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Community Perceptions of the Sierra Leone Police in Kambia A Survey of Magbema, Samu and Gbinle-Dixing Chiefdoms



University of Makeni Law Clinic

Lead Researcher: Adam Goguen, J.D.

Survey Manager: Musa Kamara, BA

Data Manager: Eddie Vamboi, BscIT

Research Consultant: Benedict C.M. Jalloh, Esq.

Survey Consultant: Susan Ironn-Sky Turay, LLB(Hons), AJLC

Executive Summary: This report presents the findings of a 1700-person community perception survey covering community relationships with the Sierra Leone Police, perceptions of crime, justice seeking behaviours and satisfaction and confidence with the Sierra Leone Police in three chiefdoms in Kambia District: Magbema, Samu and Gbinle-Dixing. The report was conducted in order to establish a baseline for new initiatives by UNDP, ISAT and the Sierra Leone Police to strength dialogue and cooperation between citizens and the Sierra Leone Police. The resulting data set is extremely rich, and lays a groundwork upon which both general, chiefdom specific, and demographically targeted programme activities can be evaluated. This report, at the beginning of field implementation, presents general responses to the questions asked, and only highlights the respondents of sub-demographic groups based on chiefdom of residence, sex, or age, when those results significantly deviated from those of the general population. Follow up studies and reports will more specifically focus on those attitudes and perceptions which will have been influenced by successful programme implementation.

Special Thanks goes to the student work team leaders, Henry Kargbo, LLB (Hons) candidate, Mohamed Jang Jalloh LLB (Hons) cand., Sato Kobba LLB (Hons) cand., Thaimu Jalloh LLB (Hons) cand., Christian Kormoh LLB (Hons) and Lukeman Kamara Bsc.IT cand..

I. Background

Since its inception, the Community Relations Department (CRD) has worked to improve the once distant and poor relationship that existed between members of the community and the Sierra Leone Police (SLP). Its task has been concept driven, geared towards building a trustworthy community/police rapport that enhances the sharing of views on safety and security concerns in communities. The establishment of CRD stemmed from the vision 'Local Needs Policing' (LNP) and has over the years expanded to all thirty-six (36) police divisions in the country with its national coordinating office at Police Headquarters. It is evident that community cooperation for a safe and secured environment is critical to the success of community policing. For its part, community policing has worked as a suitable policing strategy through frequent consultative engagements.

The Department holds a firm view that a more robust approach to attracting more community members to get involved in the partnership could yield significant gains, securing a collective approach between the SLP and the communities it serves to tackle the menace of crime.

LPPBs were established in each Division (Local Command Unit – LUC) from 2002-2003 onwards. They were instituted to ensure stakeholder participation in the process of policing, satisfying a clearly perceived need within the police to rebuild positive relations with local communities. The key report detailing the initiative held that information flow between police and communities had improved significantly and that the majority of communities embraced the new structures.¹ In the decade since its inception, the Sierra Leone

¹ Baker, B. (2008). Community Policing in Freetown, Sierra Leone: foreign import or local solution? *Journal of Intervention and State building*, 2(1), 23-42. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17502970701810864>

Police has remained committed to ensuring community needs policing and greater civilian input into its decisions regarding policing.

In the words of the 2010-11 Strategic Plan of the SLP, LPPBs are “an initiative to engage communities to fight crime and the fear of crime in cooperation with the police... The LPPB forms part of the community policing strategy aimed at involving non-police stakeholders in security and crime prevention”. LPPBs are thus seen across the country as a bridge between the police and communities. In this regard, they are expected to “investigate and resolve conflict between members of the community”, and “increase the level of interaction between the police and the local communities”.

It is recognized that the involvement of citizens in this context can have different meanings, including, inter alia:

1. Involving the citizens in providing their own security;
2. Influencing local deployments of police officers; and
3. Informing the police of crimes and general community developments that require police involvement.²

UNDP will focus on Community Policing with the objective to enhance the trust of the SLP, partnership building between SLP and communities, problem solving and proactive policing with the needs of the communities in focus. A media campaign will be conducted, promoting the Community Policing initiative. A launch for approx. 150 representatives of the communities, stakeholders and National and International Implementation Partners was conducted on 14 November 2015.³

II. Purpose of the Survey:

The perception survey captured first-hand opinion regarding security, the maintenance of peace, and justice seeking behaviours in Samu, Gbinle-Dixing and Magbema chiefdoms in Kambia District. It serves as a baseline perception survey to enable measurement of the outcomes of the Community Policing Project. The survey will be followed up by a similar survey following the conclusion of the project in August 2016. The survey was designed to generate empirical data to establish baselines and measure change in community-police relations and perceptions of security over time, and to aid in the development of activities intended to strengthen community-police cooperation in Sierra Leone.

The survey put particular emphasis on perceptions of the efficacy of the SLP, the relationship between them and communities, and the nature of their interactions with the Police Force. 31 questions were asked and nearly 58,000 data points collected. This creates an extremely flexible quantitative base for the evaluation of activities designed to promote community policing in Kambia District.

III. Methodology:

A 31 question survey was used to capture the perceptions of residents towards the police. 1700 persons were surveyed: 600 in Samu Chiefdom, 600 in Magbema chiefdom (which hosts the district capital Kambia), and 500 in Gbinle-Dixing Chiefdom which has a lower population. Ultimately 1700 people were

² 2010-2011 Strategic Plan, Sierra Leone Police Force, Government of Sierra Leone

³ <http://www.sl.undp.org/content/sierraleone/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2015/11/16/community-policing-project-launched-in-kambia-.html>

surveyed out of a population of 143,569⁴ which generates a confidence level of 95% in a +/- 2.36 confidence interval for binary questions where responses were balanced. The confidence level rises to 99% when the confidence interval is increased to +/- 3.11.

The survey was conducted in five languages, English, Krio, Temne, Susu and Fullah by a 22 person trained University of Makeni Enumeration Team over the period from February 11th to 16th.

31 questions were asked of respondents, covering three main thematic areas: community perception of police relationships, justice seeking behaviours, and confidence and satisfaction. Responses to each question are detailed below with separate breakdowns based on chiefdom of residence, sex, and age when answers deviated from the more general responses.

The follow up survey and report should focus more specifically on the responses to those questions where successful programme activities are expected to produce change and present more focused, if less comprehensive, findings than this report.

IV. Outcome

KEY FINDINGS

1. Overall, reported community satisfaction with, and confidence in, the police is already high, with more than 70% of all respondents, and more than 60% of every measured demographic subgroup, being either very satisfied and very confident, or satisfied and confident with the police.
2. A majority of respondents already know local police officers, and are comfortable approaching the police with problems.
3. For domestic violence the police were chosen by more people than any other body as the most appropriate place to report.
4. More than 70% of people felt either very safe or safe in the communities.
5. 38% of people in Kambia have met with the police recently, showing a high rate of non-enforcement oriented interaction between police and community members.
6. People in Samu Chiefdom reported much more favorable opinions of the Sierra Leone Police Force than citizens generally.
7. The potential impact on survey responses, of proximate public disorder and the associated police / community response in Magbema Chiefdom, is uncertain, but needs to be borne in mind when interpreting current and any future results.
8. People in Gbinle-Dixing chiefdom were more likely to report child abuse and domestic violence as a major problem, though it is unknown whether this is due to greater awareness or greater rates of commission.
9. People in Gbinle-Dixing reported less interaction with police than citizens in Magbema and Samu, and consistently more negative opinions. Women in Gbinle-Dixing reported being made to feel less safe than other respondents to a significant degree.
10. Female respondents were significantly less likely to report having interacted with police, as either as a victim, witness, or suspect.
11. Female respondents were significantly more likely than other respondents to say that they brought non-criminal disputes to the police station. Further research would be needed to identify

⁴ According to the 2004 Census, available at http://www.sierra-leone.org/Census/ssl_final_results.pdf

whether they are more likely to report non-criminal activity, or whether they view certain common issues, such as child neglect, as non-criminal.

12. Notwithstanding generally positive satisfaction and confidence levels in the police, there continues to be a significant reliance on informal justice providers, notably Village Chiefs.
13. People were significantly less likely to report having been the relative of a victim or suspect, than of having been one themselves, showing potential dissociation with persons going through the police process by other members of the community. This is backed by respondents having chosen fear of damaging their relationships with other community members as the primary reason people fail to report crimes to the police, although results for other potential barriers varied significantly by Chiefdom.
14. Contrary to expectations, the age of the respondent had very little effect on the answers given by respondents, excepting that persons over 55 had higher rates of both satisfaction and confidence with the police.
15. 20% of respondents perceived that the police commonly discriminated against youth and the poor.
16. A significant 25% of respondents indicated that they had paid money to the police. The legitimacy of this is unclear.
17. There was very little variation in Satisfaction and Confidence levels in local police officers versus the institution of the Sierra Leone Police as a whole.
18. Language has the potential to limit access of some members of the community to police services, particularly among women.

