher eventually generalizes the findings, and therefore the sample size must be representative of the target population. In order to understand which groups specifically dealt with security in the area of study, all the respondents were first identified using a purposive sampling technique. Respondents were drawn from clusters namely: law enforcement agencies, CBOs, community policing units, and the Business community. Grouping of the respondents into smaller strata reduced the cost for sampling since it was easier to identify the sub-groups while at the same time significantly reducing sampling errors (Merriam, 2008). It was more appropriate to interview local institutions than the common residents of Nyamira Township since, due to their respective roles in the community; they were best-placed to give relevant information for the study. Based on their respective unique roles in the Nyamira township community, each of these groups gave insightful data which was very relevant for addressing the study objectives. Convenient sampling was also used where suitable.

Purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling technique which involves picking respondents who are well-placed to give information required for the research problem. This procedure gives the researcher an opportunity to interview individuals who have a deeper understanding of the study theme. This helped in identifying various relevant groups from which the final sample was picked. On the other hand, stratified sampling is a probability sampling procedure that involves dividing the target population into small non-overlapping sub-groups/strata, on the basis of their unique characteristics or role. Thereafter, a random selection was used to select the final subjects in a proportionate manner.

The potential respondents were first identified from various relevant government departments and offices. For instance, the number of CBOs was obtained from the sub-county Community Development office; Business Community Organizations were identified through the sub-county Trade and Commerce office; Community Policing units were identified through the local Chief's office; and records of law enforcement agencies were obtained from the Deputy County Commissioner's office. Thus, after purposively identifying the respondents and grouping them into unique strata in terms of Law Enforcement, CBOs, Community Policing Units and Business Community, a representative sample was then picked from each category. The Kathuri and Pals

sampling formula of 20-30% was used to select a sample where the upper limit of 30% was used to select 120 respondents from all the four categories. The formula used was (n=30/100*N). This summary is presented in table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Sample Size

Category	**Total Population (N)**	**Frequency (n)**	**Percentage (%)**
Law enforcement Agencies	83	25	21.0
Community Based on Organizations (CBOs)	93	28	23.0
Community Policing units	97	29	24.0
Business Community Organizations	127	38	32.0
Total	**400**	**120**	**100.0**

3.7 Data Collection Methods and Tools

Primary data was collected from the field using a structured questionnaire and interview guide. A mixed method approach was employed whereby both quantitative and qualitative data was used. The questionnaire had both closed-ended and open-ended questions. While closed-ended questions were easy to analyze statistically, open-ended questions provided the respondents with the opportunity to give additional information in form of clarifications, comments or suggestions. The questionnaire was generally preferred due to its ability to capture a lot of information with ease and within a relatively short time. Besides, a questionnaire facilitates easier coding and analysis of data after fieldwork. The interview guide was suitable for FGDs. Respondents for FGDs were sampled through purposive sampling technique, and these gave more detailed data to complement the quantitative data collected using a questionnaire.

Data collection was conducted through face-to-face interviews whereby respondents were interviewed at their places of convenience. Officials and ordinary members of the target groups were interviewed. Officials were viewed in terms of chairman, secretary or treasure. The interviewing team booked appointments to go and interview respondents at the time and in places that suited them more. This saved time during field work hence completing the exercise in good time. FGDs on the other hand were conducted in township/county halls, school or church grounds/halls depending on availability and cost. The whole exercise of data collection took approximately one month to complete.

3.8 Validity and Reliability of Research Instruments

Validity has been described as the ability of a research instrument to measure what it was meant to measure and perform as it was designed to (Kothari, 2013). Validity indicates a measure of relevance and correctness of an instrument, hence a sign of the soundness of that tool. The questionnaire was tested for both content and constructs validity. The researcher tapped into the expertise of his supervisor and ensured that the content of the questionnaire helped in achieving the study objectives. Besides this, construct validity was used to check the agreeability of various constructs.

Pretesting of the instrument was also done to ascertain whether the questions were acceptable, well-understood and answerable. Pretesting of the research tool also helped to reveal any vague questions so that they could be reviewed for the purpose of capturing the right and unambiguous information. Piloting of the instrument was done to at least five respondents who were not involved in the actual study.

Kothari (2013) defines reliability as a measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent information or data after repeated trials. This contributes to standardization of a research tool so that the results of a study can be generalizable to the general population. Besides using half-split test method to gauge reliability of the instrument, data from the pilot test was keyed into SPSS and thereafter Cronbach's alpha was generated. The Cronbach's alpha helps to check internal consistency of the questionnaire based on average inter-item correlation. A figure of 0.7-1.0 is considered to indicate reliability of the instrument.

3.9 Data Analysis Techniques

After data collection, both quantitative and qualitative data was organized and coded for data analysis. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive data analysis techniques aided by SPSS software program and Excel worksheets. According to Kothari (2013), descriptive statistics entail developing some indices from the raw data so that they can be organized into a sensible format such as in form frequencies and percentages. The data was presented by use of frequency tables. Qualitative data on the other hand was organized and analyzed using coding, pattern and content analysis techniques. Content analysis procedure helped in making objective and systematic inferences from field collected data. A critical analysis of each narrative response was then

examined using thematic interpretation in line with the main objective of the study. Analyzed qualitative data was presented through narrative quotations within the main text report. This implied that emerging themes were described qualitatively in an attempt to bring out the distinct relationship between independent and dependent variables.

3.10 Ethical Considerations

After securing an approval from the University Department to proceed for fieldwork, the researcher sought another approval from the National Commission of Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) to allow him to conduct research on the proposed topic. During the actual data collection process, research ethics were strictly observed based on the principles of informed consent, confidentiality and anonymity. The respondents were clearly informed of the intention of the study so that they could make informed decisions regarding their participation. They were also assured of a high level of confidentiality concerning the information they shared. In addition, they were assured of the researcher's efforts not to reveal their actual identity even at the level of publishing the data. They were also assured that the information given would only be used for the purpose of the research where it was not to be shared with any other individual or institution.

