



civilian secretariat for police service

Department:
Civilian Secretariat for Police Service
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

REPORT ON SAFETY AUDITS CONDUCTED IN THE WESTERN CAPE, EASTERN CAPE AND LIMPOPO

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ACRONYMS

CBO - Community Based Organisations

CJCP - Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention

CJS - Criminal Justice System

CPF - Community Police Forum

CSA - Community Safety Audit

CSF - Community Safety Forum

CSPS - Civilian Secretariat for Police Service

DoCS - Department of Community Safety

FAS - Feotal Alcohol Syndrome

FBO - Faith Based Organisations

GBH - Grievous Bodily Harm

GIS - Geographic Information System

GIZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

KPMG - KPMG Services (Pty) Ltd

MTSF - Medium Term Strategic Framework

NDP - National Development Plan

NGO - Non-Governmental Organisations

SANCA - South African National Council on Alcoholism

SAPS - South African Police Service

SIR - Safety Information and Research Directorate

Tik - Methamphetamine, an illegal drug usually inhaled

WCED - Western Cape Education Department

WPSS - White Paper on Safety and Security

1. INTRODUCTION

Community safety audits are designed to identify and develop responses to the daily crime threats confronting women and children in their daily lives and to use this information to improve safety services by holding government departments responsible for improving women and child safety¹. Safety audits are one mechanism which avails an opportunity for sustainable safety partnership to be shaped.

The government of South Africa, in its quest to reduce crime and violence put on its safety agenda, the implementation of the vision of the National Development Plan (NDP) and the 2016 White Paper on Safety and Security (WPSS) to ensure safer communities. The safety audit project is a target of the 2014-2019 Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF), demonstrating governments continued role in promoting the sustainable safety of communities, and is led by Civilian Secretariat for Police Service (Civilian Secretariat).

The WPSS proposes that community safety audits should be conducted annually and community safety plans should be adopted to address the unique safety needs or challenges of municipal areas. Community safety audits will provide the means for government to enhance safety in communities by allowing communities to identify causes, find solutions of crime and violence in their own communities and to identify opportunities for safer communities.

The roll out of community safety audits as laid out in the 2016 White Paper for Safety and Security should take the following posture:

- Community safety audits should be conducted in rural and urban communities.
- A methodological framework for guiding the conducting of Community Safety in South Africa should be developed.
- All key stakeholders² should be identified and play an active role in the community safety audit.
- Resources of conducting these safety audits are to be identified.
- Community safety coordinators should be identified and given community safety audit training to build capacity.
- Community safety representatives should be identified
- Community safety audits should be an ongoing process that is monitored.

¹ Department of Community Safety (2010), Gauteng Provincial Government, available: <http://www.gov.za/department-community-safety-conduct-safety-audit-walk-about-alexandra>

² Including SAPS and Local government

Community safety audits provide among others the following benefits³:

- Community safety audits enhance personal safety.
- Community safety audits provide improved safety in a community.
- Community safety audits provide for local government together with other safety stakeholders to incorporate identified solutions to address local crime and fear generators in their planning to enhance safety.
- Community safety audits provide for better design of public spaces and facilities.
- Community safety audits provide increased use of community facilities (i.e. parks, malls etc.) thus people's safety and wellbeing.
- Community safety audits provide increased business by making commercial areas safer and more attractive to people⁴.

2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study was to conduct community safety audits in 4 communities in Limpopo and Eastern Cape (2 rural police station areas and 2 urban police stations areas in each province) in order to develop a safety audit report to inform police planning.

The objective of this exercise is to provide the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation with information on community safety audits to demonstrate government's commitment in promoting safety of communities and working towards Outcome 3 Delivery Agreement.

3. METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

It was not possible for the Civilian Secretariat to conduct the actual planned community safety audits in Limpopo and Eastern Cape provinces due to unanticipated capacity constraints in the Department. In addition, the process to procure assistance for the project through service providers, as well as NGOs, was ineffective, hence the reconceptualization of the project.

The methodology of the planned community safety audit had to be re-conceptualized and a decision was taken to undertake a review of existing community safety audits conducted in South Africa, in order to determine the common areas of concern in communities, and to lay the foundation for the national community safety audits in 2018/19.

