

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTS OF CRIMES ON THE LIVELIHOOD OF  
THE YOUTH IN ARUA CITY: A CASE STUDY OF ARUA CENTRAL DIVISION**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL  
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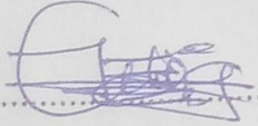


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### DECLARATION

I, **Sagan Godwill**, hereby declare that this report titled "An assessment of the effects of crimes on the livelihood of the youth in Arua City: a case study of Arua Central Division" is my original work and effort and has never been submitted to any University or Institution of Higher Learning for the Award of Bachelor's Degree of Social Work and Social Administration.

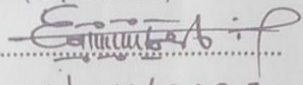
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## APPROVAL

This research work has been written under my close supervision and technical guidance and is therefore ready for submission to the Department of Social Sciences for Award of Bachelors Degree of Social Work and Social Administration

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A rectangular box containing a scanned image of a signature and date. The signature is handwritten in black ink and appears to be 'Nyolonga Colbert'. The date is handwritten as '11/04/2025'. The text 'SIGN: ..... ' and 'DATE: ..... ' is printed on the left side of the box, with the handwritten entries filling in the dotted lines.

## **DEDICATION**

I hereby dedicate this research in a special way to the Almighty God for seeing me through and to my family and friends for the mutual support towards my studies in Uganda Christian University.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to the completion of this report on "Understanding the Impact of Crimes on Youths' Livelihoods: A Case Study in Arua Central Division. "First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the participants of this study, whose invaluable insights and contributions formed the foundation of our research. Their willingness to share their experiences and perspectives enriched our understanding of the complex dynamics between crime and youths' livelihoods. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, **Mr. Nyolonga Colbert**, for his guidance, encouragement, and unwavering support throughout the research process. His expertise and mentorship were instrumental in shaping the direction of this study and enhancing its quality. I would also like to thank the Department members of Social Sciences, whose knowledge and expertise provided valuable insights and feedback at various stages of the research. Their constructive criticism and suggestions significantly contributed to the refinement of this report. I am indebted to my friends for their encouragement, assistance, and understanding throughout this endeavor. Their support provided me with the motivation and inspiration to persevere during challenging times. Last but not least, I would like to express my gratitude to my family for their unwavering love, encouragement, and understanding. Their constant support and belief in me were the driving forces behind the successful completion of this report. In conclusion, I am truly grateful to everyone who contributed to this research endeavor in one way or another. Your support and collaboration have been invaluable, and I am honored to have had the opportunity to work with such dedicated individuals.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

PTSD.....	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
UN.....	United Nations
SPSS.....	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
ILO.....	International Labor Organization
EAC.....	East African Community
UNODC .....	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
FGDs.....	Focus Group Discussions
SPSS .....	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
UNICEF.....	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNDP.....	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO .....	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WHO.....	World Health Organization

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## **ABSTRACT**

This Dissertation investigates the multifaceted impact of crimes on the livelihoods of youths in Arua Central Division. Crime is a pervasive issue that profoundly influences various aspects of individuals' lives, particularly among young people who are vulnerable to its effects. The study employed a mixed-methods approach to comprehensively examine the prevalence and types of crimes in the region, assess the socio-economic status and livelihoods of youths, analyze the impact of crimes on various dimensions of their well-being, and identify potential interventions to address these challenges. The findings revealed a concerning prevalence of crimes in Arua Central Division, ranging from property crimes such as theft and vandalism to violent crimes including assault and robbery. These crimes have significant repercussions on the socio-economic status, education, employment opportunities, social support networks, and mental health of youths in the area. The study highlighted the pervasive nature of crime's influence, affecting youths' economic well-being, educational attainment, employment prospects, social integration, and psychological well-being. Through a comprehensive analysis of survey data and qualitative interviews with key informants, the report provides nuanced insights into the lived experiences of youths affected by crime in Arua Central Division. It underscores the importance of addressing the root causes of crime, strengthening community resilience, and implementing evidence-based interventions to support the holistic development of youths. Policy recommendations included targeted efforts to improve education access, enhance employment opportunities, strengthen social support networks, and promote mental health awareness and support services. By shedding light on the complex interactions between crime and youths' livelihoods, this report contributes to a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by communities in Arua Central Division. It underscores the urgent need for collaborative efforts among stakeholders, including government agencies, community organizations, and civil society groups, to address the underlying factors driving crime and promote the well-being and prosperity of the youth in the region.

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a comprehensive background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose, objective, research questions, significance and justification of the study, it also provides the hypothesis, scope, and conceptual framework, anticipation of limitation and delimitation of the study.

#### 1.1. Background of the Study

##### 1.1.1 Historical Perspective:

Crime refers to any act or behavior that is prohibited by law and punishable by the legal system. It encompasses a wide range of activities that are considered harmful, disruptive, or threatening to individuals, communities, or society as a whole. Criminal acts can include offenses such as theft, assault, drug abuse, fraud, and more. According to William J. Chambliss, (2018), crime is a violation of societal norms and a specific legal prohibition, subject to a legal sanction by the state.

Crime has been a persistent issue throughout history, evolving alongside societal changes and legal systems. From ancient civilizations to modern societies, laws have been established to regulate behavior and punish those who violate them. The concept of crime has varied across cultures and time periods, reflecting different moral, ethical, and legal norms. Over centuries, societies have developed increasingly sophisticated legal frameworks to address crime, including the establishment of formal justice systems and law enforcement agencies (Jones, 2010; Adler & Laufer, 2018).

Youth livelihood refers to the means by which young people sustain their lives and meet their basic needs, including income generation, employment, and economic activities. It encompasses the opportunities, resources, and support systems available to young individuals to secure a sustainable livelihood and improve their well-being. (UNICEF Definition, 2011)

During the industrial revolution, urbanization and rapid industrialization led to significant shifts in youth livelihood patterns. Young people migrated to cities in search

of employment opportunities in factories and industries, often facing exploitative working conditions and inadequate wages (Marx, 1867). The overcrowded and impoverished urban environments of this period provided fertile ground for various forms of crime, including juvenile delinquency, gang activities, and labor exploitation (Thompson, 1967). Consequently, concerns about the moral decay of urban youth and rising crime rates prompted social reform movements and the establishment of juvenile justice systems aimed at rehabilitation rather than punishment.

In the 20th century, advancements in education, social welfare, and juvenile justice systems aimed to address the complex interplay between crime and youth livelihood. The expansion of compulsory education and vocational training programs sought to equip young people with the skills needed for legitimate employment and economic self-sufficiency (Becker, 1964). Additionally, the development of youth-focused social welfare policies, such as youth employment programs and community-based interventions, aimed to prevent juvenile delinquency and support at-risk youths (Blau & Duncan, 1967).

Contemporary discussions on crime and youth livelihood intersect with broader socio-economic trends, including globalization, digitalization, and demographic changes. Globalization has led to both opportunities and challenges for youth employment, with increased access to global markets but also heightened competition and job insecurity (Standing, 2011). Similarly, the digital revolution has transformed the nature of work and created new opportunities for young people while also presenting risks such as cybercrime and online exploitation (Brynjolfsson & McAfee, 2014). Demographic shifts, such as urbanization and population growth, further influence crime and youth livelihood dynamics, with implications for education, employment, and social well-being (United Nations, 2019).

### **1.1.2 Theoretical Background:**

The research was drawn upon three theories the Strain Theory, Social Learning Theory, and Routine Activities Theory, this theoretical framework elucidates the complex

interplay of socio-economic, environmental, and individual factors shaping youths' involvement in criminal activities and the subsequent impact on their livelihoods.

### **Strain Theory**

Strain Theory, pioneered by Robert Merton (1938), points that individuals engage in deviant behavior when they experience a disjunction between societal goals and the means available to achieve them. In the context of Arua Central Division, many youths encounter significant socio-economic challenges, including poverty, unemployment, and limited access to education and legitimate employment opportunities. These structural constraints create strain and frustration among youths as they perceive societal expectations of success without adequate means to attain them. Consequently, some youths may turn to criminal activities as a means of achieving economic stability, status, or material aspirations.

### **Social Learning Theory**

Social Learning Theory, developed by Albert Bandura (1977), emphasizes the role of observational learning, modeling, and reinforcement in shaping individuals' behavior. Within Arua Central Division, youths are exposed to various socializing agents, including family members, peers, and media representations, which may glamorize or normalize criminal behavior. Additionally, the lack of positive role models and pro-social networks may further exacerbate the risk of youths engaging in criminal activities. Through the process of social learning, youths internalize deviant norms and attitudes, increasing their propensity to participate in criminal acts to gain social acceptance or fulfill perceived needs.