Generally, the researcher took personal responsibility to ensure that the respondents participated in the study based on their clear understanding of pros and cons of participating in the study. The researcher also strove to keep to the time schedule and conducted interviews diligently and at the venue convenient for the respondents. Respect for intellectual property was be highly observed by properly acknowledging all the contributors to the study and through correct citations.

CHAPTER FOUR
DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

4.0 Introduction

This study intended to establish factors that account for the prevalence of insecurity in Nyamira Township, in Nyamira County. The specific study objectives included the typologies of crime associated with insecurity, to assess the correlation between youth unemployment and insecurity, to find out the extent to which vigilantism is a contributory factor to crime commission, and to identify intervention strategies for addressing the prevalence of insecurity in Nyamira Township. This chapter presents the findings of the study, interpretation and discussion of the same. The presentation and discussion is done in line with the objectives of the study.

4.1 Background Information

The respondents were categorized in terms of law enforcement agencies, community based organizations, community policing units, and the business community. In that order, their frequencies comprised of 25, 28, 29 and 38, totaling a sample of 120 respondents.

4.1.1 Questionnaire Return Rate

From the sampled population of 120 respondents, 97 of them managed to successfully complete the interviews. This accounted for 80.8% response rate. Throughout the entire fieldwork process, respondents were interviewed in their places of work, and strict follow-ups were made to ensure an impressive questionnaire return rate. However there were cases where the respondents could not be found because of their very busy schedules. In some instances there were those who were available but politely said they did not want to be interviewed. No respondent was forced to participate in the study, and all of those who participated did that on their own volition. Based on the statistics, a bigger percentage of Community Policing units participated in the study while comparatively, Law Enforcement Agencies, had the least number of participants. Generally however, the overall response rate was good for analysis. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), a response rate of 70% above is very sufficient to guarantee an objective analysis. Table 4.1 presents a summary of these statistics.

Table 4.1: Questionnaire Return Rate

Category	Sample Size		Response Rate	
	Frequency n	Percentage %	Frequency n	Percentage %
Law enforcement Agencies	25	20.8	19	76.0
Community based organizations (CBOs)	28	23.3	22	78.6
Community policing units	29	24.2	25	86.2
Business community	38	31.7	31	81.6
Total	120	100.0	97	80.8

4.1.2 Distribution of Respondents by Position Held in Organization

The respondents were also grouped in terms of their position in their respective organization. Based on the findings, 19 chairmen, 23 secretaries, 17 treasurers, and 38 ordinary members were interviewed, accounting for 19.6%, 23.7%, 17.5%, and 39.2% of those interviewed respectively. From this analysis, there was a near balance in terms of information obtained from diverse sources based on respective offices/official positions that the respondents held. Table 4.2 presents this summary.

Table 4.2: Respondents' Positions

Position in Organization	Frequency n	Percentage %
Chairman	19	19.6
Secretary	23	23.7
Treasurer	17	17.5
Ordinary member	38	39.2
Total	**97**	100.0

4.1.3 Distribution of Respondents by Duration Served in the Organization

Regarding the duration the respondents had served in their respective organizations, 50.5% said they had been members of their organizations for 1-3 years, 21.6% for 4-6 years, 17.5% for 7-9 years, and 10.3% for 10 years & above. From this analysis, it can be inferred that having served for

at least one year, all the respondents understood well their respective roles. This further implied that they were qualified to give qualitative data for addressing the research questions. The summary is presented in table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Duration of Membership in the Organization

Duration in Organization (in Years)	Frequency n	Percentage %
1-3.	49	50.5
4-6.	21	21.6
7-9.	17	17.5
10 & above	10	10.3
Total	**97**	**100.0**

4.1.4 Frequency of Participation in Groups' Monthly Meetings

Asked about the frequency of their attendance to the monthly meetings by their respective groups, 32.0% of the respondents said they never attended, 23.7% said rarely, 19.6% said once, 15.5% said twice while 9.3% said thrice. These statistics indicate that majority of the respondents were not very committed to security matters as a group. On the other hand, it would seem that there was no effective coordination amongst different security interest groups. This scenario was likely to derail security initiatives at the community level. These findings are illustrated in table 4.4.

Table 4.4: Frequency of Attendance of Monthly Meetings

Frequency of Meetings Attendance	Frequency n	Percentage %
Thrice	9	9.3
Twice	15	15.5
Once	19	19.6
Rarely	23	23.7
Never	31	32.0
Total	**97**	**100.0**

4.1.5 Kind of Activities Undertaken by Various Stakeholder Organizations

A number of activities were being undertaken by the organizations responsible for maintaining security in Nyamira Township. These included policing, reporting of crime incidences, and advising the young people against crimes among other roles. According to the Law Enforcement

Agencies, they represented the government on the ground and were charged with the responsibility of ensuring that crime rate was to the bare minimum. As one inspector of police said:

> *"We are the eyes and ears of the government on the ground and our responsibility is to ensure that crime is fought by all means. In the spirit of community policing, we are also keen on working in a coordinated manner with the local communities and other recognized community groups to ensure that crimes are reported immediately".*

For community based organizations, given their proximity to the community, they were also charged with the responsibility of closely working with individuals and household as well as local leaders to combat crimes. Besides trying to empower community members hence dissuading them from involvement in criminal activities, they were also keen on noting any deviant behaviours among any groups or individuals and liaising with the police so that such suspects could be apprehended. As chairman of one of the CBOs said:

> *"Given our unique position of working closely with the local people, we are in close touch with almost all corners of the community within our jurisdictions and therefore best placed to inform law enforcers of any suspected criminal activities. We have done this a number of times, and our actions have often paid dividends. Our resolve is to continue executing this role and ensuring that security is always guaranteed in our community and the whole township.*