DETAILED FINDINGS

Preliminary Questions:

Respondents were asked four preliminary questions. The first question “Which Language do you speak better” was asked during the screening phase and was used to determine which enumerator would administer the questionnaire. Respondents were asked to choose between the national language English, the Lingua Franca Krio, and three local languages: Fullah, Susu and Themne. Responses regarding primary language varied significantly based on the sex and age of the respondent, something which could cause increased friction between those demographics where English and Krio are less common, such as women, and the Police Force. It should be noted that language ability also closely correlates to economic status and education level, and that a significant portion of local language only speakers was primarily identified in Themne and Susu residents of the chiefdom. Themne women were significantly more likely than any other group of respondents to speak neither Krio nor English.

Question 1 Language	English	Krio	Susu	Fullah	Themne
All Respondents	53 3%	633 37%	352 21%	9 1%	644 38%
Males	44 5%	405 45%	183 20%	3 0%	260 29%
Females	9 1%	228 28%	169 21%	6 1%	384 48%

The second preliminary question directly asked at what point the respondent ended their education. Respondents were allowed to answer none, primary, Junior Secondary, Senior Secondary or University. Similar to language, which is correlated, results are heavily dependent on the sex of the respondent.

Question 2 Education	None	Primary	JSS	SSS	University
All Respondents	776 46%	196 12%	310 18%	337 20%	70 4%
Males	307 34%	105 12%	192 21%	234 26%	55 6%
Females	669 58%	91 11%	118 15%	103 13%	15 2%

The third question, asked for previous involvement with the police, and allowed the respondent to identify (non-exclusively) as having previously been a victim, suspect/accused, witness, relative of a victim or relative of a suspect or accused. Question three both directly shows the rate of actual interaction with police forces during law enforcement exercises (which will directly affect confidence and satisfaction), and accounts for a potentially powerful source of bias. **62 percent of people report no special status with the Sierra Leone Police.** However, 20% more women than men failed to claim a special status. There is no evidentiary reason to suppose that women are less often the victim of a crime (indeed all evidence points to females as being especially vulnerable to crime), and later questions (22-25) asking about preferred justice seeking behaviour indicate that women are highly likely to avoid direct interaction with the police and instead favour more informal dispute resolution mechanisms

It is worth noting that people more often claimed the status of victim and accused than of having been involved with the police because they were the relative of a victim or accused. This may be emblematic of dissociation with formal police processes by those close to victims and accused persons. Three times as many people self-identified as relatives of accused than as relatives of complainants, emphasizing that the effect may be stronger for victims.

Question 3 Claim of Status	No claim of status	Victim	Relative of Victim	Witness	Accused/ Suspected	Relative of Accused
All Respondents	62%	236 14%	39 2%	52 3%	196 12%	120 7%
Males	53%	162 18%	23 3%	35 4%	135 15%	67 7%
Females	72%	74 9%	16 2%	12 2%	61 8%	53 7%

Question four, the last preliminary question directly asked whether the respondent had a 'close' relationship with any police officer, and measures both integration by officers, and as a result potential bias. **645 people, 38%**, reported a close relationship with an officer. **1004 people, 60%**, reported that they did not have a close relationship with any police officer. However, specific respondents did not show any significant correlation with questions 10 and 11, which ask about frequency of contact with police officers. This could be interpreted as meaning that many of the close relationships with police personnel may be with officers who do not actually serve in the community at the time of the survey.

Questions on the relationship between the Sierra Leone Police and the community:

Questions 5-17 focused on the relationship between the police and the community, and covered a broad range of sub topics, some of them extremely controversial. After the original ToR for the survey were determined, and before the enumeration, a riot took place in one community in Magbema Chiefdom, Bamoi Luma, after police ordered a large weekly market closed.⁵ In Magbema Chiefdom many

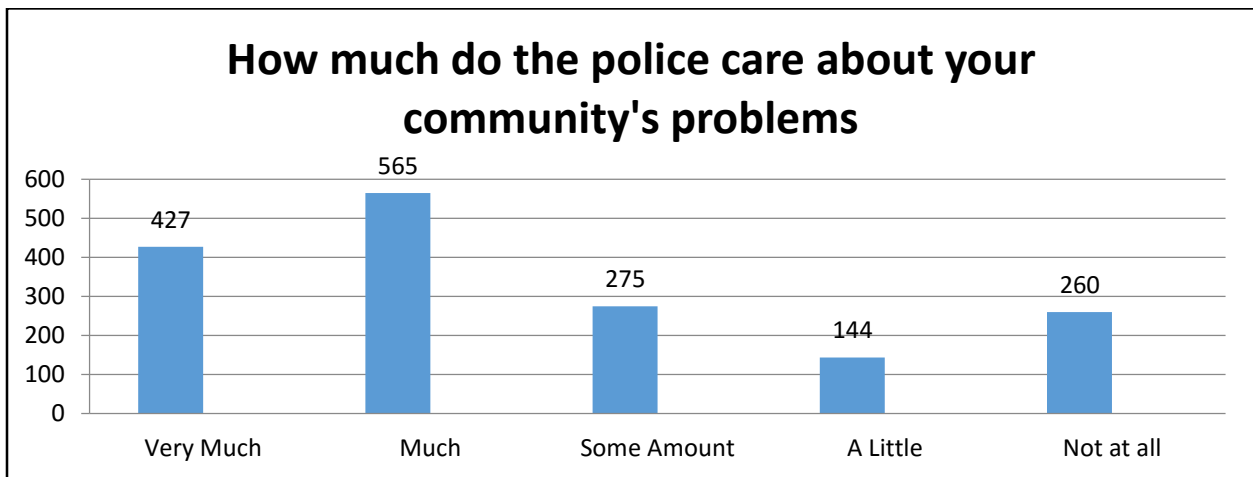
⁵ <http://mic.gov.sl/Media/Current-News/DELEGATES-FROM-HULL-CITY-IN-BRITAIN-VISIT-SIERRA-LEONE>

respondents questioned whether or not survey responses were being given to police, and/or gave conflicting responses throughout this section of the survey, and more than 30 interviews were discontinued by the respondents. Responses from persons in Magbema are less likely to represent the actual perception of the police by the community due to the proximity of the survey to the event, and may show change over time, separate from that caused by planned activities.

Question five measured police visibility in the communities, asking whether officers were seen in the community 'very often, often, sometimes, not often or never'. Overall 59% reported that police were seen either very often or often, with some notable difference among chiefdoms. Gbinle-Dixing residents reported seeing police officers much less often than residents in other chiefdoms.

Question 5 Visibility of Police	Very Often	Often	Sometimes	Not Often	Never
All Respondents	647 38%	356 21%	282 17%	319 19%	70 4%
Samu Chiefdom	296 49%	135 23%	108 18%	47 8%	9 2%
Magbema Chiefdom	291 49%	131 22%	50 8%	96 16%	26 4%
Gbinle-Dixing Chiefdom	60 12%	90 18%	124 25%	176 35%	35 7%

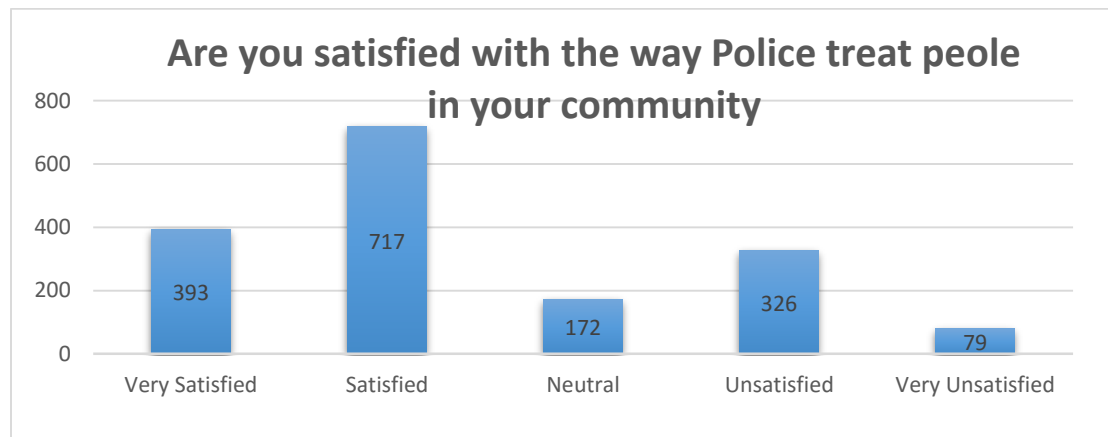
Question six asked respondents how much they thought police cared about their community problems, an important measure when community needs policing is being implemented. Responses differed based both on gender, age and chiefdom. Overall, **more than fifty percent of respondents felt that the police cared about their community's problems**, although significant portions of the population felt that the Police did not care about the community's problems, especially when looking at Magbema and Gbinle-Dixing Chiefdom.



