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THE LITERATURE ON COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING (COP)

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ABSTRACT: This is a bibliography of materials discussing community oriented policing (COP).

Documents include academic articles, international donor agency evaluations and reports and policy papers.

Any documents without a PDF link may be obtained by the KSC.
SUMMARY

Community-oriented policing (COP) has become the primary model of modern law enforcement in Western societies like Germany and Canada, and contrasts the more common military model that itself began to lose favor after significant increases in crime levels and drug trafficking, and a deteriorating relationship between the police and the citizens they served, during the 1960s-1970s.¹ Community policing facilitates openness and flexibility between police and citizenry using strategies like foot patrol, public education, neighborhood watches, neighborhood town meetings, store front contacts, and weed and seed.²

In the United States, the 1967 President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice recommended more frequent, informal contact between police and the public in its broader goal in studying crime, a move towards team policing that might "improve police services to neighborhoods, have officers work in close contact with communities to prevent crime and maintain order, and improve officer morale".³ Community policing as it is known today first emerged in the late 1970s and is characterized by close police-community relations, a focus on problem-solving and involving local concerns more frequently.⁴

Federal funds support the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program that emerged from the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-322), aimed at advancing community policing in all jurisdictions across the United States.⁵ These monies primarily brought in new police officers, rehired old officers, and obtained equipment or support systems for use in community-oriented planning. Congress appropriated around $1 billion yearly but by FY2003, gradual decreases in the program began to reduce its impact.⁶

The United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Canada, France, Germany and the United States, and the multilateral Commonwealth, European Union, and United Nations, all implement international donor assistance COP programs especially in the former Soviet Union, English-speaking Africa and the Indian Subcontinent.⁷ This importation of westernized community policing to developing countries has brought success in South Africa, Malawi, and Botswana, with evidence showing

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¹ Harpaz, Amikam and Herzog, Sergio. 2013. Police officers’ acceptance of community policing strategy in Israel and their attitudes towards the Arab minority. Israel Affairs 19(1). P. 192.
⁴ Ibid.
⁶ Ibid. P. 4.
improvement in crime reduction services.\textsuperscript{8} However in other countries such as Uganda and Kenya, community forums, neighborhood watch schemes, and problem-solving policing do not reflect great improvement due greatly to abuse by local business elites, and misapplication in local contexts.\textsuperscript{9}

USAID has set up COP programs in Central America in El Salvador where holistic and comprehensive crime and violence prevention is the ultimate goal, and in collaboration with other donors like UNDP.\textsuperscript{10} Goals to improve program components include: enhancing coordination with INL, bettering geographic concentration and synergy, establishing local government buy-in for all approach including PNC-oriented, community-oriented and youth-oriented, and widening awareness about CP rollout.\textsuperscript{11}

Other USAID COP programs have run in Jamaica,\textsuperscript{12} Guatemala,\textsuperscript{13} Uganda\textsuperscript{14} and the Philippines.\textsuperscript{15}

In the Middle East, COP programs are not as well-known but exist. Harpaza and Herzog discuss Israel, where racial conflict between Jews and Arab citizens skyrocketed in 2000 after the Palestinian-organized \textit{al-Aqsa Intifada}, as a test case of the effectiveness of community policing. They find that Israeli police officers, especially higher ranking ones, perceive Arab citizens more positively than do Jewish citizens, and this is likely a great part due to police education programs on civil rights and equality and to more social interactions with Arab citizens.\textsuperscript{16}

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\bibitem{11} Ibid. P. 24.
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