Community policing units were also active. These included Village Elders, Youth groups and vigilantes among others. Some of them indicated that as much as they worked closely with the government security apparatus to ensure security in their localities, they also participated in disciplining some suspects when there was need and depending on the circumstances and level of crime at hand. They also reported crimes to the police and chiefs' offices as soon as they suspected the same. For the case of vigilante groups, they indicated that often they dealt with they termed 'hardcore' criminals by sometimes giving them some strokes of the cane. Similarly, the business community had the role of reporting criminal or insecurity issues to the relevant authorities. Mokua, one of the FGD participants had this to say:

> *"Our role as the business community is to ensure that we report any suspicious activities to the authorities so that they can help us deal with crime and insecurity in our business areas. Otherwise, it will be very difficult to operate any business and expect any profit if we are operating in an insecure environment. We come together always once in a while to deliberate on matters security, especially in cases where we realize there are many such incidences happening. But our*

strengths lie in the fact that we fight insecurity together with other agencies".

4.2 Typologies of Crime in Nyamira Township

The study sought to investigate the types of crimes commonly reported in Nyamira Township. This was to help understand how rampant certain specific crimes were, and what needed to be done to address them. Asked if they had experienced or witnessed any insecurity in Nyamira Township in the last one month, majority (52.6%) of the respondents said yes while 47.4% said no. this summary is illustrated in table 4.5.

Table 4.5 Were Instances of Insecurity Witnessed/Experienced?

Response	**Frequency n**	**Percentage %**
Yes	51	52.6
No	46	47.4
Total	**97**	**100.0**

Based on the above findings, 51 (52.6%) of the respondents said that they experienced or witnessed instances of insecurity against 46 (47.4%) who said that they did not. Some of the commonly experienced or witnessed form of insecurities in Nyamira township included petty crimes such as snatching of phones or other values from individuals walking in public places, muggings, assaults and stealing among others. These were attributed to many unemployed and idling young people who had been pushed into petty criminal activities for their survival.

Furthermore, based on a scale of 1-5 where 1 meant strongly disagreed and 5 represented strongly agreed, respondents were asked their opinions on the frequency of various aspects of crime in the township. Table 4.6 gives a summary of the findings based on various types of crimes and the frequency with which they occurred.

Table 4.6 Frequency of Various Crimes

Types of Crimes	***1= strongly disagree***	***2= disagree***	***3= neutral***	***4= agree***	***5= strongly agree***	***Total***
	n(%)	***n(%)***	***n(%)***	***n(%)***	***n(%)***	***n(%)***
Gun crimes	13(13.4)	17(17.5)	29(29.9)	23(23.7)	15(14.5)	97(100)
Abductions	17(17.5)	21(21.6)	16(16.5)	25(25.8)	18(18.6)	97(100)
Muggings	6(6.2)	9(9.3)	4(4.1)	41(42.3)	37(38.1)	97(100)
Burglaries	15(15.5)	19(19.6)	31(32.0)	19(19.6)	13(13.4)	97(100)
Robberies	9(9.3)	12(12.4)	13(13.4)	33(34.0)	30(30.9)	97(100)
Sex offences	10(10.3)	14(14.4)	14(14.4)	35(36.1)	24(24.7)	97(100)
Other crimes	5(5.2)	18(18.6)	19(19.6)	28(28.9)	27(27.8)	97(100)

Based on the above summary, while many respondents had the opinion that gun crime was common in Nyamira Township, 30% of them were not sure if this was the case. This perhaps had to do with the fact gun crime was a sophisticated form of insecurity hence not obviously witnessed by most of the residents. Regarding the abductions, a significant proportion of the respondents (26%) agreed that this was common, with the minority strongly disagreeing. On muggings, the overwhelming majority generally agreed that this was common where 42% and 38% respectively agreed and strongly agreed that this was common. The overwhelming number of the respondents who agreed and strongly agreed could be due to the fact that muggings are a common petty crime where victims are snatched their small valuables at any slightest opportunity for the muggers. Most of the perpetrators of these crimes were young boys who targeted mostly unsuspecting women walking on the streets within the township.

Concerning burglaries, 32% of the respondents said they were not sure about its frequency while a minority (13%) strongly agreed that this type of crime was common. However, the trend was different regarding robberies where 34% agreed that this was a common phenomenon while the minority (9%) strongly disagreed that. Sex offences such as rape, defilement and sexual assaults were also considered to be common, with 36% agreeing that this was a frequent occurrence. Other

common offences included stealing and other petty crimes where 29% and 28% respectively agreed and strongly agreed that these were happening.

From these findings, it is evident that although in varied frequencies, various forms of crime were common in Nyamira Township. This means that for the security stakeholders to manage this problem, they need to put in more efforts. Some of the strategies could be to increase community policing and enhance deployment of police on patrol. Another important strategy may be to institute surveillance mechanisms such as CCTV. In line with what a previous study by Mapunda (2010) revealed, it turned out that the common urban crimes that greatly contributed to insecurity include personal, property and commercial crimes. In this past study, personal crimes commonly experienced were such as robbery, theft and physical assault. The revelations were further in tandem with the position by UN-Habitat (2008) that robbery, theft and physical assault were the most common forms of crimes committed in urban settings. There were also cases of muggings, abductions, and gun crimes. Based on the findings there were insecurity issues such as muggings, robberies and sex offences among others in Nyamira Township that needed to be addressed for the sake of harmonious existence of the residents. This would call for concerted efforts by all concerned arms of the government who needed to team up with the public to end the problem.

4.3 Impact of Youth Unemployment on Crime Commission

Some studies have linked youth unemployment to insecurity and high rates of crime, especially in urban areas. This study sought to understand the link between youth unemployment and insecurity in Nyamira Township. Asked to what extent youth unemployment contributed to insecurity in the township, 42.3% said that the phenomenon contributed to a large extent while 35.1% said that it contributed to a very large extent. No respondents (0%) said that youth unemployment did not contribute to insecurity at all while only 9.3% of them had the opinion that it contributed to insecurity only to a small extent. Table 4.7 illustrates a summary of these responses.

