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MA Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation

**COMMUNITY-POLICE RELATIONSHIP
(COMMUNITY POLICING) IN LIBERIA
(A CASE OF PAYNESVILLE ELWA COMMUNITY)**

A Dissertation submitted to the University of Rwanda in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Masters' Degree in Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation

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DECLARATION

I do hereby declare that this thesis is my own work and is to the best of my knowledge. It has not been previously published or submitted by another person, or contained material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma at the University of Rwanda or any other educational institution, except where due acknowledgement is made in this field of study.

DEDICATION

This research is dedicated firstly to the Almighty God who by his grace, strength and mercy that I was motivated to carry out this work. Secondly to all my lecturer and professors under whose auspices I obtained this new knowledge and skills and finally to my wonderful wife and kids for their encouragement and inspiration in all my endeavors.

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Signed:

Date:

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the research was to do “An Assessment on Community-Police relationship in Liberia “A Case of the Paynesville ELWA Community, Montserrado County as lack of corporation and support by community members due passed history of the police involvement into extra judiciary activities and human rights violation could be recognized as stalling factors that led to the poor community-police relationship in the Paynesville ELWA community, Montserrado County.

While, the administration of the Liberia National Police try to develop a workable strategy or strategies by creating awareness on the role of the community in assisting the police on crime prevention through community policing this thesis seeks to do an assessment on community-police relationship in Liberia “A case of Paynesville ELWA community, Montserrado County.

” The method used in this research was both Quantitative and Qualitative Methods of data collection and analyze data used is descriptive and the grounded theory techniques.

The population used in this study was 400 and the sample size was 40 which represent 10% of the entire study population. The key finding shows that out of the 40 respondents (100%), 28 respondents (72%) of the 40 respondents asserted that the community inhabitants and police have a good relationship and as such they assist the police on law enforcement process in the community compared to 7 respondents (15%) who said that that they have a very poor relationship with the police’. Still, 5 respondents (13%) asserted that there was ‘passive relationship’. At the same time, out of the 40 respondents interviewed, 23 respondents (56%) said ‘Yes’ that the community carries out community policing activities in the area whilst 17 respondents (44%) said ‘No’ that the community does carry out community policing activities in the area. This means that majority of the respondents asserted that the community inhabitants and the police have a very good relationship and majority respondents said ‘Yes’ that the community carries out community policing activities in the area. Finally, the Liberia National Police (LNP) reactivates the Community Policing Forum so as to enable community and the police enhance their relationships as well as discuss pertinent issues relative to the upgrade of security in the community. Therefore, the LNP should ensure a prompt responding process whenever called upon by the community inhabitants on issues of crimes during the process of community-police relationship in the Paynesville ELWA community, Montserrado\County

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This study is about community-police relationship in Liberia “a case of Paynesville ELWA community, Montserrado County”. The purpose of this research is to assess community-police relationship in the above-mentioned community. It is meant to contribute to a broader understanding of the country context in terms of socio-economic, political and security implications. This chapter includes the background of the study, problem statement, purpose of the study, research questions, research objectives, the significance of the study and organization of the study.

1.1 Background to the Study

Community policing is now a global phenomenon as a transition from traditional policing that was reactive and incident-based, to a problem-solving oriented policing that is proactive with the community becoming a cornerstone of policing objectives (Abdulrahman, 2007:66).

According to Brogden and Nijhar (2013) community policing was inaugurated as a reaction to the loopholes created in the operation of traditional policing. There is no substantial ground to tie the formation of Community Policing to the loopholes created by traditional police operation, judging from the different reasons that give rise to Community Policing in different parts of the world.

Shilue & Fagen (2014) asserted that, Liberia has been plagued by conflict, usurpation of power, class-based domination and ethnic hostilities, throughout its history. All these culminated in a devastating 14 years civil war from 1989 to 2003. Today, the country has made significant progress on serious fronts, in terms of infrastructure development and security issues yet, prospects for sustainable peace remains an issue.

In the aftermath of the violent times, the country’s security system was placed in the hands of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) under United Nations (UN) Security Resolution 1509 due to the disbandment of Liberia’s security forces, many of whom were implicated in corruption and human rights violations during the country’s civil war. New forces (military and police) were recruited and trained. The fifth of these recruits were females, and there was an emphasis on community policing (Centre for Public Impact, 2016).

Based upon the emphasis made on community policing during the training and recruitment processes nearly 200 Community Police Forums were established (Centre for Public Impact,

2016). Mabande (2018) mentioned that, the police, by the power and authority invested in them by the society, have overarching duties and responsibility for the outcome of their encounters with citizens. As for Gompert, Davis & Lawson (2009), community policing forums comprise of the police and members of the community. The key function of the forums, as envisioned, was to provide local oversight of police activity.

According to Baker (2009), community policing (or ‘policing with the community’) may as well bring the police into increased contact with the public. The focus of what might be called the alternative African model is not the community assisting the police to do a better job. Instead, shifts to the community doing much of the everyday policing with the assistance and consent of the police. To many in developed countries at peace, such a partnership smacks of ‘vigilantism’ and of people ‘taking the law into their own hands’.

Baker (2009) also assert that, in post-war Liberia an attempt has been made to establish a new policing partnership; one based not on the familiar African model of the police assisting and recognising chiefs and community members to perform everyday policing, but of community assisting and recognising the police. For example, the Liberia National Police has lauded the Community Watch Forums for their level of support and assistance it continues to give in its fight to reduce crimes in the country (The Inquirer Newspaper, 2014).

1.2 Statement of the problem

According to West, Maya Harris (2008) police are responsible for the safety and security of communities by working hard to prevent criminal acts and enforcing the law. They must be open and transparent when dealing with the community and describing crime-fighting efforts. The mantle of responsibility for fighting crime carries with it the obligation for the police to respect the rights of the community members, since the police can only accomplish their task with the cooperation and support of the community. When police fail to respect the rights of residents and police and political leaders fail to hold those who engage in misconduct accountable, the community-police relationship is put in jeopardy.

According to Kollie (2018), in the aftermath of the Liberian civil conflict, the community and police did not have a cordial relationship with civilians who alleged that some police officers engaged in maltreatment and other extrajudicial actions. Admin (2018) also argues that civilians have continued to remain victims of police actions, contrary to its motto “serve and protect.”

However, in 2004 the state introduced ‘community policing’ model. The aim was to establish ‘Community Forums’ order to rebuild the image of the police to the public and help the police in its fight against crimes. According to Baker (2009), in 2007, 51 Forums were established in Monrovia and 93 more in the rest of Liberia. Interestingly, some of these were previously autonomous local ‘task forces’ that were taken over as Forums in this initiative.

Despite, setup of these forums, there seen to be failure of a partnership and community leaders said they are particularly concerned of the high rate of armed robbery and other crimes once UNMIL downsizes its 15,000-strong forces which is planned to start in September 2008 (Reliefweb, 2008). Against this condition, the study answered the question; how is the relationship between the police and community members in the Paynesville-ELWA Community, Montserrado County?

1.3 Research Purpose

The aim of this study is to explore into “Community- Police Relationship (Community Policing) in Liberia, focusing on Paynesville-ELWA community Montserrado County. Other purpose is to assess the impact of community-police relationship as far as fighting crimes within the Paynesville ELWA community Montserrado County is concerned.

1.4 Research Questions

1. How is the relationship between the police and community members in Paynesville ELWA Community, Montserrado County?
2. What are the roles of community inhabitants in assisting the police on law enforcement processes in the Paynesville ELWA community?
3. What are the challenges encountered by the community dwellers relative to community-police relationships and how can we address them?

1.5 Research Objectives

The general objective of this research is to explore into the Community-Police Relationship in Liberia, using the case of Paynesville ELWA community. In this perspective, the research seeks to achieve the following specific:

1. To assess Community-Police relationship in the Paynesville ELWA Community, Montserrado County;
2. To determine the roles of community dwellers in assisting police on crime prevention process in the community;
3. To identify challenges encountered by community inhabitants relative to community-police relationships and how they can be addressed.

1.6 Delimitation of the Study

The study focuses on “Community-Police Relationship (Community Policing) in Liberia, the case of Paynesville-ELWA community, Montserrado County between the periods of (2015-2018).” The reason of choosing this area within this county is that, Montserrado County is the largest county in terms of size with a population of 1.5 million people according to the Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services Report (2008). The county is the political sitting of the government and is noted for its socio-economic activities. It also considered as the gateway to Liberia’s economic, the “Freeport of Monrovia,” and the country’s largest oil refinery company, “Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company (LPRC).” As such, the county serves as the center of attraction for other citizens from the hinterland who come to seek greener pastures. Due to the large and diverse population, the county generally has specific security issues that require much presence and intervention from the police. This makes Paynesville-ELWA an interesting setting for exploring into the community-police relationship, and the contribution of this relationship in addressing security issues in the county.

1.7 Significance of the Study

The findings of this study are significant in the sense that they will come up with solutions that can be useful to improve community-police relationship in the fight against crime and building public image. Police administration and police officers to raise their awareness on the challenges they are face with in combating crimes and gaining public trust by adopting scientific and modernized techniques.

Portraying negative image of the police and the effect of the society living in fear of crime will be reduced to some extent; hence investors will conduct their business endeavors in a very good environment.

The findings from this study would also be used as a tool in helping civil society groupings in planning communities’ outreach programs to create awareness on the impact of community- police relationship in post conflict Liberia. Also, it would be used by students of the University of Rwanda/ Center for Conflict Management or individuals as a guide in conducting successive research in this area.

1.8 Organization of the study

The study is divided into five (5) chapters. Chapter one focuses on the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose & Objectives of the study, Research Questions, Significance of the study, Delimitation and Limitation of the study, Definitions of Key Terms and acronyms as well as Organization of the Study.

Chapter two covers the Literature Review, which gives a review of theories and concepts that are related to community-police relationship in the Paynesville ELWA community.

