



"Nicole"

Anushka Virahsawmy



CHAPTER 8

Peace building and conflict resolution

Article 28



Brainstorming during a Barometer reference group meeting, May 2011.

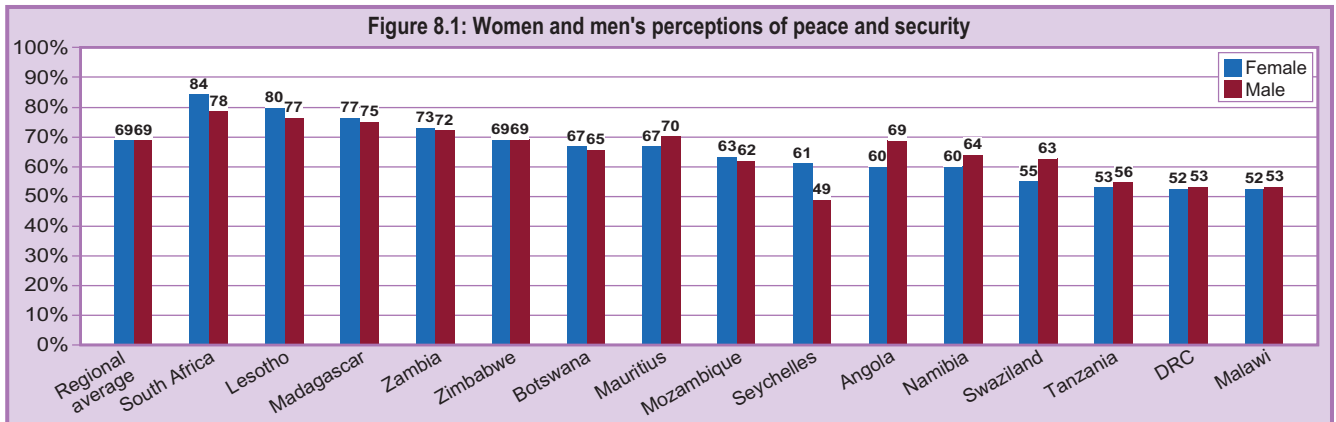
Photo: Mary Jane Piang-Nee

KEY POINTS

- The citizen's score for peace-building and conflict resolution is 46%.
- Gender-disaggregated data on peace building for Mauritius, particularly in the defence sector, is not readily available.
- For the first time in the history of Mauritius, the government appointed a woman Deputy Commissioner of Prison in March 2011.
- The Prime Minister is currently the Minister of Defence and Home Affairs.
- The Prisons service has launched an empowerment programme for all detainees, involving food security as well as income-generating programmes.



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.



Source: SADC Gender Barometer 2013.

Overall, citizens gave SADC governments a score of 69% for gender, peace and security. This is a significant increase from a score of 45% in 2009. This could be due to the ongoing efforts of non-governmental organisations working to ensure women play a greater role in the peace building and security sector, as well as the generally more peaceful conditions in the security sector.

Figure 8.1 shows that women and men gave their member states the same score (69%). Seychelles recorded the highest gender gap with women giving a much higher score of 61% compared to the score of 49% given by their male counterparts. Angola and Swaziland also registered a marked gender gap in scoring (nine and eight percentage points respectively, with men more positive than women in both instances). Mauritius women scored their government 67%, slightly lower than men (67%).

Table 8.1 reflects the proportion of women in the defence forces of ten SADC countries for which this data could be obtained. In some instances these percentages are still estimates. When the defence forces begin to populate the newly adopted template for tracking the mainstreaming of gender, more accurate data will be available. The table shows that four countries have achieved a representation of women of 20% or above: Zimbabwe, South Africa, Seychelles and Namibia, with South Africa (27%) having the highest proportion of women in the defence force.

Representation

Table 8.1: Gender representation in the defence sector in Southern Africa

Country	Male %	Female %
Angola		
Botswana ⁶	99	1
DRC	93	7
Lesotho		
Madagascar	99.9	0.1
Malawi	95	5
Mauritius	No defence force	
Mozambique	95	5
Namibia	74	26
Seychelles	80	20
South Africa	73	27
Swaziland		
Tanzania		
Zambia	90	10
Zimbabwe	80	20

Source: ISS and country reports.