Question Six Care about problems?	Very Much	Much	Some Amount	A Little	Not at All
Samu Chiefdom	250 42%	228 38%	60 10%	31 5%	24 4%
Magbema Chiefdom	141 24%	172 29%	95 16%	57 10%	130 22%

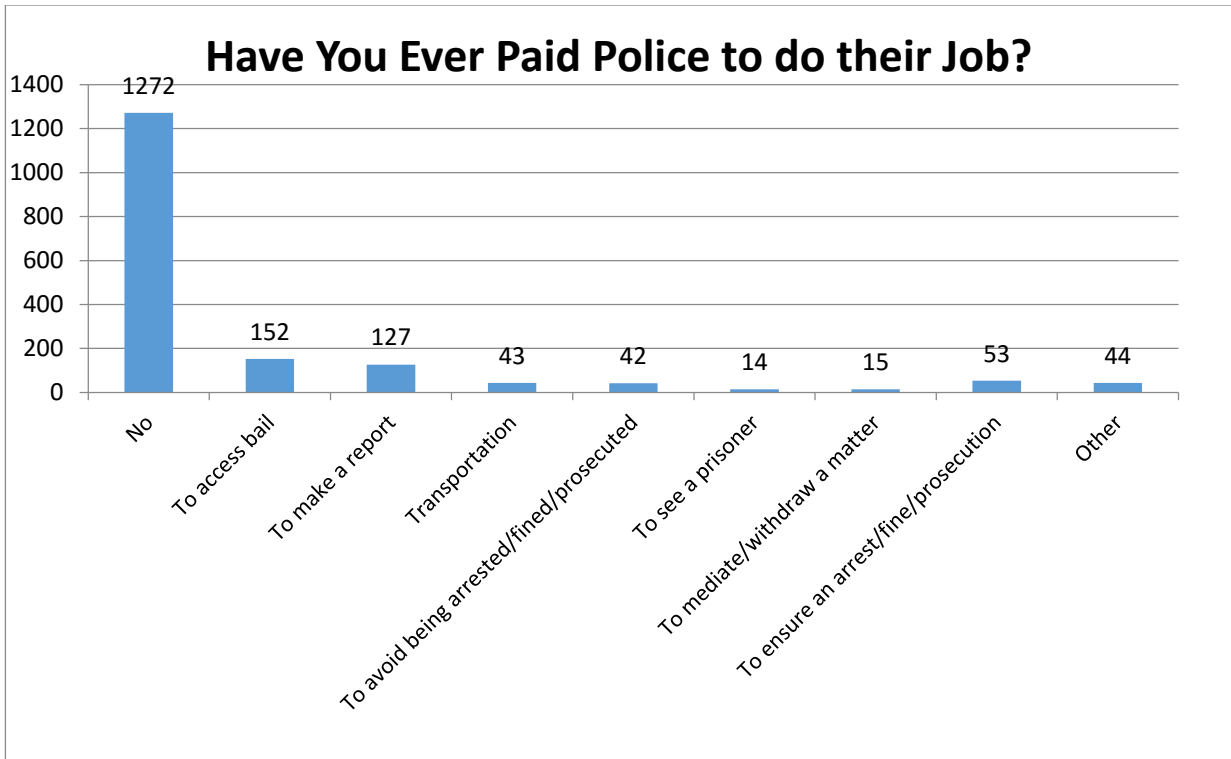
Gbinle-Dixing Chiefdom	36 7%	165 33%	120 24%	56 11%	106 21%
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Question seven asked whether or not the respondent was satisfied with the way the Sierra Leone Police treat people in their community, Responses were largely uniform across all variables, with more than 50% of the members of each demographic giving a positive response, and an overall rate of 60% giving a positive response. However, with more than 30% of all respondents outside of Samu Chiefdom expressing a negative response, there is significant room for improvement.



Question eight measured perceived bias by the police against certain demographics in the community, such as women, men, youth, the aged, uneducated persons, and the poor. Respondents were allowed to name as many classes as desired, but only two demographics were cited by respondents as being commonly discriminated against by 20% or more of respondents; youth, and the poor. Women were also less likely than men to agree that the police were biased against certain groups, and perceptions of bias were slightly stronger among young men ages 15-24.

Question number nine openly asked respondents if they “ever pa[id] money to the Police in order for them to do their job or for any other reason? If yes, why?”. Volunteers did not suggest answers, but attempted to classify them into broad categories, including: to pay bail, to make a report, for transportation, to avoid being arrested/fined/prosecuted, to see a prisoner, to mediate or withdraw a matter, to ensure an arrest/fine/prosecution and any other. A significant 25% of people reported having paid money to the police; 8% had paid to see someone being detained, and 7% had paid to file a complaint. The question / responses did not reveal which, if any, of such requests for payment had a legitimate basis.



Question number ten asked whether or not police had met with respondents recently. **585 people, 38%**, answered that the police had recently met with the community, while **1086, 68%**, reported that the police had not met with their community in the recent past. Question number eleven asked whether or not residents knew their local SLP officers. **809, 48%**, reported that they did while **866, 51%**, said that they did not know a local SLP officer. Together these questions show that the police have a presence in communities in the affected chiefdom, and are both frequently seen, and generally well known. For 38% of communities surveyed, across a wide geographic area, to report that they had met with local police, and 48% to report knowing a local officer shows a high level of current contact. These numbers were significantly lower for Gbinle-Dixing Chiefdom.

Questions number twelve, thirteen, and fourteen, respectively, asked whether or not the community had a Local Police Partnership Board, Chiefdom Police Partnership Committee, or Area Police Partnership Committee. As the existence or non-existence of such institutions is a factual matter, and this data measures only community perception, it serves as a good indicator of the community's awareness of such institutions, and the possibility to directly interact with them. Where the rates of negative response are not reflective with actual situation, media based awareness rising campaigns may be especially effective.

Question 12 LPPB	Yes	No
All Respondents	567 33%	1087 64%
Samu Chiefdom	341 57%	232 39%
Magbema Chiefdom	201 34%	280 63%
Gbinle-Dixing Chiefdom	25 5%	475 95%

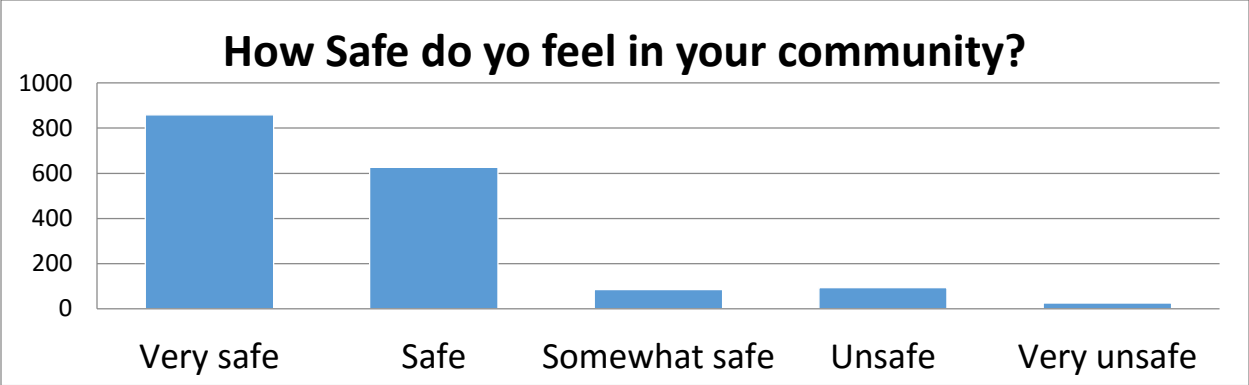
Question 13 CPPC	Yes	No
All Respondents	646 38%	1017 60%
Samu Chiefdom	351 59%	225 38%
Magbema Chiefdom	240 40%	360 60%
Gbinle-Dixing Chiefdom	44 9%	457 91%

Question 14 APPC	Yes	No
All Respondents	483 28%	1165 68%
Samu Chiefdom	255 43%	256 43%
Magbema Chiefdom	158 26%	419 70%
Gbinle-Dixing Chiefdom	11 2%	490 98%

Question number 15 asked whether people in the community help the police with safety and security issues. This comment represents an area of community needs policing which previous studies had identified as largely successful in Sierra Leone, and a major aspect of the ‘benefit’ to police of LPPB/CPPC/APPCs. Respondents reported that the community helped the police by large margins, with the strongest statements of support coming from Samu Chiefdom.

