

From Intervention to Impact

“
TOWARDS A VIOLENCE
FREE SOCIETY
”



**MIDRIFT
HURINET**

Haki Kwa Wote

About

MIDRIFT HURINET is a not – for profit organisation that was founded in 2008 .Since it started its operations, MIDRIFT HURINET has endeavored to empower citizens, State and non-state actors to inculcate a culture of human rights.



**MIDRIFT
HURINET**
Haki Kwa Wote

Vision

A state and society that respects, protects and Promotes
Human Rights

Mission

To mainstream human rights based approaches in programming
in order to promote sustainable interventions.

Core Values

- Accountability
- Integrity
- Human Dignity
- Equity

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Introduction

Midrift Hurinet is an advocacy Public Benefits Organization (PBO) that works to empower citizens to claim their rights in social-economic and governance processes. The organization has been in operation since 2008 and is currently registered as a not-for-profit organization.

This publication brings to you the journey of partners who interact and work with Midrift Hurinet as the organization implements its projects.

In this publication, you will read, among other things, about how Midrift Hurinet has been working with police officers and communities in creating basic conditions for collective action in violence prevention.

This publication walks you to police stations and to community members through Community Policing Committees (CPCs). It brings closer home experiences of how dialogue and knowledge acquisition on policing through “101

Things You Wanted To Know about the Police But Were Too Afraid To Ask” booklet, among young people and police officers in a bid to build trust, challenge normalized violence and increase reporting.

It also takes you through some sessions of Place-Based Leadership Development (PBLD) Program on leaders in various sectors which aims at developing effective collaboration for Inter-sectoral Urban Violence Prevention. It demonstrates how different stakeholders can work together towards a violence-free society.

The successful interventions published herein, are real-life illustrations that indeed, there can be good working relationships between police officers and communities in violence prevention.

Foreword

Mid-Rift Human Rights Network (Midrift Hurinet) has been implementing two projects; Urban Violence Prevention – funded by the Danish Institute Against Torture (Dignity) and the policing component of Improving Community Security (ICS) project titled Jamii Thabiti–funded by UK-Department for International Development (DFID) and managed by Coffey International.

The Urban Violence Prevention project (**Usalama Bora: Usalama Wetu, Jukumu Letu**) for Nakuru and Naivasha Municipalities uses an evidence-based approach to violence prevention through an inter-sectoral collaboration. It also aims at creating basic conditions for collective action, trust building, data collection, policy interventions and enhanced reporting on security issues.

On the other hand, the Jamii Thabiti program seeks to promote community security and safety through addressing criminal violence by strengthening community policing, through improved knowledge of rights, responsibilities, and partnership with law enforcement and safety service providers in resolving violence at the local level.

Over the years, there has been a gap between police officers and the communities. The gap is especially widened by stereotypes such as those that imply the officers are corrupt and always look for ways to punish even innocent people. While a few officers may unfortunately fall under this category, the communities often fail to view police officers as human beings who have friends and families and who care for and are dedicated to serving fellow human beings. They fail to appreciate police officers who are dedicated to their duty of serving the public with justice and commitment.

To bridge this gap, and enhance prevention of urban violence, Midrift Hurinet has been bringing together Police Officers, National Government Administration Officers, the communities and



Joseph Omondi Executive Director Midrift Hurinet

relevant authorities around Nakuru and Naivasha Municipalities.

Formation of Community Policing Committees (CPCs) in five police stations across Nakuru and Naivasha Municipalities has come in handy in curbing urban violence. The active CPCs have not only resulted in the creation of trust between police officers and communities, but also made it easy for the officers to execute their noble

duties. CPCs act as a link between police officers and communities. Midrift Hurinet has been engaging all the parties in forums, which has enhanced trust between police officers and communities.

Through library outreach programs in partnership with the Kenya National Library Services (KNLS) in Nakuru and Naivasha, Midrift Hurinet has been linking young people and police officers. This effort aims at building trust between the two parties while young people are still in their youthful years of life. The forums have also been platforms for Midrift Hurinet and our partners to sensitize young people on urban violence prevention. The initiative will create a breed of youths who know what violence

is, and how to react are faced by violence-related threats. They are also made aware of the consequences of breaking the law.

The Place-Based Leadership Development Program is one of a kind in the world. This is a collaboration between Midrift Hurinet, University of Sunderland and DIGNITY. It aims at developing the capacity of various leaders from police, civil society, private sector, Non-Governmental Organisations among others to create partners who can work together in violence prevention.

Acknowledgment

Midrift Human Rights Network wishes to acknowledge the County Security Intelligence Committee (CSIC) led by the County Commissioner Mr. Joshua Nkanatha; Nakuru County Police Commander Police Commissioner Hassan Barua and other members for their support and cooperation towards the achievement of community policing and eventual production of this publication.

We also acknowledge the support from the office of the Inspector General for allowing us conduct activities like data collection from Police Stations.

The results and impact shared in this publication is owed to strong community partnerships and relationships built with the Officers Commanding Police Divisions (OCPDs); Divisional Administration Police Commanders (DAPCs); Officers Commanding Police Stations (OCSs); and the officers under them.

Chiefs, Community Policing Committees (CPCs) Peace Committees; *Nyumba Kumi* elders were instrumental in the interventions. All these and many more actors were key in building basic conditions for collective action in intersectoral violence prevention.

We thank the MidRift Hurinet team that helped coordinate these interventions including: Joseph Omondi; Leonard Githae; Walter Mwanja; Moses Chavene; Jomo Odhiambo Daniel; Rebecca Ngina; Beatrix Arusei; and Laurine Opiyo, thank you all.

This work would not have been possible without our partnership with the Danish Institute Against Torture (DIGNITY) led by the Programme Manager, Prevention of Urban Violence Finn Kjaerulf; our partnership with Sunderland Business and Law Schools - University of Sunderland through the Principal Lecturer – External Engagement Dr. Rob Worrall who spearheads Place Based Leadership Development (PBLD) Program for leaders in Intersectoral Urban Violence Prevention (IUVP); and lastly through our partnership with the Department for International Development (DfID) through Coffey International (Jamii Thabiti) led by Ms. Jaki Mbogo. *We Thank You All.*



List of Abbreviations

AP	Administration Police
CBD	Central Business District
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CPC	Community Policing Committee
CPF	Community Policing Forum
CIP	Chief Inspector of Police
DIGNITY	Danish Institute Against Torture
GBV	Gender Based Violence
Hurinet	Mid-Rift Human Rights Network
IG	Inspector General
IUVP	Inter-sectoral Urban Violence Prevention
IPOA	Independent Police Oversight Authority
NG-CDF	National Government Constituency Development Fund
OB	Occurrence Book
OCPP	Officer Commanding a Police Post
PBLD	Place-Based Leadership Development
PR	Public Relations
SSP	Senior Superintendent of Police
ToTs	Trainers of Trainees

Foreword

When I came to work in Nakuru County back the year 2015, I discovered that police officers had a big challenge while trying to get information from the public. People always complained that police officers were slow in delivery of services. However, I always felt that members of public too needed to know that they had a role to play in order to ensure police officers served them effectively.