Chapter three discusses the methodology, which includes the research design, target population, sample size and sampling techniques, and data collection instruments, data collection procedures as well as data analysis procedures. Chapter four covers the data presentation and interpretation which includes the data presentation and analysis, findings as well as discussions of the findings and is a symbolic way in which data are looked at to ascertain what happened to make prudent analysis. Chapter five discusses the summary, conclusions and recommendations. Also, included in this thesis are the references and appendices.

CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a review of theories and concepts on community-police relationship (community policing). The aimed was to provide a clear understanding of the theories and concepts that underpin the study. Henceforth, literature review collected from different sources such as text books, newspapers, journals newsletters, internet and articles of various scholars or proponents concerning the study of community policing was done.

Additionally, some analysis of community-police relationship within the context of community policing was done from a post-conflict country and whether there were alternative models by which crimes can be reduced in communities and the specific context (Liberian) perspective, considering the entire Paynesville ELWA Community to ascertain whether there were proper approaches in place for community policing in the above mentioned community.

2.1 Concept of community policing

Community policing is a concept that has varying definitions. Some scholars describe it as a modern day policing approach in response to the decline in public confidence and trust in the police and increasing indications that police cannot fight crime by themselves (Skogan, 2006; Virta, 2006 and Fridell, 2004). According to Fleming (2005) believes that policing requires communal involvement both at individual and organizational level outside with law enforcement and beyond the public sector. Community involvement in community policing is crucial in identifying community issues, addressing public fear of crime and increasing police visibility thus encouraging increased trust in police (Skogan, 2013; Virta, 2011 and Fridell, 2010).

Skogan (2012) acknowledged that law abiding citizens deserve to participate and contribute towards community policing thus they are involved and support the idea of community policing and the police process comes as a result of stakeholder participation. Community policing not only involves the community members but more specifically incorporates the 11 police responsiveness to community concerns towards ensuring the full benefits of policing.

Community policing involves communal identification of their security needs which in return makes that police take up the matter seriously even if the problems they define differ from police priorities (Wycoff, 2010). Community policing also determine community needs thus

participation is required to identify problems, assist the police to drive the solutions and maintain community ownership of the issue (The Office of Community Oriented Policing Service, 2007).

Skogan and Hartnett (2012) suggested that the public have a great deal informing the police and that they are grateful for the opportunity to have their voice heard. However, Reno et al., (2008) warns that the type of neighborhood determines whether the community is good at dealing with their own problems. For example, if the community has more social capacity then they were more likely to deal with their own problems and attend arranged meetings than those without such investment. Crime prevention is the central to the concept and ultimate goal of community policing and will have long term benefits (Segrave and Ratcliffe, 2010). Skogan (2006) also suggested that community capacity to prevent crime will be strengthened by encouraging communities to enhance community safety.

MacQueen et al., (2001) asserted that there are five core elements that defined a community:

- 1) Locus, a sense of place, referred to a geographic entity ranging from neighborhood to city size, or a particular milieu around which people gathered such as church or recreation center;
- 2) Sharing, common interests and perspectives, referred to common interests and values that could cross geographic boundaries;
- 3) Joint action, a sense of coherence and identity, included informal common activities such as sharing tasks and helping neighbors, but these are not necessarily intentionally designed to create community cohesion;
- 4) Social ties involved relationship that created the ongoing sense of cohesion;
- 5) Diversity referred to not primarily to ethnic groupings, but to the social complexity within communities in which a multiplicity of communities co-existed.

Greene (2012) advances that attempts to define policing have focused upon the range of different aspects of the diverse roles that the police service performs. There are various other perspectives of policing. First, a traditional 'common sense' definition of police work that it is primarily a matter of law enforcement is considered. Although this approach does account for the many other aspects of police work that do not, directly or indirectly relate to crime control and law enforcement; it has that advantage of providing a relatively clear concise

definition. Other perspectives that seek to reflect the wider activities performed by the police are then considered.

Greene, (2012) stated that, one approach has been to define the police service in terms of its recourse to the use of force and the power of the police service over ordinary citizens. He adds that, the police service exerts a coercive power over citizens that are not available to many others. Another approach to understanding policing as stated by Greene (2012) focuses on the routine function performed by police officers. These perspectives tend to note the breadth and diversity of tasks that the police performed. Many of these functions are characterized by a border public service ethos not related to crime control. On the contrary to the law enforcement model, this has the advantage of reflecting the realities of police.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

Theory is a construct that assists a researcher to select and interpret facts. Therefore, the study of community-police relationship in the Paynesville ELWA community, Montserrado County could have not been practical unless put in the broader context of a theoretical framework which could assist in getting a better understanding of the poor relationship between the community and police in the Paynesville ELWA community, Montserrado County. This study is based on the Broken Window Theory by Wilson and Kellings and the Normative Sponsorship Theory by Tiedke, Freeman, Sower and Hower, (1957). These theories are analyzed separately to establish their relationship with the current study at hand and how they can fully explain the issues of community policing.

2.3 Broken Window Theory

According to Oliver (2002), the theory that was advanced to specifically explain community policing is the Broken Window Theory introduced by Wilson and Kelling (American criminologists) in 1982 and is based on the statement that disorder and crime are linked in a developmental sequence. Based upon theory social psychologists and police officers tend to agree that if a window in a building is broken and left unrepaired, all the rest of the windows will soon be broken as well; since the unrepaired window is an indication that no one cares, therefore other windows can be broken and there will be no punishment given by the law. This type of vandalism can occur anywhere once the sense of mutual regard and the obligations of civility are lowered by actions that seem to signal a lack of common concern. Wilson and Kelling (1982) argued that neighborhoods where property is abandoned, weeds grow, windows are broken, and adults stop scolding ill-disciplined children cause families to move out and unattached adults to move in.

Lombardo and Lough (2007, p123) stated that, in response people begin to use the streets less, causing the area to become vulnerable to criminal invasion. The withdrawal of the community leads to increased drug sales, prostitution, and mugging. Broken Windows theory has been a driving force in community policing programmes, because of the belief that unattended behavior leads to the breakdown of community controls, thus leading to crime. Wilson and Kelling (1982) therefore, have called the police to pay urgent and serious attention to disorder and order maintenance policing.

According to Wong (2008:11) who offered different point of view called the Social resource Theory that attempts to address three main propositions, 1) what is the role and function of the police? 2) What is the relationship of the police with the people, and 3) why do people call the police? This theory re-conceived the idea of crime and policing from the angle of the people and not that of the state. From the people's point of view, crime is a personal problem resulting from people's unmet expectation, scarcity of resources and police inefficiency.

However, according to Wong (2008) the police are "social resource" which is supposed to solve the problems of the people. In this case, the ultimate purpose of community policing is to ensure better, responsive, responsible, efficient and effective police service to the community. The theory advanced by Wong (2008) concern the people and it is for the people and by the people. Wong (2008:15) also states it is a theory of democratic governance, empowerment and a theory of self-help.

A research conducted by Wong, (2008) cited that, the social resource theory begins from observing that crime represents illegality but only from the state point of view. However, he also indicated that for the people crime represents one of the experiences of life; this theory represents a radical shift in theorizing community policing because it completely gives people the facts and made the police influences a social resource made visible by the state by choosing within the citizens to address societal ills. This theory overlooks the issue of partnership; in partnership it is a win-win situation. If the community policing is advocating for partnership, then the issue of social resource by the police does not arise.

According to Diaz (2005, p47) further maintains that in a disorganization-prone society, with an all pervading permissiveness, even normally abiding citizens are inclined to unlawful activities as a result of their frustration, discontent and anger, stemming from the disparities between promise and performance and the obvious dichotomy between profession and practice. All these problems lead to confrontations with the police.

Eck (2003) adds that community policing does not imply that police are no longer in authority or that the primary duty of preserving law and order is subordinated. However, tapping into the expertise and resources that exist within communities will relieve police of some of their burdens. Local government officials, social agencies, schools, church groups, business people all those who work and live in the community and have a stake in its development will share responsibility for finding workable solutions to problems that detract from the safety and security of the community.

2.4 Community Partnership

According to the US Bureau of Justice, (2003) report states that, collaborative partnerships between the law enforcement agencies, individuals and the organization they serve to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in the police deeply rest within the concept of community policing. Community policing, recognized that police can rarely solve public safety problems alone, which encourages interactive partnerships with relevant stakeholders. The range of potential partners is large and these partnerships can be used to accomplish two interrelated goals of developing solutions to problems through collaborative problem solving and improving public trust. The public should also play a role in prioritizing and addressing public safety problems.

The US Bureau of Justice (2003) report also advances that partnerships in community policing may exist between police and other government agencies and nonprofits/service providers; when law enforcement organizations partner with other government agencies to identify community concerns and offer alternative solutions.

Eck (2003) also in agreement added that advocacy and community based organizations that provide services to the community and advocate on its behalf can be powerful partners. These groups are often composed of individuals who share common interests and include entities such as victims groups, service clubs, advocacy groups, community development corporations and the faith-based community.

2.5 Public Participation in community policing

According to Patterson (2012) and Palmiotto (2011), community engagement in community policing is vital. Contemporary community policing is based on the notion that all residents should be empowered to enhance their quality of life and prevent or eliminate crime and problems that lead to crime within the community. Community members must be recognized for the vital role they play in accomplishing these goals. Everyone benefits when community

members understand the role and function of the police and become active proponents of law enforcement. However, community members sometimes are not aware of the role played by the police towards enhancing community policing policies.

Police recognizes the effectiveness of the problem-solving approach, there is a growing awareness that community involvement is essential for the success of community policing programme. The underlying causes of crime depend to a great extent of an in-depth knowledge of the community. Community participations in identifying and setting priorities will contribute to effective problem-solving through community policing. Cooperative problem solving reinforces trust, facilitates the exchange of information and leads to the identification of other areas that could benefit from the mutual attention of the police. Understanding crime and reinforcing trust for the police by the community in Paynesville ELWA requires the community participation and matter of investigations.

The problem-solving process, like community partnership, is self-renewing. For the process to operate effectively the police need to devote attention to and recognize the validity of community concerns. Neighborhood groups and the police will not always agree on which specific problems deserve attention first. Police may regard armed robbery as the biggest problem in a particular community, while residents may find derelicts that sleep in doorways, break bottles on sidewalks, and pick through the garbage can to be the number one problem. Under community policing, the problem with derelicts should also receive early attention from the police with the assistance of other government agencies and community members.

