

HOLDING UGANDAN POLICE TO ACCOUNT

Case study of the Police Accountability and Reform Project (PARP)

"The potential effect of accountability projects should not be underestimated, as they could hold great benefit for the lives of ordinary citizens"

ABOUT PARP

Implemented by: Hurinet-U
Financial support from: Royal Netherlands
Embassy in Kampala

Aim: Contribute to the establishment of an accountable and democratic police service that closely collaborates with the public to ensure a safe society



UGANDAN CONTEXT

- National police force is used to maintain grip on political power in the country
- Police force has a bad reputation and is generally considered corrupt and subject to integrity problems



- Corruption Perceptions Index 2016 places Uganda in top 20% of most corrupt countries
- Some observations of militarization of Ugandan police

ABOUT THE RESEARCH

- The Policy and Operations Evaluation Department (IOB) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands commissioned a policy review about good governance in Uganda
- Research examined impact of PARP on attitudes of Ugandan police officers on normative dimensions of accountability in relation to police integrity and respect for human rights



METHODS

THREE METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION:

1. Analysis of police presence and crime prevalence
2. Survey among 600 police officers employing hypothetical vignette cases
3. In-depth interviews with 23 higher ranking officers



RESULTS

OFFICERS PARTICIPATING IN PARP:

- have an increased sense of awareness towards police misconduct
- are more inclined to report misconduct
- expect their colleagues to judge police misbehavior more critically

CONCLUSIONS

- Accountability projects may impact attitudes of police officers
- Attitudinal changes are a necessary condition for alterations in the behavior of police
- The potential effect of accountability projects should not be underestimated, as they could hold great benefit for the lives of ordinary citizens



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