



Covid-19 Response: Community Safety

Bulletin 02

Findings from Perception Survey

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About The Survey

On 28th March 2020, a fortnight after the announcement of the first COVID-19 case in Kenya, President Uhuru Kenyatta announced a raft of measures to enforce the public health directives to contain the spread of COVID-19. Key among the Presidential directives were the imposition of a nationwide dawn to dusk curfew and the restriction of movement into and out of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi and Mandera counties. These measures – in addition to the suspension of all public and political gatherings, the limitation of attendance to not more than 15 persons in public or private functions, the closure of all learning institutions and religious gatherings, the suspension of all international flights (with the exception of cargo flights) – sought to give time for rapid capacity building of whole of society approaches to minimise new infections, deaths and reduce pressure on health facilities. These directives placed security services, alongside public health services and others, at the centre of pandemic control and regulation enforcement.

Reducing Insecurity and Violent Extremism in Northern and Coastal Regions of Kenya (REINVENT) is a five-year programme (2018-2023), funded by UKaid from the British people. REINVENT is a commitment of the UK-Kenya Security Compact. The programme aims to improve security and stability in 18 counties across four regions to enable investment, inclusive growth and equitable service delivery. The programme is led by Tetra Tech International Development and delivered in partnership with the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) and the Danish Demining

Group (DDG). The 18 REINVENT target Counties are clustered around four regions as follows: Upper Eastern (Laikipia, Samburu, Isiolo, Marsabit); North Eastern (Mandera, Wajir, Garissa); Coast. (Kwale, Kilifi, Mombasa, Lamu and Tana River); and Rift Valley/ Western (Turkana, West Pokot, Baringo, Nakuru, Bungoma, and Kisumu).

A total of 14 out of 18 REINVENT target counties have reported positive cases as at 29th June 2020. REINVENT, therefore, thought it was important to gauge public perception by conducting a community safety and security perception survey to gather insights on gaps, implications and opportunities for action. At the conclusion of this study, 1,765 positive cases have been reported in REINVENT counties, representing 29% of all positive reported cases in Kenya.

783 out of the 1,500 participants responded to the survey across Kenya, 45% of whom were women while 55% were men. Out of the 783 respondents, 545 were from 18 counties where the REINVENT programme is being implemented.

Key Findings: Gaps and Opportunities For Action



The police have a role in public order management especially in enforcement of government directive on lockdown and curfew as reported by CVW of the respondents. However, almost a half of the respondents (49%) were dissatisfied with how the police are managing lockdown/curfew amidst the COVID-19 pandemic; only

25%

reported being satisfied.



The majority of the respondents (**80%**) believe that the police need to be sensitised on maintaining positive community relations including public order management and how they address gender-based violence and violence against women and girls (VAWG) cases.



Majority of the respondents (**70%**) reported that they feel safe in their communities as attributed to increased police patrols during curfew hours (**48%**). However, the increased police patrols have led to increase in police brutality and harassment as polled by (**17%**) of respondents.

On the overall,

39%

of the respondents were dissatisfied while

24%

satisfied with the way the police are handling crime and violence during COVID-19 pandemic period.

38%

were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the way the police are handling crime and violence. To be specific, respondents were dissatisfied with the way police were handling gender-based violence (**39%**) political and election differences (**36%**), petty crime (**39%**) and violent robbery (**31%**).



Recommendations For Action

1. The National Police Service (NPS) is at the forefront in enforcing curfew and lockdown across the country. Therefore, Police Officers should adhere to the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for police officers response during covid-19.
2. The National Police Service should work closely with community members to strengthen community-police relations at the county and subcounty level. National Police Service command should reinforce the guidelines on management of roadblocks and curfew in a humane manner as contained in the COVID-19 management operational orders.
3. The National Police Service and ODPP should fast track access to justice for survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and seek ways to integrate all current technology applications such as the Komesha Dhuluma mobile app that aid survivors and those at risk to seek justice.
4. The MoI and MoH should categorise services that address GBV as essential service during COVID-19 pandemic curfew and lockdown to enable survivors access these services when need be.
5. Increase public awareness campaigns on how survivors can access services without barriers.
6. Both County and National Government should ensure that the current interventions to support the most vulnerable and needy in the society to cope with the effects of COVID-19 pandemic reaches all community members who are in need without discrimination.



Research Design Quick Facts

Data Collection Tool:

Kobo collect web version

Methodology:

Quantitative approach with multiple-choice questions.

Data Collection Period:

May 28th – June 19th, 2020

Data Analysis Software:

SPSS and Excel

Research Objectives:

1. To document community perceptions on the various forms of violence in the context of COVID-19;
2. To assess the effect of COVID-19 on community-police relations;
3. To draw recommendations on opportunities and spaces for enhancing safety and security in the context of COVID-19.

Data Collection Limitations

1. Online collection limiting the sample to literate respondents with access to smart phones or computers.
2. No enumerators available to clarify or probe responses thus limiting the quality of response to respondent comprehension and subjectivity.
3. The survey reach limited to implementing partners in 18 counties, collaborating partners across the country and publicity across REINVENT social media handles and WhatsApp groups hence low respondents.

