



## Assessing public policy on intelligence gathering and community safety in north central, Nigeria By

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### Abstract

*The prevalence of insecurity in the northcentral Nigeria translates to policy gaps in intelligence gathering which reflects the vulnerability of community safety. It was against this background that this study engaged Broken Windows' theory to assess public policy on intelligence gathering for community safety in North Central Nigeria, focusing on community-oriented intelligence gathering and Early Warning/Early Response mechanisms. The study utilised qualitative research design with reliance on secondary data generated via journals publication and other documented materials relevant to the study to explore the effectiveness and inclusiveness of current policies in fostering proactive security responses within communities. Findings from empirical review revealed a significant gap in community involvement, as policies on intelligence gathering are implemented without adequate community engagement. The result from study also established that lack of inclusion of community stakeholders has resulted in limited effectiveness of Early Warning Early Response mechanisms, hindering timely response for community safety. Consequently, the prevailing approach to intelligence gathering remains largely reactive, undermining the potential of intelligence-driven policy to address emerging threats proactively. The study recommends that the Nigeria Police Force, as the lead agency in internal security and community policing, must take doctrinal ownership of community-oriented intelligence gathering frameworks by leveraging its constitutional mandate under the Police Act 2020 and the Police Establishment Act to institutionalize early warning mechanisms across North Central Nigeria. Furthermore, the study recommends that the Office of the National Security Adviser, North Central Development Commission, and North Central Governors Forum should collaborate to evolve a policy shift toward a community-centered approach prioritizing the establishment of structurally inclusive mechanisms that formally engage community stakeholders in intelligence processes through a local Fusion Centre. Finally, the study recommends that the Nigerian Army, through its Non-Kinetic Operations Directorate and Theatre Commands operating in North Central Nigeria, must deepen its reliance on community intelligence as a force multiplier for proactive security interventions. Accordingly, the North Central Development Commission and the North Central Governors Forum should evolve a deliberate policy implementation of community-led training programs focused on recognizing and reporting early signs of security threats. Such programs will equip community members with the skills needed to actively participate in early warning processes, ensuring that actionable intelligence reaches military commanders in real time, thereby bridging the communication gap between local residents and security personnel*

**Keywords:** Broken Window's Theory, Community safety, Early Warning Early Response Mechanism, Intelligence Gathering Policy

### Introduction

It is a global phenomenon that the complexity of ensuring community safety in requires a multifaceted approach where public policy and intelligence gathering play pivotal roles (Ike et al., 2022; Lowenthal, 2022). As all crimes committal are localised, no matter the global dimension of the crime. Prevention of crime via

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intelligence gathering is therefore essential when driven with public policy as such will further deepen and align both formal and informal security agencies within such enabled public policy (Cachalia, 2022). Public policy and intelligence gathering play crucial roles in ensuring community safety and security in Nigeria. As a country facing diverse security challenges, effective intelligence gathering is essential for informed decision-making and proactive measures to protect communities.

Community safety entails the protection of individuals, institutions, and properties within a societal framework, is a major priority for the Nigerian government due to increasing threats from terrorism, insurgency, armed robbery, and communal violence (Obasa, 2023). The integration of intelligence gathering into public policy has become essential for addressing these security challenges (Nwagboso, & Nwagboso, 2021). The significance of public policy in intelligence gathering for community safety in Nigeria, can be interrogated by focusing on the influence of multi-agency information sharing, intelligence-led policing, Early Warning and Early Response mechanisms, and community-oriented intelligence gathering.

Community-oriented intelligence gathering has become a significant factor in achieving security objectives at the grassroots level. This approach involves engaging local residents, community leaders, and other stakeholders in identifying potential security threats and reporting them to law enforcement agencies (Thomas, 2018). The influence of this strategy cannot be overstated, as community members are often the first to notice unusual activities within their environments. By creating a direct line of communication between communities and security agencies, public policy can promote proactive measures against crime and insecurity. In Nigeria, community policing models that emphasize local intelligence gathering have been key to mitigating violence, especially in regions troubled by ethnic clashes and militancy (Alemika, 2013).

The Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) mechanisms are essential components of a proactive security strategy aimed at preventing conflicts, violence, and criminal activities before they escalate. By establishing systems to detect early signs of instability, insecurity, or threats to community safety, authorities can implement timely interventions and preventive measures to avert potential crises (Ojo, 2017). In Nigeria, where rapid response to security incidents is critical, Early Warning and Early Response mechanisms play a vital role in ensuring the safety and well-being of communities across the country, and this further highlights the importance of Civil Society Organisation (CSO) as a major interface in intelligence gathering towards slowing down criminal elements in the community.

