

Volume 6, Issue No.1, pp 1-16, March, 2025

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Received November, 2024, Accepted December, 2024, published: March, 2025

**Combating Security Threats Using Non-Kinetic Strategies in Calabar, Cross River State,  
Nigeria**

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**Abstract**

The study examined the non-kinetic strategies that can be used to combat crime in Nigeria: using Calabar as a case study. Specifically, the study sought to determine the relationship between Close Circuit Television (CCTV cameras), empowerment programmes, and combating crime. The study adopted the cross-sectional research design. Three hundred and eighty-four (384) respondents were selected from Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. A self-report questionnaire developed by the researchers was used as instrument for data collection. Data obtained were statistically analysed using simple linear regression. Each hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance. The result obtained from the analysis revealed that, CCTV cameras, and empowerment programmes significantly relate to combating crime in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. The study recommended among other things that Government should invest in CCTV cameras with high-resolution capabilities to ensure clear and detailed footage. High-definition cameras can provide valuable evidence in the event of a crime and help in identifying the individuals engaged in such crimes. Government should also take a holistic approach by addressing multiple dimensions of empowerment, including education, healthcare, entrepreneurial skills training, economic opportunities, and social support. This integrated approach will enable individuals to overcome various barriers simultaneously and achieve sustainable empowerment.

*Keywords: combating crime, security threat, non-kinetic strategies, empowerment, CCTV cameras and entrepreneurial skills training*

## **Introduction**

In recent years, Nigeria has faced escalating security challenges that threaten its socio-economic stability and national unity. These security threats include terrorism, insurgency, banditry, kidnapping, cybercrime, and communal conflicts (Okpa et al, 2021; Okpa et al, 2022). The complexity of these issues often stems from a combination of socio-economic, political, and cultural factors, making it clear that traditional kinetic strategies reliance on military force are insufficient on their own to address the root causes of insecurity (Okpa, & Ekong, 2017; Osakwe & Onah, 2023). As a result, there is a growing emphasis on the adoption of non-kinetic strategies as complementary or alternative approaches to combating security threats.

Non-kinetic strategies focus on addressing the underlying drivers of insecurity through diplomacy, economic empowerment, community engagement, education, and psychological operations. These approaches prioritize prevention, rehabilitation, and the promotion of social cohesion over the use of force (Abdullahi et al., 2022; Okpa et al, 2022). For instance, initiatives aimed at youth empowerment and poverty alleviation have shown promise in reducing the appeal of extremist ideologies among vulnerable populations (Ukwayi & Okpa, 2017; Nnaji, 2023). Similarly, community-based conflict resolution mechanisms have been instrumental in fostering dialogue and reconciliation in areas prone to ethnic and religious violence.

Globally, several countries have adopted non-kinetic strategies to combat crime, recognizing that addressing the root causes of crime requires more than traditional law enforcement methods. Singapore employs community-based crime prevention strategies, such as the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NWS) and Crime-Free Zones, which encourage collaboration between residents and law enforcement. The government also invests in public education campaigns and technological innovations to address emerging threats like cybercrime. These initiatives not only enhance community vigilance but also empower individuals to take proactive steps in protecting themselves (Tan & Lim, 2023). Japan's low crime rate reflects its emphasis on education, social inclusion, and community engagement. Programs aimed at youth development, such as mentorship and after-school activities, reduce the risk of delinquency.

Additionally, restorative justice practices in Japan encourage offenders to acknowledge their wrongdoing and work towards reconciliation with victims and society (Yamada, 2020). In Rwanda, the reintroduction of Gacaca courts after the 1994 genocide exemplifies how community-based reconciliation can address crime on a large scale. These traditional courts facilitated healing and reintegration by prioritizing restorative justice over retribution. This approach allowed perpetrators and victims to engage in dialogue, fostering communal healing and reducing the likelihood of future conflict (Mutangadura, 2020).

South Africa's community policing initiatives have proven effective in addressing high crime rates in urban areas. By fostering trust between police and residents, these initiatives encourage better intelligence gathering and more robust crime prevention. Community forums and workshops provide platforms for residents to engage with law enforcement, promoting a collaborative approach to crime reduction (Ukwayi et al, 2017; Mkhize, 2022). The Nigerian government has made significant efforts to integrate non-kinetic strategies into its security framework. Programs such as the Presidential Amnesty Programme for ex-militants in the Niger Delta and the Operation Safe Corridor for deradicalizing and reintegrating former insurgents highlight the importance of non-military interventions in achieving sustainable peace (Ukwayi et al, 2017; Akinyele, 2023). However, challenges such as inadequate funding, corruption, and a lack of coordination among security agencies continue to hinder the effectiveness of these strategies (Ukwayi et al, 2018; Ukwayi, Okpa, & Akwaji, 2019). The study examines non-kinetic strategies in combating crime in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria.

