

**EXPLORING THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF THE HIGH CRIME RATE IN THE  
ISINGIRO DISTRICT UGANDA**

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**UGANDA CHRISTIAN  
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## DECLARATION

I, Edwin Kamugisha, attest that my work is true and correct as documented in this dissertation. Except for specific citations, all of the data in this dissertation is based on my investigation, research, and conclusions.



.....  
EDWIN KAMUGISHA

Date: 5/Sept/2024  
.....

**APPROVAL**

I, Rev. Prof Andrew Omona certify that this research report has been done under my supervision and has been submitted for examination with approval as a university supervisor.

Signature.....

Date.....5/9/2024

REV. PROF ANDREW OMONA DAVID

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to all my family for their parental guidance and education they gave me, my supervisor for his guidance and directions in writing this report, and not forgetting my friends; for sharing their love and ideas during my studies.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

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## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

ACME: African Centre for Media Excellence

ACODE: Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment

CI: Criminal Investigations

CMI: Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence

ESO: External Security Organization

FDI: Foreign Direct Investment

GCIC: Global Climate Initiative Centre

ILO: International Labor Organization

ISO: Internal Security Organizations

KCCA: Kampala Capital City Authority

LC: Local Council

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

OWC: Operation Wealth Creation

SFC: Special Forces Command

SMEs: Small Medium-sized Enterprises

SPSS- Statistical Package for Social Sciences

UCU- Uganda Christian University

UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UPDF: Uganda People's Defense Force

UPE: Universal Primary Education

UPF: Uganda Police Force

USE: Universal Secondary Education

UYDEL: Uganda Youth Development Link

WB: World Bank

WHO: World Health Organization

## **ABSTRACT**

The study's goal was to investigate the causes and effects of the high crime rate in the Isingiro district. The study's goals included assessing the factors that contribute to the crime rate and its causes, examining the effects of crime rates, and proposing strategies to lower the crime rates. The study employed the use of a cross-sectional research design which involved the use of both qualitative and quantitative research approaches. The sample totaled over 35 individuals, including unemployed youth, police officers, division political leaders, the local council members. These were deliberately and randomly selected. Information was gathered via questionnaires and interview guides. Thematic content analysis was used to examine the qualitative data, and SPSS was used for statistical analysis. According to study findings, the main causes of the crime rate are unemployment, greed, and illiteracy amongst the youth. It also demonstrated that youth unemployment leads to poverty, which later encourages criminal activity as a means of income, that high unemployment rates are "push factors" for young people to join gangs and commit robberies or participate in political violence, that the lack of options for legal employment forces youth to engage in illegal activities, and that youth inaction, contributes to an increase in violent crimes. These are the key conclusions. In the end, it was determined that education, the introduction of welfare benefits specifically for unemployed youth, the participation of unemployed youth in entrepreneurial training and skills development, and the government's commitment to combating crime by launching programs like putting strict laws and punishment against crime, increase on the security in the area, improve on the communication between the police and the community members to report crime are the main ways to reduce crime and wrongdoings in Isingiro District. However, it can be inferred from the study's results that there is an increased crime in Isingiro district.

# CHAPTER ONE

## 1.1 General Introduction and Context

When we are talking about “high crime rate” we are referring to the situation where there is a significant number of criminal incidents occurring within a particular area or community. This can include crimes such as homicide, assault, robbery, burglary, theft, and various other offenses.

According to the latest 2022 annual police report, there has been a sharp rise in the number of crimes committed in the country in the year 2022 compared to the previous year. The report released on Wednesday 22-02-2023 indicated that the volume of crimes increased more than 18% in one year compared to 2021. The total number of reported cases in 2022 was 231, 653 compared to the 196,081 reported in the previous year 2021. The report notes that the increase is largely due to the rise in property-related crimes and assault cases.

## Uganda Police Annual Crime Report 2022

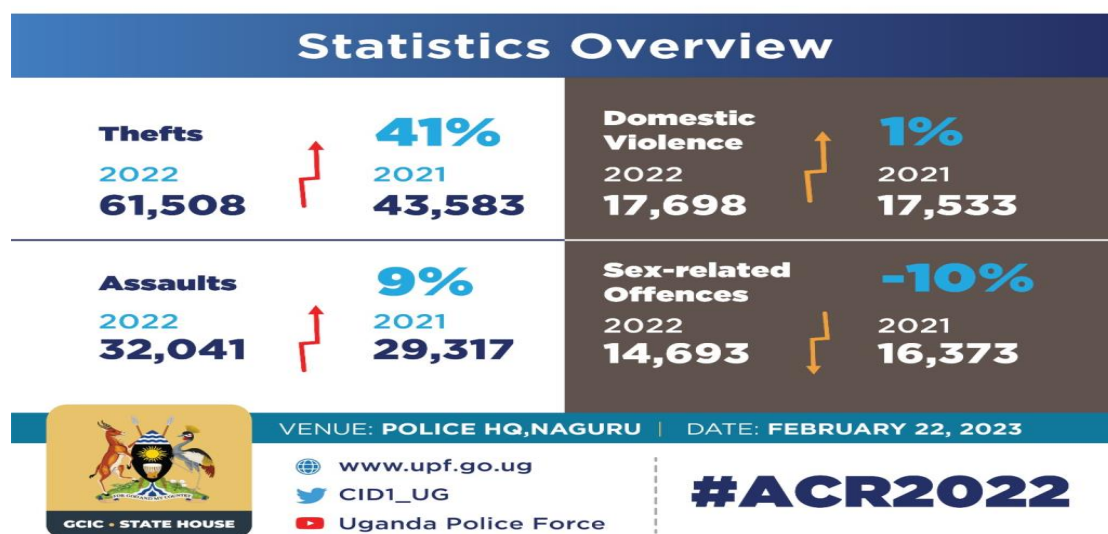


Figure 1: annual police report 2022

The high levels of poverty and unemployment in Uganda are driving people to commit crime," said police spokesperson Fred Enanga. During the weekly police reports, the easy availability of illegal guns is making it easier for criminals to commit violent crimes.

The report also found that crime is more prevalent in urban areas than in rural areas. Urban areas are more densely populated, which makes it easier

for criminals to blend in and commit crimes, said Enanga. And there are more opportunities for crime in urban areas, such as businesses and homes that are more likely to be targeted. Approximately one in three Ugandans (34%) have encountered crime in the past four years. Petty crimes such as theft (80%), and burglary, robbery, and damage to property (20%) make up the vast majority of the criminal justice problems.

According to a study by Farrington and Welsh (2005), crime can have devastating consequences on victims, leading to physical, emotional, and financial harm. Additionally, crime can erode trust in institutions and create a culture of fear, impacting the overall well-being of a community. Furthermore, the aftermath of crime often results in increased security measures and resources being diverted towards crime prevention and law enforcement, diverting attention and funds away from other important social issues. Ultimately, the effects of crime are multifaceted and complex, highlighting the need for comprehensive strategies to address and prevent criminal behavior.

## **1.2 Background:**

In ordinary language, a crime is an unlawful act punishable by a state or other authority. The term crime does not, in modern criminal law, have any simple and universally accepted definition, though statutory definitions have been provided for certain purposes. The most popular view is that crime is a category created by law in other words, something is a crime if declared as such by the relevant and applicable law. One proposed definition is that a crime or offense (or criminal offense) is an act harmful not only to some individual but also to a community, society, or the state. Such acts are forbidden and punishable by law.

The notion that acts such as murder, rape, and theft are to be prohibited exists worldwide. What precisely is a criminal offense is defined by the criminal law of each relevant jurisdiction. While many have a catalog of crimes called the criminal code, in some common law nations no such comprehensive statute exists. The state (government) has the power to severely restrict one's liberty for committing a crime. In modern societies, there are procedures to which investigations and trials must adhere. If found guilty, an offender may be sentenced to a form of reparation such as a community sentence, or, depending on the nature of their offense, to undergo imprisonment, life imprisonment, or, in some jurisdictions, death. Usually, to

be classified as a crime, the "act of doing something criminal" must with certain exceptions be accompanied by the intention to do something criminal

While every crime violates the law, not every violation of the law counts as a crime. Breaches of private law (torts and breaches of contract) are not automatically punished by the state but can be enforced through civil procedure.

In the complex web of global society, crime is an ever-present concern. It seriously threatens the fabric of societies and hinders social and economic development. The issue crosses borders, taking on different forms and severity levels that are influenced by a variety of economic, political, and social factors. Utilizing comprehensive data, we contrast and analyze crime indicators from countries across the globe. By examining countries' Crime Index, we can understand national criminal activities' diverse nature, scale, and impacts.