Pertinently, public policy and intelligence gathering are integral to promoting community safety in Nigeria. Through community-oriented intelligence gathering, multi-agency information sharing, intelligence-led policing, and Early Warning and Early Response mechanisms, the Nigeria State can enhance its security

infrastructure, build resilience against security threats, and safeguard the lives and properties of its citizens. The delivery of community safety is achievable through a combination of intelligence gathering strategies, public policy frameworks, and collaborative efforts between various security stakeholders.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The absence of policy that affords communities to own their security architecture could be seen in Nigeria's overcentralised security architecture whose responsiveness to handle communal safety is highly reactive faulty. The safety and security of communities remain a pressing concern. Despite efforts by law enforcement agencies, crime and violence persist, undermining social cohesion and economic development. The effectiveness of public policy in ensuring community safety is hindered by absence of community owned framework which afford communities to own intelligence gathering, limited information sharing among Government security agencies, and insufficient adoption of intelligence-led policing strategies.

The concentric nature of Nigeria Security architecture which has been adjudged to be unitary in nature does not align with a country with federating units whose waves of crime and criminalities differs from our community to the other. Ensuring community safety also depends on the security ownership by the community. The dearth of Public Private Partnership in security provisioning is seen as most Government Security Agencies (GSA) are seen competing with their counterpart in Private Guard Security Business. The absence of community-oriented intelligence gathering approaches has resulted in a disconnect between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. This disconnect hampers the identification and prevention of security threats, allowing criminal elements to thrive.

The dearth of trust in law enforcement agencies further constrict volunteerism of information flow from the community, thus affording subversive elements to have leeway in their criminalities. Moreover, the absence of robust Early Warning and early response mechanisms allows potential security threats to escalate into full-blown crises. Emerging result could help policymakers formulate comprehensive strategies to address the root causes and consequences of armed banditry.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The main objective of this study examined relationship between public policy on intelligence gathering and community safety in north central Nigeria. Other specific objectives;

- i. Examine the relationship between community-oriented intelligence gathering and community safety in northcentral Nigeria
- ii. Interrogate the nexus between early Warning early response mechanisms and community safety in northcentral Nigeria

## **Literature Review**

### **Concept of Public Policy**

Public policy refers to the actions taken by government to address public problems and improve the quality of life for citizens (Dye, 2013). It involves the development, implementation, and evaluation of policies that aim to resolve societal issues, allocate resources, and distribute benefits and costs (Anderson, 2011). It is commonly defined as “whatever governments choose to do or not to do” (Dye, 2008). This definition emphasizes that public policy encompasses both action and inaction by the government. For instance, a decision by the government to regulate or not regulate a particular industry, or to provide or withdraw a specific public service, all fall within the realm of public policy. Thus, public policy is not only about the enactment of laws but also about the choices governments make regarding where to intervene and where to abstain.

Public policy can be seen as a process that involves several stages: agenda setting, policy formulation, policy adoption, policy implementation, and policy evaluation (Anderson, 2003). In the agenda-setting stage, issues that require government action are identified. During policy formulation, potential solutions are developed and debated. Policy adoption involves the decision-making process where a policy is officially selected and enacted. Policy implementation is the stage where policies are put into action by government agencies and other stakeholders. Finally, policy evaluation assesses the outcomes and effectiveness of the policy, often leading to revisions or adjustments.

Moreover, public policy is influenced by various factors, including political ideology, economic conditions, social values, and the interests of different groups within society. As such, public policy is inherently political, involving negotiation, compromise, and power dynamics among various actors, including elected officials, bureaucrats, interest groups, and the general public (Howlett & Ramesh, 2003). The process of policymaking is complex and often reflects the prevailing political and economic context, as well as the values and priorities of those in power. In summary, public policy is a deliberate and systematic course of action taken by governments to address societal issues. It involves the creation, implementation, and evaluation of laws, regulations, and guidelines aimed at achieving specific goals. Public policy is a dynamic process influenced by a range of social, economic, and political factors, and it plays a critical role in shaping the direction and functioning of society.

