

**DEPLOYED WOMEN IN THE AFRICAN UNION MISSION MANDATE IN
DHOBLEY SOMALIA BETWEEN 2013 AND 2023**

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DECLARATION

DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other University.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my family who have helped me do this job with grace. I also wish to express my gratitude to the Almighty God for my wellness.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|------------|
| DECLARATION | ii |
| DEDICATION | iii |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | iv |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS | v |
| LIST OF FIGURES | ix |
| LIST OF TABLES | x |
| ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS | xi |
| OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS | xii |
| ABSTRACT | xiv |
| CHAPTER ONE | 1 |
| INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY | 1 |
| 1.1 Background to the Study | 1 |
| 1.2 Statement of the Problem | 7 |
| 1.3 General Objective | 10 |
| 1.3.1 Specific Objectives | 10 |
| 1.4 Research Questions | 10 |
| 1.5 Justification and Significance of the Study | 10 |
| 1.6 Scope of the Study | 12 |
| 1.7 Limitations and Delimitations | 13 |
| CHAPTER TWO | 15 |
| LITERATURE REVIEW | 15 |
| 2.1 Introduction | 15 |
| 2.1.1 Women's Participation in Conflict Resolution Activities | 15 |
| 2.1.2 The Pivotal Contribution of Women in Promoting and Protecting Human Rights within Peace Missions | 18 |
| 2.1.3 Role of Deployed Women in Addressing Gender-Based Violence | 21 |
| 2.2 Research Gaps | 25 |
| 2.3 Theoretical and Conceptual Framework | 26 |
| 2.3.1 Feminist Peace and Conflict Resolution Theory | 27 |
| 2.3.2 Conceptual Framework | 29 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| CHAPTER THREE | 31 |
| RESEARCH METHODOLOGY | 31 |
| 3.1 Introduction | 31 |
| 3.2 Research Design | 31 |
| 3.3 The Study Area | 31 |
| 3.4 Target Population | 32 |
| 3.5 Sampling Techniques | 32 |
| 3.6 Sample | 33 |
| 3.7 Instruments of Data Collection | 33 |
| 3.8 Pretesting of Research Instruments | 34 |
| 3.9 Validity and Reliability | 35 |
| 3.10 Data Collection Techniques and Procedures | 36 |
| 3.11 Data Analysis | 36 |
| 3.11 Ethical Considerations | 37 |
| CHAPTER FOUR | 39 |
| PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA AND DISCUSSION | 39 |
| 4.1 Introduction | 39 |
| 4.2 Response Rate | 39 |
| 4.2 Demographic Information | 41 |
| 4.2.1 Age Distribution | 42 |
| 4.2.2 Gender of the Respondents | 43 |
| 4.2.3 Years of Engagement with AMISOM in Dhobley | 43 |
| 4.3 Evaluation of Deployed Women's Involvement in Conflict Resolution Activities | 44 |
| 4.3.1 Deployed Women Participation in African Union Mission Community Activities in Somalia | 45 |
| 4.3.2 Contribution of Deployed Women to Conflict Resolution Efforts Within the Local Community | 48 |
| 4.3.3 Collaboration Between Deployed Women and Local Stakeholders in Conflict Resolution | 50 |
| 4.3.4 Support and Empowerment to Deployed Women in Conflict Resolution Activities | 52 |
| 4.4 Unique Role of AMISOM's Deployed Women in Reducing Gender-Based Violence | 54 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 4.4.1: Effectiveness of Deployed Women in Addressing Gender-Based Violence----- | 56 |
| 4.4.2 Women Resourcefulness in Addressing Gender-Based Violence----- | 57 |
| 4.4.3 Deployed Women Involvement in Preventing Gender-Based Violence----- | 59 |
| 4.4.4 Integration of Deployed Women's Voices into Decision-Making Processes Regarding Gender-Based Violence----- | 60 |
| 4.4.5 Training and Sensitization on GBV to Local Communities by Deployed Women----- | 62 |
| 4.5 Household Civilian Survey on Women's Roles in Conflict Resolution and Human Rights Protection Within AMISOM----- | 63 |
| 4.6 Insights of the Key Informants on the African Union Mission in Somalia----- | 69 |
| 4.6.1 Background and Experience----- | 69 |
| 4.6.2 Deployed Women's Involvement in Conflict Resolution----- | 70 |
| 4.6.3 Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Promoting Human Rights-- | 73 |
| 4.6.4 Conclusion----- | 75 |
| CHAPTER FIVE----- | 77 |
| SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS----- | 77 |
| 5.1 Introduction----- | 77 |
| 5.2 Summary of Findings----- | 77 |
| 5.2.1 Demographic Information----- | 77 |
| 5.2.2 Assessment Women's Involvement in Conflict Resolution----- | 79 |
| 5.2.3 Addressing Gender-Based Violence----- | 79 |
| 5.2.4 Evaluation of the Role of Women in Promoting Human Rights----- | 81 |
| 5.3 Conclusion----- | 83 |
| 5.4 Recommendations----- | 84 |
| 5.5 Suggestions for Further Research----- | 85 |
| REFERENCES----- | 87 |
| APPENDICES----- | 92 |
| APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL, POLICE PERSONNEL AND CIVILIAN STAFF----- | 92 |
| APPENDIX II: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CIVILIAN HOUSEHOLDS----- | 96 |
| INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN PROMOTING THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AFRICAN UNION MISSION----- | 103 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| APPENDIX III: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS ----- | 108 |
| APPENDIX IV: MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF DHOBLEY SOMALIA ----- | 110 |
| APPENDIX V: DATA COLLECTION AUTHORIZATION LETTER ----- | 111 |
| APPENDIX VI: NACOSTI RESEARCH PERMIT ----- | 112 |

LIST OF FIGURES

| | |
|--|----|
| Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework | 29 |
| Figure 4.1: Response Rate | 39 |

LIST OF TABLES

| | |
|---|----|
| Table 3.1: Sample Size Determination | 33 |
| Table 4.1: Demographic Information of the Respondents | 41 |
| Table 4.2: AMISOM Deployed Women's Involvement in Conflict Resolution Activities in Dhobley, Somalia (2013-2023) | 45 |
| Table 4.3: Unique Role of AMISOM's Deployed Women in Addressing Gender-Based Violence | 55 |
| Table 4.4 Household Civilian Survey on Women's Roles in Conflict Resolution and Human Rights Protection Within AMISOM..... | 64 |

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | | |
|-----------------|---|---|
| AMISOM | - | African Union Mission in Somalia |
| ATMIS | - | African Union Transition Mission in Somalia |
| AU | - | African Union |
| CEDAW | - | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women |
| CIMIC | - | Civil military cooperation |
| GBV | - | Gender-Based Violence |
| IGADSOM | - | Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) mission in Somalia |
| MINUSTAH | - | United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti |
| PCCs | - | Police Contributing Countries |
| SGBV | - | Sexual Gender-Based Violence |
| TCCs | - | Troop Contributing Countries |
| UDHR | - | Universal Declaration of Human Rights |
| UN | - | United Nations |
| UNFPA | - | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNSCR | - | United Nations Security Council Resolutions |
| WILPF | - | Women's International League for Peace and Freedom |
| WPP | - | Woman's Peace Party |
| WPS | - | Women, Peace, and Security |

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

Deployed Women: For this study, deployed women are military personnel or peacekeepers who are part of AMISOM and have been sent to Dhobley, Somalia, as part of their mission. These women can include soldiers, officers, medical personnel, other military roles, or civilians drawn from different states across the globe.

African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM): AMISOM constitutes a peacekeeping initiative endorsed by the UNSC and ratified by the AU in Somalia. Its primary objective is to aid the Federal Government of Somalia in the restoration of peace, security, and stability.

Achievement of the AMISOM Mandate: The degree to which the mission has successfully fulfilled its objectives and responsibilities as outlined in the UNSCR 2628 (2013 -2023), including contributing to the realization of peace, security, and stability in Somalia.

Conflict Resolution: It is the means of peacefully addressing and settling disputes, disagreements, or conflicts among individuals, groups, or nations. It involves various strategies and techniques to reach mutually acceptable solutions and reduce tensions or hostilities, such as negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and diplomacy.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV): These are harmful acts of violence targeted on a person based on their gender or alleged gender roles. It comprises physical, sexual, psychological, or financial abuse, often rooted in unequal power dynamics between genders. Typical forms of GBV include domestic violence, sexual harassment, and human trafficking.

Human Rights: The concept pertains to the innate entitlement of every individual to fundamental rights and freedoms, irrespective of their sexual orientation, nationality,

religion, race, language, or ethnicity. They encompass, among other rights, the rights to life, security, work, education, and freedom of expression. These rights are typically protected by laws and international agreements to ensure the dignity and well-being of all individuals.

Ethics: Refers to the moral values and principles that orient human conduct and guide decision-making. It involves differentiating right and wrong actions and evaluating the morality of choices in various contexts. Ethical principles often include honesty, fairness, integrity, and respect for others' rights and dignity. Ethics plays a crucial role in determining morally acceptable conduct in different situations.

Mandate - The term "mandate" in the context of organizations like the United Nations or regional bodies like the African Union (AU) typically refers to an official authorization or directive that outlines the specific objectives, scope, and responsibilities of an entity or mission.

ABSTRACT

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) constitutes a peacekeeping initiative supported by the African Union (AU) and authorized by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). It is committed to assisting the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) to stabilize the country, counter extremist groups, and promote peace and security. AMISOM's mandate included various activities, such as providing security, supporting the political process, offering humanitarian assistance, and emphasizing gender balance in peace and security efforts. The mission had been actively involved in addressing the complex challenges facing Somalia and helping to create an environment favourable to long-term peace and prosperity in the country. The research study had three primary objectives. Firstly, it assessed the level of participation of women deployed by AMISOM in conflict resolution activities within the AU Mission in Dhobley, Somalia from 2013 to 2023. Secondly, it aimed to evaluate the distinctive role played by AMISOM's deployed women in addressing gender-based violence. Finally, the study conducted a thorough examination of the crucial role played by women in promoting human rights within the African Union Mission in Dhobley, Somalia, during the specified period. Feminist Peace and Conflict Resolution Theory guided the study. The research employed a descriptive survey research design blending qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. The study focused on Dhobley, Somalia, with particular emphasis on AMISOM's sector II headquarters. A diverse set of stakeholders, including military personnel, policymakers, and representatives from international organizations affiliated with AMISOM, were engaged through in-depth interviews and questionnaires. A random sampling approach and purposive sampling was adopted to select participants encompassing active military personnel, police personnel, civilians, security experts, and key informants from the Ministry of Defence. The total sample size comprised 356 respondents, drawn from a target population of 1780. The research captured comprehensive insights by collecting and critically analysing qualitative data thematically. Quantitative data was collected, and descriptive statistical analysis methods including percentages, frequencies, and measures of central tendency were employed. The research findings underscored the substantial contribution of women deployed in AMISOM. They have played a pivotal role in addressing gender-based violence, advancing human rights protection, and enhancing conflict resolution endeavours. While there was widespread recognition of women's involvement and leadership in these initiatives, there were also areas for improvement, including enhancing the visibility and effectiveness of women's participation, addressing leadership impediments, and promoting institutional support for gender equality. The study recommends the implementation of specific strategies to promote women's participation and leadership in conflict resolution endeavours. This entails fostering closer partnerships with local stakeholders, providing adequate backing and support for women-led initiatives, and incorporating gender viewpoints into mission policies and practices. These recommendations aimed at maximizing the potential of deployed women in promoting safety, security, and gender equality in the community, ultimately contributing to sustainable peace and security in Somalia.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

1.1 Background to the Study

Our perspective on conflict has been influenced by globalization, which is the blending of concepts, trade, services, information, technologies, and communication (Sokolosky, 2016). The probability of interstate conflict has decreased because of state coordination and cooperation brought about by the adoption of common ideals and interconnection that come with globalization. But the globalization of values has also made local standards and global culture more in conflict, which raises the possibility of irregular warfare, or intrastate conflict. According to Rickli (2007), globalization has caused fragmentation in this instance, giving rise to "radical movements defending religious or ethnic values have found new legitimacy in their fight against weak states." The American war in Afghanistan is a testament that men and women are impacted in armed conflict, however women are severely disturbed (Astore, 2017). Conservative laws have harmed and imprisoned Afghan women, but they have also taken on the roles of caregivers, politicians, and rebels. Numerous female soldiers, many of whom assumed military positions, have been sent to Afghanistan by the NATO member states and the United States (Taylor, 2013).

Today's nexus of gender and security offers fresh paths to worldwide wealth and peace. Implementing gender initiatives in militaries, such as establishing a gender-balanced force, allowing women to serve in combat, requiring male soldiers to adopt a gender perspective, or enacting gender mainstreaming policies, has the potential to drastically change military culture and transform the institution. Only recently have international institutions started to comprehend this relationship. The United Nations Security

Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 of 2000 recognized the importance of enabling women to contribute to global peace and security. Since then, there have been more armed conflicts, with 2014 seeing the highest number of battle-related deaths worldwide since the end of the Cold War. More people are leaving their homes because of conflicts, violence, and persecution than ever before, and belligerents are increasingly aiming their weapons at civilians (O'Reilly, 2015). Given the catastrophic effects that conflict has on both men and women, inclusive security in terms of policies that take care of their needs of all parties tangled in conflict is more important now than ever.

Peacekeeping missions are instrumental in addressing conflicts and restoring stability in regions marred by violence, and the inclusion of female peacekeepers amplifies their effectiveness and impact (Brown, 2020). AMISOM Report, (2016), highlights that women are building the capability of local security empowering them to handle their country's security; some are in administration and in the mission's leadership to warrant that the mission's mandate is attained. The deployment of women brings diverse perspectives, fosters gender-sensitive considerations, and promotes inclusive approaches to conflict resolution (Johnson, 2021). Moreover, the evident existence of female peacekeepers emboldens girls and women in the host communities, which increases their contribution to national forces' capacities as outgoing peacekeepers hand over security responsibilities to them (Jamil, B & Rachel, B, 2018).