³ Anthony M, Boxall. H. Lindeman K. Anderson J.2011. Effective crime prevention interventions for implementation by local government. Australian Institute of Criminology

⁴ Ibid

The reports used in this study were obtained through online desktop research. While the online searches confirmed various safety audits having been conducted in the country, the actual reports could not be obtained online. There were four reports for Western Cape that were only available online. The Bergrivier community safety audit report was obtained from the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention (CJCP).

The Researcher then contacted the Departments of Community Safety and some NGOs in the remaining eight provinces to determine if there were audit reports that could be sourced. In Limpopo, the Sekhukune District safety audit was the only study that could be sourced, and in the Eastern Cape, just one youth safety audit in Amahlathi Local Municipality was obtained, through GIZ.

This study is thus reflective of five community safety audits in the Western Cape, namely, Manenburg, Mbekweni, Mitchells Plein, Bishop Lavis, and Bergrivier, one safety Audit in Limpopo, in the Sekhukune District, and one community safety audit in the Eastern Cape, in Amahlathi Local Municipality.

4. SAFETY AUDITS IN WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

As mentioned above, data on existing community safety audits was acquired mainly through online desktop research. In the Western Cape Province the community safety audits were conducted in the following areas:

- Manenburg;
- Mbekweni;
- Mitchells Plein;
- Bishop Lavis; and
- Bergrivier.

The audits were commissioned due to the number of serious violent crimes that were recorded in the respective areas. The findings were used to inform and augment the social crime prevention initiatives of the Department of Community Safety in the above-mentioned areas in 2009.

A qualitative methodology which involved focus group discussions and in-depth interviews was used in the study combined with desktop research, literature review and GIS mapping. The GIS mapping tool was used in order to visually represent the “hotspots” of crime (as perceived by the community) in various police sectors. Women, youth, and the elderly, students, those employed in the formal and informal sectors as well as the unemployed formed part of the samples of all community safety audits. Further in-depth interviews were conducted with community stakeholders and SAPS.

The CJCP also conducted a community safety audit in Bergvriër Local Municipality in 2014. CJCP used a qualitative methodology which involved individual interviews, focus group discussions as well as group stakeholder interviews. Desktop review of secondary sources was also used to collect data. The methodology of this study highlights the challenges and causes identified in the areas audited, and explores the recommendations that have been made with a view to emphasize serious areas of concern.

A. MANENBURG COMMUNITY SAFETY AUDIT

The Manenburg community safety audits covered all sectors of Manenburg policing precinct which include Manenberg, Klipfontein and Heideveld. Stakeholders that took part in the community safety audits of Manenburg police station included personnel from SAPS, including Station Commissioners and Sector Managers, as well as Community Police Forum (CPF) chairpersons, Proudly Manenberg, Manenberg Self Help, Local Drug Action Committee (LDAC), Tambo Village Development Forum, Surrey Estate neighbourhood Watch, Heideveld Local Action Committee, Heideveld Neighbourhood Watch, Local Drug Action Committee, Social Services, Child Welfare, SANCA, Saartjie Baartman Centre and community based organisations, as well as the general public.

Challenges and causes of crimes

The challenges identified in the audit include, robbery, assault, burglary, murder and rape were the most prominent crimes in Manenburg. The occurrence of crimes like robbery and assault has no specific time or day. Murder and rape happened mainly over weekends. The theft of metals and selling the metals to local scrap-yards was on the increase as well. All of these crimes, with the exception of rape, were committed to feed the drug habit. Criminal activity was not only confined to criminals but extended to the community members who actively bought stolen goods from young people who sell such goods. Drug usage and more specifically 'Tik' were rife in Manenburg in the period under review.

Several factors were identified as contributing to crimes and many were interrelated. As an example, unemployment was identified as resulting in idleness, and this coupled with the lack of recreational facilities and activities in the area, further resulted in youth seeking friendship and turning out to befriend gangsters. These gangsters in turn utilised drugs and alcohol to keep them occupied. As a result their drug habit led to robberies to feed the habit. According to CPF, the main causes of crime were attributed to unemployment, drug abuse, lack of recreational facilities, poverty, high school drop outs and lack of recreational facilities.

