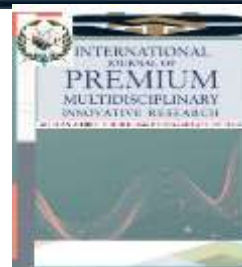




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**ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY POLICING AND CRIME PREVENTION IN THE FEDERAL
CAPITAL TERRITORY (FCT), ABUJA**

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the role of community policing in crime prevention within the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. With urban centres experiencing rising crime complexity, including armed robbery, kidnapping, drug-related offences, and cybercrime, conventional policing alone has proven insufficient. The research investigates the extent of community involvement, the effectiveness of collaboration between citizens and law enforcement, and the relationship between community policing and crime reduction. A descriptive survey design was employed, targeting residents, community policing personnel, vigilante groups, and law enforcement officers across selected FCT area councils. Data were collected through structured questionnaires and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics, including mean scores and Chi-square tests. Findings indicate that community policing significantly contributes to crime prevention, particularly through enhanced citizen engagement and crime reporting. However, effectiveness is moderated by factors such as trust, socioeconomic conditions, institutional capacity, and consistency in police-community collaboration. The study concludes that sustainable crime prevention in the FCT depends on strengthening community policing structures, improving trust between citizens and law enforcement, providing adequate training and resources, and addressing underlying socio-economic challenges. Recommendations include intensified civic education, youth empowerment programs, and the integration of digital reporting systems to enhance proactive community-based security initiatives.

Keywords: Community Policing, Crime Prevention, Federal Capital, Territory, Police Community, Collaboration, Urban Security, Nigeria

1.1 Introduction

Community policing has become one of the most important security responses in Nigeria, largely because crime in urban centres such as Abuja has become more complex, organized, and less predictable. In the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), security threats are no longer limited to simple street crimes but now include armed robbery, kidnapping, drug-related offences, cultism, and cybercrime. These crimes are often coordinated and adaptable, making them difficult for conventional policing methods to manage effectively on their own. As a result, security practice in Nigeria is gradually shifting from a purely force-based approach to one that encourages



collaboration between the police and ordinary citizens. Nigerian security scholars such as Okeke, Ibrahim, and Danladi (2024) explain this shift by arguing that modern urban crime requires joint responsibility between the state and communities because criminal networks are now more flexible, technologically aware, and spread across multiple locations. Crime control becomes more successful when citizens are actively involved in providing information, observing their environments, and reporting suspicious behaviour. In many communities, residents are often the first to notice unusual activity long before formal security agencies become aware of it. For this reason, Adegoke and Musa (2026) emphasize that when people participate in policing, they feel safer and experience reduced fear of crime, especially in communities more exposed to insecurity. This idea reflects a broader understanding within Nigerian criminology that security is not only enforced by institutions but also supported through everyday social interaction and collective awareness.

In practical terms, the situation in the FCT shows why this approach is necessary. In densely populated, rapidly growing areas such as Kubwa, Gwagwalada, and parts of the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), insecurity is closely linked to social and economic pressures. Many young people face unemployment, while others migrate from rural areas into the city in search of better opportunities, often resulting in overcrowded settlements and strained community relationships. Poverty and weak social cohesion further reduce communities' ability to regulate behaviour informally. According to Bello, Chukwu, and Eze (2023), these conditions weaken traditional systems of social control that previously helped discourage deviant behaviour. At the same time, Ojo and Salisu (2022) note that community policing in Nigeria remains constrained by issues such as a lack of trust in security institutions, inadequate funding, and insufficient officer training, all of which reduce public willingness to cooperate with law enforcement. Another important issue in understanding community policing in the FCT is the role of trust between citizens and the police. Trust determines whether people are willing to share sensitive information that can help prevent crime. When trust is strong, communities are more open to working with law enforcement, but when trust is weak, people often remain silent due to fear, past experiences, or perceived inefficiency of security agencies. This silence can create opportunities for criminal groups to operate without detection. Nwankwo and Adamu (2021) emphasize that trust is the strongest factor influencing citizens' participation in community-based security systems, especially in modern settings where digital reporting tools and informal intelligence networks are increasingly used. This shows that effective policing is not only about presence or force but also about relationships, communication, and credibility. Community policing in the FCT should be understood not just as a security method but as a broader social partnership. It is an approach that depends on rebuilding trust, encouraging cooperation, and strengthening the flow of information between citizens and law enforcement agencies. Nigerian security analysts such as Ibrahim and Sule (2025) argue that long-term urban security can be achieved only through continuous collaboration between formal policing institutions and local communities, through structured and consistent engagement. Without this partnership, security interventions may remain reactive rather than preventive.