Women must be included in peace operations because of the significance of their involvement towards mission attainment in general. It has been suggested that their significance in peace support operations extends beyond the mission's stated objectives and consolidates the operational effectiveness. For example, Nagel et al., (2021) indicated that women peacekeepers often serve as front-line soldiers in peacekeeping

operations or as humanitarian assistance workers. Every now and then, they take on larger assignments that fall beyond the scope of their duties. In the communities where they are stationed, female peacekeepers serve as exemplary figures for their female counterparts, providing inspiration and guidance. Drawing an example from an IDP camp in Darfur, Gender-based and sexual violence victims were more comfortable reporting to female peacekeepers than male counterparts. (Nagel et al., 2021).

The mission commanders modified patrol routes and schedules to specific locations and times after women recounted cases of harassment and assault against them. The people felt safer and more secure because of these concentrated patrol shifts. Olaitan (2023), reported that in 2007 Liberia experienced a decline in sexual and gender-based assault incidents after Nigeria's deployment of female police units, which was attributed to increased local cooperation. In addition, female military personnel deployed in various regions frequently serve as exemplars for women and children within their respective host communities, fostering an environment that encourages them to assert their entitlement in contributing to peace. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) mission members observed comparable patterns of more women reporting and interacting with female peacekeepers, which resulted in local women's awareness impacting the strategies used in peace support operations (Wilén, 2020). According to Nortverdt (2021), there is a compelling argument for the involvement of women in peacekeeping missions due to its potential to reduce incidences of sexual violence towards peacekeepers, consequently enhancing overall operational efficiency.

In contexts where gender inequalities are deeply entrenched, the presence of female peacekeepers sends a potent message of empowerment. It offers tangible proof that women can hold positions of authority and make meaningful contributions to peace and

security (Martinez,2020). By serving as role models, these women motivate local girls and women to challenge traditional gender roles, dismantle stereotypes, and pursue equal opportunities (Brown, 2019).Several nations, including the United States and European countries, have undertaken substantial efforts to integrate women into military and peacekeeping forces (Johnson et al., 2018). These countries have taken steps to address barriers and biases hindering women's participation and have implemented training programs to enhance women's skills and capabilities in peacekeeping operations (Smith & Davis, 2019). The experiences and lessons from these countries provide valuable insights into practical strategies for involving women in peacekeeping missions.

Australia, a significant contributor to global peacekeeping missions, has recognized the significant role deployed women play and benefits of incorporating gender equality among its uniformed personnel (Miller, 2021). The Australian Defence Force has implemented measures to increase women's military representation and provide equal career advancement opportunities (Anderson, 2020). Australia's experiences can offer valuable lessons on creating a supportive environment for women in peacekeeping operations.

Latin American countries like Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina have shown remarkable progress in promoting gender equality and empowering women in peacekeeping missions. (Garcia,2022). Jamille, B. & Rachel, B. (2018) demonstrates an example of Liberia whereby the all- female police units deployed under the UN positively contributed to growing the figures of women in the national security segment to 17 percent from 6 percent within nine years.

African countries, notably Kenya, have also acknowledged the significance of women's participation in peacekeeping missions (Nyabera, 2020). AU has taken a lead role in advocating for increased active involvement of women towards peace and security initiatives across Africa (Johnson, 2019). As a significant contributor to peacekeeping efforts in Africa, Kenya has tremendously increased the number of military women deployed in conflict areas (Smith & Omondi, 2021).

In order to counter non-traditional threats, African-led peace operations have launched creative missions during the last 20 years. The regional security forces' collaboration has strengthened as a result. Occasionally, they have additionally offered normative leadership in reaction to crimes and unlawful takeovers of authority. African-led peace operations have made substantial contributions, but they are not well integrated with civilian-led conflict management initiatives, have limited operational capabilities, and have not made a decisive entry into the most important armed conflicts on the continent. 38 African-led peace operations have been approved since the year 2000 and have deployed to 25 different nations (Tchie, 2023). With a total of 22 missions authorized, the AU stands out top in backing peace support operations compared to other continental blocks globally (Lime, 2021). The Organization of African Unity (OAU) had four, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) has two, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) had two, and the Accra Initiative, Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), and East African Community (EAC) had one.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has the highest authorizations, with six (Tchie, 2023). These were varied in size; the African Union Technical Support Team to The Gambia (AUTSTG) had fewer than twelve personnel, to the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) and the African Union – United

Nations Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) having over twenty thousand personnel. The latter two are the longest-running African-led peace operations; they are multidimensional peace enforcement efforts that have been in operation for almost 20 years. A few others, such as the African Union Observer Mission in the Comoros (MIOC), the African Union Mission for Support to the Elections in the Comoros (AMISEC), the ECOWAS Mission in Liberia (ECOMIL), the ECOWAS Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (ECOMICI), and Operation Restore Democracy, took place in less than a year. AMISOM has since become the instrumental peacekeeping mission in Somalia since 2007, mandated to support the Somali government in stabilizing the country, diminishing the threat posed by al-Shabaab, and facilitating humanitarian assistance.

The deployment of women peacekeepers is critical in advancing the goals of conflict resolution, community engagement, and addressing gender-based violence within AMISOM in Dhobley, Somalia, between 2013 and 2023. These women play multifaceted roles in uniform and civilian components beyond traditional peacekeeping duties (Smith, 2018). Their presence contributes to peace and stability and is a source of inspiration in societies where gender disparities persist and men traditionally hold dominant positions (Jones, 2019).

With its tumultuous history, Somalia has witnessed the intervention of various peacekeeping missions, including UNOSOM, IGASOM, AMISOM, and currently ATMIS (Ahmed, 2022). AMISOM, sanctioned by the AU and mandated by the UNSC, comprises troop and police-contributing countries and civilian staff from around the world (AMISOM Report, 2020). AMISOM has taken a proactive stance in enhancing women's contribution to fulfilling its mandate to establish peace, security, and stability in Somalia (Jones & Martinez, 2023). Women have been actively deployed as part of the mission, reflecting the milestones made on gender equality and recognition of their

invaluable contributions to realizing the AMISOM mandate toward sustainable peace and security (Davis et al., 2021). To comprehend the influence of these women within AMISOM, it is essential to examine their roles, experiences, and contributions in the context of the AMISOM mandate's objectives.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In keeping with the UN's WPS strategy, steps to bolster women involvement in missions has remained a key initiative for the AU. Africa has various initiatives actively working towards advancing women, peace, and security include; the Women, Peace, and Security - Implementing the Maputo Protocol in Africa (2016), the Continental Results Framework (CRF), the AU Commission Review, Monitoring and Reporting on the Implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Africa (2018–2028), the Implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Africa, and the recently conducted 10-year Review of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda of the AU Peace and Security Council (2020). These initiatives mark significant progress and demonstrate a strong commitment to promoting women rights in the continent. (Nortvedt, 2021). The sole task of CRF is tracking and assessing the WPS agenda implementation. The CRF attempts to expedite the enactment of WPS obligations by requiring UN member states to continuously track and systematically report with reference to UNSCR 1325. For example, under the CFR, Ghana's report showed that among its various peace support operations 17.8% were female military observers, whereas Liberia's report claimed female observers out of the 26 missions were 27% (African Union Commission, 2019).

Moreover, even if women are involved in these procedures, they would probably encounter societal obstacles including gender norms and constrictive cultural beliefs.

The inclusion of women in peace support missions translates into the overall progress towards the WPS goal and positive transformation of sociocultural beliefs. Nagel et al. (2021), claims that some women peacekeepers faced disproportionate restrictions in their roles and were frequently not allowed to go out on patrols by their commanders and stuck in camp as analysts or manning radios citing lack of facilities as an excuse. Furthermore, male counterparts regarded themselves to be top in hierarchy in PSOs and they would be given the most important jobs as compared to the female uniformed personnel (Nagel et al., 2021) This highlights the peril of putting women in stereotypically gendered roles. It limits roles and duties that women can take on, solidifying the gendered differences that are already present in PSOs proving that the sociocultural constraints inherent in constrictive patriarchal views that prevent women peacekeepers from actively participating would not always be surmountable.

Notwithstanding the increasing acknowledgement of the significant contributions women have made to peacekeeping operations, a significant knowledge gap exists regarding the specific influence and impact of deployed women in achieving the comprehensive mandate of AMISOM. The leadership of AMISOM is advocating for more female peacekeepers, given their extraordinary contribution to stabilizing Somalia and encouraging women's participation in the country's affairs (AMISOM Report, 2016). AMISOM's mandate encompasses critical aspects of peace and security comprising conflict resolution, addressing gender-based violence, and human rights protection. It is essential to evaluate the magnitude with which women peacekeepers are actively involved in these areas. Nagel et al. (2021), reiterates that both men and women are integral to mission areas, and while men's roles are broad-reaching, there are specific tasks that are especially pertinent to women.

These include conducting body searches on fellow women, as well as the interrogation and screening of gender-based violence (GBV) victims. Additionally, certain societies impose restrictions on men's interactions with local women, resulting in a disadvantage in accessing these pertinent social spaces. The disparity between the intended roles for women peacekeepers, as articulated in the AMISOM mandate, and the practical realities on the ground necessitates a thorough examination. For instance, assessing the factors influencing women's engagement in promoting peace, resolving conflicts, and preventing gender-based violence is essential to enhance the mission's effectiveness. The Kenya Defence Forces, for instance, are deployed in mission areas where GBV is rampant, and yet their military women don't access significant roles and assignments; this can be blamed on stereotypical attitudes towards the deployment of women and the work they can do (Bouka & Sigsworth, 2016). Understanding the unique roles and strategies women employ within the AMISOM mission in Dhobley is vital for optimizing their contributions to the broader objectives of AMISOM.

The evidence available clearly shows that women are still significantly underrepresented in peace support operations, despite the guidelines set forth in UNSCR 1325) that intends to have more women take up uniformed tasks matching male uniformed counterparts in peace support operations (Kang'ung'u.K. & Ichani. X, 2023). The study was initiated to address a significant knowledge gap by examining the specific roles undertaken by women in conflict resolution, prevention of GBV, and human rights protection within AMISOM mandate, notwithstanding their limited representation. Shedding light on the practical dynamics on the ground aims to provide valuable insights for maximizing the impact of the mission.

1.3 General Objective

To examine the role and impact of deployed women in contributing to the attainment of the AMISOM mandate from 2013 to 2023

1.3.1 Specific Objectives

This study was grounded on the following research objectives:

- i. To assess the extent of AMISOM's deployed women involvement in conflict resolution activities in Dhobley, Somalia, from 2013 to 2023.
- ii. To evaluate the unique role of AMISOM's deployed women in addressing gender-based violence in Dhobley, Somalia, from 2013 to 2023
- iii. To evaluate the role of AMISOM's deployed women in promoting the protection of human rights in Dhobley, Somalia, from 2013 to 2023

1.4 Research Questions

The study was based on the following research questions:

- i. What is the extent of involvement of AMISOM's deployed women in conflict resolution activities in Dhobley, Somalia, from 2013 to 2023?
- ii. What are the distinctive roles and contributions of AMISOM's deployed women in addressing gender-based violence within the mission in Dhobley, Somalia, from 2013 to 2023?
- iii. How have women peacekeepers within the African Union Mission in Dhobley, Somalia, contributed to promoting and protecting human rights within the mission area between 2013 and 2023?

1.5 Justification and Significance of the Study

The study makes a vital contribution to the global discourse on gender equality and women empowerment. The research offers an in-depth exploration of the distinctive

role and impact of deployed women in a peacekeeping mission shedding more light on their contributions to conflict resolution, human rights protection, and addressing gender-based violence. By doing so, this research provided critical insights into the effective inclusion of women in peacekeeping operations and promotion of gender equality on a broader scale.

Secondly, through understanding the influence of deployed women within the AMISOM mandate was crucial for enhancing the effectiveness of peacekeeping efforts. By identifying the unique roles and strategies they have implemented, this study informed policy and operational decisions to optimize deployed women's influence in peace keeping missions. The knowledge attained from this research contributed to more successful peacebuilding outcomes and improve conflict resolution efforts.

Thirdly, the study addressed critical issues regarding protecting human rights and preventing GBV in areas marred with conflict. The assessment of the efficiency of deployed women in addressing these concerns has emphasized the paramount importance of advancing the rights of women serving as peacekeepers. This research contributed to advancing human rights principles and preventing gender-based violence in regions affected by conflict.

Furthermore, the study significantly provides valuable lessons for future peacekeeping missions, not only in Somalia but also in other conflict-affected regions globally. The experiences and insights of deployed women in peacekeeping operations can inform the design of gender-responsive approaches, training programs, and policies that foster increased women participation and enhance gender equality.

Lastly, the study made a notable impact by focusing on local community engagement and efforts in resolving conflicts. Exploring deployed women efforts in conflict

resolution activities sheds more light on their contributions to building trust, promoting dialogue, and fostering local ownership of peace processes. This knowledge informed the development of practical community-centered approaches to conflict resolution and peacebuilding, leading to more sustainable and inclusive outcomes. The study also supplements the knowledge bank and validates existing theories on women's involvement in peace support operations.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The investigation encompassed the period from 2013 to 2023., specifically delving into the integration of women into Dhobley Forward Operating Base (FOB) within AMISOM. The duration of 10 years provided a substantial window for an in-depth examination of the evolving roles and contributions of women within AMISOM. It primarily scrutinized the geographical expanse of Dhobley, Somalia, analysing the impact of deployed women within this particular region of Somalia in light of differing levels of conflict, cultural norms, and operational exigencies. By focusing on recent developments, the study ensured that it captures the current practices and experiences of deployed women within the mission. Furthermore, the study examined both qualitative and quantitative data to provide a comprehensive analysis. It employed appropriate data collection and analysis methods to gather in-depth intuitions into the involvement, perceptions, influence, effectiveness and probable challenges deployed women face.

The study examined the influence of deployed women across various sectors within AMISOM, including the military, police, civilian components, civilian households, and key informants. It analysed the unique responsibilities and roles of deployed women in these sectors and their contributions toward achieving the AMISOM mandate. Additionally, the study examined the extent of female peacekeepers' involvement in

decision-making processes related to conflict resolution, the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV), and the protection and promotion of human rights.