Table 4.7 Perceived Impact of Youth Unemployment on Insecurity

Extent of Influence	Frequency n	Percentage %
1=not at all	0	0.0
2=small extent	9	9.3
3=moderate extent	13	13.4
4=large extent	41	42.3
5=very large extent	34	35.1
Total	**97**	**100.0**

While explaining how youth unemployment contributed to insecurity in Nyamira Township, it emerged that the youths were the main perpetrators. Idleness of the youths as a result of high levels of unemployment led majority of them to engage in criminal activities for their survival. The youths were further engaged in drug abuse and peddling as a mode of survival, which led them to commit even bigger crimes as a result of the influence of the dangerous drugs. The excerpt below corroborates the view:

> *"It is common to find young people who have been lured into drugs, either as peddlers working for drug lords or as abusers of the same. As peddlers, chances of the young people graduating into drug abusers are very high. This ultimately leads them to indulging in other serious crimes such as sexual defilements, muggings, and stealing among other forms of crime. What this means is that eventually, these young people become a serious security risk. Those stimulants they take when they start abusing drugs sometimes make them feel on top of the world hence fearless to the authorities. In addition, the mere fact that they do not have reliable sources of income makes them more vulnerable to all sorts of crime. Some of them start to indulge in petty crimes as a pastime only to be addicted to it and eventually become big security threats".*

The respondents were also asked their opinion regarding specific aspects of youth unemployment in relation to insecurity in Nyamira Township. From the statistics below, majority (36%) and 34% of those interviewed pointed out that lack of work-related skills and training among the youth was a factor to insecurity in Nyamira Township. Due to high levels of unemployment among the youths and their parents' inability to pay for their higher education after KCSE exams, a significant number of them turned to crime for survival. Lose of hope in life pushed some of them to indulge in drinking, and this aggravated their bad situations. Similar trend was noticed regarding whether majority cases of insecurity in Nyamira Township involved the youth, where 39% and 36% respectively strongly agreed and agreed that this was actually the case. Furthermore, 39% and 33%

agreed and strongly agreed respectively that peer pressure among the youth contributed to high levels of insecurity in Nyamira Township. Some of the young men in criminal activities were likely to influence their friends especially so that the latter could also buy some items for themselves. Peer pressure was also to happen where those who are yet to become criminals want to prove a point to their friends, and possibly feel that they also belong to their peers' groups. In equal measure, 32% agreed that drug use and abuse contributed to insecurity in Nyamira Township while 28% strongly agreed with this proposition. Other factors which were grouped under 'other' included individual ambitions and poor role modeling among others. However, a significant 24% of the respondents disagreed with the fact that poor guidance and counseling contributed to high levels of insecurity in Nyamira Township, whereas 22% were unsure if this was actually the case. These sentiments are captured in table 4.8.

Table 4.8 Relationship between Youth Unemployment and Insecurity

Youth Unemployment & Insecurity	***1= strongly disagree***	***2= disagree***	***3= neutral***	***4= agree***	***5= strongly agree***	***Total***
	n(%)	***n(%)***	***n(%)***	***n(%)***	***n(%)***	***n(%)***
Lack of work-related skills and training is a factor to insecurity	7(7.2)	9(9.3)	13(13.4)	33(34.0)	35(36.1)	97(100)
Majority cases of insecurity involve the youth	6(6.2)	7(7.2)	11(11.3)	35(36.1)	38(39.2)	97(100)
Peer pressure among the youth contributes to high levels of insecurity in Nyamira Township	3(3.1)	6(6.2)	18(18.6)	38(39.2)	32(33.0)	97(100)
Drug use and abuse contribute to insecurity	11(11.3)	15(15.5)	13(13.4)	31(32.0)	27(27.8)	97(100)
Poor guidance and counseling contribute to high levels of insecurity	19(19.6)	23(23.7)	21(21.6)	18(18.6)	16(16.5)	97(100)
Other contributory factors to insecurity (e.g. high ambitions, poor role models etc.)	9(9.3)	14(14.4)	14(14.4)	35(36.1)	25(25.8)	97(100)

Based on the above findings regarding youth unemployment and insecurity in Nyamira Township, it was clear that joblessness by the young people significantly contributed to insecurity. Previous studies had also pointed out to this connection. For instance, Muchai (2012) had linked unemployment and increasing vulnerability among young people to rising crime rate as a precursor for insecurity. Similarly, ILO (2010) found out that high levels of youth unemployment on the basis of minimal skills and training is a catalyst of insecurity in society. A previous study by Kimani-Murage et al (2014) also concluded that unemployed youth living especially in urban informal settlements had become a big security threat due to idleness. Similar sentiments were expressed by UN (2011) who opined that poverty and pessimism pushed the young people in towns and cities to participate in lawlessness so as to make up for what their state of unemployment cannot provide. Furthermore, based on a United Nations report on the employment status of the youth in Africa, it is evident that the generally high level of unemployment has led to increase in crime among young people (UN, 2012) hence becoming security risks. An earlier study by Ojo (2012) also indicated that indulgence in drug peddling and abuse by unemployed and disillusioned youths, is one of the security risks especially in urban areas of developing countries.