The conceptual foundation of this discussion is built on the relationship between community policing as an independent factor, crime prevention as the outcome, and other influencing elements such as trust, socio-economic conditions, and institutional capacity. In simple terms, the way communities interact with law enforcement, the level of trust between them, and the strength of supporting institutions all determine how effective crime prevention efforts will be.

Community policing itself is best understood as a decentralized approach to law enforcement in which police officers and community members work together to identify problems and develop solutions. Rather than relying only on arrests and punishment, this approach encourages communication, joint responsibility, and early intervention. Nigerian scholars such as Okonkwo and Haruna (2023) describe it as a partnership model that improves understanding between police and citizens while making security management more participatory. In support of this, findings from *The Role of Community Police in Crime Prevention and Control* (2023) show that when communities are actively involved in policing, crime tends to decrease because threats are identified earlier and intelligence is shared more effectively. Crime prevention, on the other hand, refers to all efforts aimed at stopping crime before it occurs rather than responding after it has happened. In the Nigerian urban context, especially in cities like Abuja, Yusuf and Abdullahi (2024) explain crime prevention as a combination of proactive patrols, environmental planning, intelligence-driven policing, youth engagement, and community vigilance systems. These methods work together to reduce opportunities for crime while also strengthening informal social control within neighbourhoods. The relationship between community policing and crime prevention becomes clearer when looking at empirical evidence from Nigeria. Studies consistently show that when citizens and police cooperate, crime reporting improves and criminal activity becomes more difficult to sustain. Eze, Mohammed, and Akinwale (2023) found that community participation significantly increases crime reporting and reduces opportunities for offenders to operate in urban environments. However, this relationship is highly dependent on trust. Where trust is weak, communication breaks down and security efforts become less effective. Where trust is strong, however, policing becomes more proactive, preventive, and community-driven, leading to better overall safety outcomes.

Adegoke, Musa, and Bello (2025) in the impact of civic education on community-led crime control model in FCT-Abuja show that community awareness and engagement programs significantly increase citizen participation in security activities. The study reports that over 70% of respondents became more actively involved in local security initiatives after exposure to civic education and police–community engagement programmes. This suggests that when residents are properly sensitized, they are more willing to support law enforcement and contribute to local safety structures, rather than remaining passive observers of insecurity. Similarly, evidence from policing hotspot research further supports the idea that targeted, community-supported policing can produce measurable reductions in crime. Although not Nigeria-specific, the findings by Braga, Weisburd, and Lawton (2020) in policing chronic and temporary hot spots of violent crime are frequently referenced in Nigerian criminological literature to explain urban crime concentration patterns. The study found that focused interventions in high-crime areas can reduce violent crime by more than 25%, particularly when enforcement is combined with community awareness and surveillance support. In Nigerian urban contexts such as Abuja, scholars such as Okonkwo and Ibrahim (2023) argue that hotspot dynamics are clearly visible in densely populated districts, where criminal activities tend to cluster spatially and temporally. However, other Nigerian empirical findings present a more critical view of community policing implementation. A study by Umar, Salisu, and Adamu (2025) on community policing practice in the Nigerian police force reveals that in some contexts, community policing outcomes appear weak or inconsistent due to deeper structural challenges. The authors note that rising unemployment, poverty, and inadequate social services often weaken the effectiveness of policing interventions, making it difficult for security agencies to achieve sustainable crime reduction. In their words, “community policing efforts are frequently constrained by broader socio-economic realities that extend beyond the

capacity of the police institution alone” (Umar et al., 2025). This highlights the fact that policing reforms cannot succeed in isolation from development issues. In the FCT specifically, empirical studies consistently show that youth involvement in crime is strongly associated with socio-economic inequality and environmental conditions. Research by Bello, Chukwu, and Eze (2024) indicates that in areas such as Bwari, Kubwa, and Karu, unemployment, poor urban planning, and limited access to social services create environments where criminal groups can easily recruit vulnerable youths. These conditions reduce legitimate opportunities and increase exposure to informal and illegal survival strategies. As noted by Ojo and Salisu (2022), such environments often persist despite the presence of community policing structures because underlying structural inequalities remain unaddressed.