### **Close Circuit Television (CCTV) and combating crimes**

Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance has been extensively studied as a tool for crime prevention. A comprehensive review by Piza et al. (2019) analysed 80 evaluations of CCTV systems implemented between 1978 and 2017. The study found that CCTV was associated with a modest but significant reduction in crime, approximately 13% in target areas compared to control areas. The effectiveness varied by setting, with the most substantial impact observed in car parks,

showing a 37% reduction in crime, followed by residential areas with a 12% decrease. The study also noted that active monitoring and the integration of multiple interventions alongside CCTV enhanced its effectiveness. Further research by Lim and Hyungjin (2018) emphasized that while CCTV contributes to crime prevention through deterrence and aiding post-crime investigations, it may inadvertently increase crime reporting rates by capturing offenses that might otherwise go unnoticed. Additionally, there is a potential for creating a false sense of security, leading to reduced vigilance among the public.

A study focusing on the Federal Capital Territory in Nigeria evaluated the effectiveness of CCTV surveillance in crime prevention. The findings indicated that CCTV systems contributed to a reduction in crime rates and enhanced the efficiency of law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, studies by Ratcliffe (2006) and Cossyleon (2019) revealed a strong connection between CCTV cameras and crime prevention, emphasizing their role as both a deterrent and a tool for enhancing the efficiency of law enforcement. Ratcliffe (2006) highlighted that the mere presence of CCTV cameras in public spaces can create a perceived risk of detection among potential offenders, thereby discouraging criminal activities. This preventive effect is particularly notable in urban areas where the likelihood of surveillance is higher. Similarly, Cossyleon (2019) underscored the importance of CCTV in aiding criminal investigations, as the footage captured can serve as critical evidence, facilitate the identification of suspects, and increase the probability of successful prosecution. These findings collectively demonstrate how CCTV systems not only reduce crime rates through deterrence but also strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies to respond effectively to criminal incidents.

However, challenges such as technical issues, inadequate coverage, and maintenance problems were identified as factors limiting the optimal performance of CCTV systems. Literature suggests that CCTV surveillance can contribute to crime reduction, particularly in specific settings like car parks and residential areas. The effectiveness of CCTV is enhanced when combined with active monitoring and supplementary interventions.

## **Empowerment programmes and combating crimes**

Empowerment programs have been increasingly recognised by scholar, and policy makers as effective strategies for crime prevention, focusing on enhancing individual capacities and fostering community resilience to deter criminal activities. Literature underscores the relationship between empowerment initiatives and crime reduction, highlighting the significance of community engagement, youth involvement, and the development of collective efficacy. Community-based empowerment programs play a pivotal role in crime prevention by mobilizing residents to collaboratively address local safety concerns. Such initiatives enhance social cohesion and collective efficacy, which are critical in deterring criminal behaviour. A study by Rupp et al. (2020) demonstrated that community engagement led to decreased violence in cities, emphasizing the importance of resident participation in developing practical solutions to crime.

Youth empowerment is particularly significant in preventing crime, as engaging young individuals in constructive activities reduces their susceptibility to delinquency. The Youth Empowerment Solutions (YES) programmes, for instance, has shown promise in involving youth in planning and implementing violence prevention strategies (Ukwayi et al (2017)). An evaluation of the YES programmes indicated positive outcomes at both community and individual levels, including property improvements and reductions in violent crime incidents, as well as increased conflict avoidance among participants. The concept of collective efficacy, defined as a community's shared belief in its ability to achieve desired outcomes, is closely linked to empowerment and crime prevention (Awogbenle and Iwuamadi, 2010). Empowered communities with high collective efficacy are more likely to mobilize against crime effectively. Research by Aremu and Ahmed (2011) Christens, and Speer (2022) provides insights into how empowered individuals and communities can mobilize to prevent crime, identifying practices that enhance collective efficacy.