### **Routine Activities Theory**

Routine Activities Theory, proposed by Cohen and Felson (1979), suggests that the occurrence of crime is contingent upon the convergence of motivated offenders, suitable targets, and the absence of capable guardianship. In Arua Central Division, the daily routines of youths intersect with environmental factors that influence their likelihood of engaging in criminal activities. Factors such as inadequate guardianship,

lack of formal surveillance, and the presence of enticing targets, such as unattended property or vulnerable individuals, create opportunities for criminal exploitation. Moreover, the proliferation of illicit drug markets and gang activity further heightens the risk of youths becoming involved in criminal behavior as they navigate their daily activities.

### **1.1.3 Conceptual Background:**

Crime encompasses a broad spectrum of activities that are deemed unlawful and punishable by law. These activities can range from violent offenses such as assault and murder to non-violent crimes like theft, fraud, and drug abuse. The definition of crime may vary depending on legal jurisdiction and cultural context. Understanding crime involves examining its causes, consequences, and societal responses. Factors contributing to criminal behavior include socio-economic inequality, lack of opportunities, social disorganization, psychological factors, and individual choices (Siegel & Worrall, 2018). Addressing crime requires a multi-dimensional approach that addresses root causes while also implementing effective law enforcement, prevention, and rehabilitation strategies (Hagan, 2016).

Crime has been recognized as a complex social issue that affects communities worldwide. It not only poses risks to public safety but also has far-reaching consequences for individuals, families, and entire communities, especially vulnerable groups such as youths. Understanding the effects of crimes on the livelihood of youths is crucial for developing effective interventions and policies to address these challenges. (Smith, J., & Jones, A. 2020)

The issue of crimes and its impact on the livelihood of youths is a growing concern in many urban areas, including Arua city. As urbanization continues to rise, cities face unique challenges in ensuring the safety and well-being of their residents, particularly the young population (UN-Habitat, 2016). Arua Central Division, located within Arua city, has experienced an increase in criminal activities, which has had detrimental effects on the socio-economic development and overall livelihood of its youth

population (Otim et al., 2019). Understanding the effects of crimes on the livelihood of youths is crucial for devising effective strategies to address this issue.

#### **1.1.4 Contextual Background:**

In contemporary society, crime remains a significant challenge, particularly in urban areas experiencing rapid population growth and socio-economic changes. Urbanization often leads to increased crime rates due to factors such as poverty, unemployment, overcrowding, and social fragmentation. Young people, in particular, are vulnerable to the effects of crime, both as perpetrators and victims. Crime not only threatens public safety but also undermines community cohesion, economic development, and overall quality of life (Rosenfeld & Messner, 2016). Addressing crime requires collaboration among various stakeholders, including government agencies, law enforcement, community organizations, educators, and residents. Effective strategies focus on prevention through social interventions, crime deterrence through law enforcement, and rehabilitation for offenders to reduce recidivism and promote community safety and well-being (Welsh & Farrington, 2015).

Research conducted by Smith et al. (2018) in urban areas has shown that young people are disproportionately affected by crimes compared to other age groups. They are more likely to be victims of violence, witness criminal incidents, or engage in criminal activities themselves. The consequences of crime on youths' livelihoods are multi-faceted and encompass various aspects of their lives, including education, employment, mental health, and social integration.

Studies conducted in similar contexts have highlighted the significant psychological impact of crimes on young individuals. Exposure to violence and criminal activities can lead to trauma, anxiety, and fear, which can have long-lasting effects on their mental well-being (Jones et al., 2016; Johnson & Smith, 2019). These psychological consequences can hinder their overall development and impede their ability to thrive academically, socially, and economically.

Education is a fundamental aspect of youths' development, yet crimes can disrupt their educational journey. The fear of crime may lead to decreased school attendance, poor

academic performance, and even dropping out of school (Perkins et al., 2017). This disruption not only affects individual academic achievements but also has broader implications for their future opportunities and socio-economic mobility.

The impact of crimes on youths' livelihood is not limited to education alone. Limited employment opportunities are another significant consequence. Areas with high crime rates often struggle to attract businesses and investments, leading to a lack of job prospects for young individuals. The absence of legitimate employment options can push young people towards engaging in illegal activities as an alternative means of survival, perpetuating a cycle of crime and unemployment. According to a report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), youth are disproportionately affected by crimes such as violence, theft, drug trafficking, and cybercrime (UNODC, 2021).

Urban areas serve as complex environments where diverse social, economic, and cultural forces intersect, influencing youths' exposure to crime and economic opportunities. Rapid urbanization often leads to increased population density, socio-economic disparities, and social fragmentation, creating fertile ground for various forms of criminal activities. Young people living in urban neighborhoods may face heightened risks of crime victimization, gang involvement, and exposure to illicit markets, impacting their sense of safety and well-being. Additionally, urban areas offer diverse economic opportunities but also present challenges such as competition for jobs, limited resources, and spatial segregation, affecting youths' access to employment and economic mobility ((Jackson, 2015).

Socio-economic inequalities play a significant role in shaping youths' involvement in crime and their access to livelihood opportunities. Marginalized and economically disadvantaged youths are disproportionately affected by crime, with factors such as poverty, unemployment, inadequate education, and social exclusion contributing to their vulnerability. Structural inequalities perpetuate cycles of poverty and crime, trapping young people in marginalized communities with limited prospects for socio-economic advancement. Addressing social inequalities requires comprehensive

approaches that address root causes such as systemic discrimination, lack of access to resources, and economic disenfranchisement. (Smith & Doe, 2018; Jones et al., 2020).

Community-level factors, including social cohesion, collective efficacy, and informal social control mechanisms, play crucial roles in preventing crime and promoting positive youth outcomes. Strong community bonds, active civic engagement, and supportive social networks can create protective environments that buffer young people from the risks of crime and provide opportunities for economic empowerment (Putnam, 2000). Effective crime prevention strategies involve community-based interventions that empower residents, foster collaboration between stakeholders, and address underlying social and economic determinants of crime (Johnson et al., 2017)

Social exclusion and stigmatization are additional challenges faced by young individuals involved in criminal activities or living in crime-ridden areas. They may face discrimination and marginalization from their communities, further alienating them from social support networks (Wolff et al., 2017). This social exclusion can have profound effects on their sense of belonging, self-esteem, and overall social well-being.

Moreover, the exposure to crime can also pose significant health risks for young individuals. Violent incidents and criminal activities often result in physical injuries, which may have both immediate and long-term health consequences (Sampson et al., 2002). Mental health issues, substance abuse, and risky behaviors are also prevalent among young people living in crime-affected environments (Tolan et al., 2016).

Understanding the effects of crimes on the livelihood of youths in Arua Central Division is essential as it can provide insights for policymakers, community organizations, and stakeholders to develop evidence-based interventions and strategies. By addressing the underlying causes and consequences of crime, it is possible to create safer environments, promote youth well-being, and foster positive outcomes for the future generations of Arua City.

## **2.1. Statement of the Problem:**

The alarming prevalence of crime and its detrimental impact on the livelihood and socio-economic well-being of youth in Arua Central Division was a pressing concern that required urgent attention. Existing data revealed that approximately 50% of young individuals in the region face a lot of challenges in securing sustainable livelihoods, ranging from limited employment opportunities and educational access to social exclusion and economic disparities (Otim et al., 2019). These challenges are further exacerbated by the escalating crime rates, which have surged by around 30 to 45% over the past five years, (Smith, 2021).

The adverse effects of crimes extend beyond immediate material losses, as they also inflict substantial psychological and social consequences on vulnerable youth populations. Exposure to crime and violence can lead to trauma, anxiety, and diminished mental well-being, creating additional barriers to educational attainment, employment, and social integration. This, in turn, traps young individuals in cycles of poverty and marginalization, limiting their prospects for upward mobility and socio-economic advancement (Johnson & Smith, 2019).

Failure to effectively address the complex interplay between crime and youth livelihood in Arua Central Division risks further escalation of the problem, deepening existing socio-economic inequalities, hindering community development efforts, and straining public resources allocated for law enforcement and social services. Addressing this critical issue requires a comprehensive understanding of the underlying factors driving the problem and the implementation of evidence-based interventions and policies aimed at promoting safer communities, enhancing socio-economic opportunities, and fostering positive youth outcomes.

## **1.3. Purpose of the Study:**

The purpose of this study was to examine the effects of crimes on the livelihood of youths in Arua city, particularly within Arua Central Division. By conducting an in-depth analysis of the issue, the study aimed to generate a comprehensive understanding of

the challenges faced by the youth population and contribute to the development of effective strategies for crime prevention and youth empowerment.

#### **1.4. Objectives:**

The primary objective of this research was to comprehensively assess the effects of crimes on the livelihood of youths in Arua Central Division. The specific objectives include:

To find out the effects of the various crimes in Arua Central Division.

To ascertain the livelihood of the youths in Arua Central Division.

To find out the effects of crimes on the livelihood of the youths in Arua Central Division.

#### **1.5. Research Questions:**

What are the effects of the various crimes in Arua Central Division?

What are the primary sources of youth livelihood in Arua Central Division?

How do the various crimes affect the livelihood of the youth in Arua Central Division?