Question 15 Help to Police	Yes	No
All Respondents	1267 74%	409 24%
Samu Chiefdom	513 86%	71 12%
Magbema Chiefdom	423 71%	170 28%
Gbinle-Dixing Chiefdom	332 66%	168 34%

Question Number 16 measured whether or not people felt safe in their communities; an important indicator. In all communities **more than 70% felt either Very Safe, or Safe**, with no differentiation of answers between respondents of different sexes, or ages, and **with less than 5% of people feeling unsafe, and 2% feeling very unsafe.**



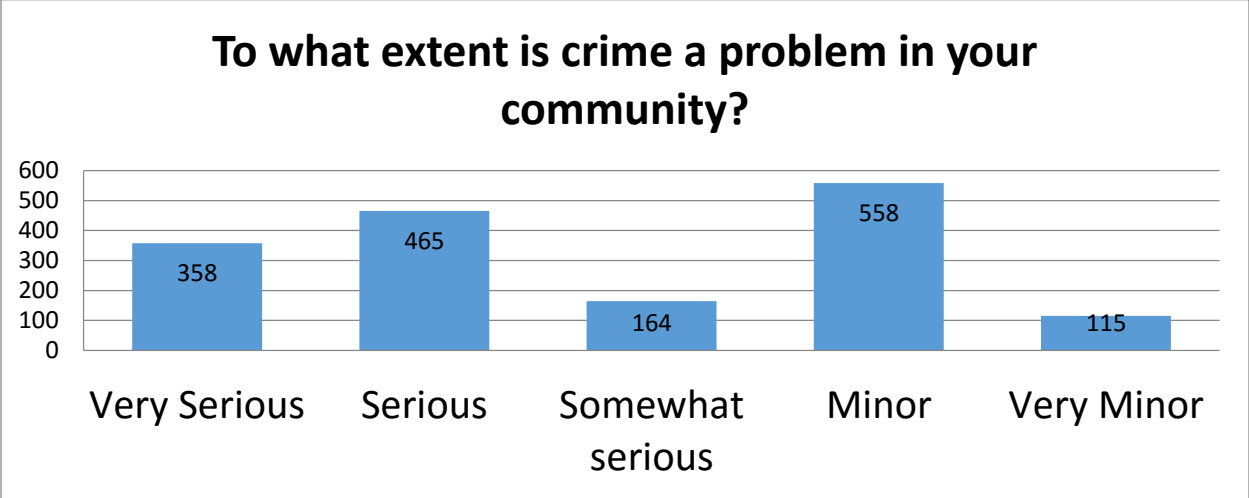
Question 17 asked whether seeing a police officer made respondents feel more or less safe. Interestingly male and female respondents gave divergent answers to this question, with women feeling much less safe in the presence of police officers.

Question 17 Safe w/Officer	Much Safer	Safer	No difference	Unsafe	Very Unsafe
Male Respondents	351 39%	358 40%	90 10%	75 8%	18 2%
Female respondents	291 36%	246 31%	71 9%	188 20%	31 4%

Questions Relating to Crime and Justice Seeking Behaviours

Questions number 18-25 focused on perceived levels of crime in the community and on the justice seeking behaviour of its members.

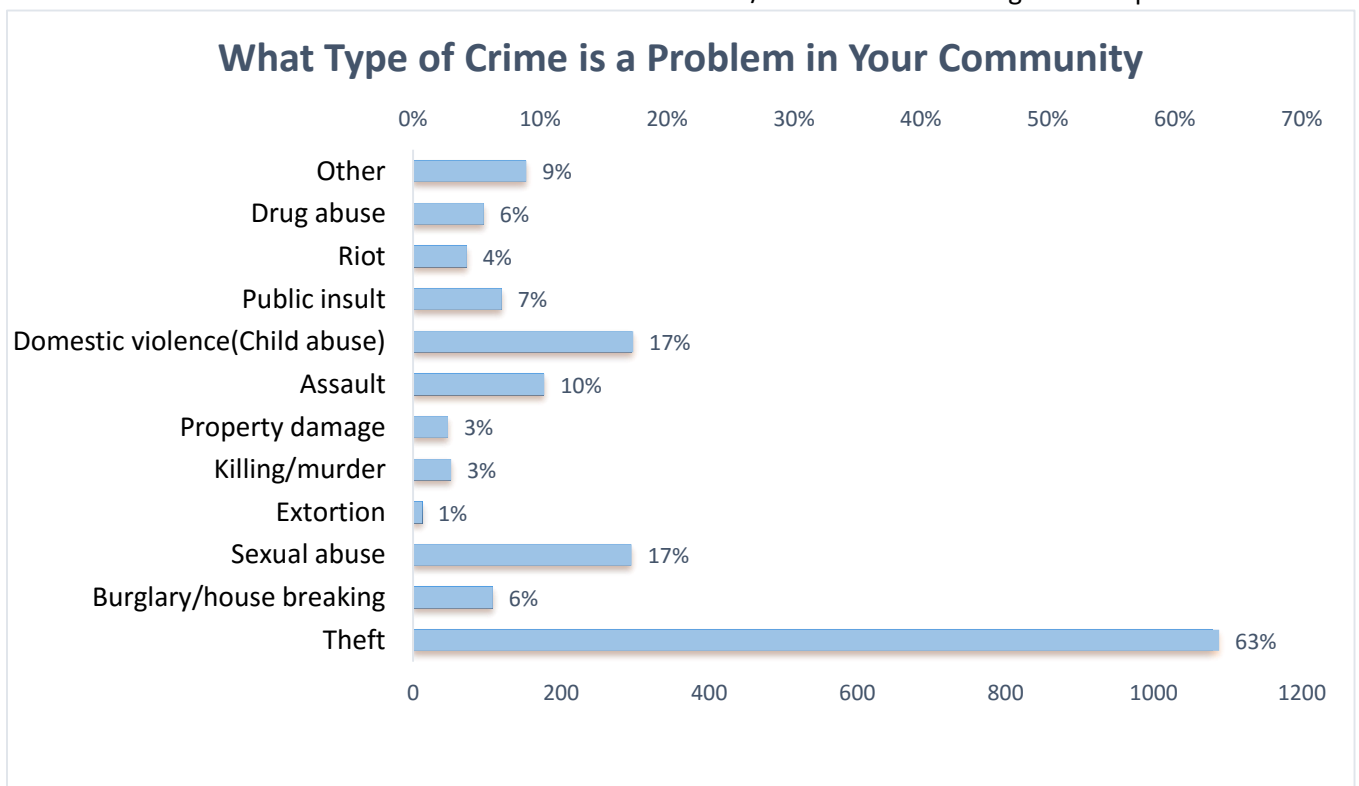
Question eighteen asked respondents to answer whether or not crime was a serious problem in their community. Overall, a significant portion of people felt that crime was a significant problem.



However, residents of Gbinle-Dixing were much less likely to report that crime was a serious issue in their area.