4.4 Relationship between Vigilantism and Insecurity

There were some vigilante groups working in Nyamira Township, but which were largely known to the locals as village security groups. Asked to what extent these groups contributed to insecurity in the area, a significant 66% of the respondents said that this happened to small or moderate extent. Nevertheless, a significant proportion attributed it to vigilantism to a large extent. However, an overwhelming majority (66%) attributed it to a small extent, with 7% of the respondents not attributing insecurity to them at all. Some of the cases of insecurity caused included arbitrary arrest of the residents, especially the youth, on trumped-up charges, framing perceived enemies, and beating up ‘criminals’ without following the due process to have them arrested and arraigned in courts to face the law through the legal processes. They were also accused of extorting money from innocent local people on false allegations hence creating immense and constant fear among the residents among other crimes. One law enforcement respondents observed:

> *“Although the vigilantes are slowly reducing in the area due to governments’ increased presence in the area to deal with insecurity, there are still remnants who continue to terrorize people whenever an opportunity presents itself. Unlike in the past when they were all over, I think the impact of the county*

government on the ground has somehow reduced their heinous activities against the locals. For the few groups still around, whenever they get an opportunity, they extort money from some people with the promise that they will help them in the administration of justice; like in cases where someone has lost property through stealing. Of course they do not provide any meaningful recourse but you know some people who may be in desperate situation can be gullible".

The above sentiments captured the common feelings about the vigilante groups which the overwhelming majority (66%) of the locals felt they caused more harm than good. While a number of people said that the vigilante used to accord them instant justice whenever they faced security issues, others said that they had never actually approved vigilantism as form of justice system. Generally, the sentiments expressed are summarized in table 4.9.

Table 4.9 Perceived Impact of Vigilantism on Insecurity

Extent of Influence	**Frequency n**	**Percentage %**
1=not at all	7	7.2
2=small extent	32	33.0
3=moderate extent	32	33.0
4=large extent	15	15.5
5=very large extent	11	11.3
Total	**97**	**100.0**

Furthermore, on a 5-point Likert scale, the respondents expressed mixed feelings about how vigilantism contributed to insecurity in Nyamira Township. Regarding whether there was inadequate community policing policies that made vigilantism a security threat in Nyamira Township, majority (26%) of the respondents disagreed while 22% said they were not sure. However, 56% of them agreed that infiltration by criminal gangs had transformed vigilantism to a security threat in the township. Operating behind the name of community policing, some groups had resorted to extorting money from community members who would be suspected of criminal activities. Others used their positions to terrorize individuals who were, at any given time, not in agreement with them on certain issues in their localities. Some groups were also alleged to be on politicians' payrolls to terrorize the latter's perceived political opponents. A more or less similar trend was witnessed regarding the proposition that inadequate formal justice systems made vigilantism a security threat in Nyamira Township. Twenty four percent agreed while 22%

disagreed. Furthermore, 30% of the respondents disagreed while 25% strongly disagreed that mistrust amongst community members made vigilantism a security threat in Nyamira Township. It also emerged that 27% as the majority agreed that vigilante groups should be abolished in order to improve the state of security in the township, while the minority (14%) said they were unsure if this needed to happen. Besides, those who were interviewed thought that there were other ways in which vigilantism promoted insecurity in Nyamira Township. These included such things as favouritism & nepotism; which 32% and 28% of the respondents respectively agreed and strongly agreed with. Generally, the whole question of vigilantism was viewed by government agencies as a serious breach of peace and security in the area. These sentiments were well captured by on Law Enforcement respondent who said this:

> *"It is no secret that vigilantes cause a lot of mayhem in the area hence a security threat. Despite a reduction of their activities since the introduction of devolved government, they sometimes still get involved in wrangles with the public, especially on pretext that they are helping in curbing insecurity. The government is however trying its best to root out this group once and for all."*

The expression above is a pointer to the fact that vigilantism has over time mutated into a security threat, rather than a solution to the problem. It further implies that the government and other important security players needs to approach the issue of vigilantism with caution in order to deal with insecurity in the area of study and restore public confidence in the government. A summary of these responses is given in table 4.10.

Table 4.10 Impact of Vigilantism on Insecurity

Vigilantism & Insecurity	***1=strongly disagree***	***2=disagree***	***3=neutral***	***4= agree***	***5= strongly agree***	***Total***
	n(%)	***n(%)***	***n(%)***	***n(%)***	***n(%)***	***n(%)***
Inadequate community policing policies makes vigilantism a security threat	19(19.6)	25(25.8)	21(21.6)	17(17.5)	15(15.5)	97(100)
Infiltration by criminal gangs has transformed vigilantism into a security threat	7(7.2)	13(13.4)	23(23.7)	29(29.9)	25(25.8)	97(100)
Poor formal justice system makes vigilantism a security threat	17(17.5)	21(21.6)	19(19.6)	23(23.7)	17(17.5)	97(100)
Mistrust amongst community members makes vigilantism a security threat	24(24.7)	29(29.9)	9(9.3)	21(21.6)	14(14.4)	97(100)
Vigilante groups should be abolished in order to improve the state of security in the township	22(22.7)	26(26.8)	17(17.5)	18(18.6)	14(14.4)	97(100)
Other ways in which vigilantism promotes insecurity in the town	13(13.4)	15(15.5)	11(11.3)	31(32.0)	27(27.8)	97(100)

The findings of this study were largely in agreement with previous researches which had portrayed vigilantism as a likely threat to security. Despite the common argument that community members were in a better position to know who their neighbours were and what they did (Nyaura and Ngugi, 2014), there was no mechanism to vet individuals to serve in the position of vigilante groups. Therefore, the bad elements were likely to take advantage of the situation and involve themselves in criminal activities (Chikwendu, Nwankwo and Oli, 2016). Although some communities had resorted to employing vigilante groups as protest note to the government for not providing enough security to its citizens, Chukwuma (2011) found out that this approach was often counterproductive since some of the vigilantes were likely to take law into their own hands, especially when it came to executing personal interest or interests of their friends. This study therefore clearly showed that the public had mixed feelings about vigilantism as a means to curb insecurity.

4.5 Sectoral Responses to Insecurity

One of the objectives of the study was to identify intervention strategies for addressing the prevalence of insecurity in Nyamira Township. Asked to state to what extent they thought insecurity would be minimized in the town, the respondents had varied responses. Majority (38%) thought that this would be managed to a very large extent while 36% said this was possible to a large extent. Only 3% had a feeling that this would not be managed at all. Overall, it would appear that a greater majority of those who were interviewed had confidence that the authorities were in a position to address insecurity in the township. These sentiments are summarized in table 4.11.

