

Assessment of the Effectiveness of Counter-Terrorism Strategies in Mitigating Terrorism in Garissa County, Kenya

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ABSTRACT

This research aimed to examine the effectiveness of counter-terrorism strategies in mitigating terrorism among Garissa County residents. The study targeted residents, chiefs, national police officers, and women groups who have been in the Garissa sub-county which is close to Garissa University College where a terror attack occurred in 2015. A sample size of 399 was obtained from 163,914 residents in the Garissa sub-county. The survey utilized random and purposive sampling to select the study participants. Data was collected using questionnaires, scheduled interviews, and focus group discussions. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics and presented in means, percentages, and standard deviations. Qualitative data from the interviews and Focus Group Discussions was tape-recorded analyzed qualitatively, and presented in narratives. The study found that counter-terrorism mitigation strategies namely law enforcement, Nyumba-Kumi practices (Ten Households), and community policing work only to a moderate extent. However, the study found that intelligence-led policing is an effective method of curbing terrorism hence counter-terrorism measures can be based upon it. The study proves its value to several stakeholders such as the government, Kenya police, residents, and future researchers, by recommending how to improve counter-terrorism mitigation strategies and consequently reduce terrorist attacks leading to improved quality of life. The study particularly recommends the government focus on intelligence-led community policing, to improve information flow and sharing, create research platforms that check for vulnerability, and commit to improving security-related technology.

Keywords: Counter-terrorism strategies, Nyumba kumi policing, community policing, intelligence-led policing, law enforcement

1.0 INTRODUCTION

From a victim perspective, the implications of terrorism have led to multiple human rights violations which are experienced individually, collectively, or societally with survivors undergoing both mental, psychological, and social traumas depending on their proximity to points of victimization, age, gender, social, religious, and political affiliation (Zalman, 2013). Apart from the immediate impacts of terrorism, it produces disruption to the country's economy, which may be experienced days, months, or a year after the terrorism incident. Significantly, terrorism alters economic behavior since money for development is channeled towards addressing insecurity.

The primary objective of the criminal justice system is to address both primary and secondary victimization through appropriate measures, which diminish victim's exposure to victimization through collaboration, and intelligence-led policing. To provide justice for the victims, an understanding of the harm they suffered and the needs emanating from such harm is important.

Resource mobilization and youth unemployment are some of the challenges towards counter-terrorism, which should be made a policy for both the National and County governments.

According to Global Terrorism Data (2020), the normal annual death toll over the last 20 years is 21,000. The loss of life to terrorism in the world went from a minimum of 7,827 in any year of 2010 to a maximum of 44,490 in 2014. Deaths from terrorist crackdowns fluctuated from 0.01% to 0.02% in the 1990s and mid-2000s. It expanded to 0.08% in 2014. The previous drop in 2017 was 0.05%. Therefore, 2017 was a reasonably high year for terrorist extremist deaths, but not at its peak (GTD, 2020). According to GTD (2020), 95% of the 26,445 terrorist deaths worldwide in 2017 occurred in Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East. It accounts for less than 2% of deaths in the United States, Europe, and Oceania.

When Islamic al-Qaeda attacked the United States on September 11, 2001, the United States was mostly afflicted by terrorism. Also, the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, killed 3,000 people and launched a large-scale US campaign to counter the crackdown on terrorism. From around September 11, jihadists have killed 107 people in the United States. In addition, on April 15, 2013, a bombing of the Boston Endurance Race (BMB) occurred, two bombs exploded near the final destination, three spectators and police officers were killed, and 264 people also died. The attack was carried out by two brothers from the Chechen Foundation. This has been the most important fear-based oppression behavior in the United States since 9/11, and unlike previous threatening behaviors that generally targeted the local business community, the BMB has 23,413 sprinters and 1 million viewers. Many of them were families and adolescents (Box, 2015). The United States has also recently seen attacks fueled by dark rebel/patriot philosophies and philosophical sexism. Those who believed in these philosophies executed 12 and 9 one by one, and those with a far-left perspective killed one.