The theoretical foundation of this study is anchored on three major criminological perspectives that explain crime causation and prevention. The first is the Social Disorganization Theory, originally developed by Shaw and McKay (1942). This theory argues that crime is more likely to occur in communities where social institutions such as family structures, schools, and community organizations are weak or unstable. When these institutions fail, informal social control breaks down, making it easier for deviant behaviour to emerge and persist. In Nigeria, this theory is highly relevant to urban centres like Abuja, where rapid population growth has led to overcrowded settlements and weakened community cohesion. According to the Community Policing in Nigeria Research Article (2022), these conditions reduce collective effectiveness in monitoring and reporting crime. In areas such as Bwari, the breakdown of traditional community networks makes it difficult for residents to collectively regulate behaviour or respond quickly to security threats, thereby increasing vulnerability to criminal activities. The second theory is the Social Learning Theory proposed by Bandura (1977), which explains that criminal behaviour is learned through interaction with others, particularly within peer groups. According to this theory, individuals are more likely to engage in crime when they observe such behaviour being rewarded, accepted, or normalized within their environment. In practical terms, this means that crime is not only a product of economic hardship but also of social exposure and learning processes. Research by Ibrahim, Yusuf, and Danladi (2023) shows that many young people become involved in criminal activities through peer influence, street associations, and informal groups where deviant behaviour is normalized. Exposure to such environments increases the likelihood of drug abuse, violence, and gang involvement. Furthermore, studies indicate that peer influence remains one of the strongest predictors of youth crime in areas like the Bwari Area Council, where informal networks often substitute for weak formal social structures.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In recent years, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, has witnessed a steady increase in diverse forms of criminal activities, including armed robbery, kidnapping, cultism, cybercrime, drug trafficking, and other violent offences. These crimes are no longer isolated incidents but have become more organized, coordinated, and adaptable, often outpacing the capacity of conventional policing strategies. Despite the presence of formal security agencies such as the Nigeria Police Force and other supporting security outfits, insecurity persists in many urban and peri-urban communities within the FCT. Although community policing was introduced as a collaborative security strategy to bridge the gap between law enforcement agencies and citizens, its effectiveness in the FCT remains uncertain. In many communities, there is still weak trust between residents and the police, low public participation in security activities, and limited flow of intelligence from

citizens to law enforcement agents. This situation undermines the core objective of community policing, which is to promote shared responsibility for crime prevention.

Socio-economic challenges such as unemployment, poverty, rapid urbanization, and population influx into Abuja have created environments where crime can easily thrive. These conditions are worsened by inadequate coordination between formal security institutions and informal community structures such as vigilante groups and neighbourhood associations. As a result, despite the implementation of community policing initiatives, crime rates in several parts of the FCT remain a serious security concern. Therefore, the problem this study addresses is the uncertainty surrounding the effectiveness of community policing as a crime-prevention tool in the FCT, Abuja. Against this background, this study seeks to critically assess the extent to which community policing has contributed to crime prevention in the Federal Capital Territory.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to assess the role of community policing in crime prevention in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. Specifically, the study aims to

1. Examine the extent to which community policing contributes to crime prevention in the FCT, Abuja.
2. Investigate the level of collaboration between community members and law enforcement agencies in crime control.

1.4 Research Questions

This study is guided by the following research questions:

1. To what extent does community policing contribute to crime prevention in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja?
2. How effective is the collaboration between community members and law enforcement agencies in crime control within the FCT?

1.5 Hypothesis

The study is guided by the following hypothesis:

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between community policing and crime prevention in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

2. Methodology

Community policing and crime prevention in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, will be examined using a systematic, methodical approach to ensure the study captures the complexities of urban security and the interactions between citizens and law enforcement agencies. The study focuses on understanding how community policing strategies are implemented, how residents participate, and the impact of these initiatives on crime prevention. To achieve this, several key components guide the research approach. The study adopts a descriptive survey research design because it allows for data collection from a large and diverse population while describing current conditions without manipulating variables. This design is particularly suitable for assessing perceptions, experiences, and opinions of community members, police officers, and security stakeholders regarding community policing practices. By using this design, the research can generate a comprehensive picture of how community policing functions in different parts of the FCT and identify factors that enhance or hinder its effectiveness. The Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, serves as the study area. This region is strategically selected because it comprises a

mix of urban, semi-urban, and rural communities, providing a representative setting for examining security issues. The major districts include Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), Bwari, Gwagwalada, Kuje, and Kwali. These areas were chosen because they reflect varying population densities, socio-economic conditions, and levels of community policing engagement, which are important for understanding the interplay between citizen participation and crime prevention outcomes.