Survey Themes

- Effects of COVID-19 on safety and security
- Curfew enforcement
- Trajectories of violence and crime
- Police response, conduct and management of curfews
- Inter-communal conflicts,
- Gender-based violence
- Community-police relations

Respondents Breakdown:



Youth:

52%

Adults
(above 35 years of age):

48%

Minimum Education:



University Degree Certificate: **65%**

Diploma Certificate: **22%**

Secondary Certificate: **12%**

Primary Certificate: **2%**

Sources of Income:

Informal sector engagement: 4%

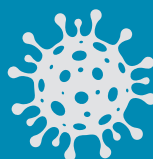
Students: 6%

Unemployed: 12%

Formal employment: 7%



Most Utilised Media for Accessing COVID-19 Information



Television: **78%**

WhatsApp: **48%**

Facebook: **40%**

Radio: **36%,**

Twitter: **32%,**

Newspaper: **25%**

Email: **22%**

YouTube, LinkedIn, SMS, Instagram, word of mouth (National Government Administration Officers, change agents, and county government officers): **2%.**

Lockdown Status During COVID-19 Pandemic

56%

of the respondents spend most of their time working from home while

44%

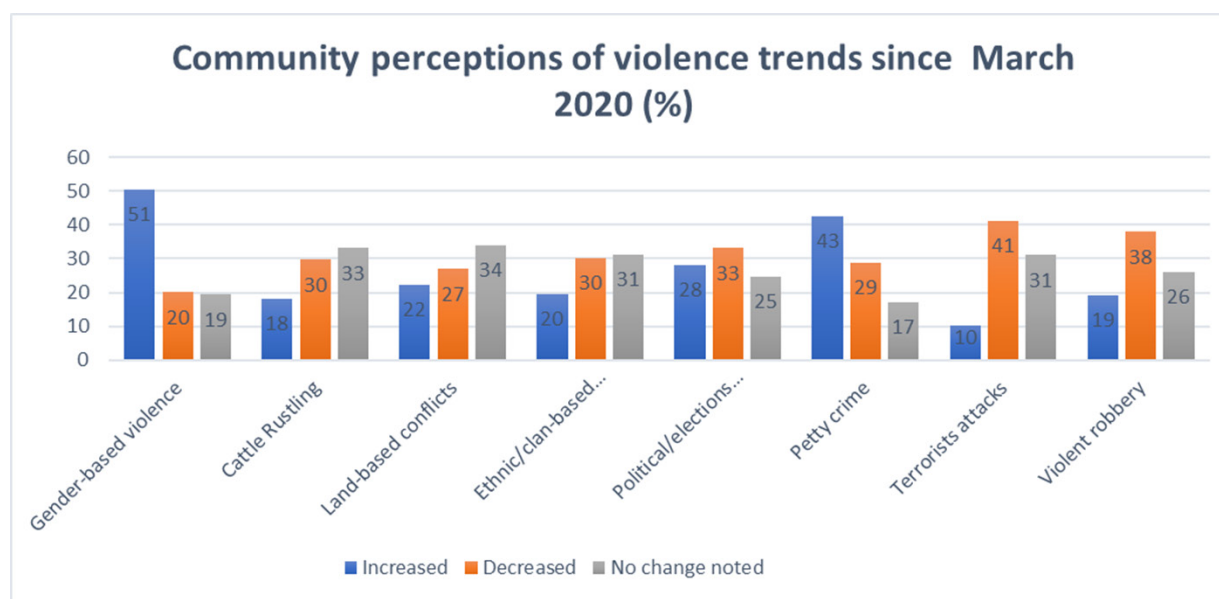
leave their houses quite often for work while adhering to government directives.

Data Findings

Exposure and personal experience of crime and violence

1a. Community perception of violence trends since March 2020

(51%) of respondents think that gender-based violence has increased since March 2020 as a result of COVID-19 lockdown and curfew. In addition, almost half (43%) of the respondents felt that petty crimes have also increased in frequency. In addition, perceptions of reduction in incidences of violent extremism and terrorist attacks (41%), violent robbery (38%), and political and election¹ related violence (33%) since March 2020 when COVID-19 lockdown and curfew started. Some respondents however, reported that they observed no change in land-based conflicts (34%), cattle rustling (33%), and ethnic or clan-based violence (31%).



2a. Personal experiences of violence during COVID -19

When asked about personal experiences of violence since March 2020, 21% of the respondents reported having experienced gender-based violence while 13% had experienced land based and political or election related violence respectively. Although 43% of the respondents reported that petty crime had increased, only 2% of the respondents had personally experienced incidents. It is also worth noting that nearly half of those surveyed (49%) reported that they had not experienced any form of violence since March 2020.

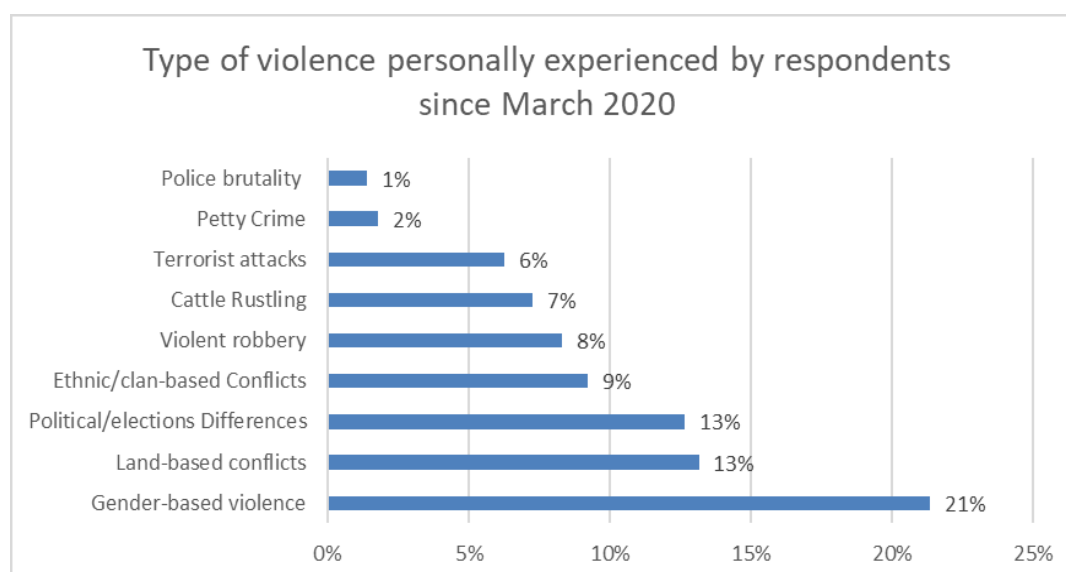


Figure 1: Type of violence personally experienced by respondents in the last three months