Table 4.11: To what Extent can Insecurity be Minimized?

Minimizing Insecurity	**Frequency n**	**Percentage %**
1=not at all	3	3.1
2=small extent	6	6.2
3=moderate extent	16	16.5
4=large extent	35	36.1
5=very large extent	37	38.1
Total	**97**	**100.0**

Asked to explain who should act on the insecurity problem and why, respondents explained that it was majorly the work of the government to ensure that there was enough security in the township for the residents to be able to go about their businesses normally. This feeling was clearly captured by Mike, one of the respondents in the following words:

> *"The government has the responsibility to ensure that people live in a secure environment. This means that both the central government and the county government should work hand in hand to make sure that we live in peace and in a crime free environment. The police in particular should do their job well. And they should collaborate with the public to cement the principle of public-private partnership where crimes are reported by members of the public as and when they occur".*

The above feelings were echoed by sentiments by the key informants who also observed that government agencies had the onus to ensure that insecurity was dealt with to allow people live in harmony where they are assured that they would not lose their property or their lives to criminals. Mr. Kipchirchir (not his real name), a police officer responded:

> *"We are always doing our best to guarantee security for the residents of this township. Although there are always challenges here and there regarding policing, I can say that generally things are improving. We are trying our best to work with the public and other arms of the government to eradicate crime and ensure that every resident has the right to move and operate normally."*

The respondents were also asked to explain what needs to be done in order to minimize insecurity in the township. Some of the strategies included for the security agencies to work closely with the community members so that crimes can be reported as and when they occur. Inter-agency coordination also needed to be enhanced so that crimes can be fought more decisively.

Furthermore, the respondents were asked about their opinions on different aspects regarding prevention strategies for insecurity in Nyamira Township. On a 5-point Likert scale where 1=strongly disagree and 5=strongly agree, majority (30%) of the respondents disagreed that a lot had been achieved by security agencies in addressing insecurity in Nyamira Township. However, majority (47%) and 41% respectively agreed and strongly agreed that concerted efforts were needed from all security stakeholders so as to make Nyamira Township secure. No one had a dissenting view on this. A number of those who were interviewed also had the feeling that the police service was not well equipped to deal with insecurity in Nyamira Township. In this sense, 42% of them as a significant majority agreed that more severe punishment should be imposed on criminals as the best strategy for maintaining security in Nyamira Township. In addition to the identified strategies, there were others which the respondents agreed that they were important in addressing insecurity. One of these was strengthening of public-private partnership so that insecurity can be fought by the government in cooperation with the public. These responses are summarized in table 4.12.

Table 4.12 How to Mitigate Insecurity in the Town

Insecurity Intervention Strategies	***1= strongly disagree***	***2= disagree***	***3= neutral***	***4= agree***	***5= strongly agree***	***Total***
	n (%)	***n(%)***	***n(%)***	***n(%)***	***n(%)***	***n(%)***
Increase police patrols	23(23.7)	29(29.9)	14(14.4)	16(16.5)	15(15.5)	97(100)
Increase community policing initiatives	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	11(11.3)	46(47.4)	40(41.2)	97(100)
Equip the police service well so that they can fight crimes better	19(19.6)	24(24.7)	23(23.7)	17(17.5)	14(14.4)	97(100)
More severe punishment should be imposed on local criminals as a security strategy	9(9.3)	16(16.5)	7(7.2)	41(42.3)	24(24.7)	97(100)
Strengthen public-private partnership)	7(7.2)	12(12.4)	11(11.3)	35(36.1)	32(33.0)	97(100)

In general terms, the respondents were asked to conclude the interviews by briefly explaining the crime typologies, the relationship between youth unemployment and insecurity, the link between vigilantism and crime rate, and intervention strategies for addressing the prevalence of insecurity in Nyamira Township. Regarding the typologies, there were petty crimes such as muggings and snatching of small valuables especially in dark alleys which mostly happened during odd hours. There were also a few incidences of sex offences and rare cases gun crimes and abductions.

All these cases were linked to high level of youth unemployment, and the vigilante groups which sometimes turned to be a security threat. However, there was a general feeling that the government and other stakeholders in the security sector were doing a lot to address insecurity in Nyamira Township. This included enhancing the cooperation between the public and government security agencies.

High crime and rampant insecurity posed serious threats to governance and development. Thus, this called for concerted efforts by all security players to deal with. Like the findings of this study suggest, a previous study by Mapunda (2010) had indicated that youth unemployment needed to be addressed so as to reduce potential criminals who were mostly young people. A working policy also needed to be instituted so that fighting crime and restoring public security was made easier.

CHAPTER FIVE
SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the summary of the findings, conclusions and recommendations. It also makes suggestions for future studies. The summary and the conclusions are based on the four specific objectives of the study while the recommendations and suggestions for future studies emanate from the general findings of the study.

5.2 Findings of the Study

The study attempted to establish factors that account for the prevalence of insecurity in Nyamira Township in Nyamira County. Specifically, the study sought: to establish the typologies of crime associated with insecurity, to assess the correlation between youth unemployment and insecurity, to find out the extent to which vigilantism is a contributory factor to crime commission, and to identify intervention strategies for addressing the prevalence of insecurity in Nyamira Township.

5.2.1 Typologies of Crime and Insecurity

From the findings, there were a number of crimes of different nature that contributed to insecurity in Nyamira Township. Majority (53%) of those who were interviewed affirmed that they had experienced or witnessed some insecurity in township for the last one month while 47% denied that they had such an experience with the same period of time. Gun crimes, abductions, muggings, burglaries, robberies, sex offences, stealing and other petty crimes were some of the common forms of crime in the township. In terms of frequency of occurrence, abductions, muggings, robberies, stealing and sex offences appeared to being commonly experienced. For instance, a significant majority of the respondents agreed that abductions (26%), muggings (42%), robberies (34%) and stealing (28%) were experienced regularly.