Globally, Venezuela tops the chart, recording the highest Crime Index of 83.76 in 2022. This indicates a severe condition of crime and unrest in the country, demanding immediate attention and resolution from international communities and the national government. Despite being one of the world's most developed countries, the United States ranks 52nd, with a Crime Index of 47.81. The relatively high index in an advanced nation like the U.S. underscores the fact that crime is not merely a problem of underdeveloped or developing countries but a universal challenge. Asian nations like Japan (22.19), Hong Kong (22.0), Taiwan (15.46), and especially the United Arab Emirates (15.23) and Qatar (12.13), show relatively low Crime Index rates. These rates reveal strong law enforcement and low crime environments in these countries. War-torn Afghanistan shows a significantly high Crime Index of 76.31, highlighting how instability and conflict can spur crime rates. Noteworthy, despite suffering similar unrest, Syria showed a slightly lower Crime Index at 67.18, indicative of varying forces shaping crime beyond the act of conflicts itself.

When we narrow down the crime rate in the Country, according to police records, we have registered over 231,653 cases in the country and these cases are thefts, domestic violence, breakings, child labor, road accidents, cattle wrestling, corruption, and so many others



Figure 2: Annual Crime Rate 2023

Source: Uganda Police 2023<sup>1</sup>

In combating crime, the police have coordinated with sister security agencies such as the UPDF, Prisons, SFC, JIC (CMI, ISO, CI, and ESO), and JATT, to combat various forms of crime. These joint initiatives have resulted in the reduction of gun-related crimes, illegal firearms and ammunition proliferation, terrorism, gang activities, marine crimes, housebreaking, burglaries, acid attacks, motor vehicle thefts, and cattle raids in Karamoja and neighboring districts, among others.

The research topic of “high crime rate” will be explored through a case study in Isingiro district in western Uganda. This study aims to investigate the causes of the increased crime rate in Isingiro district, the most affected people, how it affected the society and neighboring societies, and the possible solutions for the crime rate.

The findings of this research could provide insights for policymakers, security, and stakeholders plus civil societies on how to curb the increase in the crime rate in different districts in Uganda. The chapter covers the background of the study, statement of the problems, research objectives, research question, scope of the study, and significance of the study.

<sup>1</sup> Uganda police Force report 2023

To effectively control high crime rates, the government and Uganda police must implement a better approach that addresses both the societal factors contributing to criminal behavior and the immediate enforcement actions needed to deter crime. This includes investing in education, job training, mental health resources, and affordable housing to address root causes of crime such as poverty and lack of opportunity. Additionally, law enforcement agencies should prioritize community policing strategies that build trust and collaboration between officers and residents. Increased patrols in high-crime areas, targeted enforcement of repeat offenders, and proactive engagement with at-risk individuals can also help to reduce criminal activity. By combining preventative measures with targeted enforcement actions, the government and Uganda police can work together to control high crime rates and create safer communities for all.

### **1.3 Problem statement**

Despite constant attempts by the authorities, there are still many unanswered questions about the causes of the high crime rate, how it affects the surrounding communities, and how effective the current countermeasures are in Uganda's Isingiro District. Researching crime in the Isingiro district can provide valuable insights into the causes and effects of the high crime rate in the district. By gathering and analyzing data on crime rates, types of crimes committed, and demographics of offenders, we can identify patterns and trends that may inform law enforcement strategies and crime prevention initiatives. Additionally, we can shed light on social and economic issues that may be contributing to criminal behavior, such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to education and resources. Ultimately, a thorough examination of crime in Isingiro district can help policymakers and stakeholders develop targeted interventions to address the root causes of crime and promote community safety and well-being.

The high crime rate in Isingiro district can be attributed to several factors, but one of the key gaps that need to be addressed is the lack of effective law enforcement and community policing strategies. While there may be a police presence in the district, the resources and training provided to officers may be insufficient to effectively combat crime. Additionally, there appears to be a disconnect between law enforcement agencies and the community, leading to a lack of trust and cooperation in reporting and preventing criminal activities. Without effective collaboration between the police and community members, the high crime rate in Isingiro district will likely persist. Therefore,

addressing the gap in community policing and law enforcement strategies is essential in reducing crime and improving the overall safety and security of the district.

The high crime rate in Isingiro district is an issue that requires a comprehensive approach to address. One key issue contributing to the high crime rate is the lack of effective law enforcement and judicial systems in the region. The limited resources and personnel available to police forces in the Isingiro district have resulted in a lack of deterrence for potential criminals, leading to an increased prevalence of crime. Additionally, socioeconomic factors such as poverty and lack of employment opportunities also play a significant role in driving crime rates up in the area. To effectively combat the high crime rate in Isingiro district, there is a need for improved law enforcement strategies, increased community engagement, and targeted interventions to address the root causes of crime in the region. Only through a holistic approach can meaningful progress be made in reducing the crime rate and improving the overall safety and security of the Isingiro district.

#### **1.4 Purpose of the study:**

The purpose of the study is to establish the causes of the increased crime in Uganda a case in Isingiro District.

#### **1.5 Specific findings:**

The study will be guided by the following research objectives.

- i. To establish the different causes of the increased crime rate in Isingiro district
- ii. To evaluate the effect of crime on the Society
- iii. To analyze techniques to decrease the increased crime rate in Isingiro district

#### **1.6 Research Questions:**

This study is intended to answer the following questions

- i. What are the different causes of the increased crime rate in Isingiro district?
- ii. How can we evaluate the effect of the high crime rate on the society?
- iii. What technique can be set up to decrease the increased crime rate in Isingiro district?

## **1,7 Scope and limitations**

The study was confined to geographical scope, content scope, and time scope.

### **Geographical scope**

Isingiro District is a region located in southwestern Uganda, bordering Tanzania to the south and Rwanda to the west. The district is known for its rich cultural heritage and diverse ethnic groups, including the Banyankole, Bakiga, Bahiima, Banyolo, Bakonjo, and the refugees from different countries such as Burundi, Congo and Rwanda who stay in Nakivaale refugee camp. Historically, Isingiro was a key area for cattle ranching and agriculture, with the local economy heavily dependent on livestock and crop production. However, in recent years, the district has faced challenges such as land degradation, deforestation, and food insecurity, leading to efforts to promote sustainable land management practices and agricultural diversification. Isingiro is also home to several notable landmarks and natural attractions, including Lake Mburo National Park and the Ankole cattle breed, known for its unique horns and milk production. According to recent estimates, the district has a total population of approximately 600,000 people, with refugees making up a significant portion of this number. The refugees in Isingiro District primarily come from neighboring countries such as Burundi, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, fleeing conflict and political instability.

The study will be based on the Isingiro district in the western region of Uganda along the Tanzania-Uganda highway. The study was specifically focused on analyzing the factors that contribute to high crime rates examining the impact of crime rates, and analyzing possible strategies to reduce youth idleness and wrongdoings. The study was conducted for four (4) months, from April to July, to allow the researcher enough time to finish other educational obligations and meet other deadlines (as per the university calendar).

### **Content scope**

The subject scope of this study was confined to the crimes carried out for example rape, defilement assault, child abuse, cybercrime, and so many other crimes in the district. The study also focuses on analyzing the factors

that have contributed to the increased crime rate and analyzing possible strategies that can be used to reduce the crime

### **1.8 Justification of the study**

Crime harms society and neighboring communities in very many ways mostly negatively in a way that people feel frightened inside or outside their own homes, sometimes prices of some items are affected whereby some properties like homes, land, and food are difficult to sell, and incidents

These crimes like armed robbery targeting people's homes, property, and people's businesses instill fear and insecurities which affect the development of the area. Therefore, the certainty of getting caught not the severity of a punishment is what can deter crimes in the Isingiro district, reporting crime, educating the society, and sharing crime prevention and safety information with the community can reduce the crime rate in the district.

