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EFFECTS OF COMMUNITY POLICING PARTNERSHIPS ON SECURITY IN MARSABIT COUNTY, KENYA

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Effects of Community Policing Partnerships on Security in Marsabit County, Kenya

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Abstract:

Purpose of Study: This study examined the effects of community policing partnerships on security in Marsabit County, Kenya. Specifically, it assessed how collaboration, stakeholder participation, communication, and trust between security agencies and communities influence security outcomes. Guided by Social Capital Theory, the study sought to establish whether stronger partnerships significantly enhance security.

Methodology: The study adopted a descriptive research design integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches. Census and purposive sampling techniques targeted 130 respondents, with 119 valid questionnaire responses obtained. Data were collected through questionnaires and interviews. Quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation, and regression analysis, while qualitative data underwent thematic analysis.

Findings: The findings revealed that community policing partnerships were moderately established (M = 3.71, SD = 1.09), while perceived security remained moderate (M = 3.29, SD = 1.20). Trust in police recorded the highest partnership rating (M = 3.97), whereas regular communication was comparatively weaker (M = 3.48). Partnerships demonstrated a positive, statistically significant correlation with security ($r = 0.612$, $p < 0.01$). Regression analysis confirmed a significant positive association ($B = 0.398$, $\beta = 0.372$, $p < 0.001$), explaining 37.5% of security variation. However, improvements in cattle rustling, intercommunity conflict, and security response times remained limited across the county.

Conclusion: The study concludes that community policing partnerships significantly contribute to improved security in Marsabit County by strengthening trust, cooperation, and information sharing. However, persistent insecurity requires stronger stakeholder engagement, consistent communication, adequate resources, and timely police responses. Sustained civic education and collaborative conflict resolution initiatives are therefore recommended.

Keywords: *Community policing; Partnerships; Security; Marsabit County*

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Security is a basic condition for human development. Where people feel safe, they farm, trade, travel and educate their children with confidence; where they do not, economic activity and social trust decline. Governments have therefore searched for policing approaches that protect citizens while keeping the police accountable to them. One such approach is community policing, in which the police and residents identify local safety problems together and work jointly to solve them. Its central claim is that cooperation builds trust, trust encourages citizens to share information, and information helps the police to prevent and solve crime (Blair et al., 2021).

The evidence for this claim is mixed. In six coordinated field experiments in Brazil, Colombia, Liberia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Uganda, Blair et al. (2021) found that locally designed community policing models were unevenly implemented and did not improve citizen–police relations or reduce crime. Such findings suggest that partnerships succeed or fail according to the conditions in which they are built, including resources, institutions and the level of trust between the police and the public (Alam et al., 2026; Héra, 2024).

Kenya adopted community policing following the police reforms introduced under the 2010 Constitution (Republic of Kenya, 2010), and the approach now operates through structures such as community policing committees and the Nyumba Kumi (ten households) initiative (Onchoke, 2025; Owino & Moi, 2024). Marsabit County is a demanding test for these structures. It is vast and sparsely populated, its pastoralist communities compete for pasture and water, and it has experienced repeated inter-community conflict (Mbae & Muna, 2023; Wato & Moi, 2025). This study therefore examined the effects of community policing partnerships on security in Marsabit County.

1.1.1 Global Perspective

Community policing has been adopted on every continent, but its form and results differ with context (Blair et al., 2021). In England, community policing is closely tied to neighbourhood policing and to efforts to restore public confidence. Savka (2025) explains that the approach rests on policing with and for communities, and that accountability is supported through Police and Crime Commissioners and the Independent Office for Police Conduct. Victim-reported crime in England and Wales fell by about 23 percent between 2019/2020 and 2022/2023, although the author cautions that information and reassurance alone do not resolve the problem of public confidence (Savka, 2025).

In Asia, Japan offers a long-standing model through the kōban, or neighbourhood police box. Héra (2024), using interviews and observation conducted in Japan in 2022, attributes its success to government commitment, collectivism and norm-following in Japanese society, together with a crime prevention network built on cooperation between the police and local voluntary

organisations. He concludes that any country adopting such a model must consider its own social conditions. A comparison of Japan and Indonesia reaches a similar conclusion: Japan's mature structures contrast with Indonesia's limited resources and community diversity (Alam et al., 2026).