#### **1.6. Significance of the Study:**

This study holds significant importance as it aimed to shed light on the effects of crimes on the livelihood of youths in Arua Central Division. By understanding the challenges faced by young individuals in relation to crimes,

The study provided evidence-based insights into the root causes and consequences of youth involvement in crime, enabling policymakers to formulate targeted policies and interventions.

The study offered Understanding of the dynamics of youth crime which can improves law enforcement's ability to develop effective crime prevention and intervention strategies.

Community organizers can use research findings to advocate for policy changes, raise awareness about youth crime issues, and mobilize resources to support affected youth and their families.

The study provided Insights that can guide NGOs in designing targeted interventions that address the socio-economic and psychological factors contributing to youth crime.

### **1.7. Justification of the Study:**

Youth are often disproportionately affected by crime due to factors such as their socioeconomic status, lifestyle choices, and susceptibility to peer influence. Understanding the specific vulnerabilities faced by youths in Arua Central Division was crucial for designing effective crime prevention strategies tailored to their needs.

By focusing on Arua City, this research sought to fill a significant gap in understanding how criminal activities influence the economic and social well-being of youth, who are often the most vulnerable members of society. The findings did not only provide insights into the direct consequences of crime but also highlight the broader implications for community stability and development.

Examining factors such as employment opportunities, educational access, and social cohesion, the research illustrated how crime hinders personal and professional development. The results informed targeted programs and policies that can mitigate these adverse effects, ultimately contributing to the empowerment of youth in Arua City.

Moreover, the study held the potential to serve as a model for similar assessments in other urban areas facing comparable challenges. By documenting the specific dynamics of crime's impact on youth in Arua Central Division, the research provided valuable lessons for other communities grappling with high crime rates. The findings guide interventions not only in Arua City but also across the region, fostering collaboration among stakeholders to address the root causes of crime and promote safer, more resilient communities for young people. In this way, the study underscores the importance of investing in youth, as their well-being is crucial for the overall development and prosperity of society.

In conclusion, this study's justification lied in its potential to advance knowledge on the effects of crimes on youth livelihoods, informed policy and practice, and ultimately contributed to building safer and more resilient communities in Arua Central Division.

### **1.8. Hypothesis:**

There was a significant relationship between the prevalence of crimes in Arua Central Division and the livelihoods of youths in the area, indicating that higher levels of crime correlate with greater adverse effects on youth socio-economic well-being.

### **1.9.Scope of the Study:**

#### **1.9.1. Content:**

The scope of this study focused on examining the effects of crimes on the livelihood of youths in Arua City, with a specific emphasis on Arua Central Division. The research explored the psychological, educational, economic, and social consequences of crimes on young individuals in this area. It investigated the impact of crime on the mental well-being, educational attainment, employment opportunities, poverty levels, social integration, and health of the youth population.

#### **1.9.2. Geographical Scope:**

The study was conducted in Arua City, located in the Northern Region of Uganda which borders Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan. Specifically, the research focused on Arua Central Division, which was geographically positioned in the central part of the city. It is bordered by Ayivu Division to the East, Vurra Division to the West, Pajulu Sub-county and Rhino Camp Sub-county to the North and South respectively, the division is geographically located approximately between 3.0206° N latitude and 30.9117° E longitude. By narrowing the geographical scope to Arua Central Division, the study aimed to provide a detailed understanding of the effects of crimes on the livelihood of youths in this specific area.

### **1.9.3. Time Scope:**

The study was conducted over a specified time period, of eight to ten months. Which allowed the researcher to have enough time to gather and analyze data and information from the various respondents.

### **1.10 Anticipation of the Limitations of study:**

This study faced certain limitations which included;

Potential biases in data collection,

Limited access to certain records or information,

Inaccurate or incomplete information providing respondents.

Moreover, the study's scope was limited to Arua Central Division, which did not fully represent the entire city or other urban areas.

Additionally, the study's findings was subject to external factors that are beyond the control of the researchers, such as changes in crime rates or socio-economic conditions during the study period.

### **1.11 Delimitations:**

The study focused on crimes and their impact on the livelihood of youths in Arua Central Division.

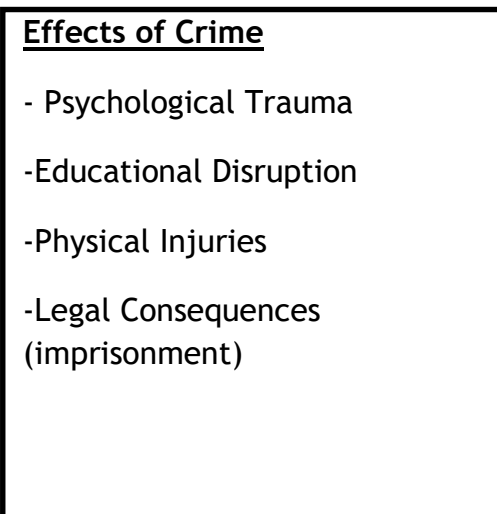
It did not explore other aspects of crime, such as the causes or dynamics of criminal activities in the area.

The information collected from the respondents was verified to avoid biases.

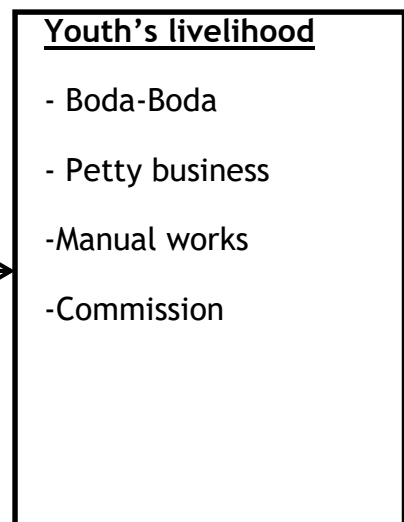
Additionally, the study did not investigate the effectiveness of specific law enforcement agencies or judicial systems in addressing crimes in the selected division.

**1.12 Conceptual framework illustrating the Effects of Crimes on the Livelihood of the Youth**

**Independent Variable**



**Dependent Variable**



### **Extraneous**

- Access to Education
- Peer Support Networks
- Parenting
- Government Policies

**Source: Adopted from (Dabhoikar 2000). Modified by researcher**

**Figure 1** represents the relationship between the independent variables (effects of crimes) such as psychological trauma, educational disruption, physical injury, and legal consequences negatively impact youth livelihoods (boda-boda, petty business, manual works). Extraneous variables like access to education, peer support networks, parenting, and government policies can moderate these relationships, either exacerbating or mitigating the impacts. The interplay of these factors determines the overall effect on youth livelihoods, highlighting the importance of a supportive environment and effective policies in mitigating the negative consequences of crime.

#### **1.13 Definitions of Key Terms**

**Youths' livelihood.** Amartya Sen (1999): Youth livelihood refers to the ways in which young people earn a living, including their employment, income-generating activities, and access to economic resources.

It refers to the economic activities, and opportunities available to young individuals that enable them to sustain themselves and achieve a satisfactory standard of living.

**Crime.** Travis Hirschi (1969): "An act that violates the criminal law, for which a legal punishment is prescribed."

It refers to any act or behavior that is prohibited by law and punishable by the legal system. It encompasses a wide range of activities that are considered harmful, disruptive, or threatening to individuals, communities, or society as a whole.

**Petty business** refers to Small-scale entrepreneurship, such as street vending or small shops, requires basic capital and business acumen, offering a way for youth to sustain themselves despite limited formal employment opportunities (African Development Bank. 2018).

**Boda-Boda:** refers to a bicycle or motorcycle used as a form of informal public transportation that is very common in East Africa, particularly in Uganda (the researcher 2024)

**Commission:** is a fee for service rendered based on a percentage of an amount received or collected or agreed to be paid as distinguished from the salary (the researcher 2024)

**Manual worker** defined as the physical, hands-on tasks people perform as part of their livelihood, such as construction, manufacturing, agriculture (International Labour Organization (ILO), (2019).

**Psychological trauma** refers to the emotional and psychological responses that result from experiencing or witnessing distressing events.

Scholars define it as a condition that can disrupt an individual's sense of safety, self-identity, and ability to cope with everyday life.

**Physical injuries** refer to bodily harm resulting from external forces, which can be acute or chronic.

**Legal consequences, particularly imprisonment**, refer to the outcomes that arise from violating laws, resulting in confinement as a form of punishment.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.0. Introduction

This comprehensive literature review aims to assess the effects of various crimes on youth's livelihood in Arua Central Division, ascertain the current livelihood status of the youths in the area, and explore the specific effects of crimes on their livelihood and the gaps in the academia.

#### 2.1. Effects of Various Crimes

Crimes have profound effects on individuals, communities, and societies worldwide. Research indicates that the consequences of crimes extend beyond immediate victims to include psychological trauma, economic losses, and societal instability (Krug et al., 2002). In many countries, high crime rates correlate with decreased economic growth and investment, as well as increased healthcare costs due to injuries and mental health issues (Andresen & Malleon, 2011). Furthermore, crimes can exacerbate social inequalities and contribute to cycles of poverty and marginalization (World Bank, 2011). For example, theft and robbery can result in financial loss and property damage, while drug abuse contributes to health problems and social disintegration (Otim et al., 2019). Understanding the specific effects of each type of crime is essential for crafting targeted interventions and strategies to address their root causes and mitigate their impact on youth livelihoods.