Therefore, when Midrift Hurinet consulted my office seeking partnership in addressing policing issues, I immediately felt that this kind of a partnership would solve the puzzles that hindered effective service delivery by police officers.

I sought authority for the partnership from my seniors as required and they too happily gave a nod to the idea.

When we held our first meeting in Naivasha, a Community Policing Committee (CPC) existed in the area but it was dormant and seemed unaware of its roles and how being active would have helped in curbing violence and crimes in the area. Through partnership with Midrift Hurinet, we have built the CPC members' capacity on their mandate using Inspector General's Guidelines on Community Policing as well as a hand book on Community Policing Forums and Committees and the Police Customer Service Charter.



**Hassan Barua,
Nakuru County
Police Commander**

Through Midrift Hurinet, I have since actively participated in many more meetings between the public, CPC members, administration and police officers. I thank Midrift Hurinet for organising the forums. Since establishment of active CPCs in various police stations, there is now effective flow of information between police officers and the public.

My work entails being in the office most

of the time. However, I am able to get direct information on criminal activities deep in the villages and urban areas within my area of jurisdiction. This has been made possible through two ways;- One, I always give out my mobile phone numbers during the urban prevention forums and therefore, the public can call me directly.

Secondly, Midrift Hurinet, has popularized 'Mulika Uhalifu 22068', an SMS based platform through which the public can report crime. This means I easily and often get crime updates and give orders to officers to take fast action. However, I always prefer contacting the local CPC whenever I get alerts from the public just to be sure it is true and requires action by police officers.

One incident among the many that have successfully enabled police to make arrests after a call from the public was when a stranger informed me that there was marijuana being repackaged in a house within Flamingo estate. The caller told me that he had picked my number during a policing forum organised by Midrift Hurinet. I sent officers who arrested the suspects and arraigned them in court.

I like the fact that members of public have changed their view of police officers; they now understand that the officers are friends, not foes, and they are there for the good of our country.

Due to rise in reported cases, issues such as illicit alcohol brewing, gender-based violence and other



I like the fact that members of public have changed their view of police officers; they now understand that the officers are friends, not foes, and they are there for the good of our country. - Hassan Barua, Nakuru County Police Commander

crimes are slowly reducing. Junior police officers who would take bribes have since stopped the habit because they know the public is watching and may report them to my office or any other of their seniors.

However, the public still needs more sensitisation on why they should let police officers work with minimal interference. A police officer, for example, after listening to a suspect, may just issue a warning and release him or her without arraignment in court. This may be due to the magnitude of the crime and the conditions that may have pushed the suspect to commit such a crime. However, the public, inconsiderate of what the police officers considered, often accuse them of taking bribes.

But the public can also be motivating in this work. At one time, I received a copy of a letter that was written by CPC to my bosses, praising my work. I still feel motivated because I felt appreciated by the people I serve.

I would also recommend that CPCs be revived in all areas within Nakuru and all counties in the country.

Thank you Midrift Hurinet.



Fenced Kaptembwo Police Station



***“How can you secure others
if you are not secure?”
– Corporal Beth Kamau,
Kaptembwo Police Post.***

No Longer Insecure As Officer Secures Community

It is early Monday morning at Kaptembwo Police Station, in the heart of Nakuru's Kaptembwo slums. Police Corporal Beth Kamau sits on a bench under a tree. Surrounding her, are some local Community Policing Committee (CPC) members and other people, mostly women, who have come to seek her services. One would assume that they are all just relaxing in the shade.

But this is Corporal Beth's office where she reports on duty every morning. She is the police station's officer in-charge of Gender and Children Affairs Department. While the condition of her makeshift office may shock any stranger to her work, Corporal Beth has a lot to smile about it.

Until 2016, when the Midrift Hurinet intervened, the station did not have a perimeter wall.

"I worked under insecure conditions, yet I had a duty to offer security to the local community," recalls Corporal Beth.

Animals roamed within the police station

As if that was not enough, goats, pigs, dogs and other domestic animals, which freely crisscrossed the compound, would often interrupt her work.

"Can you imagine the scary feeling of stray dogs barking and running across my 'office' just when I am recording a statement from an already terrified victim?" she pauses.

Corporal Beth vividly recalls a day when a woman was being attacked by a mob, within the police station. Efforts by police officers to push the crowd outside the compound were rendered futile and they had to use teargas canisters to disperse the crowd.

Like other officers, she felt overwhelmed by the swelling crowd and found it hard controlling the people.

"I felt insecure, but I am now very secure because such a crowd cannot access the compound as I would just lock the gate," she says, adding, "How can you secure others if you are not secure?"

Through the Jamii Thabiti and Usalama Bora projects, Midrift Hurinet, in collaboration with the local CPC, pushed for construction of a perimeter wall around the police station.

Local CPC chairman Ambrose Orimba recalls how Midrift Hurinet reached out to the office of the Inspector General (IG), the Interior Ministry and the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NGCDF) office. The wall was constructed with funding

A woman waits to be served at the GBV 'office' in Kaptembwo Police Station in Nakuru





A CPF Session in Kaptembwo

from NGCDF in 2015-2016, ending a long suffering for the police officers at the station.

Linkages between police and public

Besides leading in interventions for a perimeter wall, Midrift Hurinet has been facilitating forums that bring together police officers and the local community.

“Before those interventions, the public would view police officers as enemies who are always looking out to punish anyone,” confesses Orimba

However, after holding several forums, the community, especially through CPC members, cooperates with police officers in curbing urban violence and crime.

Residents of Kaptembwo slums are among the people who have been trained by Midrift Hurinet about gender-based violence (GBV), urban violence, children's rights and sexual offences, among other issues.

“Midrift Hurinet has built trust between police officers and the local community,” says Corporal Beth. “Both the police officers and the community now know that they have a part to play in fighting crime, and ensuring peaceful co-existence.”

Having discovered that the CPC and the police aim at achieving the same goals, both now work in trust and strive to play respective roles in ensuring security and relevant rights for all.

“The community has enhanced trust in CPC members as well

as the police,” says Orimba.

This, according to Corporal Beth and Orimba has increased the number of reported cases and witnesses.

And although she acknowledges that they are now great pillars in her work, Corporal Beth confesses that she was not aware of CPC's existence in Kaptembwo until Midrift Hurinet introduced the members to her.

“I like working with the CPC members. They are very supportive in my work, especially on children and GBV issues,” she says.

The most common crimes afflicting children and GBV include defilement, child labour, drug abuse, rape and incest.