1.1.2 Regional Perspective

In Africa, community policing has developed alongside low public trust in state security agencies. In Nigeria, in West Africa, Gidado (2026) reviewed scholarly and policy materials and identified trust deficits, accountability gaps and community engagement as central themes. The author notes that Nigeria's highly centralised police structure limits the ability of states and localities to adapt community policing. Nda-Yakubu (2025), using Nigeria as the main case with comparisons to Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana and South Africa, shows that corruption, weak institutions and insufficient resources have encouraged reliance on non-state informal policing.

In South Africa, in Southern Africa, community policing was imported from Western countries and is implemented through community police forums and related strategies (Mangai et al., 2024). Mangai et al. (2024) report that community police forums, sector policing, street patrollers and social media can engage communities as partners in crime prevention in Johannesburg. Dlamini (2024) also examines the future and legitimacy of community police forums. Together, these studies show that partnerships can work, but that they depend on trust, resources and institutional support.

1.1.3 Local Perspective

In Kenya, community policing is delivered through partnerships among the police, administrators and residents, with Nyumba Kumi operating at the household level (Onchoke, 2025; Owino & Moi, 2024). Studies in several counties link these partnerships to better security outcomes. In Nairobi, Omondi (2022) found positive relationships between joint problem identification, joint problem solving, joint communication and joint partnerships on one hand, and crime management on the other. In Juja Sub-County, Onchoke (2025) found that community support, information sharing and joint police–community initiatives influenced security management. In Migori County, Owino and Moi (2024) reported that Nyumba Kumi succeeds where community awareness, collaboration with security agencies and the use of technology are strong. Ronoh and Hamasi (2021) recommended more funding, more police–community forums and more police posts in Mombasa County. Most of this evidence, however, comes from urban and peri-urban settings.

1.1.4 Community Policing and Security in Marsabit County

Marsabit County lies in northern Kenya and is affected by recurrent inter-community conflict. Mbae and Muna (2023) found a negative association between arms proliferation and inter-ethnic co-existence in the county and recommended dialogue, peace-building and stronger

border security. Wato and Moi (2025) found that county resource management and leadership composition were significantly related to inter-communal conflict ($\chi^2 = 11.952$, $p = 0.018$) and that peace-building initiatives influenced relations between communities. At the local level, Jaldesa (2023) reported that in Saku Sub-County village elders, leadership councils and public institutions such as police stations were used to manage conflict, while unequal power-sharing left some groups feeling marginalised. Interpeace (2024) also documented community views on the drivers of conflict and the sources of resilience in the county.

These studies show that peace in Marsabit depends on trust between communities and on the credibility of institutions, including the police. They do not, however, measure how police–community partnerships affect security. This study addresses that gap.

1.1.5 Community Policing Partnerships

Community policing partnerships are cooperative arrangements in which the police, community leaders, administrators and residents jointly identify security problems, plan responses and share information (Blair et al., 2021; Omondi, 2022). In this study, they were measured by how well partnerships were established, the level of stakeholder participation, collaboration among actors, regular communication and trust in the police.

1.1.6 Security

Security refers to the protection of people and property from crime, violence and conflict, and to the confidence of residents that they can live and work safely. In this study, security was measured by perceived changes in cattle rustling, ethnic and resource-based conflict, residents' feelings of safety, the response time of security agencies and the overall effect of community policing on security.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Despite the adoption of community policing partnerships in Kenya, insecurity persists in Marsabit County, where cattle rustling, resource-based disputes and ethnic tensions continue to threaten lives and livelihoods (Mbae & Muna, 2023; Wato & Moi, 2025). The evidence on the effectiveness of partnerships is inconsistent. Studies in Nairobi, Juja and Migori associate partnership practices with better security outcomes (Omondi, 2022; Onchoke, 2025; Owino & Moi, 2024), while a large multi-country experiment in the Global South found no improvement in trust and no reduction in crime (Blair et al., 2021). This difference indicates that results depend on local context.