The role of the police which respondents felt was to protect the community and eradicate crime was questioned. To this end, the police had failed the community because of corruption of the police in general. There was no confidence in the police as it was alleged that they are on the payroll of the gangsters. The apathy of the community was perceived as the biggest disadvantage to sector policing. The community indicated that they did not trust the police and they didn't attend meetings. Another challenge identified by police in Manenberg was the lack of resources, and sector policing was heavily dependent on resources to succeed.

The community in the Manenberg area rated the prevalence of crime as "average to high", that the fear of crime was high, and they felt relatively unsafe in the sectors where they lived. Apparent from the findings in Manenberg was the fact that people need not have experienced crime to fear it. The effect of crime on the community is summarised as follows:

- Young males in the age group 10-30 years were described as the main perpetrators of crime in the Manenberg police area. Many of these youth have been found to be school dropouts involved in gang activity and habitual drug users. They also appeared to come from dysfunctional families and were considered to be poor. The relationship between substance abuse and crime was clear in that crime was undertaken in most cases to feed their addiction.
- Older males in this area were also involved in crimes. These older men are perceived to use younger boys to commit crimes on their behalf.
- Women of all ages were vulnerable to assault and rape. Women in this instance include girls as young as 10 to those as old as 80 years.
- Elderly people were also vulnerable in this sector as they were robbed and assaulted in their homes and on their way home from the pension pay-out points.
- Most residents felt that they had lost faith in the police and their ability to solve reported crimes. The police station was under-utilized in reporting crimes because of the perceived slow response to call outs.
- Overall, based on community perceptions, the police were barely visible. This lack of visibility led to the community questioning the ability of the police to address crime in this area.

- With reference to other crime fighting services, there was low awareness, with most services only known either by name or awareness through newspapers and word-of-mouth rather than through experience.

SAPS in Manenburg believed that sector policing was well established and effective as the focus was on crime within a targeted sector. It was apparent that some safety plans and strategies existed in the policing area to deal with safety challenges. The lack of government involvement was seen as a hindering factor, in particular, the social issues impacting crime needed to be addressed, as well as the ineffectiveness of the criminal justice system. The community did not distinguish between SAPS and the Department of Justice and required education in this regard.

Recommendations of the Manenburg safety audits

The following recommendations were made to address the safety issues in Manenberg:

- Responsible drinking project and anti-drug workshops.
- Free life skills training for youth and young children. WCED to include this as part of school programmes.
- SAPS must put considerable effort into building trust in the community and initiating discussions between the gangs in the area and the community.
- Police personnel and Sector Managers should be trained in dealing sensitively with confidential information provided by the community and ensuring anonymity.
- Community education on the role, mandate and function of SAPS, Criminal Justice System (CJS), Metro police and law enforcement in general
- Youth development programmes to be implemented.
- Youth employment through job creation in the areas.
- Structured recreational facilities in the community.
- Effective victims of crime support systems for women, elderly and children should be put in place.
- Efforts should be made to reduce unemployment and poverty in the area. Big anti-crime drives to create crime awareness were required to strengthen the fight against crime.
- A joint initiative between all government departments, namely: Health; Social services; Justice Department; and SAPS, in conjunction with the community to address the joint social roots of crime were essential.
- Each department had to be involved and as accessible and accountable to the community as SAPS is.

B. MBEKWENI COMMUNITY SAFETY AUDIT

The Mbekweni community safety audit covered all sectors of Mbekweni policing precincts, including farms. Stakeholders that took part in the community safety audits in Mbekweni police station included personnel from SAPS, as well as Station Commissioners, Sector Managers, CPF chairpersons, Ward councilors, Siphamandla Community Organisation, Mbekweni Community Health Organisation, Nonkqubela Senior Service Centre, Newton Service Centre, Lukhanyo Youth Development Organisation, Minister's Fraternity as well as the general public.

Challenges and causes of crimes

The most prevalent crimes in the Mbekweni area were murder, rape, assault GBH, robbery with aggravating circumstances, shoplifting and assault common. Most of the crimes take place over weekends.