2.6 Challenges of Community Policing

There are several challenges faced with in the implementation of community policing strategy. In this section some literature reviewed is going to be presented as a result of the levels of understanding of basic community policing principles, socio-cultural challenges and the access to community policing resources.

2.6.1 Understanding community policing principles

According to the office of Community Oriented Policing Services (2007), inadequate training among the police has been seen to be lacking towards community policing efforts. Effective community policing requires training for both police personnel and community members. Effective training aids the development of new police attitudes, knowledge and skills and facilitates reorientation of the perception and refinement of existing skills.

Training must similarly target such misconceptions. Tactics that can help overcome misconceptions about community policing including conducting accurate community needs assessments, involving all the stakeholder in collecting data to develop community policing strategies; assurance of appropriate resources availability for community programs; and finally evaluating and modifying programs as needed. This will be a pull factors towards community members engaging in community policing.

According to Ali (2011:67), revealed that most officers were not trained in the formation of partnerships; nor had experience in organizing community involvement or empowering the community. With limited training it was unlikely that police would realize the full potential of community policing. The study suggested that training was often 'short-changed' because community policing is labour intensive. Mastrofski (2013:6) also establish in his research that, in the United States recruit training has not been substantially revised to promote community policing techniques. Mastrofski (2013:9) highlights fact that generally less than one week is devoted to American police officers to learn and function in new police 'thinking role'. This study was carried out in the USA; a country with different socio-cultural and economic dynamics on the implementation of community policing in Paynesville ELWA community.

2.6.2 Socio-Cultural Challenges of Community Policing

According to Skolnick and Bayley, (1988:22) community policing often implies that individuals have common interests, values, integrity. Demands and expectations, but in practice communities are ambiguous. A research conducted by Segrave and Ratcliffe (2009:28) established that community policing in most areas served the interests of the vocal minority and the presence of strong personalities and influential groups which dominated key discussions and used their immense influence to control the direction of an initiative.

A study by Skogan (2008:31) in Slovenia noted that community involvement in community policing had not been effective in areas most need and harder to reach parts of the community that had become excluded in the 'community effort' because they have different interests, values and expectations. Research by Young and Tinsley (2008) in rural parts of Namibia established that traditional law enforcement and criminal justice practices created confusion and lack of understanding of what community policing is. It was found that police officers developed the need to protect one another against signs of trouble, offence or threat and

perceived of danger. This study was carried out in rural part of Namibia and as a result the findings reflect the implementation of community policing in rural settings. The current study is therefore necessary as it presents the challenges facing community policing in Paynesville ELWA community.

According to a study conducted by Ogadimma (2013) on challenges faced by community-oriented policing trainees in Nigeria established that the essence of community policing training is to prepare and empower police officers to relate better with members of the community in crime prevention and control within the community. It is therefore expected that both the attitude and operational tactics of the police will be affected positively by community policing training. The study however noted that while there were some noticeable change in attitude and conduct of the police after training, many of them failed to exhibit some of the traits they were taught in class while on duty in the street.

A study by Kiarie (2012), one of the main objectives of the community policing strategy was identified as develop trust and active cooperation with the community. However, as noted in various focus group discussions and numerous interviews both within the police service and outside, community police officers were worried that the trust they had developed with members of the community was being destroyed by inappropriate behavior from other units in the form of excessive use of service, inadequate investigation skills, lack of follow-up, criminal ties, gambling and corruption among other issues.

2.6.3 Access to Community Policing Resources

According to Ferreira (2006:37) the use and effectiveness of community policing in Central Europe established that among the challenges faced by community policing was inadequate resources. It was revealed that community policing departments engaged community policing initiatives with a relatively small number of officers, while the majority of patrol resources are devoted to responding to calls or doing “ real police work”, as it is described by some still steeped in entrenched approaches. In these departments, traditional criminal justice focused policing remained the dominant culture. Second, the cost of maintaining the community policing units’ officers falls on local government that are not in a position to sustain the increased staffing beyond the mandatory requirements.

A study conducted by Mammus (2018:81) established that in Nigeria the major challenge of policing is the shortage of manpower, inadequate funding, inadequate logistical support and infrastructure, lack of serviceable information and technological equipment to cover all the

areas of the country. Other factors includes inadequate manpower both in strength and expertise, proper education and training, lack of equipment, and poor condition of service for the average policeman.

According to Chimera and Likaka (2014:11) states that on community policing implementation by security agencies in Kenya revealed that inadequate information and intelligence gathering was a challenge to community policing as was noted by 80% of respondents. Lack of information required to pre-empt crime affected the performance of community policing committees. This was caused by lack of communication facilities. This reduced the efficiency of the committees and the community in general in the sense that it could identify criminals or criminal related activities, but unable to communicate.

A study by Pelser (2009: 51) asserted that the challenges of community policing in South Africa established that cars and motor bikes continued to be a challenge with some sub-counties only having four cars to cover the whole area and to serve all units. Interviews with community police officers routinely shows that they have limited access to transportation which affects their ability to visit communities in a consistent manner, it was noted that the planned expansion of community police will need transportation, communication equipment, housing, food allowances, access to training and general human resource support. It is unclear whether there was sufficient political support for community policing to secure such funding.

2.7 Organizational Transformation

US Bureau of Justice, (2003) states that, the initiation of community policing programmes, organizational transformation is an important requirement which align with organizational management, structure, personnel and information systems to support community partnership and proactive problem solving.

In revision of the 2003 guidelines of the U.S. Bureau of Justice, the U.S. Department of Justice, (2014) advances that, organizational transformation in the police force embrace community policing should have transformation in: 1) Agency Management that gives consideration to: climate and culture; leadership; labor relations; decision making; strategic planning; policies; organizational evaluations; and transparency; 2) Organizational structure in which community policing is concerned with geographic assignment of officers, despecialization of officer role to suit community policing demands and resources and finances of the police force to commit to community policing programmes; 3) Personnel issues including: recruitment, hiring and selection; personnel supervision/evaluations; and

training and 4) Information systems (Technology) that is communication/access to data and quality and accuracy of data.

2.8 Problem Solving in Community Policing

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, (2014) the process of engaging in the proactive and systematic examination of identified problems to develop and evaluate effective responses is a key component of community policing. Community policing emphasizes on proactive problem solving in a systematic and routine fashion rather than responding to crime after it occurs. Community policing encourages agencies to proactively develop solutions to conditions contributing to public safety problem. Problem solving must be infused into all police operations and guide the decision making efforts.

U.S. Department of Justice, (2014), encourages agencies to think innovatively about their responses and view making arrests as a wide array of potential responses. A way of helping officers to think about problem solving in a structured and disciplined manner is through the SARA (scanning, analysis, response and assessment) model.

A study conducted by Eck (2003) states that, to understand a problem, many problem solvers have found it useful to visualize links between victims, offenders and locations (the crime triangle) and those factors that could have impacted them. For example, capable guardians for victims (e.g. security guard, teachers, and neighbors); handlers for offenders (e.g. parents, friends, and probation officers); and managers of locations (e.g. business merchants, park employees and motel clerks), the police focus on factors that are within their reach, such as limiting criminal opportunities and access to victims, increasing guardianship and associating risk with unwanted behavior.

2.9 Definitions of Key Terms & Acronyms

Definitions of Key Terms are defined as the list of words or phrase used to describe a thing or to express a concept. Some keys terms and their meanings are as follows:

African alternative model of community policing: is a model wherein first, a long-standing partnership in southern Sudan where policing is provided by customary chiefs and second, one that is emerging in Liberia in the wake of the failure of a partnership based on community police forums.

Community-based crime prevention (CBCP): is the role of local government in designing and implementing programmes/plans for crime prevention, which articulates the participation

of other local actors in the process, and coordinates at the same time with the national government.

Community forum programme: is a programme aim to support the participatory development of communities on local level in assisting the police on law enforcement activities. It aim at (1) citizens improving their own life by means of own ideas and participation; and 2) the administration developing participatory and accountable local governance that can be trusted.

Community policing: is a programme of policing that focuses on building ties and working closely with members of the communities in the fight against crimes or is a law enforcement program in which police officers often working on foot, bicycle, or horseback are assigned to specific neighborhoods or communities to work with residents in preventing crime.

Customary chiefs: are chiefs designated by custom, and recognized and vested by public authority.

Customary justice systems: refers to a system of customs, norms and practices that are repeated by members of a particular group for such an extent of time that they consider them to be mandatory which tend to draw their authority from cultures and customs.

Law enforcement: is any system by which some members of society act in an organized manner to enforce the law by discovering, deterring, rehabilitating, or punishing people who violate the rules and norms governing that society.

Local policing groups: body of government employees trained in methods of law enforcement and crime prevention and detection and authorized to maintain the peace, safety, and order of the community.

National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS): is a comprehensive policy framework which will enable government to address crime in a coordinated and focused manner which draws on the resources of all government agencies, as well as civil society.

Police assistance: are authorities under whom a nation's civilian police and military forces operate also differed. It is also known as civilian police which are indispensable elements of the rule of law within a nation and they exercise authority conferred upon them by the law that defines their jurisdiction and methods of operations.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter discussed the method used to assess community-police relationship (community policing) in Paynesville ELWA community, Montserrado County, Liberia consistent with the population in the study; the sample as well as the sampling procedure for the study. It also discussed the data collection instrument used in the research and mode of the analysis of data collection to answer the questions in the study. The data analysis was done in line with acceptable research procedures which included questionnaires and related materials. Data were analyzed and interpreted to areas where applicable.

3.2 Research Design and Approach

The current study used the mixed methods research design. In this study both qualitative and quantitative methods were used. Qualitative method is a method in which the researcher relies on the views of participants by asking broad or general questions to collect data consisting of largely text or words from participants. These words are described and analyze into themes and conduct the inquiry in a subjective, biased manner (Creswell, 2012). Generally, it involved listening to the participants' voice and subjecting the data to analytic induction (finding common themes); more exploratory in nature. Some examples of data collection methods included, interviews, open-ended questionnaires, close-ended questionnaires, observations and focus group discussion. For this study, qualitative data were obtained from interviews and open-ended questions.