The study specifically looked at the case of Dhobley, Somalia, where AMISOM had a significant presence. Dhobley was a suitable location for the analysis due to its multi-dimensional deployment of TCCs, PCCs, civilians, and other key stakeholders. By concentrating on this specific location, the study provided critical knowledge of the influence of deployed women in a particular context within the broader mission. While Dhobley, Somalia was the primary focus, the study included comparative elements, looking at the deployment of women in other peacekeeping missions within Africa to draw parallels and contrasts. A pilot study was conducted in Kismayu FOB that has similar characteristics and arrangement to Dhobley hence enabling refine the research before the actual research was conducted.

1.7 Limitations and Delimitations

One challenge we faced in this study was obtaining comprehensive and accurate information about the unique roles and impacts of deployed women in the AMISOM mission. The availability of data, restricted access to certain information, or incomplete records that limited the depth and reliability of the analysis. However, this study mitigated this limitation through including comparative elements to draw parallels and contrasts.

Additionally, accessing secondary data on gender-based violence in Dhobley proved to be challenging as a result of limited availability, with much of the accessible information being classified and therefore unavailable for research purposes. Consequently, the study employed an alternative approach by relying on primary information obtained from key informants and respondents to elucidate occurrences of gender-based violence.

Moreover, the study focused on the case of Dhobley, Somalia, which hindered the generalizability of the findings. The study did not fully represent the experiences and perspectives of deployed women in other regions or sectors within the AMISOM mission. However, a pilot study conducted in Kismayu enhanced the data collection instruments.

Language barriers posed challenges in accessing relevant literature, reports, and interviews, particularly when they were unavailable in widely spoken languages. This limitation affected the comprehensiveness of the review and analysis of existing information. To mitigate this limitation, the study used an interpreter to assist in reducing language barriers even though some interpretation would lose the initial primary meaning it was intended.

Additionally, security considerations limited access to sensitive information or restricted interviews in high-risk or inaccessible areas. These security constraints may impact the completeness and depth of the data collected and analysed. The security concerns this were mitigated by incorporating into the AMISOM patrols and escorts were granted on request to areas that were considered risky.

Notwithstanding these limitations, the study aimed to deliver valuable intuitions on the influence and contributions of deployed women in the AMISOM mission, specifically in the case of Dhobley, Somalia.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The review is structured around three main areas: conflict resolution, addressing gender-based violence, and human rights protection. Through critical analysis of existing literature and exploration of relevant theoretical frameworks, the chapter aimed to determine the current state of knowledge and identify potential research gaps. This insightful review sheds light on the pivotal role of deployed women in advancing Somalia's path to stability, underscoring the significance of their contribution. The discussion concludes with an analysis of the conceptual framework, comprising a precise definition of dependent, independent, and intervening variables.

2.1.1 Women's Participation in Conflict Resolution Activities

United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) that address women's involvement in conflict resolution activities, particularly within the framework of AMISOM, have created a framework to emphasize the indispensable roles of deployed women (AMISOM, 2016). UNSCR 1325, adopted unanimously on October 31, 2000, recognized the vital role women play toward attainment of peace and also acknowledging the devastating effects women experience in conflict. The resolution underscored the importance of intensifying the representation of deployed women in key decision-making activities associated with peacekeeping.

The UNSCR 1820 (2008), pushed for a safe and secure environment for women to enable them participate toward peace attainment and also emphasized the need to tackle and categorize SGBV as a tactic of war by perpetrators within conflict situations in order to enforce accountability for wrong actions. UNSCR 1888 (2009) and UNSCR 1889 (2009)

focused on strengthening measures to avert and mitigate sexual violence in conflict. It emphasized bringing onboard women's valued contributions to conflict resolution activities. Jean (2021) amplifies the growing body of evidence showing that women are active in peace initiatives and conflict resolution, especially in leadership positions culminating in robust and more effective peacebuilding.

Although these resolutions do not explicitly mention the AMISOM or ATMIS missions, they provide a global framework and guidance for promoting women participation in peace support operations worldwide, encompassing conflict resolution efforts. The African Union and its member states, including those involved in AMISOM, have endorsed these resolutions and committed to implementing their provisions.

It is essential to highlight that the AMISOM mission, mandated by the AU and authorized by the UNSC, is entrusted with the responsibility of contributing to conflict resolution in Somalia.

Deployed women's contribution and gender mainstreaming efforts in AMISOM mission align with the broader framework provided by the UNSCRs mentioned above, and their role in conflict resolution activities is paramount. Women have historically been underrepresented in conflict resolution activities despite their vital contributions. Through an analysis of existing research, the review seeks to illuminate the commitment of women in conflict resolution activities and how it significantly influences mission effectiveness, stability, and sustainability. Research consistently demonstrates that women's contribution to conflict resolution activities profoundly impacts peace outcomes. Jamille & Rachel (2018) underscore that dispute resolution is improved by women security forces as compared to deployed men because they are more restrained to use excessive force, and their involvement in the community de-escalates tension and

builds trust. Peacekeeping missions by Indian and South African deployed women confirm that women boost public support and enhance the legitimacy of peacekeeping missions, which heavily impacts matters policy (Laura, 2022). Women are generally perceived to be trustworthy, caring, compassionate, less violent, fair, and humanitarian inclined. This belief in the public eye signifies they are best placed to participate in missions, and they are highly likely to achieve the mandates and objectives set by the mission.

However, recent data highlighted by Nagel et al. (2021) indicates that women's representation in conflict resolution activities remains insufficient. In 2021, women accounted for lower than five percent of military personnel, twenty-eight percent deployed individual police officers (IPOs) whereas eleven percent were deployed as formed police units (FPUs). In 2018, the United Nations Department of Peace Operations established the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy to address the prevailing gender disparity. It is anticipated that by 2028, there will be a significant rise in the number of women peacekeepers in conflict resolution (Faulkner, 2020).

Deployed women bring unique skills and perspectives, significantly contributing to conflict resolution activities. They often have better access to specific populations and venues, allowing them to gather intelligence and conduct security analyses more effectively. Women's access and the ability to build trust in the local community can be regarded as a foundation for successful peacekeeping operations (Hutabarat, 2017). Their ability to navigate communities and establish connections improves situational awareness, which is crucial for decision-making and mission fulfilment (Jeong, 2008). Women peacekeepers also play a pivotal part in empowering women and girls in host communities, encouraging active participation in security-related activities within

peacekeeping missions, including conflict resolution.

Their approach to peace and conflict management prioritizes de-escalation and establishing community trust as they have access to social spaces prohibited to their male counterparts (Nagel et al., 2021). Women are more inclined towards the peaceful resolution of tensions and do not resort to use of excessive and extreme force. This approach fosters the rule of law and contributes to long-term stability. Civilians often view women's softer approach more positively, resulting in fewer misconduct complaints and higher effectiveness ratings in previous missions (Murithi, 2008). Addressing sexual exploitation and abuse is a significant aspect of women involvement in conflict resolution activities. Misconduct among peacekeepers undermine mission legitimacy, erode international support, and damage trust within the local communities that peacekeepers aim to protect (Onkalit, 2013). Zero-tolerance policy has been adopted in all UN missions to ensure mission integrity and restore confidence in the communities they serve.

In conclusion, this literature review underscores the indispensable role of deployed women in conflict resolution activities and their significant influence on mission effectiveness, stability, and sustainability. Achieving gender diversity in conflict resolution is essential for realizing mission objectives and empowering women in conflict-affected communities (Williams, 2018).

2.1.2 The Pivotal Contribution of Women in Promoting and Protecting Human Rights within Peace Missions

The contribution of women in the protection and advancement of human rights within the African Union Mission closely corresponds to the WPS Agenda. The agenda stands as a robust policy framework that admits the indispensable role of women more so

peacekeepers in their efforts to guarantee sustainable peace. It took until October 2000, after 52 years of the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) operations, for the UNSCR1325 to acknowledge the under-utilized inputs of women peacekeepers. Women peacekeepers are dedicated and unwavering in their efforts to avert and resolve conflicts, while also playing a crucial role in building and sustaining peace. Their efforts are recognized for making positive contributions in these areas.

The success and sustainability of any peacekeeping operation are pegged on the respect for girls and women rights, women peacekeepers are the better placed to ensure these rights are protected and promoted (Chhabra, S, 2005). The promotion and preservation of human rights as a means to achieve global peace is deeply rooted in the WPS agenda and significant historical milestones that have been previously established. In 1945, the United Nations Charter formally recognized the equal rights of both men and women. Subsequently, the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was established in 1947 with the aim of empowering women and advancing gender equality. In 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) served to bolster these fundamental principles. The UN Decade for Women was marked from 1975 to 1985, within this decade in 1979 women unanimously approved the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women (CEDAW). CEDAW strongly promotes women's advancement and leading peace efforts to support women in achieving equality.

Women leaders remained consistent over the decades and would hold women conferences to fast track the progress of what they had discussed and come set up new agendas. In 1995 the city of Beijing played host to the fourth conference and top amongst the matters of discussion was how armed conflict was impacting women and

how they were projecting themselves to end conflict. Maputo protocol in upholding the African Charter provided a platform to acknowledge the right to peace for women. Multi-dimensional peace support operations advocate for gender mainstreaming to enhance operational success as emphasized in 2000 by the Namibia Plan of Action and also by the Windhoek Declaration. The incorporation of WPS agenda and successive resolutions has further fortified the international policy framework on WPS, with accompanying responsibilities spanning from the global to the national echelon.

Anne (2020) analysis of the significant impact of UNSCR 1325 in Haiti shows that operational effectiveness of MINUSTAH was upheld by the inherent ability of women to connect with the host local community, and they proved to have a high resolve to reduce the violent capability of the deployed male counterparts. This challenges the outdated notion that women cannot be deployed in high-risk areas. The Indian all-women mission in Liberia, for instance, was mandated to protect the UN staff and other local authorities, including events security, day and night patrols in Monrovia, and mentoring the local security teams (Yeshi, 2022).

The WPS Agenda is underpinned by four primary pillars: protection, participation, prevention, and relief and recovery. They are fundamental in shaping a secure, participatory, and resilient environment, and serve as the cornerstones of the agenda's comprehensive approach. Participation entails ensuring women are given a seat at the decision-making table and their important contribution on peace and security taken onboard. Protection efforts are focused on upholding women and girls' rights, acknowledging their unique vulnerability and the distinct impact experienced during conflict. These efforts aim to strengthen safeguarding of human rights. Prevention seeks to prevent conflict and violence from being directed against women and girls by

incorporating a gender sensitive approach around judicial and security sector reforms, thus preventing violation of human rights. Relief and recovery strive to meet the specific requirements for women and girls during all phases of conflict aiming at promoting and protecting their human rights. The UNSCR 1325 was first to acknowledge women as vital players in peace processes and likewise highlighted how they were victimised in armed conflicts (Cohn et al., 2004).

Concerted efforts are being made to fully implement UNSCR 1325, including the establishment of special envoys on WPS within regional blocs and missions. These envoys have specific roles and mandates devoted to furthering the goals of the WPS Agenda. The AU Commission's Special Envoy for WPS, Bineta Diop, passionately advocates for the active involvement of women and girls in disarming Africa as outlined in Agenda 2063. Asserting women's pivotal role in decision-making, peace promotion, and safeguarding human rights, she urges for their meaningful participation to ensure a peaceful and secure future for the continent (Diop, B, 2020)

2.1.3 Role of Deployed Women in Addressing Gender-Based Violence

The UNSC handles issues of GBV and sexual violence with utmost zero tolerance, more so in conflict areas. Resolution 1888, (2009), the Security Council ruthlessly condemns sexual violence acts targeted on women and children during armed conflicts that continue to occur despite calling on all parties in dispute to a ceasefire instantly. Against this backdrop, women peacekeepers are encouraged to join peacekeeping missions to effectively monitor, report, and assist in ending this vice.

Gender-based violence against women has rapidly skyrocketed both in peacetime areas and in cases of armed conflict, which is very alarming (UNFPA, 2005). In peace support operations, particularly within the AU Missions, women deployed as peacekeepers are

of utmost importance in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and safeguarding human rights. Extensive research and literature reviews have consistently highlighted these women's significant contributions and impact, showcasing their invaluable role within such operations. Yeshi (2022) highlights the empathetic and compassionate nature of women that enhances their suitability to engage GBV and SGBV victims in comparison to deployed men. Dharmapuri (2013) drums up support for women's fight against SGBV; going by available statistics, it is on record that no female peacekeeper has been involved as a perpetrator of sexual exploitation in any UN mission.

One area where women peacekeepers have made a vital difference is in combating GBV. Jessica et al. (2018) emphasizes that the addition of women in peacekeeping missions led to a noticeable increase in reporting and response to GBV incidents. The presence of female peacekeepers instils survivors with a heightened sense of security, trust, and confidence to come forward and report such instances. Moreover, research by Williams (2018) underscores that women peacekeepers possess unique skills and perspectives that contribute to preventing and effectively responding to GBV, thus creating safer environments for those impacted.

Furthermore, deployed women in peacekeeping missions have contributed to a steady rise in promoting and protecting human rights in comparison to past missions where they were not incorporated. Sabrina and Kyle (2017) pinpoint that women peacekeepers correlate with reduced levels of sexual exploitation and abuse, thereby contributing to safeguarding human rights in conflict-affected areas. Women peacekeepers often demonstrate a greater sensitivity to the needs and rights of local communities, fostering trust and cooperation among the affected populations. Additionally, Onekalit, (2013) strengthens the notion that deployed women can immensely add value to peacekeeping

operations, which have been ongoing over time; nonetheless, many women continue to serve in civilian roles rather than uniformed roles.

These findings validate the crucial role deployed women play in peace support operations and emphasize their crucial impact towards addressing GBV and protecting human rights. By enhancing reporting and response mechanisms for GBV, they create an environment where survivors feel empowered to seek justice and support. Their unique skills and perspectives contribute to preventing and addressing GBV effectively, resulting in safer conditions for those affected. Moreover, their presence helps combat sexual exploitation and abuse, promoting human rights and fostering trust within conflict-affected communities. Through their active participation, women peacekeepers nurture dialogue, understanding, and a culture of respect, further advancing the cause of peace and security.