¹Political activities continued despite the ban on gatherings during COVID-19 lockdown and curfew

Perception of safety and protection from violence and crime

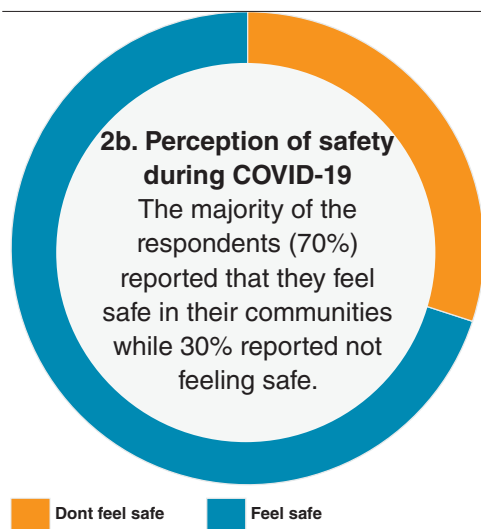


Figure 2: Perceptions of Community safety during COVID-19

When asked why they felt safe, almost a half of the respondents (48%) attributed this to increased police patrols during curfew hours, followed by reduced cases of terror attacks (18%), and reduced election related violence (17%) at the community level.

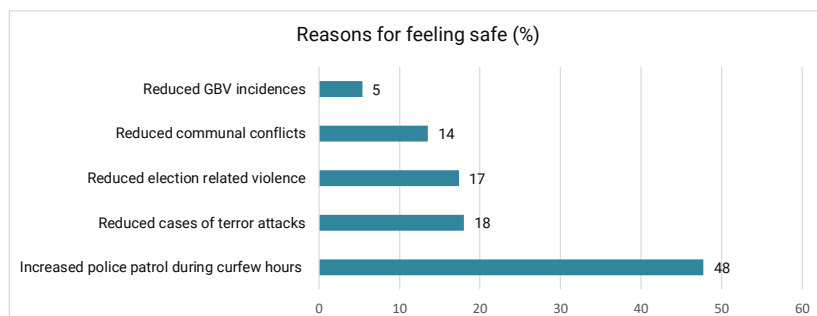


Figure 3: Reasons for feeling safe

When asked why they felt safe, almost a half of the respondents (48%) attributed this to increased police patrols during curfew hours, followed by reduced cases of terror attacks (18%), and reduced election related violence (17%) at the community level.

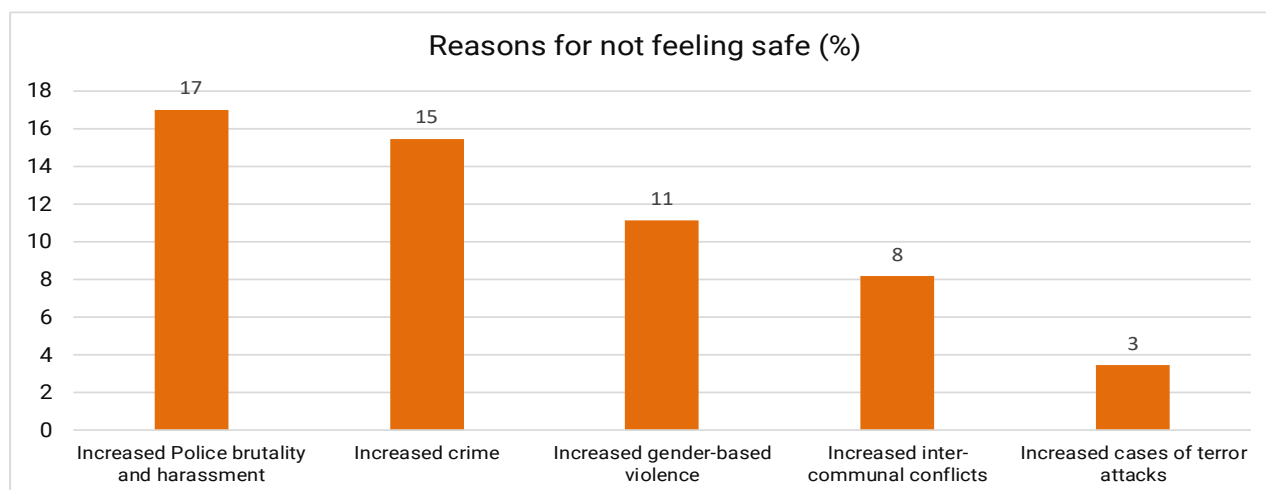


Figure 4: Reasons for not feeling safe

Vulnerability to Opportunistic Crime

3a. Challenges experienced by community members since March 2020 as a result of COVID -19

Over three quarters of the respondents (77%) reported being negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic (socially, economic, and safety and security) while 23% reported that they were coping well with the situation.

