

# The Role of Security Sector Reforms (SSR) in Sustainable Human Security

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## Abstract

This article examines the role of Security Sector Reforms (SSR) in sustainable human security. The overarching question that the paper proffers is to what extent and in what design could SSR securitize human security? SSR addresses security problems and attempts to improve the situation through institutional reforms given the centrality of security and peace as the purview of public good. SSR is aimed at creating a secure environment that is conducive to development, poverty reduction, and democracy. The OECD thesis rests on two pillars, which inform the paper's objectives. First, is the ability of the state, through its development policy and programmes, to generate conditions that mitigate the vulnerabilities to which its people are exposed, and secondly, the ability of the state to use the range of policy instruments at its disposal to prevent or address security threats that affect society's wellbeing. The article shall deploy the C-H model of Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler in situating SSR in sustainable human security. This shall further be buttressed by Jürgen Habermas's concept of positive peace vis-à-vis negative peace. The study purposively sampled 60 respondents representing households in Nairobi City County. It concludes tentatively that the lower the risks or threats to human life, the better the security. In lieu of conclusion, the paper recommends periodic evaluation and capacity enhancement of the holistic security architecture in sync with the ever-changing satisfaction of human needs.

**Key Words:** *Security Sector Reforms; Human Security; Securitization; CH Model; Positive Peace*

## Introduction

The state system remains an enduring entity that shoulders citizen security. Consequently, order becomes a fundamental requisite of the state system. As postulated by social contract theorists, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean Jacques Rousseau in their treaties, anarchy is ever present in the state system. As such any challenge to state security becomes at once a risk (McCartney and Parent, 2015). A lot of literature has endeavored to shortlist risks to security yet scanty prescriptions have been offered in an attempt to mitigate such risks.

Globally, governments have the primary mandate to protect their citizens from any forms of existential threats arising internally or externally. This is grounded on the fact that security is a critical pillar of statehood. Despite this constitutional commitment, the global security index remains worrying, with governments forced to integrate both soft security and hard security interventions. According to the Institute for Economic Peace Report (2022), the average level of peacefulness and global security deteriorated by 0.3% compared to 2021. The report also referred to Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, Russia, South Sudan that, have remained hard hit by insecurity, vulnerabilities, and political instability, and other forms of human insecurity despite international interventions. The report noted that global insecurities have constrained development efforts across the globe.

The increasing rates of global insecurity are largely attributed to several factors including the rise in social cleavages, unprofessional conduct and activities in the public service, and increasing vulnerabilities that individuals are exposed to. Increasing trends of insecurity, the changing nature of security needs as well as the emerging realities of globalization culminated in the advocacy for reforms in the security sector as a strategy to mitigate society cleavages and vulnerabilities that individuals are exposed to. Further, these dynamisms in security needs called for the urgency and necessity to shift the security approach from national security to human security (Homel and Masson, 2016).

This paper deploys insights into security sector reforms that guarantee the reduction of security risks and enhancing state survival. The main argument is that states, continue to be bedeviled by security risks that from time to time

require adjustment, modification, and re-strategizing its security apparatus. It is evident that states in the global south specifically Africa, hosts weaker, fragile, and failed states. Yet these states continue to survive despite their status but with spontaneous consequences to their region and economic blocks.

A lot of arguments and counterarguments characterize the idea of security sector reforms. In his view (Max Weber, 1978) argued that the state is a political organization, wielding exclusive coercive power over a large area and group of people, which power it uses to tax, maintain internal order, make war, peacefully engage other states, deliver social services and protect property rights. The state's ability to lay claim legitimately over means of violence and be able to assert its defense within a given territory sets the nation-state as distinct from other forms of political organizations that it subjugated and subdued after the 1948 treaty of Westphalia.

Homel and Masson (2016) argue that, the state enjoys a mandate derived from the sovereign to maintain security over all citizens, monitor migration, and preserve its territorial spheres of influence against external aggression. The colonial political economy constructed boundaries that defined most countries in the third world and bequeathed on them institutions of government that were intended to superintend the state. Whereas the institutions were critical in the organization of the state, both internal and external realities necessitated a dynamic security set up, which could be compatible with internal needs and external concerns. A hybrid security system would thus emerge incorporating both indigenous and exogenous modern security policies (Homel and Masson, 2016).