¹ Since 2008, Botswana has trained a 100 women recruits.

Police services

Table 8.2: Women's representation in SADC Police Services

Country	Male %	Female %
Angola	n/a	n/a
Botswana	76	24
DRC	94	6
Lesotho	83	17
Madagascar	88	12
Malawi	79	21
Mauritius	94	6
Mozambique	93	7
Namibia	69	31 ²
Seychelles	62	38
South Africa	67.5	32.5
Swaziland	n/a	n/a
Tanzania	81	19
Zambia ³	83	17
Zimbabwe ⁴	75	25

Source: Seminar report, *Women in Peacekeeping Operations, Zambia 12-13 October 2009*; Government of Botswana, *Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, 2008*; Country barometer reports; Namibian government²; SAPS Annual Report: SAPS profile 31 March 2010; Tanzania Police Force Annual Report 2010. Seychelles country barometer report (calculated from the stats in the graph).

Table 8.2 reflects data for 13 of the 15 Southern African countries police services. This data remains the same as in the previous year. Six countries have 20% or more representation of women in their police services (Zimbabwe, South Africa, Seychelles, Namibia, Malawi and Angola). Three of these - Namibia, South Africa and the Seychelles - have a representation of more than 30%. Mauritius is one of three countries for which data could be obtained have less than 10% women in their police forces (the others are DRC and Mozambique).

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.⁶

Women in the security sector

Table 8.3: Analysis of gender provisions in relevant security services legislation

	DefenceWhite papers/Act	Police Act	Correctional Services/ Prison Act	Special unit for rape survivors at police
Makes specific reference to gender equality, non-discrimination, non-sexism, or women	There is no White Paper or Act	Gender is mainstreamed	Gender is mainstreamed	The same provision as in the Protection from Domestic Violence Act
Specific clause on Affirmative Action	None	None	None	None
Gender Mainstreamed in Act	None	None	None	None

Source: SADC Gender Protocol 2013 Barometer.

Table 8.4 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	1 064
Parliamentary Committee(s) on Security Sector	None	None	None	None	None

Source: SADC Gender Protocol 2013 Barometer. *Defence and police are all grouped under police.

² This is a 2009 figure.

³ This is a figure for 2008. From the Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit.

⁴ <http://ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=53329>

⁵ <http://www.nampol.gov.na/Pages/DOCUMENTARY.aspx>

⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Army_of_Mauritius

Table 8.4 shows that few women enter security forces. For example women make up only 6% of the police force and 8% of correctional services.

Table 8.5: Women in top leadership positions in the security sector

	Number of males	Number of females	Total
Minister of Defence	1*	0	1
Permanent Secretaries (Defence)	0	1**	1**
Minister of Home Affairs (police)	1***	0	1***
Ministers of Correctional Services	0	1****	1
Permanent Secretaries (Correctional Services)	1	0	1
Total	3	2	5
Percentage	60%	40%	

SADC Gender Mauritius Barometer 2012.

*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

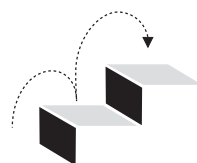
***The Prime Minister is in charge of Home Affairs

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

Table 8.5 shows that three out of five of those in leadership positions in this sector are men. As a small island, Mauritius does not have an elaborate security sector infrastructure.

Peacekeeping

Although there is more global awareness of the need to include women in peace negotiations and to produce gender-sensitive peace agreements, the region is still lagging behind in realising this ideal. Of the 14 peace processes mediated by the UN in 2011, only four of the negotiating parties included women in their delegations. Of the nine peace agreements signed in 2011 only two contained women, peace and security provisions.⁷ The UN has now developed guidelines for gender-sensitive mediation that SADC countries should take heed of in terms of peace building and conflict resolution.



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



Pope Hennessy Police Station.

Photo: Mary Jane Piang-Nee

⁷ UN Report of the Secretary General on Women, Peace and Security, October 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2012/732

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, 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 disaggregated by gender. 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.