The challenges facing SAPS were the lack of staffing, working under pressure, and the inability to do good quality investigations due to the high volumes of cases and dockets under investigation. Sick leave was highlighted as a problem impeding the implementation of sector policing at Mbekweni police station. The police station had enough vehicles but there were no police officials to drive these vehicles due to the fact that most of the officials were on sick leave.

The community lacked knowledge about the CJS. The fear of crime was high and members of the community felt unsafe in the sectors they lived. Most residents indicated that the fear of victimisation from criminals were uppermost in their minds. Women, children, men and elderly people are vulnerable to domestic violence, rape & murder respectively. Elderly people were also vulnerable in this sector as they were robbed and assaulted in their homes and on their way home from the pension pay-out points.

The main causes attributed to the crimes were drug abuse, alcohol abuse, unemployment, dysfunctional families, poor living conditions & environmental design factors like inadequate street lights and street names, and lack of proper housing. There were no recreational facilities for youth and this encouraged the youth to get involved in crime. There was also an increase in illegal shebeens, poor education, and gangsterism was rife. Cases being withdrawn by the courts are another factor that hinders the ability of the station to render services effectively.

Young males in the age group 10 - 35 years were described as the main perpetrators of crime in the Mbekweni police area. Many of these youth have been found to be school dropouts involved in gang activities and habitual drug users. The relationship between

substance abuse and crime was clear in that crime was committed in most cases to feed the drug and alcohol addiction. The residents were satisfied with police visibility in their sectors however it was indicated that it should be increased.

Recommendations of the Mbekweni safety audit

The following recommendations were made to address the safety issues in Mbekweni:

- Responsible drinking project, anti-drug workshops, and free life skills training for youth and young children should be implemented. WCED should include this as part of the school programmes.
- To improve the reporting of crime it was suggested that SAPS put considerable effort into building trust in the community and initiating discussions between the gangs in the area and the community.
- Police personnel and Sector Managers should be trained in dealing sensitively with confidential information provided by the community and insuring anonymity.
- The community should be educated on the role, mandate and function of SAPS, CJS and law enforcement.
- Youth development programmes to be implemented.
- Youth employment through job creation in the areas to be encouraged.
- Effective victims of crime support systems for women; elderly and effective and children should be put in place.
- Efforts should be made to reduce unemployment and poverty in the area.
- Big anti-crime drives to create crime awareness are required to strengthen the fight against crime.
- A joint initiative between all government departments, namely: Health; Social services; Justice Department; SAPS in conjunction with the community to firstly address the joint social roots of crime is essential.
- Each department should be involved and as accessible and accountable to the community as SAPS is.

C. MITCHELLS PLAIN COMMUNITY SAFETY AUDIT

The Mitchells Plain community safety audit covered all sectors of Mitchells Plain policing precinct which include Town Centre, Eastridge; Beacon Valley; Tafelsig; Mandalay; Lentegour; Woodlands/ Colorado Park; Westridge; Portlands and Rocklands.

Stakeholders that took part in the community safety audits included the SAPS, DoCS, Sector Managers, CPF chairpersons, Mitchells Plain Crisis Line, Beaconvale Frail Care Centre, MP Network Opposing Women Abuse, Ward Councillors, Community based organisations, as well as the general public.

Challenges and causes of crimes

The most prominent crimes in Mitchells Plain were robbery, general theft, theft of motor vehicles, theft out of motor cars, armed robbery, followed by rape and housebreaking. The core causes of crime in the Mitchells Plain areas were related to drugs. The most rapidly increasing crimes included drug abuse, street robbery, car theft, ATM robberies, hijacking, and copper/ metals theft. The perpetrators of crime were mostly gangsters. Domestic violence happened mainly over weekends when people were under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

The causes of crime in Mitchells Plain included; drug and alcohol abuse, unemployment, gangsterism, poverty, lack of respect and peer pressure. Children from dysfunctional and abused families tended to resort to crime as they got fulfillment and solace from these activities. Gangsterism was another identified cause of crime in the area. Gang grudges resulted in gang fights and youngsters were under pressure to belong to gangs. Most of the crimes were committed under the influence of drugs.