Question 18 Is crime a Problem	Very Serious	Serious	Somewhat Serious	Minor	Not at all
Samu Chiefdom	127 21%	211 35%	43 7%	162 27%	31 5%
Magbema Chiefdom	206 34%	146 24%	57 10%	147 25%	39 7%
Gbinle-Dixing Chiefdom	25 5%	108 22%	64 13%	249 50%	45 9%

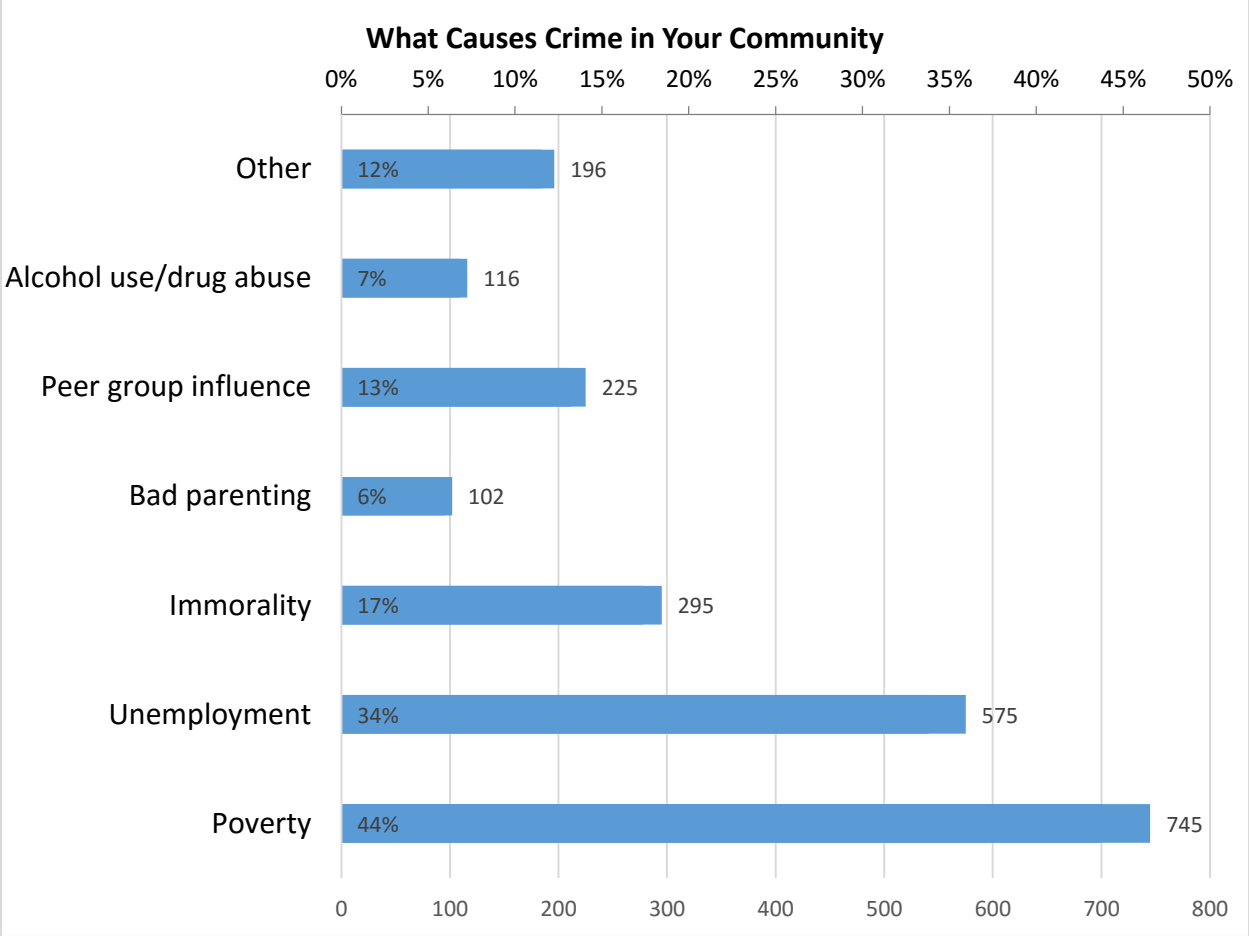
Question number nineteen asked respondents to list crimes which commonly occurred in their communities. Only three crimes were chosen by a significant amount of respondents, only theft was listed by a majority 63% of residents. Sexual abuse/crime and domestic violence/ child abuse were both identified by 17% of community members. No significant difference was seen in responses between males and females, or people of difference ages, but significant differences were seen between Gbinle-Dixing and the other two chiefdoms. Far fewer respondents in Gbinle-Dixing identified theft as a major problem, but instead identified sexual crimes and domestic violence/child abuse as being serious problems.



Question 19 Common Crimes	Theft	Sexual Crimes	Domestic Violence
Samu Chiefdom	443 74%	40 7%	59 10%
Magbema Chiefdom	436 73%	92 15%	107 18%

Gbinle-Dixing Chiefdom	201 40%	164 33%	204 41%
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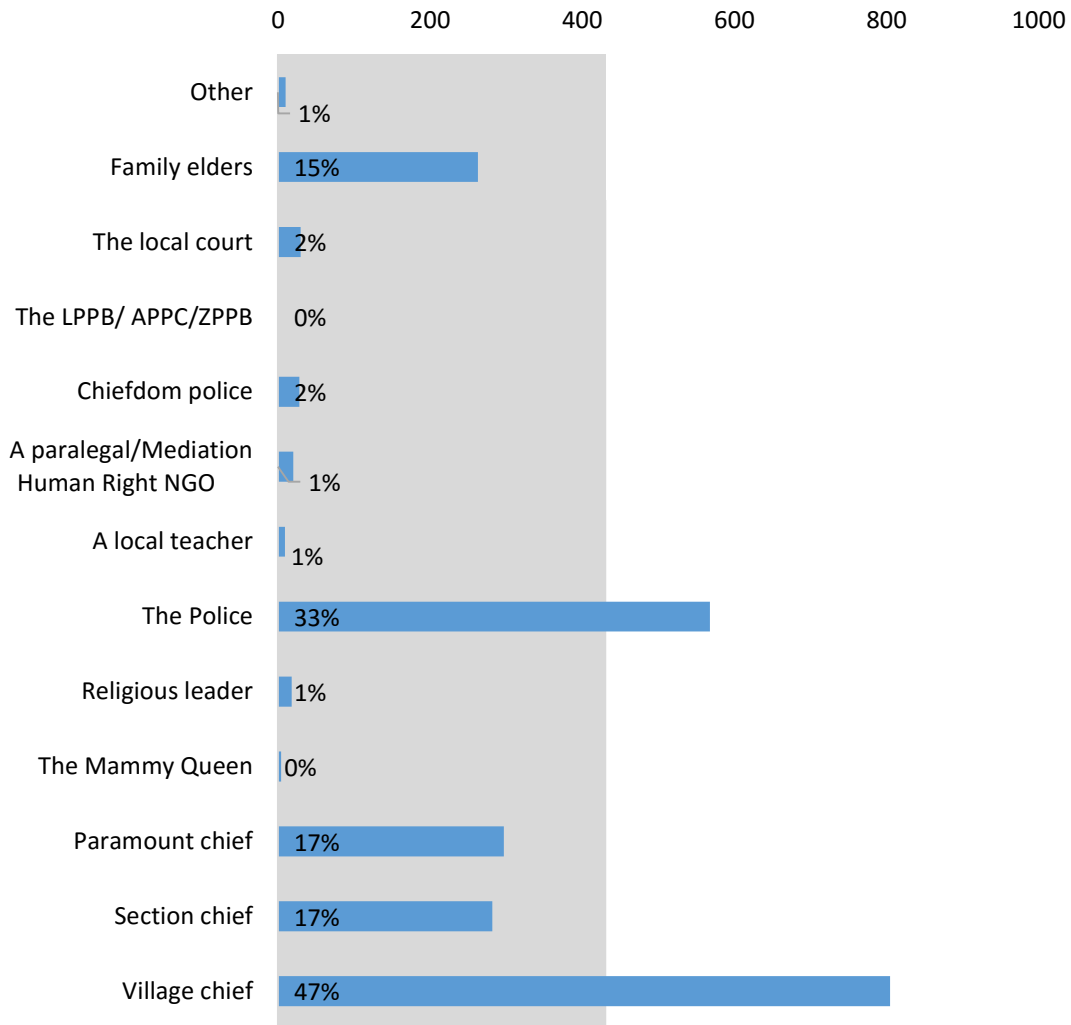
Question twenty asked respondents what they thought were the major causes of crime in their community, poverty, unemployment and immorality/lawlessness. Response rates did not vary based on community, sex, or age.



Question twenty-one asked for respondent’s view of whether crime was increasing or decreasing in their community. A significant number of respondents felt that crime was increasing, although a majority felt it was staying the same.

Questions twenty-two and twenty-three asked respondents their preference of dispute resolution forum for minor disputes and crimes respectively. In all communities and across all variables the most popular choice was the village chief. The police, paramount chief and family elders were also a popular response to both questions.