Most Kenyan studies on community policing were conducted in urban and peri-urban areas, where population density, police presence and social ties differ from those in a vast pastoralist county. Studies in Marsabit have examined arms proliferation, devolution and conflict resolution (Jaldesa, 2023; Mbae & Muna, 2023; Wato & Moi, 2025), but they have not measured the effect of police–community partnerships on security. Without this evidence,

county security committees, the National Police Service and development partners lack a sound basis for deciding how to invest in partnership structures. This study therefore examined the effects of community policing partnerships on security in Marsabit County, Kenya.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to determine the effects of community policing partnerships on security in Marsabit County, Kenya.

1.4 Research Hypothesis

H01: Community policing partnerships do not significantly influence security in Marsabit County, Kenya.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Review

2.1.1 Social Capital Theory

Social Capital Theory was developed by Bourdieu (1986) and popularised by Putnam (1993). Bourdieu defined social capital as the sum of the actual or potential resources linked to a durable network of institutionalised relationships, which gives members access to opportunities and mutual benefit. Putnam extended the idea to whole communities, describing social capital as the networks, norms and trust that make coordination and cooperation possible for mutual benefit.

Applied to security, the theory explains why some communities cooperate more readily with the police than others. Where trust and networks are strong, residents are more willing to report suspicious activity, share information and settle disputes peacefully. Where trust is weak, residents withhold information and the police work with less knowledge of local risks. Blair et al. (2021) make a similar point when they describe community policing as a cycle in which effective cooperation reinforces trust and encourages further cooperation. Héra (2024) likewise credits Japan's kōban system partly to the norm-following and collective spirit of Japanese society, and he cautions that other societies must consider their own social conditions.

In community policing, social capital is visible in joint meetings, open communication and shared problem solving between the police and residents. Initiatives such as Nyumba Kumi depend on these relationships (Onchoke, 2025; Owino & Moi, 2024).

Marsabit County presents a particular challenge. Competition over resources and leadership has strained relations between communities (Jaldesa, 2023; Wato & Moi, 2025). When trust within and between communities is weak, residents may hesitate to share information with security agencies or to join peace activities. The theory therefore suggests that partnerships bringing together the police, elders, administrators and residents across ethnic and institutional

lines can build bridging social capital and improve security. This study uses the theory to examine whether stronger police–community partnerships are associated with better security in Marsabit County.

2.2 Empirical Review

2.2.1 Community Policing Partnerships and Security

Blair et al. (2021) tested community policing through six coordinated field experiments with police agencies in Brazil, Colombia, Liberia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Uganda. A preregistered meta-analysis examined crime and the attitudes and behaviours of citizens and police. The interventions were unevenly implemented, largely failed to improve citizen–police relations and did not reduce crime. The authors suggest that trust may take long to build and that structural police reforms may be needed. Kenya was not among the sites, and pastoralist settings were not examined.

Mangai, Masiya and Masemola (2024) explored police perspectives on community engagement for crime prevention in Johannesburg's metropolitan police stations. They found that community police forums, sector policing, street patrollers and social media can engage communities as partners. The study relied on the views of police, not residents, and was urban. Its relevance to remote pastoralist counties is therefore limited.

Gidado (2026) examined community policing and civil–military collaboration in Nigeria through a review of scholarly and policy materials. The review identified trust deficits, accountability gaps, militarisation and weak community engagement, and noted that a centralised police structure restricts local adaptation. Because the study was desk-based, it provided no primary data on how partnerships affect security in a specific locality.

Héra (2024) studied the Japanese kōban system through interviews and participant observation in 2022. Government commitment, collectivism, norm-following and cooperation with local voluntary organisations contributed to its success. The author warns that these social conditions are specific to Japan, so the findings cannot be transferred directly to Kenyan settings.

Omondi (2022) evaluated community policing and crime management in the Nairobi City County Police Command using a descriptive survey guided by systems and contingency theories. Joint problem identification, joint problem solving, joint communication and joint partnerships were each positively related to crime management. The study recommended more funding, more community policing forums and more accessible police posts. It was conducted in an urban command and did not test social capital as an explanation.

Ronoh and Hamasi (2021) studied community policing and crime management in Mombasa County. The target population was 692 police staff and Nyumba Kumi household members, from which 69 respondents were selected through stratified random sampling. The study recommended increased funding, more police–community forums and more police posts. The

sample was about 10 percent of the population, and the setting was a coastal city rather than a pastoralist county.