Kaptembwo is among the biggest slums in Nakuru and is characterised by high population density, with most families surviving below one dollar daily.

Corporal Beth dreams of a time the police station will have a children's rescue centre to ease her the burden of having to take affected children to various homes. The rescue centre, she believes, is even more urgent than her own office.



A view of a section of Naivasha town



Finn Kjaerulf, UVP Programs Manager at DIGNITY, addresses youths at KNLS in Nakuru town

Demystifying Police Officers



Corporal Aboki shares sometime with a child outside Naivasha Library

When Police Corporal Boniface Aboki started addressing youths at Midrift's Hurinet student-police dialogue forums at KNLS; Naivasha Library, none of them had the courage to speak to him.

To try and grab their attention, Corporal Aboki started his conversation by asking if anyone of them had a relative who was a police officer. The hall was full, with about 70 youths, but none of them responded. He then asked if anyone of them had ever been to a police station. Again, the room was dead silent.

Police officers are people just like anyone else

It was only after Corporal Aboki talked about his children, where they go to school and their ages that his audience started responding.

"Policemen are people just like anyone else; they are parents, brothers, sisters, cousins; they have feelings and are as kind as anyone else, and sensitive to other human beings," he told the young people.

He then asked them what comes to their minds when they either see or think about a police officer.

For some, all they thought about was being arrested; others thought of bribes or corruption while others expressed general fear of police officers.

This is a reflection of the public's perception of who police officers are. The officers are treated with a lot of suspicion and viewed as always out to infringe on citizens' rights, rather than protect them.

Nurturing a cordial relationship

Having won the attention of his audience, Corporal Aboki introduced his agenda. He was here to demystify the perception that police officers are unfriendly and unapproachable and also talk to the young people (most of who were in their teenage), about prevention of violence. His aim was to nurture a cordial relationship between the public and police officers; to build trust between the two parties for enhanced partnership in curbing violence.

"I want to challenge you to pass by a police station before the end of the year. Ask for the OCS and just tell him/her that you wanted to say hallo," said Corporal Aboki.

Corporal Aboki is the Gender and Children Affairs Officer at Naivasha Central Police station. His work caused the local community to brand him 'Baba watoto' (father) and 'Gynaecologist'.

He talked to the youths about the Sexual Offences Act of 2006, The Children's Act of 2008 and the children's rights among others. In all, he expounded extensively on what each of the law says and the consequences of breaking them.



Corporal Aboki talks to young people inside Naivasha Library

The forum was one among many others that Midrift Hurinet has organised and facilitated between police officers and community members in and within the outskirts of Naivasha town. The areas Midrift Hurinet has reached out to include; Naivasha Central Business District (CBD), Kihoto, County Council, Mirera and Karagita.

“Midrift Hurinet has helped to identify and iron out specific issues that have been affecting Naivasha,” said Corporal Aboki

Like many other police officers, Corporal Aboki confessed that he had a negative perception of human rights organisations. He viewed them as unjust to the police and always looking out for isolated incidences when a single police officer commits a violation of human rights, then stereotype the whole police service.

“But Midrift Hurinet has been objective, balancing both issues of the police and the public,” he said. “They view us as human beings first, then professional police officers who can partner with the public to ensure security for all.” Before Midrift Hurinet started working with the police officers, CPCs and the communities, there were numerous unreported violence and criminal cases as people feared giving information to the police. Most cases would be resolved in kangaroo courts or through mob justice.

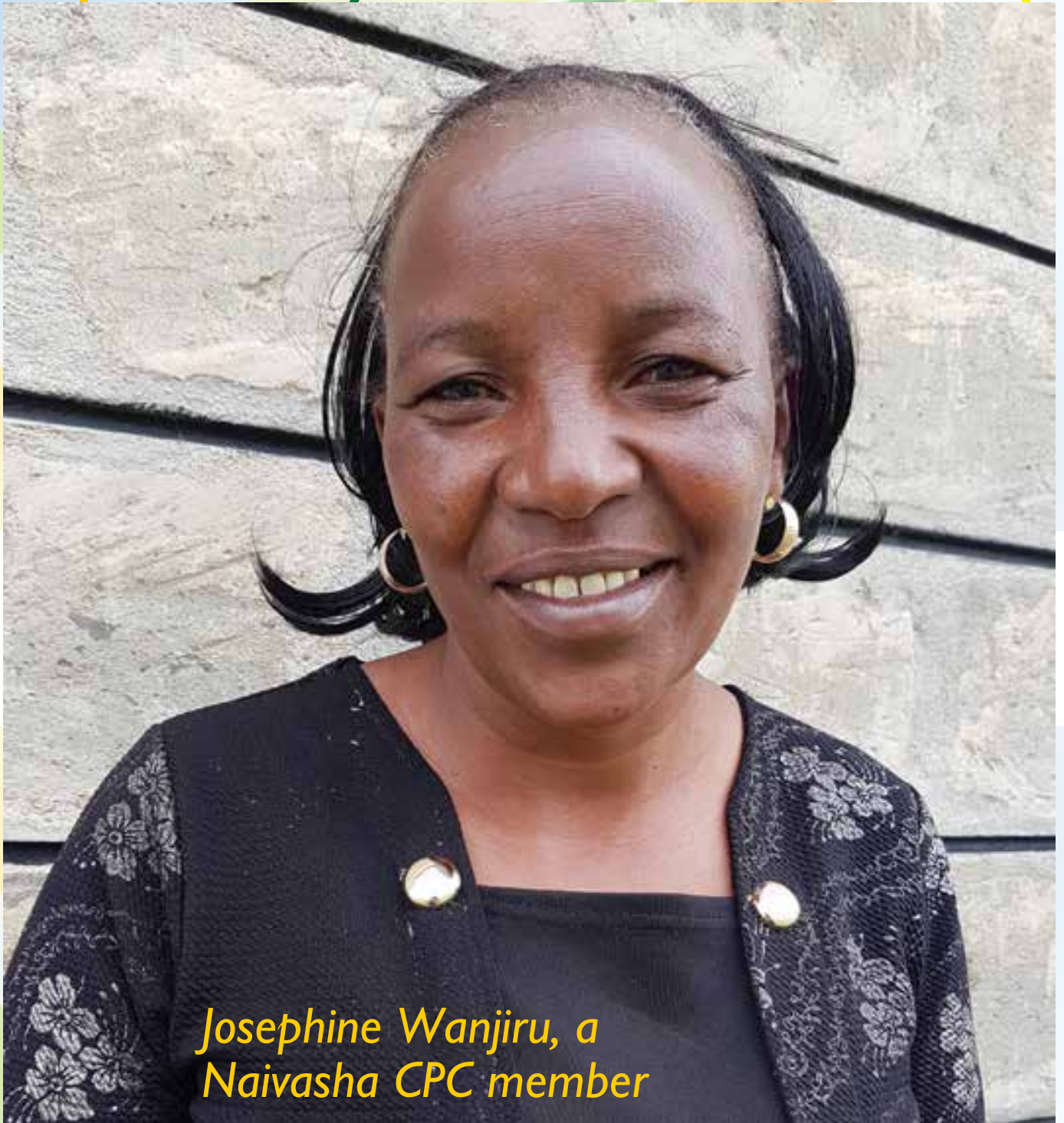
But most of the people now know that they can reach out to the police officers either directly, or through CPC members.