Technological advancements have also facilitated empowerment in crime prevention. Community crime-prevention technologies enable residents to actively participate in safety

initiatives, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility. Such technologies support local efforts to confront crime, as discussed by Okafor (2011); Bowers et al. (2014), who highlight the role of community crime-prevention technologies in empowering residents.

### **Rational choice theory**

Rational choice theory was first presented by Ronald V. Clarke and Derek B. Cornish in 1986. Choices are 'rational' if they meet some consistency criteria. Rational choice is a general theory of action which explains the decision of government to invest in the security of any nation. Rational choice theory suggests that decision-makers weigh the costs and benefits of different options. Acquiring CCTV cameras for security organizations can be seen as a cost-effective measure to enhance public safety. CCTV cameras can deter criminal activities, provide evidence for investigations, and help in the overall maintenance of law and order. By investing in such technology, governments can potentially reduce the costs associated with criminal incidents and improve the efficiency of law enforcement efforts. Rational choice theory also emphasizes the importance of minimizing risks. CCTV cameras act as a deterrent to potential criminals by increasing the perceived risk of getting caught. This can discourage criminal activities and promote a safer environment for citizens. By proactively investing in surveillance systems, governments aim to reduce the likelihood and impact of security threats, thereby protecting public welfare.

Empowering unemployed citizens by providing them with opportunities, such as employment, can serve multiple purposes. Firstly, it addresses the socio-economic issue of unemployment, reducing the burden on social welfare systems. Secondly, it contributes to social stability by providing individuals with a sense of purpose and a means to support themselves and their families. Empowerment measures can lead to a more productive and engaged society, aligning with rational choices that seek to maximize overall welfare. Whereas rational choice theory constitutes the theoretical core of criminology, it faces considerable criticism in other branches of the social and behavioural sciences. This reluctance stems from what critics consider the theory's core

assumptions about human nature, and its purportedly bad track record when it comes to empirical evidence.

Two research questions were formulated to guide the study:

- To what extent can the use of close circuit television (CCTV) affect combating crimes in Calabar?
- How does the use of empowerment programmes affect combating crimes in Calabar?

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested in this study:

- i. The use of non-kinetic strategies like CCTV do not significantly affect combating crimes in Calabar
- ii. The use of non-kinetic strategy like empowerment programmes do not significantly affect combating crimes in Calabar

### **Research design and methods**

The study adopted cross-sectional research design. Cross sectional design was adopted because of the guarantee it offers in generating accurate data from research participants at relatively friendly financial cost, scope and time. Through this research design data were collected from a sample drawn from an infinite population. The population consist of security agencies, Tech experts, and stakeholders on security matters. The study is conducted in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. Calabar, the capital of Cross River State is located in South-South, Nigeria. The sample size for the study is three hundred and eighty-four (384) respondents (male and female inclusive). The respondents were selected from the study area through purposive sampling technique. To determine the sample size, Cochran's formula (1963) was adopted. The formula for Cochran sample size determinant is stated thus:

$$n = \frac{Z^2(pq)}{e^2}$$

Where:

n = Required sample size

- Z = Confidence level (put at 95% or 1.96)  
p = Proportion of police officers serving in Calabar, (given in this study as 50%). That is 0.5  
q = Compliment of p (put at 50%, i.e, 1 - 50%). That is 0.5  
e = Level of accuracy or margin error (put at 0.05).

Applying the formula therefore,

$$n = \frac{1.96^2(0.5)(0.5)}{0.05^2}$$

$$n = \frac{3.8416 (0.25)}{0.0025}$$

$$n = \frac{0.9604}{0.0025}$$

$$n = 384.16$$

$$n = 384$$

Data for the study were obtained from primary and secondary sources. The main source of the primary data was first-hand data obtained from research participants. The study adopted questionnaire as the primary source. The secondary source of data consists of review of the works of other scholars especially information on the major variables of the study. Gazetted materials, textbooks, journals, and the internet formed a significant source of the secondary data.

The questionnaire was the main instrument of data collection. The questionnaire consists of closed ended questions, which were segmented into three parts. Section 'A' of the questionnaire contains respondent's demographic data including their age, sex, marital status, and level of education. Section "B" contains information on substantive issues of the study raised in the research questions, which are grouped into: CCTV camera, and empowerment programmes (employment opportunities). Section 'C' of the instrument was designed to measure the dependent variable, which is combating crime. Furthermore, the instrument was administered with the help of trained research assistants with limited effect to its validity and reliability. Three research assistants were engaged, the reason for this number was for effective management by the researcher in terms of training, funding and supervision. The research assistants were recruited from Sociology

Department, University of Calabar and two days training on questionnaire administration and collection was organized for them.