Quantitative method of data collection was also used to collect numerical data that were subjected to statistical analysis. Example of data collection methodologies included interviews and questionnaires. In the current study quantitative data were obtained using closed-ended items of the questionnaires.

3.3 Data collection method and Instrument

The study employed both primary and secondary approach of data collection methods. Primary data were collected at first hand, while secondary data were obtained from other scholars and researchers or documents applicable with the study topic, the methods and

instruments used in this study as techniques to collect data and appropriate information are as follows:

3.3.1 Questionnaires

Questionnaires are the main commonly used techniques in social study to formulate precise written questions, for the purpose of meeting the needed information from the respondents who are to equip the study with the required experiences and attention in relation to the study topic.

The questionnaires have been chosen in this study because it aided the researcher to save more information from a wider area within a short time (Byakagaba, Mugagga, & Nnakayima, 2019) and preserve unusual features which encourages greater honesty (Nyumba, et al., 2018). However, the layout of the questionnaire and the design is very important considering the lack of direct contact between the researcher and the respondent.

Therefore, this study method is useful to provide more suitable answers to the study where it is not possible in an interview method. Both methods aimed at complementing each other in this study to assess "*Community-Police Relationship in Liberia*."

Though, there are various ways in which questionnaires can be administered. In this study, questionnaire was distributed to community members with instruction on how to use them. The questionnaires were filled at the respondent's convenience hence increasing that chance of getting valid information. The questionnaire was also used to get the views of community members.

3.3.2 Interview

An interview is an oral questioning method of data collection where the investigator directly engages in verbal interaction with participants (Amin, 2005). This involved the use of an interview guide as a tool to obtain qualitative data from key respondents. This method facilitated the creation of rapport with the respondents and ensured that all questions were answered and flexibility in timing and order of asking or responding to questions was enhanced. And according to Keyton, 2006; Lindolf & Taylor, (2002), these interviews allow the respondents to discuss their thoughts and experiences; they are used to verify, validate or comment on information obtained from the survey questionnaires. Interviews were conducted with youth and community leaders.

3.3.3 Documents Review

Documents as one of the data collection tools or methods involve the available relevant literature data to the research topic, that has been collected and analyzed by someone else and relate to this study field.

At the same time, it is important to analyze and conceptualize the link between what has been studied relating to this research topic. However, this method of data collection help the researcher to consult with other studies thus to develop a deeper insight about the topic of the study and mainly considered as secondary data and documents include; reports, minute sheets, documents and manuals government registration books available that consulted during data collection.

Therefore, in the case of "*Community-Police Relationship in Liberia, a case of Paynesville ELWA community, Montserrado County*" as socio-economic and security phenomenon will consider consulting the relevant literature to complement and compare with the primary data collected from the field that can assess *Community-Police Relationship in Liberia, a case of Paynesville ELWA community, Montserrado County*.

3.4 Selection of Participants

Sampling refers to the process of selecting individuals from a larger group of people and drawing conclusion that are “an accurate representation of how the larger group of people acts or what they believe” (Frankel & Wallen, 2006). According to Feldman et al. (1984), “when the population is less than 100, the researcher may select all and if the population falls between 100 and 1000, the researcher may select 10% of the total population”. The researcher therefore selected 10% of the total 400 populations which were 40 respondents from the various blocks and/or surrounding within the Paynesville ELWA Community. The researcher used purposive sampling technique which is a type of sampling where the members for the sample are selected according to the purpose of the study to select the respondents.

3.5 Data Analysis

The data collected from the survey were transcribed and interpreted in a frequency tables and percentages that were allotted to each of the questions. Each of the questions on the questionnaire played an important role in the quest to derive the percentages of each of the respondent’s view. This would help to address some of the concerns that were needed to be answered.

Data from questionnaire was edited, coded, classified and tabulated using the statistical package for social scientists (SPSS) version 11.1 to generate and present data. A descriptive approach was used to obtain frequencies and percentages under each set research questions/objectives of this study. Descriptive statistics in form of frequencies and percentages was computed to describe the study variables. Data was presented in tables

containing frequencies and percentages so as to have a clear picture of the information from the respondents in relation to the study objectives.

3.6 Quality assurance and research ethics

To establish validity qualitatively, the research instruments were given to two experts to evaluate the relevance of each item in the instrument to the objectives and rate each item on the scale of very relevant (5), quite relevant (4), somewhat relevant (3), not relevant (2), not at all relevant (1). The researcher allowed the respondents to legitimately judge the credibility of the results. The researcher attained validity of coefficients of at 60% or 0.60. Validity was determined by using Content Validity Index (C.V.I). $C.V.I = \frac{\text{items rated 4 or 5 by both researchers}}{\text{total number of items in the questionnaire}}$. After calculating the C.V.I, with the results that were above 0.6, the instrument was regarded as valid.

3.6.1 Reliability

Reliability is a measure of the degree of which the research instruments yield consistent results or data after repeated trials (Mugenda, 1998). For qualitative data, the researcher gave the instruments to two experts who confirmed that responses against previous answers were appropriate and detected questions that were likely to elicit inadmissible responses. A pre-test of the instrument was carried out to establish consistence in responses. The results from the pre-test were used to modify the items in the instrument.

3.6.2 Research ethics

An introductory letter was given by the administration of the National Police College, Musanze, Rwanda to introduce the researcher to members and leaders of the community under study to ensure their acceptance. Before the collection of data, a thorough explanation was given about the purpose of the study and the need for their cooperation. The possible benefits of the study were explained and assurance about the confidentiality of the information collected. Anonymity of the respondents was taken care of during the study so as not to victimize them. The general objective of the study was to assess community-police relationship in Liberia, a case of Paynesville ELWA community, Montserrado County.

Data were collected through a written letter to respondents about the purpose of the research along with an introduction and consent form, followed by a distribution of questionnaires as in a closed survey with the stated number of participants.

3.7 Limitations of the Study

Most individuals believed that research work would always be funded thereby making it difficult for them to cooperate in the data collection process once they were not compensated. The refusal of partakers to adequately make their self-available in giving full time was also a challenge; and the time allocated to carry out the research was also a major constraint for the researcher. Another constraint experienced by the researcher was the high cost associated with conducting the research. The researcher was responsible to assume the entire cost of materials, transportation and other logistics. To support inevitable activities in the research exercise, funds were mobilized from colleagues who saw this research as necessary, that this research owes great deal of appreciations. Getting responses from community members was a serious challenge, but communicating with community leaders agreeing on schedules and appointments was central of dealing with the problem.

3.8 Study area

Montserrado County is blessed with beautiful natural plains, fertile soils, lush natural vegetation, islands, ample rivers and gorgeous beaches. The County is home to approximately 1.5 million people, corresponding to almost half of Liberia's entire population. About 70% reside in the capital, attracted by urban life, commercial business and government jobs. The County is highly diverse with members of all of Liberia's 16 tribes living together.

Due to the country's capital being located in the County, Montserrado was particularly affected by the conflict. To this day, most of Montserrado basic infrastructure remains damage and basic social provisions are to a great extent grossly inadequate, particularly in the rural areas. After the war, the County has been the host of about 60% of IDP and returnee camps and a center for ex-combatants and deactivated security forces seeking new ways to make a living.

Provision of basic social services was greatly affected by the war, as the schools, clinics, the Mt. Coffee Hydropower Plant in Harrisburg Township, and the water treatment facility in White Plains were either looted, damaged, or destroyed. Proper health care and education had been mainly centered in the capital prior to the war, an imbalance that is even more obvious after the war, where people in rural Montserrado still walk long distances to reach education and health facilities. In spite of some recent gains, the water and sanitation infrastructure is grossly inadequate, with some 518 hand pumps (NRC, 2007) serving a population previously served with pipe-borne water from the White Plains water plant, and a virtually nonexistent sewage system.

The constitutionally mandated structure of local government in Liberia includes: a Superintendent, who leads the County Administration with the support of the Assistant Superintendent for Development and District and Township Commissioners, who are also appointed by the President. In addition, Line Ministries are also deployed to the County and within districts. These are civil servants who receive their appointments from central

government ministries. City Mayors, Clan Chiefs, Paramount Chiefs and General Town Chiefs are elected during municipal elections, but due to the civil conflict and the installation of the transitional administration they have remained in power without going through the normal procedure of selection.

Paynesville (sometimes **Paynesward**) is a suburb east of Monrovia, Liberia. It is geographically larger than the city of Monrovia and is expanding eastward along the Robertsfield Highway and northeastward beyond Red Light Market, one of the largest market areas in Liberia. Paynesville is often considered a part of the Greater Monrovia area.

Paynesville has several neighborhoods, called "communities" by residents, which are notable for their unique names. Some communities include housing estates, older settlements, while others are named after landmarks, major boulevards/roads or local leaders, while others predate the street names altogether. It has the population of 314,000 as per 2013 census conducted by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) Liberia. ELWA which mean (Eternal Love Winning Africa) is one of the well-known and most populated communities in Paynesville which is my area of study. It is structured into blocks with each block headed by a community chairperson or leader.

In conclusion, the logical and coordinated execution of the above methodology enabled the study yield results that gave a reliable evaluation of community-police relationship in Liberia, a case of Paynesville ELWA community, Montserrado County.

CHAPTER FOUR: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE POLICE THE COMMUNITY IN PAYNESVILLE; STUDY FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents descriptive findings on community-police relationship in Paynesville ELWA, Montserrado County. The findings are based on data obtained during the field survey from youth and community leaders and analyzed based upon the research questions.

4.1.1 Data Presentation and Analysis

The Data presented in this research was transcribed to tables, coded and interpreted succinctly. It shows the vivid pictorial in looking at the data to know what happened so as to make better analysis and conclusion of the data being presented.

Additionally, the data presented in this chapter was taken from a field survey in the Paynesville ELWA Community where the study was carried out pulling out responses from participants on “Community-Police Relationship (Community Policing).” The data were analyzed using tables. According to the socio-demographic profile, variables measured were presented as such.

