



"Nicole"

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CHAPTER 8

Peace building and conflict resolution

Article 28



Peace building sector at a Barometer reference group meeting, May 2011.

Photo: Mary Jane Piang-Nee

KEY POINTS

- The citizen's score for peace-building and conflict resolution is 46%.
- Sex disaggregated data in peace building for Mauritius, particularly in the defence sector is not readily available.
- For the first time in the history of Mauritius, government appointed a woman Deputy Commissioner of Prison in March 2011.
- The Prime Minister is currently the Minister of Defence and Home Affairs

Table 8.1: SGDI and CSC scores on peace building and conflict resolution

	SGDI	CSC
Scores	N/A	46%
Ranks	N/A	10

There is no SDGI score for this sector as information is currently limited. Table 8.1 shows that Mauritius CSC of 46% places the country tenth out of 15 countries in the region. Scoring on this sector could have been influenced by various factors including women's relatively poor participation in the peace and security forces.



The Protocol calls on State Parties to ensure that, by 2015, women have equal representation and participation in key decision-making positions in conflict resolution and peace building processes by 2015 in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

Mauritius does not have a standing army. All military, police, and security functions are carried out by just over 10,000 active-duty personnel under the command of the Commissioner of Police. The 8,000-member National Police Force is responsible for domestic law enforcement. The 1,500-member Special Mobile Force (SMF) and the 500-member National Coast Guard are the only two paramilitary units in Mauritius. Both units are composed of police officers on lengthy rotations to those services.

The SMF is organised as a ground infantry unit, with six rifle companies, two mobilisable paramilitary companies, and one engineer company, according to the IISS Military Balance 2007. It engages extensively in civic works projects. The Coast Guard has four patrol craft for search-and-rescue missions and surveillance of territorial waters. A 100-member police helicopter squadron assists in search-and-rescue operations. There also is a special supporting unit of 270 members trained in riot control.¹

Women in the security sector

Table 8.2: Representation of women in the security sector

	No of males	% Male	No of females	% Female	Total
Defence*	Not available				
Police	11,075	94%	716	6%	11,791
Correctional Services	983	92%	81	8%	1064
Parliamentary Committee(s) on Security Sector	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A

*Defence and police are all grouped under police.

Table 8.2 shows that few women enter security forces; for example women make up only 6% of the police force.

Table 8.3: Women in top leadership positions in the security sector

	No of males	as %	No of females	as %	Total
Minister of Defence	1*	100%	0	0	1
Permanent Secretaries (Defence)	0	0	1**	100	1**
Minister of Home Affairs (police)	1***	100	0	100	1***
Ministers of Correctional Services	0	0	1****	100	1
Permanent Secretaries (Correctional Services)	1	100	0	0	1

* The Prime Minister is currently the Minister of Defence and Home Affairs

**The Permanent Secretary for Defence is attached at the Prime Minister's Office

***The Prime Minister is in charge of Home Affairs

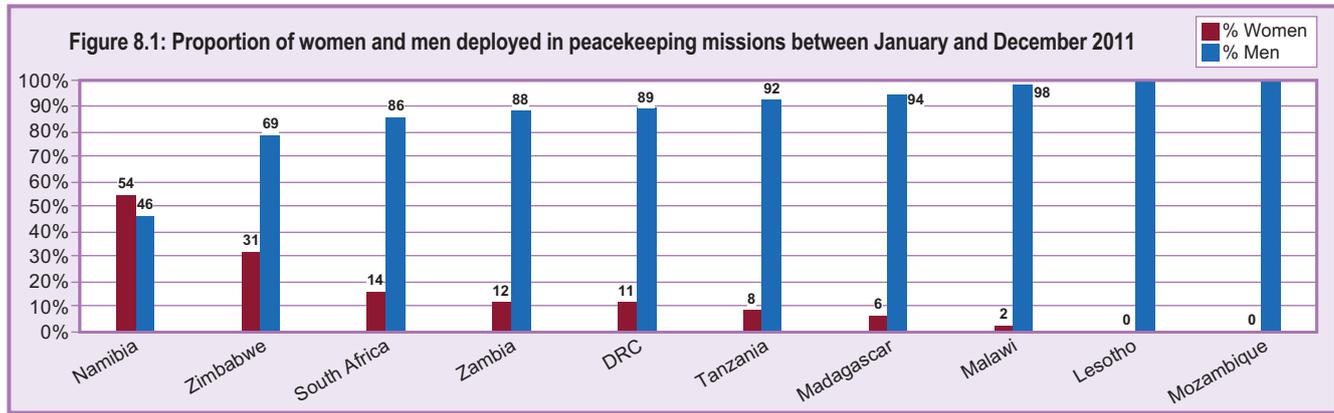
**** There is no Minister of Correctional Services but Hon Mrs Sheila Bappoo is the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Army_of_Mauritius.

Table 8.3 shows that men dominate the security sector:

- The Commissioner of Police and Commissioner of Prisons are men. For the first time in the history of Mauritius, a woman was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Prison in March 2011.

- Women and men police officers receive the same training and have taken examinations to move up the ladder.
- All recruits receive training on gender-based violence.

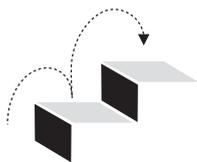


Source: 2012 SADC Gender Protocol Barometer.

Figure 8.1 shows that no statistics are available for Mauritius because it neither participates in nor sends its security forces on peacekeeping missions in conflict countries in SADC or anywhere in the world.

Of the eight countries where data could be obtained, Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa deploy the greatest proportion of women on peacekeeping missions. Six countries (Zambia, DRC, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe) attained or exceeded the UNDPKO recommendation of at least 10% female representation when deploying peace-keepers. This still falls short of the SADC Gender Protocol target of at least 50% target of women in the peacekeeping forces.

- The laws must be accompanied by special measures and incentives to attract women to join the security services sector. Unless there are incentives and retention packages for women to join, this sector will remain male-dominated. To achieve this, an enabling environment has to be created. For example women should be able to balance time spent on peace-missions or combat roles with family responsibilities, particularly where young children are involved.
- Record-keeping should be sex-disaggregated. Currently data is scarce or officials are reluctant to release the information. Mauritius needs to keep gender-disaggregated data for the sector to monitor progress towards women's equal representation and participation in key decision-making positions in conflict resolution and peace building processes.
- All levels of personnel, including senior management, should receive gender training to challenge cultural stereotypes that perpetuate gender discrimination.



Next steps

Women in Mauritius are viewed as a vulnerable group rather than part of the solution to peace building and conflict resolution. For this to be achieved by 2015, a number of steps need to be taken including:

- Review legislation to ensure that it is gender-sensitive and does not discriminate against women. Mauritius must ensure that the police, correctional and prison services acts are gender-sensitive and provide for women's special needs.



Pope Hennessy Police Station.

Photo: Mary Jane Piang-Nee