Owino and Moi (2024) used a descriptive cross-sectional design in Suna West Sub-County, Migori County. Structured questionnaires were administered to community members, Nyumba Kumi leaders and local administration officials. The Nyumba Kumi initiative thrived on community awareness, effective collaboration with security agencies and the integration of technology. The study covered one sub-county and a single point in time, and it did not address pastoralist conflict.

Onchoke (2025) assessed the influence of community policing on security in Juja Sub-County. A census of 166 community policing leaders in the Nyumba Kumi programme was used, with questionnaires and key informant interviews. Community support, information sharing and joint police–community initiatives influenced security management. Because respondents were community policing leaders, the views of ordinary residents may differ.

Mbae and Muna (2023) examined arms proliferation and co-existence among communities in Marsabit County within a Social Conflict Theory framework. They found a negative association between arms proliferation and inter-ethnic co-existence and recommended dialogue, peace-building and stronger border security. The study focused on arms rather than on police–community partnerships.

Jaldesa (2023) investigated conflict resolution mechanisms among pastoralist communities in Saku Sub-County, Marsabit County, between 2015 and 2022, guided by Protracted Social Conflict Theory. Elders, leadership councils and public institutions such as police stations were used to manage conflict, while unequal power-sharing left some groups feeling marginalised. The study covered one sub-county and did not measure the effect of partnerships on security.

Wato and Moi (2025) used a mixed-methods design with exploratory and correlational elements in Marsabit County, with a sample of 100 household heads. County leadership composition was significantly related to inter-communal conflict ($\chi^2 = 11.952$, $p = 0.018$), and peace-building initiatives influenced inter-communal relations. The authors state that the findings apply only within Marsabit County, and police–community partnerships were not the focus.

Interpeace (2024) carried out a participatory analysis of the peacebuilding landscape in Marsabit County, drawing on community views about the drivers of conflict and violence and about community resilience. The report gives valuable local context but is descriptive and does not test statistically how partnerships affect security.

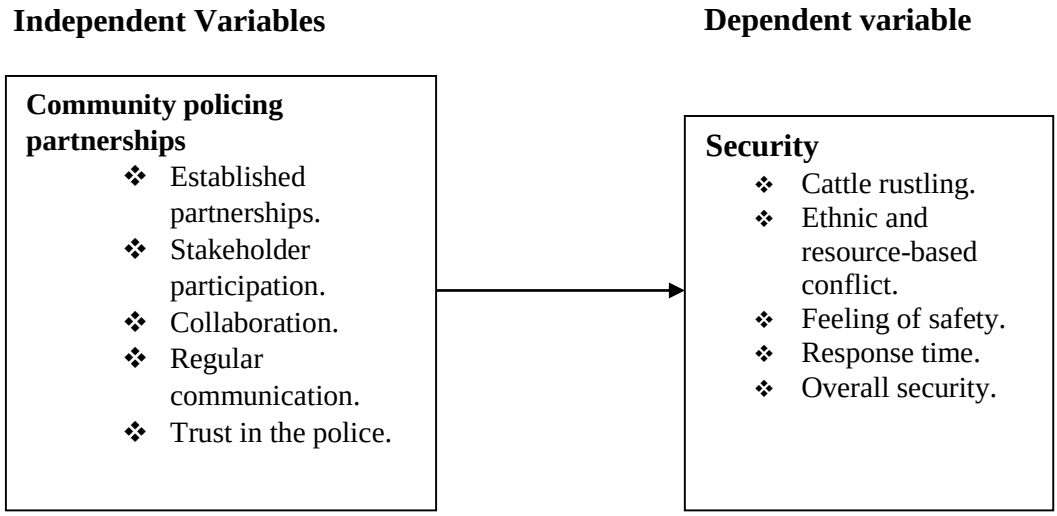
In summary, the evidence shows that partnerships are widely promoted and often linked to better security, but results differ across settings (Blair et al., 2021; Omondi, 2022; Onchoke, 2025). Three gaps remain. First, most Kenyan evidence is urban or peri-urban. Second, Marsabit studies address arms, devolution and conflict resolution rather than police–community partnerships. Third, few studies use social capital to explain how trust and cooperation shape security. This study addresses these gaps.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework outlines the main variables of a study and the relationships among them. In this study, the independent variable is community policing partnerships, measured by how well partnerships are established, stakeholder participation, collaboration, regular communication and trust in the police. The dependent variable is security in Marsabit County, measured by perceived changes in cattle rustling, ethnic and resource-based conflict, feelings of safety, response time and the overall effect of community policing. Resource availability and civic education were also examined in the wider study and appear in the correlation matrix.