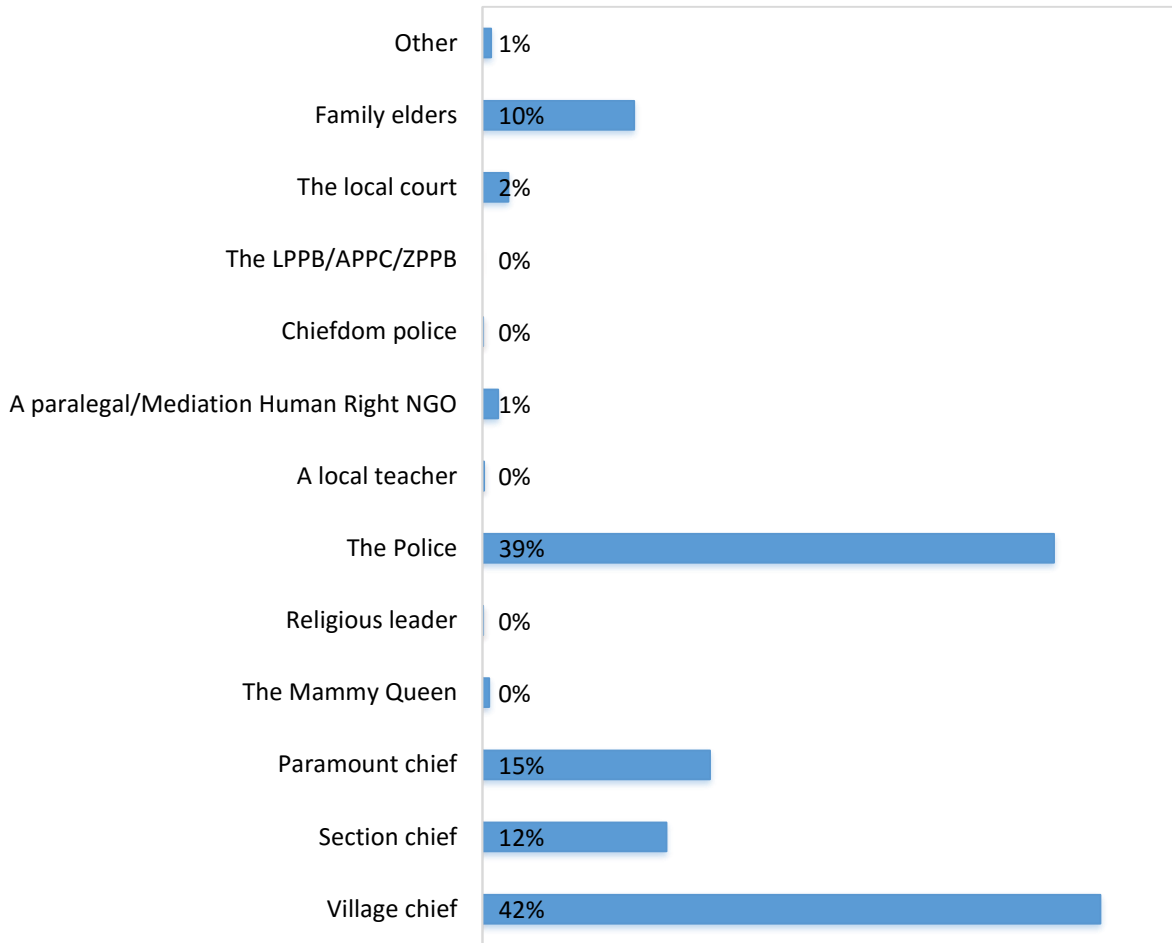
Preferred Fourm to Resolve Disputes



Two major deviation were noted in the responses. First, female respondents were much more likely to go to the police for resolution of 'disagreements'. Secondly, respondents in Gbinle-Dixing Chiefdom were much less likely to report seeking the assistance of police.

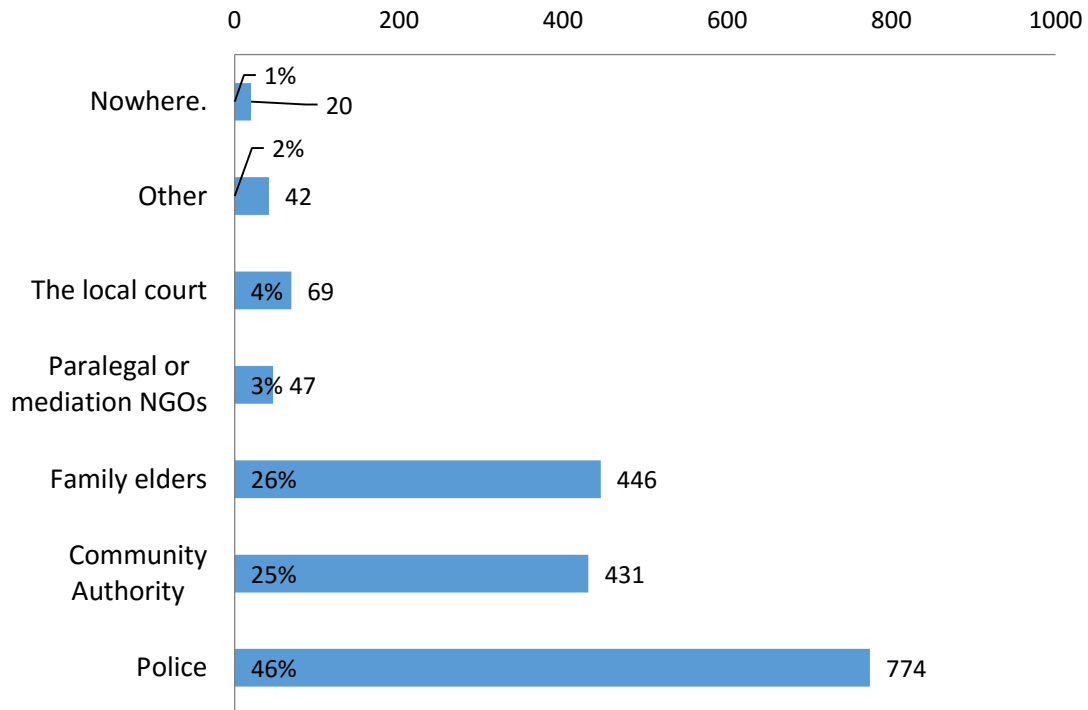
Question 22 and 23 Justice Seeking Behavior	Report Disputes to Police	Report Crimes to Police
Gbinle-Dixing Respondents	47 9%	78 16%
Male Respondents	0 0%	354 39%
Female Respondents	265 33%	301 38%

Preferred Forum to Resolve Crimes



Question twenty-four specifically asked respondents where they would advise a female who was suffering domestic violence to pursue her complaint. All respondents favoured the police as the primary place to report domestic violence and child abuse, an important sign that the government's attempt to increase enforcement regarding this issue may be successful. Interestingly, there was a ten percent difference between Men and Women on whether or not Community Authorities, favoured by Men, or Family Elders, favoured by women, were a better forum for resolving domestic violence. Both groups however expressed that the Sierra Leone Police were the best justice forum for domestic violence cases.

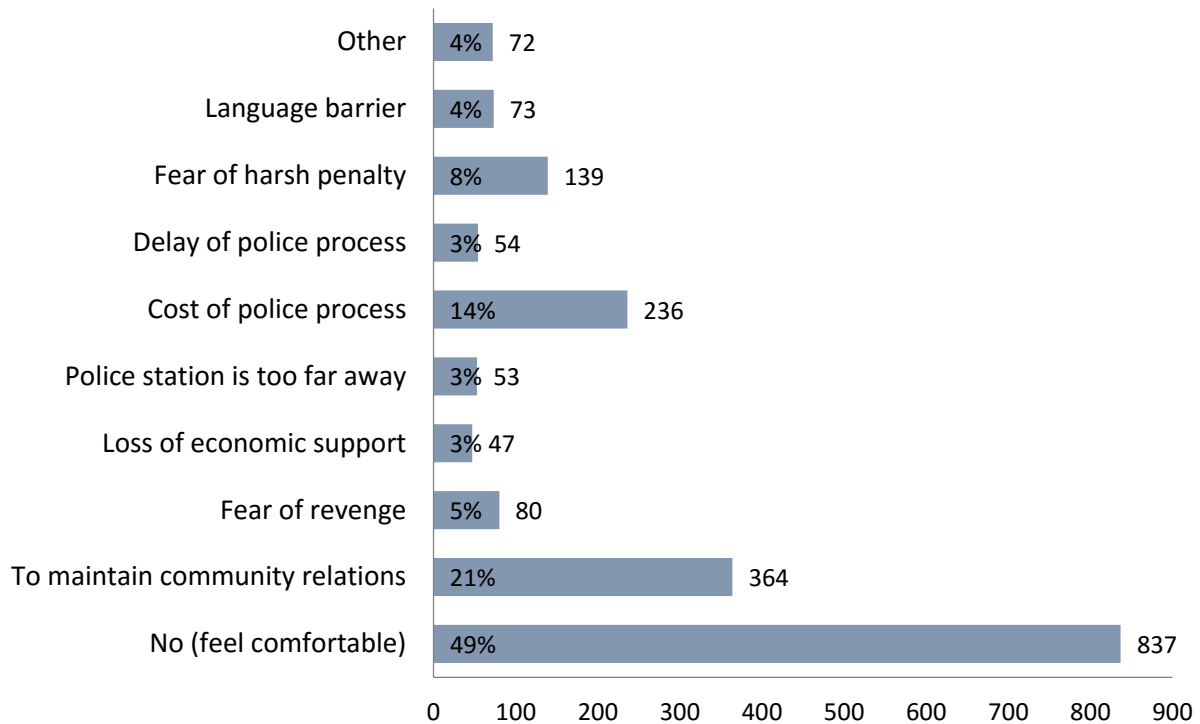
If a Women is Being Beaten, Where Should She Go for Help?