“Policemen are people just like anyone else; they are parents, brothers, sisters, cousins; they have feelings and are as kind as anyone else, and sensitive to other human beings,” - Corporal Aboki



A Child Protection Unit within Naivasha Central Police Station

Community Policing Enhances Security, Makes Lives Better



Josephine Wanjiru, a Naivasha CPC member

Josephine Wanjiru has been a community social worker for many years. In her line of work, she has encountered numerous problems that would need intervention from police officers

A Sunday school teacher at her local church, Josephine lacked connections with police officers in Naivasha where she lives and works. She therefore

would report cases such as those of rape, defilement and child abuse, among others, to her bishop.

“I did not have a relationship with police officers and I had no way to approach them,” says Josephine, the chairperson of Kihoto CPC in Naivasha.

Things change with Midrift Hurinet

However, things changed when she started interacting with Midrift Hurinet. She is now close to many local police officers including the OCPD and the OCS. She, like other CPC members, has also established a close relationship with the local administration officers.

“The chief would dismiss me as a rumour monger. But we now work as a team and he contacts me every time he wants public mobilisation,” says Josephine. All parties realised that they were working towards the same goals and what they needed was teamwork and partnership to complement each other's effort.

Help for sexual abuse victim

In one incident, Josephine rescued a mentally challenged woman in Naivasha Town who had also suffered sexual abuse. The woman's brother had tried in vain to get her admitted to a local government-run mental health hospital. However, when Josephine got a recommendation from the OCS, the hospital

admitted the woman without any problem.

“I simply went with the OCS's recommendation and introduced myself as a CPC leader,” she recalls, adding that this might not have been possible were it not for the linkage between her and the OCS through Midrift Hurinet.

“Midrift Hurinet linked me with the police. I now understand that police officers are friendly, approachable and willing to cooperate with CPC members,” she confesses.

Hospital bill waived

In another incident, Josephine was called by a community member alerting her of a man who had attacked his neighbour with a machete.

“I took the injured man to hospital and identified myself as a CPC member, prompting their bill of Ksh14,000 (Euro 140) to be waived,” says Josephine.

She recommends that Midrift Hurinet should expand the urban violence prevention (Usalama Bora) and Jamii Thabiti projects to the rural areas within and beyond Naivasha Sub-County.

No Longer Community 'polyethene'



*Esther Nyokabi,
a CPC member
based
in Naivasha*

Every time she approached a police station, Esther Nyokabi would often be dismissed as 'Community Polyethene'; a corruption of 'Community Policing'. Community Policing is a concept that seeks to establish a crime prevention partnership between the public and the police. Some officers felt that she was interfering with their work and would tell her that security matters were not her duty.

"I would be treated with arrogance and mistrust," recalls Esther.

However, things changed when Midrift Hurinet started holding forums that brought together community members, Community Policing Committee (CPC), police officers and local administration officers, among other stakeholders.

Bonding and trust

A CPC member at the Naivasha Central Police Station, Esther often interacts with all these stakeholders in her day-to-day work. She has since found it easy to work with police officers after bonding and trust building initiated and facilitated by Midrift Hurinet.

“Whenever I refer or report cases to the police, I always take the occurrence book (OB) number so that I can follow up on the case,” says Esther.

One such case was of a father who had defiled and impregnated his teenage daughter. After giving birth, the girl asked her father to take her back to school. However, the man asked her to sleep with him again so that he would take her back to school.

“The girl came to me and I followed up on the case until he was arrested, charged and jailed,” says Esther, adding that the girl has since been taken to a rescue center and is back in school.

Her wish is that she will get an opportunity to visit all people who have been jailed after her intervention and find out if they have reformed.

Kangaroo Courts

Sometimes, she faces challenges such as cases being solved in kangaroo courts. Most of such

cases, she says, are those against women. Most women, especially in rural and slum areas, barely know their rights and are therefore oppressed in silence under the kangaroo courts system.

Sometimes, under the kangaroo and 'family courts', issues of violence are dismissed as possession by demons, curses, and other cultural issues.

“But people need to know that violence is violence and cannot be sugar-coated to be something different,” notes Esther.

Women-only forum

During one forum organized by Midrift Hurinet in Gatamaiyu, women requested her to organize a female-only forum.

“The women are so oppressed that they could not express themselves in the presence of men even if it was a public meeting that gave everyone the right to speak out,” says Esther.

She hopes that Midrift Hurinet will find a way to reach out to more community members as a way of sensitizing them on their rights and how to prevent violence.

“But people need to know that violence is violence and cannot be sugar-coated to be something different,” notes Esther.



A CPF session in Elementaita. Midrift Hurinet made history for taking the County Police Commander to this area for the first time in history



New Hope For A Better Elementaita Police Station

Seated in her office at Elementaita Police Station, Chief Inspector of Police (CIP) Evelyn Owona smiles with optimism. Jamii Thabiti has promised her a desktop computer which she expects will be delivered soon. The computer will ease her work as the station's OCS. This is among the issues that are being addressed, thanks to a strong and active community policing committee (CPC). The issues are being addressed through partnership between her office, CPC and Midrift Hurinet. A case of the station's land which has been grabbed and sold out is also being followed up.

She is hopeful that the land will soon be returned to the police station and be used to construct better offices. This hope motivates her. All these interventions would not have been possible were it not for the good relationship between the police, local CPC and other stakeholders.

"Each one of us has been playing a role to ensure the betterment of police officers' welfare and the safety of the public," says Evelyn.

Active Community Policing Committee

These are some of the fruits of having active CPC members in the area, coupled with a good relationship among stakeholders, thanks to efforts by Midrift Hurinet.

"Members of the local community have become my close friends with whom we sit down and discuss our needs towards enhancing security for all," says CIP Evelyn.

Her area of jurisdiction, which includes villages such as Kiambogo, Jogoo and Kongasis, among others, is cosmopolitan and she, and the local administration officers were worried that there would be violence during the 2017 elections.

However, interventions by Midrift Hurinet played a key role in enhancing peaceful coexistence among



**Evelyn Owona, OCS
Elementaita Police Station**

communities in these areas during the electioneering period.

Midrift Hurinet public forums

Besides, Midrift Hurinet has been hosting forums with the community, regular police officers, Administration Police (AP) officers, local administration and other stakeholders to sensitise them on ways of curbing violence.