Security as viewed by Buzzan (1991), would entail the pursuit of freedom from threat internally, while externally it implies the ability of states and societies to maintain their independent identity and their functional integrity. Consequently, the international system was viewed by realists as brutal and each state would be keen to achieve its own security at the expense of their neighbors.

Mearsheimer (2001), correctly predicted that the end of the cold war would significantly alter the power polarity within and among states. The return of

balance of power, ethnic rivalries, and extreme nationalism would usher great instability. State security has therefore shifted to human security as espoused by societal security. Liberal institutionalists observe that in a world constrained by state power and competing national interests, international institutions are unlikely to eliminate war among states but could construct an environment of cooperation.

## **Theoretical Framework and Literature**

This research article integrates Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler's C-H model with Jurgen Habermas' positive peace vis-a- negative peace to conceptualize the connection between security sector reforms and human security. These conceptual frameworks and models were chosen because they complement each other and show how security sector reforms link to social and domestic political transition, notably democracy, hence reducing individual and societal conflict vulnerability. The models assume that security sector changes promote human development.

In their C-H model, Collier and Hoeffler (2002), argue that modern conflicts and wars are driven by greed and grievances. Economic possibilities and agendas are more likely to produce societal conflicts or wars than group and social complaints. Failure of the state to accomplish its economic objectives and provide more job possibilities creates a conducive climate for coups and countercoups as well as violent organizations that threaten well-being and peaceful coexistence (Collier and Hoeffler, 2002).

The C-H model argues that global conflicts have political and economic underpinnings. The model shows that governmental failure to address local complaints, such as poverty reduction, job creation, and active engagement in economic activity, may foster social unrest. Collier and Hoeffler (2002), say Africa's low GDP per capita and high poverty index cause most civil conflicts. Low GDP per capita implies low revolt opportunity costs, fomenting civil conflicts. Poverty reduction and public empowerment diminish government complaints, according to Collier and Hoeffler's approach. Based on this assumption, Collier

and Hoeffler view a state's capacity to eliminate poverty and generate jobs as a medium-sized conflict prevention method. Collier and Hoeffler (2002), advise emphasis on development as part of the model's policy implications.

The C-H model applies to this research because it links sustainable human security with democratic security goals. Efficient bureaucracy, excellent institutions, government stability, democratic accountability and openness, and low corruption prevent civil wars and conflicts, according to Collier and Hoeffler's model. Strong institutions may reduce the detrimental consequences of ethnic diversity on economic development, according to Easterly (2000). Easterly (2000), says excellent institutions may facilitate peaceful dispute resolution, minimizing societal fractionalization. Corruption-prone countries are more susceptible to human insecurity, the model shows. The model shows that democracy is superior at preventing conflict because it allows people to voice their concerns to the government and find agreeable solutions. Adopting democratic values that include feedback mechanisms enhances military-civil ties and reduces conflicts. The model says complaints cause conflicts, which cause more grievances.

The C-H model cites natural resource reliance, corruption, poor institutions, high poverty index, and sluggish development as factors fueling African conflicts and increasing human insecurity. According to Collier and Hoeffler's (2002) model, dependency on natural resources may enhance government corruption, fund rebels, increase vulnerability to shocks, and fund violent organizations. Stable economies with strong institutions and large GDP are more likely to meet human security objectives, such as peaceful cohabitation. This is because these economies can solve mounting frustrations that leave residents prone to crime. Stable economies effectively resolve societal cleavages such as ethnicity and racism, hence fostering the country's growth. Barry Buzan's view of security is multifaceted and needs holistic frameworks. Individual, state, and international security are interconnected, according to Buzan. In his perspective, tackling current security concerns require identifying insecurity's core causes. Buzan identifies economic, social, political, and environmental security. He argues that social weaknesses, particularly the state's inability to develop, create conflict and underdevelopment (Buzan et al., 2003).

Barry Buzan posits that the state may be an agent of underdevelopment if it participates in activities that contradict individual and group interests, formulates elite-based laws, and battles over power. Barry Buzan's analysis identified dangers to human security as insufficient or excessive law enforcement, ethnic division, state marginalization, extreme poverty, unemployment, and failure to respect human rights. Buzan concludes that security is complicated and needs diverse methods. He advises the state improve its ability to respond appropriately to changing security demands to decrease residents' criminal vulnerability (Buzan, 1991; Buzan et al., 2003).

