

SAIC Final Technical Report

This form should be completed and submitted in conjunction with the SAIC Final Technical Report: Summary and Tables in the Word document circulated by Jennifer. Your report will not be approved until both parts of the report have been completed to IDRC's satisfaction.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact your responsible program officer (Adrian, Jennifer, Navsharan, Ramata) or Jennifer directly.

1. Project Name

Exploring Crime and Poverty Nexus in Urban Ghana

2. Report Author(s) and Institution

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University of Ghana

3. Period covered by the report (MM/YY to MM/YY)

May 2013-March 2016

Findings

4. Did you have any unexpected research findings? If yes, please describe them. Describe any unexpected, unusual, or counter-intuitive findings coming out of your research project.

1. Poor low-class neighbourhoods were in general perceived as more safer and secure than middle-class neighbourhoods. Strong social cohesion and community bonding in low-class neighbourhoods in the absence of public policing make these neighbourhoods relatively safer than middle-class neighbourhoods. This demonstrates the complex relationships between crime and poverty.
2. Target hardening in middle/upper-class neighbourhoods reduces social cohesion and compromises community efforts to fight crimes.
3. Policing and social cohesion/community bonding are likely to produce safer neighbourhoods irrespective of socioeconomic status of neighbourhoods
4. Limited in-house facilities (water, toilet, bathroom, etc) and community level infrastructure (e.g. streetlights) expose women to sexual crimes.
5. Policing infrastructure tend to be concentrated in city centres to the neglect of city fringes where majority of city residents live.
6. Emerging trend of youth gangsterism, especially in Tamale, linked to interrelated factors of poverty, partisan politics, and religious and chieftaincy conflicts.

5. Discuss the gender dimensions of your findings.

Discuss your project's gender analysis. Describe any findings that incorporate a gender analysis. Describe the implications of your research for different groups of men and women.

The study discussed the gendered perception in the level of crime and victimization and its implications for safety in the different socio-economic neighbourhoods. It was found that more females in all three neighbourhoods (low, middle and upper) perceived crime levels to be higher in their communities as compared to their male counterparts. Males also perceived their neighbourhoods to be safer as compared to their female counterparts. In effect, there were issues of safety and insecurity that affected women's mobility as females in all three neighbourhoods felt unsafe during the day and at night as compared to men. The fear of victimization among women, in particularly low and middle class neighbourhoods, was as a result of poor infrastructure in the form of absence of proper lighting system (either the absence of street lighting and non-functional lighting systems). Moreover, the presence of gangsters, drug addicts and peddlers as well as the poor infrastructure layout further contributed to fear of victimization amongst women especially in the poorly low class neighbourhoods. Thus lack of community infrastructure exposes more females than males to all sorts of crime including sexual crimes in particularly the poorer neighbourhoods.

Another key gender analysis that the study highlighted was the relationship between poverty and the incidence of sexual crimes (rape and defilement) particularly in the poorer neighbourhoods. The factors contributing to the prevalence of these crimes in low-income neighbourhoods included housing structure and high room occupancy, poor infrastructural services such as the absence of police post and lighting system, the long bureaucratic police and court processes and the financial cost involved in pursuing such cases officially thus the preference for monetary compensation. Moreover, the attitude of parents, including the neglect of children and limited education make female children very vulnerable to such crimes.

It is therefore important to improve safety and security measures in all the neighbourhoods but with particular attention paid to the females in low class neighbourhoods.

Equally important is the need to pay attention to the safety and security of women in public spaces, particularly markets, transport terminals, public places of convenience, etc.

6. What areas for further research are emerging from your project?

In particular, are there any topics that would be relevant for a future program that builds on SAIC?

1. Motivation and perceptions behind the adoption of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) measures among professional of the built environment, police and community
2. Safety and security of women in public places
3. Emerging trend of youth gangsterism

SAIC Final Technical Report Influence, Outcomes, Impact, and Contributions to Change

7. Has your project or research contributed to/influenced any policy or practice changes? If yes, describe the change and how your research contributed to it.

It is the project team's view that policy change requires time. Nevertheless, the project has influenced or influencing through the following:

1. Research has provided a baseline for assessing crime rates and discussions about poverty and crime in Ghana
2. Teaching of gender and crime is now part of gender and geography course at the Department of Geography, University of Ghana, Legon. Also, findings from the study has been incorporated into the MA course on Development Planning at ISSER and BA city courses at the Department of Geography.
3. Two city wide dissemination workshops have been held in the report, with the active participation of city authorities and police. In particular, city authorities have come to appreciate the need to incorporate crime prevention in city planning as well as a rethinking of target hardening measures.
4. Project policy briefs and peer-reviewed papers have been produced which seek to influence policy and practice.
5. Sharing GIS produced crime hotspot maps with police, city authorities and other stakeholders. The maps are also being used in teaching at the University of Ghana, Legon.

8. Are there any upcoming opportunities to influence policy or practice, such as a parliamentary debate, an international conference, a UN report, etc? Describe how you expect your research to contribute to that process and how you plan to engage with it.

1. Participation in 4 international conferences at which findings of the research will be presented.
2. Development of 2 Policy Briefs on private security and youth gangsterism
3. Teaming up with Crime Concern Ghana, an NGO, to undertake crime conscientization forums, especially in poor urban communities
4. Media engagements to highlight research project's key findings, including short articles in the newspapers. Already we have discussed with the Daily Graphic and Ghana's Business & Financial Times about an article in each of these newspapers.

9. Capacity development: Provide final cumulative details on how many women and men have developed skills or learned from your project. (NB: This will include those previously reported.)