Area Senior Chief Charles Sironga Koiba was previously viewed as a National Government administration officer who was always looking for an opportunity to punish the public. The same people he was employed to serve would avoid him. Some would for no reason hide when they saw

him.

Mediation role

But the relationship between the chief and the community changed for the better after Midrift Hurinet acted as a mediator.

“Midrift Hurinet did not only bring together me and the community, but also both the Kenya Police Service (KPS) and Administration Police Service (APS) officers in the locality,” says Senior Chief Koiba.

According to CIP Evelyn, the linkage between the KPS and APS officers came in handy because the latter are stationed deep in the villages and, therefore, report any crimes or arrests to her office through direct calls to her cell phone.

Midrift Hurinet sensitizes police officers, local administration officers and the public on violence prevention.

Incidences of Violence go down

Between January and November 2017, seven cases of

gender-based violence (GBV) had been reported compared to 17 between January and December 2016.

Reduction in violence cases is attributed to the sensitisation of the community through public forums.

“Midrift Hurinet has really helped this police station. I am not exaggerating,” says CIP Evelyn.

On his part, Senior Chief Koiba has now made it a habit to address issues of GBV every time he is in a public meeting, not only within his location, but also in the neighbouring areas.

“During my barazas, I always talk about GBV, something I never used to do before I was sensitised on the same by Midrift Hurinet,” says Senior Chief Koiba.



“Each one of us has been playing a role to ensure the betterment of police officers' welfare and the safety of the public,” says Evelyn.

Reenergising Community Policing In Elementaita



Some CPC members from Elementaita shortly after a meeting to discuss on formation of a County CPC

Although Elementaita, area had community policing committee (CPC) members, they were barely active and neither the local police officers nor the community took them seriously. However, the presence of the county commander at a meeting that was addressing violence prevention made everyone rethink the importance of security.

“For the first time in history, we were visited by the County Police Commander. We not only had a chance to listen to him, but also freely interacted with him as we expressed our security concerns. This was during a meeting organised by Midrift Hurinet in 2016,” recalls James Gicheru, a CPC member from Elementaita.

During this meeting, those present were sensitised on a draft on community policing, roles of community policing, gender-based violence (GBV) and the need for interactions and partnerships with police officers and the local administration.

CPC joins hands with police

“As CPC, we used to organise meetings but they were always poorly attended,” recalls one member.

But the CPC in the area is now active and works hand in hand with the local

police officers, especially the OCS, local administration and other stakeholders to ensure prevention of violence.

Unlike before when police officers used to treat CPC members as intruders who interfered with their work, the two parties are now not only stakeholders working towards the same goals, but also close friends.

So tight is their relationship that when one of the officers was transferred to another area, the community members donated 10 goats and organised a farewell party for him.

Another officer lost her mother and the community members were not only involved in the funeral arrangements, but also sent representatives to the burial at her rural home.

Efficiency in service delivery

The cordial working relationship has enhanced

efficiency in service delivery and this has greatly benefited the local community.

Initially, the public used to avoid reporting issues to the police officers as they would be asked to fuel their (officers') vehicle.

“People, especially the poor, who are the majority, used to avoid reporting cases as they could not afford to fuel the police vehicle,” says Florence Bosibori, another CPC member.

However, the problem has since been solved, especially after the public was made aware that no one should buy fuel for the police as they (public) have a right to access services from the officers without spending their own money.

...no one should buy fuel for the police as they (public) have a right to access services from the officers without spending their own money...

ELEMENTAITA COMMUNITY POLICING

- As a Committee that attends and works with our police officers in Elementaita Police Station, we are grateful for the co-operation, collaboration, communication and commitment between the service and the community in fulfilling the needs of the community regarding policing.
- It is our high pleasure to recommend the officer/police in charge of the station ie. (O.C.S. Madam Everlyne) for the establishment of the community policing committee (C.P.C) which has promoted co-operation between the service and the community of the area.
- The committee has established and maintained partnership between the service and the community and has promoted policing problem identification and policing problem-solving by the service and the community.
- Through the O.C.S, we have been looking at different ways of working with the police to combat crime and insecurity in the community.
- Also through the officer in charge of our police station, we are able to build trust with the National Administration Offices ie. Office of the County Commissioner, Deputy County commissioner, Assistant County Commissioner, Chiefs and those of the Assistant Chiefs.
- With the support and technical input of Jamii Thabiti Programme funded by the UK Department for International Development, we have been trained on:
 1. Combating Crime and Insecurity
 2. Our roles as C.P.C
 3. Peace building
 4. Security sector reforms
 5. Security research
 6. Small Arms and Light weapons (SALW)
 7. Arms control and management
 8. Gender based violence, Defilement cases etc.
- For this reason, we are able to develop a strong value system in our society which promotes patriotism among the citizens hence a peaceful coexistence within the society.
- We are therefore humbled by saying a word of thanks to the O.C.S and her staff for the solid leadership that have provided more effective, accountable and responsive services thus improving safety and security to the community.
- With regards to the achievements made, we have achieved much thus requesting the National Government and other stake holders to commend the officer in-charge of our police station and her staff for their good work.

Thanks a lot and may God bless you all.

Yours C.P Team

For:- Organising Secretary

PAUL T. NGUGI - 0726746799



CHAIRMAN - JAMES RICHERU - 

This letter was presented to MidRift Hurinet in January 2018, by Elementaita CPC in recognition of the good work that MidRift Hurinet has been doing with the community and police. It was also presented to the Gilgil OCPD

Police-Community New Year Party; Fruits Of A Healthy Partnership



Residents of Elementaita in Nakuru ushered in the New Year in a rare style that ensured better bonding, working relationship and trust between them and the police.

In the African culture, long lasting bonds are built and sealed over a meal and at Mbweha Camp in Nakuru's Gilgil Sub-county, the close-knit police officers and the community did exactly that.

Community Policing Committee, residents and police officers from Elementaita police station

gathered to welcome the New Year in style.

Also present were members of community peace committee and those of the *Nyumba kumi* initiative.

“These are the fruits of the good relationship among the parties; thanks to interventions by Midrift Hurinet,” noted Evelyn Owona, the Officer Commanding Elementaita Police Station.

Members of public mingled freely with



Elementaita police officers and community members at a new year party.

police officers present, who included Officer Commanding Gilgil Police Division, Serah Koki, her deputy, Traffic Base Commander and Administration Police officers.

This was a great forum to strengthen the bond between police officers and the public as a way of enhancing effective cooperation towards ensuring security for all and curbing crime. It was also an indicator of a good linkage between police officers and the community.

OCPD Sarah in her speech, asked Midrift Hurinet to extend their trainings to CPC members in Gilgil saying she had admired the good police-community relationship at Elementaita.