### **Concept of Intelligence Gathering**

Intelligence gathering refers to the systematic process of collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information that is crucial for decision-making and operational effectiveness, particularly in the context of security and

law enforcement. The primary goal of intelligence gathering is to obtain actionable insights that can prevent, detect, or respond to threats, from subversive criminal elements, spanning from banditry, kidnapping, misdemeanour, terrorism, and other forms of violence. In the context of community safety, intelligence gathering plays a pivotal role by enabling law enforcement agencies and other security stakeholders to anticipate and mitigate risks before they materialize, thereby ensuring the protection of citizens, maintaining public order, and ensuring community safety (Ratcliffe, 2016).

One of the key aspects of intelligence gathering for community safety is the emphasis on proactivity. Rather than reacting to incidents after they occur, intelligence-led policing focuses on preventing crimes before they happen by identifying potential offenders, vulnerable targets, and high-risk locations. This proactive approach is made possible through the continuous collection and analysis of intelligence, which helps to identify emerging threats and allocate resources efficiently (Ratcliffe, 2016). By integrating intelligence into the daily operations of law enforcement, communities can benefit from a more strategic and informed approach to crime prevention. When community members trust that their contributions to intelligence gathering will be used responsibly and effectively, they are more likely to participate actively in ensuring the safety of their neighborhoods (Román & Al Room, 2024). Thus, intelligence gathering is not just a technical process but also a social one, deeply rooted in the relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

### **Community-Oriented Intelligence Gathering**

Community-oriented intelligence gathering involves engaging with local communities to collect information on potential security threats, vulnerabilities, and criminal activities. By fostering trust and collaboration between law enforcement agencies and the public, this approach enhances the flow of valuable intelligence that is vital for preempting security incidents and maintaining safety within communities (Thomas, 2018). In Nigeria, where community policing initiatives are gaining momentum, community-oriented intelligence gathering serves as a valuable tool for addressing security concerns at the grassroots level.

Establishing strong relationships and trust between intelligence agencies and local community members. Issues of trust also emerged as a challenge to the partnership building, where the police were accused by the community of betraying them to the criminals once they have furnished them with the intelligence needed. Community policing members also decried their lack of compensation for the work they perform, something that has made it difficult to recruit more members (Ngereso & Mange, 2020). The need to leverage human intelligence sources within communities to gather information on potential threats. The strength of Community oriented intelligence also depends on conducting regular outreach and engagement activities to understand community concerns and priorities which symbolises empathy

Community oriented Intelligence requires cooperation between security agencies and members of a community. The latter assume the responsibility for crime by reporting crimes without delay to the police as well as by volunteering as witnesses whenever crimes occur. The police, on the other hand, is required to mobilize individuals and organizations around crime prevention through various ways (Lombardo & Lough, 2007).

### **Early Warning Early Response Approach**

The Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) is critical mechanism for ensuring community safety in Nigeria. The roles of faith based organisation, Non Government Organisation (NGO) and Civil Society Organisations (CSO) amongst cannot be overemphasised. The EWER mechanism is designed to detect early signs of potential violence or conflict and facilitate prompt interventions before they escalate. In regions experiencing recurring ethnic and religious violence, EWER systems have proven vital in curbing conflicts by providing real-time intelligence that informs timely responses by security agencies and policymakers. By integrating early warning systems into public policy, Nigeria has enhanced its capacity to foresee and neutralize threats to community safety (Okoli, 2015).

While EWER Intelligence cannot prevent all damages, evidence abound that a timely warning enables community, CSO, and Security agencies to promptly activate their mitigation plans into action, which can significantly reduce the disastrous impacts. For security organisation achieve and maintained sustainable responsiveness, they similarly must be able to monitor, and respond to intelligence threats from communities, Faith based Organisations, Civil Societies and other stakeholders (Cognosis, 2024).

### **Threats to Intelligence Gathering in Nigeria**

**Trust Deficit between Communities and Intelligence Agencies:** Historical tensions and perceptions of heavy-handed tactics have undermined trust between local communities and intelligence agencies.

**Lack of transparency and accountability:** The lack of transparency and accountability in intelligence operations has contributed to skepticism and reluctance to collaborate. **Coordination and Information Sharing Challenges:** Siloed approaches and limited cooperation among various intelligence, law enforcement, and security agencies hinder the flow of timely and relevant information. Interagency rivalries and turf battles impede effective coordination and joint operations.

**Technological and Capacity Limitations:** Inadequate investment in modern intelligence-gathering technologies, such as surveillance systems and data analytics capabilities. Insufficient training, skills development, and resources for intelligence personnel to keep pace with evolving security threats.