5.2.2 Relationship between Youth Unemployment and Insecurity

Youth unemployment was portrayed as having a significant influence on insecurity in Nyamira Township. A significant majority (77%) of those who were interviewed said that the phenomenon contributed to a large extent. No respondents (0%) said that youth unemployment did not contribute

to insecurity at all while only 9% of them had the opinion that it contributed to insecurity only to a small extent. Regarding the role of youth unemployment on insecurity, lack of work-related skills and training among the youth appeared to greatly influence insecurity in Nyamira Township where 70% agreed with this proposition. There were also other specific factors such as peer pressure among the youth, drug use and abuse, and poor guidance and counseling as well as high ambitions and poor role modeling, which happened due to idleness and caused the young people to involve themselves in crime and insecurity.

5.2.3 Effect of Vigilantism on Insecurity

The findings of the study portrayed vigilantism as both a security threat and a security solution to the residents of Nyamira Township. A significant majority (33%) of the respondents said that vigilante groups contributed to insecurity in the township to a small extent. However, the general feeling was that vigilantism played a very big role in creating insecurity in the area. Some of the common cases of insecurity caused included arbitrary arrest of the residents, especially the youth, on trumped-up charges, framing of perceived enemies, and flogging of 'criminals' without subjecting them to due process, by having them arrested and arraigned in courts. The vigilante groups were also accused of extorting money from innocent local people on false allegations hence creating a lot of fear among the residents.

Inadequate community policing policies, inadequate formal justice systems, mistrust by community members, and infiltration of the vigilante groups by criminal gangs, and favouritism as well as nepotism were thought to be some of the factors that led to the mutation of vigilantism from a popular neighbourhood watch group to a security threat in the township. Thus, a significant proportion of respondents were therefore of the views that vigilante groups should be outlawed in order to improve the state of security in the township.

5.2.4 Addressing Insecurity in Nyamira Township

The study also sought to identify intervention strategies for addressing the prevalence of insecurity in Nyamira Township. A significant majority (74%) of the respondents thought that to a very large extent it was possible for the insecurity in the area to be managed. Overall, there was a lot of optimism that the menace of insecurity could be addressed by relevant security agencies. In terms

of what is needed to be done to guarantee security, it was evident that the question of community policing was still paramount. However, this needed to be given a clear and careful approach to avoid criminal groups infiltrating the formal security systems. Although a lot had been achieved in terms of general curbing of insecurity in the township, all security agencies needed to work closely with each other for better execution of their mandate. From a broader perspective, key societal issues such as high unemployment rate, corruption, mistrust between the government and the public, and weak security laws, needed to be addressed by the government as these greatly contributed to insecurity.

5.3 Conclusions

From the findings, it is evident that various forms of crimes were still common in Nyamira Township hence posing security risks. This means that for the security stakeholders to manage the problem, they needed to put in more efforts and work in a coordinated manner.

Unemployment was very rampant in Nyamira Township, hence posing serious security threats in the area. The situation called for the government to institute relevant policies to help create employment for the young people as a way of engaging their time and making them busy and in the process keeping them away from crimes.

In the case of Nyamira Township, vigilantism appeared to be more of a double-aged sword. As much as it was meant to address insecurity, it also posed security threats since some members were guided by personal interests. Therefore, for the interest of community policing, thorough vetting of the group's members should be mandatory if the organization is to remain useful to the community.

Regarding the strategies required to address insecurity, concerted efforts are clearly needed from all security stakeholders so as to make Nyamira Township secure. The police service needs to be well equipped in order to deal with insecurity in the area and more severe punishment to criminals is important for maintaining security in the township. Strengthening of public-private partnership is also imperative for addressing the insecurity menace.

5.4 Recommendations

The study elicited the following recommendations:

1. There is need for the county government and the national government to work hand in hand to address insecurity for the good of the public.
2. Both the national and the county governments should address the problem of youth unemployment in order to keep young people busy and enable them earn a living which will probably dissuade them from crime.
3. The government should enhance public-private security partnerships through such initiatives as community policing. However, there should be careful vetting of cluster members in order to ward off infiltration by criminal elements.
4. In order for the government to win the fight against insecurity, it should apply a multipronged approach, where both formal and informal security structures are collaborating effectively in the maintenance of peace and social order.

5.5 Suggestions for Further Studies

The study makes the following suggestions as possible topics to be researched in future:

1. A comparative assessment of factors influencing insecurity in other urban areas should be carried out. This will help to shed light to key factors that fuel insecurity in the urban areas of this country.
2. The relevant research institutions and security agencies should conduct a baseline research, with a view to establishing how the county and national Governments can collaborate in the provision of urban and rural security services, given the county governments' better understanding of local insecurities and proximity to local security issues.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: INTRODUCTION LETTER

ONGANGA, MACHUMA DENNIS

P.O BOX ……

DATE……

Dear Respondent,

RE: <u>Research Questionnaire</u>

I am a postgraduate student from the University of Nairobi undertaking a study on **factors that account for the prevalence of insecurity in Nyamira Township in Nyamira County.** In order to fulfill this requirement, I have to collect information from knowledgeable residents of Nyamira Township on this subject. You are therefore considered as one of the people who can provide useful information for this study, my request for you to participate in this study.

Please note that your participation is voluntary and the information you give will be treated with utmost confidentiality and published anonymously. As such, you do not need to write your name on the questionnaire. Please feel free to ask any clarifications you may need. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sign……..

Dennis Onganga

APPENDIX II: RESPONDENTS' QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is intended to elicit data and information on **factors that account for the prevalence of insecurity in Nyamira Township in Nyamira County.** Your clear and honest responses will highly be appreciated.