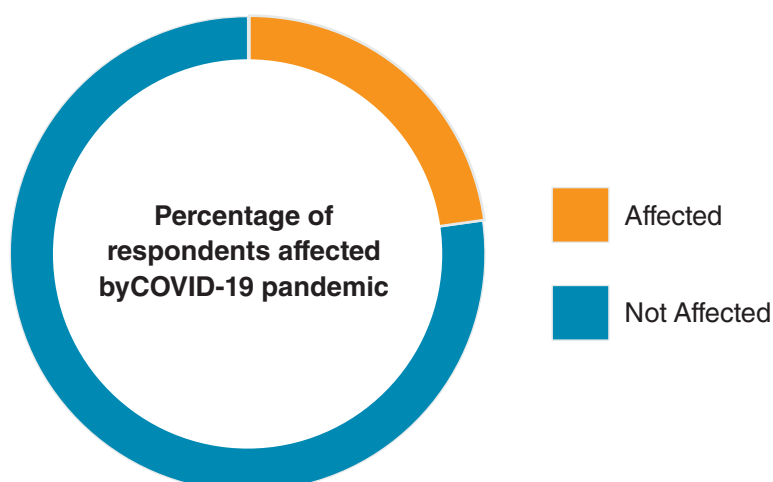


Figure 5: Responses on level of effects by COVID-19 pandemic

The majority (68%) of the respondents have not been able to continue with school, 40% have either lost their jobs or closed their business, while a third (34%) are not able to access good health care. 16% of the respondents are not able to report cases of violence at the nearest police station while 15% are exposed to more domestic violence than before.

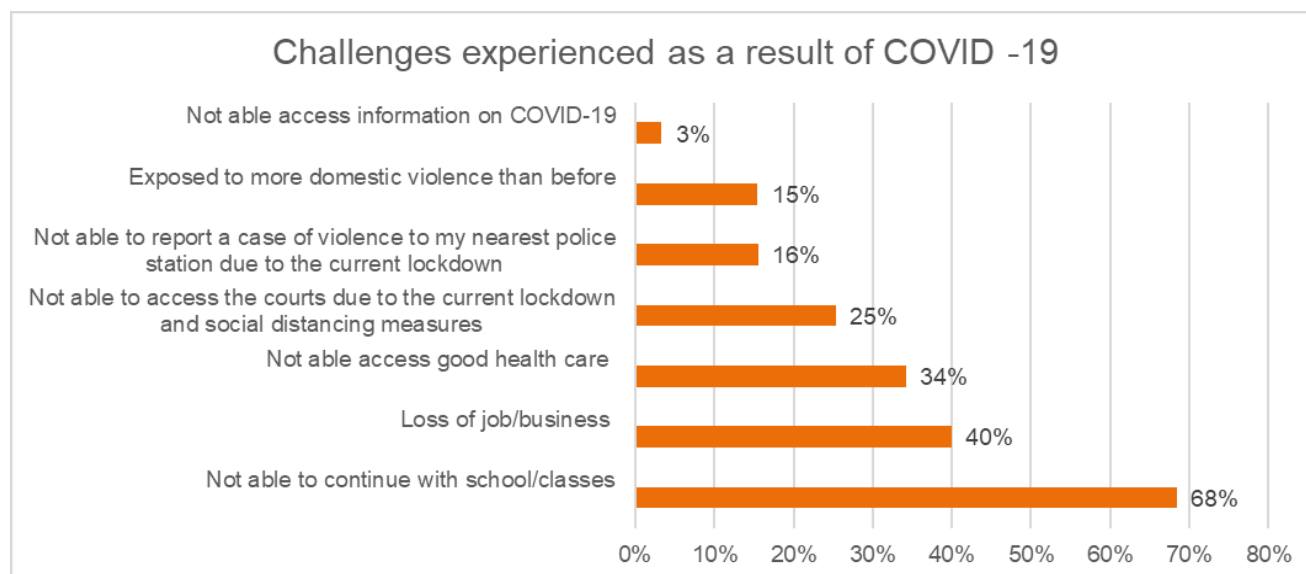


Figure 6: Challenges experienced as a result of COVID-19

Police Conduct

4a. Community perception of the role of police in handling the COVID-19 curfew and lockdown

There are mixed reactions on how the police are handling COVID-19 curfew and lockdown at the county level. 63% of survey respondents agreed that the police have a role in enforcing COVID-19 executive orders on curfew and lockdowns and that compliance of COVID-19 curfew and lockdown should not be left to individuals alone while 57% agreed that the police should not take tougher action to ensure public compliance. On the other hand, 60% perceived the approach taken by the police to enforcing the COVID-19 curfew to be too heavy handed while 67% of the respondents were supportive of the approach taken by the police but observed that in some cases the police were not considerate on how they enforced curfew. 51% of the respondents, however, did not support the approach taken by the police in managing COVID-19 curfew/lockdown at the county level.