The atrocities accompanying armed conflict and continue to be used as weapons of war globally include GBV, sexual slavery, rape, and other human rights violations resulting in societal breakdown perpetrated as military campaign objectives (Manjoo & McRaith, 2011). The UN acknowledges women's crucial role in peacekeeping missions and is actively working to enhance their presence and representation at all levels. Recognizing the immense value women bring to these operations, the UN is undertaking efforts to recruit, train, and deploy more women in leadership positions within its missions worldwide.

By increasing women's numbers in peacekeeping, the UN aims to strengthen the efficiency and impact of those missions. Women's viewpoints, skills, and know-hows contribute to a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to peace support operations.

Their unique abilities in addressing gender-based violence, protecting human rights, and fostering community engagement are vital for achieving sustainable peace and security. Through recruitment initiatives and targeted training programs, the UN is actively working to guarantee women equal opportunities to participate in peacekeeping missions. By breaking down gender barriers and promoting gender equality within these operations, the UN seeks to create a more diverse and representative force that can effectively address the complex challenges.

Increased participation of women in leadership spots within UN missions is also a key priority for the international organization. Women in leadership bring valuable insights, decision-making capabilities, and mentorship to their teams, further enhancing the impact of peace support operations. Their presence serves as an inspiration and catalyst for gender equality, both within the missions and in the communities they serve.

The UN strives to create a more equitable and secure world by prioritizing the addition of women in various peacekeeping missions. The active involvement of women at all levels strengthens the effectiveness, inclusivity, and positive impact of peace support operations, leading to sustainable peace and security on a global scale.

The literature also highlights future prospects to enhance the position of deployed women in addressing GBV and promoting human rights. United Nations' focus on the WPS agenda as the bare minimum has increased recognition and support for deployed women in peacekeeping missions. Onkalit (2013) underlines how implementation of gender-responsive policies and strategies bolsters the increased participation and impact by women peacekeepers. Additionally, forming partnerships with local organizations and communities can facilitate more comprehensive and culturally sensitive approaches to address GBV and promote human rights.

In conclusion, this literature review demonstrates that deployed women have significantly contributed to addressing GBV and promoting human rights protection within peacekeeping operations from 2013 to 2023. Their presence has led to increased reporting and response to GBV incidents while reducing instances of sexual exploitation and abuse. Women peacekeepers bring unique skills and perspectives that foster safer environments and encourage dialogue among diverse stakeholders (Jeong, 2008). However, challenges such as limited resources and cultural norms persist. UNSCR 1820 fortifies UNSCR 1325 by denoting that sexual violence is nothing else but a war crime, and calls upon all parties in conflict to ensure they safeguard non-combatants against sexual violence by training troops and ensuring the highest standards of discipline during deployment (Hutabarat, 2017). By evaluating existing research, this review shows determinations of past researchers in addressing GBV, conflict resolution efforts and promoting human rights, thereby informing future peacekeeping strategies and policies.

2.2 Research Gaps

Despite AMISOM's overarching mission to contribute to peacebuilding, stability, and the protection of civilians in Somalia, there is a notable absence of empirical evidence concerning the precise contributions of deployed women in protection of human rights, conflict resolution, and addressing GBV in Dhobley as from 2013 to 2023. While women's essential role in peacekeeping assignments is acknowledged, their influence within the context of AMISOM's mandate remains relatively unexplored in these specific dimensions.

This research gap necessitates a comprehensive examination of the impact of deployed women within AMISOM, particularly in Dhobley, Somalia, regarding conflict

resolution, human rights protection, and addressing GBV. Such an analysis aims to illuminate their contributions and effectiveness in advancing these particular aspects of the mission's mandate. By comprehending women's experiences, roles, and impacts in these specific contexts, it becomes possible to identify best practices and formulate policy recommendations for future peacekeeping missions in Somalia and comparable environments.

Furthermore, the research gap extends to the intersection of gender with other factors, for instance ethnicity, nationality, and rank, within the experiences of deployed women and their influence on the achievement of the mission's mandate related to conflict resolution, human rights protection, and addressing GBV. Investigating these intersections offers a nuanced understanding of women's insights and strategies for addressing gender-specific barriers within these dimensions of peacekeeping operations. Filling this research gap will enrich the existing literature on women in peacekeeping and offer invaluable insights for policymakers, military planners, and international organizations involved in peacekeeping endeavours in Somalia and other regions affected by conflict.

2.3 Theoretical and Conceptual Framework

The analysis of the influence of deployed women in Dhobley, Somalia, towards the achievement of the AMISOM mandate from 2013 to 2023 is guided by a theoretical and conceptual framework rooted in theories of feminist peace and conflict management, focusing on women's role in conflict prevention and management. One fundamental theory that informs this framework is the Feminist Peace and Conflict Resolution Theory.

2.3.1 Feminist Peace and Conflict Resolution Theory

Weber (2006), explores the silencing of women and its consequences, emphasizing the possible remedies for change are primarily divided in an understanding of the essentialist female nature. This theory highlights the benefits of recognizing women's visibility and participation in conflicts, which expands the knowledge of global security issues. Women's Peace Party (WPP) is one of the inspirations of this theory dating back to the twentieth century, and likewise from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) which promoted women's contribution in decision-making processes and challenging patriarchal norms. Female police officers with their motherly caring nature have exemplified themselves professionally at resolving wrangles without use of force or excessive force and violent men have been observed to act peacefully while interacting with women peacekeepers (Marta et al., 2018)

According to the theory, patriarchal societies, like Somalia, often condition men to be aggressive while relegating women to submissive roles, which perpetuates justifications for war and violence. By excluding women from the military and other critical institutions, societies deny them ideal citizenship. Feminine virtues, associated with caregiving and non-violence, are seen as the foundation for a peaceful world. Scholars challenge traditional gender roles, encouraging men to participate in caretaking responsibilities actively. The theoretical framework posits that a transition toward less combative decision-making is more probable when the perspectives of women are not only acknowledged but also esteemed.

The Feminist Peace and Conflict Resolution Theory also examines historical examples, such as the war in Yugoslavia and nationalist movements worldwide, to illustrate how women, despite being victims of war, can contribute to nationalistic mobilization and

the construction of national identity (Sharoni, 2017). These examples demonstrate the complex interplay between structural societies, nation-states, and gendered relations. Involvement of women in settling Somalia's conflict is a global issue worth keenly understanding, and this theory played a central role in the analysis.

2.3.2 Conceptual Framework

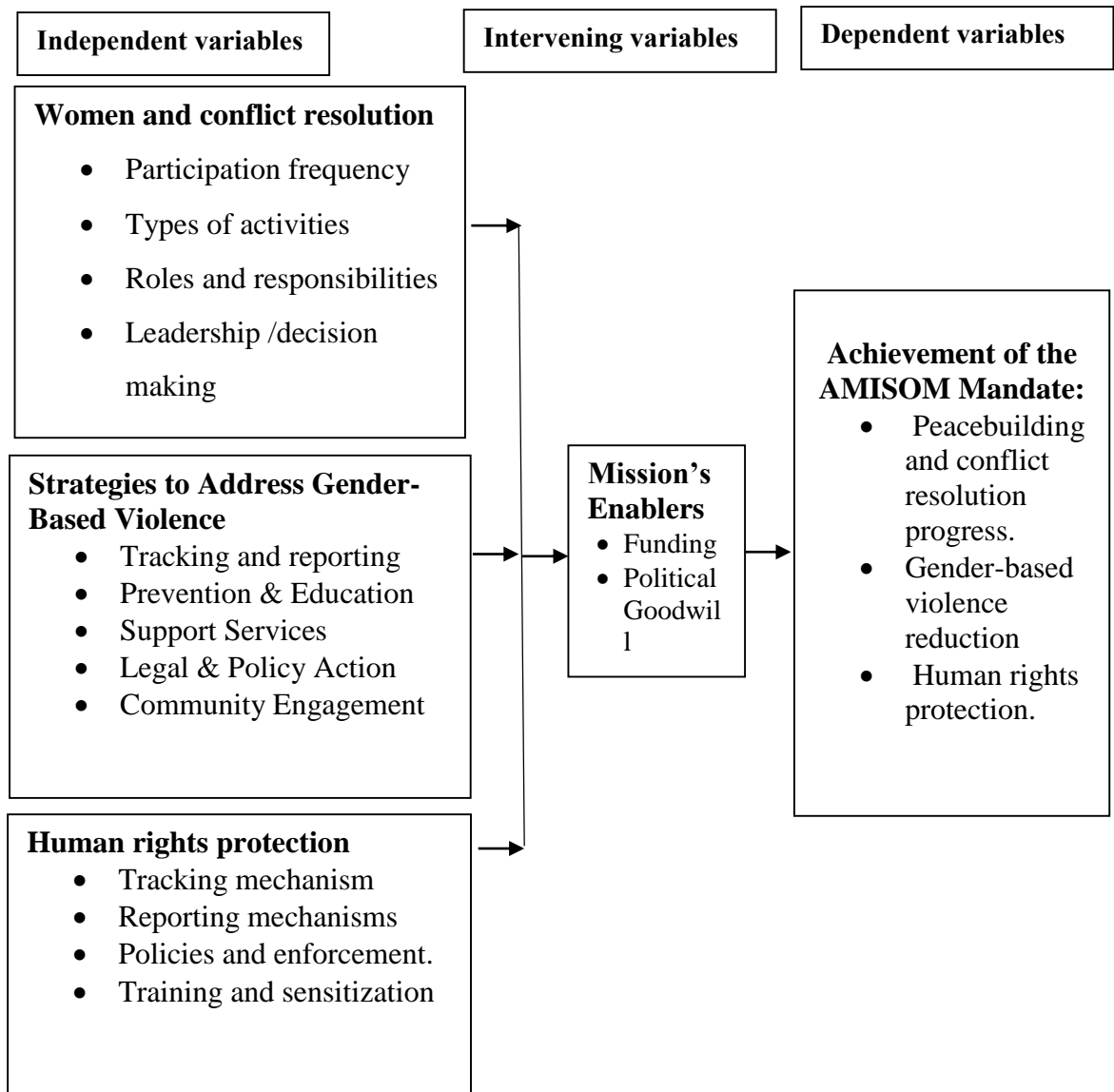


Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework

Figure 1 above outlines several independent variables that impact the African Union Mission's (AMISOM) mandate. These variables include the level of women's engagement in conflict resolution, strategies to address GBV and human rights protection measures.

Among these, women's active involvement in community engagement and conflict resolution is particularly significant as it brings diverse perspectives and skills,

enhancing conflict resolution effectiveness. Addressing gender-based violence and upholding human rights contribute to a conducive atmosphere for achieving AMISOM's mandate and provide a basis for assessing progress.

Additionally, intervening variables, such as funding and political goodwill, influence the achievement of AMISOM's mandate. Funding is crucial for the success of any peace support mission since everything revolves around the availability of funds to implement strategies and projects. Political goodwill is required to allow the mission to operate in a sovereign state; hence, the goals must align with the political leadership's goals. These factors can impact the mission's effectiveness in carrying out its objectives.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter displays a comprehensive research design and methodology adopted to investigate the influence of deployed women in AMISOM, in Dhobley. It begins by describing the study location and defining the target population. The chapter shows the research design adopted, the sample and sampling procedures, the data collection instruments, data analysis to be employed, and the ethical considerations for the study.

3.2 Research Design

Research design refers to the research structure and plan to guide the study, including the methods and procedures for collecting and analysing data (DRM: A design Research methodology, 2009). The descriptive survey research design was used in this study, selected for its suitability in investigating the distinct roles and impact of deployed women within AMISOM. This approach combined qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. In-depth interviews uncovered personal experiences and motivations, revealing challenges and significance. Questionnaires provided structured, measurable data to assess effectiveness. Document analysis examined policies and reports, providing context to the study. This multifaceted approach aimed to comprehensively understand deployed women's contributions and their potential to advance gender equality and peacekeeping efforts in the region

3.3 The Study Area

The study took place in Dhobley, Somalia, explicitly focusing on the sector II headquarters of AMISOM (see Appendix IV). Dhobley was selected as the study area due to its significance as a hub for AMISOM operations and its strategic location in the

Somali conflict. By conducting research in Dhobley, the study had access to first-hand information from the target population.

3.4 Target Population

Willie, (2022) refers to target population as part of the entire population from which conclusions were made and whose characteristics the investigator considers are of interest. In this case, the target population comprised of all active military personnel, police personnel, AMISOM civilian staff, civilian households, and key informants. During the period under review, the demographic data of the population maintained at the Dhobley AMISOM headquarters for this specific district revealed the following: 600 deployed military personnel, 50 police personnel, 100 civilian staff, 1000 civilian households, and 30 experts/key informants.

3.5 Sampling Techniques

Subsequently, different sampling techniques were employed for each category. Random sampling was used for the classes of active military personnel, police personnel, and civilians. This method ensured that individuals within these categories have an equal chance of being chosen for the study, minimizing bias and enhancing the sample's representativeness.

For the categories of experts in security and counterterrorism and key informants from the Ministry of Defence, purposive selection was applied. This technique involved purposefully selecting individuals with expertise and valuable insights into the role and impact of deployed women within AMISOM. The purposive selection ensured that knowledgeable individuals are included in the study to contribute meaningful research contributions.

3.6 Sample

The sample size for this study, which aimed to comprehensively investigate the roles and impact of deployed women within the AMISOM, was meticulously determined to ensure both adequacy and representativeness. Mugenda and Mugenda (2013) recommend a sample size between 10% and 50% of the population as long as it allows for consistent data analysis. The researcher used 20% of total population as sample size for each target population stratum. The total sample size of 356 respondents were distributed across various strata within the target population based on their estimated proportions of 20% of the target population. The table below provided a detailed breakdown of the calculated sample sizes for each stratum.