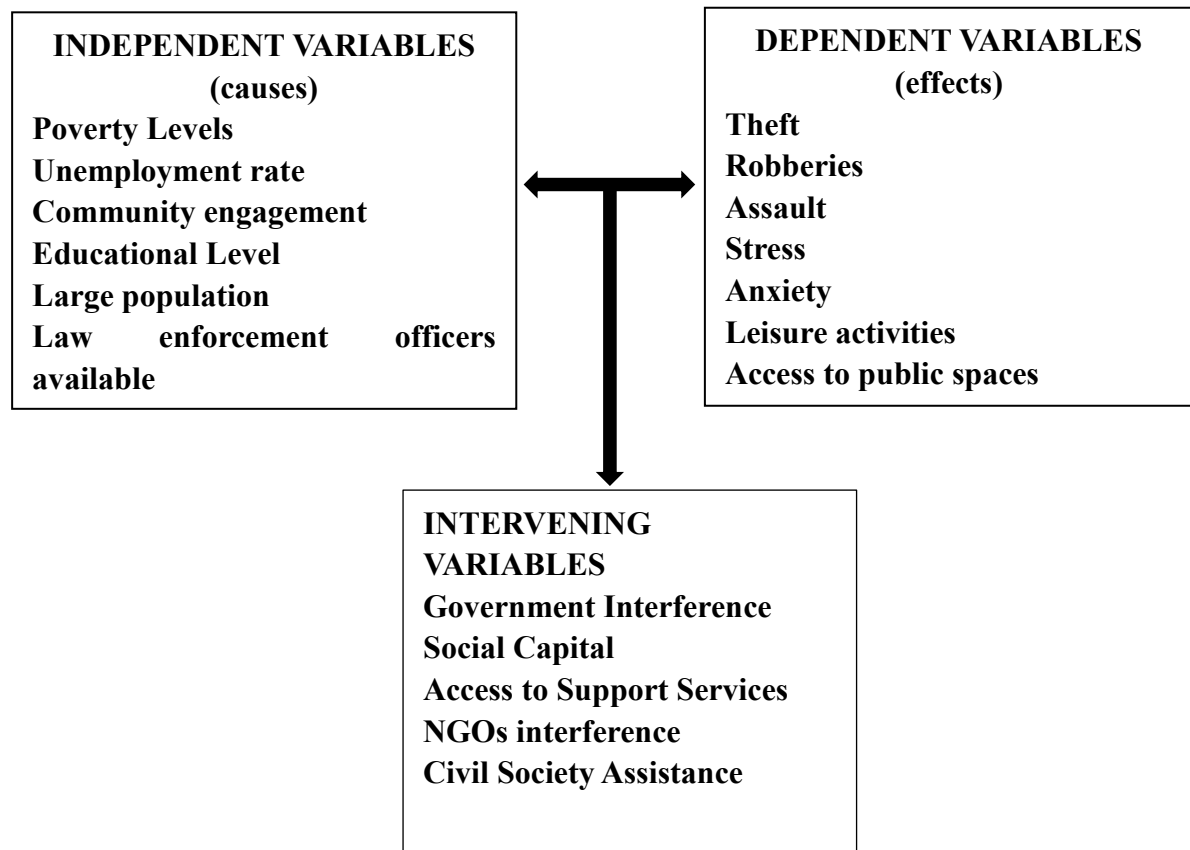
### **1.9 significance of the study**

This study will help Isingiro develop focused crime prevention tactics and solutions to crime by understanding the underlying causes, which could make the community's environment safer for its citizens. Furthermore, it is hoped that the study will be used as a foundation for future research reference and research by providing information for additional investigation in relevant fields for study. Finally, the study will provide information to stakeholders, government, security agencies, and relevant civil society organizations for them to better understand the causes of crime rate, and types of crime rate in the country to analyze possible solutions to the problem.

### **1.10 Conceptual Framework**

The increased crime is increasing in the country and it's a global trend that affects not only the people but the neighboring countries' trade, and other diplomatic issues. However, the government has brought initiatives that will help in the reduction of crime such as community policing, and crime prevention programs, and has brought in youth empowerment initiatives such as emyoga, and parish development modal (PDM) that have provided the youth with capital and skill to startup businesses that will provide them with income that will reduce dormancy in youth and poverty which are the main causes of crime in the district.

**Figure 3: Conceptual Framework**



*Figure 3: Conceptual framework*

*in the conceptual framework (Figure 3),* the effects of crime are the dependent variable and the causes are the independent variable. While there are intervening variables that help explain the relationship between the independent and dependent variables by influencing and mediating that relationship. The crime rates among Isingiro people are conceptualized as theft/robberies, idleness, illiteracy/dropouts, betting, peer bunches, uncertainty, and sexual assault, unemployment is operationalized as skills required, high population development, youth state of mind, wage levels, industrialization figure, and private segment figure. It is anticipated that teenage crime rates will increase if unemployment rates are high. Government intervention, NGO backing, and community involvement are all intervening influences.

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Introduction**

The district of Isingiro, located in Uganda, has been grappling with a persistent and concerning issue a high crime rate. This phenomenon not only poses a threat to the safety and well-being of its residents but also has far-reaching implications for the social fabric and economic development of the region. To address this pressing issue effectively, it is essential to delve into the depths of existing literature and research on the subject. By examining the various factors contributing to the high crime rates, exploring theoretical frameworks to understand criminal behavior, evaluating crime prevention strategies, and analyzing the interventions undertaken by law enforcement and community stakeholders, this chapter aims to shed light on the complicated situation in Isingiro District and provides insights for policy recommendations and future research directions.

### **2.2 Theoretical framework**

On this topic, exploring the effects, and causes of the high crime rate in Isingiro District, we have different theories that talk about crime. These theories help in understanding criminal behavior and the factors that contribute to it. One relevant theory is social learning theory, which suggests that individuals learn criminal behavior through their interactions with others. Another important theory is strain theory, which posits that individuals engage in criminal behavior as a result of feeling strain or pressure from society, such as poverty or lack of opportunity. Additionally, control theory argues that individuals are more likely to engage in criminal behavior when their ties to conventional society are weakened but we are majoring in the social learning theory.

## 2.2.1 Social learning theory

The social learning theory, developed by psychologist Albert Bandura, posits that individuals learn behaviors through observing and imitating others, particularly those they see as role models. This theory has been widely applied to understanding criminal behavior and high crime rates. In communities with high crime rates, social learning theory suggests that individuals may be more likely to engage in criminal behavior if they are surrounded by peers or family members who exhibit criminal behavior and if they observe criminal acts being rewarded or not punished.

Albert Bandura's theory of social learning is well known for its focus on the significance of observational learning, imitation, and modeling. Nevertheless, additional researchers have also played a crucial role in elucidating how social variables impact behavior. Julian Rotter and Edwin Sutherland are two scholars who bring different viewpoints to enrich and broaden the social learning theory framework.

Julian Rotter's impact on social learning theory is evident in his idea of locus of control, a key aspect of his overarching social learning theory. Locus of control means how individuals perceive the causes of their experiences and what they credit for their successes or failures. Rotter suggested that people could possess an internal or external locus of control. Individuals who possess an internal locus of control are convinced that their actions, choices, and hard work are responsible for the results they experience in life. They see themselves as the creators of their fate, causing them to feel accountable and empowered. On the other hand, people with an external locus of control believe that external factors like luck, fate, or other's actions determine outcomes. Frequently, they believe they lack influence over their circumstances, resulting in a sense of powerlessness and decreased drive.

Edwin Sutherland's theory of differential association provides a crucial viewpoint in the field of social learning theory, specifically regarding deviant behavior. Sutherland suggested that criminal behavior is acquired through social interactions rather than being innate. His theory underscores the importance of the individuals a person surrounds themselves with in influencing their actions and beliefs. As per Sutherland, individuals acquire criminal behavior by communicating and interacting with those already involved in such actions. The process of learning includes understanding not only the methods of committing crimes but also the reasons, impulses, justifications, and beliefs linked to criminal behavior.

A crucial aspect of Sutherland's theory is the belief that the frequency, duration, importance, and strength of connections with deviant individuals impact the chances of engaging in criminal activity. Consider a scenario where a teenager named Sam is raised in a community with a high presence of gang-related actions. Sam dedicates a lot of his time to hanging out with friends who are part of gangs, often listening to their stories, beliefs, and reasons for what they do. Over time, Sam's behavior is greatly impacted by these regular and intense interactions, increasing the likelihood that Sam will mimic corresponding attitudes and actions. Sutherland's theory emphasizes the significant role of social surroundings and peer pressure in acquiring deviant behavior, offering a comprehensive structure for comprehending the reasons behind individuals' involvement in criminal behaviors.

The high crime rate in Isingiro can be analyzed using Julian Rotter's locus of control and Edwin Sutherland's differential association theory. These theories offer profound insights into the social and psychological mechanisms that contribute to criminal behavior. Here are five key points that illustrate the causes and effects of the high crime rate in Isingiro:

Firstly, the influence of peer associations plays a significant role in perpetuating crime. According to Edwin Sutherland's differential association theory, individuals learn criminal behavior through interactions with others. In Isingiro, high crime rates may be sustained by strong social networks of individuals engaging in criminal activities. Young people, in particular, who spend significant time with peers involved in crime, are more likely to adopt similar behaviors and attitudes. This cyclical pattern results in new generations continually being exposed to and influenced by criminal behavior, making it a normative aspect of their social environment. Consequently, efforts to reduce crime must address these peer influences by providing alternative social networks and positive role models, thereby breaking the cycle of criminal behavior.

Secondly, the perception of control and agency, as conceptualized by Julian Rotter, is crucial in understanding criminal behavior. Rotter's concept of locus of control explains how individuals in Isingiro perceive their ability to affect their circumstances. A prevalent external locus of control may lead residents to believe that their actions have little impact on their life outcomes. This perception is often fueled by systemic issues such as poverty, lack of education, and limited economic opportunities. Feeling powerless to change their situation through legitimate means, individuals may turn to crime as a way to exert control and achieve desired outcomes. This sense of helplessness and resignation exacerbates the crime problem, as individuals may not see a viable path to success outside of criminal activities.

Thirdly, the normalization of criminal behavior within certain social groups is a significant factor. Sutherland's differential association theory highlights how criminal behavior can become normalized in key social circles. In Isingiro, if crime is a common and accepted behavior within these circles, individuals, especially youth, are likely to internalize these norms and see criminal activity as a regular part of life. This normalization leads to

widespread acceptance of criminal behavior, making it more challenging to implement effective crime prevention measures. Efforts to change these social norms must focus on altering the narratives and attitudes within these communities through education and community engagement initiatives.