Positive vs. negative peace bolsters the state's role in implementing security sector changes that fulfill human security demands. Positive peace means addressing, mitigating, and transforming cultural and structural violence. Positive peace theorists argue that nations must build defenses against structural and cultural violence. In doing so, the state will establish an accommodating and supportive climate for growth, reducing economic vulnerability to crime. Ethnicity, unlawful cultural ideas, and economic marginalization and inequality drive crime (Buzan, 1991).

## **Conceptualising Security Sector Reforms and Human security**

The increase in global insecurities, the globalization of threats to human security such as HIV/AIDS, global terrorism, nuclear proliferation, environmental problems, global poverty, and pollution, and the evolving and dynamic nature of contemporary security needs have prompted discussions on the need for security sector reforms that are in sync with ever-changing human needs. This required shifting from state to human security. Human security acquired policy relevance, domination, and significance after the cold war and prevailing security and development narratives (Cloutier et al., 2016).

Security sector changes redefine and widen the conventional idea of security, which emphasized safeguarding state interests from foreign and domestic threats and governing regimes. National security centered on state stability and regime security, not the general well-being of the governed (William, 2005). Security

sector reforms involve setting security frameworks that respond effectively and efficiently to new global challenges and opportunities posed by demands for an effective development donor role in post-conflict reconstruction, conflict prevention, and anti-terrorism as part of efforts to create a security sector that fosters human development, diversifies the economy, and reduces the global poverty index (DFID, 2008). Reforms suggest redefining and transforming security actors, their responsibilities and mandates, and actions to make security systems more democratic, transparent, and accountable and match the evolving requirements of the global population. The changes aim to create a favorable working environment in the security sector by embracing professionalism, enhancing oversight duties, and boosting citizens' contacts and control of security services (Cloutier et al., 2016).

The reforms involve understanding that localities and people have varied security demands and strengthening the state's ability to provide them. Existential threats to national security, such as ethnicity in the security sector, corruption and misuse of money, unprofessional behaviour, and bad public relations must be overcome. The approach involves improving the security system's professional standards and establishing an effective work environment and people-centric security system (Skeppström et al., 2015).

The move from state security to human security was heavily influenced by the complexity and interdependence of security and development, as well as new security challenges like as health dynamics, people trafficking, and climate change. Human security is preventative and person-centered and reduces security risks. This security paradigm includes economic, health, food, environment, personal, political, and communal security (Blatz, 2016).

Human security includes freedom from crime and violence, protection against human rights abuses, income sustainability, freedom from deliberate sickness and illnesses, and enhanced human habitation. This security protects human rights and the economy. The human security paradigm moves security from a state-centric emphasis to the person and shared values. The security approach believes security to be the well-being, safety, and dignity of humanity and implies a secure state cannot exist with an unsafe populace (Oberleitner, 2004).

Human security is people-centered and advocates for people's empowerment, in contrast to the old definition of security, which valued state sovereignty (Blatz, 2016). By empowering the public via education and immersing them in national issues, they can deal with security risks like abject poverty and hunger (Martin and Owen, 2014). This reduces the risk of individuals joining terror organizations or committing organized crime.

This paper establishes linkages between security sector reforms and human security. The Security Sector Reforms advocacy for beneficial institutional reforms, including depoliticization of security, security nationalization, and greater professionalism, offers the platform for achieving human security goals (Blatz, 2016). A safe society depends on the state's ability to adopt programs and policies that alleviate individual vulnerabilities and societal cleavages. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (2005), a society free from fear and hunger depends on the state's capacity to reduce, avert, or resolve existential risks to people's well-being. Human security equates security with people rather than regions, with development rather than weaponry, and tries to cope with security concerns via a new paradigm of sustainable human development.

## **Study Methodology**

This study relied on household interviews as primary sources of data collection. It depended upon desktop research techniques including a review of published academic journals and books as secondary sources that served to augment findings obtained through primary sources. The target population for this study included residents of Nairobi city and security actors including local administrators and police service. The cumulative sample size for this study was 60 households purposively sampled. The sampled population constituted individuals with in-depth knowledge of the interplay between security sector reforms and sustainable human security. The household surveys were conducted through face-to-face interviews and respondents were interrogated using structured questionnaire. The collected data was processed and analyzed in order to generate key findings of the study.