Question 24 Where to report Domestic Violence	Would advise that Domestic violence be reported to Community Authorities	Would advise that Domestic violence be reported to Family Elders
Male Respondents	250 31%	198 23%
Female Respondents	176 22%	248 31%

Question twenty-five asked respondents whether or not people in their community felt comfortable reporting their crimes to the police, and if not, why. Overall, 49% of respondents said that people in their community felt comfortable reporting crimes to police. The most significant barriers raised, across all sub demographics, were the maintenance of community relationships, cited by 21% of respondents, and the cost of the police process, cited by 14% of respondents. Very different responses were however given based on the respondent's chiefdom, citing to a lack of uniformity in comfort while reporting matters to police in the district.

Why Do People Feel Uncomfortable Reporting Matters to Police

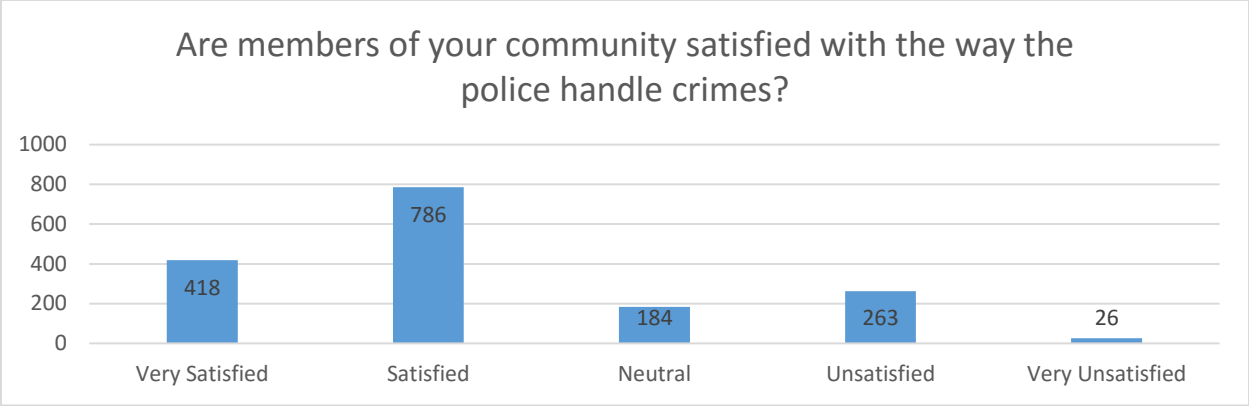


Question 25 Barriers to reporting crimes	None	Need to maintain community relationships	Cost of police process	Fear of too harsh a penalty for other party
Samu Chiefdom	385 64%	44 7%	17 3%	18 3%
Magbema Chiefdom	340 57%	92 15%	98 16%	13 2%
Gbinle-Dixing Chiefdom	112 22%	228 46%	121 24%	108 22%

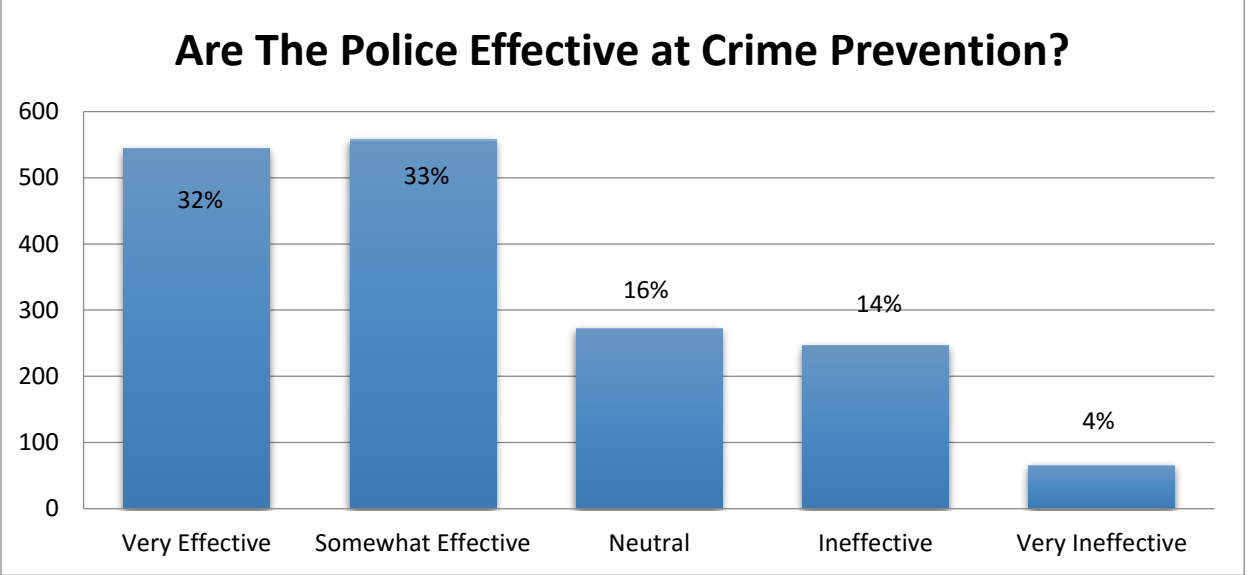
Questions Relating to Confidence and Satisfaction

Questions number 26 -31 focused on confidence and satisfaction with/in both the local Sierra Leone Police, and the institution as a whole. If community policing is successfully reinforced, and the needs of the people more directly met, the levels of local confidence / satisfaction should rise before a follow up survey is conducted.

Question twenty-six asked whether or not respondents were satisfied with the way police handle crime. **More than 2/3rds of respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied**, while only **16% were unsatisfied or very unsatisfied** with the way police handle crime, showing that the police are well regarded in this respect.



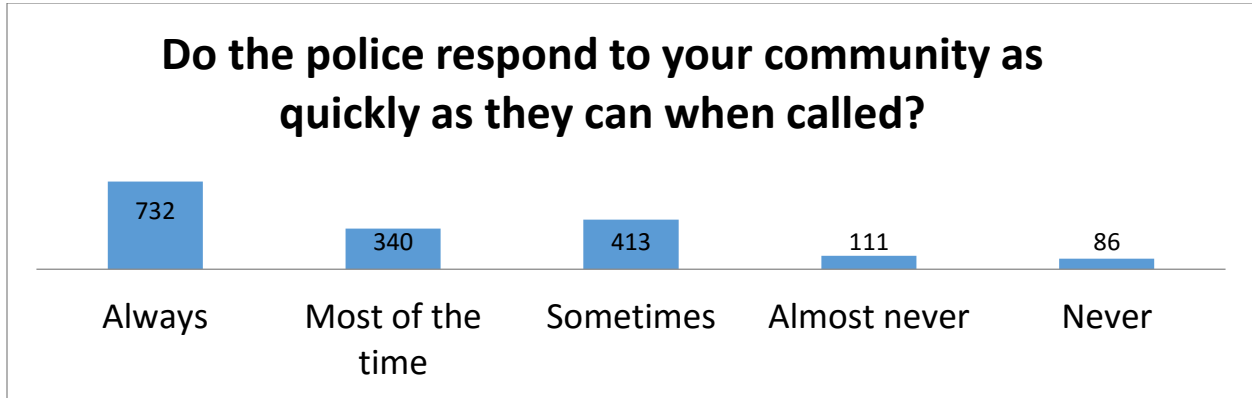
Question twenty-seven asked whether or not the police were effective in preventing crime. The clear majority of respondents held positive views of the effectiveness of the Sierra Leone Police for crime prevention.