Example: Over the entire project, 55 field workers (40 women, 15 men) were trained. 5 Fieldwork supervisors (3 women, 2 men) were trained. 212 undergraduate students (127 women, 85 men) were exposed to research and methodologies developed in the project. 6 graduate students (2 women, 4 men) participated in the project as research assistants.

1. Over the entire project period, 38 field workers/research assistants were trained on data collection using both quantitative and qualitative tools/methods
2. Three PhDs are being produced. Students will submit their thesis on various topic of crime and poverty. The first batch of 2 PhD will submit their thesis in June 2017, and the third student in 2018.
3. Three Master students have already completed their studies, and a fourth student in July 2016.
4. Selected number of police officers have also been trained in crime mapping in the selected cities.
5. Three hundred undergraduate studies and 50 postgraduate students have been exposed to the methodology and research findings on crime

10. Has your project leveraged any new funds to support current or new work that builds on SAIC?

If yes, provide details on the work being supported, the funder and the amount of funding. Example: The Embassy of the Netherlands provided \$10,000 to produce three additional policy briefs on the research.

1. ISSER is producing Policy Brief
2. Crime Concern Ghana to support community conscientization forums

11. Describe your engagement with other SAIC researchers and any associated activities or outputs not previously reported. Is SAIC working as a network for you? In what ways?

1. Joint conference panel organized with our SAIC counterpart in Asia and Africa
2. SAIC members acting as peer-reviewers for Special Issue of the findings of the project in the Ghana Journal of Geography
3. Project team members now part of South-South network on urban crime and violence
4. We've agreed with the research team in Cote d'Ivoire to do a comparative research paper based on the research findings in the two countries.

12. What can IDRC do to maintain the SAIC network after the projects close? What would make the network valuable to you?

Maintain contact with research team/network regarding upcoming conferences, project call proposals, etc.

Upcoming Activities, Outputs, and Outreach

13. Provide details on any outputs (books, journal articles, infographics, videos, etc) or activities from your SAIC project that are not yet completed. Please provide expected completion dates.

Publications

1. Owusu, G., Owusu, Martin Oteng-Ababio, M., Wrigley-Asante, C. & Agyapong, I. (2016). An assessment of households' perceptions of private security companies and crime in urban Ghana, *Crime Science* 5(5). DOI: 10.1186/s40163-016-0053-x
2. Oteng-Ababio, M., Owusu, A. Y., Owusu, G. & Wrigley-Asante, C. (2016). Geographies of crime and collective efficacy in urban Ghana, *Territory, Politics, Governance*. DOI: 10.1080/21622671.2016.1159602
3. Owusu, G., Wrigley-Asante, C., Oteng-Ababio, M. & Owusu, A. Y. (2015). Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) and built-environmental manifestations in Accra and Kumasi, Ghana, *Crime Prevention & Community Safety* 17(4), pp. 270-290. DOI: 10.1057/cpcs.2015.8
4. Oteng-Ababio, M., Owusu, G., Wrigley-Asante, C. & Owusu, A. Y (2016). Longitudinal analysis of crime trends and patterns in Ghana (1980-2010): A new perspective. *African Geographical Review* DOI: 10.1080/19376812.2016.1208768
5. Owusu, G. (2016). Introduction: Crime and poverty nexus. *Ghana Journal of Geography (Special Issue)* 8(1), pp. 1-10.
6. Owusu, G., Oteng-Ababio, M., Owusu, A. Y. & Wrigley-Asante, C. (2016). Can poor neighbourhoods be correlated with crime? Evidence from urban Ghana. *Ghana Journal of Geography (Special Issue)* 8(1), pp.11-31
7. Wrigley-Asante, C., Owusu, G., Owusu, A.Y. and Oteng-Ababio, M. (2016). Gendered Perception of Crime and safety: Insights from different socio-economic urban neighbourhoods in Ghana. *Ghana Journal of Geography (Special Issue)* 8(1), pp. 32-50.
8. Frimpong, L.K. (2016). Geography of fear of crime: Examining intra-urban differentials in Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolis, Ghana. *Ghana Journal of Geography (Special Issue)* 8(1), pp. 79-102
9. Oteng-Ababio, M. (2016). Beyond poverty and criminalization: splintering youth groups and 'conflict of governmentalities' in urban Ghana. *Ghana Journal of Geography (Special Issue)* 8(1), pp. 51-78.
10. Wrigley-Asante, C. (2016). Gendered perception of crime and safety: Insights from different socio-economic urban neighbourhoods in Ghana. *Ghana Journal of Geography (Special Issue)* 8(1), pp. 103-123

11. Bagson, E. & Owusu, A.Y. (2016). Securing the urban space on whose terms? Insights from poverty and crime baseline survey in Tamale, Ghana. Ghana Journal of Geography (Special Issue) 8(1), pp. 124-147.

Changes, Challenges, Lessons, Feedback to IDRC

14. Discuss any lessons or insights that are relevant to other SAIC projects, the SAIC program, or future work. These could be related to challenges, ethical practice, substantive issues, methods, etc.

Responses could focus on substantive and/or administrative issues.

1. Ethics and Security Protocols developed at the beginning of the project and approval by the University of Ghana Ethical Committee have been very beneficial in guide students, field workers as well as the project investigators/senior research regarding codes of conducts in the field as well as what to publish.

2. Combination of qualitative and quantitative methodologies provide both depth and breadth in the study of urban crime.

15. Please share any other feedback that you have for IDRC.

Summarize recommendations with respect to the administration of the project, its scope, duration, or budget.

1. Simplified template for the reporting of project findings and outcomes as in the case of the last two research reports template should be adopted.

3. Six months project reporting cycle could be made 12 months cycle to coincide directly with the yearly (12 months) financial reporting.