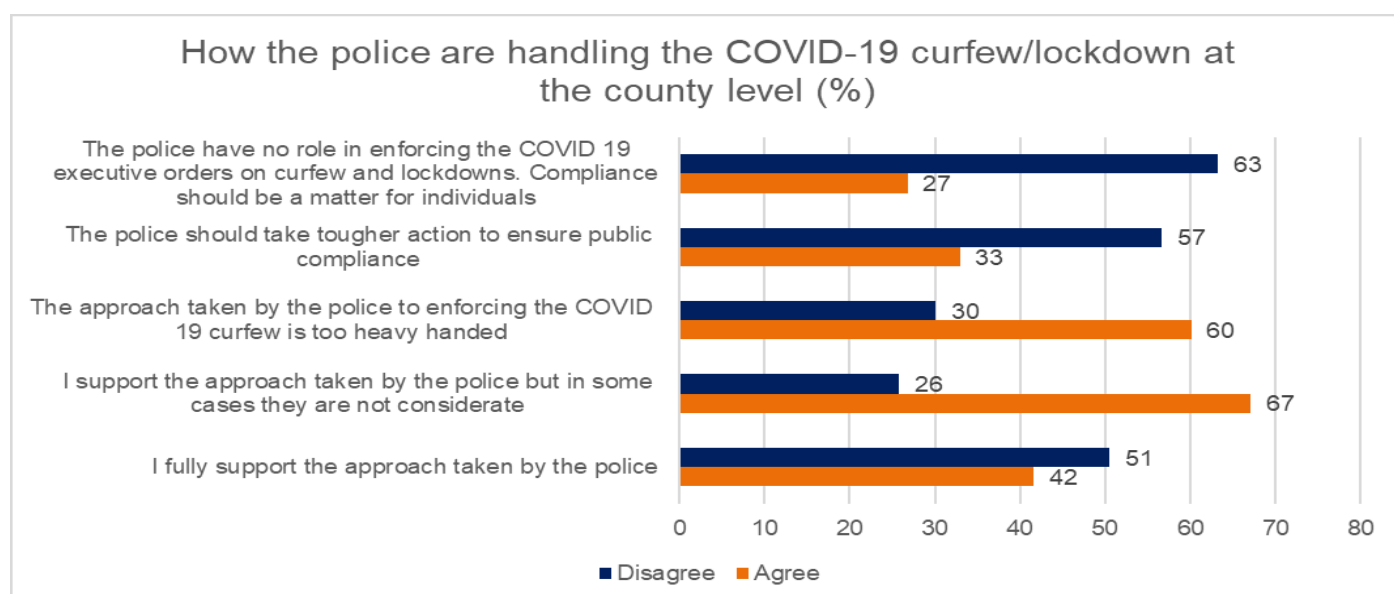


Figure 7: How the police are handling COVID-19 Curfew/lockdown at the county level.

4b. Level of satisfaction with Police implementation of government directives during COVID-19

Almost a half of the respondents (49%) were dissatisfied with how the police are managing lockdown/curfew amidst the COVID-19 pandemic; only 25% reported being satisfied.

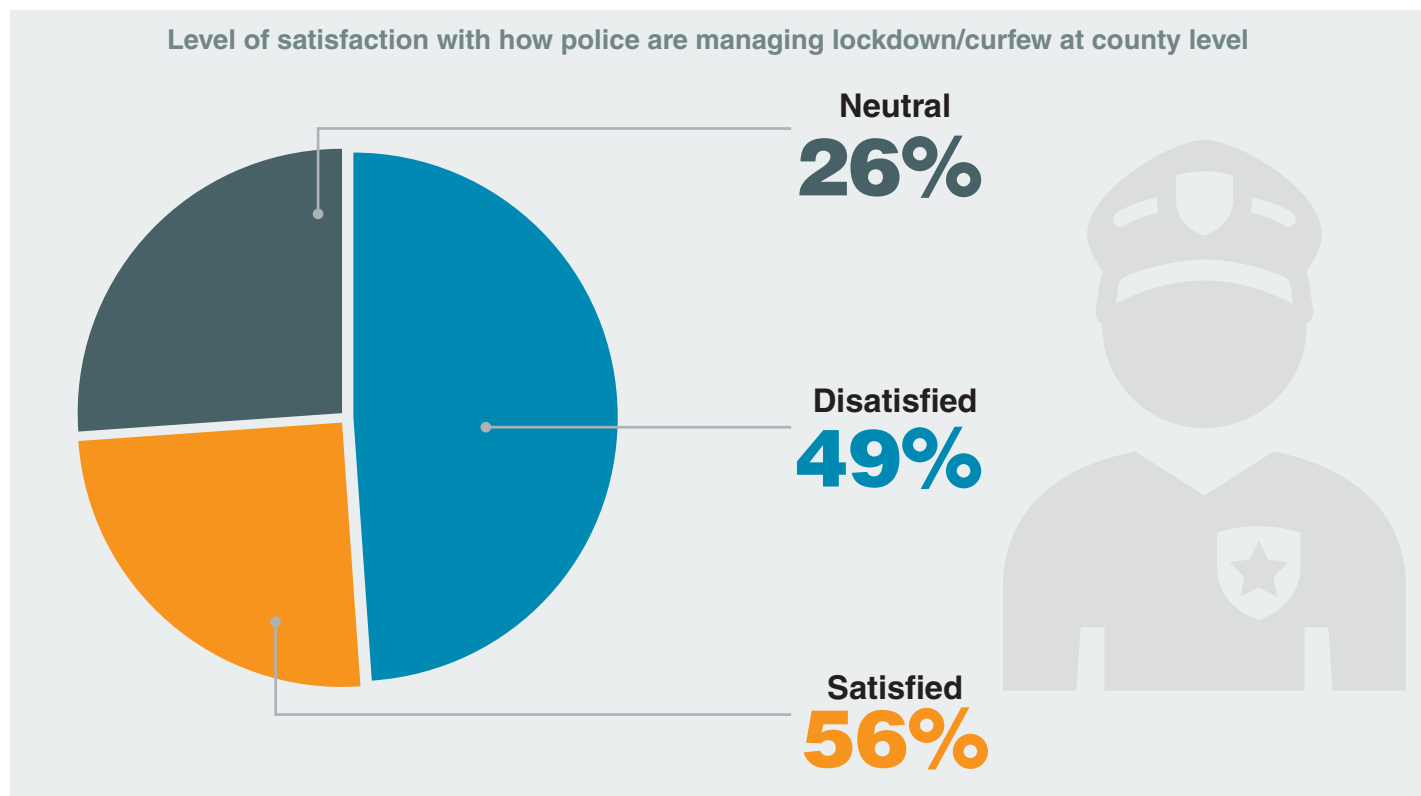


Figure 8: Levels of satisfaction with police management of lockdown.