Drug merchants were the other major sources of crime in the area as they promote the habit and use young school children to dispense the drugs. Assault and robbery, which are committed by ruthless and intoxicated youths, are the most feared crimes. The presence of scrap yards in the area promoted theft of scrap metals. Metal dealers are also seen to be contributing to crime as they buy these items fully aware that they are stolen.

The entire community, due to their regular exposure to crime, have been living in constant fear, and feel unsafe in the area overall. There were a number of factors, both environmental and social, which impact and contribute to crime. These factors were prevalent in both high and low incidence areas, and because they were not addressed, the crimes escalated. Evidence of this was the manner in which all communities of Mitchells Plain concurred in unison that crime was on the increase in their respective areas. Crimes either crept in gradually in some areas or got 'out of hand' in others. The drugs and alcohol issue is twofold; people commit crime because of drug use, and people commit crime to pay for and obtain drugs.

With the exception of the Town Centre sector, the police who are supposed to be the custodians of the community are being fingered as the main protagonists in the crimes, particularly with drug merchants. This was a sad state of affairs considering that the community has placed their hope on the police in the fight against crime. It was therefore paramount to address and correct the relations between the police and the communities. The efforts that the police claimed to have put for the benefit of society had not made any real impact on the communities. Serious concerted efforts between the community, SAPS and other crime fighting organisations to pool their resources are necessary to fight crime in this area.

Recommendations of the Mitchells Plain Safety Audit

The following recommendations were provided to address the safety issues in Mitchells Plain:

- Greater police presence and more security personnel guarding the car park and other dark areas of the CBD were required.
- More lighting was another measure proposed.
- The introduction of the drug squad to eliminate drug houses and merchants and government interventions were also requested.
- To improve the reporting of crime it was suggested that SAPS put considerable effort into building trust in the community and initiating discussions between the gangs in the area and the communities.
- Police personnel to be trained in dealing sensitively with confidential information provided by the community and insuring anonymity.
- All role players need to work together and understand that sector policing requires teamwork and all law enforcement agencies and government departments need to be engaged and skilled to understand this concept and make it a success.
- The community to be educated on the role, mandate and function of SAPS, CJS, Metro police and law enforcement.
- Given the relationship between crime and substance abuse and youth, recommendations in this regard include the responsible drinking project, anti-drug workshops and free life skills training for youth and young children, youth employment through job creation in the areas, and structured recreational facilities in the community.

D. BISHOP LAVIS COMMUNITY SAFETY AUDIT

The Bishop Lavis safety audit covered all sectors of Bishop Lavis police station, which include Bonteheuwel North, Bonteheuwel North, Bishop Lavis, Montana and Kalksteen. Stakeholders that took part in the community safety audits included the SAPS, DoCS, Sector Managers, CPF chairpersons, Evelyn du Pleez, Nerina Place, Women Against Abuse, Ward Councillors and community based organisations as well as the general public.

Challenges and causes of crimes

The most prevalent crimes in Bishop Lavis were murder, attempted murder, shoplifting, assaults, rape, prostitution, child abuse and theft out of motor vehicles, residential housebreaking, general theft, robberies, drugs and illegal possession of firearms. In addition there was theft of “scrap metal” in the form of drain covers, pipes, door knobs, gutters and letter boxes which were apparently sold to scrap dealers operating in the area.

The main causes of crime in Bishop Lavis were poor education, unemployment, children dropping out of school, and alcohol abuse and drug usage (Tik more specifically) as Bishop Lavis had lot of drug dealers. Drug consumption is like a double-edged sword, at first drugs are consumed to help them to commit crime and thereafter they commit crime to pay for their expensive habit. The perpetrators of crimes range in age from 12–21 years and are driven by their drug habit to commit crimes. Due to the lack of facilities and the growth of illegal shebeens and drug houses, crime continues to flourish. Gangsterism was also a big contributing factor as they were continuously fighting over the drug trade. Crime in the Bishop Lavis area was primarily influenced by gangsterism which was prevalent in all four sectors. The community feared for their lives and refused to provide SAPS with testimonies which could assist them in safeguarding the community from gangsters.