In the Philippines, the Armed Forces of the Philippines have fought for quite some time. These movements cover a variety of developments, including radical rallies that defend the majority of governments, financial, and social rights. The New People's Army (NPA) is an armed force of the Communist Party of the Philippines, a separatist demanding autonomy for Mindanao, the South Island of the country, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). These rallies were involved in a recent notable terrorist attack on August 24, 2020, with various casualties caused by two explosions in Holo, Sulu (Quirante, 2020).

Similarly, Syria was overwhelmed by illegal threat volume, especially with the rapid attacks on Guerrilla strategies and the security power of Iraq. Al-Qaida bundle has rebuilt itself according to Syria's ASSAD system. Sleeper cells during sleep are ready to handle attacks including bombing and death. According to Syria's satisfaction weakness, division from terrorism war decreased to 40% in 2018. The declined demit element reflects the removal of the radical movement of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIL) terrorists, which is lost for additional decomposition of Syria as another meeting. In 2018, deaths ascribed to ISIL arrived at their lowest level since 2013 and declined by 68% since topping in 2015. As a whole, these three assemblies represent 77% of the irregular end in 2018 (Dalton, 2018).

Africa faces the same threat of war on terror as the rest of the world. Anyway, Africa seems to be more powerless in the fight against terrorism, especially for many reasons due to weak governments, porous borders, and powerless security agencies. In Nigeria, Boko Haram has been the biggest threat in the last decade. Boko Haram, one of Africa's largest Islamic attack groups, was formed in 2002 but began brutal practices in 2009. The rally led to manipulator attacks on heavy and political rallies near police and the military, and reckless attacks on the residents of the industrial estates and towns involved. The Boko Haram emergency seriously threatens the survival of the Nigerian nation. This

is due to the scale of formal and informal resettlement, coupled with financial damage to the region (Olanrewaju, 2019). Waner (2012) claims that when a group of people were able to step into the place of worship and set fire through the windows, they reached a tough turning point in the life of the country.

In East Africa, Africa, Al-Shabaab operating in Somalia has been rampant killing several people in Somalia, Kenya, and Uganda and causing instability. It is believed that the group was formed in the 1990s, after the fall of Said Barre's 1969–1991 regime. Al-Qaeda alliance mobs operating from Somalia's "failed states" have been behind many attacks, especially over the past five years. A terrorist attack in Egypt in 1992 resulted in the collapse of 43% of the travel industry. It also affected the country's economy (But and Ap, 2017).

The history of terrorist attacks in Kenya dates back to mid-1975 when the first bomb exploded in independent Kenya. In February 1975, there were two explosions at a travel agency near central Nairobi the Starlight Club and the Hilton Hotel. This was followed by another bus bombing in Nairobi on March 1, 1975, killing 30 people (Rhaman, 2016). The terrorism then subsided over the next five years, but on December 31, 1980, there was another attack on Nairobi's Norfolk Inn, owned by a celebrity in the neighboring Jewish community. The bomb resulted in the death of 20 people of several nationalities, injured 87 more, and destroyed a significant part of the west wing. In 1998 when the US consulate was besieged by Al-Qaeda which focused on the US, residents left more than 200 individuals passed on in these attacks and hundreds more were injured. In September 2013 radical attack on the Westgate Shopping Mall in Nairobi stood out as truly newsworthy and killed 67 people from almost 12 nations all the world while emphasizing the standing of Kenya as a for terrorism, brutal fanaticism, and factionalism (Rhaman, 2016). Six significant Kenyan urban areas and towns were the center of the greater part of the attack: Nairobi 76 attacks, Garissa 53 attacks, Mandera 50 attacks, Mombasa 27 attacks, Wajir 23 attacks, and Dadaab 17 attacks. In 2015, a terrorist attack on Garissa University College left 148 dead and more than 79 students injured (Mogire, Mketu & Alusa, 2017).