## Discussions and analysis of findings

### The Role of Security Sector Reforms in Human Security

The nexus between security sector reforms and human security and development has been conceptualized to lie within the policy agenda that is covered by the security sector reforms. According to William (2005), the reforms address the fundamental challenges that instigate insecurity in different ways. Firstly, the reforms focus on establishing accountable and professional civil authorities with the potential to address social cleavages. Secondly, the reforms strengthen the security institutions hence insulating them against both internal and external variables that may make them less responsive. Thirdly, the security sector reforms aim to embrace people's participation in the security process and formulation of policy and institutional frameworks that integrate development and security by providing the necessary environment that harbors human development. This is generally premised on the fact that the nature of security that a country wields or possesses can undermine or contribute to development, democracy and peace because of the intricate linkages among them.

Weigand (2013), carried out a study on the role of security sector reforms in nation-building with a specific case analysis of Afghanistan. The study findings reveal that security sector reforms contribute to nation-building by establishing the necessary frameworks for development to take place. According to the study findings, democratizing the security sector legitimizes the security civil service hence harboring state stability. The study findings highlight that the traditional approach to security that was state-centric and laid emphasis on regime stability may have a delegitimizing effect hence destabilizing the state especially when the security apparatus opt to protect institutions that are not embedded in the society. The study findings conclude by postulating that security sector reforms portend to support endogenous and exogenous processes of building legitimate institutions and also creating the necessary incentives for national development. The study findings, therefore, corroborate the position of the United Nations Development Program that views security as a condition for development.

It is evident that effective security sector reforms contribute to human security through the creation of a favorable, safe, and democratic society that is critical

for the state-building process. This is informed by the fact that the reforms are geared toward the political, economic, and social transformation of the security sector to reflect the dynamic security needs of society. This finding conforms with the findings by Jonyo and Buchere (2011), who view the institutional or security sector reforms within the police service in Kenya as a significant step toward enhancing human security in Kenya. The study identified critical issues within the police service that required drastic reforms to constitute politicization of the police service, ethnicization of the service, police brutality, lack of trust in the police service, corruption, and mismanagement of public funds among others (Blatz, 2016).

Further, the study findings noted that to address the growing human insecurities and other forms of police problems, the security system approach must focus on pertinent areas including the issues dealing with the demographic composition of the police service in terms of gender and ethnic representation, increased police oversight that enhances police accountability and transparency and oversight, creation of a civilian oversight agency, the introduction of community policing program and introduction of a professional system of labor relations. Given the multi-ethnic nature of Kenya, ethnic and regional diversity embraces security cohesion and integration within the police service hence providing the necessary framework for development to take place.

Study findings by Jonyo and Buchere (2011), note that security sector reforms are very critical pillars of human security based on the fact that it provides the necessary framework for creating responsible and accountable civil service hence providing security for the citizenry effectively, reducing the risk of conflict and create a favorable environment for sustainable. Security sector reforms, therefore, provide the requisite institutional and policy adjustments that are central to the achievement of sustainable development goal number 16 which is geared towards creating a sustainable and secure society. Tartarini (2015), argue that post-election violence that took place following the disputed 2007 elections was largely fueled by the politicization and ethnicization of the country's security sector. Politicization and ethnicization breed social cleavages which hinder the development potential of the country hence leading to human insecurities.

Security sector reforms securitize human security. This is informed by the fact that the sector reforms emphasize development policy and institutional frameworks that generate viable conditions necessary for mitigating the vulnerabilities that make individuals susceptible to engaging in crime. The major vulnerabilities or factors facilitating insecurity are constituted of human security indicators including high poverty index, high rates of unemployment, lack of economic development, ethnicity, unprofessional conduct of the civil service, and the poor distribution of resources. Security sector reforms address these human security problems through their attempts to nationalize and professionalize the police service to make the service more responsive to the changing security needs of the population.

## Case Illustrations of Security Sector Architecture

### *Ghana*

The role of security sector reforms on human security is exemplified in a case analysis of Ghana. According to study findings, Ghana currently stands out as among the examples of demilitarized, professional, and democratized security service despite having a historical experience of a security service that was less responsive to the changing security needs of the Ghanaians, suffered legitimacy crisis, and a strong sense of unprofessionalism (Black, 2016). This is exemplified in the propensity of coups and counter coups and other forms of violent conflicts that Ghana experienced in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Despite these security challenges that threatened to impoverish and break Ghana apart, Ghana's civil service continues to undergo lots of transformations that reflect the expansive goals and objectives of security sector reforms (Ansorg, 2017).