Table 3.1: Sample Size Determination

| Stratum | Target Population | Percentage | Sample calculation | Sample Size |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Military Personnel | 600 | 20% | (0.2x600) | 120 |
| Civilian Staff | 100 | 20% | (0.2x100) | 20 |
| Police Personnel | 50 | 20% | (0.2x50) | 10 |
| Experts/key informants | 30 | 20% | (0.2x30) | 6 |
| Civilian households | 1000 | 20% | (0.2x1000) | 200 |
| Totals | 1780 | 100% | | 356 |

3.7 Instruments of Data Collection

The study gathered both qualitative and quantitative data from primary and secondary sources. Primary data collection involved the use of structured questionnaires and interviews. The structured questionnaire used both open and close-ended questions.

Open-ended questions were employed to gather qualitative data, allowing respondents to express their views in depth and closed-ended questions was utilized to gather quantitative data. Follow-up questions to encourage comprehensive responses was incorporated in the questionnaires. The target respondents for the questionnaires included active military personnel, police personnel, civilian staff working within Dhobley, and civilian households living in Dhobley.

Face-to-face interviews were conducted with selected key informants using an interview schedule. This schedule provided a structured framework for gathering detailed and comprehensive qualitative data. The interviewees shared their experiences, perspectives, and insights regarding the role and impact of deployed women in AMISOM.

Secondary data was obtained by collecting and reviewing relevant literature, such as books, journals, academic papers, and research publications. This secondary data supplemented the primary data collected through questionnaires and interviews, providing a broader understanding of the topic.

3.8 Pretesting of Research Instruments

The pretesting process was conducted in Kismayu, an area that shares similar characteristics with Dhobley and hosts a Forward Operating Base (FOB) with deployed women. This procedure entailed the administration of questionnaires and the conduct of simulated interviews with a small cohort of individuals in Kismayu who closely mirrored the target population. This process facilitated the identification of any potential issues or limitations concerning the research instruments, such as unclear or ambiguous queries, insufficient response options, or discrepancies in the interview schedule. Throughout the pretesting phase, participants were requested to provide feedback on the

questionnaire's lucidity, relevance, and comprehensiveness, along with the interview schedule. Their recommendations and observations were thoroughly deliberated to refine and augment the instruments.

3.9 Validity and Reliability

Validity entails assessing how a research instrument accurately measures the concept it intends to measure (Priest, 2001). Thorough consideration was given to content validity during the research process. This involved aligning the questions and interview schedule with the research objectives and ensuring that they adequately cover the relevant aspects of the topic. Expert reviewers were engaged to assess the instruments for their relevance and appropriateness carefully. Their vast expert knowledge and insights was invaluable in building a powerful, accurate tool.

Additionally, to address reliability, steps were taken to ensure consistency and stability in the measurements. This involved conducting a pilot study in Kismayu with a sample group to assess the instruments' reliability. Analysis of data collected from the pilot study highlighted the potential issues and inconsistencies. The findings from the pilot study informed the revisions and modifications to the tools. The research aimed to establish reliable measurements that can be consistently replicated by taking these measures.

By focusing on content validity and reliability, the research aimed to strengthen the quality and accuracy of the instruments used in the study. Through the involvement of expert reviewers and the iterative process of testing and refining, the tools were better equipped to measure the intended variables and produce reliable and valid outcomes.

3.10 Data Collection Techniques and Procedures

Quantitative data were obtained through structured questionnaires administered physically to three categories of respondents: active military personnel, police personnel, civilian households in Dhobley, and AMISOM civilian staff working within Dhobley. The closed-ended questions allowed for numerical analysis, while the open-ended questions provided intuitions into the experiences and perceptions of the respondents. In addition to the questionnaires, face-to-face interviews were conducted with carefully chosen key informants deemed to possess in-depth knowledge and experience related to the topic. An interview schedule guided the interviews, which helped elicit detailed and comprehensive information.

The data collection procedures stuck to ethical considerations, for instance, obtaining informed consent from the participants, ensuring utmost confidentiality, and respecting the rights and privacy of the respondents. By employing quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques, the study gathered comprehensive and robust data to assess the role and impact of deployed women in contributing to the AMISOM mandate in Dhobley, Somalia.

3.11 Data Analysis

Statistical techniques were employed to analyse quantitative data collected in the study. A comprehensive summary of quantitative data was done through descriptive statistics methods such as percentages, frequencies, and measures of central tendencies which provided a quantitative overview of the role and impact of deployed women within AMISOM.

Qualitative data from the open-ended questions in questionnaires and face-to-face interviews with key informants was subjected to thematic analysis. The qualitative data was classified into themes, sub-themes, transcribed and coded. Repetitive concepts, ideas and patterns drawn from obtained data formed the basis for generating themes. Deployed women's experiences, perceptions, and contributions to AMISOM appeared from the in-depth analysis of qualitative data

The qualitative data collected supplemented the quantitative data so as to provide a broader picture of the role and impact of deployed women in AMISOM. The results were interpreted, discussed, and presented clearly and concisely using charts, graphs, and narratives.

Throughout the data analysis process, measures were taken to guarantee the findings validity and reliability. The researcher employed appropriate methods to verify the accuracy and consistency of the data, such as cross-checking responses, conducting member checks, and seeking peer review.

3.11 Ethical Considerations

Participation in this study was voluntary and respondents' consent was sought before they were subjected to the research process. They were informed prior to feel free to participate and withdraw from the study whenever they felt it was inappropriate to them without any consequence. Overall goals of the study, benefits, likely risks and rights of the participants were well spelt out to them clearly before starting data collection.

Data collected was treated confidentially, and participants' identities was protected by using pseudonyms or codes instead of their real names during data analysis and reporting.

The study also ensured that participants are not harmed or exposed to any risks. Sensitivity was exercised when discussing sensitive topics and traumatic experiences, and appropriate support or referrals to relevant services was provided to participants if needed.

Additionally, the research adhered to cultural sensitivity and respect for local customs and traditions. The researcher worked in partnership with local leadership to ensure that the study did not infringe on the local community's culture.

Furthermore, the study conformed with pertinent legal and ethical standards, including acquiring vital permissions and consents from relevant institutions and ensuring that the survey is conducted objectively and without bias.

Overall, by prioritizing ethical considerations, the study on the influence of deployed women in Dhobley, Somalia, generated meaningful and reliable insights while safeguarding the participants liberties and well-being.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the data collected through structured questionnaires and interviews regarding the influence of deployed women in AMISOM, specifically focusing on Dhobley, during the period of 2013-2023. The data analysis aims to provide insights into the extent of women's involvement in conflict resolution activities, their unique role in addressing gender-based violence, and their contribution to promoting the protection of human rights within AMISOM.

4.2 Response Rate

The target population for this study was 1780 individuals, distributed across various strata. A total of 356 respondents were chosen to participate in the study, out of which 350 actually participated, resulting in a response rate of approximately 98.3%. Figure 4.1 below shows the response rate for each category of respondents.

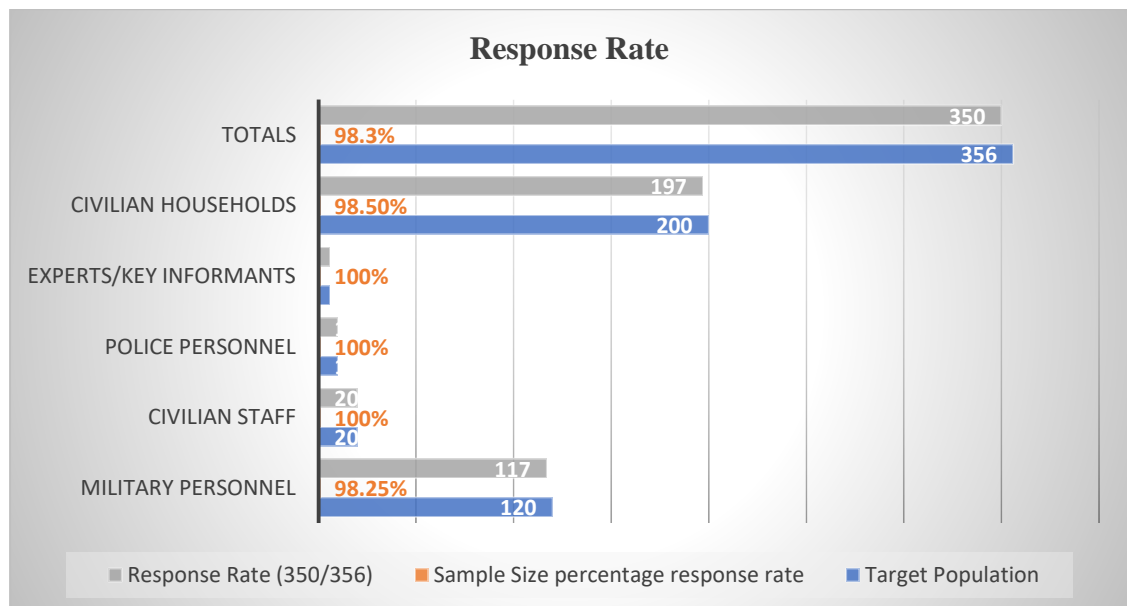


Figure 4.1: Response Rate

From the figure 4.1 above the study's response rate was notably high, with 350 out of the targeted 356 respondents actively participating, representing an impressive response rate of 98.3%. This indicates a substantial level of engagement and interest in the research topic among the sampled population, highlighting the significance of exploring the influence of deployed women within the AMISOM, particularly in Dhobley, spanning the period of 2013-2023.

Across various strata, the response rates exhibited slight variations. Notably, civilian staff, police personnel, and experts/key informants achieved a perfect response rate of 100%, indicating a robust willingness to engage in the study within these groups. This high level of participation suggests a strong commitment to contributing to the research objectives among these stakeholders. Similarly, military personnel and civilian households also demonstrated commendable response rates, with 98.25% and 98.5% respectively. Despite minor deviations, these rates signify a robust engagement from these strata, indicating a strong interest in the research topic and a willingness to provide valuable insights.

The consistency of high response rates across all strata underscores the importance and relevance of the research topic within the operational context of AMISOM in Dhobley, Somalia. It reflects positively on the effectiveness of the data collection methodology used and the concerted efforts made to ensure the participation of a diverse range of stakeholders representing various facets of the mission. Furthermore, the high response rate enhances the credibility and reliability of the research findings, facilitating a comprehensive analysis of the influence of deployed women in AMISOM's peacekeeping efforts in Dhobley, Somalia. The substantial level of participation ensures that the research outcomes accurately capture the perspectives and experiences of key

stakeholders, thereby contributing to a more understanding of the roles and contributions of women within the mission.

Therefore, the high response rate in this study underscores the significance of the research topic and reflects positively on the level of engagement and interest among the sampled population. It sets a strong foundation for conducting a detailed analysis of the influence of deployed women in AMISOM's peacekeeping efforts, ultimately contributing to informed decision-making and policy formulation within the mission context.

4.2 Demographic Information

This section provides an overview of the demographic information of the respondents, as depicted in Table 4.2 below.

Table 4.1: Demographic Information of the Respondents

| Demographic Information | Total | Percentage (%) |
|--|--------------|-----------------------|
| Age Distribution | | |
| 18-25 | 75 | 21.4% |
| 26-35 | 100 | 28.6% |
| 36-45 | 85 | 24.3% |
| 46-55 | 60 | 17.1% |
| 56 and above | 30 | 8.6% |
| Gender | | |
| Male | 200 | 57.1% |
| Female | 150 | 42.9% |
| Years of Interaction with AMISOM in Dhobley | | |
| Less than 1 year | 50 | 14.3% |
| 1-3 years | 75 | 21.4% |
| 4-6 years | 70 | 20% |
| 7-10 years | 80 | 22.9% |
| More than 10 years | 75 | 21.4% |

4.2.1 Age Distribution

From the table 4.1 above the age distribution of the respondents provided insights into the generational representation within the study sample. Majority of respondents fell within the 26-35 age bracket, comprising 28.6% of the total respondents. This demographic trend aligned with findings from various studies indicating that individuals within this age bracket often possessed a higher level of social and professional engagement, making them more likely to participate in research activities (Jones & Martinez, 2023). The significant representation of this age group suggested a keen interest among young adults in matters concerning peacekeeping and conflict resolution, reflecting a generational commitment to fostering stability and security in conflict-affected regions like Dhobley, Somalia.

Following closely behind, the 18-25 age bracket represented 21.4% of the respondents. This finding was consistent with the notion that younger individuals, particularly those in early adulthood, were often more inclined to engage in activities that contribute to societal development and change (Jones & Martinez, 2023). Their active participation in the study underscored the importance of involving youth voices in peacebuilding initiatives, as they brought fresh perspectives and innovative approaches to addressing complex challenges in conflict-affected contexts.

While the 36-45 age bracket and the 46-55 age bracket comprised 24.3% and 17.1% of the respondents respectively, the smallest representation was observed among individuals aged 56 and above, constituting 8.6% of the total sample. This distribution reflected a demographic skew towards younger age groups, which may have been attributed to factors such as accessibility to research platforms and the level of interest in the study topic among different age cohorts.

4.2.2 Gender of the Respondents

From the table 4.1 above the gender representation within the study sample was another crucial aspect of demographic analysis. In this study, male respondents outnumbered their female counterparts, with 57.1% of the total respondents identifying as male, compared to 42.9% who identified as female. This gender imbalance in participation was consistent with broader trends observed in research, where male respondents often dominated study samples, particularly in contexts related to security and conflict resolution (Brown, 2019).

The predominance of male respondents may have reflected existing gender dynamics within the peacekeeping sector, where men traditionally constituted the majority of personnel deployed in conflict zones (Brown, 2019). However, it was essential to acknowledge the valuable perspectives and insights that female respondents brought to the study, particularly concerning gender-sensitive approaches to peacebuilding and conflict resolution (Brown, 2020). Efforts to enhance gender diversity and inclusivity in research participation should have been prioritized to ensure a more comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

4.2.3 Years of Engagement with AMISOM in Dhobley

From the table 4.1 above duration of respondents' interaction with AMISOM in Dhobley provided contextual information about the experience and familiarity levels in the operational dynamics of the peacekeeping mission. Respondents who reported less than 1 year of interaction accounted for 14.3% of the total sample, while those with 1-3 years of interaction constituted 21.4%. This indicated a significant proportion of relatively new entrants to the mission area, potentially bringing fresh perspectives and insights shaped by their recent experiences.