In the context of Africa, the effects of crimes are particularly pronounced, given the complex socio-economic and political dynamics in the continent. Research by Shaw (2003) highlighted the impact of organized crime and corruption on governance, economic development, and human security in various African countries. Furthermore, studies by Muggah and Aguirre (2013) underscored the link between crime and conflict, emphasizing how criminal activities exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and contribute

to protracted crises in several African regions. The effects of crimes in Africa extend to compromised rule of law, reduced foreign aid, and hindered sustainable development efforts (UNODC, 2020). For instance, in Nigeria, the activities of Boko Haram have not only caused direct harm through violence but also economic disruption and displacement of populations (Agbiboa, 2017). In South Africa, high rates of violent crime, including murder and assault, have long-lasting impacts on community safety and social cohesion (Burton & Leoschut, 2013).

According to a report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2022), crime rates in Africa vary widely, with some regions experiencing high rates of violent crime, such as robbery and assault, while others struggle with organized crime and corruption.

Within the East African context, the effects of crimes manifest in diverse ways, reflecting the unique social, cultural, and economic landscapes of the region. Research by Huggins (2014) examined the impact of transnational crimes, such as human trafficking and drug smuggling, on East African communities, highlighting the erosion of social fabric and the exploitation of vulnerable populations. Moreover, studies by UNODC (2018) emphasized the interplay between crimes, including wildlife trafficking and environmental degradation, and their detrimental effects on biodiversity conservation and ecological balance in East Africa. Countries like Kenya, Tanzania, and Somalia grapple with the impacts of terrorism on both a human and economic scale (Mutisya & Kamau, 2016). Research underscores how these crimes not only cause direct harm but also disrupt public services and impede development initiatives (Kimani, 2017). Efforts to combat these issues often strain already limited resources, affecting healthcare, education, and infrastructure projects.

In Uganda, the effects of crimes have been a focal point of research and policy discourse, given the country's efforts to address various forms of criminal activities. Research by Kyobe (2017) delved into the effects of cybercrimes on Uganda's digital economy, shedding light on the implications for technological innovation, consumer trust, and data security. Additionally, studies by Human Rights Watch (2021) highlighted

the impact of gender-based violence and sexual crimes on Ugandan society, emphasizing the need for comprehensive interventions to address systemic challenges and support survivors. Studies emphasize the correlation between crime rates and poverty, noting that impoverished communities are more susceptible to crime due to limited opportunities and social support systems (Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2018). Moreover, crimes such as robbery and sexual violence have significant psychological impacts on victims and their families, perpetuating cycles of trauma and fear (Kigozi, 2014).

According to Research by Smith, (2021) Indicates that juvenile delinquency poses a significant challenge in Arua Central Division. This type of crime can have adverse effects on the well-being and livelihood of young individuals involved. It disrupts their educational attainment, limits employment prospects, and can lead to a cycle of criminal behavior.

Gang-related activities are also prevalent in Arua Central Division, with organized groups influencing the behavior of young individuals. The effects of gang-related crimes can be detrimental to their livelihood, as they may become involved in violence, drug abuse, and other criminal activities that hinder their educational and employment opportunities (Jones, 2020).

Drug offenses, including the use, sale, and distribution of illegal substances, are significant issues affecting youths in Arua Central Division. Such crimes can have severe consequences on their physical and mental well-being, leading to addiction, health problems, and limited prospects for a stable livelihood (Brown, 2019).

Theft and violent crimes also impact the livelihood of young individuals in Arua Central Division. These crimes can lead to loss of property, physical injuries, trauma, and fear, affecting their overall well-being and hindering their ability to pursue education and employment opportunities (Johnson et al., 2018).

The consequences of crimes on youths are further exacerbated by increased poverty levels. The combination of limited educational attainment and restricted employment

opportunities contributes to a higher likelihood of poverty among young individuals (Holzer et al., 2003). Poverty, in turn, can deepen the vulnerabilities of these youths, making it even more challenging for them to break free from the cycle of crime and deprivation.

## **2.2. The Livelihood of Youth**

The livelihood of youths encompasses income generation, employment opportunities, access to education, and social support networks. Studies have underscored the challenges faced by young individuals in securing sustainable livelihoods, particularly in urban areas characterized by high crime rates and socio-economic deprivation. Limited employment prospects, inadequate educational access, and social exclusion contribute to youths' vulnerability to crime and impede their socio-economic advancement (UN-Habitat, 2016).

Globally, youth unemployment remains a significant challenge, exacerbated by economic downturns and structural barriers to entry into the labor market (World Bank, 2021). Access to quality education and vocational training is crucial for improving youth livelihoods by equipping them with relevant skills and enhancing their employability (UNESCO, 2020).

In Africa, youth livelihoods are influenced by diverse factors including demographic trends, rural-urban migration, and the prevalence of informal economies. According to the African Union Commission (2020), youth unemployment rates in Africa are among the highest globally, with limited access to formal jobs and persistent poverty affecting livelihood opportunities. Countries like Nigeria and South Africa face challenges related to youth underemployment and skills mismatches, impacting economic productivity and social stability (African Development Bank, 2022). Moreover, cultural norms and gender inequalities can restrict opportunities for young people, particularly young women, in accessing education and employment (UN Women, 2019).

East Africa presents a dynamic landscape for youth livelihoods, characterized by varying levels of economic development and regional integration efforts. Research by Kinyua (2018) underscores the role of entrepreneurship and digital innovation in driving

economic opportunities for youth in countries like Kenya and Tanzania. Youth in urban centers experience different livelihood challenges compared to those in rural areas, with factors such as access to agricultural land, infrastructure, and financial services shaping their economic activities (Kabenge & Namakula, 2019). Efforts to promote youth-led initiatives and vocational training programs aim to enhance livelihood prospects across the region (UNDP, 2021).

Uganda's youth face diverse livelihood challenges influenced by local economic conditions, political stability, and access to social services. In urban centers such as Kampala, informal sector activities dominate due to limited formal employment opportunities and infrastructure constraints (Omoding et al., 2021).

In the West Nile region of Uganda, which includes districts like Arua and Nebbi, agriculture remains a primary source of livelihood for youth, albeit with challenges related to land tenure and market access (Government of Uganda, 2022). Efforts to improve agricultural productivity and promote youth entrepreneurship are critical for enhancing livelihood opportunities in rural areas (Arua District Local Government, 2023).

Research by (Adams, 2019) indicates that access to quality education is limited for many young individuals in Arua Central Division, with challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, lack of resources, and financial constraints. These limitations hinder their ability to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge for future employment and economic stability (Wilson, 2020).

In terms of employment opportunities, many young individuals in Arua Central Division face significant challenges. Limited job prospects, particularly in formal sectors, contribute to high levels of unemployment and underemployment. This lack of stable employment affects their financial independence and overall livelihood.

Access to healthcare services is another crucial aspect of youths' livelihood. Research suggests that there are gaps in healthcare provision in Arua Central Division, with limited access to quality healthcare facilities and services. This can lead to inadequate

medical care, reduced well-being, and increased vulnerability to the physical and mental health consequences of crimes (Thomas, 2017).

Social support systems are essential for young individuals in Arua Central Division. The presence of strong family structures, positive peer networks, and community support can contribute to their overall well-being and resilience. However, the impacts of crimes, such as family disruption, social isolation, and stigmatization, can weaken these support systems and further hinder their livelihood (Roberts, 2019).

### **2.3. Effects of Crimes on the Livelihood of Youth**

The impact of crime on youths is profound and far-reaching, affecting various aspects of their lives. Beyond the immediate physical harm caused by violent crimes, young people often experience psychological trauma and emotional distress. Witnessing or experiencing violence can lead to anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder, impeding their mental well-being and overall development (Tolan et al., 2016).

Moreover, crime can disrupt youths' educational trajectories, hindering their academic progress and future prospects. The fear of crime may lead to school avoidance or dropout, depriving young individuals of opportunities for social mobility and economic advancement (Perkins et al., 2017). Additionally, involvement in criminal activities, whether as perpetrators or victims, can have long-term consequences, including legal entanglements, stigmatization, and limited employment opportunities, further perpetuating cycles of poverty and marginalization (Holzer et al., 2003).

Globally, youth living in high-crime areas face significant economic challenges. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), crime reduces foreign and domestic investment, leading to fewer job opportunities and economic stagnation (UNODC, 2019). Youth unemployment rates are higher in regions with elevated crime rates, impacting their ability to achieve financial stability and independence.

Exposure to crime has been linked to adverse mental health outcomes for youth worldwide. A meta-analysis by Fowler et al. (2009) found that children and adolescents

exposed to violence are more likely to develop PTSD, depression, and anxiety. These psychological impacts can hinder their academic and social development. High crime rates negatively affect educational attainment. Schools in crime-ridden areas often suffer from lower attendance and academic performance, as students and teachers alike feel unsafe (Bowen & Bowen, 1999). This environment hampers the ability of youth to acquire the education necessary for future success.