SECTION I: RESPONDENT'S BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Institutional membership

   Law enforcement ( )
   CBOs ( )
   Community policing units ( )
   Business community ( )

2. Position held in the organization

   Chairman ( )
   Secretary ( )
   Treasurer ( )
   Ordinary member ( )

3. Duration of membership

   1-3 ( )
   4-6 ( )
   7-9 ( )
   10 & above ( )

4. Frequency of participation in security meetings (in a month)

   Once ( )
   Twice ( )
   Thrice ( )
   Rarely ( )
   Never ( )

5. Enumerate the activities undertaken by your organization in an effort to improve on the town's level of security.

SECTION II: TYPOLOGIES OF CRIME

6. For the last one month, have you experienced or witnessed any insecurity in Nyamira Township? **Yes ( ) No ( )**. If yes, what crimes? (list them)

7. On a scale of 1-5, where ***1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree,*** what is your opinion on the frequency of the following crimes in Nyamira township?

Types of common crimes	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
(i) Gun crime is common in Nyamira Township.					
(ii) Abductions are common in Nyamira Township.					
(iii) Muggings are common in Nyamira Township.					
(iv) Burglaries are common in Nyamira Township.					
(v) Robberies are common in Nyamira Township.					
(vi) Sex offences (i.e. rape, defilement and sexual assaults					
(vii) There are other common crimes in Nyamira Township (specify….)					

SECTION III: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND INSECURITY

8. To what extent does youth unemployment play a role in insecurity in Nyamira Township?

   1=not at all ( ), 2=small extent ( ), 3=moderate extent ( ), 4=large extent ( ), 5=very large extent ( ). If yes (not *1* above), please explain how exactly it contributes to insecurity…….
   ……..

9. On a scale of 1-5 where ***1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree,*** what is your opinion on the following propositions regarding youth unemployment and insecurity in Nyamira township?

Youth unemployment and insecurity	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
(i) Lack of work-related skills and training among the youth is a factor to insecurity in Nyamira Township.					
(ii) Majority cases of insecurity in Nyamira Township involve the youth.					
(iii) Peer pressure among the youth contributes to high levels of insecurity in Nyamira Township.					
(iv) Drug use and abuse contribute to insecurity in Nyamira Township.					
(v) Poor guidance and counseling contribute to high levels of insecurity in Nyamira Township.					
(vi) List other factors that motivate unemployed youth to engage in criminal activities (specify……)					

10. Give the reasons for each of the above rankings ……..

SECTION IV: VIGILANTISM AND INSECURITY

11. Name the vigilante groups that operate in this town. ……..

12. To what extent does vigilantism contribute to insecurity in the township?

1=not at all ( ), 2=small extent ( ), 3=moderate extent ( ), 4=large extent ( ), 5=very large extent ( ). If yes (not *1* above), please name the crimes that vigilantes commit in the township.

……..

13. On a scale of 1-5 where ***1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree,*** what is your opinion on the following propositions regarding youth vigilantism and insecurity in Nyamira township?

Vigilantism and insecurity	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
(i) Inadequate community policing policies makes vigilantism a security threat in Nyamira Township.					

(ii) Infiltration by criminal gangs has transformed vigilantism to a security threat in this Township.					
(iii) Poor formal justice system makes vigilantism a security threat in Nyamira Township.					
(iv) Mistrust amongst community members makes vigilantism a security threat in Nyamira Township.					
(v) Vigilante groups should be abolished in order to improve the state of security in the township.					
(vi) In what other ways does vigilantism promote insecurity in this town? Please explain……					

SECTION V: CRIME CONTROL/PREVENTION STRATEGIES

14. To what extent can insecurity be minimized in this town?

1=not at all ( ), 2=small extent ( ), 3=moderate extent ( ), 4=large extent ( ), 5=very large extent ( ). Please explain who should act on the insecurity problem and why.

……..

15. Explain what needs to be done in order to minimize insecurity in this town.

……..

16. On a scale of 1-5 where ***1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree,*** what is your opinion on the following propositions regarding prevention strategies for insecurity in Nyamira township?

Insecurity Intervention Strategies	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
(i) A lot has been achieved by security agencies in addressing insecurity in Nyamira Township.					
(ii) Concerted efforts are needed from all security stakeholders so as to make Nyamira Township secure.					
(iii) The police service is well equipped to deal with insecurity in Nyamira Township.					

(iv) More severe punishment should be imposed on criminals as the best strategy for maintaining security in Nyamira Township.					
(v) There are other crime control strategies that should better address insecurity in Nyamira Township (Specify……..)					

17. In general terms, briefly explain crime typologies, the relationship between youth unemployment and insecurity, the link between vigilantism and crime rate, and intervention strategies for addressing the prevalence of insecurity in Nyamira Township.

……

……

I sincerely thank you for your participation in the study; thank you.

APPENDIX III: KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE

I am doing an academic study on **factors that account for the prevalence of insecurity in Nyamira Township in Nyamira County.** Kindly provide clear responses on the subsequent questions.

1. Identify yourself and explain your role in addressing insecurity in Nyamira Township.
2. What are the common types of crime in Nyamira Township? Explain in terms of prevalence and how these crimes occur.
3. Is there any relationship between youth unemployment and insecurity in Nyamira Township? Please explain in details.
4. What role do you think vigilantism plays in insecurity in Nyamira Township? Please explain in details.
5. Do you think the government and other stakeholders in the security sector are doing enough to address the problem of insecurity in Nyamira Township? Please explain in terms of what is being done and the results.

APPENDIX IV: WORK PLAN

Activity	Year 2018 (Months) & Year 2019 (Months)				
	Sept, 2018 to Jan, 2019	**Feb, 2019**	**March, 2019**	**April, 2019**	**Dec, 2019**
Proposal writing & approval					
Fieldwork preparation & Data Collection					
Data analysis, report writing, defense & final compilation					
Graduation					