The study sample size was 40 respondents and its targeted population was 400. The 40 respondents as sample size were obtained as a result of 10% of the population which was interviewed during the survey. It must be noted that the total population used during the survey was the entire population. Therefore, the response rate of the population was tolerable in acquiring significant data available in conducting the research.

4.1.2 Socio-demographic profile

The results that follow show the socio-demographic profile of the respondents'. They included gender of the respondents, age range, educational levels and marital status as well as other activities in the Paynesville ELWA community. The findings are presented in tables that follows.

Table 4.1.3: Gender

Gender of Paynesville ELWA Inhabitants	Frequency	Percentage
Male	26	64
Female	14	36
Total	40	100

Source: Research’s Field Data, 2018

During the conduct of the survey, 26 inhabitants were males accounting for 64% while 14 inhabitants were females accounting for 36% of the population surveyed. The results clearly indicates that as per the gender composition of the study representation in Paynesville ELWA community, Montserrado County, majority of the respondents are male which limit the in-depth analysis of the effectiveness of community-police relationship in terms of crime prevention especially those prevalence crimes that are committed against women and girls, such as rape and other forms of sexual and gender based violence.

Table 4.1.4: Age range

Age range of Paynesville ELWA Inhabitants	Male	Female	Frequency	Percentage
15-20	0	0	0	0
21-26	3	0	3	5
27-32	6	2	8	21
33-38	2	6	8	21
39 & above	14	7	21	53
Total	25	15	40	100

Source: Research’s Field Data, 2018

Table 4.1.4 shows the age range according to the range. During the survey, 14 males and 7 females who were in the age category of 39 & above accounted for 53% and they were in majority while 2 males and 6 females’ respondents who were between the ages of 33-38 accounted for 21%. At the same time, 6 male and 2 females who also accounted for 21% were in the age category of 27-32. The age range of respondents between 21-26 years who recorded only 3 males accounted for 5%. This implies that majority of the respondents were sufficiently informed about community policing activities in the Paynesville ELWA

community and therefore, could give reliable, relevant and informed responses that authentic the results of the study.

Table 4.1.5: Educational level

Education level of Paynesville ELWA Inhabitants	Male	Female	Frequency	Percentage
High school student	7	2	9	23
High school dropout	2	2	4	8
University student	7	0	7	18
University dropout	3	4	7	18
Illiterate	2	7	9	23
High school graduate	2	0	2	5
Technician	2	0	2	5
Total	25	15	40	100

Source: Research’s Field Data, 2018

Table 4.1.5 discussed the educational level of the inhabitants of Paynesville ELWA Community. According to the study, 7 males and 2 females’ respondents (majority) who were high school students accounted for 23% while another 2 males and 7 females’ respondents who were illiterate accounted for the same 23%. At the same time, the survey revealed that 7 males who were university students accounted for 18% whereas 3 males and 4 females who were university dropout also accounted for 18%. Although, 2 males and 2 females respondents who were high school dropout accounted for 8% whereas 2 males were high school graduate accounting for 5%. Only 2 male who was a technician accounted for 5%. This indicates that there is a balance between those who are high school students and those who are illiterate or those who are not educated at all. This could also informed the study by responses were based upon the knowledge of each individuals as per their educational levels.

Table 4.1.6: Marital status

Current profession of Paynesville ELWA Inhabitants	Males	Females	Frequency	Percentage
Single	10	2	12	31
Married	13	12	25	64
Divorce	2	1	3	5
Total	25	15	40	100

Source: Research’s Field Data, 2018

Table 4.1.6 revealed the marital status of the respondents’ interviewed. During the survey, 13 males and 12 females’ respondents who were married accounted for 64% making it the majority respondents whereas 10 males and 2 females’ respondents who were single accounted for 31%. However, 2 male and 1 female who were divorced accounted for 5%. This implies that majority of the respondents male were married and understood the importance of community-police relationship (community policing) because of fear criminal gangs harming their family.

4.2 Relationship between community and the police

The study publicized participants’ interviewed responses from research questions asking them relationship between community and the police in Paynesville ELWA. Responding, 14 males and 9 females who were in the majority said ‘Not good’ that they do not have a good relationship with the police in their community accounting for 56% whereas 6 males and 1 female who said it was ‘Good’ accounted for 18%, while 4 males and 3 females who said ‘Very good’ accounted for 18% and 1 male and 2 females who said ‘Fair’ accounted for 8%.

Table 4.2.1: Participants responses from research questions asking them how is the relationship between community and the police in Paynesville ELWA community?

Responses of Paynesville ELWA Inhabitants	Male	Female	Frequency	Percentage
Very good	4	3	7	18
Good	6	1	7	18
Fair	1	2	3	8
Not good	14	9	23	56
Total	25	15	40	100

Source: Research’s Field Data, 2018

Table 4.2.1 presents the data into categories that are numerically suitable to the survey. That is, 23 respondents representing 56 percent said ‘Not good’ that they do not have a good relationship with the police in their community compared to 7 respondents representing 18 percent who asserted ‘Good’ that they have good relationship with the police whilst another 7 respondents representing 18 percent said ‘Very good’ that they have a cordial relationship with the police and 3 respondents representing 8 percent said ‘Fair’ that is somehow they a relationship with the police.

The results showed that the community and the police have not had relationship at all which indicates that the communities watch forum launched by the Liberia National Police did not materialize due to past history of police brutality during the civil war in Liberia.

One of the oldest men in the community said: *“My son you know during the war, we suffered in the hands of the police; they all were rebels, we were harassed, our wives taken and even some of my friends were killed by the very police at the time they were called SOD (Special Operations Division).”*

In addition, some of the community members also expressed their grievance and frustration as to why they do not have trust and confidence in the police. Another community member who is a female asserted that *“The police are old wine in new bottle, because some of the people that hurt us during the war, we still see them been recruited in the police”*

Table 4.2.2: Participants responses from research questions on how do they understand community policing to be?

Responses of Paynesville ELWA’ Inhabitants	Male	Female	Frequency	Percentage
People coming together	0	1	1	3
Police instructing the community to help them	4	1	5	12
Police and community relationship to solve problem in the community	19	13	32	80
Police asking the community in helping them fight crimes	2	0	2	5
Total	25	15	40	100

Source: Research’s Field Data, 2018

Table 4.2.2 discovered during the survey responses from the research questions on how do they understand community policing to be. Responding, 19 males and 13 females who were

in majority and said that community-police relationship to solve problems in the community were their understanding of ‘community policing’ accounted 80% while 4 males and 1 female who said that police instructing the community to help them were their understanding of ‘community policing’ accounted for 12%. At the same time, 1 female who said that her understanding of community policing was people coming together accounted for 3% whereas 2 male who said that his understanding of ‘community policing’ was police asking the community in helping them fight crimes accounted for 5%. The results show that majority of the community dwellers understand the concept community policing, but what is lacking is how they apply this concept to safe guide their community. Interviews with some community leaders show that they lack the knowhow to properly implement the program. One prominent community leader said: *“In our community we mobilized some young people to keep watch at night and we gave them the power to arrest any strange person they do not trust..... investigate them and keep them until morning hours to send them to court; we don’t need the police, the police has given us the power to keep our community safe”*

Table 4.2.3: Participants responses from research questions on what is the impact of ‘community policing’ on the inhabitants of Paynesville ELWA Community?

Responses of Paynesville ELWA Inhabitants	Male	Female	Frequency	Percentage
Very good	6	3	9	21
Good	9	9	18	46
Poor	10	3	13	33
Total	25	15	40	100

Source: Research’s Field Data, 2018

Table 4.2.3 exposed during the survey responses from research questions on what is the impact of ‘community policing’ on the inhabitants of Paynesville ELWA Community. According to the survey, 9 males and 9 females’ respondents said that the impact of ‘community policing’ on the inhabitants of Paynesville ELWA Community was Good accounting for 46%. Moreover, 10 males and 3 females respondents said that the impact of ‘community policing on their community was Poor accounting for 33% whereas 6 males and 3 females respondents who said that impact of ‘community policing’ in their community was very good accounted for 21%.

Table 4.2.3 presents the data into categories that are numerically suitable to the research. That is, 18 respondents (46 percent) said that the impact of ‘community policing’ on the inhabitants of Paynesville ELWA community was ‘good’ compare to 13 respondents (33 percent) who said that it’ was ‘poor.’ Additionally, 8 respondents (21 percent) said that it was ‘very good’.

4.3 Role of the community inhabitants in assisting the police on law enforcement process in the community

The study discussed during the survey responses from research questions on what are the roles of the community inhabitants in assisting the police on law enforcement process in the community. Responding, 17 males and 11 females’ respondents who were in the majority said that they carried out Active role (part) play in assisting the police on law enforcement process in the community accounting for 70%. Moreover, 3 males and 3 females’ respondents said that they had No role play accounting for 15% whereas 5 males and 1 female respondents said that they had Passive role play accounting for 15%.

Table 4.3.1: Participants responses from research questions on what are the roles of the community inhabitants in assisting the police on law enforcement process in the community?

Responses of Paynesville ELWA Inhabitants	Male	Female	Frequency	Percentage
Active role (part) play	17	11	28	70
Passive role play	5	1	6	15
No role play	3	3	6	15
Total	25	15	40	100

Source: Research’s Field Data, 2018

Table 4.3.1 presents the data into categories that are numerically relevant to the research. That is, 28 respondents (72 percent) said that the roles of the community inhabitants in assisting the police on law enforcement process in the community was an ‘active role’ compared to 6 respondents (15 percent) said that the roles of community inhabitants in assisting the police was ‘no role play.’ At the same time, 5 respondents (13 percent) said that the role of community inhabitants in assisting the police was a ‘passive role play.’