4c. Level of satisfaction with police handling various forms of violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

50% of the respondents were dissatisfied with the way police are arresting people who fail to comply with government directive to return home early, asking people to provide valid reasons for being out of their homes (48%), management of designated roadblocks (44%), management of curfew/lockdown (43%), and management of GBV cases reported at the police station (39%).

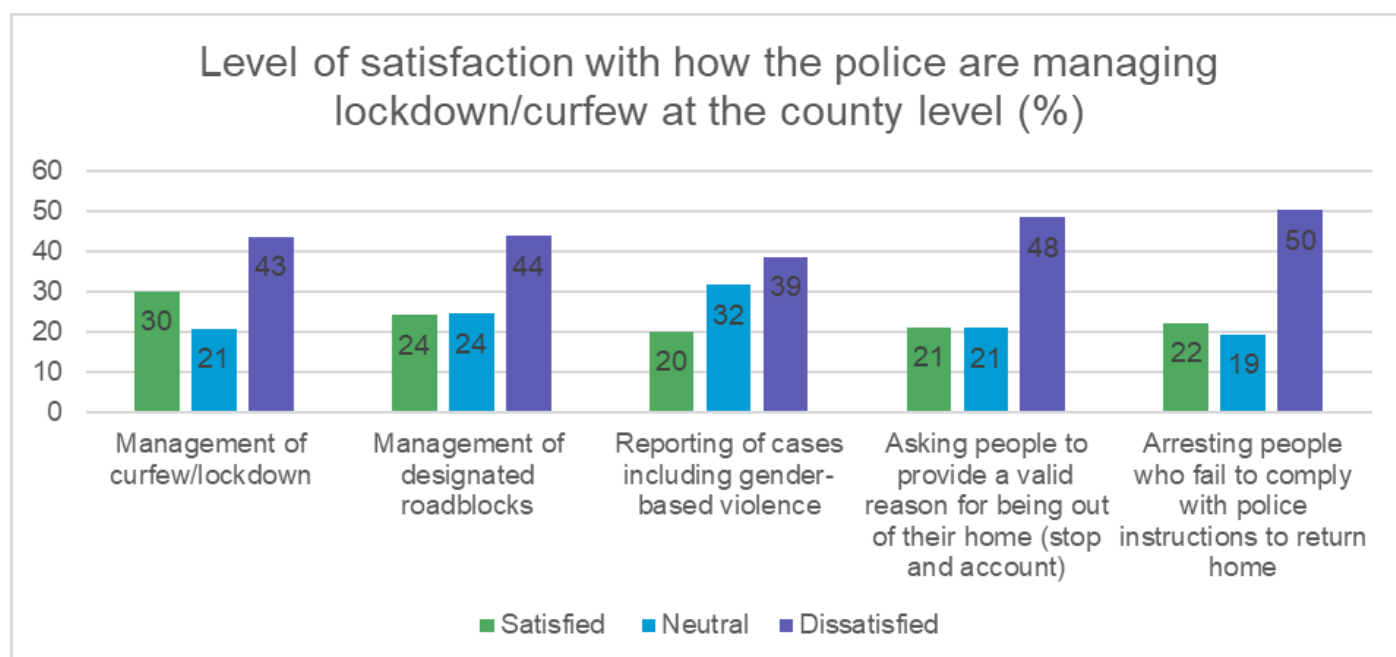


Figure 9: Level of satisfaction with how the police are managing lockdown/curfew at the county level

More specifically, respondents were dissatisfied with the way police were handling gender-based violence (39%) political and election differences (36%), petty crime (39%) and violent robbery (31%).

4d. On the overall, 39% of the respondents were dissatisfied while 24% satisfied with the way the police are handling crime and violence during COVID-19 pandemic period. 38% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the way the police are handling crime and violence.

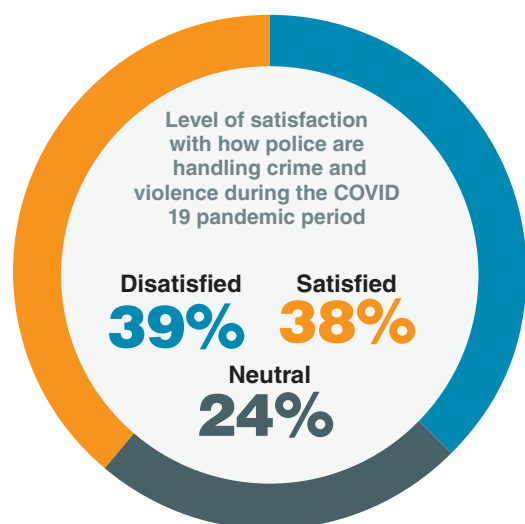


Figure 11: Level of satisfaction with the way police are handling crime and violence during the period of COVID-19 pandemic