Certain areas within Bishop Lavis did not have electricity and lacked proper facilities to keep youth busy. The poor numbering and marking of houses made it difficult for SAPS to do their work in these areas. There was also poor knowledge in the communities about the criminal justice system. The communities had a lot of expectations from the police to address the crime situation, and ultimately did not trust the police.

Recommendations of the Bishop Lavis Safety Audit

The following recommendations were made to address the safety issues in Bishop Lavis:

- Closure of drug houses and illegal shebeens and support group for addicts who want to quit the habit.
- Introduction of the drug squad to eliminate drug houses and merchants, including other government interventions.
- Educational campaigns on crime prevention and more recreational facilities for youth and children and job creation.
- Fathers should play a leading role in the family.
- More visible policing and greater police presence in the areas.
- More security personnel guarding the car park and other dark areas of the CBD.
- To improve the reporting of crime it was suggested that SAPS put considerable effort into building trust in the community and initiating discussions between the gangs in the areas.
- Police personnel should be trained in dealing sensitively with confidential information provided by the community and insuring anonymity.
- More lighting was another measure proposed.
- Responsible drinking project to be introduced and anti-drug workshops, and free life skills training for youth and young children be implemented.
- Effective victim support for women, effective victim support for the elderly and effective victim support for children.
- Efforts should be made to reduce unemployment and poverty in the area through job creation and skills training.
- A proper mechanism or structure should be instituted where relevant provincial government departments and the City are integrated to resolve the issues in the community that impact on crime.

E. BERGRIVIER MUNICIPALITY COMMUNITY SAFETY AUDIT

Community safety audits were conducted in Bergrivier during 2014 by the CJCP, focusing on the following wards: Piketberg, Velddrif, Wittewater, Redelinghuys, Porterville, Goedverwacht, Eendekuil, Dwarskersbos, Aurora, Velddrif, Laaiplek, Dwarskersbos, Wittewater, Goedverwacht, and Genadenberg. There are five police stations within the Bergrivier Local Municipality namely, Eendekuil, Porterville, Laaiplek, Piketberg and Redelinghuys.

Stakeholders within the Bergrivier Local Municipality consisted of a combination of representatives from Bergrivier Local Municipality, the SAPS, Law enforcement, Provincial government departments including Health, Basic Education, and Social Development, as well as local Faith (FBOs) and community-based Organisations (CBO), NGO, and members from the local CPF.

Challenges and causes of crimes

In Bergrivier Local Municipality the safety problems identified included; high levels of crime and violence and feeling of unsafety, high levels of substance use and related crimes, lack of community cohesion and poor morale, high levels of child abuse and neglect, low levels of education and unemployment amongst young people, high levels of domestic violence and poor police service delivery, and lack of recreational services for young people. The use of alcohol and drugs was also shown to be a critical concern amongst youth, as they steal money or goods for their next “drug-fix.”

The stakeholders of Bergrivier Local Municipality indicated that a market for stolen goods exists within their communities and increases the risk of crimes in the area. Community members would rather buy stolen goods as it is more affordable than buying the same goods in shops at more expensive prices. Lack of job opportunities also contributed to feelings of hopelessness, school dropout and a lack of education in the community.

The main causes attributed for the crimes included; lack of parental control, supervision and monitoring, parental criminal activity and substance use, low socioeconomic status/poverty in the family, single parent households, child abuse/neglect, early school leaving, substance use and alcohol abuse, FAS (Fetal alcohol syndrome), negative peer relations, and the lack of morals and values.

Drugs were related to criminal activity in a number of different ways. Firstly, it related to the use, possession, manufacturing and distribution of substances that have the potential for abuse. Secondly, drugs were related to crimes by way of the effect that it had on the individuals who used them; it generated violence and/or resulted in other illegal activity.

In-depth discussions with key municipal stakeholders revealed that the consumption of alcohol and drugs was a key denominator in most violent and property-related crimes recorded in the municipality. Reckless driving and speeding was also associated with alcohol and drug use. Lack of respect for others, availability of drugs, abuse of alcohol in the community, including the lack of community cohesion, and the structural characteristics of the community. Lack of recreational activities for youth, lack of substance use treatment facilities, market for stolen goods, problems linked to seasonal employment, low standard of policing due to lack of resources, lack of job creation, lack of multi-agency and inter-agency cooperation. A new incidence of cruelty towards animals (maltreatment and fighting) came up as a safety issues in Bergrivier.

