



"Nicole"

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CHAPTER 8

Peace building and conflict resolution

Article 28



Few women are represented in peacekeeping and security sector. Wendy Hleta, Royal Swaziland Police (PRO). *Photo: Swazi Observer*

KEY POINTS

- The overall CSC score for peace building and conflict resolution sector for Swaziland is 43 % in terms of citizen's perceptions of the country's performance towards achieving the SADC Gender Protocol targets for this sector. This ranks the country number 13 out of 15 SADC countries.
- Data for this sector is not readily available in Swaziland.

Table 8.1: SGDI and CSC scores for peace and security

	SGDI	CSC
Score	N/A	43%
Rank	N/A	13

Table 8.1 shows with an SGDI that Swaziland has a long way to go before it meets the 28 targets of the SADC Gender Protocol on female representation in peace-keeping and security operations

Women's representation and participation



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 in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.



Princess laMagongo a Senior army official.

Photo: Swazi Observer

With two and a half years until 2015, the target date for meeting the target of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, Zambia has a long way to go to ensure its security sector has a gender balance and is gender sensitive and responsive. It is unlikely that the country will meet the targets in Article 28, which also calls for State Parties to adopt and implement United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325.

In 2004, the UN Secretary General urged member states to adopt National Action Plans (NAP's) for the implementation of UNSCR 1325, noting that the "creation of an action plan provides an opportunity to initiate strategic actions, identify priorities and resources, and determine responsibilities and timeframes at a national level."

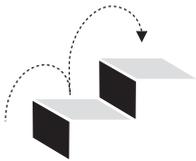
Policy provisions

National legislation governing state security service provides an entry point for examining the extent of governments' commitment to promoting gender sensitivity and gender equality in the security sector. Swaziland has a Police Force and Auxillary Services Act of 2002 and a Prisons Act 40 of 1964.

The Royal Swaziland Police Service Annual Report (2009) was available but the 2010 was still being compiled. The report does not have gender-disaggregated statistics.

Representation

Swaziland accepts females for voluntary military service but it could not be determined how many women serve in its defence forces, police force as well as in the correctional service.



Next steps

- Review legislation to ensure that it is gender sensitive and does not discriminate against women: The state must ensure that police, defence and correctional or prison services acts are gender sensitive and provide for women's special needs.
- 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 and stay the course, 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 gender disaggregated. All departments within the peace and security sector should be mandated to keep gender disaggregated data for the sector. If this is achieved it will be easier to monitor whether progress is made towards equal representation and participation in key decision making positions in conflict resolution and peace building processes by 2015. Currently data is scarce.
- Making gender training compulsory: All levels of personnel, including senior management, should receive gender training to respond to gender-based violence and to challenge those cultural stereotypes that perpetuate gender discrimination.
- The security sector has received little attention in the past but this is beginning to change.
- Gender budgeting and costing is an important tool for assessing commitment to mainstreaming gender in the sector: If done properly, the allocation of resources with gender in mind will help to ensure that women's and men's specific and unique needs are catered for.



Women have a role to play in maintaining peace in the community and should be part of decision-making structures. *Photo: Gender Links*