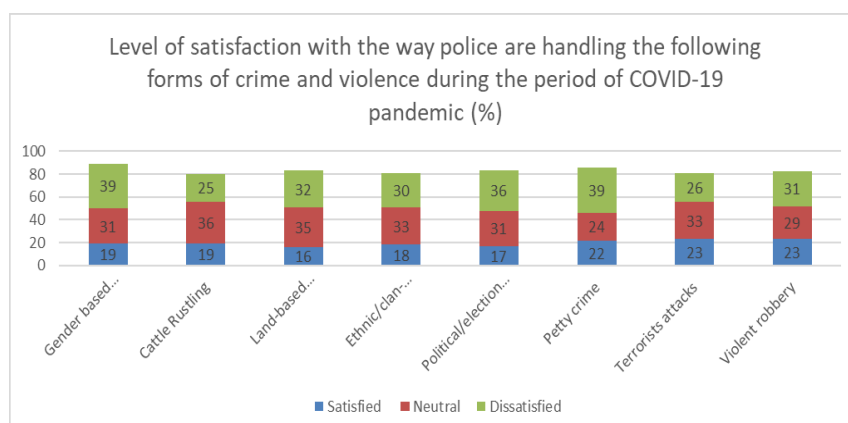


Figure 12: Level of satisfaction with the way police are handling diverse forms of crime and violence during the period of COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Recommendations to improve community safety and security during COVID-19

The majority of the respondents (80%) would like the police to be sensitised on good policing relations including public order management and gender-based violence and VAWG cases. 67% would like the police to work with community policing structures to improve safety and security especially GBV that has increased. 66% would like the government to provide alternative income for people who have lost their livelihoods as a result of COVID-19 pandemic.

Slightly more than a half of the respondents would like a more convenient or alternative platform(s) for reporting crime and to provide safe space for survivors of GBV including VAWG (60%).

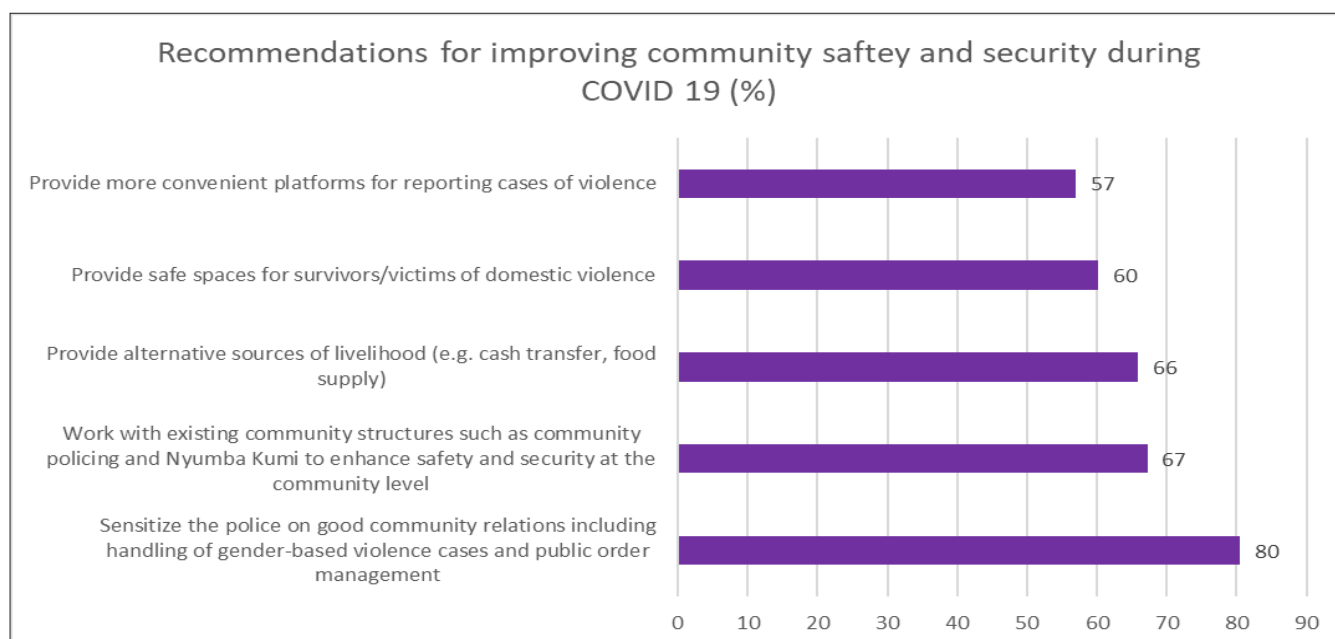


Figure 9: Level of satisfaction with how the police are managing lockdown/curfew at the county level

Discussion: Implications and Opportunities For Action

DISCUSSION



While many interventions emerge to strengthen community safety and security as a result of the prolonged and unpredictable impact of COVID-19 the data findings indicate unique trajectories of crime, violence and insecurity that have been captured by other reports. The survey results indicate that GBV and petty crime cases have increased as perceived by 51% and 43% of the respondents respectively. According to Healthcare Assistance Kenya's (HAK) Report GBV cases reported using 1195 toll free number has been increasing since April 2020. A total of 222 cases were reported in April, 345 in May, and 434 in June 2020 and this may be as a result of lockdown curfew. This places urban spaces at the frontline of increased case of domestication of crime and points to the need for better approaches for social protection and targeted advocacy on behaviour change.

In March, there was tension in Mandera after Somali troops clashed with Jubaland security troops at Beled-Hawa in Somalia parlaying movement and services. Over 20 incidences of VE were recorded from March to May 2020 mostly in North Eastern counties that share border with Somalia like Garissa, Mandera, Lamu, and Wajir as reported by REINVENT's Violence incidents monitoring report.

Despite ban on political rallies, there has been heightened political situation in the county following the issuance of Executive Order No. 1 of 2020 by the President and impeachment of the Kirinyaga County governor by 23/33 members of the County Assembly. These realignments of positions in major political parties (Jubilee, ODM, and Ford Kenya) are done to replace the non-loyal members as they gear toward 2020 general elections.