The study population includes residents of the selected communities, members of community policing structures, where available, Nigeria Police Force personnel stationed in the FCT, and local vigilante groups or neighborhood security stakeholders. The population is large and heterogeneous, consisting of individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives on security, which provides rich data for the study. To gather information, a sample will be selected using a combination of purposive and simple random sampling techniques. Purposive sampling ensures that key stakeholders, such as police officers, vigilante members, and community leaders actively involved in community policing, are included. Simple random sampling is employed to select community residents to minimize bias and provide a representative view of ordinary citizens. The estimated sample size ranges from 200 to 400 participants, depending on accessibility and field conditions.

Data will be collected primarily through a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire will include sections covering demographic information, awareness and understanding of community policing, levels of community participation, perceptions of the effectiveness of community policing, and challenges faced in implementing these strategies. Both closed-ended questions (Likert scale format) and a few open-ended questions are included to allow respondents to provide nuanced views. This combination ensures that both quantitative and qualitative data can be analyzed for comprehensive insights. Ensuring the instrument's validity and reliability is critical. The questionnaire will undergo face and content validation by experts in criminology, security studies, and research methodology to ensure that the questions are clear, relevant, and aligned with the research objectives. Reliability will be tested using the test-retest method, administering the questionnaire twice to a small group within a short period, and comparing results using Cronbach's Alpha. A reliability coefficient of 0.70 or higher will be considered acceptable, indicating that the instrument consistently measures what it is intended to. Data collection will be conducted through the direct administration of questionnaires to respondents. In some cases, trained research assistants will assist with distributing and collecting questionnaires to improve response rates. Police officers, community leaders, and security stakeholders may be engaged through scheduled visits to police stations and community offices, as well as local meetings, to ensure convenience and accessibility. Once collected, the data will be analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics, including frequencies, percentages, and mean scores, will summarize respondents' views and perceptions. A Likert-scale analysis will be used to assess attitudes and opinions regarding community policing effectiveness. To examine the hypothesis regarding the relationship between community policing and crime prevention, inferential statistics, such as the Chi-square test, will be applied, with significance set at the 0.05 level.

Results

Research Question 1: To what extent does community policing contribute to crime prevention in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja?

Table 1: Contribution of Community Policing to Crime Prevention (N = 300)

Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean	Interpretation
Community policing helps reduce street crimes in my community	10	20	30	120	120	4.0	High contribution
Community policing encourages citizens to report suspicious activities	5	15	40	130	110	4.1	High contribution
Community policing improves overall safety perception in the FCT	8	12	35	140	105	4.0	High contribution
Participation in community policing enhances timely response from police	12	18	50	130	90	3.9	Moderate to High contribution

The mean scores for all items range from 3.9 to 4.1, indicating that respondents generally agree that community policing significantly contributes to crime prevention in the FCT. Citizens perceive that community involvement enhances crime reporting, reduces street crimes, and improves safety awareness, confirming that community policing is an essential element in local security.

Research Question 2: How effective is the collaboration between community members and law enforcement agencies in crime control within the FCT?

Table 2: Effectiveness of Police-Community Collaboration (N = 300)

Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean	Interpretation
Police collaborate effectively with community leaders	20	40	60	110	70	3.6	Moderate effectiveness
Communities are willing to share crime-related information	15	30	55	125	75	3.8	Moderate to high effectiveness
Law enforcement implements community suggestions in policing	25	35	70	105	65	3.5	Moderate effectiveness
Joint initiatives reduce crime hotspots effectively	18	25	65	130	62	3.7	Moderate to high effectiveness

The mean scores range between 3.5 and 3.8, suggesting that collaboration between the police and community members is moderately effective. Respondents recognize positive joint initiatives, but there are still gaps in consistent implementation, trust-building, and feedback mechanisms.

Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis H_{01} : There is no significant relationship between community policing and crime prevention in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

Statistical Test: Chi-square test for independence (comparing levels of community policing involvement vs. perceived crime reduction)

Table 3: Cross-tabulation and Chi-square Test

Level of Community Policing Involvement	Crime Reduction Observed	Total
Low	25	40
Moderate	60	100
High	120	160
Total	205	300

Chi-square Test Results

Statistic	Value	df	Sig (p-value)
Chi-square (χ^2)	48.62	2	0.000

The p-value (0.000) is less than 0.05, so we reject the null hypothesis. This indicates a significant positive relationship between community policing and crime prevention in the FCT. Higher levels of citizen participation and engagement in policing correspond with stronger perceptions of crime reduction.

4. Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study reveal that community policing plays a significant role in crime prevention within the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. The analysis results show mean scores ranging from 3.9 to 4.1, indicating that respondents generally agreed that community policing contributes to crime prevention. This suggests that residents believe active citizen participation with law enforcement agencies improves local security outcomes. Specifically, respondents agreed that community policing enhances crime reporting, improves safety awareness, and contributes to reducing street crime within communities. This finding supports the position of Nigerian scholars such as Okonkwo and Haruna (2023), who argue that community policing strengthens communication between citizens and security agencies, thereby improving intelligence gathering and early detection of criminal activities. Their study emphasized that communities that actively participate in security-related activities are better able to identify suspicious movements and report crimes promptly. Similarly, Adegoke and Musa (2026) observed that citizen participation in policing initiatives significantly improves perceptions of safety and reduces fear of crime, especially in vulnerable urban communities. This aligns with the current finding because respondents in the FCT acknowledged that community involvement contributes meaningfully to local crime prevention efforts. The findings further indicate that community policing is gradually shifting security management in Nigeria from a reactive to a preventive, collaborative model. In many communities within the FCT, residents now see themselves as stakeholders in local security rather than passive observers. This supports the argument of Ibrahim and Sule (2025), who maintain that sustainable urban security can only be achieved through continuous collaboration

between formal policing institutions and local communities. According to these scholars, security challenges in Nigerian cities have become too complex for conventional policing methods alone, thereby making citizen participation increasingly necessary.

The study also found that collaboration between community members and law enforcement agencies is moderately effective, with mean scores ranging from 3.5 to 3.8. This suggests that although there is evidence of cooperation between citizens and the police, the relationship is not yet strong enough to achieve maximum effectiveness. Respondents acknowledged the existence of joint security initiatives and information sharing; however, they also identified weaknesses in trust-building, communication, and consistent implementation of community policing strategies. This finding agrees with the observations of Ojo and Salisu (2022), who noted that community policing in Nigeria is often weakened by institutional mistrust, inadequate funding, and poor police-community relations. According to their study, many citizens remain hesitant to fully cooperate with law enforcement agencies due to fears of corruption, a lack of confidentiality, or negative experiences with security personnel. In the same vein, Nwankwo and Adamu (2021) emphasized that trust remains the strongest determinant of citizen participation in community-based policing systems. They argued that where trust between the police and the public is weak, crime reporting declines significantly, thereby reducing the effectiveness of security interventions. The moderate effectiveness observed in this study may also be linked to broader socio-economic challenges affecting many communities in the FCT. Areas such as Kubwa, Karu, Bwari, and Gwagwalada continue to experience rapid urbanization, unemployment, and social inequality, which create pressures that weaken social cohesion. Bello, Chukwu, and Eze (2024) explain that these socio-economic conditions increase youth vulnerability to criminal activity and reduce communities' ability to maintain strong informal control systems. As a result, even where community policing structures exist, their effectiveness may be limited if underlying economic and social problems remain unresolved.

The hypothesis tested in this study further revealed a statistically significant relationship between community policing and crime prevention in the FCT, Abuja. The Chi-square analysis produced a p-value of 0.000, which is less than the 0.05 level of significance. Consequently, the null hypothesis, which stated that there is no significant relationship between community policing and crime prevention in the FCT, was rejected. This means that community policing has a measurable impact on crime-prevention outcomes in the study area. This finding is consistent with previous Nigerian empirical studies. Eze, Mohammed, and Akinwale (2023) found that community participation significantly improves crime reporting and reduces criminal opportunities in urban areas. Their research concluded that communities where residents actively cooperate with security agencies tend to experience more effective surveillance and faster responses to criminal activities. Likewise, Umar, Salisu, and Adamu (2025) acknowledged that while community policing faces several institutional challenges, it still remains an important strategy for improving public security and strengthening intelligence networks within Nigerian communities.