The results show that even those members of the community had asserted that they play an active role, but it seem that community members do not understand their roles when it comes

to the community assisting the police on law enforcement processes. Many believe that by calling the police to respond to every situation are the best role play, but do not view from the community ability to arrest and solve these problems. Based upon findings other sections, it is clear that the community do not assist the police on law enforcement processes in the community, but rely on the police to solve problems. Prominently, one community member stated that, “.....*But I always call the police whenever there is a problem, because it is their responsibility to come whenever there is an incident in our community.....that is why the government paying them*” which is a negative perception by the community toward the police. Skogan (2012) acknowledge that law abiding citizens deserve to participate and contribute towards community policing thus they are involved and support the idea of community policing and the police process comes as a result of stakeholder participation. Community policing not only involves the community members, but more specifically incorporates the 11 police responsiveness to community concerns towards ensuring the full benefits of policing (Skogan, 2012).

4.4 Challenges encountered by the community dwellers relative to police and community relationships

The study revealed during the survey responses from research questions on what are the challenges encountered by the community dwellers relative to police and community relationships. According to the responses, 19 males and 12 females who were in majority said that the challenges encountered by the community dwellers relative to police and community relationships were a ‘slow responding process’ accounting for 79%. At the same time, 2 males and 1 female who said that ‘relax manner in addressing community issue’ as the challenges encountered accounted for 7% whereas 3 males and 1 female who said that ‘all of the above’ accounted for another 9%. However, 1 male and 1 female who said ‘resolving conflict without police intervention’ as the challenges accounted for 5%.

Table 4.4.1: Participants responses from research questions on what are the challenges encountered by the community dwellers relative to police and community relationships?

Responses of Paynesville ELWA Inhabitants	Male	Female	Frequency	Percentage
Slow responding process	19	12	31	79
Relax manner in addressing community issue	2	1	3	7
Resolving conflict without police	1	1	2	5

intervention				
All of the above	3	1	4	9
Total	25	15	40	100

Source: Research’s Field Data, 2018

Table 4.4.1 presents the data on the challenges encountered by the community dwellers relative to police and community relationship into categories that are numerically applicable to the research. That is, 31 respondents (79 percent) asserted that ‘slow responding process’ was the challenges encountered by the community dwellers relative to police and community relationship whilst 3 respondents (8 percent) and another 3 respondents (8 percent) said that ‘relax manner in addressing community issue and ‘all of the above’ were the challenges encountered by the community dwellers relative to police and community relationship respectively. Additionally, 2 respondents (5 percent) asserted that ‘resolving conflict without police intervention was the challenges encountered.

The results show that challenges encountered by the community dwellers relative to police and community relationship was slow responding processes as asserted by majority of the respondents. The slow respond of the police when called upon by community dwellers could be for many reasons, but some community members believed that the reason for the slow responding processes by the police was due to the fact that the police are in cohort with the criminal gangs as such they delay so as to enable these gangs complete their mission. Other believed that it is due to poor logistical support and inadequate manpower. Research conducted by Mammus (2018:81) concurs with the assertion may by some community members that major challenge faced by policing was manpower shortage, inadequate funding, logistic support and infrastructure, lack of serviceable information and technological equipment to cover all the area of the country. One community member states that, “*when you call the police during a situation.....they can take their only time to come; we are really suffering and this is a big challenge to us the community dwellers.....because the crime rate in our area is getting high every day, we even call on radio talk shows to explain our problem, but nothing has been done.*”

Table 4.4.2: Participants responses from research questions on what are the reasons for these challenges in the community?

Table 4.4.2 discovered during the survey responses from the research questions on what are the reasons for the challenges as mentioned above in the community. Responding, 17 males and 8 females who were in the majority and said that the reason for the challenges in the community was the ‘community inability to resolve conflict’ accounting for 62% whereas 5 males and 3 females’ respondents said that challenges were as a result of ‘unfriendly community’ accounting for 20%. Moreover, 2 males and 3 females said that the challenges were as a result of ‘hatred among community dwellers’ accounting for 12%. At the same time, 1 male who said that ‘police request for money’ were the challenges encountered in the community accounted for 3% whereas 1 female who said that ‘inaccessibility of the community’ were the challenges encountered accounted for 3%.

Responses of Paynesville ELWA Inhabitants	Male	Female	Frequency	Percentage
Community inability to resolve conflict	17	8	25	62
Unfriendly community	5	3	8	20
Hatred among community dwellers	2	3	5	12
Police request for money	1	0	1	3
Inaccessibility of the community	0	1	1	3
Total	25	15	40	100

Source: Research’s Field Data, 2018

Table 4.4.2 presents the data on the reasons for these challenges in the community into categories that are numerically appropriate to the research. This means that, 25 respondents (62 percent) said that ‘community inability to resolve conflict was the challenge encountered in the community compared to 8 respondents (20 percent) who asserted that ‘unfriendly community was the challenge encountered. At the same time, 5 respondents (12 percent) said that ‘hatred among community dwellers was the challenge encountered whilst 1 respondent (3 percent) and another 1 respondent (3 percent) asserted that ‘police request for money’ as well as ‘inaccessibility of the community’ were the challenges encountered in the community respectively.

Table 4.4.3: Participants responses from research questions on how often does the community had meeting with the police?

Table 4.4.3 exposed during the survey responses from research questions on how often the community had meetings with the police. During the survey, 22 males and 13 females who were in the majority said ‘not at all’ when it came to how often the community had meetings with the police accounting for 89%. Moreover, 2 male and 2 females’ respondents who said ‘monthly’ was often the time the community had meetings with the police accounted for 8% whereas 1 male who said weekly was often the time the community had meetings with the police accounted for 3%.

Responses of Paynesville ELWA Inhabitants	Male	Female	Frequency	Percentage
Daily	0	0	0	0
Weekly	1	0	1	3
Monthly	2	2	4	8
Not at all	22	13	35	89
Total	25	15	40	100

Source: Research’s Field Data, 2018

Table 4.4.3 presents the data into categories that are statistically important to the research on how often does the community have meetings with the police. As such, 35 respondents (89 percent) asserted that, ‘not at all’ do they have meetings with the police compared to 3 respondents (8 percent) who said that they often had meetings ‘monthly’. Although 1 respondent (3 percent) said that they often had meetings with the police ‘weekly.’

Table 4.4.4 Participants responses from research questions asking them on whether ‘is their community a member of the Community Policing Forum’?

Table 4.4.4 revealed during the survey responses from research questions on whether the community was a member of the Liberia Community Policing Forum (CPF). Responding, 22 males and 14 females’ respondents who were in majority said ‘No’ their community wasn’t a member of the CPF accounted for 90% whereas 3 males and 1 female said ‘Yes’ their community was a member of the CPF accounted for 10%.

Responses of Paynesville ELWA Inhabitants	Male	Female	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	3	1	4	10
No	22	14	36	90
Total	25	15	40	100

Source: Research’s Field Data, 2018

Table 4.4.4 presents the data into categories that are statistically relevant to the survey. That is, 35 respondents representing 90 percent said ‘Yes’ that the community is a member of the Community Policing Forum (CPF) compared to 4 respondents representing 10 percent who asserted ‘No’ that the community wasn’t a member of the Forum.

Table 4.4.5: Participants responses from research questions asking them on whether ‘do they have community watch team’?

Table 4.4.5 shows responses from research questions on whether the community has a community watch team. Responding, 19 males and 14 females who were in the majority said ‘No’ they don’t have community watch team accounting for 85% whereas 6 males and 1 female respondent said ‘Yes’ that they do have community watch team accounting for 15%.

Responses of Paynesville ELWA Inhabitants	Male	Female	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	6	1	7	15
No	19	14	33	85
Total	25	15	40	100

Source: Research’s Field Data, 2018

Table 4.4.5 presents the data into categories that are statistically applicable to the research. That is, 33 respondents representing 85 percent said ‘Yes’ that the community do have a community watch team compared to 6 respondents representing 15 percent who asserted ‘No’ that the community don’t have a community watch team.

Table 4.4.6: Participants responses from research questions on, if it is yes/no on whether the community has a watch team, how effective/non effective is the community’s watch team?

Table 4.4.6 exposed during the survey responses from research questions on. If it is yes/no whether the community had a watch team and how effective/non effective is the community’s watch team. Responding, 21 males and 14 females who were in the majority said no, that the community’s watch team was ‘Not effective’ accounting for 87%. At the same time, 2 males and 1 female respondent said yes, that the community’s watch team was ‘Trying their best’ accounting for 8% whereas as 2 males’ respondents again said yes, that the community’s watch team was ‘Very effective’ accounting for 5%.

Responses of Paynesville ELWA Inhabitants	Male	Female	Frequency	Percentage
Not effective	21	14	35	87
Very effective	2	0	2	5
Trying their best	2	1	3	8
Total	25	15	40	100

Source: Research’s Field Data, 2018

Table 4.4.6 presents the data into categories that are numerically appropriate to the research. This means that, 34 respondents (87 percent) said ‘no’ that the community’s watch team was ‘Never effective’ whilst 3 respondents (8 percent) said that the community’s watch team was ‘Trying to be effective’ against 2 respondents (5 percent) who said ‘yes’ that the community’s watch team was ‘Effective.’

4.5 Findings

The major findings revealed in **table 4.1.3** shows that out of the 40 respondents (100%) interviewed, majority-26 respondents (64%) were males whilst 14 respondents (36%) females.

The major findings discovered in **table 4.1.4** shows that out of the 40 respondents (100%) interviewed, majority-21 respondents (53%) were between the ages 39-above whilst 8 respondents (21 %) and another 8 respondents (21 %) who asserted that they were between the ages 33-38 and 27-32 years respectively. Still, 3 respondents (5%) said that they were between the ages of 21-26 years.

The major findings revealed in **table 4.1.5** shows that of the 40 respondents (100%), majority-9 respondents (23%) were high school students whereas 9 respondents (23%) who were illiterate. Yet, 7 respondents (18%) were university students compared to 7 respondents (18%) who were university dropout. Still, 4 respondents (8%) were high school dropout whilst 2 respondents (5%) who were high school graduate as well as 2 respondent (5%) was a technician.

The major findings disclosed in **table 4.1.6** shows that of the 40 respondents (100%), majority-25 respondents (64%) asserted that they were 'married' whilst 12 respondents (31%) who said that they were 'single.' At the same time, 3 respondents (5%) asserted that they were divorced.