The security sector reforms' aspects that exemplify positive transformation of Ghana's security system include the restoration and inculcation of discipline and command among security actors, delinking of security actors from popular movements including politics, increased public participation of security stakeholders, improved civil-military relations and improved civil control of the security institutions (Ansorg, 2017). The spillover effects of these drastic transformations have been significant reductions in military expenditure. Upon the imposition of the security sector reforms, military expenditure regressed from

\$57million to \$56 million in the period between 1998 and 1999, and political stability was restored hence providing the necessary platform for development initiatives including foreign investments to spur. Blatz (2016), notes that, the government was therefore able to divert the security resources to other sectors of the economy with the potential to enhance human security such as the healthcare sector and even the education sector.

### *Nigeria*

Uzuegbu-Wilson (2019), assessed the implication of security sector reforms on development using a case analysis of Nigeria. The study findings highlighted that upon receiving political independence, insecurity remains a major bottleneck to Nigerian economic take-off. The insecurity is intricately linked to the vulnerabilities that constitute Nigeria and the governance deficits that define the Nigerian security system or apparatus. The security sector reforms, largely implemented by President Obasanjo constituted the creation of an independent body called the “Oputa Panel” and a Human Rights Commission to oversight the security apparatus, review the civil-military relations, nationalizing the police service, formulation of the national defense policy of 2006, enforcement of legislative oversight on security budgets and organizing training programs for the security actors.

The study highlights the reforms have to some extent addressed security challenges in Nigeria including the propensity of coups and counter coups and other forms of crime. While recognizing that contemporarily Nigeria suffers from the York of Boko Haram, it recommends that the security apparatus should refocus on reducing the vulnerabilities that expose individuals to radicalization (Ogbozor, 2016). Therefore, the research paper avers that security sector reforms have to some extent stabilized Nigeria hence providing the necessary platforms for development to take place

### *Kenya's SSR Architecture*

The need to undertake SSR in Kenya has been hanging for some time. It got intensified after the post-election crisis in which the security actors came into sharp focus. The question of human rights violations, extra-judicial killings, and lack of

respect for the rule of law was also raised by civil society, religious organizations, and the media. The foundation of SSR in Kenya was connected to the issue of transitional justice and constitutional change. These were to be carried out as guided by Agenda IV of the Agreement on the Principles of Partnership of the Coalition Government (referred to as the National Accord) (Gok, Commission Report, 2008).

Agenda IV highlights the long-term focus of the coalition government in enacting a new, democratic constitution, and reforming state institutions, including the security sector and criminal justice institutions. The spirit of SSR in Kenya thus was predicated on bringing security agencies under civilian oversight and aligning the functionality within the internationally accepted norms. The observation was quite clear in the Commission of Inquiry into the Post-Election Violence (CIPEV) report which noted that most security actors in Kenya abandoned professionalism in discharging their duties and were openly biased. Some were actively involved in perpetrating criminal acts (GoK, Commission Report, 2008).

CIPEV also decried the lack of national security policy in Kenya, where there was no joint planning, cooperation, and coordination (GoK, Commission Report, 2008). Kenya has also put in place a relatively extensive SSR targeting the police. This was established under the government's Economic Recovery and Wealth Creation Strategy (2003), guided by the National Task Force on Police Reforms. The outcome expectations of these reforms were to transform the Kenya police into an effective, efficient, human rights compliant, people-oriented and accountable institution.

In Kenya, as part of the government's attempt to democratize the security service implemented its community policing program famously known as the “*Nyumba Kumi*” (Ten Households) initiative. The initiative that adopts a bottom-up approach in security management has helped better the relationship between security agencies and the citizenry. The Nyumba Kumi initiative harbors public participation in security matters hence fulfilling the goals of the human security dimension of political security (Black, 2016).

Security sector reforms are critical enablers to economic development and human security because they advocate for optimal budgetary allocations that are properly utilized hence creating opportunities for the remaining or free resources to be utilized to spur social investments and financing of poverty reduction initiatives.