Kenya also failed to authorize explicit anti-terrorism legislation but opted to counter terrorism in several other ways. This included establishing a national security intelligence agency with the help of the United States Anti-Terrorism Assistance (ATA) Program; Established the Anti-Terrorism Police Unit (ATPU) in 1998 and the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) in 2003. In 2004, the National Security Advisory Board (NSAC) was abolished. Additional actions commemorate US support. A Terrorist Interdiction Program (TIP) that innovates on-screen investigators at airport terminals and border crossings. Despite these measures to curb terrorism, the public is afraid of another terrorist attack. This study sought to examine the effectiveness of counter-terrorism strategies in mitigating terrorism in Garissa County.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Garissa County is prone to terrorism activities due to its geopolitical risks associated with cross-border conflicts and terrorism threats emanating from neighboring Somalia. Frequent terror attacks in Garissa County have had socio-economic effects on the livelihoods of local people in Garissa County. The geopolitical position of Garissa County brings to the fore a call for caution against potential terrorist attacks, but such activities are relevant concerning all universally recognized common freedoms. Efforts of the government and other stakeholders to eliminate terrorism such as job creation for the youth, enhancing security, and religious institutions calling for harmony, terrorism attacks are still rampant. Ideally, people should live in a peaceful environment free of chaos and protected by law and order by the government. When the conditions of social security are supplied, people interact freely hence economic development. Despite all these efforts, terrorism is

still rampant. It is from this background that the researcher sought to identify better counter-terrorism strategies the government can use to mitigate terrorism in Garissa County.

1.2 Research Objective

The study sought to examine the effectiveness of counter-terrorism strategies in mitigating terrorism in Garissa County, Kenya.

1.3 Significance of the study

To the Kenyan government, this study will contribute to knowledge regarding the implications of terrorism. In addition, the study will help people understand the effects of terrorism and will provide insights on how to gain confidence and carry on with their activities without fear. The study gives insights on how to counter terrorism by implementing terrorism mitigation practices which allows the people of Garissa to have confidence and trust with each other hence improving social cohesion and economic growth. This study information is especially crucial for the police officers who will understand the implications of terrorism and ways to mitigate it hence ensuring enforcement of those strategies to ensure peace in Garissa County.

2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

The root causes of both war and conflict fall into four major categories: perceived threats, cultural and religious differences, wealth and power, political differences, and ethnic and social issues (Macionis, 2009). If the difference is unacceptable or the problem is not resolved, there can be frustration and ultimately aggression. In this regard, Anti-Terrorism proposes practices, strategies, procedures, and systems adopted by authorities and their agents in response to terrorist threats (Adebayo, Adeyemi & Musa, 2015). In the current study, counter-terrorism strategies are meant to propose a remedy to the eminent challenge of terrorism threats in Garissa County.

According to Beckman, (2016.) the Acting Secretary of, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in September 2019, US faces an undeniably unpredictable, and developing, danger of terrorism and focused on brutality. As per the report by the U.S. Division of Homeland Security (2019), the office has encountered clear achievements in its main goal to defeat unfamiliar fearmonger foes. Among the systems utilized in the U.S. incorporate denying the psychological militant section, halting them at the line of attack or even before they arrive at it (Beckman, 2016). Although these strategies employed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security are in line with the contemporary deterrence theory, it is yet to be established whether the Kenya government and Department of Security enforce the same measures, especially in Garissa County which is more prone to terrorism due to porous border.

Additionally, Rehman, Nasir & Shahbaz (2017) empirically examined the viability of different counterinsurgency approaches utilized in Pakistan. As per the scholar, any counterinsurgency methodology can have three impacts: discouragement, crippling, and retaliation. Viciousness will increment if the retribution impact exceeds the prevention and debilitation impacts; if the discouragement and weakening impacts are predominant, the converse is valid. Pakistan has utilized three kinds of counterinsurgency measures to check viciousness: international agreements, military activities, and a blend of military attacks (activity Zarb-e-Azb) and the National Action Plan (NAP). Their investigation utilized information for the period between 1974-2015 and the outcomes from Negative Binomial Regression models propose that international agreements have no critical impact on viciousness, though military tasks increment savagery, recommending the predominance of the retaliation impact. Then again, activity Zarb-e-Azb, supplemented by the National Action Plan, produced a dominant impact, prompting a huge decrease in brutality (Rehman et al., 2017). In Garissa

County, the government should be proactive and engage the public in sharing intelligence that can provide a remedy to insecurity.