Furthermore, the REINVENT Programme Violence Monitoring Survey, in May, several violent criminal incidents were recorded across the country which could be directly linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. In at least four cases, police were accused of direct involvement in crime while enforcing the curfew. Ethnic violence has been witnessed in several counties between communities e.g. between Gabra and Borana in Marsabit; Borana and Degodia along Marsabit-Wajir border; between Kipsigis and Maasai communities in Olposumoru (Narok South) along the border of Nakuru and Narok counties. In an incident in Changamwe, Mombasa, criminals reportedly masqueraded as police officers in order to rob pedestrians who believed them to be enforcing the curfew. On the whole, these incidents appeared isolated and were not part of a broader increase in crime as a result of the economic implications of COVID-19.

Although 48% of respondents attributed their feeling safe due to increased police patrols during curfew hours, there has been increased number of police killings since the implementation of dusk to dawn curfew in Kenya to contain the spread of COVID-19. According to the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA), the police have killed 15 people while enforcing the Covid-19 curfew. The latest one was in Nandi County where three people were killed while 5 people were injured. According to ACLED, there has been 62 recorded incidents of public disorder related to COVID-19 as at June 20th.

Discussion: Implications and Opportunities For Action

WAY FORWARD



While the Government partially lifted the inter county movements blockade with a possibility of reverting back to tighter measures the management of peace and security especially in counties that are experiencing inter communal violence and those with high densities of low-level crime will continue to preoccupy peace and security sector actors. Without losing sight of the long-term, the following actions could assist peace and security actors to deliver during this challenging period:

I. Re-orienting operations - the speed with which peace and security actors pivoted and adopted new ways of working while activities around response, prevention and mitigation of crime, violence and insecurity in the wake of COVID-19 demonstrates that they could be agile and innovative in response to changing operating environments and community needs. As the REINVENT Peacebuilding newsletter focussing on the work of peace actors in Coast region established, the pandemic has provided a unique opportunity for actors to work together

and support multiplicity of threats to community cohesion while at the same time being embedded in community public health and security advocacy initiatives.

II. Accelerating digital transformation - office closures and restrictions on public gatherings and staff movement fast-tracked the adoption of virtual technology solutions. For the first time, REINVENT Programme partnered with Center for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) to deliver an Access to Justice Webinar that brought together actors from the Kenya Police Service, Judiciary, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and community Gender Based violence responders to discuss innovative approaches to addressing the rising cases of GBV. This is just but one of the opportunities in which digital acceleration can be utilised to sensitise communities and galvanise action among duty bearers. Peace and security actors will probably prioritize further technology investments in the post-COVID-19 period as they restructure their operations.

Acknowledgement

REINVENT Programme would like to thank all respondents who participated in the survey. We would also like to acknowledge our partners both at the national level and across the 18 counties we are working who assisted us in creating awareness about the survey. We are committed to sharing the survey findings with key decision makers and citizens interested in taking an active role in shaping peace and security outcomes in our communities especially during and post the covid-19 pandemic.

If you have any questions or inquiries about the survey and report, please reach out to us:

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ABOUT US

Reducing Insecurity and Violent Extremism in the Northern and Coastal regions of Kenya (REINVENT) is a £20m 5-year programme that aims to enhance Kenyan capacity and capability to address inter-communal conflict, weak community-police relations, violence against women and girls (VAWG), violent extremism and election related violence. It will support the continued advancement of police reforms to improve the management, oversight and accountability of the police force. The programme is delivered by TetraTech International Development in partnership with the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies (RUSI) and the Danish Demining Group (DDG) builds on the experience of the Jamii Thabiti Programme (2014-19), also known as the Kenya Improving Community Security Programme (ICS), and expands DFID support across more counties. It supports new areas of work including conflict sensitivity, pastoral livelihoods and combating violent extremism.

Impact of the programme:

Improved community safety and security as measured by effect on inclusive and equitable development, investment and service delivery in Kenya

Envisage Outcome of the programme:

Improved state and non-state actors' collaboration in a mutually accountable and inclusive manner to respond effectively to root causes of violence.

Programme outputs:

- Increased practice of accountability to build police (and other security agencies) effectiveness when addressing community security, violent extremism and election security.
- Strengthened agency of women and girls in peace, safety and security
- Intra and inter institutional commitment to address the root causes and drivers of conflict
- Knowledge and evidence generated and utilised to enhance community and institutional learning and adaptation.

6 . Countering Violent Extremism: Based on RUSI's experience from the Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism (STRIVE) programme and other CVE interventions, REINVENT's approach to CVE envisions an effective CVE policy framework

1 . Police Reform: The police reform agenda in Kenya envisions quality policing services for a safe and secure Kenya through strengthened capacity among policing institutions to address institutional and people centered reforms.

5 . Conflict Sensitive Development in the Northern and Coastal Regions: Kenya's rapid but unequal pace of economic growth poses enormous political and social ramifications. REINVENT Programme approach to Conflict Sensitive Development (CSD) is to promote the practice of conflict sensitivity among state, development actors and private sector in their planning and implementation of development and large-scale infrastructure projects in the country

2 . Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls: The Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Gender Mainstreaming workstream supports national, county and community initiatives, discourses and activities that deliberately interrogate gender inequalities and increase the agency and voice of women and girls.

4 . Enhancing Election Security for a Peaceful General Election in 2022: Kenya's electoral narrative has often been characterized by systemic failings in implementing violence free electoral management processes. REINVENT Election Security work is closely intertwined with police reforms, tackling VAWG and peacebuilding

3 . Peacebuilding to address Inter-communal conflict: Understanding that there are multiple fault lines in Kenya where inter-communal conflict occurs, driven by failure to address structural, institutional, historical, cultural and legal factors, creating opportunities for VE groups and criminal gangs to take advantage of conflict and instability,