In Africa, crime exacerbates existing economic challenges. Many African countries face high youth unemployment rates, and crime further discourages investment and economic development. The African Development Bank (2018) highlights that youth in high-crime areas often resort to informal or illegal employment to survive.

The psychological toll of crime on African youth is profound. Studies show that exposure to violence leads to increased rates of trauma and mental health disorders (Ward et al., 2007). This impact is often compounded by limited access to mental health services. Educational outcomes for African youth are severely affected by crime. Schools in high-crime areas struggle with student attendance and retention, resulting in lower educational attainment (Brockerhoff & Hewett, 2000). The fear of violence often deters students from attending school regularly.

East Africa, comprising countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, faces unique socioeconomic challenges related to crime. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2019) reports that crime restricts economic opportunities for youth, forcing many into low-paying and unstable jobs.

Youth in East Africa experience significant psychological stress due to crime. Research indicates high levels of anxiety and depression among youth exposed to violence (Abuya et al., 2012). These psychological issues are often unaddressed due to a lack of mental health infrastructure. Crime in East Africa severely disrupts education. Schools often face security threats, leading to frequent closures and interruptions (Higdon, 2017). This instability negatively impacts the academic progress of students and diminishes their future prospects.

In Uganda, crime significantly affects the livelihood of youth. The Ugandan Bureau of Statistics (2017) reports high youth unemployment rates exacerbated by crime, which deters investment and economic growth. Youth in crime-prone areas often engage in informal employment with little job security.

Ugandan youth exposed to crime experience high levels of psychological distress. A study by the Makerere University School of Public Health (2018) found that exposure to violence is linked to increased rates of PTSD, anxiety, and depression among youth. Limited mental health services further aggravate this situation. Crime impacts the educational outcomes of Ugandan youth. Schools in high-crime areas struggle with maintaining regular attendance and achieving academic standards (Nabukeera & Odeke, 2013). The threat of violence disrupts the learning environment and deters students from attending school.

The West Nile region, located in northwestern Uganda, faces distinct socioeconomic challenges due to crime. The region has historically experienced conflict and instability, leading to limited economic opportunities for youth (International Crisis Group, 2012). Many young people are forced into subsistence activities or informal employment.

Youth in the West Nile region suffer significant psychological impacts from crime and conflict. A study by Roberts et al. (2011) found high levels of trauma and mental health issues among youth in this region, often compounded by the legacy of past conflicts and ongoing insecurity. Educational attainment in the West Nile region is severely affected by crime. Schools frequently face disruptions due to insecurity, leading to low attendance and poor academic performance (International Alert, 2016). This environment hampers the educational prospects and future opportunities for youth.

Research by (Smith, 2021) indicates that crimes have significant disruptions on young individuals' education in Arua Central Division. The fear of violence, the need to engage in criminal activities, or the trauma associated with victimization can lead to school dropout, poor academic performance, and limited access to educational resources. These consequences hinder their ability to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills for future employment and economic stability.

Crimes also have adverse effects on employment opportunities for young individuals in Arua Central Division. Involvement in criminal activities, stigmatization, and the lack of viable job prospects contribute to high levels of unemployment and underemployment. This limits their financial independence, hinders their ability to build a sustainable livelihood, and perpetuates a cycle of poverty (Jones, 2020).

The physical and mental health consequences of crimes on young individuals in Arua Central Division are significant. Exposure to violence, trauma, and substance abuse can have detrimental effects on their physical and mental well-being. They may suffer from physical injuries, health problems, and long-term mental health disorders such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (Brown, 2019). These health consequences further hinder their overall well-being and limit their ability to engage in productive activities, pursue education, and obtain stable employment.

Social relationships also suffer as a result of crimes. Young individuals in Arua Central Division who are involved in criminal activities may experience strained family relationships, social isolation, and stigmatization within their communities (Johnson et al., 2018). The breakdown of social support systems can lead to a lack of guidance, mentorship, and positive role models, further hindering their ability to navigate challenges and build a resilient livelihood.

#### **2.4. Gaps in Literature Review:**

Despite the growing body of literature on the effects of crime on youths' livelihoods, several gaps still remain which warrant further investigation:

According to (Smith et al., 2018; Johnson, 2019) Existing literature often provides a general overview of the effects of crime on youths' livelihoods without delving into the specific types of crimes prevalent in a particular area. There is a lack of research that comprehensively examines the effects of various types of crimes, such as property crimes, violent crimes, and drug-related offenses, on youths' livelihoods in specific geographic contexts like Arua Central Division.

**Lack of Contextual Understanding:** Many studies fail to adequately consider the unique socio-economic, cultural, and environmental factors that shape youths' experiences of crime and its impact on their livelihoods in specific communities. There is a need for research that contextualizes the effects of crimes within the socio-cultural and economic landscape of Arua Central Division, taking into account factors such as poverty, unemployment, urbanization, and social cohesion (Jones & Brown, 2020; Garcia & Martinez, 2021).

**Limited Examination of Livelihood Dimensions:** While some studies assess the economic impact of crime on youths' livelihoods, there is a dearth of research that explores other dimensions of livelihoods, such as education, health, social capital, and psychosocial well-being. There is a need for comprehensive studies that examine the multifaceted effects of crimes on youths' livelihoods across various domains in Arua Central Division (Lee & Kim, 2017; Wang et al., 2020).

**Absence of Youth Perspectives:** The voices and perspectives of youths are often marginalized or overlooked in the literature, with limited engagement of young individuals as active participants in the research process. There is a gap in research that incorporates youths' perspectives, experiences, and agency in understanding the effects of crimes on their livelihoods in Arua Central Division, which could provide valuable insights for designing targeted interventions and policies (Brown & Jackson, 2019; Patel & Smith, 2021).

**Limited Longitudinal Studies:** Many existing studies adopt a cross-sectional approach, providing a snapshot of the effects of crime on youths' livelihoods at a single point in time. There is a need for longitudinal studies that track youths' experiences over time to understand the trajectories of crime exposure, resilience, and livelihood outcomes in Arua Central Division (Miller & White, 2018; Yang et al., 2020).

Addressing these gaps in the literature will contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the effects of crimes on youths' livelihoods in Arua Central Division, informing the development of evidence-based interventions and policies to support and empower young individuals affected by crime.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0. Introduction**

This chapter outlines the research methodology employed in the assessment of the effects of crimes on the livelihood of youths in Arua Central Division. The chapter discusses the research design, target population, sampling technique, data collection methods, and data analysis procedures utilized in this study.

#### **3.1. Research Design**

This study employed a mixed-methods research design, combining both quantitative and qualitative approaches to comprehensively assess the effects of crimes on the livelihoods of youths in Arua Central Division.

The quantitative component involved a descriptive survey design, which enabled the collection of structured data to quantify the prevalence of various crimes and their impacts on youths' livelihoods. This approach allowed for the systematic examination of trends, patterns, and associations between different types of crimes and their consequences on youth well-being. Concurrently, the qualitative component utilized a phenomenological approach to explore the lived experiences, perceptions, and subjective interpretations of youths, community leaders, parents, and law enforcers regarding the effects of crimes on youth livelihoods. Through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions, this qualitative inquiry aimed to uncover nuanced insights,

contextual factors, and underlying dynamics shaping youths' experiences of crime and its repercussions on their socio-economic opportunities.

By integrating quantitative and qualitative methods, this mixed-methods research design offered a holistic understanding of the complex interplay between crime and youth livelihoods in Arua Central Division. The triangulation of data from multiple sources enhanced the validity, reliability, and depth of the study findings, allowing for a comprehensive analysis of the research objectives.

### **3.2. Area of Study**

The study was conducted in Arua City, located in the Northern Region of Uganda which borders Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan. Specifically, the research was focused on Arua Central Division, which is geographically positioned in the central part of the city. It is bordered by Ayivu Division to the East, Vurra Division to the West, Pajulu Sub-county and Rhino Camp Sub-county to the North and South respectively, the division is geographically located approximately between 3.0206° N latitude and 30.9117° E longitude, it encompassed several wards, including Tanganyika, Pangisa, and Kenya Ward, which serve as the geographical focus of the research.

### **3.3. Target Population**

The target population for this study were youths residing in Arua Central Division, as well as key stakeholders involved in addressing crime and youth livelihood issues. This includes community leaders, parents or guardians, and law enforcers operating within the division.

### **3.4. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria:**

Inclusion criteria encompassed youths aged between 18 to 35 years old, residents of Arua Central Division especially the specific wards, and individuals willing to participate in the study. Exclusion criteria involved individuals residing outside of the division, those who do not fall within the specified age range, and those unwilling to participate.

### 3.5. Sample Size & Techniques:

The sample size was determined based on statistical considerations to ensure adequate representation from each subgroup while maintaining feasibility. A minimum sample size of 65 youths, 5 community leaders, 25 parents or guardians, and 5 law enforcers were targeted from Tanganyika, Pangisa, and Kenya Ward within Arua Central Division.