Fourthly, the impact of social and economic factors on the perception of control cannot be overlooked. Economic deprivation and social inequities can contribute to an external locus of control, as individuals feel that systemic barriers prevent them from achieving success through legitimate means. In Isingiro, high unemployment rates, inadequate educational resources, and limited access to social services exacerbate these feelings of disenfranchisement. The resulting frustration and lack of opportunities drive individuals towards crime as a means of survival or as a way to attain material success. Addressing these underlying economic and social issues is crucial for reducing the crime rate and fostering a sense of agency and empowerment among residents.

Finally, the role of family and community in the transmission of criminal behavior is critical. Sutherland's theory emphasizes the importance of family and community in shaping behavior. In Isingiro, families and communities heavily involved in criminal activities can pass on these behaviors and attitudes to younger members. The lack of positive family and community influences reinforces criminal norms. This intergenerational transmission of criminal behavior creates a persistent crime culture that is difficult to break. Interventions need to focus on strengthening family structures and community bonds, promoting positive behaviors, and providing support systems to divert individuals from crime.

When concluding this, applying the theories of Julian Rotter and Edwin Sutherland to the high crime rate in Isingiro reveals the interplay of social, psychological, and economic factors that contribute to criminal behavior.

**Assumptions:** The social learning theory posits that individuals learn behavior through observation, imitation, and reinforcement. In the context of high crime rates, this theory assumes that individuals in high-crime environments are more likely to be exposed to and internalize criminal behavior as a result of their social interactions.

This suggests that individuals who grow up in communities characterized by higher crime rates may be more likely to engage in criminal activities themselves, as they are constantly exposed to and reinforced for such behaviors. Additionally, the theory assumes that individuals in these environments may lack positive role models and opportunities for pro-social learning, further reinforcing the likelihood of engaging in criminal activities. Overall, the assumptions of the social learning theory can help to provide insight into the complex interplay of social factors that contribute to high crime rates in certain communities.

## **2.3 Empirical Review**

The writing is sourced from university libraries and record centers, where it can be found in e-journals, reports, thesis, reading materials, and paper introductions. It also fills in the gaps that were discovered in the studies that prompted the creation of this investigation. It is offered by the study objectives study subjects.

### **2.3.1 High Crime Rate**

Crime rates in Uganda have reached alarming levels in recent years, with statistics indicating a significant increase in various criminal activities. According to the Uganda Police Force Annual Crime Report for 2020, there were a total of 230,699 reported cases of crime in Uganda, representing a 9.3% increase from the previous year. This surge in criminal incidents has raised concerns among both residents and government officials, prompting

calls for stronger law enforcement measures and community-based interventions to address the root causes of crime.

One of the most prevalent forms of crime in Uganda is property crime, with theft and burglary accounting for a large proportion of reported incidents. In 2020, there were 110,056 reported cases of theft in Uganda, representing a 12.7% increase from the previous year. Additionally, there were 67,819 reported cases of burglary, marking a 7.5% rise from the previous year. These numbers highlight the pervasive nature of property crime in Uganda and underscore the need for improved security measures to protect individuals and their belongings.

Violent crime is another significant issue in Uganda, with assault and robbery being commonly reported offenses. In 2020, there were 26,315 reported cases of assault in Uganda, representing a 6.9% increase from the previous year. Additionally, there were 8,513 reported cases of robbery, marking a 4.2% rise from the previous year. These numbers indicate a disturbing trend of violence in the country, which poses a serious threat to public safety and well-being.

The high crime rates in Uganda can be attributed to a variety of factors, including poverty, unemployment, and social inequality. Studies have shown that individuals living in poverty are more likely to engage in criminal activities as a means of survival, while those who are unemployed may turn to crime out of desperation. Additionally, social inequalities and lack of access to quality education and healthcare can contribute to a sense of disenfranchisement among certain segments of the population, leading to increased criminal behavior.

In response to the rising crime rates in Uganda, the government has implemented various initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of crime and improving public safety. These include community-based crime

prevention programs, increased police patrols in high-crime areas, and efforts to promote social and economic development in marginalized communities. While these efforts have had some success in reducing crime in certain regions, more work remains to be done to effectively combat the pervasive issue of crime in Uganda and ensure the safety and well-being of all its citizens.

### **2.3.2 The Causes of High Crime Rate**

Understanding the high crime rate in Uganda involves a deep exploration of several intertwined socio-economic and systemic factors. This dissertation aims to detail these causes, supported by data and analysis from various scholarly sources and official reports.

Economic deprivation is a significant driver of crime in Uganda. According to the Uganda Police Force's Annual Crime Report for 2022, there was a 41% increase in theft cases from 2021 to 2022, primarily driven by economic motivations Uganda Police Force and Government Citizens Interaction Center. This aligns with broader research indicating that poverty and income inequality are strong predictors of crime rates. Zaman (2018) and Khan et al. (2015) emphasize that equitable economic growth is essential for reducing poverty and subsequently crime rates.

Unemployment, particularly among youth, exacerbates crime rates. The African Centre for Media Excellence (ACME) highlighted in 2021 that high youth unemployment rates lead many young individuals towards criminal activities due to the lack of legitimate economic opportunities (ACODE). Targeted employment programs and vocational training are crucial in providing alternatives to crime.

Family structure and parenting quality significantly influence crime rates. Poor parental supervision, inconsistent discipline, and family conflicts increase the likelihood of children engaging in criminal activities. The Office of Justice Programs notes that poor parent-child attachment and exposure to deviant behaviors at home are critical risk factors for criminal behavior (Office of Justice Programs). Strengthening family support systems and providing effective parenting programs can mitigate these risks.

Substance abuse is another critical factor linked to crime. The Uganda Police's Annual Crime Report for 2022 highlights that disputes over family property, drug and alcohol abuse, and infidelity are common causes of domestic violence (Government Citizens Interaction Center). Effective substance abuse prevention and rehabilitation programs can address this root cause of crime.

The efficacy of law enforcement significantly affects crime rates. The Uganda Police Force has identified several challenges, including inadequate resources, corruption, and insufficient training, which hinder effective crime prevention and control. The Annual Crime Report for 2023 underscores the need for improved cyber security, community policing, and better resource allocation to tackle rising crime rates (Uganda Police Force). Strengthening law enforcement agencies through better training and anti-corruption measures is essential.

Crime rates in Uganda vary significantly by region. Urban areas like Kampala Metropolitan experience higher crime rates due to factors like higher population density and urbanization, which create more opportunities for criminal activities. The 2022 Annual Crime Report details these regional variations, with Kampala Metropolitan North registering the highest number of theft cases (Government Citizens Interaction Center). Tailoring crime

prevention strategies to address the specific needs of each region can lead to more effective outcomes.

### **2.3.3 The Consequences of High Crime Rate**

The high wrongdoing rate in Uganda has significant suggestions over different divisions. This segment investigates the financial, social, and political impacts in detail, backed by insightful references and official reports.

High crime rates significantly deter both domestic and foreign investment. Investors prioritize stable environments where their assets and personnel are secure. The World Bank (2017) emphasizes that high crime rates lead to capital flight and reduced foreign direct investment (FDI), stifling economic growth and development. In Uganda, this deterrent effect has been palpable. For instance, sectors such as tourism, manufacturing, and real estate have experienced reduced growth due to investors' concerns over safety and security.

A study by Kinyanjui (2009) notes that the perception of insecurity increases the cost of doing business, as companies must invest in additional security measures. This added cost can make Uganda less competitive compared to more secure investment destinations. Moreover, crime can disrupt supply chains and business operations, leading to financial losses. The Uganda Investment Authority (2018) reported that potential investors often cite crime as a significant barrier to entering the Ugandan market, which negatively impacts job creation and economic development.

Addressing crime is thus critical for fostering a conducive investment climate. Strengthening law enforcement and enhancing community policing can help reduce crime rates, thereby improving the investment landscape and promoting sustainable economic growth.

High crime rates compel governments to allocate substantial resources to law enforcement, judicial processes, and correctional facilities. This allocation diverts funds from essential services such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure development. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that crime-related costs can account for a significant portion of a country's GDP, impacting overall economic stability.

In Uganda, the government has had to increase spending on the police force, judiciary, and prison system to address the rising crime rates. For example, the Uganda Police Force's budget has seen significant increases over the years, yet this expenditure often comes at the expense of other critical sectors. The Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development (2019) highlighted that the increasing costs associated with combating crime have strained public finances, limiting the government's ability to invest in long-term developmental projects.

Furthermore, high crime rates can lead to increased insurance premiums for businesses and individuals, further straining economic resources. By investing in crime prevention and community engagement programs, Uganda can potentially reduce these public expenditures and redirect funds towards essential development projects that can improve the quality of life for its citizens.