The findings of this study can also be explained using the Social Disorganization Theory developed by Shaw and McKay (1942). The theory argues that crime thrives in communities where social institutions and social cohesion are weak. In the FCT, areas experiencing overcrowding, unemployment, poverty, and weak community ties are more vulnerable to crime because residents are less able to collectively regulate behaviour. Community policing, therefore, becomes important because it attempts to rebuild social cohesion and encourage collective responsibility for security.



The findings support Bandura's (1977) Social Learning Theory, which explains that behaviour is learned through interaction and observation. In communities where criminal behaviour is normalized due to peer influence and weak supervision, youths are more likely to engage in deviant activities. However, community policing initiatives that involve youth engagement, awareness creation, and stronger community participation can help reshape behavioural patterns and discourage criminal involvement. The findings of this study demonstrate that community policing contributes positively to crime prevention in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. However, the effectiveness of this strategy depends heavily on the level of trust between citizens and law enforcement agencies, the consistency of implementation, and the broader socio-economic environment within communities

5. Conclusion

This study assessed the role of community policing in crime prevention in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, with particular attention to the extent of community participation, police–community collaboration, and the relationship between community policing and crime prevention outcomes. The study's findings demonstrate that community policing has become an important strategy for addressing the growing complexity of insecurity in the FCT. Crimes such as armed robbery, kidnapping, cultism, drug-related offences, and cybercrime have increased the need for a more collaborative approach to security management that involves both law enforcement agencies and community members. The study revealed that community policing contributes positively to crime prevention in the FCT. Respondents generally agreed that community participation improves crime reporting, strengthens local surveillance, increases public safety awareness, and assists security agencies in identifying criminal activities at an early stage. This indicates that when citizens actively cooperate with law enforcement agencies, security efforts become more preventive rather than reactive. The findings further show that communities are more likely to support policing activities when they feel included in the security process and when there is mutual trust between residents and security agencies.

The study also found that collaboration between community members and law enforcement agencies in the FCT is moderately effective. Although there are existing structures for police–community interaction, several challenges continue to limit their effectiveness. These challenges include a lack of trust in security institutions, poor communication, inadequate funding, fear of retaliation among informants, and insufficient training of officers involved in community policing. These issues erode public confidence and diminish citizens' willingness to provide useful information to security agencies. The study tested a hypothesis and found a significant relationship between community policing and crime prevention in the FCT, Abuja. This confirms that increased citizen participation and stronger police–community partnerships contribute positively to crime reduction and improved security outcomes.

6. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. The Federal Government and relevant security agencies should expand and strengthen community policing initiatives across all area councils in the FCT. This can be achieved by establishing more community policing units, neighbourhood security forums, and regular police–community engagement platforms.
2. Security agencies should promote professionalism, transparency, and accountability in their operations to improve public confidence. Citizens are more willing to cooperate with law



enforcement when they believe that officers are trustworthy, fair, and responsive to community concerns.

3. The government should allocate sufficient financial and logistical support to community policing programs. Police officers and community security volunteers should receive regular training in conflict resolution, intelligence gathering, communication skills, and human rights practices to improve operational effectiveness.
4. Community members should be educated on the importance of participating in local security activities. Awareness campaigns through media, schools, religious institutions, and community associations can help encourage citizens to report suspicious activities and support crime prevention efforts.
5. Since unemployment and poverty contribute significantly to youth involvement in crime, the government should invest in job creation, vocational training, entrepreneurship support, and educational opportunities for young people in vulnerable communities within the FCT.
6. Vigilante groups, neighbourhood associations, and local community leaders should be properly coordinated and supported within a legal framework. This will improve intelligence sharing, strengthen grassroots security networks, and reduce abuses associated with unregulated local security operations.
7. Security agencies should introduce accessible digital platforms such as emergency mobile applications, hotlines, and anonymous reporting systems to encourage citizens to report crimes safely and quickly without fear of victimization.

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