**Table 1 representing the sample size for each subgroup within Tanganyika, Pangisa, and Kenya Ward in Arua Central Division:**

Ward	Subgroup	Population	Sample size	Techniques
Tanganyika	Youths	100	65	Simple Random Sampling
Pangisa	Community Leaders	10	05	Purposive Sampling
Kenya	Parents/Guardians	30	25	Systematic Sampling
Bazaar	Law Enforcers	10	05	Purposive Sampling
<b>Total</b>		<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>	

*Morgan table of sampling*

### 3.6. Sampling Technique

The population was stratified based on the wards within Arua Central Division, namely Tanganyika, Pangisa, and Kenya Ward. Each ward was considered as a separate stratum, ensuring that participants are selected from each geographical area within the division.

Within each ward, purposive sampling was used to select specific subgroups of participants, including youths, community leaders, parents or guardians, and law enforcers. Purposive sampling allowed for the intentional selection of participants who possessed relevant knowledge, experiences, or perspectives related to the research topic.

Once the subgroups were identified within each ward, random sampling was used to select participants from each subgroup. Random sampling ensured that each member

of the target population had an equal chance of being selected, minimizing bias and enhancing the representativeness of the sample.

### **3.7. Data Sources:**

Primary data sources included surveys, structured interviews, and focus group discussions (FGDs). Secondary data source included, Reports from the Uganda Police Force on crime statistics, including types of crimes, trends, and hotspots within Arua Central Division. These methods facilitated the collection of both quantitative and qualitative data to gain comprehensive insights into the research topic.

### **3.8. Data Collection Methods**

In this study, a combination of quantitative and qualitative data collection methods was employed to gather comprehensive insights into the effects of crimes on the livelihoods of youths in Arua Central Division. The selected methods aimed to capture both quantitative data for statistical analysis and qualitative data to explore the lived experiences and perceptions of the participants.

#### **3.8.1. Questionnaire Survey:**

A structured questionnaire was administered to collect quantitative data from the sampled youths. The questionnaire contained both closed-ended and Likert scale questions focusing on the effects of various crimes on their livelihoods.

#### **3.8.2. Interviews:**

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with key informants such as community leaders, law enforcement officers. These interviews provided qualitative insights into the perceptions and experiences of stakeholders regarding the impact of crimes on youths' livelihoods.

### **3.9. Data Analysis Procedures**

Quantitative data collected through the questionnaire survey were analyzed using statistical software such as SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences). Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations were computed to summarize the data. Inferential statistics such as chi-square tests

was conducted to examine the relationships between variables. Qualitative data obtained from key informant interviews were transcribed and subjected to thematic analysis. Themes and patterns were identified, coded, and interpreted to extract meaningful insights related to the research objectives.

### **3.10. Ethical Considerations**

Ethical approval was obtained from the relevant authorities before data collection commences. Informed consent were sought from all participants, and their confidentiality and anonymity was ensured throughout the study. Participants had the right to withdraw from the study at any stage without facing any repercussions.

## CHAPTER FOUR.

### DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS

#### 4.0 Introduction.

This chapter presents the data analysis and interpretation basing on the data obtained from the primary sources. It's from the research objectives that the findings of the information are based. The purpose of this study was to assess the effects of crimes on the livelihood of the youth in Arua city: a case study of Arua Central Division.

#### 4.1 Background information of the respondents:

Below is the presentation of the background information of the respondents who were involved in the study based on gender, age, level of education and occupation respectively;

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to gender**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	70	70
Female	30	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

*Sources: Primary data 2024.*

The research findings revealed that male respondents in the study were 70% of the total number of respondents and the remaining 30% were females. This implied that most of the research information for this study was obtained from male respondents other than female respondents.

**Table2: Distribution of respondents according to their age groups**

Respondents	17-25	26-30	31-35	36-39	40 above	Total
Frequency	18	29	28	15	10	100
Percentage (%)	18%	29%	28%	15%	10%	100%

**Sources: Primary data 2024.**

During the research respondents were called to participate through the approach of sampling and interviewing method was used to find out their ages and the Researcher found out that 18% of the respondents were between the age bracket of 17-20, meanwhile 29% fell in the age brackets 21-25 and 28% between the age bracket of 26-30years, followed by 15% of those who fell in the age brackets of 31-35 and 10% who fell in the age brackets of 40+ .this meant that most active respondents were between the youthful age groups that is to say17-39years. The data was collected from the youthful respondents who actively participated during the data collection process.

**Table 3: Distribution of respondents based on their levels of education**

Respondents	Primary	O level	A level	Diploma	Others	Total
Frequency	50	30	15	5	00	100
Percentage	50%	30%	15%	5%	00%	100%

**Sources: Primary data of 2024.**

During the study, the researcher has picked interest to know the educational level of his respondents. The data therefore shows that most of the respondents are illiterate ranging at 50% who have attained formal education stopping at the primary level, followed by 30%who have attained ordinary level and 15% who have attained Advanced certificates of education, meanwhile 5% attained diploma's and none of the respondents have other qualifications as specified in the questionnaire. This number of illiteracy has therefore increased crimes among the youth in the City as they lack basic knowledge about their livelihood.

**Table 4. Distribution of respondents based on their marital status**

<b>Marital status</b>	Single	Married	Divorced	Widowed	<b>Total</b>
<b>Number of respondents</b>	55	30	5	10	100
<b>Percentage</b>	55%	30%	5%	10%	100%

*Sources: Primary data of 2024.*

Table 4 above shows that majority of the respondents were single people represented by 45%, this was followed by those who are married represented by 30%. However, 5% of the respondents were divorced. Meanwhile 10% of the data was collected from widows.

**Table 5: Distribution of respondents based on their occupational status**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Employed	15	15%
Unemployed	35	35%
Self-employed	30	30%
Students	20	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary data of 2024*

Table 5 shows among the respondents, 15% were employed, while 35% were unemployed. Students made up 20%, and self-employed individuals accounted for 30%. This distribution indicates that a significant portion of the population faces unemployment challenges, likely exacerbated by crime.

**Table 6: Distribution of respondents by wards**

<b>Respondents</b>	Tanganyika	Pangisa	Kenya	Bazaar	<b>Total</b>
<b>Frequency</b>	40	20	25	15	100
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	40%	20%	25%	15%	100

*Sources: Primary data of 2024.*

During the study, the research was carried out in four wards of Arua Central Division and covering six cells each, whereby most percentage of the respondents were from Tanganyika ward at a percentage of 40%.

## SECTION TWO

### 4.2 The presentation of the findings according to the objectives of the study

#### 4.2.1 To find out the effects of the various crimes in Arua Central Division.

Statements	Responses						
	Strongly agree %	Agree %	Disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Not sure %	Percentage %	Total
The various Crimes has led to Psychological Trauma in Arua Central Division	40	30	15	10	05	100	100
Many youths have Physical Injuries as a result of the various crimes in Arua Central Division	35	25	21	15	04	100	100
Many youths in Arua Central Division are facing Legal Consequences (Imprisonment) as a result of crimes	30	50	05	05	10	100	100

Depression and Educational Disruption are among the effects of crimes in Arua Central Division	45	30	10	10	05	100	100
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*Sources: Primary data of 2024.*

Regarding the statement that psychological trauma has resulted from various crimes, the above table shows that 40% of respondents strongly agreed, while 30% agreed. Additionally, 15% disagreed, 10% strongly disagreed, and 5% were not sure. This indicates a significant consensus on the psychological impact of crime in Arua Central Division.

In regard to the assertion that many youths have physical injuries due to various crimes, 35% strongly agreed, and 25% agreed. Meanwhile, 21% disagreed, 15% strongly disagreed, and 04% were not sure, highlighting concerns about youth have Physical Injuries as a result of the various crimes in Arua Central.

For the statement “Many youths in Arua Central Division are facing Legal Consequences (Imprisonment) as a result of crimes”, 30% strongly agreed, 50 % agreed and 05% disagreed while 05% strongly disagreed and 10% were not sure. Here again, there is strong support for the idea that legal repercussions are significant among youth, with an overwhelming total of 80% agreeing or strongly agreeing.

As per the statement Depression and Educational Disruption are among the effects of crimes in Arua Central Division 45% strongly agreed, and 30% agreed. Meanwhile, 10% disagreed, 10% strongly disagreed, and 5% were not sure, indicating widespread belief that crime adversely affects youth education and mental health which can have long-term effects on youth development and future employment opportunities.