High crime rates have detrimental effects on social capital, which is crucial for community well-being and cohesion. Social capital refers to the networks, norms, and trust that enable individuals to work together effectively. According to Sampson, Raudenbush, and Earls (1997), crime erodes trust within communities, reducing social cohesion and the willingness of individuals to engage in communal activities.

In Uganda, the fear of crime has weakened community bonds, making collective action and mutual support more difficult. For example, high crime

rates in urban areas like Kampala have led to a decline in neighborhood watch programs and other forms of community cooperation. The World Bank (2014) notes that social capital is essential for economic development and social stability, and its erosion can lead to further social disintegration.

Efforts to rebuild social capital should focus on community-based crime prevention strategies, strengthening local institutions, and fostering inclusive development. By enhancing social cohesion and trust, Uganda can create more resilient communities capable of withstanding the adverse effects of crime.

Crime-related violence has significant public health implications, leading to physical injuries, psychological trauma, and increased mortality rates. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that high crime rates are associated with a range of public health issues, including increased rates of depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. In Uganda, the healthcare sector faces significant challenges due to the high incidence of crime-related injuries and mental health issues.

For instance, hospitals and clinics in high-crime areas often deal with a higher number of trauma cases, which can overwhelm the healthcare system. The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2017) reported that crime-related health issues have strained healthcare resources, limiting the capacity to address other critical health needs. Additionally, the fear of crime can lead to chronic stress and other long-term health problems among residents.

Addressing the public health impacts of crime requires a comprehensive approach that includes improving healthcare infrastructure, providing mental health services, and implementing effective violence prevention programs. By reducing the burden of crime on the healthcare system, Uganda can improve overall public health outcomes and enhance the quality of life for its citizens.

High crime rates pose significant challenges to governance and political stability. When citizens perceive the state as unable to provide security, it can lead to diminished trust in public institutions and governance. This is supported by studies from the International Crisis Group (2010), which highlight how crime can destabilize political systems. In Uganda, persistent high crime rates have eroded public confidence in the government's ability to ensure safety and order.

Moreover, high levels of crime often go hand in hand with corruption, particularly within law enforcement and judicial systems. Transparency International (2018) notes that corruption exacerbates crime rates by allowing criminal networks to operate with impunity. In Uganda, corruption within law enforcement has hampered efforts to control crime, creating a cycle of inefficiency and mistrust. For example, bribery and extortion by police officers can undermine public trust and deter cooperation with law enforcement agencies.

To restore public confidence and enhance political stability, Uganda must strengthen its institutions and implement robust anti-corruption measures. This includes improving the transparency and accountability of law enforcement agencies, ensuring fair and efficient judicial processes, and fostering community engagement in crime prevention efforts. By addressing the root causes of crime and corruption, Uganda can create a more stable and secure environment conducive to sustainable development.

#### **2.3.4 Strategies to Reduce High Crime Rate**

Economic deprivation is a significant driver of crime. By creating employment opportunities and improving skill development programs, the root causes of crime can be addressed. High unemployment rates, especially among youth, push many into illegal activities. The African Development Bank (2019) emphasizes the importance of investing in sectors with high employment potential, such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services.

Implementing vocational training programs can equip young people with the skills needed to secure stable jobs. According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2017), youth unemployment rates in Uganda are alarmingly high, and targeted job creation initiatives can play a crucial role in crime reduction. Programs such as the Youth Livelihood Program (YLP) and the Green Jobs Program have shown potential in providing young people with the skills and opportunities needed to engage in productive employment rather than criminal activities

Supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through microfinance can foster economic empowerment. The International Labor Organization (ILO) notes that microfinance initiatives can help individuals start their businesses, reducing dependency on illegal activities for income. Microfinance can be particularly effective in rural areas, where economic opportunities are often limited. By providing access to credit, business training, and mentorship, Uganda can encourage entrepreneurship and innovation. The success of microfinance programs in other countries, such as Bangladesh, underscores their potential in Uganda

Community policing involves building strong relationships between the police and the communities they serve. This approach fosters trust and cooperation, making it easier to address crime effectively. The Uganda Police Force's Annual Crime Report (2022) highlights the success of community policing initiatives in reducing crime rates in several regions. Training law enforcement officers in community engagement and conflict resolution can enhance the effectiveness of this strategy. Sampson, Rudebusch, and Earls (1997) found that neighborhoods with strong community policing practices experience lower crime rates due to increased trust and cooperation between residents and police.

Ensuring the judicial system is fair, efficient, and accessible is crucial for maintaining law and order. Delays in the judicial process can undermine public confidence in the legal system and lead to vigilantism. Transparency International (2018) suggests that judicial reforms focusing on reducing case backlog, enhancing transparency, and combating corruption within the judiciary can strengthen the rule of law. Implementing technology solutions, such as digital case management systems, can improve efficiency and accountability. According to the Uganda Law Reform Commission (2019), ongoing judicial reforms aim to improve access to justice and reduce corruption, which can significantly impact crime rates

Investing in education and awareness programs can address the social factors contributing to crime. Education is a powerful tool for crime prevention, as it provides individuals with the knowledge and skills to pursue lawful livelihoods. The World Bank (2014) notes that education can reduce crime by improving social and economic opportunities. Implementing programs that focus on civic education, ethics, and conflict resolution can foster a culture of lawfulness and respect for others. Programs like Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE) have been instrumental in increasing school enrollment, but there is a need to enhance the quality and relevance of education to further reduce crime

Strengthening family structures through support services can mitigate the risk factors associated with crime. The Office of Justice Programs (2018) highlights the importance of providing resources for families, such as parenting classes, counseling, and financial assistance. These services can help create stable home environments, reducing the likelihood of children engaging in criminal behavior. In Uganda, organizations like Child Fund and Plan International have implemented family support programs that aim to strengthen family bonds and provide a supportive environment for child funds.

Implementing substance abuse prevention programs in schools and communities can reduce the incidence of drug-related crimes. The World Health Organization (WHO) suggests that comprehensive prevention programs that include education, counseling, and community engagement are effective in reducing substance abuse. In Uganda, integrating these programs into the school curriculum and community outreach initiatives can have a significant impact. Programs like the Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL) focus on preventing substance abuse among young people through education and awareness campaigns.

Providing rehabilitation services for individuals struggling with substance abuse can help them reintegrate into society and reduce recidivism. Effective rehabilitation programs should include medical treatment, psychological support, and vocational training. The UNODC (2019) emphasizes the importance of comprehensive rehabilitation services in reducing drug-related crimes. Establishing more rehabilitation centers and expanding access to these services can aid in addressing the root causes of drug-related crimes in Uganda. The government's efforts to increase funding for rehabilitation

services and improve the capacity of existing centers are steps in the right direction.

Urban renewal projects that focus on improving infrastructure, housing, and public spaces can enhance community safety. The World Bank (2014) emphasizes the role of urban planning in crime prevention, noting that well-designed public spaces can reduce opportunities for crime and increase community surveillance. In Uganda, investing in infrastructure development in urban areas, such as better lighting, road networks, and recreational facilities, can deter criminal activities. Projects like the Kampala Capital City Authority's (KCCA) efforts to improve urban infrastructure and services have shown promise in reducing crime rates in the city.

Addressing the disparities between urban and rural areas through targeted development initiatives can reduce migration to cities, which often leads to increased crime rates in urban areas. The African Development Bank (2019) highlights the importance of rural development in providing economic opportunities and improving living conditions. Initiatives such as improving agricultural productivity, access to markets, and rural infrastructure can create sustainable livelihoods and reduce the push factors for rural-urban migration. Programs like the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) have been instrumental in promoting rural development and reducing poverty, which can contribute to lower crime rates

## **CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Introduction**

The information-gathering techniques are described in this chapter. The research plan, study area, data sources, population and sample methods, estimation levels, information-gathering tactics, and information-collection tools were all covered in this document. In addition, it emphasizes the data gathering strategy, error and quality checks, moral concerns, approvals, and the selection criteria and dissemination of results.

### **3.2 Research Design**

The study design used in the research was cross-sectional. A cross-sectional overview plan is a sort of study design where data may be acquired from multiple respondents at a specific point in time, according to Kothari (2013). This form of design was chosen because it allowed the researcher to get data from the test group only quickly, enabling the generalization of study results to the complete target population to happen more swiftly and for less money. The cross-sectional perspective was helpful in this study because it allows a variety of information collection techniques that make it easier to grasp the subject phenomenon quantitatively (Nyenje & Nkata, 2016) enabling the use of both qualitative and quantitative information gathering and analysis techniques. As opposed to using an interview guide for the qualitative data, which covered areas where some factors are difficult to quantify, the quantitative data was gathered using questionnaires. The choice of this strategy was made possible by the simultaneous examination of several responder categories.

### **3.3 Area of the Study**

Isingiro District is a region located in southwestern Uganda, bordering Tanzania to the south and Rwanda to the west. The district is known for its rich cultural heritage and diverse ethnic groups, including the Banyankole, Bakiga, and Bahiima. This was due to an increase in criminal activity instances within the centers.