The United Nations Development Program considers security sector reforms as integral to sustaining peace and preventing conflicts that serve as bottlenecks to development. The UNDP considers the reforms as both preventive and a long-term strategy for the realization of its agenda on international peace and stability. The report highlights that when security sectors including the police service and the military are unprofessional in their conduct or perform poorly, they lose social trust which is an important ingredient for sustained well-being and prosperity of the population. It argues that states that still integrate the traditional approach to security that emphasized regime stability rather than individual stability encourage predatory environments that impoverish the vulnerable, enhance repression and favoritism, and other forms of human rights violation. While putting cognizant of conflict-prone areas, the report highlights that security sector reforms create a viable environment for socioeconomic and political growth (GoK, Commission Report, 2008). The SSR debate in Kenya has tended to be characterized by the balance between human rights and the judicial process. Questions of how the rights of criminals should be managed and giving the citizens a feeling of action continue to be a challenge.

In Kenya, the transformative security sector reforms that the country has undertaken have remained significant in securitizing human security. Based on the foundational basis that security sector reforms are incentives to human development, the government has initiated a range of programs aimed at making the police service more professional, accountable, and accountable, enhancing civil security control, and improving civilian-security relations (Hope, 2018). To achieve these objectives, the government created a police oversight body called the Independent Police Oversight Authority that monitors and oversees the conduct of the security actors and undertakes necessary actions in cases where human rights violations including police brutality are evident. Essentially, the government implemented the Nyumba Kumi Initiative, decentralization of police

actors, increased capacity-building programs, and increased concerted attempts to nationalize the police service among other reforms (Egesa, 2017).

The reforms were largely initiated as a response to the 2011 East African Bribery Index Report that highlighted security actors including the police service as among the most corrupt institutions globally and noted that the police index of corruption increased from 77.7% in 2011 to 80% in 2012. The report findings were corroborated by findings from the World Bank (2011), that ranked Kenya as a top corrupt institution and accused the police service of police brutality, impunity, and absolute disregard for human rights. Whereas the reforms have not been effective, they continue to serve as legal frameworks for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of Kenya's security sector. Good security sector reforms have the potential to reduce government spending in the security sector hence similar funds could be invested in other social programs. This is informed by the fact that effective sector reforms reduce social unrest arising from mass deprivations and the persistence of social cleavages. It is imperative to note that in economies in which a lot of funds are allocated to the security sector, the welfare benefits of the civilians will be distorted hence hindering the realization of human security goals within the civilian economy (Egesa, 2017).

As highlighted by Jonyo and Buchere (2011), security threats that impede a state's development are a direct function of state failure and the internal vulnerabilities of the states including marginalization, ethnic polarization, militarized ethnic formations, and weak economic bases among others. Ideally, these vulnerabilities make the masses susceptible to engaging in crime hence making it futile to spur development. The vulnerabilities provide necessary justifications for local grievances and complaints which serve as potential sources for crime and other forms of insecurity such as global terrorism (Hope, 2018). To address these pertinent existential security threats, it is necessary to strengthen the security institutions to make them responsive to the security demands and ensure the institution reflects a national outlook, democratizes the security sector and embraces public participation in security activities, and fosters social integration within the police service. These will help reduce the vulnerabilities hence reducing the vulnerabilities for organized crimes and the formation of groupings that threaten national and regional security.

## Security Sector reforms in Kenya

From the study conducted the respondents were aware of Kenya's security sector changes. They cited the Independent Oversight Authority, the Nyumba Kumi Initiative, concerted efforts to nationalize the security agencies, setting the necessary frameworks for promotions and demotions in the security sector, intensifying training programs and exchange programs to embrace professionalism in the police service, and increased public participation. Although these measures improve the country's security architecture, Nairobi still confronts existential challenges to local security. Sedra (2010) smuggling, murder, terrorism, and other criminality as major security challenges. Respondents ascribed rising insecurity to the government's inability to undertake security sector reforms.