Figure 1

Conceptual Framework



Note. Source: Researcher (2025)

3.0 Research Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive research design to examine the effects of community policing partnerships on security in Marsabit County, Kenya. The design was appropriate because it facilitated the collection of both quantitative and qualitative data to establish the nature of community policing partnerships and their contribution to security. The target population comprised 130 respondents, including 30 police officers, 20 community policing committee members, 40 local administrators and 40 community members. Census sampling was employed to include all 130 respondents because the population was relatively small and manageable. Additionally, purposive sampling was used to select key informants with relevant experience in community policing and security management.

The study employed structured questionnaires and semi-structured interview guides to collect primary data. Questionnaires used a five-point Likert scale to obtain quantitative information, while interviews gathered detailed qualitative insights. A pilot study involving 13 respondents

was conducted in Isiolo County to assess the suitability and reliability of the research instruments. Reliability was tested using Cronbach's Alpha, with a coefficient of 0.70 or above considered acceptable. Content and face validity were established through expert review.

Data were collected after obtaining the necessary research approvals and informed consent from participants. Quantitative data were analysed using SPSS Version 28 through descriptive statistics, Pearson's correlation and multiple linear regression. Qualitative data were analysed thematically using NVivo software. Statistical significance was assessed at the 5% level. Findings were presented using tables and narrative explanations.

4.0 RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Response Rate

The study was conducted among 130 respondents: police officers, members of community policing committees, local administrators, and members of the community, civil society and non-governmental organisations in Marsabit County. A total of 130 questionnaires were administered, and 119 were correctly completed and returned, giving a response rate of 91.5 percent, as shown in Table 4.1. Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) reported that a response rate of 70 percent and above is very good for social science research. The response rate of 91.5 percent was therefore very good and adequate for further analysis.

Table 4.1

Response Rate

Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Questionnaires administered	130	100.0
Questionnaires returned and usable	119	91.5
Questionnaires not returned or unusable	11	8.5

Table 4.1 shows that 119 (91.5%) of the 130 questionnaires distributed were completed and returned, while 11 (8.5%) were not returned or could not be used. The high response rate strengthens the representativeness of the quantitative data and provides a sufficient base for statistical analysis.

The study also interviewed key informants who were senior police officers, chiefs, elders and representatives of non-governmental organisations. Of the 12 key informants identified, 10 were interviewed, representing an interview response rate of 83.3 percent. Two focus group discussions were held with community members and community leaders, each with eight to ten participants. The qualitative information from the interviews and focus groups gave context to the quantitative findings and allowed the results to be triangulated.

4.2 Descriptive Analysis

4.2.1 Community Policing Partnerships and Security

This section assessed the extent to which community policing partnerships are established and working in Marsabit County. Responses were measured on a five-point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree). Mean scores were interpreted using equal class intervals: 1.00–1.80 strongly disagree, 1.81–2.60 disagree, 2.61–3.40 neutral, 3.41–4.20 agree and 4.21–5.00 strongly agree. The findings are presented in Table 4.7.

Table 4.2

Descriptive Statistics on Community Policing Partnerships

Statement	SD (%)	D (%)	N (%)	A (%)	SA (%)	Mean	Std. Dev
Partnerships between police and communities are well established.	4.2	10.9	16.0	42.0	26.9	3.76	1.09
Stakeholders actively participate in planning and implementing programs.	5.9	13.4	18.5	38.7	23.5	3.60	1.14
Collaboration among police, community members and leaders has strengthened security.	3.4	9.2	19.3	44.5	23.5	3.75	1.03
Regular communication exists between law enforcement and the community.	6.7	16.0	20.2	37.0	20.2	3.48	1.16
Community policing partnerships have increased trust in the police.	2.5	7.6	13.4	43.7	32.8	3.97	1.01
Aggregate Mean						**3.71**	**1.09**

Note. Source: Field Data (2026)