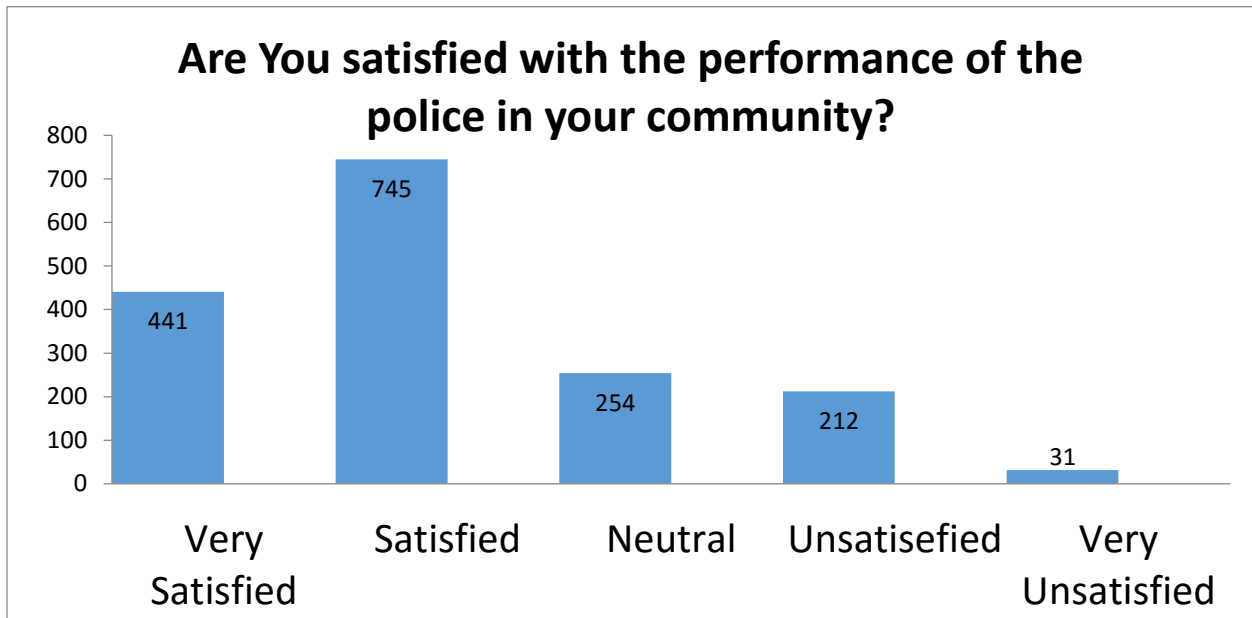
While perceptions of police effectiveness varied by chiefdom, they did not differ based on the sex or age of the respondent.

Question 27 Satisfied with crime prevention	Very effective	Somewhat Effective	Neutral	Ineffective	Very Ineffective
Samu Chiefdom	297 50%	221 37%	42 7%	22 4%	6 1%
Magbema Chiefdom	174 29%	181 30%	80 13%	109 18%	53 9%
Gbinle-Dixing Chiefdom	73 15%	155 31%	150 30%	115 23%	6 1%

Question twenty-eight measured whether or not people felt that the police responded to calls from the community as quickly as possible. **More than 60% of respondents across demographics felt that the police respond as quickly as possible**, and at most **20% of respondents felt that they ‘almost never’ or ‘never’ responded in a timely fashion.**



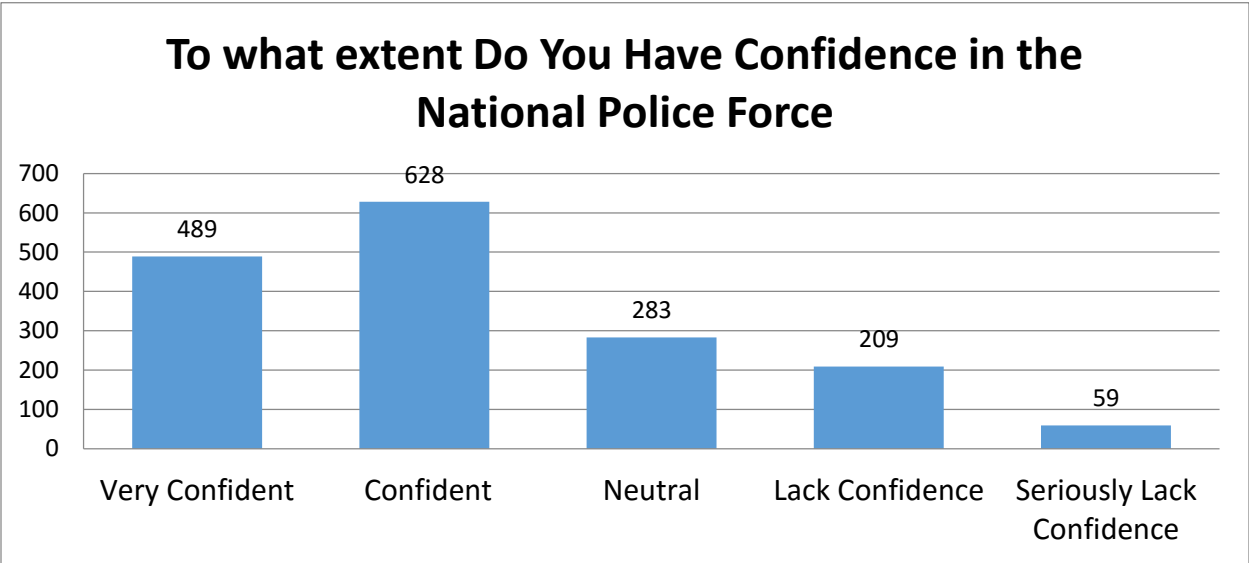
Question twenty-nine asked if respondents were satisfied with the overall performance of the police in their community. The question was remarkably unaffected by demographics with **more than 60% of respondents across all demographics reporting that they were very satisfied or satisfied with the police.** More than 85% of people in Samu Chiefdom reported being wither very satisfied or satisfied, the highest percentage of any demographic.



Question thirty asked whether or not respondents were confident in their local Sierra Leone Police officers. **More than 60% of respondents expressed that they were very confident or confident in the services of the police**, with the highest numbers coming from Samu Chiefdom, and from persons **aged 65 and above, 73% of whom were either confident or very confident.**



Question thirty-one asked respondents whether or not they were confident in the national Sierra Leone Police force, as opposed to their local officers. Confidence levels in the national police force were almost identical to those in the local officers assigned to the chiefdoms, **with all groups of respondents showing at least 60% being very confident or very confident.** Once again Samu Chiefdom was the outlier, with **more than 80% of respondents claiming to be very confident or confident with the services of the police.**



Conclusion

Fourteen years after the government of Sierra Leone took the first steps towards implementing a more community based approach to policing, the effort appears to have borne fruit, with a significant number of people reporting that they had recently met with police, and that they knew their local police officer. However, progress in the chiefdoms surveyed was uneven. Attitudes towards the police were significantly better in Samu and Magbema than in Gbinle-Dixing.

Age did not appear to be a predictive variable for respondent's views about the police, and gender was only significant for a few questions. Ultimately a person's geographic residence was the strongest predictor; Samu residents showed extremely high levels of confidence and satisfaction with the Police, while Gbinle-Dixing residents had the least 'positive' responses. Magbema, the site of recent riots fell between the other two chiefdoms, and the survey was not designed to capture what impact the event had on confidence and satisfaction levels, which may, over time, return to a higher or lower confidence level as the effect, if any, of the event, wears off.

Follow up surveys can be specifically designed to test and report on specific sub demographics who are beneficiaries of the activities meant to reinforce community policing. The data set created in this exercise is also capable of much more detailed multivariate analysis which could identify whether certain opinions are more likely to be common only in people of a certain age and gender.

As community policing continues to progress in Kambia emphasis may be placed on continued dialogue between the police and communities, especially regarding the LLPB, CPPC, and on the frequently cited negative response from the community against those who choose to seek justice through formal reports to the police. As both confidence and satisfaction levels were also high, movement on these variables may be low, and other variables, such as whether or not people feel comfortable reporting crimes to the police and the perception of crime as a serious problem, may change, to a significant degree, more quickly.

Annexes on file with UNDP:

1. Complete Data Set with tabs disaggregated by Gender, Chiefdom and Age
2. Original Questionnaire
3. Original Questionnaire translations