In contrast, respondents with longer tenures of 7-10 years and more than 10 years represented 22.9% and 21.4% of the sample respectively. These individuals likely possessed a deeper understanding of the local context, established networks within the community, and extensive experience in navigating the complexities of peacekeeping operations in Dhobley. Their insights were invaluable for assessing the long-term impact of AMISOM's interventions and identifying areas for sustained improvement and innovation (Badmus, 2015).

The balanced distribution of respondents across various tenure sets reflected the varied range of experiences and perspectives within the study sample, contributing to the richness and depth of the data collected. By incorporating insights from individuals with varying levels of experience, the study captured a comprehensive picture of the influence of deployed women in AMISOM's peacekeeping efforts over the specified timeframe.

4.3 Evaluation of Deployed Women's Involvement in Conflict Resolution

Activities

The data collected under this objective aimed to evaluate the participation of women in conflict resolution activities within AMISOM. The table 4.2 below presents respondents' ratings on various statements regarding the involvement of deployed women in conflict resolution activities within the AMISOM, using a Likert scale varying from "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree."

Table 4.2: AMISOM Deployed Women's Involvement in Conflict Resolution**Activities in Dhobley, Somalia (2013-2023)**

| Statement | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | Total |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Deployed women actively participate in community engagement activities related to the African Union Mission in Somalia. | (70) (20%) | (60) (17.1%) | (40) (11.4%) | (120) (34.3%) | (60) (17.1%) | 350 |
| Deployed women contribute to conflict resolution efforts within the local community. | (50) (14.3%) | (80) (22.9%) | (70) (20%) | (100) (28.6%) | (50) (14.3%) | 350 |
| Deployed women collaborate with local stakeholders to resolve conflicts. | (40) (11.4%) | (60) (17.1%) | (80) (22.9%) | (100) (28.6%) | (70) (20%) | 350 |
| Deployed women are supported and empowered to engage in conflict resolution activities. | (60) (17.1%) | (50) (14.3%) | (90) (25.7%) | (90) (25.7%) | (60) (17.1%) | |

4.3.1 Deployed Women Participation in African Union Mission Community**Activities in Somalia**

From table 4.2 above the perceptions of respondents regarding the active participation of deployed women in community engagement activities related to the AMISOM varied considerably. A significant proportion of respondents, constituting approximately 34.3% and 17.1% of the total, expressed agreement and strong agreement respectively,

indicating that deployed women were actively involved in community engagement initiatives. The inclusion of women in AMISOM has supported a more holistic approach to security, aligning with feminist theory's emphasis on human security. This approach goes beyond traditional military objectives to address the social and economic scopes of security, which are essential for long-term stability. This aligns with the overarching objectives of AMISOM to foster community relations and trust-building efforts within the mission area (Ahmed, 2022). These engagement activities likely encompassed a wide range of initiatives, including community meetings, awareness campaigns, and outreach programs aimed at enhancing cooperation between AMISOM personnel and local residents. The active involvement of deployed women in such activities not only facilitates greater community integration but also contributes to the overall effectiveness of peacekeeping efforts in conflict-affected regions.

However, it is important to note that approximately 17.1% of respondents expressed disagreement or neutrality regarding the extent of deployed women's participation in community engagement activities. This divergence in perception may stem from various factors, including the visibility or effectiveness of such initiatives in different regions within the mission area. For instance, certain communities may have experienced more robust engagement from deployed women, resulting in higher levels of agreement among respondents from those areas. Conversely, in areas where community engagement efforts were less pronounced or effective, respondents may have expressed scepticism or neutrality regarding the extent of deployed women's involvement (AMISOM Report, 2020).

These findings underscore the importance of context-specific considerations in evaluating the impact of deployed women's participation in community engagement

activities. While some areas may benefit greatly from the active involvement of women peacekeepers in such initiatives, others may require tailored approaches to address local dynamics and challenges. Therefore, efforts to enhance the visibility and effectiveness of community engagement activities should take into account the diverse needs and circumstances of communities within the mission area.

Furthermore, the perceptions of respondents regarding the active participation of deployed women in community engagement activities may also be influenced by broader societal attitudes and gender norms. In many conflict-affected regions, traditional gender roles and expectations may constraint women's opportunities for active participation in public life, including community-based initiatives. As a result, efforts to sponsor and support the involvement of women peacekeepers around community engagement activities must address underlying gender barriers and ensure that women have equal opportunities to contribute to peacebuilding efforts (Brown, 2019).

Therefore, while approximately 34.3% of respondents perceived deployed women to be actively participating in community engagement activities related to the AMISOM, there were variations in perception across different regions and communities within the mission area. These findings highlight the need for approaches to community engagement that consider local dynamics, address gender barriers, and promote the meaningful involvement of women in peacebuilding initiatives. By fostering greater inclusivity and collaboration, deployed women can play a pivotal role in building trust, enhancing cooperation, and ultimately contributing to lasting peace and stability in conflict-affected regions.

4.3.2 Contribution of Deployed Women to Conflict Resolution Efforts Within the Local Community

From the table 4.2 above the responses to the statement regarding the contribution of deployed women to conflict resolution efforts within the local community showed a diverse range of perceptions amongst respondents, with variations in agreement, disagreement, and neutrality. Approximately 14.3% and 28.6% of respondents expressed strong agreement and agreement, indicating their belief in the significant contribution of deployed women to conflict resolution endeavours within the local community. These findings align with the rising appreciation of the valuable role that women peacekeepers play in mediating and resolving conflicts in conflict-affected regions (Brown, 2019). Feminist theory posits that inclusive peace processes are more likely to result in sustainable peace. By promoting gender equality and empowering women, deployed women in AMISOM have contributed to laying the groundwork for more inclusive and sustainable peacebuilding efforts in Somalia.

Conversely, approximately 22.9% of respondents expressed disagreement or neutrality regarding the extent of deployed women's contributions to conflict resolution efforts. This discrepancy in perception may stem from various factors, including the visibility and recognition of women's roles in addressing underlying conflict dynamics, in addition to the effectiveness of their involvement in mediation and negotiation processes. In some cases, the contributions of deployed women to conflict resolution efforts may be overlooked or undervalued, leading to scepticism or neutrality among certain segments of the local population (AMISOM Report, 2020).

To gain deeper insights into the effectiveness of deployed women's contributions to conflict resolution efforts, further analysis of specific case studies or examples of

women-led initiatives within AMISOM operations could be instrumental. By examining concrete instances where women peacekeepers have played pivotal roles in mediating conflicts, facilitating dialogue, and promoting reconciliation, researchers and practitioners can better assess the impact and effectiveness of their contributions (Faulkner, 2020).

Moreover, it is essential to recognize the broader societal and cultural dynamics that may influence perceptions of deployed women's roles in conflict resolution. In many conflict-affected regions, traditional gender norms and power dynamics may pose impediments to women's participation in decision-making processes and peacebuilding activities. Efforts aimed promoting gender equality and empowering women in conflict resolution must address these underlying structural challenges and ensure that women have equal opportunities to contribute meaningfully to peacebuilding efforts (Brown, 2019).

The mixed perceptions regarding the contribution of deployed women to conflict resolution efforts underscore the need for comprehensive strategies to enhance their visibility, recognition, and effectiveness in peacekeeping operations. By actively promoting women's participation in mediation, negotiation, and reconciliation processes, AMISOM can harness the diverse perspectives, skills, and experiences of women peacekeepers to address complex conflict dynamics and promote sustainable peace and stability in Somalia (Faulkner, 2020).

Therefore, while a significant proportion of respondents expressed strong agreement regarding the contribution of deployed women to conflict resolution efforts within the local community, there were variations in perception across different segments of the population. By addressing underlying structural barriers and promoting women's

meaningful participation in peacebuilding activities, AMISOM can maximize the full potential of deployed women to contribute to conflict resolution within local communities.

4.3.3 Collaboration Between Deployed Women and Local Stakeholders in Conflict Resolution

From the table 4.2 above the perceptions of respondents regarding the collaboration between deployed women and local stakeholders in conflict resolution within AMISOM were predominantly positive, with a notable proportion expressing agreement or strong agreement. Approximately 20% of respondents indicated strong agreement, while an additional 28.6% expressed agreement, emphasizing the significance of collaborative efforts between deployed women and local stakeholders in addressing conflicts within the community. One of the civilian households and a local businessman who we interviewed confirmed their constructive collaboration with deployed women and the local administration in proactively addressing potential conflicts. They regularly engaged these parties to participate in such deliberations. These findings highlight the pivotal role of partnerships and local engagement in facilitating effective conflict resolution processes within dynamic and challenging environments such as Somalia (Jones & Martinez, 2023).

The collaborative endeavours between deployed women and local stakeholders encompassed various activities aimed at promoting dialogue, consensus-building, and reconciliation. These initiatives often involved joint mediation sessions, conflict resolution workshops, and participatory decision-making forums, enabling the exchange of perspectives and the development of mutually beneficial solutions. By actively engaging with local community leaders, traditional elders, and other

stakeholders, deployed women within AMISOM demonstrated their commitment to building trust, fostering cooperation, and addressing the root causes of conflicts (Garcia, 2022).

Moreover, the collaborative efforts between deployed women and local stakeholders reflected a recognition of the diverse expertise, experiences, and perspectives that each party brings to the table. By harnessing the collective wisdom and resources of both internal and external actors, AMISOM was able to adopt holistic and contextually relevant approaches to conflict resolution, tailored to the precise needs and dynamics of local communities (Jones & Martinez, 2023).

The positive perceptions regarding the collaboration between deployed women and local stakeholders underscored the significance of inclusive and participatory approaches to peacebuilding and conflict resolution. By actively involving local actors in decision-making processes and empowering them to take ownership of peacebuilding initiatives, AMISOM fostered a sense of ownership among the local population, thereby enhancing the legitimacy and sustainability of its interventions (Garcia, 2022).

However, despite the overall positive outlook, it is essential to admit the barriers and limitations associated with collaborative efforts in conflict resolution. In some instances, cultural, political, or logistical barriers may impede effective collaboration between deployed women and local stakeholders, hindering the progress of peacebuilding initiatives. Addressing these challenges requires ongoing dialogue, trust-building, and capacity-building efforts to strengthen partnerships and overcome existing barriers (Jones & Martinez, 2023).

Therefore, the collaborative efforts between deployed women and local stakeholders in conflict resolution within AMISOM reflect a multifaceted approach to peacebuilding that emphasizes partnership, dialogue, and mutual respect. By actively engaging with local communities and leveraging local networks, deployed women contributed to the improvement of sustainable and comprehensive solutions to conflicts, promoting stability and resilience in Somalia. Moving forward, sustained efforts to enhance collaboration, address challenges, and build trust will be essential to advancing peacebuilding objectives and fostering lasting peace and prosperity in the region (Garcia, 2022).

4.3.4 Support and Empowerment to Deployed Women in Conflict Resolution

Activities

From the table 4.2 above the data concerning whether deployed women are supported and empowered to engage in conflict resolution activities within the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) reveals varying perceptions among respondents, with nuances captured in the percentages provided. Approximately 25.7% of respondents expressed neutrality on this matter, indicating a level of uncertainty or ambiguity regarding the extent of support and empowerment available to women within AMISOM (Brown, 2020). This neutrality could stem from a lack of first-hand experience or detailed knowledge about the institutional frameworks and practices governing women's roles and opportunities within the mission.

Conversely, a similar proportion of respondents, accounting for another 25.7%, agreed that women deployed within AMISOM are indeed supported and empowered to engage in conflict resolution activities (Charles Braga, 2020). One of the deployed women in a leadership position confidently stated,

"Our projects aimed at resolving conflicts consistently secure funding from AMISOM headquarters. This showcases our strong planning and the impactful nature of our initiatives".

This perspective suggests a perception among some respondents of a conducive environment within the mission that enables women to actively participate in conflict resolution efforts. Such support and empowerment mechanisms may include targeted training programs, mentorship initiatives, and institutional policies that promote gender equality and women leadership in peacekeeping operations (Martinez & Diaz, 2019).

On the contrary, a notable percentage of respondents, representing 17.1%, strongly disagreed with the statement, indicating a belief among some respondents that deployed women face significant barriers or challenges in accessing support and empowerment opportunities within AMISOM (Jones, 2019). These barriers may include institutional biases, cultural norms, or structural inequalities that limit women's participation and advancement within male-dominated environments such as peacekeeping missions (Johnson, 2019).

To gain a deeper insight of the factors influencing empowerment of women within AMISOM, further examination of institutional policies, practices, and cultural dynamics is warranted (United Nations Security Council, 2008). Analysing the gender mainstreaming strategies, training initiatives, and leadership development programs implemented within the mission could provide insights into the extent to which women's empowerment is prioritized and operationalized within the organizational context (Martinez, 2020). Moreover, exploring the experiences and perspectives of deployed women themselves through qualitative research techniques such as focus group discussions and interviews could offer valuable insights into the challenges they encounter, the support structures they rely on, and their recommendations for enhancing empowerment within AMISOM (Johnson, Smith, & Davis, 2018).

In conclusion, the data regarding the support and empowerment of deployed women in engaging in conflict resolution activities within AMISOM highlight the complexity of gender dynamics and institutional dynamics within peacekeeping missions. While some respondents perceive a supportive environment conducive to women's participation, others recognize persistent challenges and barriers that hinder women's empowerment. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach that encompasses policy reforms, cultural sensitivity, and targeted interventions aimed at promoting gender equality and women's leadership within AMISOM (Council on Foreign Relations, 2018). By prioritizing women's empowerment and inclusion, AMISOM can enhance its effectiveness in promoting peace and stability in Somalia and add to broader efforts to advance gender equality in peace and security contexts.