**Politicization of Intelligence:** Concerns about the political influence and potential misuse of intelligence for

partisan interests, undermining its operational independence and credibility. This further deepens the challenges in maintaining a clear separation between intelligence gathering and political agendas.

**Adapting to Asymmetric Threats:** The dynamic and evolving nature of security threats, such as terrorism, insurgency, and organized crime, requires continuous adaptation and innovation in intelligence practices. Difficulty in gathering timely and actionable intelligence on non-traditional and decentralized security threats. **Resource Constraints and Funding Limitations:** Insufficient budgetary allocations and financial resources to invest in necessary infrastructure, technology, and personnel development for intelligence agencies. Competing priorities and budget allocations within the broader security and development landscape.

### **Community Safety**

Community safety refers to the overall well-being and security of a community, where individuals and groups feel secure from crime, violence, and other threats. It encompasses various measures, practices, and initiatives aimed at reducing risks and promoting a safe and supportive environment for all community members. Goals of community safety entail reduction in crime and violence by lowering the incidence of criminal activities and violence within the community; creating a secure environment where people can live, work, and play without fear; strengthening the relationship between community members and local authorities, fostering cooperation; and ensuring that all members of the community, regardless of background, feel safe and supported.

Community safety in the context of intelligence gathering is a proactive approach that emphasizes the use of information to anticipate, prevent, and respond to potential threats within a community. By identifying threats early, intelligence gathering enables law enforcement agencies and community leaders to take preemptive actions, thereby reducing the likelihood of crimes and enhancing the overall security of the community. This approach shifts the focus from reactive to preventive measures, aiming to create safer environments through informed decision-making. A critical aspect of intelligence gathering for community safety is the collaboration between law enforcement agencies and the community itself. Residents often have unique insights and local knowledge that are invaluable for identifying potential risks that might not be visible to authorities (Innes, 2017).

In conclusion, community safety through the lens of intelligence gathering involves the strategic use of information to prevent and address threats before they manifest. This approach relies heavily on collaboration between law enforcement and the community, supported by advanced technological tools that enhance the effectiveness of intelligence operations. While intelligence gathering plays a vital role in safeguarding

communities, it must be balanced with considerations of privacy and civil rights to maintain legitimacy and public confidence. Ultimately, intelligence-driven community safety seeks to create a secure environment where residents can live and thrive without fear.

## **Empirical Review**

### **Community-Oriented Intelligence Gathering and Community Safety**

Ngereso and Mange (2020) interrogated the partnership between the police and community policing on intelligence enhancement in Kwale County amidst complaints which range from malpractices, excessive use of force to corruption causing lack of trust from the members of the public. The study engaged mixed method research design to elicit data using questionnaires and interview guide documents from the police officers based in Diani, the general public; the community policing committee members; and the members of the Sub-County Security Intelligence Committee. Findings that emanated from study showed that the partnership between the police and the community policing programme is effective. The study also found that citizen mobilization, situational prevention and neighbourhood watch programmes were some of the modalities that were popularly applied by the security stakeholders to enhance the partnership between the police and the community policing. Study was done using Kenyas data while this study will engage Nigeria datasets

Ejiogu (2019) examined community policing and the engagement of pastoral terrorism in West Africa. The thematic study analyzed the broad narratives, advantages, and limitations of adopting community policing for the control of herdsmen terrorism in West Africa. The study established the need for officers and men to be engaged in proactive self-oriented agenda and less time attending to reactionary calls. The study concluded that community-oriented policing could be gainfully employed to implement the need for resident involvement in setting and maintaining principles of social norm that would discourage terrorist recruitment in local communities. The study is a cross-country study of West African countries and results emanated from it cannot be used for country specific study like Nigeria because the operational environment differs in terms of regulation, supervision and operation.

Román and Al Room (2024) interrogated the nexus between community engagement and a safe society by Dubai Police to prevent crime. The study was an empirical study with reliance on qualitative data. Result from study showed that effective community engagement, targeted foot patrols and collaborative problem solving can significantly increase public confidence in policing activities as community engagement produces two main benefits: improved decision- making and enhanced citizenship. The study opine that effective engagement is more than organizing a meeting with community members, as it is a rigorous process

that demands sensitivity and careful planning and execution. The study was done using Duba datasets and there is a need for country specific Nigeria study to use Nigeria data sets.