Data collected were coded and analysed using appropriate statistical methods such as frequency distribution, simple percentages and Simple Linear regression analysis procedure.

## **Results and discussion**

The questionnaire distribution involved a total of 384 questionnaires, while the number of returned questionnaires was 358.

### **Research question one**

What is the significant relationship between CCTV camera and combating crime in Calabar, Cross River State? Descriptive statistics (frequency and percentages) were used to answer research question one and the result is presented on Table 1. Results of the analysis as indicated on Table 1, shows participants responses as follows; CCTV camera is an effective security gadget used by the security agencies in their operations; 186 (51.95 percent) respondents strongly agreed, 118 (32.96 percent) agreed, while 37 (10.33 percent) disagreed and 17 (4.74 percent) strongly disagreed. On whether CCTV camera is the most effective crime dictator equipment used for security reasons; 210 (58.65 percent) strongly agreed, 106 (29.60 percent) agreed, 23 (7.82 percent) disagreed and 14 (3.91 percent) strongly disagreed. When asked whether CCTV cameras are deployed in strategic places within Calabar; 167 (46.84 percent) strongly agreed, 101 (28.21 percent) agreed, 61 (17.03 percent) disagreed, and 29 (8.10 percent) strongly disagreed. The security agencies rely on footages from CCTV camera during investigation to apprehend criminal; 205 (57.26 percent) strongly agreed, 123 (34.35 percent) agreed, 18 (5.02 percent) disagreed and 12 (3.35 percent) strongly disagreed. Computer software plays an important role in aiding the police to fight crime; 191 (53.35 percent) strongly agreed, 114 (31.84 percent) agreed, while 38 (10.61 percent) disagreed and 15 (4.18 percent) strongly disagreed.

Table 1: Responses on utilization of CCTV and combating crime

S/N	STATEMENTS	SA	A	D	SD
1	CCTV camera is an effective security gadget used by the security agencies in their operations	186 (51.95)	118 (32.96)	37 (10.33)	17 (4.74)
2	CCTV camera is the most effective crime dictator equipment used for security reasons	210 (58.65)	106 (29.60)	23 (7.82)	14 (3.91)
3	CCTV cameras are deployed in strategic places within Calabar	167 (46.84)	101 (28.21)	61 (17.03)	29 (8.10)
4	The security agencies rely on footages from CCTV camera during investigation to apprehend criminal	205 (57.26)	123 (34.35)	18 (5.02)	12 (3.35)
5	Computer software plays an important role in aiding the police to fight crime	191 (53.35)	114 (31.84)	38 (10.61)	15 (4.18)

**Source: Field survey, 2024**

**Research question two**

To what extent does empowerment programmes (employment opportunities) relate to combating crime in Calabar, Cross River State? Descriptive statistics (frequency and percentages) were used to answer research question and the result is presented on Table 2. Results of analysis as indicated in Table 2, shows participants responses as follows; as for whether crime rate can be reduced through skills acquisition programmes; 155 (43.29 percent) respondents strongly agreed, 162 (45.25 percent) agreed, while 18 (5.02 percent) disagreed 23 (6.42 percent) strongly disagreed. On whether supporting small business with soft loan and grants from government establishments would discourage participation in criminal activities; 168 (46.92 percent) strongly agreed, 121 (33.79 percent) agreed, 41 (11.45 percent) disagreed and 28 (7.82 percent) strongly disagreed. Establishing businesses for unemployed persons through government initiatives would discourage them from engaging in crime; 178 (49.72 percent) strongly agreed, 110 (30.72 percent) agreed, 34 (9.49 percent) disagreed, and 36 (10.05 percent) strongly disagreed. Granting young businesses owned by unemployed persons tax holiday would strengthen and encourage the expansion of such businesses; 199 (55.58 percent) strongly agreed, 81 (22.62 percent) agreed, 53 (14.80 percent) disagreed and 25 (6.98 percent) strongly disagreed. On if ensuring that young school graduates

have access to grants to own businesses can discourage them from engaging in criminal activities; 222 (62.01 percent) strongly agreed, 78 (21.78 percent) agreed, while 38 (10.61 percent) disagreed and 20 (5.53 percent) strongly disagreed.