“Please come to Gilgil so that we can revive the CPC system there. There is evidently a huge difference

between CPC members who have been trained and those who have not been trained,” she said

She acknowledged that she was aware that Elementaita Police station needed a vehicle, and promised to ensure that there would be one before the end of the year 2018.

The party was also a chance for police officers to enjoy the festive season, as they were busy protecting community during Christmas and New Year festive season.

“We are gathered here to eat together as a sign of our unity,” – Elementa OCS, Evelyn Owona.



Police officers at Kaptembwo Police Station fix a computer shortly after receiving it from Jamii Thabiti

Police Stations Receive Computers



Police Officers at Elementaita station receive a computer from Jamii Thabiti. Looking on are local CPC members.

Kaptembwo and Elementaita police stations in Nakuru County received one computer each, from Jamii Thabiti, through interventions by Midrift Hurinet.

In 2017, Officer Commanding Elementaita Police Station, Chief Inspector Evelyn Owona had expressed optimism that Jamii Thabiti would indeed deliver a computer to her office as she had been promised.

The need for a computer were among issues she had raised to Midrift Hurinet that needed to be addressed within the station.

“This is a prayer answered; a promise honoured,” said a happy CIP Evelyn, adding, “We used to depend on an old desktop which kept breaking down.”

Members of Community Policing Committee (CPC)

from areas such as Kongasis, Kiptangwany, Miti Mingi, Oljorai, Kapkures and Lusingo, all which are served by Elementaita Police Station, gathered to witness and receive the computer, joy written all over their faces.

The CPC members took advantage of this occasion to express their gratitude to Midrift Hurinet and the organisation's partners for the effort in enhancing effective community policing.

“The community used to fear police officers. A sight of a police vehicle would terrify us, but we now respect them and view them as friends,” said George Ngure, a CPC member.



Police officers at Kaptembwo station receive a computer from Jamii Thabiti. Looking on are local leaders and CPC members

Kaptembwo police station's first computer

Until when Jamii Thabiti donated the first one, Kaptembwo Police station which is located at the heart of Kaptembwo slum, did not have a single office computer. Though police officers' work is supposed to be done with high-level of confidentiality, they had no choice but to work from local cyber café's, according to the Chief Inspector Jane Thuita, the station's OCS.

A computer at the station therefore will not only ease their work, but also enhance efficiency and the very vital confidentiality.

"This computer will make work easier and more efficient," said CIP Jane Thuita.

A local leader who was present during the handing

over thanked Midrift Hurinet for showing the way towards enhancing peace and cohesion in the area.

Jamii Thabiti's Regional Technical Head Mariana Muia noted that cooperation between police officers, CPC members and local communities had enhanced improvement in reporting of cases and dispute solving.

Midrift Hurinet Executive Director Joseph Omondi said the organization is working with partners to enhance the policing component.

"We strive to be our partners' good ambassadors," noted Omondi.



Dr. Rob Worrall facilitates an IUVP session in Naivasha

Pioneer Support Plan To Enhance War On Violence



Some IUVP Leadership Development beneficiaries makes a presentation during one of the sessions

Midrift Hurinet partnered with the Danish Institute Against Torture (DIGNITY) and the University of Sunderland to develop capacity of leaders from various sectors on Inter-sectoral Urban Violence Prevention (IUVP). The development programme is so far reaching out to about 50 leaders from Naivasha and Nakuru urban areas in non-governmental organisations, police officers, private sector, National and County Governments and the civil society, among others.

Dubbed Place-Based Leadership Development (PBLD), this is the first leadership development in the world for leaders who interact with violence-related issues, and is likely to be rolled out to other

countries, including Uganda and Guatemala.

Dr. Rob Worrall, the Principal lecturer at UK's University of Sunderland has been facilitating the leadership development, whose third and fourth modules were completed in December 2017. Possibly, it will be part of the curriculum for leaders who interact with violence-related issues in their day-to-day line of work.

The programme, according to Dr. Worrall, aims at creating an inter-sectoral collaborative in urban violence prevention.



An IUVP Outdoor Session in Nakuru

It aims at facilitating, enabling and empowering the beneficiaries.

"The approach does not involve telling people how to do things, but rather helps them do things. It is a supporting framework," says he. "I cannot tell people how to live; I can only tell leaders that there are things they can do together to curb UVP. At the end of this programme, we hope to have a group of leaders who think and act in a particular way."

This, he adds, will enable and empower people to realise and see strengths, knowledge and contacts to work together and combat the perpetuation of violence as 'normal'.

"The development programme also aims at shifting

people's thinking and opening up their minds to possibility of working in a different manner," says Dr Worrall, adding, "It acts as a catalyst for other people to work in a similar way."

He describes PBLD as part of a wider inter-sectoral way of curbing violence. He hopes that at the end of the development programme he will leave a legacy of people who think differently.

The programme is being continually designed to fit in views, ideas and needs of the beneficiaries. Besides intending to use the model elsewhere, Dr. Worrall also hopes to secure more funds to increase the number of cohorts in Kenya from the current two, to four. He hopes to have champions from among the beneficiaries, who would later be PBLD facilitators.

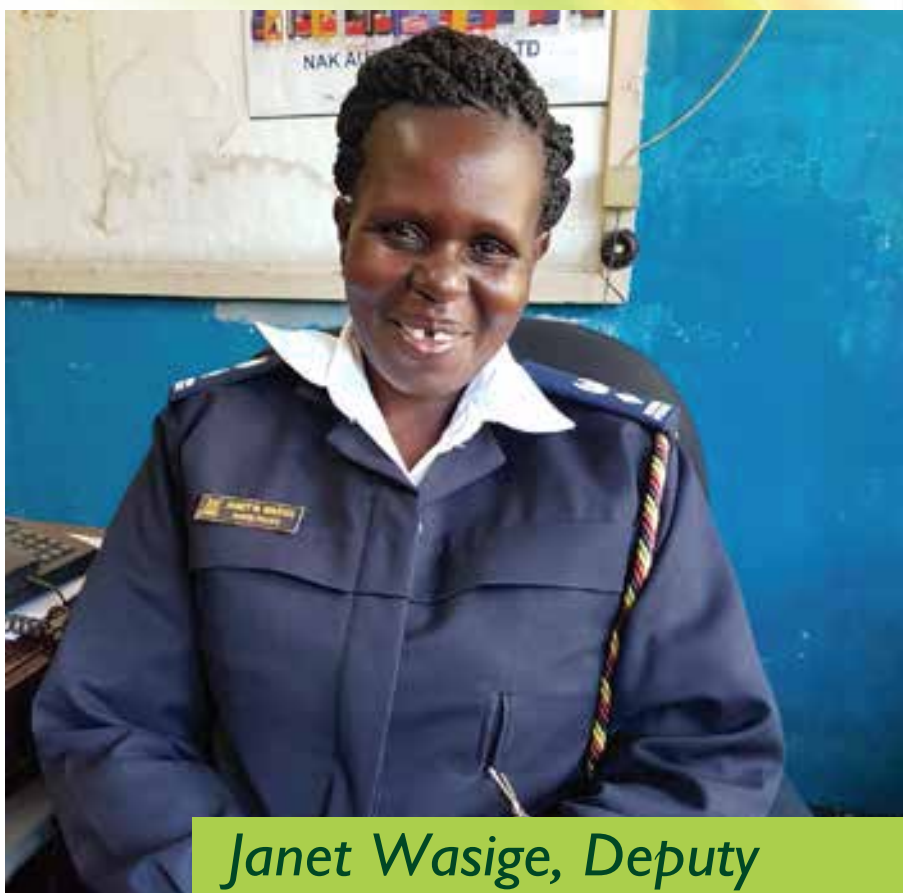
"I believe in what Midrift Hurinet and Dignity are doing. That is why I am part of their very noble course," – Dr. Rob Warrall, Principle Lecturer, University of Sunderland