Respondent 1 remarked that

*“There are other effects such as increased fear within communities, family instability, and loss of trust among neighbors that hinders social interactions and suggested that there should be increased educational programs, and awareness campaigns focused on the consequences of crime”.*

### SECTION THREE

#### 4.2.2 Ascertain the livelihood of the youths in Arua Central Division.

Statements	Responses						
	Strongly agree %	Agree %	Disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Not sure %	Percentage %	Total
Boda-Boda is the primary sources of youth livelihood in Arua central Division	60	30	05	03	02	100	100
Most of the youth in Arua Central division are engaged in doing Petty business	35	29	06	25	05	100	100
Manual works and Commission are some of the common sources of youth livelihood in Arua Central Division	35	40	05	10	05	100	100
Many youth engage themselves in Gambling as a source of livelihood in Arua Central Division	10	15	25	35	15	100	100

**Sources: Primary data of 2024.**

In regard to Boda-Boda being the primary source of livelihood, 60 respondents strongly agreed with the statement and 30 agreed, 05 disagreed meanwhile 03 respondents strongly disagreed and 02 were not sure. From this data, it can be inferred that a significant majority of respondents either strongly agree or agree that Boda-Boda serves as a crucial source of income for youth in the area, indicating its importance in local economic activities in Arua Central Division.

**Respondent 2** was able to remark that *"Boda-Boda has provided many youths with jobs"*

In regard to youth in Arua Central division being engaged in doing Petty business, 35% strongly agreed, 29% agreed while 06% disagreed, 25% strongly disagreed and 05 not sure. The results show that an overwhelming majority believe that petty businesses are common engagement among youth, with a combined total of 64% affirming this view.

**Respondent 6** was able to remark that *"Petty businesses help, but many youths lack the capital to expand and recommended that there is need for financial assistance in order to improve these petty businesses."*

As per statement Manual works and Commission are some of the common sources of youth livelihood in Arua Central Division, 35 of 100% strongly agreed, 40 of 100% agreed meanwhile 05 of 100% disagreed, 10 of 100% strongly disagreed and 05 of 100% were not sure. Here again, there is strong support for the idea that manual labor and commission-based jobs contribute significantly to youth livelihoods, with a total of 75% agreeing or strongly agreeing.

**Respondent 4** remarked that *"Government should provide vocational training programs to improve skills and increase opportunity for better jobs"*.

For Gambling being a source of livelihood in Arua Central Division, 10 of 100% strongly agreed, 15 of 100% agreed and 25 of 100% disagreed while 35 of 100% strongly disagreed and 15 of 100% were not sure therefore in contrast to previous statements, only a

minority view gambling as a viable source of income for youths, with over half disagreeing or strongly disagreeing with this notion.

**Respondent 3** was able to remark that

*“Economic opportunities are crucial for reducing youth vulnerability to crime and recommended that Policymakers should focus on creating sustainable job opportunities and supporting small businesses in order to improve on the youth livelihood in the area.”*

## SECTION FOUR

### 4.2.3 EFFECTS OF CRIME ON YOUTH LIVELIHOOD IN ARUA CENTRAL DIVISION

Statements	Response						
	Strongly agree %	Agree %	Disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Not sure %	Percentage %	Total
Crime has reduced foreign and domestic investment among the youths in Arua Central Division	45	30	10	05	10	100	100
Crimes lead to fewer job opportunities for the youths in Arua Central Division	50	25	15	7	03	100	100
The limited employment opportunities in	40	35	10	12	03	100	100

Arua Central Division are as a result of crimes							
Crimes leads to Inability to achieve financial stability and independence among youths in Arua Central Division.	55	25	10	08	02	100	100

**Sources: Primary data of 2024.**

In regard to the statement Crime has reduced foreign and domestic investment among the youths in Arua Central Division, 45 respondents strongly agreed with the statement, 30 agreed, 10 disagreed, 05 strongly disagreed and 10 were not sure. From this data, it is evident that a significant majority of respondents believe that crime negatively affects investment opportunities for youth, with a total of 75% agreeing or strongly agreeing with this statement.

For the statement Crimes lead to fewer job opportunities for the youths in Arua Central Division 50%, strongly agreed, 25% agreed and 15% disagreed meanwhile 07 strongly disagreed and 03 were not sure. The results indicate that half of the participants strongly agree that crime contributes to a reduction in job opportunities, with a combined total of 75% affirming this view.

As per The limited employment opportunities in Arua Central Division being as a result of crimes, 40% strongly agreed, and 35% agreed and 10% disagreed while 12% strongly disagreed and 03% were not sure. Here again, there is strong support for the idea that crime limits employment opportunities, with a total of approximately 75% agreeing or strongly agreeing.

For Crimes leading to Inability to achieve financial stability and independence among youths in Arua Central Division, 55% strongly agreed, 25% agreed and 10% disagreed meanwhile 08% strongly disagreed and 02% were not sure therefore in conclusion, This statement received overwhelming agreement, as about 80% believe that crime hampers financial stability and independence for youth.

Respondent 5 remarked that

*“Other potential effects of crime included increased fear and anxiety among youth leading to decreased participation in economic activities and also recommended Youth engagement programs focusing on skill development and employment readiness”.*

#### **4.3. Conclusion.**

The findings presented in Chapter Four underscore the significant relationship between crime and the livelihood challenges faced by youth in Arua Central Division. The data reveals that high levels of crime correlate with increased psychological and physical trauma, legal repercussions, and disruption of educational opportunities for the youth. With a considerable proportion of the population engaged in low-income activities and facing unemployment, crime emerges as both a cause and effect of economic instability.

The insights gathered indicate a pressing need for comprehensive strategies aimed at enhancing education, vocational training, and job creation. By addressing these systemic issues, it is possible to reduce crime rates and improve the overall quality of life for youth in Arua City. This chapter highlights the critical intersection of crime, economic opportunity, and youth development, emphasizing that targeted interventions can pave the way for a more secure and prosperous future.

#### **4.4. Chapter Summary.**

This entails the Researcher’s findings which were presented in table form according to the objectives of the study topic which has empowered the researcher to analyze his

field findings and make concrete recommendation's and conclusions about the topic under study.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 5.0 introduction.

This chapter covers recommendations and conclusions of the research findings.

#### 5.1 Discussion of Findings

Below is the overall discussion of the findings of the effects of crime on the livelihood of the youth in Arua Central Division, discussed according to each objective

##### 5.1.1. To find out the effects of the various crimes in Arua Central Division.

In getting to find out the effects of the various crimes, the respondents gave various responses for the effects of the various crimes in Arua Central Division in particular such as Psychological Trauma, Physical Injuries, Depression, and Educational Disruption among others. Meanwhile, others added effects such as increased fear within communities, and family instability among others. This concurs with the findings of Krug et al., 2002 and Andresen & Malleon, 2011 who found out that the consequences of crimes often include psychological trauma and physical injuries. Johnson et al., 2018, found that crimes hinder the ability to pursue education and employment opportunities.

##### 5.1.2. To Ascertain the livelihood of the youth in Arua Central Division.

From the data collected, there are several sources of livelihood for the youth in Arua Central Division. The data indicates that livelihoods such as Boda-Boda, Petty business,

Manual works, Commission, and gambling meanwhile, some of the respondents said that gambling is not a source of livelihood in Arua Central Division. This concurs with the findings of Omoding et al., 2021, who found that in Uganda youth face diverse livelihood challenges influenced by local economic conditions, political stability, and access to social services. In urban centers such as Kampala, informal sector activities dominate due to limited formal employment opportunities and infrastructure constraints.

### **5.1.3. To find out the effects of crime on youth livelihood in Arua Central Division**

In getting to find out the effects of crime on youth livelihood in Arua Central Division, the respondents gave various effects such as reduced foreign and domestic investment among the youths, fewer job opportunities, inability to achieve financial stability and independence, and increased fear and anxiety among youth leading to decreased participation in economic activities. This concurs with the findings of Roberts, 2019, who found that the impacts of crimes, such as family disruption, social isolation, and stigmatization, can weaken these support systems and further hinder youth livelihood and The Ugandan Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), 2017 reports high youth unemployment rates exacerbated by crime, which deters investment and economic growth. Youth in crime-prone areas often engage in informal employment with little job security.

## **5.2: Conclusions.**

In regards to the conclusion, on the assessment of the effects of crimes on the livelihood of the youth in Arua Central Division, the Researcher concludes that there are several effects of crimes on the livelihood of the youth in Arua Central Division ranging from reduced foreign and domestic investment, limited employment opportunities inability to achieve financial stability and independence among others. All these effects of crimes have great impact on the physical, social and economic life of the youth in Arua Central Division. Therefore, this suggests that addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach as the data reveals that crime not only affects individual youth but also the broader community, emphasizing the necessity for collaborative efforts among stakeholders to foster a safer and more supportive environment.

### **5.3: Recommendations.**

To mitigate the effects of crime on youth livelihoods in Arua Central Division, Arua City, the following recommendations are proposed:

#### **To the Government**

Governments should prioritize educational initiatives that focus on increasing educational access and quality, particularly for vulnerable youth, to empower them with skills for better employment.

The government should enforce and uphold laws that deter criminal activities, ensuring a safer environment for youth.

The government should **Promote Community Engagement** by fostering dialogue within communities about the implications of crime and the importance of youth empowerment.

#### **To the parents**

Parents should prioritize their children's education, providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary for informed decision-making about their future and improving their overall well-being

Parents should be informed about the risks associated with crime, enabling them to guide their children appropriately.