### **3.4 Sources of Information**

As a researcher, I used both primary and secondary data sources in my analysis. According to Sekaran (2003), "primary data" refers to "information obtained from the field by the researcher on the variables of intrigue for the specific reason of the study." The first and most authentic sources of information are those that were obtained. Utilizing questionnaires and interviewing techniques, data was gathered. The Likert scale was used in the questionnaire design. They were given out to the intended audience to learn their opinions on the research variables. In contrast, Kothari (2013) observes that "secondary data is the data which was collected and analyzed by somebody else." Police records, government policy documents, books, journals, periodicals, research reports, and web sources were all gathered for study, and the researcher made the best use of them.

### **3.5 Population and Sample Selection**

#### **3.5.1 Population**

Youth, the elderly, police officers, private security organizations, RDCs, and political leaders made up the study's sample population. We took into account young people, especially those without jobs because they were deemed to be major stakeholders in promoting crime in the community. Nevertheless, the local chairperson and other leaders like the defense chairperson in the community were also questioned to obtain a variety of viewpoints to strengthen

the validity and thoroughness of the study's findings for the benefit of this community. The police officers, on the other hand, were chosen to provide the study with the valid and reliable data needed.

### 3.5.2 Sample size and selection.

Empirical research increasingly demands a representative statistical sample, hence an effective technique for calculating sample size is needed. According to Katamba & Nsubuga (2014), the sample estimate is a section or subset of the entire population. The size and frame of the sample 35 respondents were chosen as a sample from the community of Isingiro District.

### 3.5.3 Sampling Selection

To choose the study participants, the study used both purposive sampling and simple random sample techniques. Police officers, local council political leaders, and the community at large were chosen specifically for me to obtain specific data from. This sampling strategy was employed since it was rapid and aided me in gathering first-hand data. On the other hand, basic random sampling was used to choose unemployed adolescents to prevent biases and give each member of the sample an equal chance of being chosen (Taherdoost, 2016).

**Table 1: Respondents distribution**

<b>RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>SAMPLE SIZE</b>
Police Officers	5
Youth	10
Elderly	5
RDC	1
Private Security Organizations	4
Local Council Members	5
Neighboring Community	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>

### **3.6 Data Collection Methods**

The methods used in the study to collect data were interviews and a questionnaire. This is in keeping with the assertion made by Sideman (1991), cited by Nsubuga (2019), that techniques and instruments are selected based on their fit for the study's aims and the given research questions. To improve the data gathered through questionnaires, interviews with the significant participants were conducted.

#### **3.6.1 Questionnaire Survey**

Since questionnaires covered a wide portion of the respondent sample and allowed for a great deal of generalization of research findings, they were mostly used to acquire this information. Because the developed Likert questionnaire was simple to use, time-saving, and collected at a convenient moment for the responder, unemployed adolescents responded to it.

#### **3.6.2 Interview Method**

Interviews with police officers, local chairperson political leaders, the youth, and the elderly were done to verify the information obtained through questionnaires. Interviews validate the participants' answers to the questionnaire because they provided the researcher with information about aspects of the situation and setting that I was unfamiliar with (Drew, Hardman, and Hart 1996, cited in Nsubuga, 2019). It's possible to record the interviews for subsequent use.

### **3.7 Data Collection Instruments**

The following data collection instruments were used:

#### **3.7.1 Questionnaires**

Specifically for the youth, a set of questionnaires was created. Closed-ended questions including 4 background-related things for the responder in Sections 1

2,3,4, and 5. The replies to each of the five-point Likert scale questions in section 3 were: very significant (1), significantly (2), no not at all (3), and not sure (4). To contact respondents in a broad sample and to allow respondents to provide information that is free of bias, a significant number of questionnaires were used. Data on the increased crime rates was collected using the surveys. The use of questionnaires was made possible by their anonymity, which encourages more truthful responses. They were also the ideal tools for quantitative research.

### **3.7.2 Interview Guide**

Interviews are a research method used to gather information directly from individuals through verbal communication. It involves a researcher asking a series of pre-determined questions to a participant or a group of participants, usually face-to-face but can also be done over the phone, video call, or through written correspondence. The researcher set up and conducted interviews with the elderly, community leaders, youth, and police officers. Because it was more qualitative and spontaneous, the interview was favored (Amin, 2005).

#### **Justification of interview**

**In-depth understanding:** Interviews allow researchers to gain a more thorough and nuanced understanding of the research topic by exploring the thoughts, feelings, and experiences of participants.

**Participant perspective:** Interviews provide a way to gather information from the participant's point of view, which can be useful for gaining insight into their subjective experiences, attitudes, and beliefs.

**Flexibility:** Interviews can be adapted to different research contexts, such as exploring complex or sensitive topics, or gaining access to hard-to-reach populations.

Clarification and follow-up: Interviews provide the opportunity for researchers to clarify responses or ask follow-up questions, which can help to deepen understanding of the participant's perspective.

Rich data: Interviews can provide rich and detailed data, which can be useful for exploring complex topics and generating new hypotheses for further investigation.

Validity: Interviews can increase the validity of the research by ensuring that the questions are understood and answered correctly, and by allowing the researcher to assess the participant's sincerity and motivation.

### **3.8 Procedure of Data Collection**

The beginning of the research process was receiving permission to perform the study from Uganda Christian University's Department of Public Administration Governance and International Relations. The Local Leaders of Isingiro and the sampled respondents were given my identification items i.e., Passbook, and National ID to obtain their consent for data collection. To assist me in gathering data, I employed three field assistants who assisted me in gathering information. The questionnaires had to be filled out for one day to collect the data. Additionally, this concentrated on gathering the primary information (from a trustworthy source) required to generate the report findings. Interview guides were used to gather data, and the chosen respondents were asked to answer the predetermined questions on a phone call because I was running out of time. Both the collection of qualitative and quantitative data could be done in this manner. Furthermore, pilot research was carried out. Preparing and testing the data collection tools allowed for improvements before starting the real information-gathering process, which involved interviewing the chosen respondents. The data organization, presentation, analysis, and translation into this report booklet for review at that time brought the procedure to an end.

### **3.9 Reliability and validity**

The interview and other discussions will use triangulation to validate and strengthen the findings of a study. It is based on the idea that using multiple methods to examine a research question can provide a more comprehensive and accurate understanding of the phenomenon being studied.

Overall, triangulation is a useful method for enhancing the credibility and robustness of research findings, and it is widely used in a variety of research fields, including social sciences, health sciences, and education.

### **3.10 Measurements of the Variables**

In this study, two primary variables were examined to understand the increased effects and causes of the increased high crime rate in Isingiro District:

Crime incidence refers to the frequency and types of crimes committed within a given period. This variable was measured using police reports and records, analyzing official crime reports from local police stations, including data points such as the number of reported crimes, types of crimes (e.g., theft, assault, burglary), and the locations where these crimes occurred. Data was collected monthly over a specified period to identify trends and patterns. Additionally, surveys were conducted with residents to gather information on unreported crimes, perceived crime rates, and the community's sense of safety, supplemented by structured interviews with key informants like community leaders, local government officials, and law enforcement officers to provide qualitative insights into crime trends and contributing factors. Socioeconomic factors included variables such as income levels, employment rates, education levels, and housing conditions.

These factors were measured using census data and government statistics, providing information on income levels, employment rates, education levels, and housing conditions from national and local government databases to help

correlate socioeconomic status with crime rates in different areas of Isingiro District. Household surveys were also administered to a sample of households to collect data on individual and household socioeconomic status, focusing on employment status, income sources, educational attainment, and housing conditions. This primary data was to complement existing statistics and provide a more nuanced understanding of the socioeconomic landscape. By examining crime incidence and socioeconomic factors, this study aimed to identify the underlying causes and effects of the high crime rate in Isingiro District. The measurement of these variables through a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods provided a comprehensive analysis of the crime situation and informed potential interventions to reduce crime rates in the district.

### **3.11 Data Presentation and Analysis**

Data was analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively as follows: -

#### **3.11.1 Analysis of Quantitative Data**

Unemployed young people offered quantitative data. The research findings were presented in a straightforward and accessible manner by using the variables Mean and Standard deviation, which were derived after the data were processed using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science). The SPSS program was used to manipulate the statistical analysis. Only questionnaire-related data was used in the quantitative records. The used surveys obtained raw statistics were cleaned, organized, and coded. Using the SPSS software package, the coded data was imported into the computer, checked, and statistically processed to provide descriptive and inferential records. Descriptive analysis was also carried out to define the main variable and associated indicator objects about the study objectives.

### **3.11.2 Analysis of Qualitative Data**

The police officers, political leaders, law enforcement officers, and community leaders all contributed quality information. Each day's field notes were typed up at the conclusion. After transcription and topic development, content analysis of qualitative data was performed. Key findings were organized into themes for simple analysis and presentation of the data through the use of thematic content analysis, which was employed to analyze this data. The results were also interpreted using narrative reasoning, which was supported logically. To convey the respondents' true feelings about the problems brought up, their opinions were directly quoted. As a result, the problem under examination was thoroughly understood.