Midrift Hurinet, Bridge Between Police Officers and Nakuru Residents

Though police officers were mandated to foresee the formation of community policing committees (CPCs), they were faced with numerous challenges. Among them was lack of facilitation, suspicion and fear that created a gap between the police officers and the community.

For officers at Nakuru Central Police station, the gap was bridged when Midrift Hurinet started holding forums that brought together the community and the police.

Nakuru Deputy OCPD Janet Wasige says Midrift Hurinet came as a neutral party that was most ideal to build trust and enhance a good working relationship between police officers and the public.



Janet Wasige, Deputy OCPD, Nakuru Central Police Station

Time off for officers

So far, about 50 per cent of the officers under her command have been trained, especially on good relationships with the community, gender-based violence (GBV), general crime and violence.

Area OCPD Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Joshua Omukata says he does not hesitate to allow his officers to take some time off and attend trainings organised by Midrift Hurinet as he always gets positive results both from the police officers and the public.

The trainings, he adds, have improved public relations between police officers and the public. SSP Omukata hopes that the trainings will be continuous, and that Midrift Hurinet will reach out to other police officers across the country.

In January 2017, police officers and the public held a joint party in Bondeni to welcome the New Year and strengthen their bond.

Notes Janet: *“This is how much Midrift Hurinet has helped build close ties between the officers and their ‘clients’”.*

Servants of the people

The officers, she adds, now know that they are servants of the public. They know that they are hired and called to serve the



**Evans
Ekaliche,
Chairperson,
Nakuru
Central CPC**

trainers of trainees (ToTs) programmes, especially among CPC members.

“If Midrift Hurinet trains 200 CPC members, then each one of them trains another 10, and the cycle continues, then we would reach out to more people,” he says.

Last year, Nakuru got four Outstanding Police Service awards from the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA). Nakuru Central Police CPC chairman attributes the increased number of recognition awards to a good relationship between police officers and the public.

“As CPC members, we mobilised the community to fill forms that were required in selection of the winners,” says Evans Ekaliche of the Nakuru Central Police CPC.

Outstanding officers promoted

He attributes promotion of some officers in the area to active CPC members who often write to the Kenya Police Service commending outstanding performers.

Besides, Midrift Hurinet also came up with the idea of writing proposals to the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) offices to request for funds for development of police stations.

“We always get assistance from Midrift Hurinet's expertise in preparation of proposals,” he says. “The public was generally ignorant of the fact that security is among the functions of National Government that can be funded by NGCDF.”

Ekaliche hopes that Midrift Hurinet will reach out to communities and officers from other areas such as Maai Mahiu, Njoro, Molo and Kuresoi.

people. On the other hand, the public now understands that police officers are people of goodwill who are always ready to assist and who mean well.

Janet is happy that she knows various CPC members with whom she often communicates, especially when she wants to verify facts.

She has given her mobile phone number to the public and often receives calls. However, some of the callers are alarmists while others call just for the sake of speaking directly to a police officer.

“I try to listen to anyone, but I always contact the area CPC members to verify facts before taking action,” she says. “This has boosted my efficiency at work.”

Trainers of trainers

To expand the project, SSP Omukata recommends

Public - Police Forums; A Dream Come True

Police constable Nyakundi Nyatete has worked at the Children Protection Unit for the last ten years. Based at Central Police Station in the heart of Nakuru town, constable Nyatete says he always looked forward to participating in forums that would create a common understanding between police officers and the public.

On numerous occasions, he adds, he was interviewed by various organisations, and always gave recommendations for such forums. Unfortunately though, none of the organisations fulfilled his dream.

It was until Midrift Hurinet started organizing such forums that constable Nyatete realized his dream.

“I have been in many forums hosted by Midrift Hurinet through which I have reached out to the public and gotten opportunities to listen and learn too,” he says, adding, “Other organisations just come for information, but Midrift Hurinet starts with capacity building sessions before coming for feedback”.

The forums, he says, have triggered a rise in the number of reported cases as more members of the public are now aware of benefits of reporting violence-related cases.



Besides, he adds, the “101 Things You Wanted To Know about the Police But Were Too Afraid To Ask” booklet, has helped in demystifying police officers. The booklet is a production of Midrift Hurinet.

Midrift Hurinet, constable Nyatete adds, has helped to build a cordial relationship between police officers at county and national levels.

“This cordial relationship has worked well for officers across different ranks,” he adds While he appreciates the trainings by Midrift Hurinet to police officers, constable Nyatete recommends that more officers should also be trained.

Police officers, he notes, keep being transferred and it would be ideal to

have capacity building sessions for new officers in each of the stations that Midrift Hurinet reaches out to.

He also recommends more sensitization among the members of the public especially on the need of commitment among witnesses.

Some witnesses, he says, are bribed with little money to withdraw from testifying, thus denying justice to the victim(s).

“Members of the public need to know that in cases

such as those of sexual violence, perpetrators who bribe their way to freedom are very likely to commit the crime again and again,” says constable Nyatete

Constable Nyatete is optimistic that through Midrift Hurinet, Nakuru and Naivasha Municipalities will be great examples that police officers can effectively and efficiently team up with the public, and other stakeholders in working towards a violence-free society.

***“Other organisations just come for information, but Midrift Hurinet starts with capacity building sessions before coming for feedback”
– Constable Nyakundi Nyatete***

Police Officer at Ease With Local Community

Inspector Judy with a colleague and some CPC members at Rhoda Police Post



At Rhonda Police Post within Nakuru's Rhonda slums, Police Inspector Judy Nyathira is at ease as she engages in a lively discussion with four men. Judging from their free manner of discussion, one would find it hard to believe that a senior police officer would easily mingle and interact with common citizens.