Bello (2019) engaged broken window theory to investigate the correlation between community policing and effective security in Oyo state. The study employed descriptive survey design on the 12 Local Government Areas (LGAs) where the community policing approach was introduced in Oyo State were enumerated with purposive focus on market associations, community development associations, vigilante groups, Police Community Relations Committee's, community and religious leaders, landlord associations and Security agencies were randomly selected. The quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics, Pearson product moment correlation and multiple regression at 0.05 level of significance while qualitative data were content analysed. Findings from the study revealed lack of adequate knowledge of community policing approach and age-long distrust affected the general composition to and acceptability of community policing approach. The introduction of community policing approach, particularly police-community joint patrol had positively influenced effective security in the sampled communities of Oyo State. Study was state specific study while this study is country specific.

Edwards *et al.* (2015) examined the relevance of communities to the lone-actor terrorism cases and possible indicators of radicalisation in Canada. Royal Canadian Mounted Police engaged in considerable fieldwork trips to Calgary, Edmonton, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver. The study also involved reviewing academic, government policy and police operational literature relevant to lone-actor terrorism cases and the relevant agencies' response and management of it. They also conducted more than fifty interviews with law enforcement practitioners, government officials, community representatives, religious leaders and researchers using semi-structured interview. Reports were also discussed in an internal workshop. Findings of the study revealed community-based policing method as a tactic to fighting radicalisation and the emergence of lone-actor terrorism in communities. The study was conducted using Canada data, and the need to conduct similar study using Nigeria data and that is what this study intends to do.

### **Early Warning Early Response mechanism and Community Safety**

Ajetunmobi and Eludoyin (2023) interrogated analysis of intelligence concepts in kidnap early warning systems in Port-Harcourt using intelligence concepts in kidnap early warning systems (KEWS). The study engaged a total of 187 respondents using Google form questionnaire to elicit information from security personnel and civilians in the study area. Using descriptive statistics for data analysis, results from study showed that ineffective early warning system have varying catalytic effect on the increasing frequency of kidnapping in Port Harcourt City LGA, while the major consequences on victims are psychological trauma and the financial loss from the payment of ransom. The major identified intelligence concepts in KEWS are

community policing (24%), access control (21%), security alarm protocol (18%), and installation of CCTVs, (16%), while the major implementation strategies are law enforcement, sensitization, legislative enactments and the effective deployment of the required resources. The study was a state specific study limited to EWER mechanism while this study considered others intelligence approach on community safety.

Jingu (2018) interrogated spikes of crimes targeted at government and ruling party officers in Kibiti and Rufiji districts and the quest for effective early warning and response mechanism between the years 2015 and 2017. The study engaged qualitative research design with focus on related literature. Results that emanated from the study submitted that limitations in existing early warning and response mechanisms affected the ability of the government and communities to detect and counter the occurrence of violent tendencies before they matured. The study opine the re-establishment of Nyumba Kumi as a formal early warning and response mechanism against activities, which compromise peace and security in the communities and the country. The study engaged Kenya datasets while this study will interrogate more intelligence gathering approaches with focus on community safety using Nigeria datasets.

Ochoga and Akhanolu (2022) empirically examined how a crime early warning system could prevent the abduction of school children in Nigeria. The study employed qualitative data from secondary literature and conceptualized theories of early warning signs to provide a theoretical base for its argument. Result from the study position that the abduction of school children in Nigeria could have been prevented with intelligence gathering and applying of crime prevention mechanism through early warning signs. The study which focused on school children abduction argued for an early warning system designed for the identification of crime chronic hot spots or/ and temporary hot spot. Study was on early warning system on school abduction while this study will interrogate other intelligence gathering approaches to elicit intelligence gathering for community safety.

## **Theoretical Framework**

### **Broken Windows Theory**

The Broken Window Theory which will underpin this study was postulated by James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling of 1982. The thrust of the theory suggests that visible signs of crime and disorder (broken windows) can lead to increased fear, community disengagement, and further crime. This theory is relevant to this work as it underscores the importance of addressing minor crimes and disorders to prevent escalation. This will inadvertently deepen the involvement of the community to raise the early flags of warnings to security agencies and other stakeholders. This could further foster the culture of reporting

The broken window theory is premised on the assumption that disorder and crime are connected in a developmental pattern. That is, not fixing a broken window in a building may make all the rest of the windows to break as well, with time. The unfixed window signals that no one cares and so breaking more windows will not lead to any sanction. According to Lombardo and Lough (2007), such vandalism are likely to occur when the sense of mutual regard and the obligations of civility are reduced by actions that seem to signal disinterest. Wilson and Kelly (1982) argued that neighbourhoods where property is abandoned, weeds grow, windows are broken, and people move out. For those who remain, fights occur, litter accumulates, graffiti proliferates, suggesting that the area is uncontrollable, and fear of crime increases. Therefore, by repairing the broken window, other windows may not continue breaking. The community needs to be aware of the broken window and engage the police in fixing it.