Respondents generally agreed that community policing partnerships were present and working in Marsabit County. The aggregate mean of 3.71 (SD = 1.09) falls in the agree band, and standard deviations between 1.01 and 1.16 show moderate variation in opinion. Trust recorded the highest mean (M = 3.97, SD = 1.01). A total of 76.5 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that partnerships had increased trust in the police, and only 10.1 percent disagreed. This is the most encouraging result because, according to Social Capital Theory, trust is the mechanism through which partnerships improve cooperation and information sharing. In addition, 68.9 percent agreed that partnerships were well established (M = 3.76, SD = 1.09), and 68.0 percent agreed that collaboration among the police, community members and leaders had strengthened security (M = 3.75, SD = 1.03). These results are consistent with Kenyan studies that link joint problem solving, information sharing and collaboration with security agencies to better security outcomes (Omondi, 2022; Onchoke, 2025; Owino & Moi, 2024).

Stakeholder participation in planning and implementation was rated lower (M = 3.60, SD = 1.14), with 62.2 percent in agreement and 19.3 percent in disagreement. Regular communication was the weakest area (M = 3.48, SD = 1.16): 57.2 percent agreed, but 22.7 percent disagreed and 20.2 percent were neutral. Partnerships therefore exist, but the frequency and inclusiveness of engagement can be improved. Ronoh and Hamasi (2021) similarly recommended more police–community forums in Mombasa County, and Alam et al. (2026) stress community participation as central to effective community policing.

The results are more positive than those of Blair et al. (2021), who found no improvement in trust across six Global South sites. The difference may reflect local context, as well as the fact that this study measured perceptions of partnerships rather than the effects of a controlled intervention.

4.2.2 Descriptive Statistics for Security in Marsabit County

This section examined the perceived level of security in Marsabit County following the implementation of community policing initiatives. The results are presented in Table 4.3.

Table 4.2

Descriptive Statistics on Security (Dependent Variable)

Statement	SD (%)	D (%)	N (%)	A (%)	SA (%)	Mean	Std. Dev
Cases of cattle rustling have reduced since the adoption of community policing.	10.1	21.0	22.7	31.9	14.3	3.19	1.22
Incidents of ethnic and resource-based conflict have declined.	11.8	22.7	21.8	30.3	13.4	3.11	1.24
Residents feel safer in their community compared to before.	6.7	14.3	17.6	39.5	21.8	3.55	1.17
Response time by security agencies to reported incidents has improved.	13.4	23.5	24.4	26.1	12.6	3.01	1.24
Overall, community policing has enhanced security in Marsabit County.	5.9	12.6	18.5	40.3	22.7	3.61	1.13
Aggregate Mean						**3.29**	**1.20**

Note. Source: Research Data (2026)

Perceptions of security were moderate. The aggregate mean of 3.29 (SD = 1.20) falls at the upper end of the neutral band, which indicates cautious rather than strong agreement that security had improved. The larger standard deviations (1.13 to 1.24), compared with those for partnerships, show that opinions on security were more divided. Respondents were most positive about overall security and personal safety. A total of 63.0 percent agreed that community policing had enhanced security in the county (M = 3.61, SD = 1.13), and 61.3 percent agreed that residents felt safer than before (M = 3.55, SD = 1.17). Only 18.5 percent and 21.0 percent disagreed with these statements respectively.

The results were weaker for measurable outcomes. For cattle rustling, 46.2 percent agreed that cases had reduced, but 31.1 percent disagreed (M = 3.19, SD = 1.22). For ethnic and resource-based conflict, 43.7 percent agreed that incidents had declined, while 34.5 percent disagreed (M = 3.11, SD = 1.24). Response time was the lowest-rated item (M = 3.01, SD = 1.24); only 38.7 percent agreed that it had improved, 36.9 percent disagreed and 24.4 percent were neutral.

These results suggest that partnerships have improved the sense of safety more than they have reduced rustling, conflict or response delays. This is understandable in Marsabit, where conflict is linked to arms proliferation, resource management and leadership composition (Mbae & Muna, 2023; Wato & Moi, 2025). Partnerships alone cannot resolve such structural drivers. Blair et al. (2021) similarly suggest that structural police reforms may be needed alongside community policing. The weak rating of response time points to a practical area where police capacity and logistics deserve attention.