### **3.12 Ethical Considerations**

Ethical considerations refer to the moral principles and standards that guide the conduct of research and ensure that the rights and welfare of human participants are protected. It is a set of guidelines that researchers follow to ensure that their research is conducted ethically and responsibly. These guidelines are based on fundamental ethical principles such as respect for autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice. Ethical considerations help to promote the welfare and dignity of human participants, maintain the integrity of the research, and ensure that the research has a positive impact on society. Ethical considerations are essential for ensuring that research is conducted in a manner that is respectful, and fair, and protects the rights of participants.

Here are some ethical considerations that were considered in the context of the study:

The Community leaders were contacted to obtain permission to conduct the study in the communities and villages found in the district. The researcher took the initiative to introduce himself, outline the purpose of the study, explain why particular respondents were chosen, outline the pros, downsides, and benefits of the study, and invite the respondents to ask any questions they may have. The researcher avoided asking sensitive questions, such as the respondents' names and made sure the queries never infringed on informants' rights. All of the selected respondents who participated in the study completed an informed consent form that details the purpose of the investigation. This boosted their engagement and improved research secrecy. The respondents and participants were also informed that participation in the study was completely voluntary and that they had the right to accept, reject, or revoke their consent at any time.

Each participant's data was assigned a special identification number to preserve their secrecy. Before participating, participants also provided written agreement, and confidentiality and anonymity were emphasized at each stage of the study. Data that may be used to identify specific subjects were limited to those taking part in this investigation. Participants remained anonymous and were properly informed about the data collection processes. By preventing the reader of the report from being able to identify a specific respondent, confidentiality was protected. The respondents were referred to by codes like respondent 1, 2, and 3, while the wards were referred to by the alphabetical letters A, B, C, D, and E. No specific person was identified by any study report; names and other identifying information from subjects were solely acquired for quality assurance purposes.

### **3.13 Methodological constraints**

Methodological constraints are limitations or restrictions that affect the way a research study can be conducted. When researching the causes and effects of the increased crime rate in Isingiro District, several methodological constraints must be acknowledged. These constraints can affect the accuracy, reliability, and validity of the study's findings. Below are five well-explained points detailing these constraints:

The reliability and accuracy of crime data from police reports and records can be a significant constraint. Underreporting or misreporting of crimes due to fear of retaliation, mistrust of law enforcement, or bureaucratic inefficiencies can result in incomplete or inaccurate data. This issue may lead to skewed findings that do not accurately reflect the true crime situation in the district.

The process of selecting participants for surveys and interviews may introduce sampling bias. If the sample is not representative of the broader population of Isingiro District, the results may not generalize to the entire district. For example, if certain areas with higher crime rates are underrepresented in the sample, the study may underestimate the overall crime rate.

Survey and interview responses can be influenced by response bias, where participants may provide socially desirable answers rather than truthful ones. For instance, individuals might underreport involvement in criminal activities or overstate their sense of safety. This bias can distort the data and lead to erroneous conclusions about crime rates and perceptions of safety.

Conducting the study over a limited period may not capture long-term trends or seasonal variations in crime rates. Short-term data collection might overlook cyclical patterns or the impact of specific events (e.g., holidays, economic fluctuations) on crime rates. This temporal constraint can limit the study's ability to provide a comprehensive analysis of crime trends over time.

Limited resources, including time, funding, and personnel, can constrain the scope and depth of the research. Insufficient funding may affect the ability to conduct extensive surveys or interviews, acquire necessary data, or employ advanced analytical tools. Time constraints can limit the duration of data collection, while personnel limitations can affect the thoroughness of data analysis and interpretation.

To address these methodological constraints, you can use appropriate data collection and analysis methods, carefully choose your sample, and consider the resources available when designing your study. Additionally, you can work to reduce selection bias and choose a research design that best fits your research questions and resources.

## CHAPTER 4

### DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION, AND INTERPRETATION.

#### 4.1 Introduction

The results obtained from the gathered data are presented in this chapter of the report. The data findings are carefully examined, evaluated, and demonstrated, as well as crucial variables, study goals, and the primary research inquiry.

#### 4.2 Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents.

This section presents an overview of the respondents' demographic characteristics, including their gender, and age.

*Table 2: Gender of the respondents*

Gender	Frequency	Percent (%)	Valid percent (%)	Cumulative percent (%)
Male	20	57.1	57.1	57.1
Female	15	42.9	42.9	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: primary data*

#### Explanation:

Frequency: The number of respondents for each gender.

Percent: The percentage of the total respondents that each gender represents (calculated as  $\text{frequency}/35 \times 100$ )

Valid Percent: The percentage considering only valid responses (in this case, all responses are valid, so it's the same as the Percent).

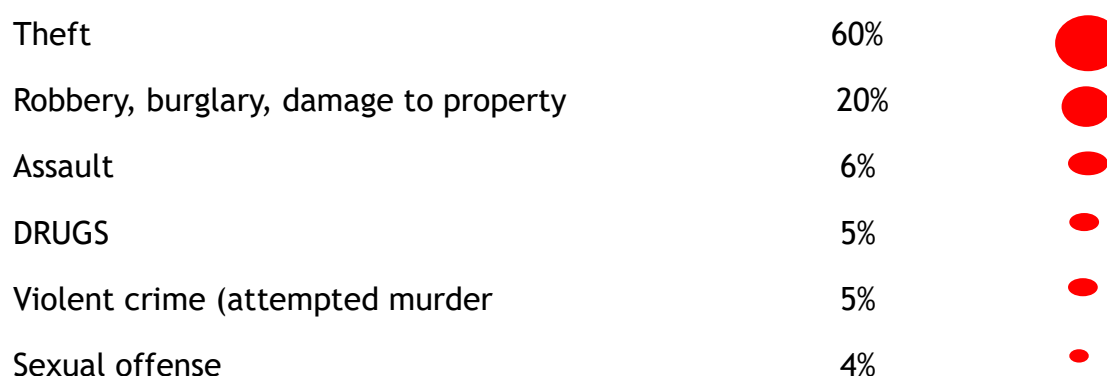
Cumulative Percent: The cumulative percentage as you go down the list. For males, it is the same as their percentage. For females, it is the sum of their percent and the previous cumulative percent (which is the male percentage).

This table provides a clear summary of the gender distribution among your survey respondents.

**Table 3: Age of the respondents**

Age	Percentage
20 and below	3%
21-30	33%
31-40	26%
41-50	20%
50 +	16%
<b>TOTALo</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Figure 4: Most Common crimes in the district**



### 4.3 Findings

#### Exploring the Causes and Effects of High Crime Rates in Isingiro District

This section explains the primary causes and profound effects and techniques to decrease the high crime rate in the community, drawing from comprehensive research conducted.

The high crime rate in Isingiro is primarily driven by poverty and unemployment. A substantial portion of the district's population lives below the poverty line, leading many, especially the youth, to resort to criminal activities for survival. The district's proximity to the Tanzanian border exacerbates the situation by facilitating cross-border smuggling and illicit trade. The porous nature of the border makes it easy for criminals to evade law enforcement, further fueling criminal activities.

Inadequate law enforcement is another significant factor contributing to the high crime rate in Isingiro. The district's police force is under-resourced and understaffed, struggling to cover vast areas effectively. This inadequacy hampers the prevention and response to criminal activities. Additionally, the breakdown of social structures, including family units and community cohesion, leaves many individuals without moral guidance and susceptible to criminal behavior. The prevalence of drug and alcohol abuse in the district further aggravates the crime situation, leading to increased instances of violent crime and theft.

The effects of high crime rates in Isingiro are far-reaching and multifaceted. Economically, crime deters investment and development, as businesses are reluctant to operate in high-risk areas, stunting economic growth and job creation. Socially, crime undermines community trust and cohesion, leading to reduced social interaction and cooperation. The constant threat of crime also takes a significant psychological toll on residents, inducing stress, anxiety, and trauma. This psychological burden can have long-term impacts on mental health and overall community well-being.

Education is another critical area affected by high crime rates. Schools in the district are sometimes forced to close due to safety concerns, disrupting the educational system and affecting students' academic performance and prospects. Moreover, violent crime leads to physical injuries, straining the local healthcare system and diverting resources from other critical health needs.

Addressing the high crime rate in Isingiro requires a comprehensive and multifaceted approach. Economic development initiatives are essential to provide employment opportunities and reduce poverty. Strengthening law enforcement capabilities and enhancing cross-border cooperation are crucial to curb smuggling and other illegal activities. Social programs aimed at rebuilding community cohesion and supporting families are necessary to restore social control and moral guidance. Additionally, addressing substance abuse through prevention and rehabilitation programs is vital to reducing crime linked to drug and alcohol abuse.