The study found that lack of employment opportunities, a high poverty index, low standards of living, poor police-civil relations, irresponsive governance, security actors' brutality and unprofessional conduct, exclusion, isolation and insularity, government repression, institutional marginalization, weak security agencies, imbalances in security provision, and a lack of transparency and accountability in police resource management. Economic determinants, such as unemployment and poverty, render local communities prone to behaviors that restrict human security requirements, such as crime (Sedra, 2010). These factors make young people more likely to join militias to earn a living (Newton, 2018). Respondents noted that a stable economy with higher living standards deters crime and fosters progress. Respondents from slums like Kibera linked insecurity to living standards. Slum dwellers feel disenfranchised and alienated in governance and economic possibilities distribution, and they consider crime an alternative to better livelihood and an act of retribution against the government.

Unprofessional behavior of security services as a barrier to achieving human development goals such as peace, stability, and poverty reduction. Respondents identified corruption, bad police-community ties, and police violence as risk factors for peaceful coexistence. These misconducts persist due to limitations in security sector reform implementation. These findings reinforce what Chêne (2009) describes as first level of police corruption which involves acts bribery in the I the streets whereby police officers use their power to obtain money or sexual



favours from members of the public in exchange for not reporting illegal activities or expediting bureaucratic procedures (Blatz, 2016; Hope, 2018).

Respondents agreed that security sector changes and human security requirements are linked. They noted that “the smaller the danger to human life, the greater the security,” but said the government’s capacity to solve institutional, economic, and social gaps is key to building a peaceful society. These findings resonate with Oberleitner’s arguments that security is the well-being, safety, and dignity of humanity. A secure state cannot exist with an unsafe populace (Oberleitner, 2004). Respondents recognized that a people-centered security system that respects human dignity, freedom from hunger, and equal opportunity for all populations to enjoy their political, social, and economic rights is vital to accomplishing human security objectives. The Nyumba Kumi Initiative is a preventative security sector reform to boost local security involvement. Though under-equipped, underfunded, and under-monitored, the initiative exemplifies the government’s commitment to a people-centered security system, according to one responder. Through the effort, local engagement in security problems has increased, reducing top-down leadership weaknesses.

Security reforms require embracing technology, a people-centric security system, depoliticizing security players, accepting democratic norms such as openness and accountability, and inculcating a culture of professional behaviour within the police force. The three technologies used in security are biometrics, encryption, and tokens. Biometrics is the use of a person’s physical characteristics to identify them. It uses fingerprints, facial recognition, or even voice recognition. Encryption is the process of transforming readable data into an unreadable format (Smythe, 2022). Multidimensional techniques decrease social cleavages that foster fears, according to the findings of the study.

The research found a link between Kenya’s security sector reforms and state stability. The qualitative results showed that the execution of security reforms after the 2007 post-election violence demonstrates that deficient security infrastructure nurtures political instabilities that make it difficult to meet the developmental requirements of the populace. The study remarked that security

services were prejudiced during the 2007 post-election violence, fueling the disputes an issue that Ogada (2020), discusses citing police using excessive force during elections. The study found that security actors were prejudiced, harsh, and harassed citizens, and positioned themselves as organizations concerned with protecting governments and elites, not the public. Respondents noted that the Grand Coalition Government and succeeding regimes helped enhance police professionalism and police-civilian relations, averting similar incidents in future elections.

De-ethnicizing the security sector, offering regular training to security agencies, and providing a security framework that guides leadership transition in terms of promotion and roles and responsibilities have remained central to cementing internal relations among security players and promoting state stability (Jonjo and Buchere, 2011). State stability is a major push element to growth because it offers the essential work environment for investments and company expansion, addressing security weaknesses such as poverty and unemployment. The study highlighted the institutionalization of the Police Oversight Authority and security sector commissions. While IPOA and other investigating commissions were required to fulfill Kenyans' human security demands, respondents said IPOA has not completely met its goals and responsibilities (Egesa, 2017). The IPOA legislation requires the institution to investigate unprofessional security forces, including the police, offer independent supervision and accountability, and prosecute or report to competent institutions, including the judiciary, the National Assembly, and the Executive. Respondents attributed these agencies' inefficiency to a lack of political goodwill, underfunding, and investigative actors. Inculcating a culture of professionalism in the security industry requires better supervision structures, respondents said. The research indicates that professionalism in the security sector helps prevent strikes and protests against security forces, which hinder Nairobi's progress.

