



Issue Brief on Emerging Crimes: The Case of Kidnappings in Kenya Report, 2017

Objective: To identify existing interventions and their effectiveness in addressing kidnappings

Methodology- The study adopted a descriptive research design. The study was carried out in twenty (20) counties which were randomly and purposively selected. 1326 (727 males and 599 females) sample respondents (members of public) were conveniently sampled. Key informants were drawn from Judiciary, National Police Service, Office of Public Prosecution, Probation Services, Children Services Department, Civil society organizations interacting with issues of kidnappings and in general Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used to analyze the data. Both probability and non-probability sampling techniques were used in this study. Quantitative data was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences and the information was presented in frequencies, percentage tables and figures. Qualitative data was analyzed by way of interpretation of responses obtained from key informants, victims, kidnapers and reporters from the institutions addressing kidnappings.

Counties of study: Nairobi, Nyeri, Muranga, Kirinyaga, Mandera, Wajir, Bungoma, Kisii, Siaya, Machakos, Embu, Meru, Nakuru, Migori, Laikipia, Baringo, West Pokot, Turkana, Kwale and Lamu.

Findings: 83.3% of the respondents were aware of organizations that were attempting to address kidnappings, 74.4% of respondents indicated National Police Service as one of the organizations. Other key organizations addressing kidnappings were: Judiciary (30.2%); Kenya Prisons Service (28.1%); children department (24.7%); Office of Director of Public Prosecutions (19.1%); Coordination of National Government (18.9%); NGOs (17.2%); Faith Based Organizations (14.7%); Probation and Aftercare Services (14.1%); and Immigration Department (7.4%). The least known organizations were Ministry of Foreign Affairs (3.7%) and Mobile Phone Service providers (2.9%).

Interventions: 80.7% of respondents were aware of existing interventions in place. These included: tracing and rescue of victims (62.7%); arrest of suspected kidnapers (55.2%); charging suspected kidnapers in court (41.7%); prosecution of suspected kidnapers (30.9%); trial and sentencing of kidnapers (29.4%); detection and investigation of kidnapping cases (28.6%);

punishment of kidnapers (21.9%); and repatriation of victims of kidnapping to their families (20.4%). Other interventions included: collection of intelligence on kidnapping cases (19.4%); collaboration between relevant stakeholders (18.3); facilitation of security agencies (13.7%); recovery of kidnapped victim's property (11.9%), enactment and implementation of relevant laws (11.1%), rehabilitation of kidnap offenders (10.8%), sensitization and awareness creation on kidnappings (2.5%) and finally implementation of Nyumba Kumi initiative (2.1%).

In response to effectiveness of interventions: 54.5% of respondents indicated that the interventions they were aware of were not effective. While 45.5% said the interventions were effective.

Conclusions: The existing interventions to address kidnappings were deemed by respondents as largely ineffective in addressing kidnappings. There is need to enhance the capacities of all the identified organizations and particularly the National Police Service to be able to effectively deal with crime of kidnapping in the country.

References:

Alexander, D.A. & Klein, S. (2008). Kidnapping and hostage-taking: a review of effects, coping and resilience. *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* 102 (January) 2008 pp.16-21. \

Mugwang'a, M. (2013, November 3). Security alert as kidnapers on the prowl. Retrieved 24/2/2014 from: <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/print/2000096752/security-alert-as-kidnapers-on-the-prowl>

Mukinda, F. (2014, April 12). How KDF rescued kidnapped workers in Al-Shabaab raid. *Daily Nation Newspaper*, p 1, 4.

Michira, M. & Gisesa, N. (2013, October 15). Two minors kidnapped, captors demand Sh86m ransom. Retrieved 21/3/2014 from: http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000095582&story_title=Kenya-two-minors-kidnapped-captors-demand-sh86m-ransom