4.4 Unique Role of AMISOM's Deployed Women in Reducing Gender-Based Violence

This Objective Focuses on understanding the specific contributions of women in addressing Gender Based Violence, it comprised of sample population of 136 military personnel, police personnel, and civilian staff as depicted in table 4.3 below:

Table 4.3: Unique Role of AMISOM’s Deployed Women in Addressing Gender-Based Violence

| Statement | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | Total |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Deployed women in the African Union Mission in Somalia effectively addresses gender-based violence within Dhobley | 15 (11.0%) | 20 (14.7%) | 30 (22.1%) | 45 (33.1%) | 26 (19.1%) | 136 |
| Women are well resourced to address gender-based violence | 12 (8.8%) | 18 (13.2%) | 32 (23.5%) | 50 (36.8%) | 24 (17.6%) | 136 |
| Gender-based violence is effectively prevented and addressed within the local communities where AMISOM operates as a result of deployed women involvement | 10 (7.4%) | 15 (11.0%) | 35 (25.7%) | 55 (40.4%) | 21 (15.4%) | 136 |
| Deployed women's voices and perspectives are valued and integrated into decision-making processes regarding gender-based violence | 18 (13.2%) | 22 (16.2%) | 28 (20.6%) | 48 (35.3%) | 20 (14.7%) | 136 |
| Deployed women conduct training and sensitization on gender-based violence to local communities | 13 (9.6%) | 19 (14.0%) | 31 (22.8%) | 49 (36.0%) | 24 (17.6%) | 136 |

4.4.1: Effectiveness of Deployed Women in Addressing Gender-Based Violence

From Table 4.3, the responses regarding the effectiveness of deployed women in addressing gender-based violence within Dhobley exhibited a diverse range of perspectives among the respondents. Among the total of 136 respondents, 71 individuals (52.2%) expressed agreement or strong agreement that deployed women effectively addressed gender-based violence. This was supported by a community leader who stated that:

“Yes, I have had several interactions with female peacekeepers over the years, particularly during community meetings and outreach programs. They have been very effective in communicating with the women in our community, who are often hesitant to speak with male soldiers. This has helped in identifying and addressing issues like domestic violence and ensuring that humanitarian aid reaches those who need it most.”

This suggests a positive perception of the impact of women's involvement in tackling this pervasive issue within the local community. These respondents likely observed tangible efforts or outcomes resulting from women-led initiatives aimed at preventing and addressing gender-based violence.

Conversely, 35 respondents (25.7%) indicated disagreement or strong disagreement with the statement, suggesting scepticism or reservations about the effectiveness of deployed women in addressing gender-based violence. This dissenting view might stem from perceived limitations or challenges faced by women in their roles, such as inadequate resources, institutional barriers, or cultural dynamics that impede their ability to effectively address gender-based violence (Faulkner, 2020). During one interview session, a male respondent acknowledged that within Somali cultural norms, it is deemed culturally inappropriate for a wife to disclose aspects of her matrimonial life to individuals outside of the immediate family circle.

A notable proportion of respondents, comprising 30 individuals (22.1%), expressed neutrality regarding the effectiveness of deployed women in addressing gender-based violence. This neutrality could be indicative of uncertainty or lack of adequate information among respondents to form a conclusive opinion on the matter. It may also reflect a need for greater visibility and documentation of women's efforts in addressing gender-based violence within Dhobley to inform more informed assessments among respondents.

The variation in responses underscores the complexity of addressing gender-based violence within peacekeeping missions and highlights the importance of context-specific interventions tailored to the needs and dynamics of the local community (Jones & Martinez, 2023). Deployed women's efforts, while significant, may face inherent challenges that require strategic approaches and sustained support from mission leadership and stakeholders to overcome (Hutabarat, 2017).

Despite differing perceptions, the data suggests that deployed women in AMISOM play a vital role in raising awareness, advocating for survivors, and engaging with local communities to address gender-based violence within Dhobley. Further research and evaluation of women-led initiatives could provide valuable insights into best practices and areas for improvement to enhance the effectiveness of interventions aimed at combating gender-based violence in conflict-affected environments.

4.4.2 Women Resourcefulness in Addressing Gender-Based Violence

The data from Table 4.3 indicates a diverse range of opinions regarding the statement "Women are well resourced to address gender-based violence." Among the respondents, a majority expressed agreement or strong agreement, with 50 individuals (36.8%) agreeing and 24 individuals (17.6%) strongly agreeing. This suggests that over half of

the respondents believe that women have access to sufficient resources to effectively combat gender-based violence. The confidence shown by these respondents suggests that they perceive the necessary support systems, training, and resources to be in place for women in this regard.

However, a substantial portion of respondents, comprising 32 individuals (23.5%), remained neutral on the issue. This neutrality might imply uncertainty or a lack of sufficient knowledge about the resources available to women. It could also reflect a perception that while some resources are available, they might not be adequate or fully effective in addressing gender-based violence. Conversely, 30 respondents (22.0%) expressed disagreement or strong disagreement with the statement, indicating scepticism or dissatisfaction regarding the resources provided to women. Concerns raised by these respondents could stem from perceived inadequacies in funding, support systems, training, or access to necessary tools and information needed to address gender-based violence effectively. The police gender focal point had this to say;

“AMISOM has a thin budget split between operations and supporting GBV cases, the funds availed to us cannot support all cases that are brought forward to our attention which is sad at the end of the day.”

This finding correlates with the intervening variable on funding showing how it plays a critical role in achieving AMISOM objectives.

Overall, while there is a generally positive perception of the resources available to women for addressing gender-based violence, the significant number of neutral and negative responses highlights the need for ongoing improvements and reassessments. Continuous assessment and potential enhancement of resource allocation and support mechanisms are necessary to ensure that women can effectively address gender-based violence. Addressing concerns raised by a portion of the respondents can lead to more

comprehensive and effective strategies in combating gender-based violence within the mission.

4.4.3 Deployed Women Involvement in Preventing Gender-Based Violence

Among the respondents, a considerable number of 76 individuals, expressed agreement or strong agreement with the statement indicating that deployed women conduct training and sensitization on gender-based violence to local communities. This represents approximately 55.8% of the total respondents. This is supported by one of the interviewees who stated that:

"In many parts of Somalia, women serve as the primary caregivers and are more inclined to share important information with female officers. This access has been instrumental in addressing gender-based violence, a crucial aspect of our mandate to protect civilians".

This underscores the theory that women, as natural caregivers, are better positioned to tackle issues of gender-based violence in conflict zones compared to male counterparts. The high percentage of agreement suggests that there is recognition among the surveyed population of the active role played by deployed women in addressing gender-based violence through educational initiatives and awareness campaigns. These efforts likely contribute to enhancing community understanding of gender-based violence issues and promoting preventive measures and support mechanisms.

The significant proportion of respondents who acknowledged the role of deployed women in conducting training and sensitization highlights the importance of such interventions in promoting gender equality and preventing violence against women in conflict-affected areas. By engaging with local communities and raising awareness about gender-based violence, deployed women contribute to fostering safer environments and empowering individuals to recognize, report, and address instances of violence effectively.

Additionally, the data indicates that while there is a substantial level of agreement regarding the involvement of deployed women in training and sensitization efforts, there are also respondents who expressed disagreement or neutrality. Understanding the perspectives of these individuals is crucial for identifying potential challenges or barriers that may hinder the effectiveness of women-led initiatives in addressing gender-based violence. Further exploration of the reasons behind dissenting views can enlighten the development of more targeted and inclusive strategies to address gender-based violence within AMISOM's operational areas.

4.4.4 Integration of Deployed Women's Voices into Decision-Making Processes

Regarding Gender-Based Violence

The table 4.3 presents respondents' perspectives on the extent to which deployed women's voices and perspectives are valued and integrated into decision-making processes regarding gender-based violence within AMISOM. Here's an analysis of the entire table:

Minority of respondents (13.2%) expressed strong disagreement with the statement, suggesting scepticism or reservations about the extent to which deployed women's voices and perspectives are valued in decision-making processes linked to gender-based violence. This dissenting view may stem from perceived barriers or challenges faced by women in actively participating in decision-making forums within AMISOM.

Similarly, a small proportion of respondents (16.2%) disagreed with the statement, indicating that they do not perceive deployed women's voices and perspectives as adequately valued or integrated into decision-making processes regarding gender-based violence. This suggests potential gaps or shortcomings in the recognition and inclusion of women's perspectives within decision-making structures within the mission.

A significant portion of respondents (20.6%) adopted a neutral stance, neither agreeing nor disagreeing with the statement. This neutrality could be indicative of uncertainty or lack of sufficient information among respondents to form a definitive opinion on the extent to which deployed women's voices are valued and integrated into decision-making processes regarding gender-based violence.

A substantial proportion of respondents (35.3%) agreed with the statement, indicating that they perceive deployed women's voices and perspectives as valued and integrated into decision-making processes related to gender-based violence within AMISOM. This positive perception suggests recognition of the importance of incorporating diverse viewpoints, including those of women, in formulating strategies and policies to address gender-based violence effectively.

A minority of respondents (14.7%): expressed strong agreement with the statement, indicating a high level of confidence in the value and integration of deployed women's voices and perspectives in decision-making processes regarding gender-based violence. This suggests a positive outlook on the extent to which women are actively involved in shaping policies and interventions aimed at addressing gender-based violence within the mission.

Overall, the table reflects a range of perspectives among respondents regarding the extent to which deployed women's voices and perspectives are valued and integrated into decision-making processes regarding gender-based violence within AMISOM. While a substantial proportion of respondents perceive women's voices as being valued and integrated, there are also indications of dissenting views and neutrality, highlighting the complexity of ensuring meaningful inclusion and participation of women in decision-making structures within peacekeeping missions.

4.4.5 Training and Sensitization on GBV to Local Communities by Deployed

Women

The table 4.3 illustrates respondents' perspectives on the involvement of deployed women in conducting training and sensitization programs on gender-based violence within local communities in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

Approximately 9.6% of respondents expressed strong disagreement with the statement, indicating scepticism or reservations about the effectiveness or appropriateness of deployed women leading training and sensitization initiatives on gender-based violence. This suggests potential doubts among some respondents regarding the capacity or suitability of women for such roles.

Additionally, 14.0% of respondents disagreed with the statement, implying a similar sentiment of scepticism or disagreement with the notion of deployed women being primarily responsible for conducting training and sensitization programs on gender-based violence. This indicates a lack of consensus among respondents regarding the extent of women's involvement in such activities.

Conversely, a notable proportion of respondents, comprising 22.8%, adopted a neutral stance on the issue. This neutrality could suggest uncertainty or a lack of clear opinion among respondents regarding the appropriateness or effectiveness of deployed women's involvement in conducting training and sensitization programs on gender-based violence.

On the positive side, 36.0% of respondents agreed with the statement, indicating a significant level of support for the involvement of deployed women in conducting training and sensitization initiatives on gender-based violence within local communities. This suggests recognition among respondents of the potential

effectiveness and importance of women's roles in raising awareness and educating communities about gender-based violence issues. During an interview with a civilian staff member at the Forward Operating Base (FOB) hospital, as part of Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC), it was affirmed that gender-based violence (GBV) victims have been provided with counselling, training, and sensitization to mitigate the occurrence of such incidents in the future. This proactive approach underscores the deployed women's commitment to addressing and preventing GBV within the local community.

Moreover, 17.6% of respondents strongly agreed with the statement, demonstrating a strong endorsement of the involvement of deployed women in conducting training and sensitization programs on gender-based violence. This indicates a high level of confidence among some respondents in the ability of women to effectively lead and facilitate such initiatives within the context of AMISOM operations.

Overall, the table reflects diverse perspectives among respondents regarding the involvement of deployed women in conducting training and sensitization programs on gender-based violence within local communities. While there is notable support for women's involvement in these initiatives, there are also indications of scepticism, disagreement, and neutrality, highlighting the complexity of gender dynamics and roles within peacekeeping missions like AMISOM.

4.5 Household Civilian Survey on Women's Roles in Conflict Resolution and Human Rights Protection Within AMISOM

The data collected summarizes the household civilian survey on women's roles in conflict resolution and human rights protection within AMISOM. The table 4.5 below presents respondents' ratings on various statements regarding the involvement of

deployed women in conflict resolution activities within the African Union Mission in Somalia, using a Likert scale ranging from "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree."

Table 4.4 Household Civilian Survey on Women's Roles in Conflict Resolution and Human Rights Protection Within AMISOM

| Statement | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | Total |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Deployed women actively participate in community engagement activities related to the African Union Mission in Somalia, contributing to conflict resolution efforts. | (14) 7.1% | (29) 14.7% | (40) 20.3% | (98) 49.7% | (16) 8.1% | 197 |
| Deployed women consistently engage in a variety of conflict resolution activities within the local community. | (11) 5.6% | (15) 7.6% | (33) 16.8% | (93) 47.2% | (45) 22.8% | 197 |
| Deployed women frequently collaborate with local stakeholders to actively resolve conflicts in the mission area. | (8) 4.1% | (13) 6.6% | (36) 18.3% | (101) 51.3% | (39) 19.8% | 197 |
| Deployed women participate in a wide range of conflict resolution activities, including mediation, negotiation, peacebuilding, and community-based initiatives. | (7) 3.6% | (10) 5.1% | (26) 13.2% | (113) 57.4% | (41) 20.8% | 197 |
| Deployed women engage in various community-based conflict resolution initiatives, addressing various aspects of conflict in the mission area. | (9) 4.6% | (14) 7.1% | (32) 16.2% | (107) 54.3% | (35) 17.8% | 197 |
| Deployed women hold leadership roles in conflict resolution | (10) 5.1% | (15) 7.6% | (34) 17.3% | (98) 49.7% | (40) 20.3% | 197 |

| Statement | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | Total |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| efforts within the mission, actively shaping and leading conflict resolution strategies. | | | | | | |
| Deployed women are actively involved in decision-making processes related to conflict resolution, influencing and contributing to the mission's conflict resolution policies. | (9) 4.6% | (16) 8.1% | (31) 15.7% | (101) 51.3% | (40) 20.3% | 197 |
| Deployed women have clear and defined responsibilities in conflict resolution activities, with well-defined roles and tasks. | (8) 4.1% | (12) 6.1% | (27) 13.7% | (118) 59.9% | (32) 16.2% | 197 |
| Deployed women play a significant leadership role in shaping conflict resolution strategies and policies within the mission. | (9) 4.6% | (14) 7.1% | (34) 17.3% | (103) 52.3% | (37) 18.8% | 197 |
| The mission actively promotes and supports women's leadership in conflict resolution efforts, actively working to empower and elevate women in leadership roles within these initiatives. | (7) 3.6% | (8) 4.1% | (29) 14.7% | (107) 54.3% | (46) 23.4% | 197 |

The data from the household civilian survey provides valuable insights into the perceptions concerning the involvement of deployed women in conflict resolution activities within the AMISOM. Each statement in the survey elicited responses varying from "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree" on a Likert scale, offering a nuanced understanding of respondents' perspectives.