The Broken Windows Theory supports the implementation of Early Warning and Early Response mechanisms. By monitoring and responding to early signs of disorder, law enforcement agencies can prevent escalation and promote community safety (Hancock & Laycock, 2016). Community-oriented policing strategies align with the Broken Windows Theory by focusing on community engagement and addressing minor crimes and disorders. This approach fosters community trust and cooperation, essential for preventing and addressing crime (Skogan, 2006). Additional Relevance of the the Broken Windows Theory could be seen as it also highlights the importance of Community involvement in crime prevention (Braga & Weisburd, 2010); addressing social and physical disorder (Sampson & Raudenbush, 1999); collaborative problem-solving between law enforcement and communities (Goldstein, 1990).

### **Variable Relationship**

The objective of this study investigated nexus between public policy on intelligence gathering and community safety in north central Nigeria. The domain of this study is situated in Northcentral Nigeria. The dependent variable here is the community safety which is expected to react to pattern of the independent variable while the independent variable is policy on intelligence gathering. The Independent variable is further decomposed into community-oriented intelligence gathering and Early Warning Early Response mechanisms. This study sets out to know how the policy disposition of these two intelligence gathering policy influence community security. The domain of the study is north central Nigeria which is presently beleaguered by insecurity

### **Methodology**

The study adopts qualitative research design whit reliance on publicly available archive documents employed for the analysis. Secondary data were generated via journals publication and other documented materials

relevant to the study with reliance on secondary data. The research is conducted by examining literature concerning intelligence gathering public policy, community Oriented intelligence gathering, Early Warning Early Response Mechanism, and community safety in north central Nigeria. The literature was obtained through searches in publicly available material. Literature from non-serial publications, official reports, and conferences has been included particularly if they have been cited by other references.

### **Discussion of Findings**

Findings from literature review revealed that Community-Oriented Intelligence Gathering policy showed a disconnect with Community Safety emplacement in the northcentral Nigeria. This could be seen as security is still largely seen reactive and not proactive. Members of the community are not seen in intelligence sharing as security agencies are also not seen accountable to the very community on whose taxes they are financed from. This finding aligns with the previous work of Ngereso and Mange (2020); Ejiogu (2019); Román and Al Room (2024); (2015); Olusegun (2016); Edwards et al. (2015)

The result that emanated from empirical study also revealed that Early Warning Early Response (EWER) mechanism policy for intelligence does not have influence on Community Safety in the northcentral of Nigeria. The involvement of stakeholders mediatory roles and inputs are not seen nor felt in intelligence gather. The EWER mechanism as policy should be a broad feeder that guides intelligence gathering this if operationalize should be seen influencing community safety. This finding is consistent with the findings in the previous work of Ajetunmobi and Eludoyin (2023); Jingu (2018); Ochoga and Akhanolu (2022)

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

Based on the conclusions of this study, the following recommendations are made; the study hereby recommended that

- i. The Nigeria Police Force, as the lead agency in internal security and community policing, must take doctrinal ownership of community-oriented intelligence gathering frameworks by leveraging its constitutional mandate under the Police Act 2020 and the Police Establishment Act to institutionalize early warning mechanisms across North Central Nigeria. Furthermore, the study recommends that the Office of the National Security Adviser, North Central Development Commission, and North Central Governors Forum should collaborate to evolve a policy shift toward a community-centered approach prioritizing the establishment of structurally inclusive mechanisms that formally engage community stakeholders in intelligence processes through a local Fusion Centre.

- ii. Finally, the study recommends that the Nigerian Army, through its Non-Kinetic Operations Directorate and Theatre Commands operating in North Central Nigeria, must deepen its reliance on community intelligence as a force multiplier for proactive security interventions. Accordingly, the North Central Development Commission and the North Central Governors Forum should evolve a deliberate policy implementation of community-led training programs focused on recognizing and reporting early signs of security threats. Such programs will equip community members with the skills needed to actively participate in early warning processes, ensuring that actionable intelligence reaches military commanders in real time, thereby bridging the communication gap between local residents and security personnel

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