Inspector Judy is the Officer Commanding Rhonda Police Post (OCPP). She is hosting some area Community Policing Committee (CPC) members and the team is

discussing security in the area.

Every national election period is characterised by tension and hatred among area communities. However, 2017 was different as the elections were conducted peacefully. People from different communities intermingled freely, regardless of their tribal and political backgrounds. Midrift Hurinet supported CPC members and police officers in preaching benefits of peaceful co-existence amid political differences.



Inspector Judy addresses a CPF session at Rhoda, Nakuru

In her 14-years of service as a police officer, Rhonda Police Post is the first station that Inspector Judy has freely mingled and teamed up with the local community.

“I always wished I would work with the local people so that they would understand me as an officer and I would understand their needs better,” Inspector Judy recalls

Inspector Judy previously worked in Western Kenya, where she experienced difficulties in getting to be understood by the people she served.

“I was the station's Gender Officer. I would try my best to pursue justice for my clients but the people never seemed to understand that I was making a lot of effort, prompting me to seek for a transfer,” she recalls.

However, it is a different story altogether serving in Rhonda. Here, she feels part of the community and the community too, feels part of the crime prevention team.

This has been made possible through interaction between local police officers and the locals during forums organised and facilitated by Midrift Hurinet. The forums help the community in understanding how police officers work, fight stereotypes and negative assumptions, which hinder good relationship between police officers and the locals.

“We as the community assumed that police officers were always out to harass and arrest people,” says Wilson Terer, the chairman of the Rhonda CPC cluster. “We have since understood that the officers are human beings who are out to secure fellow humans.”

The CPC and the community in general now appreciate

the benefits of working hand in hand with police officers to curb urban violence and other crimes.

Initially, according to Terer, police officers viewed CPC members as a threat to their jobs and would, therefore, either ignore or dismiss them. The police too have since learnt that each team has a role to play in supporting each other towards one goal; — mitigating violence and other crimes.

The most valuable lessons learnt by both parties is confidentiality. This has resulted in confidence in each other while reporting and discussing sensitive security matters.

“Even members of the public call me to report matters in confidence that their identity will be concealed and thus, their security will not be compromised,” says Inspector Judy.

Like in most slums, common crimes in Rhonda include gender-based violence (GBV), child labour, rape, defilement and child assault.

However, Inspector Judy confirms the cases are gradually reducing as the community gets more sensitised on the law, and with the increased reporting.

Area CPC leaders recommend more meetings for communities to be sensitised on crime and to improve the relationship between police officers and residents.

“I would also wish to have this project reach out to education institutions targeting the youth so that they can learn their rights and the law at an early age,” says James Nderitu, Mwariki CPC member.

Teenage pregnancies, he notes, are on the rise and girls need to be sensitised on their sexual rights and the Sexual Offences Act.

A mother herself, Inspector Judy says she is willing to join Midrift Hurinet, the CPC members and local administrators in sensitising young people in learning institutions.

From Major Crime Hub To Haven Of Serenity

Until Midrift Hurinet linked the community and police officers at Bondeni, the officers always found it an uphill and sometimes impossible task to arrest suspects, especially in Manyani and Bondeni slums.

The officers would face hostility from stone-throwing residents. The community's attitude was that police officers were never up to any good. Instead of viewing the officers as professionals out to protect the public, the community saw them as bribe seeking people who were always intent on hurting and arresting innocent villagers.

This attitude did not only make it hard to fight crime in the area, but also turned it in to a warehouse and major black market for stolen goods.

This has since changed and the same community members now voluntarily tip-off

police officers on suspicious people who need to be investigated or arrested; thanks to Midrift Hurinet's forums that brought together the officers and the community members.

"The people were able to understand us as human beings and professionals who are out for the good of the community," says Cress Otieno, the Deputy OCS, Bondeni Police Station.

During the forums, police officers sensitised members of the public on the law, especially Sexual Offences Act and also how the justice system operates, from arrest to trial and judgment.

"This way, the people understand their rights to protection by the law and the consequences of breaking the law," says Cress. "Midrift Hurinet has also enabled us to have discussions with the community to understand their

A CPF Session in Bondeni



challenges and seek how to address them.”

Women in this area were often sexually harassed by *matatu* (public service vehicles) conductors. Although the survivors felt offended and that their rights were infringed, they had learnt to live with it and took it as 'normal' and could not report at the local police station.

“However, such cases are now reported and acted upon; one, because the community know the law, and two, because there is trust between the public and police officers.” says Cress.

The officers have also reached out to learners and teachers in five neighbouring schools enlightening them on the Sexual Offences Act, defilement, among other issues.

“We make the children understand that there is nothing like consent to participate in sexual acts as long as they are under 18, and that perpetrators of such should be reported to the police officers,” says Cress

Mohammed Kahero, a CPC member based in Bondeni, says the community around, most of whom are poorly educated, barely knew their rights until Midrift Hurinet came by. Besides, instead of reporting violence and criminal cases

to the police, the victims and their relatives would issue threats and curse the perpetrators.

“The community would not trust police officers as some of them leaked information on who reported a matter to them,” says Kahero. *“This created a disconnect and mistrust between the public and police officers.”*

Things have since improved as the community now reports cases in confidence either directly to particular police officers with whom they have built trust, or through the area CPC members.

As a CPC member who has lived in Bondeni all his life, Moha, as he is fondly called by friends and peers, has to exercise caution in his line of service to the community.

“Sometime I find myself handling cases that involve my close friends or relatives. I have to observe caution not to hurt our relationship,” says Moha. *“This calls for a very high level of confidentiality, especially between me and the police officers involved.”*

“Sometime I find myself handling cases that involve my close friends or relatives. I have to observe caution not to hurt our relationship,” says Moha.



A view of Bondeni slums in Nakuru

Conclusion

The Inter-sectoral Urban Violence Prevention (IUVP) represents a fundamental mind-set shift for various actors, away from considering their work in isolation and toward seeing their work in the context of a broader system, paving the way for multifaceted Urban Violence Prevention.

Never before had these sectors worked together. Some were divided due to stereotyping and lack of understanding, while a mechanism to bring them together was lacking. It is great to finally start seeing different sectors working together towards urban violence prevention.

Place-Based Leadership Development (PBLD) can be used to promote creative, ground-breaking, learning and exchange of ideas on how to collectively address violence. This is vital for stakeholders in addressing protracted and intractable violence incidences in urban areas and in cities which requires a multifaceted approach.

Through IUVP and PBLD, various sectors working on urban violence prevention have come together in Nakuru and Naivasha Municipalities and each of them now know they have a role to play, and that there are benefits of collaborating towards a prevention of urban violence.

As a result, other municipalities and sub counties have expressed interest of extension of this program to their areas. In this light, MidRift Hurinet calls upon other partners to join us in deepening and scaling up violence prevention interventions.

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