Table 2: Responses on utilization of empowerment programme and combating crime

S/N	STATEMENTS	SA	A	D	SD
6	Crime rate can be reduced through skills acquisition programmes	155 (43.29)	162 (45.25)	18 (5.02)	23 (6.42)
7	Supporting small business with soft loan and grants from government establishments would discourage participation in criminal activities	168 (46.92)	121 (33.79)	41 (11.45)	28 (7.82)
8	Establishing businesses for unemployed persons through government initiatives would discourage them from engaging in crime	178 (49.72)	110 (30.72)	34 (9.49)	36 (10.05)
9	Granting young businesses owned by unemployed persons tax holiday would strengthen and encourage the expansion of such businesses	199 (55.58)	81 (22.62)	53 (14.80)	25 (6.98)
10	Ensuring that young school graduates have access to grants to own businesses can discourage them from engaging in criminal activities.	222 (62.01)	78 (21.78)	38 (10.61)	20 (5.53)

**Source: Field survey, 2024**

## Testing of hypotheses

### Hypothesis one

There is no significant relationship between CCTV camera and combating crime in Calabar, Cross River State.

The independent variable in this hypothesis is CCTV camera, while the dependent variable is combating crime. Both variables were measured continuously and inferential statistics involving simple linear regression was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance and the result is presented on Table 3. The result of analysis as presented on Table 3, revealed R-value of 0.260<sup>a</sup>. Correlation coefficient is a standardized measure of an observed degree of relationship between variables, it is a commonly used measure of the size of an effect, and that values of  $\pm 1$  represent a

small effect,  $\pm.3$  is a medium effect and  $\pm.5$  is a large effect. Also, the  $R^2$ -value of .068 imply that 68 percent of total variance is accounted for by predictor variable (CCTV camera). Furthermore, the regression ANOVA revealed that the  $F(1, 356) = 11.424$ ;  $p < .05$ , is significant. Thus, the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that there is a significant linear association (contribution) of the predictor variable (CCTV camera) on combating crime in the study area. The adjusted  $R^2$  (.067) shows some shrinkage of the unadjusted value (.068) indicating that the model could be generalized on the population. Based on the result, it was concluded that there is a significant relationship between CCTV camera and combating crime in the study area.

Table 3: Summary of simple linear regression analysis of the contribution of CCTV camera and combating crime

Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation
CCTV camera	15.4246	5.72487
Combating crime	24.8436	9.85881

  

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Sig
Regression	167.717	1	167.717	11.424	.260 <sup>a</sup>	.068	.067	.000 <sup>a</sup>
Residual	41927.524	356	117.774					
Total	42095.240	357						

*Source: Field survey, 2024*

### **Hypothesis two**

Empowerment programmes (employment opportunities) does not significantly relate to combating crime in Calabar, Cross River State. The independent variable in this hypothesis is empowerment programmes, while the dependent variable is combating crime. Both variables were measured continuously and inferential statistics involving simple linear regression was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance and the result is presented on Table 4. The result of analysis as presented on Table 4, revealed R-value of 0.233<sup>a</sup>. Correlation coefficient is a standardized measure of an observed degree of relationship between variables, it is a commonly used measure

of the size of an effect, and that values of  $\pm .1$  represent a small effect,  $\pm .3$  is a medium effect and  $\pm .5$  is a large effect. Also, the  $R^2$ -value of .054 imply that 52 percent of total variance is accounted for by predictor variable (utilization of tracking devices). Furthermore, the regression ANOVA revealed that the  $F(1, 356) = 22.110; p < .05$ , is significant. Thus, the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that there is a significant linear association (contribution) of the predictor variable (empowerment programmes) on combating crime in the study area. The adjusted  $R^2$  (.054) shows some shrinkage of the unadjusted value (.052) indicating that the model could be generalized on the population. Based on the result, it was concluded that there is a significant relationship between empowerment programmes (employment opportunities) and combating crime in the study area.