While acknowledging that security sector reforms are a critical pillar of developing state systems with the ability to pursue developmental initiatives and programs, respondents posited that the government of Kenya, with a primary focus in Nairobi city, appears less capable and efficient to roll out expansive initiatives

and programs that de-incentivize local engagement in activities that inhibit localism. Respondents said the Kenyan government's *Kazi Mtaani* (Community Work) program and government-supported attachment and internship programs minimize young vulnerability to social crime.

Internal stability and realization of human security needs, are intricately linked to the state's ability to put in place necessary frameworks and develop necessary infrastructure. Strong institutions can protect security sector organizations against corruption, brutality, and politicization, the research concludes. Stronger institutions successfully manage citizen complaints and requests, minimizing existential dangers from societal cleavages, according to the research. Strong institutions may communicate security information with the public, boosting stakeholder trust.

This saw the reforms extend to the judiciary, which remained weak yet critical actor in the human security ecosystem. It went major reform in which a number of judicial officers across cadres were dismissed due to charges of corruption or misconduct. There were charges of corruption or misconduct against 5 out of 9 Appeal Court judges, 18 out of 36 High Court judges and 82 out of 254 Magistrates (US State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, 2004).

Further, efforts were made for improved remuneration of judicial staff, rehabilitation, building of courtrooms and introduction of mobile courts for efficient and faster administration of justice.

## **Challenges of SSR**

Whereas SSR remains a critical practice, there are many challenges that countries still face. Many nations keep their security apparatus secret. This separates civilians from security actors. Insufficient information makes civilian oversight of security services ineffective. This would mean fewer people-centered security groups. To add to this, SSR has competing stakeholders. Police, prosecution, and judiciary perform separate, complimentary functions. These actors utilize their

standards to handle criminal or security issues. So changes may be a struggle for who wins. (Sedra, 2010).

Integrating SSR into human rights, justice, peace, and development is difficult. One of these expectations might easily be forgotten. The media's involvement is complicated. Many security organizations dislike the free reporting preferred by the media. Many security agencies there try to avoid the media.

Poverty is high in many emerging nations. Complicates SSR. Growing urban populations without steady incomes cause much urban violence. Such organizations may compromise security.

Insufficient risk research weakens SSR. Intelligence research must be improved to select actionable data.

Egesa (2017), emphasise that low security officer pay, inadequate welfare management, and lack of equipment invite corruption. The result would be lawbreaking, collaboration in crime, inadequate investigations, and criminal protection. To add to that the Low public confidence in security services hinders citizen-agency engagement. Many nations that implemented community policing failed because residents distrust, suspect, and hate police.

A poorly thought-out national security policy may hinder coordination, planning, and operations. Interagency friction, position overlaps, rival interests, and indifference might result.

Private security is a factor. Many private security services lack defined policies, screening, or training. Despite their importance in security. Ill-trained, low compensated, and without career growth, these companies are difficult.

The international community burdens SSR. SSR in many poor nations is funded outside. Donors would want to enforce certain security management systems, operations, equipment purchases, and policy frameworks. In many situations, SSR benefits donors, not the governments adopting the changes.

## Conclusion

The paper acknowledges that security sector reforms are necessary ingredients for development. It avers that governments must fully enforce security sector reforms to reduce the vulnerabilities that expose individuals to crime. The study highlights that the reforms facilitate the establishment of a conducive environment for development to take place. This is informed by the fact that owing to the ubiquity of the police sector and the military, the security sectors can contribute to or undermine the stability of the economy and this may undermine prospects for human security. Against this backdrop, establishing a secure society characterized by reduced vulnerabilities calls for the existence of an efficient, more democratic, effective, and professional security sector. The study affirms the notion that the lower the risks or threats to human life, the better the security.

## Recommendations

- Stakeholder involvement is mandatory in the conceptualization and implementation of SSR. Security agencies have to deliberately create opportunities for feedback and adopt such in their activities.
- Governments have to make available resources that could facilitate public participation and dialogue in SSR
- A whole-of-government approach is required in which ministries, institutions, and agencies work as a team in realizing national security interests.
- Countries have to come together in harmonizing and collaborating on cross borders risks and threats to enable a common approach.
- The judiciary, executive, and legislature have to work as a unit in security management. Whereas they are independent but security reforms would demand a deliberate effort towards a unity of purpose.
- Priority would have to be given to economic security since it tends to carry the other facets of the security system. Whereas other facets are equally important, all efforts would elevate the securitization of economics to enhance capital formation and income mobilization.

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