The outcomes of the Rehman et al. (2017) study were powerful, and surprisingly more grounded, for a subsample of the post-9/11 period. These discoveries support the thought that a powerful counterterrorism technique requires a professional military activity upheld by strong political backing. However, the findings cannot be applied in the Kenyan context specifically in the context of Garissa County. This is because, even though some strategies employed by Pakistan are also applied in Kenya, the level of execution and efficacy differs. Additionally, this study does not seek to establish the effectiveness of strategies of counterterrorism in Garissa County but rather to explore them and academically commentate on them.

In Kenya, Magogo (2017) analyzed the adequacy of counter-psychological warfare techniques in Kenya, a contextual analysis of the Eastleigh area in Nairobi. The survey included descriptive design, information was analyzed insightful measurements were made, and the basic methods initially used were risk management strategies, policing, intelligence, and random searches in Eastleigh. The study also identified some challenges that limit the effectiveness of anti-terrorism strategies in the Eastleigh region. This study recommended other actions that could be included to mitigate anti-terrorism challenges, such as education, modernization, implementation of anti-terrorism laws and policies, and increased public participation. Since Magogo (2017) explicitly focused on the Eastleigh region, the focus on terrorism, terrorism impact, strategies, and challenges of mitigating terrorism should be on other regions such as Garissa County. Additionally, the study by Magogo (2017) was conducted years ago and given that terrorism is dynamic, its effect, strategies, and challenges of counter-terrorism may vary with time.

In addition, intelligence activities have been investigated, contemplated, and gradually however consistently changed. Gonzalez, Schofield, and Herraz (2016) focused on reorganizing the cognitive framework at the government level. Nonetheless, comparative efforts have been made to improve knowledge activities on state and neighborhood regulatory requirements. Such upgrades allow state and neighboring regulators to assume some of the security of the country. Perhaps more importantly, improved knowledge activity will further support the approval of neighborhood regulations in dealing with "traditional" crime.

Insight Driven Policing is a collaborative effort in terms of evolving knowledge activities, community-organized policing, and the critical thinking field has long been believed to be useful (Gonzalez, et al., 2016). To carry out knowledge-based policing, police organizations need to review current regulations and practices. Knowledge must be integrated into the organizational system to reflect local issues in terror-prone regions. Data sharing should be a strategy, not a casual practice. In general, findings should depend on the quality of the information survey (Gonzalez et al., 2015). This informs the current study in the sense that, security agencies ought to have a good working relationship with the members of the public based on trust that cultivates information sharing. Further development of scientific strategy, readiness, and technical assistance is needed to continue enhancing security in the county.

2.3. Theoretical Framework

2.3.1 Contemporary Deterrence Theory

Contemporary deterrence theory points out counter-terrorism can be achieved by broadening traditional deterrence of punishment and denial, and developing deterrence by de-legitimization to influence the political, ideological, and religious rationales informing terrorist behavior (Wilner, A. 2014). Terrorism can be stopped by increasing the certainty (probability), speed (quickness), and reality (ratio) of the actual order of its execution.

Contemporary deterrence theory recognizes that the deterrent effect of legal punishment can depend on several factors, including the threat of exorbitant punishment (Naggin et al., 2019). This theory acknowledges and joins an expanded comprehension of prevention. Terrorism is the challenger characterized as the entertainer being prevented and its undesirable activity stays at the chief center

Rather than zeroing in on qualities related to traditional state-based deterrence, like power, regional control, political uprightness, effective reaches, and monetary strength, deterring terrorism places accentuation on focusing on the qualities that terrorist treasure, similar to exposure, operational and strategic achievement, vital and strategic triumph, authority, bunch cohesiveness, trust and fellowship, well-known compassion and social acknowledgment, strict and political authenticity, esteem, individual brilliance, opportunity of development and places of refuge, riches, and other material resources (Jackson & PISOIU, 2018). Terrorists hold and look to ensure different things that states can take steps to hurt, confine, or annihilate like regional tractions and safe houses, weapons reserves, pirating courses, successful and appealing pioneers, or state-based facilitators (Jackson & PISOIU, 2018).