Table 4: Summary simple linear regression analysis of the contribution of empowerment programmes (employment opportunities) to combating crime

Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation
Empowerment programmes	14.6927	4.44518
Combating crime	24.8436	9.85881

  

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	R	R Square	Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	Sig
Regression	248.048	1	248.048	22.110	.233 <sup>a</sup>	.054	.052	.000 <sup>a</sup>
Residual	41847.192	356	117.548					
Total	42095.240	357						

Source: Field survey, 2024

## Discussion of findings

### CCTV camera and combating crime

The result from the first hypothesis according to majority of respondents indicates that there is a significant relationship between CCTV camera and combating crime in Calabar, Cross River State,

Nigeria. While many believed that CCTV camera is an effective security gadget used by the police and other law enforcement agencies to combat crime, others maintained that, CCTV camera is the most effective crime detector equipment used by the police and other security agencies. Many others agreed that the police rely on footages from CCTV cameras during investigation to apprehend criminals. This is to say that the installation of CCTV cameras by corporate entities, and shops has helped prevent crime by reducing the number of criminal opportunities and increasing the perceived risk of offenders being apprehended with ease in the study area. Corporate organisations in the State are encouraged by law enforcement agents to install CCTV camera in order to deter criminal elements from attacking them. The results show that CCTV has the potential to assist police specifically by improving the response of personnel to emergencies (Ratcliffe, 2006), providing visual evidence for use in criminal investigations (Cossyleon, 2019), and securing early guilty pleas from offenders.

### **Empowerment programmes and combating crime**

The result of the statistical analysis for hypothesis two reveal that empowerment programmes have a significant relationship with combating crime in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. A good number of respondents believed that crime rate can be reduced through conscious efforts to acquire skills, support small businesses with soft loans and grants. Majority of respondents also maintained that establishing businesses for young graduates and granting them tax holiday can go a long way to reducing criminality in the society, while others were of the view that the availability of jobs for unemployed people especially youths can be a very important combating tool for crime control and prevention.

The findings of the study shows that empowerment programmes provides youths not only income, but also the opportunity to be productive, to contribute, and become socially valued members of their communities, to develop networks of support, and to build knowledge and self-esteem. The study further revealed that empowerment plays the role of informal social control by preventing anti-social behaviour through the natural social conditions of the workplace. Ukwayi et al (2017)

study on the relationship between youth empowerment, crime prevention and control in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria revealed that skills acquisition could contribute to the prevention and combating crime. Also, the study shows that economic empowerment could contribute to the prevention and combating crime in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State.

Similarly, Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) noted that skill acquisition programmes could be a strategy to improve the income status at the bottom line by making people aware of their potentials, which if properly harnessed would keep them away from poverty and criminal behaviour. Empowering people through skills acquisition programmes give them control and ownership of their lives, which consequently, discourages them from engaging in criminal behaviour. When youths are empowered, they see themselves as stakeholders in the development of any society they find themselves (Aremu & Ahmed, 2011). Skill acquisition programme is one of the non-violent ways of checking crime and deviant behaviour among youths. It is critical for controlling crime in any human society (Okafor, 2011).

## **Conclusion**

The persistent security challenges in Calabar, Cross River State, underscore the need for innovative approaches to crime prevention and management. Non-kinetic strategies, which emphasize preventive and non-violent measures, offer a sustainable solution to addressing the root causes of insecurity in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. The study demonstrated that through the use of non-kinetic strategies, stakeholders can address the underlying drivers of insecurity, such as poverty, unemployment, social exclusion, and weak governance. Programmes aimed at empowering youth and creating economic opportunities can reduce the appeal of criminal activities. Leveraging on technology and intelligence can improve the efficiency of crime prevention efforts. The study therefore concludes that non-kinetic strategies provide a holistic framework for combating security threats in Calabar.

## **Recommendations for policy directions**

- i. Government should invest in CCTV cameras with high-resolution capabilities to ensure clear and detailed footage. High-definition cameras can provide valuable evidence in the event of a crime and help with identifying individuals. Also, CCTV cameras should strategically position to cover critical areas such as entrances, parking lots, hallways, and high-risk locations. Ensure there are no blind spots that criminals could exploit. Additionally, consider the angle, lighting conditions, and any potential obstructions that may affect camera visibility.
- ii. Government should take a holistic approach by addressing multiple dimensions of empowerment, including education, healthcare, skills training, economic opportunities, and social support. This integrated approach will enable individuals to overcome various barriers simultaneously and achieve sustainable empowerment.
- iii. Government should invest in capacity-building initiatives that focus on enhancing skills, knowledge, and capabilities of the target population. This should involve providing vocational training, entrepreneurship development programs, financial literacy education, and mentorship opportunities to equip individuals with the tools they need to succeed. Also, government should implement robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact and effectiveness of empowerment programs. Regularly collect data, measure outcomes, and solicit feedback from program participants to identify areas of improvement and make evidence-based decisions.

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