The major findings divulged in **table 4.2.1** shows that out of the 40 respondents (100%), majority-32 respondents (80%) asserted that they understood community policing to be 'Police and community relationship to solve problem in the community' whilst 5 respondents (12%) who said that they understood community policing to be 'Police instructing the community to help them'. Also, 1 respondent (3%) understood community policing to be 'People coming together' and another 2 respondent (5%) asserted that they understood community policing to be police asking the community in helping them fight crimes respectively.

The major findings revealed in **table 4.2.2** shows that out of the 40 respondents (100%), majority-18 respondents (46%) averred that the impact of community policing on the inhabitants of Paynesville ELWA Community was 'good' whilst 13 respondents (33%) who asserted that the impact of community policing on the inhabitants of Paynesville ELWA Community was 'poor'. Yet, 9 respondents (21%) said that the impact of community policing on the inhabitants of Paynesville ELWA community was 'very good.'

The major findings disclosed in **table 4.2.3** shows that out of the 40 respondents (100%), majority-28 respondents (70%) asserted that the role of community inhabitants in assisting police on law enforcement process in the community was an 'active role play' whilst 6 respondents (15%) averred that the role of community inhabitants in assisting police on law enforcement process in the community was 'no role play'. Yet, 6 respondents (15%) said that the role of community inhabitants in assisting police on law enforcement process in the community was 'passive role play.'

The major findings disclosed in **table 4.3.1** shows that out of the 40 respondents (100 %), majority-31 respondents (79%) asserted that the challenge encountered by the community dwellers relative to police and community relationships was ‘slow responding process’ compared to 3 respondents (7%) who asserted that the challenges encountered by the community dwellers relative to police and community relationships were ‘relax manner in addressing community issue as well as another 4 respondents (9%) all of the above respectively. Even though, 2 respondents (5%) averred that ‘resolving conflict without police intervention was the challenge encountered.

The major findings revealed in **table 4.4.1** shows that out of the 40 respondents (100%), majority-25 respondents (62%) stated that the reason for the challenge encountered was ‘community inability to resolve conflict’ whilst 8 respondents (20%) who said that the reason for the challenge encountered was as result of ‘unfriendly community’. Still, 5 respondents (12%) said that the reason for the challenge encountered was ‘hatred among community dwellers’ compared to 1 respondent (3%) and another 1 respondent (3%) who said that the reasons for the challenges were ‘police request for money’ as well as ‘inaccessibility of the community’ respectively.

The major findings divulged in **table 4.4.2** shows that out of the 40 respondents (100%), majority-35 respondents (89%) asserted that ‘not at all’ the community often had meetings with the police whilst 4 respondents (8%) who said that ‘monthly’ was the time the community often had meetings with the police. Yet, 1 respondent (3%) asserted that the community often had meetings with the police ‘weekly.’

The major findings disclosed in **table 4.4.3** shows that out of the 40 respondents (100%), majority-36 respondents (90%) asserted ‘No’ that the community was not a member of the Liberia Community Forum whilst 4 respondents (10%) who said ‘Yes’ that the community was a member of the Liberia Community Forum.

Major findings discovered in **table 4.4.4** shows that out of the 40 respondents (100%), majority-23 respondents (56%) asserted ‘Yes’ that the community do carry out community policing in the area compared to 17 respondents (44%) who said ‘No’ that the community do carry out community policing in the area.

The major findings divulged in **table 4.4.5** shows that out of the 40 respondents (100%), majority-33 respondents (85%) asserted ‘No’ that the community don’t have a community’s

watch team compared to 7 respondents (15%) who said that they do have a community's watch team.

The major findings revealed in **table 4.4.6** shows that out of the 40 respondents (100%), majority-35 respondents (87%) asserted that the community's watch team was 'never effective' compared to 3 respondents (8%) who asserted that the community's watch team had been 'trying their best.' Yet, 2 respondents (5%) said that the community's watch team had been 'very effective.'

4.6 Discussions of the findings

The major findings revealed in **table 4.1.3** shows a statistical data relevant to the study. Out of the 40 respondents interviewed, majority 26 respondents (64%) were males whereas 14 respondents (36%) were females. This means that those who were males were more than the females.

The major findings disclosed in **table 4.1.4** shows a numerical data germane to the study. Out of the 40 respondents, majority-21 respondents (53%) were between the ages 39-above against 8 respondents (21%) and 8 respondents (21%) who were between the ages 33-38 as well as 27-32 years respectively. Though, 3 respondents (5%) were between the ages 21-26 years.

The major findings discovered in **table 4.1.5** shows a statistical data relevant to the study. Out of the 40 respondents, majority-9 respondents (23%) and another 9 respondents (23%) were high school students and illiterate respectively whereas 7 respondents (18%) and another 7 respondents (18%) were university dropout and university students respectively. Yet, 4 respondents (8%) were high school students compared to 2 respondents (5%) who were high school graduate and 2 respondents (3%) who was a technician. This means that those who were high school students and illiterate were more than those who were university students and university dropout. And those high schools dropout were more than high graduate and technician.

The major findings disclosed in **table 4.1.6** shows a numerical data applicable to the study. Out of the 40 respondents, majority-25 respondents (64%) asserted that they were married compared to 12 respondents (31%) and 3 respondents (5%) who said that they were single as well as divorced respectively. This means that the married couples were more than the single and divorced respondents.

The major findings revealed in **table 4.2.1** shows a statistical data relevant to the study. Out of the 40 respondents, majority-32 respondents (80%) asserted that they understood community policing to be 'police and community relationships to solve problem in the community' whilst 5 respondents (12%) who said that they understood community policing to be 'police instructing the community to help them'. Still, 1 respondent (3%) and another 2 respondent (5%) averred that they understood community policing to be 'people coming together' as well as 'police asking the community in helping them fight crimes'. This means that those who stated 'police and community relationships to solve problem in the community' were more than the respondents who said 'police instructing the community to help them', 'people coming together' as well as 'police asking the community in helping them fight crimes' respectively.

The major findings disclosed in **table 4.2.2** shows a numerical data applicable to the study. Out of the 40 respondents, majority-18 respondents (46%) asserted that the impact of community policing on the inhabitants of Paynesville ELWA Community was 'good' compared to 13 respondents (33%) who said that the impact was 'poor'. Though, 9 respondents (21%) stated that the impact was 'very good'. This means that those who said that the impact of community policing on the inhabitants was 'good' were more than those who said that the impact was 'poor' as well as 'very good' respectively.

The major findings disclosed in **table 4.2.3** shows a statistical data important to the study. Out of the 40 respondents, majority-28 respondents (70%) asserted that the role of the community inhabitants in assisting police on law enforcement process in the community was an 'active role played compared to 6 respondents (15%) who said that there were 'no role played' of the community inhabitants in assisting police on law enforcement process in the community. Still, 6 respondents (15%) asserted that there were 'passive role played'. This means that those who said that the community played 'an active role' in assisting the police on law enforcement in the community were more than those who played 'no role' as well as 'passive role' correspondingly.

The major findings disclosed in **table 4.3.1** shows a numerical data applicable to the study. Out of the 40 respondents, majority-31 respondents (79%) asserted that the challenges encountered by the community dwellers relative to community and police relationships were 'slow responding processes' whilst 3 respondents (7%) and another 4 respondents (9%) who stated that the challenges encountered by the community dwellers relative to community and police relationships were 'relax manner in addressing community issues' as well as 'all of the

above' respectively. Yet, 2 respondents (5%) asserted that the challenge was 'resolving conflict without police intervention'. This means that those who asserted that the challenges encountered by the community dwellers were 'slow responding processes' were more than those who said 'relax manner in addressing community issues', 'all of the above' as well as 'resolving conflict without police intervention' respectively. The major findings divulged in **table 4.4.1** shows a numerical data applicable to the study. Out of the 40 respondents, majority-25 respondents (62%) asserted that the reason for the challenges in the community was as a result of 'community inability to resolve conflict' whilst 8 respondents (20%) who said that the reason was as a result of 'unfriendly community'. Even though, 5 respondents (12%) stated that the reason was 'hatred among community dwellers' compared to 1 respondent (3%) and another 1 respondent (3%) who said that the reasons were 'police request for money' as well as 'inaccessibility of the community'. This means that the reasons were 'community inability to solve conflict' were more than those who said 'unfriendly community, 'hatred among community dwellers', 'police request for money' as well as 'inaccessibility of the community' separately.

The major findings disclosed in **table 4.4.2** shows a numerical data applicable to the study. Out of the 40 respondents, majority-35 respondents (89%) asserted that they 'not at all' had meetings with the police compared to 4 respondents (8%) and 1 respondent (3%) who said that they often had meetings with the police 'monthly' and 'weekly' correspondingly. This means that those who 'not at all' had meetings with the police were more than those often had meetings with the police 'monthly' and 'weekly' respectively.

The major findings revealed in **table 4.4.3** shows a statistical data relevant to the study. Out of the 40 respondents interviewed, majority 36 respondents (90%) said 'No' that the community was not a member of the Community Policing Forum whilst 4 respondents (10%) who said 'Yes' that the community was a member of the Forum. This means that those who said 'Yes' were less than those who said 'No.'

The major findings revealed in **table 4.4.4** shows a numerical data suitable to the study. Out of the 40 respondents interviewed, majority 23 respondents (56%) said 'Yes' that the community do carry out community policing in the area whilst 17 respondents (44%) who said 'No' that the community don't carry out community policing in the area. This means that those who said 'No' were more than those who said 'Yes'.

The major findings revealed in **table 4.4.5** shows a statistical data relevant to the study. Out of the 40 respondents interviewed, majority 33 respondents (85%) said 'No' that they don't have a community's watch team against 7 respondents (15%) who said 'Yes' that they do have a community's watch team. This means that those who said 'No' were more than those who said 'Yes'.