Furthermore, relatedly, because some terrorists' resources rest past the domain deserving of military or dynamic annihilation alone, the coercive interaction associated with preventing psychological warfare regularly depends on non-motor instruments that target non-actual assets and resources. For instance, states may join, fortify, constrain, or persuade neighborhood, local, unfamiliar, and virtual networks; elites and strict or ancestral seniors; youth and college-based social developments; and NGOs or common society entertainers to control social disappointment with, and disdain of, a specific terrorist group. This is an element of discouragement by de-legitimization, where terrorists' political, philosophical, or strict reasoning and expectations that rest past dynamic annihilation are utilized against them to influence public opinion, stem enlistment, change conduct, and deflect support for political viciousness (Jackson & PISOIU, 2018).

In this context, this theory explores strategies and technologies that extract terrorism and thus helps in the discussion of counter-terrorism strategies and recommendations. Deterring terrorism means limiting the terror group's capability to organize acts of violence and undermining a group's motivation to employ violence. The government's coercive process of deterring terrorism relies on non-kinetic instruments that target the non-physical resources and assets of the terrorist. The county government of Garissa should incorporate social institutions and to some extent coerce them into resenting terror-related acts. Significantly, proponents of deterrence believe that people will determine the law after calculating the benefits and results of actions. However, as only those perpetrators that have not been retrieved are not included in the knowledge of law enforcement agencies, they are defective in that they do not bold, and cause major challenges to mitigating terrorism. As a fact, general deterrence may not be effective in the long run if the government doesn't address the youth problem which accelerates radicalization in society.

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design and Target Population

The research utilized the descriptive research design. Descriptive design explains the association between independent and dependent variables and provides a detailed description of these variables relevant to the study hypotheses. As per Cooper and Schindler (2011), descriptive design is appropriate if the study aims to identify characteristics, correlations, and relationships between variables. The research addressed the questions of how and who is affected by terrorist acts and the extent of the effect on the livelihoods of people in Garissa County.

The study was conducted in Garissa County, located at latitude -0.4528° S and longitude 39.646°E. It is part of Africa and the southern hemisphere. Garissa County is mostly inhabited by ethnic Somalis. The study specifically targeted residents in close proximity to Garissa University where terrorist attacks occurred. Due to its geographical position, the county is in close proximity to Somali country which is a point of terrorism (al-Shabaab) hence making the county suitable for this study.

The target population for this research includes residents and the general public, local chiefs, and police who live near Garissa University College. In this regard, 163,914 residents in the Garissa area are the target population for the survey.

Table 1 Target Population

Population Category	Population	Percentage
Chiefs	96	<1%
Police	317	<1%
Residents	163,501	99.8%
Total	163,914	

Source: Author, 2021

3.2 Sampling Techniques and Sample Size

The research conducted random sampling to select residents near Garissa University who agreed to participate in the study. Similarly, purposive sampling was used to select the main informants interviewed for qualitative information: police chiefs and police commanders. Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) formula is commonly used in research to estimate sample size. In this study, the Krejcie and Morgan formula was used to determine the sample size from the primary data.

$$S = \frac{X^2NP(1-P)}{d^2(N-1) + X^2(1-P)} \dots \dots \dots \text{Equation (3.1)}$$

Where S is the ideal sample size, X² is the table value of chi-square for one level of freedom at the ideal confidence level which is 1.96x 1.96= 3.841. N is the populace size while P is the populace proportion assumed to be 0.5 as this will give the maximum sample size and d is the level of precision communicated as a proportion 0.05.

The population size for this study is 163,914. The sample size S is, therefore:

$$S = \frac{(3.8416 \times 163914 \times 0.5(1-0.5))}{(0.05)^2(163914-1) + 3.8416 \times 0.5(1-0.5)} = 399 \text{ Respondents}$$

3.3 Data Collection Instruments and Data Analysis

The survey utilized questionnaires, interview schedules, and Focused group discussions. The research instruments produced both quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics such as mean, frequencies, percentages, and standard deviations, and inferential statistics such as correlation and regression analysis. Descriptive statistics give simple summaries of the populace sample and the measures used to make it simpler to decipher the information highlights (Gravetter and Wallnau, 2014). The analyzed data was displayed through frequency tables, and charts. Qualitative data from interviews and focus group discussions was coded and information with similar meaning was classified into themes. The researcher organized the responses into categories of recurring themes and patterns and presented them in narratives. This information was used to give insights regarding the study objective.