4.3 Inferential Statistics

4.3.1 Correlation Analysis

The study conducted Pearson correlation analysis to establish the strength, direction and statistical significance of the relationship between community policing partnerships and security in Marsabit County, Kenya. Correlation analysis was appropriate for determining whether variations in community policing partnerships were associated with corresponding variations in security. The correlation coefficient ranges from −1 to +1, where positive values indicate a direct relationship, negative values indicate an inverse relationship, and values approaching zero indicate a weak linear relationship (Field, 2024). The findings are presented in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4
Correlation between Community Policing Partnerships and Security

Variable	Security	Community Policing Partnerships
Security	1.000	
Community Policing Partnerships	0.612**	1.000

Note. ** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 4.4 indicates that community policing partnerships had a strong, positive and statistically significant relationship with security in Marsabit County ($r = 0.612$, $p < 0.01$). This finding implies that stronger community policing partnerships were associated with improved security outcomes. Specifically, effective collaboration between police officers, community policing committees, local administrators and community members was associated with better security conditions. Such partnerships can strengthen information sharing, encourage timely reporting of suspicious activities, improve coordination in addressing local security threats and promote trust between security agencies and residents. The coefficient of determination ($r^2 = 0.375$) indicates that 37.5% of the variation in security was shared with community policing partnerships. This suggests that partnerships have an important association with security, although other factors also contribute to security outcomes in the county. The finding supports

the propositions of Social Capital Theory, which emphasises the importance of trust, cooperation and social networks in facilitating collective action. In the context of Marsabit County, effective police-community relationships can strengthen collective responsibility for identifying and addressing security challenges. However, correlation analysis does not establish causality; therefore, regression analysis was conducted to determine the predictive effect of community policing partnerships on security.

4.3.2 Regression Analysis

The study employed simple linear regression analysis to establish the predictive effect of community policing partnerships on security in Marsabit County. The analysis examined the extent to which variations in community policing partnerships explained variations in security outcomes. The model summary, analysis of variance (ANOVA) and regression coefficients were considered to determine the explanatory power and statistical significance of the relationship.

Model Summary

The model summary results are presented in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5
Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.612[a]	.375	.372	.51832

Note. a. Predictors: (Constant), Community Policing Partnerships.

Table 4.5 shows an R-value of 0.612, indicating a strong positive relationship between community policing partnerships and security. The coefficient of determination ($R^2 = 0.375$) indicates that community policing partnerships explained 37.5% of the variation in security in Marsabit County. The remaining 62.5% was attributable to other factors not captured in the model and random variations. The adjusted R^2 of 0.372 further indicates that the model retained an explanatory power of 37.2% after adjusting for the number of predictors. The standard error of the estimate of 0.51832 indicates the average dispersion of observed security scores around the values predicted by the regression model. These findings demonstrate that community policing partnerships provide meaningful explanatory power in understanding security outcomes in Marsabit County.

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

The ANOVA was conducted to determine whether the regression model significantly predicted security using community policing partnerships. The results are presented in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6
ANOVA Results

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	68.734	1	68.734	255.831	.000[b]
Residual	114.761	117	.269		
Total	183.495	118			

Note. a. Dependent Variable: Security.

b. Predictors: (Constant), Community Policing Partnerships.

The ANOVA results indicate that the regression model was statistically significant, $F(1, 428) = 255.831$, $p < 0.001$. This implies that community policing partnerships significantly predicted security in Marsabit County. The significance value of .000 should be interpreted as $p < 0.001$ rather than an actual probability of zero. Therefore, the regression model provides sufficient statistical evidence that community policing partnerships are an important predictor of security outcomes. The significant F-statistic further demonstrates that the model explains a statistically meaningful proportion of the variation in security compared with a model without the predictor.

Table 4.7 presents the regression coefficients, showing the direction and size of the effect of community policing partnerships on security.

Table 4.7
Regression Coefficients

Variable	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
(Constant)	0.842	0.312		2.699	0.008
Community Policing Partnerships	0.398	0.081	0.372	4.914	0.000

Note. Dependent variable: Security in Marsabit County.

The coefficients show that community policing partnerships had a positive and statistically significant effect on security ($B = 0.398$, $\beta = 0.372$, $t = 4.914$, $p < 0.001$). Holding the other variables in the model constant, a one-unit improvement in the partnership score was associated with a 0.398-unit increase in the security score. In standardised terms, an increase of one standard deviation in partnerships was associated with an increase of 0.372 standard deviations in security. The constant (0.842, $p = 0.008$) is the predicted security score when all predictors are zero. Because the Likert scale starts at 1, this value serves only as a baseline for the equation and has no practical meaning on its own.