The major findings disclosed in **table 4.4.6** shows a numerical data applicable to the study. Out of the 40 respondents, majority-35 respondents (87%) asserted that they the community's watch team was 'never effective' compared to 3 respondents (8%) and 2 respondent (5%) who said that the community's watch team was 'trying their best' as well as 'very effective' correspondingly. This means that those who averred that the community's watch team was 'never effective' were more than those who said that community's watch team was 'trying their best' as well as 'very effective' separately.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS/ CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter addresses the summary, conclusion and recommendations of the findings on community-police relationship in Liberia, a case of Paynesville ELWA community, Montserrado County. The analysis and interpretation of the findings was guided by the research questions as follow, how is the relationship between the police and community members in Paynesville ELWA Community, Montserrado County?

What are the roles of community inhabitants in assisting the police on law enforcement processes in the Paynesville ELWA community?

What are the challenges encountered by the community dwellers relative to community-police relationships and how can we address them?

5.2 Summary of findings

Data were collected through administering of questionnaires to the respondents and face to face interviews were also conducted to gather key information. This analysis and interpretation of findings was aimed at achieving the research objectives.

- i) To assess Community-Police relationship in the Paynesville ELWA Community, Montserrado County;
- ii) To determine the roles of community dwellers in assisting police on crime prevention process in the community;
- iii) To ascertain whether there are challenges encountered by community inhabitants relative to community-police relationships and how they can be addressed.

5.2.1 Relationship between community and the police in Paynesville ELWA community

The first research question dealt with the relationship between community and the police in Paynesville ELWA community. An assessment of the relationship between community and the police in Paynesville ELWA community was made. The reason for the poor relationship between community and the police toward community policing was investigated. According to the results on this question, community dwellers asserted that community-police relationship in the Paynesville ELWA community is very poor due to the fact that many of them, their parents or someone they know was abused will the civil war in Liberia by police

officer who are supposed to ensure their safety and security by working hard with them to prevent crimes, rather themselves were engaged a such acts.

According to Kollie (2018), in the aftermath of the Liberian civil conflict, the community and police have not had a cordial relationship, with some civilians alleging that some police officers engaged in maltreatment and other extrajudicial actions. Admin (2018) also argues that, civilians have continued to remain victims of police actions contrary to its motto, “serve and protect.” The literature also confirms the results that although positive police-community relations by themselves do not constitute community policing, they are an important first step in establishing a working relationship with the community (Trojanowicz & Dixon, 2001).

5.2.2 Role of community dwellers in assisting the police on law enforcement processes

The results on the research question the role of community dwellers in assisting the police on law enforcement processes showed that the community played an active role in assisting the police on law enforcement processes in Paynesville ELWA community. The literature reviewed agreed with the result as Skogan (2012) acknowledge that law abiding citizens deserve to participate and contribute towards community policing thus they are involved and support the idea of community policing and the police process comes as a result of stakeholder participation. Community policing not only involves the community members, but more specifically incorporates the 11 police responsiveness to community concerns towards ensuring the full benefits of policing (Skogan, 2012). It was further acknowledged that community policing involves communal identification of their security needs which in return makes the police take up the matter seriously even if the problem they define differ from police priorities (Wycoff, 2010).

In addition, the role of community dwellers in assisting the police on law enforcement processes were identified as; crime reduction, increased prosecution, increased reporting of cases, increased arrest, increased vigilance and identified criminal hotspot. These assertions was backed in a literature through a study done by Kiarie (2012), which states that one of the main objectives of community policing was to developed trust and active cooperation with the community. However, many officers were worried that, the trust and confidence they build with community members could destroyed due to inappropriate behavior by other units in the form of use of excessive force, failure to prosecute whom be criminals and follow-up on cases.

5.2.3 Challenges encountered by community inhabitant's relative community-police relationships and how they can be addressed

The last research question focused on the challenges encountered by the community dwellers relative to police and community relationships and how they can be addressed was identifies as slow responding process. Many community inhabitant's believe that the slow responding process of the police is due to the fact that police are in cohort with criminal gangs as such they delay to allow the smooth operations of these gangs before responding to the calls of a distress citizen. Other say that the slow responding process of the police maybe due to the lack of insufficient manpower and inadequate logistic support, while others consider both views. Mammus (2010:81) concurred with the view that major challenge of policing was the manpower shortage, inadequate funding, inadequate logistic support and infrastructure, lack of serviceable information and technological equipment to cover all the area of the country. Other challenges are also identified as insufficient education and training, and poor conditions of service of the average policeman.

5.3 General conclusion

Finally, it must be noted that community-police relationship (community policing) is a unique process that enables law enforcement officers to interact with inhabitants of the community in informing them to advert or arrest possible crime. This process increases trust between the police and residents of the community through law enforcement. The strategies employed by the Liberia National Police by creating community watch forums and community policing programs to serve as fulcrum of building cordial relationship between the community and police and use as a crime prevention mechanism was in the best interest of the public who still view the police from a negative perspective due to past history of their involvement in extra judiciary activities and grudge violation of human right, to now view the police in position way as police center police service or force.

There are several challenges faced by police in building community-police relationship in terms of people's trust and confidence in community policing, some which are; past history of the police during the Liberian civil war, corruption, poor image, increase crime rate in some communities, re-victimizing victims of crime, mistrust of some citizen dealing with the police among others.

The field survey carried out in the Paynesville ELWA Community revealed series of conclusions as follows: 1). That most of the respondents were males; 2). That most of the respondents were between the ages of 39-above; 3). That majority of the respondents were married; 4). That most of the respondents asserted that they understood community policing to be 'police and community relationships to solve problem in the community; 5). That bulk of the respondents averred that the impact of community policing on the inhabitants of Paynesville ELWA Community was 'good'; 6). That majority of the respondents stated that the role of the community inhabitants in assisting police on law enforcement process in the community was an 'active role'; 7). That most of the respondents asserted that the challenges encountered by the community dwellers relative to police and community relationships were 'slow responding processes', 8). That majority of the respondents asserted that they 'not at all' had meetings with the police 9). That most of the respondents said 'No' that the community wasn't a member of the Community Policing Forum, 10). That most of the respondents said 'No' that they don't have a community's watch team and 11). That bulk of the respondents said 'Yes' that the community does carry out community policing in the area

5.4 Recommendations

Having conducted this research that was time consuming yet rewarding, the following recommendations have been reached:

That the Liberia National Police (LNP) insures a prompt responding process on issues of crimes whenever called upon by the community inhabitants during the process of community policing in the Paynesville ELWA Community;

There is a need for the police to have regular meeting with community dwellers so as to create more awareness on some conflict resolution mechanism.

That good mechanisms need to be put in place that would protect the fundamental freedom and rights of every citizen and promote community policing as enshrined in the Liberia National Police Act of 2015.

That the LNP empower their local police departments with logistics in the country, especially the one in the Paynesville ELWA area so as to enable the police fight crimes such that residents compliment the police and have more favorable view of them;

That the LNP initiate community policing programs within the Paynesville ELWA to regain trust and confidence from community dwellers that will build a cordial relationship between the community and police.

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Appendix A

CENTER FOR CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA

Dear Respondent,

These questionnaires are concentrated on gathering information in regards to “Community-Police Relationship (Community Policing) in Liberia; A Case of the Paynesville ELWA Community, Montserrado County.”

The researcher is a post graduate student of the Center for Conflict Management, University of Rwanda. This is in partial fulfillment of the Degree of Master of Arts (MA) in Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation.

This exercise is purely for academic purpose and your response will straightly be confidential.

Kind regards.

Appendix B

Paynesville City

Montserrado County

Liberia

Dear Respondent,

I am Nicodemus S. Boye with Ref #: 219014780 a Graduating Student of the Center for Conflict Management, University of Rwanda. This is in partial fulfillment of the Degree of Master of Arts (MA) in Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation.

These questionnaires are concentrated on gathering information in regards to “Community-Police Relationship (Community Policing) in Liberia; A Case of the Paynesville ELWA Community, Montserrado County.”

Let me assure you that this exercise is purely for academic purpose and your response will straightly be confidential.

Kind regards.

Sincerely yours,

Nicodemus S. Boye
Ref#: 219014780

Appendix C

Research Questionnaire

This is an academic research with focus on the topic “Community-Police Relationship (Community Policing) in Liberia; A Case of the Paynesville ELWA Community, Montserrado County.” The questionnaires were collected by the researcher after they had been completed by the respondents in a preferred manner.

Name (Optional) _____

Please check or underline the best options or answers.

Bio Data of Respondent

1. **Gender:** F () M ()
2. **Age range:**
15-20 () b. 21-26 () c. 27-32 () d. 33-38 () e. 39 and above ()
3. **Educational Level:**
a. High school student () b. High School dropout () c. University student () d. University student dropout () e. Illiterate ()
4. **Marital Status**
a. Single () b. Married () c. Divorce ()

General information

5. How do you understand community policing to be?
 - a. People coming together ()
 - b. Policing instructing the community to help them ()
 - c. Police and community relationship to solve problem in the community ()
 - d. Police asking the community in helping them fight crimes ()
6. What is the impact of ‘community policing’ on the inhabitants of Paynesville ELWA Community?
 - a. Very good () b. Good () c. Poor ()

7. What are the roles of the community inhabitants in assisting police on law enforcement process in the community?
 a. Active role (part) play () b. Passive role play c. No role play
8. What are the challenges encountered by the community dwellers relative to police and community relationships?
 a. Slow responding process () b. Relax manner in addressing community issue ()
 c. Resolving conflict without Police intervention () d. All of the above ()
9. What are the reasons for these challenges in the community?
 a. Community inability to resolve conflict ()
 b. Unfriendly community ()
 c. Hatred among community dwellers ()
 d. Inaccessibility of the community ()
10. How often does the community have meetings with the Police?
 a. Daily ()
 b. Weekly ()
 c. Monthly ()
 d. Not at all ()
11. Is your community a member of the Liberia Community Policing Forum?
 a. Yes ()
 b. No ()
12. How is the relationship between community and the police in Paynesville ELWA community?
 a. Very good ()
 b. Good ()
 c. Fair ()
 d. Not good ()
13. Do you have a community watch team?
 a. Yes () b. No ()
14. If yes/no, how effective and/or non-effective is the community watch team?
 a. Not effective () b. Very effective () c. Trying their best ()