4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Government Counter-Terrorism Strategies

The study sought to identify the strategies that the government employs to counter-terrorism activities. The participants were asked to indicate the extent they believed that the government counter-terrorism strategies were effective and the results of the analysis were presented in Table

Table 4.1 Government Counter-terrorism Strategies

	NE	SE	ME	LE	GE	Mean	StD
Intelligence-Led Policing	.00%	20.30%	20.70%	27.90%	20.00%	3.9	1
Community policing	0.00%	30.00%	15.50%	21.30%	33.20%	3.9	0.7
Nyumba Kumi initiative	0.00%	23.40%	11.60%	43.10%	21.80%	3.8	0.8
Collaboration	0.00%	21.30%	31.70%	29.60%	27.40%	3.4	0.6
Patrol along the boundaries	0.00%	20.30%	20.70%	37.90%	10.00%	3.9	1

Where NE indicates no extent, SE indicates small extent, ME indicates medium extent, GE indicates big extent and LE indicates large extent. StD is the Standard deviation (deviation from the mean).

Source: Survey Data

As shown in Table 8, the majority of the participants believe that the government counter-terrorism strategies are effective, although to not great effect. The responses seem to be evenly distributed from a small extent to a great extent. For instance, 20.3% of the participants believed that intelligence-led policing was effective only to a small extent, while 20.7% believed it is effective only to a medium extent and only 20% believed that law enforcement was effective to a great effect. Similarly, community policing was effective to a large and great effect at 21.3% and 33.2% respectively. Nyumba Kumi's initiative seems to be effective to a large and great extent as revealed by a large percentage of participants who indicated large and great extent, 43.10% and 21.8% respectively. Besides, a significant percentage believed that collaboration was effective to a large and great extent (29.6% and 27.4% respectively) while 21.3% and 33.2% indicated that they believed community policing was effective to a large and great extent respectively.

The participants were asked to explain how law enforcement affects the dynamics of terrorism in Garissa County. A common theme established is that they help reduce the frequency of terrorism to a large extent. According to the participants, police collaborations with the people and organizations where most of the attacks are targeted have helped reduce the frequency of terrorism. However, regarding the Nyumba Kumi initiative, the participants seemed to be divided. A number believed it

was a futile strategy while others believed that it was constructive and helped reduce the frequency of terror attacks. Some participants believed that the initiative was not effective because everyone was not involved especially the youths who were targeted as recruits of terrorist groups. Another group believed that with Nyumba Kumi initiative people are more united against one course, which is terrorism hence possibly improving human security.

Additionally, community policing received positive explanations from the participants. The participants appeared to concur that community policing is an effective method of tackling terrorism by enhancing trust and information flow between the police, law enforcers, and the community at large. The participants explained that interactions with police help reduce fear and uncertainty. These results concur with that of Adebayo et al., (2015) on the effectiveness of community policing, tactical law enforcement, and collaboration with organizations to improve security.

Additionally, the key informants and the FGD participants were asked questions regarding the counter-terrorism strategies. They were asked what are some of the counter-terrorism strategies and below are some of the responses:

“I think nyumba kumi initiative is one of the policies established by the government. But also the existing community policing has intensified in this region.” Key informant 5 from a government official

Another participant said:

“One of the strategies employed is that the government has tightened the security around this place. More police officers are also collaborating with big businesses such as hotels and schools where most of the attacks are being directed.” Key informant 4 from government official

Additionally, focus group participants also mentioned the Kenyan soldiers’ deployment in Somalia. One of the participants said:

“In regard to government counter strategies, we can say that deployment of KDF in Somalia has helped tighten the security a little bit. Especially in the borders between Kenya and Somalia. This is one of the strategies that I think has limited the frequency of terror attacks in Garissa and other regions that borders Somalia country.” FGD participant from youth group.

“Personally, I think guarding the borders strictly can solve the problem of terrorism in Garissa and Kenya at large. Al shabaab should be prevented to cross the Kenyan borders at all cost” FGD participant from women group.