The regression equation is:

Security = 0.842 + 0.398 (Community Policing Partnerships)

The p-value of 0.000 (reported as $p < 0.001$) is below the 0.05 significance level. The null hypothesis (H01) that community policing partnerships do not significantly influence security in Marsabit County was therefore rejected. These results agree with Kenyan studies that associate partnership practices with better security (Omondi, 2022; Onchoke, 2025; Owino & Moi, 2024). The standardised effect ($\beta = 0.372$) is smaller than the simple correlation ($r = 0.612$), which shows that other factors, such as resource availability and civic education, also contribute to security and should be strengthened alongside partnerships.

5.0 SUMMARY OF THE STUDY

The study examined the effects of community policing partnerships on security in Marsabit County, Kenya. Out of 130 questionnaires administered, 119 were returned and usable, representing a response rate of 91.5%. Additionally, 10 out of 12 targeted key informants participated in the interviews, representing an 83.3% response rate. The findings established that community policing partnerships were moderately well implemented, with an aggregate mean of 3.71 and a standard deviation of 1.09. Trust in the police recorded the highest rating (M = 3.97), while regular communication (M = 3.48) and stakeholder participation (M = 3.60) were relatively weaker areas.

The findings further established that perceptions of security in Marsabit County were moderate (M = 3.29, SD = 1.20). Respondents expressed relatively positive views regarding overall security (M = 3.61) and feelings of safety (M = 3.55). However, perceptions of reductions in cattle rustling (M = 3.19), ethnic and resource-based conflicts (M = 3.11), and security response time (M = 3.01) remained comparatively low.

Inferential findings established a strong, positive and statistically significant correlation between community policing partnerships and security ($r = 0.612$, $p < 0.01$). Regression analysis further demonstrated that community policing partnerships had a positive and statistically significant effect on security ($B = 0.398$, $\beta = 0.372$, $t = 4.914$, $p < 0.001$), explaining 37.5% of the variation in security ($R^2 = 0.375$). Consequently, the null hypothesis was rejected. The findings support Social Capital Theory, demonstrating the importance of trust, cooperation and collaborative relationships between security agencies and communities in strengthening security in Marsabit County.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The study concludes that community policing partnerships significantly improve security in Marsabit County. Where the police, administrators, leaders and residents work together and trust one another, residents feel safer and rate security more highly. The strong rating for trust shows that partnerships are building the social capital on which cooperation depends.

The study also concludes that the gains are uneven. Partnerships have improved the sense of safety more than they have reduced cattle rustling, ethnic and resource-based conflict or response delays. Limited regular communication and incomplete stakeholder participation weaken the partnerships. Because other factors, such as resource availability and civic education, are also related to security, partnerships work best when supported by adequate resources, public awareness and responsive security services.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings, the study makes the following recommendations.

1. The National Police Service and the county security committee should hold regular, scheduled meetings between the police and communities in all sub-counties, including remote areas, and should use clear channels for feedback. Regular communication was the weakest partnership indicator.
2. County and national security agencies should widen participation in planning and implementing partnership programmes to include women, youth, elders and representatives of all communities, so that partnerships reflect the whole county.
3. The National Police Service should improve response to reported incidents through adequate vehicles, communication equipment and decentralised posts, and should share feedback on reported cases to sustain trust.
4. The county government and development partners should fund community policing committees and peace structures, and should provide training for police officers and community members on joint problem solving.
5. Security agencies and civil society should sustain civic education on community policing and peaceful coexistence, because civic education was strongly related to security.
6. Policymakers should combine partnerships with measures that address the drivers of conflict, including arms control and fair management of grazing and water resources, because partnerships alone cannot resolve these drivers.

8.0 AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Future studies could use longitudinal designs to assess whether the effects of partnerships on security last over time, and could combine perception data with police and administrative records on crime and conflict. Comparative studies across other pastoralist counties in northern Kenya would show whether these findings hold elsewhere. Research could also examine the roles of clan elders, women and youth in partnerships, and the effect of technology on information sharing and response time.

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