Furthermore, a lack of adequate policies and policy implementation, lack of training for SAPS officials (social crime prevention), an ineffective criminal justice system, lack of substance use treatment facilities, and lack of educational opportunities for youth who have completed their secondary schooling, also contributed to unsafety.

The departure point of the safety audit and plan was that there were common risk factors that exist for crime and violence, and in order to adequately address these, a safety plan needed to be located in an ecological approach; in other words one that looked at the individual, the family and the community. The main themes for the strategy were, community engagement in crime and violence prevention, improved policing, education, learning and increased employment and improvement of the child protection system. Factors that were fundamental to the success of this safety plan are collaboration, leadership accountability and intra-sectorial and communication.

Recommendations of the Bergrivier Community Safety Audit

The following recommendations were made to address the safety issues in Bergrivier:

The solutions to the identified problems included; construct a collaborative approach to promoting safety in the Bergrivier Local Municipality in order achieve a safer community for all. It is recommended that the establishment of a functional and inclusive community safety forum and other community safety consultation mechanisms in Bergrivier.

Increased knowledge on the effects of alcohol abuse, illicit substance abuse and strictly enforce liquor laws. Creating and implementing of new activities that are relevant for community cohesion and trust building. Improved learning and create employment opportunities for young people. Improving police visibility and patrolling at the hotspots specifically at the times when community members are most vulnerable.

The conducting of refresher sessions for the police on legislation such as the Domestic Violence Act (DVA) and Child Protection Act was recommended. Reviewing of roles and responsibilities between SAPS and social workers and where they overlap to clearly define the role of each was another recommendation. Reducing the incidence of cruelty towards animals (maltreatment and fighting) and creating an efficient and accessible reporting mechanism for animal maltreatment was proposed.

5. SAFETY AUDITS IN EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

There was only one safety audit report obtainable for the Eastern Cape Province.

A. AMAHLATHI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY COMMUNITY SAFETY AUDIT

GIZ conducted the community safety audit in Amahlathi Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape Province, with a particular focus on the youth. A qualitative methodology was used to conduct the youth safety audits in Amahlathi. The instruments that were utilised are social mapping, risk and protective factor analysis, transect walking and focus group discussions.

A youth-friendly research design and youth concern assessment was developed, which the youth in Amahlathi implemented in three cluster areas of the municipality. Through training sessions and mentoring, the youth representatives were supported in implementing the assessments and analysing and documenting the results. A second training was conducted to build the capacity of facilitators so that each cluster area had three days to spend carrying out the actual research.

Over a period of eight months, this project explored in detail the community safety and youth concerns of young people, within three clusters in Amahlathi Local Municipality. By focusing on ensuring youth leadership and ownership throughout the intervention, the project centred on capacitating youth council members of the municipality on public participation and community safety planning, and training the members on analytical tools in community safety and youth concerns assessments and planning of prevention measures, enabling them to implement community safety and youth concern assessments, design prevention measures and document the results for their own neighbourhoods in the three cluster areas of Amahlathi Local Municipality.

The audit was conducted in three clusters; King Kei, Keiskammahoek, and Stutterheim in Amahlathi Local Municipality. Stakeholders who took part included the SAPS, Churches, Amahlathi Local Municipality, Taxi Associations, Department of Social Development, Love Life, Consultant, Restless, and Development South Africa.

Challenges and causes of crimes

Both assault common and assault GBH, is the most prevalent form of contact crime in the Amahlathi area, comprising nearly three quarters of all contact crimes. Sexual crime is the next most prevalent form of contact crime accounting for over 13% of all contact crimes. Rape, house breaking and theft, robbery and murder were identified as the other prevalent and serious crimes. The most significant form of property crime is burglary at residential premises with 590 cases being reported.

Crimes varying from rape, assault GBH and murder are committed in dark areas where either there is no street lighting or in the bushy areas. Derelict buildings are a particular problem. Alcohol and drug abuse are attributed to unemployment, lack of opportunities and the absence of entertainment centers in town both for adults and children. A high number of alcohol outlets in the area, drugs and alcohol abuse, lack of sports facilities and absence of crime awareness raising campaigns were raised as issues of concern.