Parents should teach their children about healthy relationships. They should help them understand the importance of mutual respect and equality in relationships, which can empower them to make choices that prioritize their well-being.

#### **To local authorities**

Local authorities should establish and enforce strict policies that prohibit crimes and ensure that these laws are actively upheld.

Local authorities should invest in educational programs that keep youths in school by working to improve access to quality education and implement initiatives that provide financial incentives for families to keep their children in school.

Local authorities should Support local industries and businesses to generate job opportunities for youth, thereby reducing economic incentives for crime and ensuring access to mental health and educational resources that address the needs of youth in the community.

### **To future researchers**

Evaluating the effectiveness of existing programs aimed at reducing crimes and improving youth livelihoods. Researchers should analyze which interventions are most successful and provide evidence-based recommendations for future initiatives

Future researchers should engage with affected communities such as the youths, families, and local leaders who can provide insights into local issues, which can inform more effective and culturally sensitive interventions.

Research should not only focus on investigating effects but also consider the policy implications of crime on youth livelihoods, advocating for necessary legislative changes.

### **5.4. Areas for further study**

**Cultural and Societal Influences:** Explore how cultural norms contribute to crime and affect youth in different communities.

**Economic Impact of Crime:** Analyze the broader economic implications of crime on families and communities.

**Role of Technology:** Investigate how technology and social media influence youth engagement in criminal activities and their overall livelihoods.

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## Appendix 1. QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent,

I am a student of Uganda Christian University Arua Campus pursuing Bachelors of Social Work and Social Administration. As a fulfillment of partial requirement of the Award of Bachelor of Social Work, I am carrying out a research on **Assessment of the Effects of Crimes on the Livelihood of the Youth in Arua Central Division**

Therefore, I humbly request you to fill this questionnaire to the best of your knowledge by ticking where necessary. I strongly affirm that the information obtained will only be used for academic purpose and be treated with utmost confidentiality

### SECTION ONE

#### Gender

Male  female

#### Age

18-25  26-35  36-45  46 above

#### Educational level

Primary level  Secondary level  Certificate level  
 Diploma level  Degree  others

#### Occupation

Employed  Unemployed  
 Student  Self employed

### SECTION TWO

The following are the effects of the various crimes in Arua Central Division (Tick where necessary -where SA is- Strongly agree, A- Agree, NS- Not sure, D- Disagree, SD-Strongly disagree.)

S/N	EFFECTS OF THE VARIOUS CRIMES IN ARUA CENTRAL DIVISION	SA	A	NS	D	SD
1	The various Crimes has led to Psychological Trauma in Arua Central Division					
2	Many youths have Physical Injuries as a result of the various crimes in Arua Central Division					
3	Many youths in Arua Central Division are facing Legal Consequences (Imprisonment) as a result of crimes					
4	Depression and Educational Disruption are among the effects of crimes in Arua Central Division					

In your view, what are the other effects of the various crimes in Arua central division?

---

What do you think can be done to reduce crimes in order to curb some of the effects mentioned above?

---

### SECTION THREE

The following are the major sources of youth livelihood in Arua Central Division. (Tick where necessary -where SA is- Strongly agree, A- Agree, NS- Not sure, D- Disagree, SD- Strongly disagree.)

NO	LIVELIHOOD OF THE YOUTH IN ARUA CENTRAL DIVISION	SA	A	NS	D	SD
1	Boda-Boda is the primary sources of youth livelihood in Arua central Division					
2	Most of the youth in Arua Central division are engaged in doing Petty business					
3	Manual works and Commission are some of the common sources of youth livelihood in Arua Central Division					
4	Many youth engage themselves in Gambling as a source of livelihood in Arua Central Division					

5. In your view, what are the other sources of youth livelihood in Arua Central Division?

---

6. What can be done to improve youth livelihood in the area?

---

#### SECTION FOUR

The following are the effects of crime on the livelihood of the youth in Arua Central division (Tick where necessary -where SA is- Strongly agree, A- Agree, NS- Not sure, D- Disagree, SD-Strongly disagree.)

NO	EFFECTS OF CRIME ON YOUTH LIVELIHOOD IN ARUA CENTRAL DIVISION	SA	A	NS	D	SD
1	Crime has reduced foreign and domestic investment among the youths in Arua Central Division					

2	Crimes lead to fewer job opportunities for the youths in Arua Central Division					
3	The limited employment opportunities in Arua Central Division are as a result of crimes					
4	Crimes leads to Inability to achieve financial stability and independence among youths in Arua Central Division.					

5. In your view, what are the other effects of crimes on the livelihood of the youth in the area?

---

6. How best can these effects be reduced in order to improve youth livelihood?

---

**Appendix 2. INTERVIEW GUIDE**

Dear respondent,

I am a student of Uganda Christian University Arua Campus pursuing Bachelors of Social Work and Social Administration. As a fulfillment of partial requirement of the Award of bachelor of Social Work, I am carrying out a research on **Assessment of the Effects of Crimes on the Livelihood of the Youth in Arua Central Division**

Therefore, I humbly request you to fill this questionnaire to the best of your knowledge by ticking where necessary. I strongly affirm that the information obtained will only be used for academic purpose and be treated with utmost confidentiality

## SECTION ONE

### Personal information

#### Gender

Male  female

#### Age

18-25  26-35  36-45  46 above

#### Educational level

Primary level  Secondary level  Certificate level  
 Diploma level  Degree  others

#### Occupation

Employed  Unemployed  
 Student  Self employed

## SECTION B

What do you think are the effects of the various crimes in Arua Central Division?

.....  
In your own view, can be done to reduce crimes in order to curb some of the effects mentioned above?

.....  
What are the youth livelihood in Arua Central Division?

.....  
How can the youth livelihood be improved in the area (Arua Central Division) in your own opinion?

.....  
What are the effects of crimes on the livelihood of the youths in Arua Central Division?

.....  
In your own opinion, what should be done to reduce the effects of crimes on the livelihood of the youth in Arua central Division?

### Appendix 3. BUDGET

SN	PARTICULARS	QUANTITY	UNIT COST	AMOUNT
1	Field transport		10,000	30,000
2	Allowances			100,000
3	Airtime		10,000	10,000
4	Feeding		10,000	30,000
5	Data		20,000	20,000
6	Research assistants	2	15,000	30,000
7	Printing and photocopying		100,000	100,000
8	Pens	10	700	7000
9	Note books	3	20,000	20,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>347,000</b>

### Appendix 4. SCHEDULE

ACTIVITY	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
Choosing research topic							
Approval of research topic							
Writing research proposal							

Submission of research proposal							
Approval of research proposal							
Data collection							
Draft report writing							
Final report writing							
Submission of final report							

UGANDA CHRISTIAN  
UNIVERSITY

A Centre of Excellence in the Region of Africa

ARUA CAMPUS

Office of Head of Department, Social Sciences

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

TO WHO IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/ Madam

Re: REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO COLLECT DATA

This is to introduce to you Sagan Godwill Reg No: J22/ASC/BSW/042 a student at Uganda Christian University Arua Campus who is pursuing a course in Bachelor of Social Work and Social Administration as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree mentioned above, each student is required to conduct a research study. The purpose of the letter is to respectfully request your good office to allow the above student so that he or she has access to your organization and collect some information required for his or her study. The study is on the topic: An assessment of the effects of crimes on the Livelihood of the youth in Arua City; A case study of Arua Central Division.

The information obtained will be strictly used for the study purposes.

Any assistance rendered to this cause will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully

Eyotaru Loyce

Ag Head of Department School of Social Science



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P.O BOX 356, Arua, Tel: + (256) 788216725; Email: [info@ucua.ac.ug](mailto:info@ucua.ac.ug); Web: [www.ucua.ac.ug](http://www.ucua.ac.ug)

the Province of the Church of Uganda. Chartered by the Government of Uganda.



## OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

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OUR REF: CR/ACC/220/1

16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024

Mr. Sagan Godwill  
Uganda Christian University  
P O Box 356  
**ARUA-UGANDA**

### PERMISSION TO CARRY OUT A RESEARCH FIELD STUDY

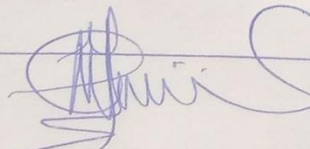
Reference is made to your letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024 requesting for permission to carry out a research field study in Arua City on the Topic "**An Assessment of the effect of the effect of crimes on the Livelihood of the youth in Arua City**" A case study of Arua Central Division.

Permission is granted on the following conditions

1. The Data collected should strictly be used for the intended Purpose.
2. You are expected to report to Division Town Clerk, Arua Central Division for further information on the data collection

I therefore request the people concerned to assist you in giving the information and you are requested to deposit a copy of your findings to the Central Registry, Arua City.

Yours,

  
Angudubo Emmanuel  
**For: TOWN CLERK**



CC Ag. Head of Department School of Social Sciences/ Uganda Christian University  
CC Division Town Clerk/Arua Central