Additionally, the key informants and FGD participants were asked whether they believe those counter-terrorism strategies are effective. The following are a number of responses:

“Personally, I believe most of the strategies are working. For example, the increase in community policing in my opinion is effective way of creating trust among the police, improving information circulation and bringing the sense of security, which in turn drives the terrorist away. Community policing also help reduce the narrative that terrorist attack other religions but Muslims and this reduces the animosity between different religious groups, which terrorist take advantage of.” FGD participant from youth group.

Another participant had a rather sceptical view of nyumba-kumi initiative effectiveness. He said:

“Nyumba Kumi is one of the strategies that I both think it is working to some extent but can be improved. I personally, think that the initiative excludes the young people who are also recruitment targets by terrorists. What nyumba-kumi does is create vigilance in the community and this reduces the chances of a terror attack happening if people can observe and report unusual activities in the community.” Key informant 3 from government official.

A similar perspective was also reported in one of the focus group discussion. According to one participant, even though nyumba-kumi (ten house-holds) initiative is important, the manner in which it is conducted is that elders and people with families excludes the youths, who are very critical in matters of security. The participant said:

“The lack of youth involvement in nyumba kumi policy creates friction with the elders because youths are viewed as criminals. I believe that if the youth can keep tabs on each other, and ensure that those engaging in criminal activities are well checked, then this can aid in improving security.” FGD participant from youth group.

Overall, the results suggest that law enforcement, community policing, the Nyumba Kumi initiative, and collaboration are to some extent effective in addressing terrorism. However, to improve their effectiveness, much needs to be done. For instance, Nyumba Kumi initiative policymakers and enforcers can devise a way to ensure total inclusivity in the community without excluding any group. The results are in line with that of Magogo (2012) who found out that community policing is key in improving security. Additionally, Ndono, Muthama, and Muigua (2019) advocated for Nyumba Kumi initiative restructuring which involves all the members of the community without discrimination.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Conclusions

The study concludes that the existing counter-terrorism strategies, namely law enforcement, community policing, collaboration, and the Nyumba Kumi initiative are effective but not to a large extent. The study concludes that the Nyumba Kumi initiative is effective only to a small extent because it creates friction between the elders and the young people rather than uniting and collaborating against one course. In particular, the young people are condemned by the elders for their criminal activities, leading to increased radicalization of the youth hence creating an environment that facilitates terrorist activities. Regarding law enforcement, the study concludes that it is effective only to a moderate extent. The effectiveness of law enforcement is hindered by a lack of adequate human resources and funds. Especially, the lack of funds to remunerate the law enforcers leads to corrupt behaviors which the terrorists can leverage to perform their vicious acts.

Similarly, the study concludes that intelligence-led policing is an effective method of mitigating terrorism and can be complemented by other less effective methods. One of the advantages of intelligence-led policing is that it allows collaboration with communities as a way of gathering information and terrorist-related events or activities and checking for vulnerabilities. Additionally, it places significant emphasis on crowded places such as government institutions, restaurants, and schools as a way of deterring terrorist activities and also reducing impacts in the event of terror

attacks. One of the challenges of conducting intelligence-led policing is that it requires a significant amount of resources in the form of human capital, technology, and criminology experts, community training resources, and changes in police responsibilities and how they interact with people in the community.

5.2. Recommendations

Based on the study's conclusion, the implications of terrorism activities are far-reaching and manifest themselves in health and economic issues hence diminishing the quality of life. However, the existing counter-terrorism strategies are not sufficient in mitigating and curbing terrorism. In that regard, this study recommends the government:

1. To invest heavily in intelligence-led policing which can forestall the plan of terror attack. The county government of Garissa and the national government ministry of interior and coordination of National government should devise policies and practices of effective intelligence-led policing, invest in technology, and solve the existing problems of inadequate law enforcement resources.
2. In addition, the existing counter-terrorism strategies can be improved. This study particularly recommends the improvement of how Nyumba Kumi functions and the campaign for collaborative efforts between elders and young people against criminal activities. The collaboration will help reduce youth radicalization and consequently reduce crime rates.

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