Recommendations of Community Safety Audits

Some of the recommendations arising out of the safety audit include the following:

- There should be skills development programmes that provide certificates as qualification documents to ease the process of getting jobs.
- Sports fields should be created and maintained for extra activities.
- Opportunities for youth within the local economy should be explored.
- Building a more resilient educational system.
- Enhancing political and civic participation and strengthening social crime prevention and risk reduction programmes.
- Community members should put their political differences aside and focus on the community needs.
- The youth and general community members should be united and work together.
- The youth should form their own structure which can be formed by two members from each village (male and female), who will take part in meetings that affect the ward and its needs.
- Community structures should not be made up of just old people, but should also include young people

6. SAFETY AUDITS IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE

There was only one safety audit obtainable for the Limpopo Province.

A. SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY AUDIT

The community safety audit in Limpopo province was conducted by the CSF district board members. Safety audits are normally updated each quarter after SAPS have presented on the crime overview and the different door to door campaigns results conducted by CSF members during the extended district CSF meetings in the Sekhukhune District.

Community safety audits were conducted in Sekhukhune District focusing on the the following municipal areas; Tshehlwaneng, Mashamothana, Jane Furse, Secondary Schools, BGF, Jane Furse, Schoonoord, Marble Hall, Groblersdal, Apel, Ga-Moretsele, Ga-Masha, Phase 4, Schoonoord Ga-Mogashoa, Riba Cross, Ga-Mashamuthana, Ga-Mogashoa, RDP Jane Furse, Ga-Mashamuthana, Dihlabaneng, Leeufontein, Schoonoord, Riba Cross, and Ga-Manyaka.

Stakeholders who took part in the Sekhukhune district community safety audit included the Department of Transport and Community Safety together with all relevant stakeholders.

Challenges and causes of crimes

The problems identified in Sekhukhune District include house and business robbery, public nuisance, high accidents, car hijackings, fatalities including road injuries and murder.

The main causes of these crimes in Sekhukhune District are as a result of substance abuse, drug abuse (nyaope), illegal liquor outlets, illegal gambling (dice and fafi), illegal speed bumps, high car accidents, domestic violence, fatalities including road injuries, the lack of proper roads and signage.

Recommendations of Community Safety Audits

The recommendations provided for the identified problems include holding of izimbizos, oral education, sites visits, visible policing, police night patrols, police raids, implementation of school patrols, door to door awareness campaigns, points men on duty services, community education and meetings.

7. CONCLUSION

A community safety audit and plan need to be located in an ecological approach; one that looks at the individual, the family and the community, and the factors that are fundamental

to the success of the safety plan are collaboration, leadership accountability and intra-sectorial communication and collaboration⁵.

Traditionally, police were held responsible for addressing a wide array of social problems that affect public safety, and tasked with both understanding the social conditions that give rise to them and meeting the legal requirements for responding to them. According to the 2016 White Paper on Safety, promoting safety is a whole of society and whole of government approach. It is a role for local municipalities in particular, together with community participation, and critically, the role of CSFs to ensure safety promotion is local areas. Stakeholders at this level have the knowledge of the nature and extent of safety issues and are best suited to make safety a possibility in their areas. Local problems require local solutions.

Audits have a specific objective of finding out what the systemic problems are and changing behavior for long term sustainable reasons. If the audits and concomitant plans are not resulting in changing behaviors, there is no point conducting further audits. What is required is an assessment of the safety plans and interventions to determine the impact of the interventions, and then make a decision on an alternative desired outcome.

The findings of the seven safety audits have a common thread running across each. Same crime types, similar causes of crimes, and the same types of interventions. The extent of the successes of these interventions requires further exploration.

The findings of the audit demonstrate that a whole range of different entities conduct safety audits. In Limpopo, it is heartening to see CSFs involved in safety audits. For the future, the model of the Limpopo safety audit process must be explored and duplicated in other provinces.

⁵ Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention Safety Audit: Bergvrievier Local Municipality. 2014.

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