**Table 4: The causes and effects of high crime rate**

Statement	Cause/Effect	Extent of Disagreement	Mean	Std Dev	Notes
Poverty and unemployment are major causes of crime.	Cause	Accepted	4.5	0.8	There is a strong consensus that economic hardship significantly drives crime rates. Respondents overwhelmingly agree on this point, as evidenced by a high mean score and low standard deviation.
Poor education system contributes to high crime rates.	Cause	Neutral	3.2	1.1	This statement received mixed responses, indicating that while some recognize the link between education and crime, others may not see it as a significant factor. The higher standard deviation suggests varied perspectives on this issue.
Lack of law	Cause	Accepted	4.2	0.9	Respondents

<p><b>enforcement leads to increased crime.</b></p>					<p>generally agree that insufficient law enforcement contributes to rising crime rates. The relatively high mean and low standard deviation indicate strong agreement on this issue.</p>
<p><b>A high crime rate leads to economic decline.</b></p>	<p>Effect</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>4.7</p>	<p>0.6</p>	<p>There is broad agreement that high crime rates negatively impact the local economy. This is supported by a very high mean score and low standard deviation, showing a strong consensus.</p>
<p><b>Crime leads to increased social instability.</b></p>	<p>Effect</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>4.6</p>	<p>0.7</p>	<p>Respondents widely agree that crime fosters social instability in the community. The data reflect a strong sentiment regarding this</p>

					effect.
<b>Migration due to high crime rates disrupts communities.</b>	Effect	Neutral	3.4	1.0	This statement shows some disagreement among respondents, indicating varied views on the impact of crime-related migration on community cohesion.

#### 4.3.1 Summary Insights

Below is the key or the explanation of the above table

*Table 5: Table explaining the above table showing the causes and effects of high crime rate*

Column	Description
<b>Statement</b>	Each entry outlines a specific cause or effect related to the high crime rate in Isingiro district.
<b>Cause/Effect</b>	Indicates whether the statement pertains to a cause of crime or an effect resulting from high crime rates.
<b>Extent of Disagreement</b>	Reflects the level of agreement among respondents about the statement, categorized as Accepted, Neutral, or False.
<b>Mean</b>	The average score assigned to the statement on a Likert scale (e.g., 1-5), indicates overall sentiment.
<b>Std Dev .</b>	The standard deviation represents the variability in responses; a higher value indicates more disagreement
<b>Notes</b>	Additional context or insights about the responses, highlighting consensus or variations among participants.

#### **4.3.2 Conclusion**

This table provides a comprehensive overview of the factors influencing crime rates in Isingiro district and their subsequent effects. The insights drawn can inform policy recommendations and targeted interventions aimed at addressing the underlying issues contributing to crime in the area.

## **5.0 CHAPTER 5**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

Based on the research findings, the results of a study investigating the effects and causes of the high crime rate in Isingiro district, are summarized in this chapter. Based on the study goals in Chapter One and the findings in Chapter Four of this report, the study's findings are summarized in this section. It also includes the recommendations, which were discussed in Chapter Four, which can be used to determine whether the study's goals were met and to provide the answers to the research questions.

#### **5.2 Summary of Findings**

The study, which examined the effects and causes of the high crime rate in the Isingiro district, is summarized in the section that follows. Poverty and unemployment are major contributors to the high crime rate in Isingiro district. The widespread economic hardship forces some individuals to resort to criminal activities as a means of survival. With limited job opportunities and insufficient income, many residents find themselves in desperate situations, leading to an increase in crime.

Another big cause of crime is the inadequacies in the education system which significantly contributes to crime in the district. Limited access to quality education, coupled with high dropout rates, leaves many youths without viable prospects. This lack of educational opportunities restricts their ability to secure stable employment, pushing some towards criminal behavior as an alternative means of making a living.

Furthermore, the district's law enforcement agencies are often under-resourced and cannot effectively manage and deter criminal activities. This insufficiency significantly contributes to the rising crime rates, as the lack of a strong and responsive police presence fails to prevent crime and ensure community safety. Strengthening law enforcement is essential to reducing crime rates.

One of the effects of high crime rates is that they lead to economic decline in Isingiro district. Crime deters investment, disrupts business operations, and reduces economic opportunities. As businesses close or relocate due to safety concerns, job opportunities diminish, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and crime. The economic impact of crime further exacerbates the district's socio-economic challenges.

Lastly, the effects are that crime leads to crime-induced migration disrupts community structures, and weakens social bonds. Residents often migrate in search of safer environments, leading to instability and a breakdown of community cohesion. This migration negatively impacts the stability and continuity of local communities, making it difficult to build and maintain a strong, supportive social fabric in the district.

### **5.3 Conclusions**

The following conclusions were reached based on the data found and the analysis presented in chapters four and five, respectively.

The study suggests that age, employment status, drug use, quality of housing, poverty level, and unemployment rate play an influential role in the type of crime to be committed by individuals living in the district

It was observed that a larger percentage of unemployed people commit crimes more often. It was also observed that most people who were poor often committed crimes.

Sex, educational level, and annual income earned by individuals had no significant effect on an individual committing a crime.

## **5.4 Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, the government should enhance efforts towards eradicating poverty in rural settlements through initiating local income-generating programs such as the Parish Development Model (PDM) and Emyooga fund.

The government should enhance police presence through increasing police patrols in informal settlements to improve law enforcement presence and responsiveness.

There is a need for the government to develop job training programs and initiatives to increase employment opportunities for the youth. This helps to reduce the unemployment rate in the district.

The government should also invest in infrastructure and housing projects to enhance living conditions for residents in informal settlements. This helps to improve housing conditions and reduce crime rates.

The study also recommended the government establish drug prevention programs and rehabilitation centers to reduce drug use and addiction. This should be done through launching public campaigns to raise awareness about crime prevention and the dangers of drug addiction.

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## 5.6 Appendix

### QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Respondent,

I am a final-year student pursuing a bachelor's degree in Governance and International Relations at Uganda Christian University, school of social science. I request you to join my project by completing the following survey questionnaire, it takes 3-5 minutes to complete the survey. Your responses will be used for academic purposes, Additionally, your personal information will be kept confidential.

#### Section One. Demographics

##### 1. AGE

What is your age?

##### 2. GENDER

a. Male

b. Female

c. Other (please specify) .....

##### 3. Occupation

a. Student

b. Unemployed

c. Retired

d. Employed

e. Self-employed

##### 4. Education Level

a. Educated

b. Uneducated

c. Dropped out

d. Other (please specify) .....

**SECTION TWO: Perception of Crime**

**(Circle the correct response)**

**1. How do you rate the crime rate in your community?**

- a. Very High
- b. Moderate
- c. High
- d. Low
- e. None of the above

**2. What are the common types of Crime in the Community?**

- a. Robbery
- b. Assault
- c. Domestic Violence
- d. Kidnap
- e. OTHER (please specify) .....

**3. What time are the most crimes committed?**

- a. 7-12 pm
- b. 12-5 pm
- c. 5-10 pm
- d. Late in the night

**4. How safe is your community and the neighborhood throughout the year?**

- a. Safe
- b. Very Safe
- c. Unsafe
- d. Very unsafe
- e. OTHER (Please specify) .....

**SECTION 3 Causes of Crime**

**(TICK THE MOST APPROPRIATE ANSWER)**

**1. What are the main causes of the high crime rate in the district?**

- Poverty     Unemployment     Lack of Education       
Drug
- Peer Pressure     Group Influence     Lack of Community Security
- Greed     Alcoholism
- Other (specify) .....

**2. How significant has employment caused crime in the community?**

- Very significant     Significant     Moderate   
Insignificant     Very Insignificant

**3. How significant are drug abuse and alcoholism as a cause of crime in your area?**

- Very significant     Significant     Moderate   
Insignificant     Very Insignificant

**SECTION 4: Effects of Crime**

**1. How has the high crime rate affected you?**

- a. Financial loss
- b. Physical Injury
- c. Loss of property
- d. Fear and anxiety
- e. Other (please specify)

.....

**2. How has crime affected the economy of the community?**

- a. Very significant
- b. Significantly
- c. No, not at all
- d. Not sure

**3. How has crime affected the youth?**

- a. School dropout
- b. Fear and trauma
- c. Increased absenteeism in school
- d. No not at all
- e. Other (please specify)

.....

**SECTION 5: Solutions**

**1. What are the possible solutions to the increased crime rate?**

- a. Community policing
- b. Increase in job creation programs
- c. Drug and Alcohol rehabilitation
- d. Increase police presence
- e. Other (please specify)

.....

**2. How willing are you to participate in community programs to reduce the high crime rate?**

- a. Willing
- b. Very Willing
- c. Neutral
- d. Unwilling

**3. Any suggestions that help in reducing the high crime rate in your community**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**SECTION C: Personal Experience**

**1. Are you or do you know anyone who has been a victim of the crime in the previous years?**

- a. Yes
- b. No

**2. If yes, what kind of crime was it?**

.....

**3. If yes, how was the crime reported?**

- a. Police
- b. Community Leadership
- c. Did not report
- d. Other (if any please specify) .....

**4. Were you helped after reporting the crime?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not applicable

*Thank you for taking the time you complete the questionnaire. Your responses will help us understand the different concepts about the causes, effects, and how they can be reduced*