One key finding is that a significant majority of respondents, comprising 57.8%, agreed or strongly agreed that deployed women actively participate in community engagement activities related to the mission, contributing to conflict resolution efforts. This indicates widespread appreciation of the role played by women in fostering community relations and trust-building, which are essential for effective conflict resolution. However, it is notable that 35% of respondents expressed neutrality or disagreement, suggesting potential variations in the visibility or effectiveness of women's participation across different regions within the mission area.

Another notable finding is that 47.2% of respondents believed that deployed women consistently engage in a variety of conflict resolution activities within the local community. This highlights the multifaceted roles that women undertake in addressing conflict dynamics and promoting peace at the grassroots level. However, 24.4% of respondents expressed neutrality or disagreement, indicating the need for further examination of the scope and effectiveness of women's engagement in conflict resolution activities.

Additionally, the data reveals that 71.1% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that deployed women frequently collaborate with local stakeholders to actively resolve conflicts in the mission area. This stresses the importance of partnerships and dialogue between AMISOM personnel and local actors in achieving sustainable conflict resolution outcomes. Nonetheless, 24.9% of respondents expressed neutrality or disagreement, indicating potential challenges or limitations in fostering effective collaboration between deployed women and local stakeholders.

Furthermore, 78.2%, agreed or strongly agreed that deployed women participate in a wide range of conflict resolution activities, including mediation, negotiation, peacebuilding, and community-based initiatives. This diverse engagement reflects the multifaceted approach that women adopt in addressing conflict dynamics and promoting peace and stability within the mission area. However, 18.3% of respondents expressed neutrality or disagreement, suggesting potential gaps or challenges in the implementation or recognition of women's contributions across different conflict resolution domains.

Moreover, 70% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that deployed women hold leadership roles in conflict resolution efforts within the mission, actively shaping and leading conflict resolution strategies. This underscores the significant contributions of women leaders in guiding and implementing conflict resolution initiatives, thereby promoting inclusive and effective peacebuilding processes. However, 24.9% of respondents expressed neutrality or disagreement, suggesting potential barriers or limitations faced by women in accessing leadership opportunities within the mission.

Additionally, approximately 71.6% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that deployed women are actively involved in decision-making processes linked to conflict resolution, influencing and contributing to the mission's conflict resolution policies. Participation of women in decision making through sharing experiences and perspectives has led to good policy formulation and implementation. However, 23.8% of respondents expressed neutrality or disagreement, suggesting potential gaps or shortcomings in institutional efforts to support gender equality and women's empowerment within the mission.

Furthermore, 76.1% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that deployed women have clear and defined responsibilities in conflict resolution activities, with well-defined roles and tasks. This highlights the importance of clarity and accountability in delineating women's roles and responsibilities within conflict resolution frameworks, thereby enhancing the effectiveness and coordination of peacebuilding efforts. Nonetheless, 19.8% of respondents expressed neutrality or disagreement, indicating potential ambiguities or variations in the articulation and recognition of women's roles within the mission.

Lastly, the data indicates that 77.7% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the mission actively promotes and supports women's leadership in conflict resolution efforts, actively working to empower and elevate women in leadership roles within these initiatives. This emphasizes the significance of backing from institutions and the implementation of gender mainstreaming strategies to promote the involvement and leadership of women in peace and security processes. Nonetheless, 18.8% of respondents expressed neutrality or disagreement, identifying any potential gaps or deficiencies in institutional initiatives aimed at advancing gender equality and empowering women within the mission.

In conclusion, the data from the household civilian survey provides comprehensive insights into the perceptions regarding the involvement of deployed women in conflict resolution activities within AMISOM. While there is widespread recognition of women's involvement and leadership in these initiatives, there are also areas for improvement and further exploration to ensure that women's voices are fully heard, valued, and integrated into peacebuilding processes. Addressing the challenges and barriers identified in this study is essential for advancing gender equality, enhancing the

effectiveness of conflict resolution interventions, and promoting sustainable peace and security in Somalia.

4.6 Insights of the Key Informants on the African Union Mission in Somalia

The thematic analysis of the interview guide for key informants provides valuable insights into the perceptions and experiences regarding the influence of deployed women in AMISOM, particularly in Dhobley. The interview aimed to understand women's involvement in conflict resolution, effectiveness in addressing gender-based violence (GBV), and promoting human rights protection between 2013-2023.

4.6.1 Background and Experience

In exploring the background and experience of key informants, it was imperative to gain insight into their roles and responsibilities within the Ministry of Defence and their involvement in AMISOM. This initial inquiry sought to establish the credibility and expertise of the informants in providing insights into women's participation in conflict resolution activities within AMISOM. By understanding their specific roles and responsibilities, it becomes possible to assess the depth of their knowledge and first-hand experience in the context of the research topic.

Moreover, querying informants about their familiarity with the involvement of women in conflict resolution activities within AMISOM during the specified period helps contextualize their responses and perspectives. This contextualization is crucial for understanding the extent to which the informants have observed or been directly involved in women-led initiatives aimed at resolving conflicts within the mission area. For example, informants with extensive experience in AMISOM operations may have witnessed the evolution of women's roles in conflict resolution over time, providing valuable historical perspectives.

The credibility of key informants is paramount in qualitative research, as their insights and observations form the basis of the study's findings and conclusions. Through obtaining comprehensive information regarding their backgrounds and experiences, researchers can effectively evaluate the reliability and validity of the provided data. Additionally, understanding the informants' level of involvement in AMISOM allows researchers to discern whether they possess first-hand knowledge of women's contributions to conflict resolution or if their insights are based on indirect observations or secondary sources.

Incorporating citations from relevant literature enhances the credibility and depth of the discussion on background and experience. Studies documenting the evolving roles of women in peacekeeping operations, for instance those conducted by the United Nations, provide a broader context for understanding the impact of women's participation in conflict resolution within AMISOM. By integrating insights from existing research, the discussion gains nuance and relevance, contributing to a detailed understanding of the research topic.

Overall, the background and experience of key informants serve as foundational elements in qualitative research, shaping the trajectory of the inquiry and informing subsequent analyses. Through thoughtful questioning and consideration of relevant literature, researchers can leverage the expertise of informants to elucidate complex phenomena such as women's participation in conflict resolution within the context of peacekeeping missions like AMISOM.

4.6.2 Deployed Women's Involvement in Conflict Resolution

In probing the extent of women's involvement in conflict resolution activities within Dhobley during the specified period, key informants offered valuable insights into the

roles and contributions of deployed women in addressing conflicts within the mission area. By querying informants about their observations and experiences, researchers gained a deeper understanding of the multifaceted nature of women's participation in conflict resolution efforts. Through their responses, informants highlighted the diverse range of initiatives and projects where deployed women made significant impacts, showcasing the breadth and depth of their contributions.

A key informant from the ministry of defence in Kenya said;

“The participation of deployed women has been instrumental in conflict mitigation. Their roles encompass conducting searches at roadblocks, effectively intercepting weapons destined for smuggling and thus acting as a strong deterrent. Furthermore, through interactions with local women, they facilitate the collection and dissemination of vital intelligence, thereby contributing to the prevention of planned attacks. Additionally, their engagement in educational forums aimed at underscoring the importance of peace has served as an effective conduit in encouraging their spouses to partake in these constructive initiatives”.

A senior informant, situated at the AMISOM headquarters in Mogadishu, verified an increase in funding towards projects led by women, with the objective of achieving peace. Substantiated records at the headquarters privy to him indicate that the majority of these initiatives have proven to be successful in the long term. Examples of specific initiatives or projects provided by informants served as concrete evidence of the effectiveness of deployed women in conflict resolution. These examples offered tangible illustrations of the ways in which women actively engaged with communities, mediated disputes, and facilitated reconciliation processes. By showcasing the tangible outcomes of women's efforts, informants underscored the importance of recognizing and amplifying women's roles in conflict resolution, both within AMISOM and the broader peacebuilding context. According to key informants, the consensus supports the feminist peace and conflict resolution theory, asserting that the distinctive qualities of women and their involvement in peace processes are more likely to lead to lasting peace.

By promoting gender equality and empowering women, deployed women in AMISOM have contributed to laying the groundwork for more inclusive and sustainable peacebuilding efforts in Somalia.

Furthermore, identifying factors contributing to the effectiveness of women in conflict resolution activities helped elucidate the enabling conditions and challenges faced by women in their roles. Informants highlighted various factors, such as women's unique perspectives and approaches, their ability to build trust and rapport within communities, and their capacity to navigate complex social dynamics. These factors underscored the importance of gender-sensitive approaches to conflict resolution, which recognize and leverage the distinct strengths and capabilities that women bring to the table.

By integrating citations from pertinent literature, the conversation on women's role in conflict resolution gains increased depth and context. Research has consistently shown that women's involvement in peace processes, such as those facilitated by the United Nations, plays a crucial role in ensuring the long-term success of peace agreements. By drawing on this body of research, the discussion is enriched with broader insights into the transformative potential of women's engagement in conflict resolution efforts.

Therefore, the insights provided by key informants offered a good understanding of women's involvement in conflict resolution in Dhobley during the specified period. Through their observations and experiences, informants shed light on the diverse roles and contributions of deployed women, providing concrete examples of their effectiveness in addressing conflicts and promoting peace. By identifying factors contributing to women's effectiveness and integrating insights from relevant literature, the discussion offers a comprehensive analysis of the dynamics shaping women's participation in conflict resolution efforts within AMISOM.

4.6.3 Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Promoting Human Rights

The evaluation of deployed women's effectiveness in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and promoting human rights protection within AMISOM offered valuable insights into the impact of their interventions on the ground. Assessing the outcomes of women's initiatives allowed researchers to gauge the extent to which these efforts contributed to reducing GBV incidents and enhancing human rights protection within the mission area. Through their responses, key informants shed light on the specific strategies or programs used by women to address GBV and promote human rights, providing valuable insights into the approaches adopted by women in their efforts. A key informant attached by the UN to AMISOM when interviewed about deployed women in Dhobley had this to say;

“The women deployed in Dhobley have demonstrated exceptional dedication in combatting gender-based violence (GBV), resulting in a substantial reduction in reported cases over the years. As a direct outcome of these efforts, local medical facilities have observed a significant decline in the incidence of GBV, with some reporting a complete absence of such cases. In instances where GBV cases are reported, the women take proactive measures in collaboration with local administrative bodies to initiate thorough investigations, ensuring expedient and effective resolution, thereby holding perpetrators accountable”.

Delving into the types of training and sensitization programs for addressing GBV and protecting human rights in which women were involved, the researcher gained a deeper understanding of the capacity-building efforts aimed at enhancing women's effectiveness in these areas. Informants' accounts of the training sessions and awareness campaigns led by women offered valuable perspectives on the content, methodologies, and reach of these initiatives. A high-ranking official from the Somali government stationed in Dhobley enthusiastically confirmed his active participation in these vital awareness campaigns. Furthermore, he emphasized that women deployed in the region had sought his assistance in printing educational materials in the local language to

ensure better understanding. As a result of his proactive approach, he successfully lobbied for funding to support this important initiative. Moreover, exploring the impact of such capacity-building efforts on women's ability to address GBV and promote human rights allowed researchers to assess the effectiveness of these programs in empowering women and strengthening their contributions to peace and security.

Additionally, understanding the extent of support offered by AMISOM to women in their efforts to combat gender-based violence and advocate for human rights is essential for evaluating the organization's dedication to gender equality and women's empowerment within the mission. A human rights expert with AMISOM confirmed that local communities are more inclined to report cases of human rights violations to deployed women rather than men. This is because they trust that women will not only report these violations, but also actively work towards finding solutions.

Additionally, women are viewed as capable of initiating training and awareness programs to educate the local population about human rights issues. This supports the feminist peace and conflict theory by demonstrating how nurturing and non-aggressive traits enable positive connections with local communities, facilitating the promotion of human rights and the addressing of gender-based violence. Informants' insights into the resources, mentorship, and institutional frameworks available to support women's initiatives provided valuable context for understanding the enabling conditions and constraints faced by women in their efforts. By identifying gaps or challenges in support systems, researchers could offer recommendations for strengthening AMISOM's support for women's engagement in addressing GBV and promoting human rights protection.

Incorporating insights from pertinent literature on gender-based violence and human rights protection enriched the discourse by supporting the theoretical framework and empirical evidence to substantiate key findings. Studies examining the effectiveness of gender-sensitive approaches to GBV prevention and response, as well as the impact of women's leadership on human rights promotion, offered valuable perspectives on the potential pathways through which women's involvement could contribute to positive outcomes. By drawing on this body of research, the discussion gained depth and credibility, enriching the analysis of deployed women's roles in addressing GBV and promoting human rights protection within AMISOM.

Therefore, the assessment of the efficacy of deployed women in addressing gender-based violence and advancing human rights protection within AMISOM has yielded valuable insights regarding the impact of their interventions on peace and security outcomes. Through a rigorous exploration of specific strategies, training programs, and institutional support mechanisms, researchers have gained a thorough understanding of the enabling conditions and challenges faced by women in their endeavours. By integrating insights from relevant literature, the discussion provided an analysis of the dynamics shaping women's engagement in addressing GBV and promoting human rights within AMISOM, ultimately contributing to broader efforts to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in conflict-affected settings.

4.6.4 Conclusion

In conclusion, key informants shared additional insights or suggestions regarding the influence of deployed women in AMISOM, specifically in Dhobley. The insights provided by these individuals were instrumental in offering valuable perspectives on the

challenges, opportunities, and areas necessitating improvement in the involvement of women in peace and security efforts within the mission's scope.

Overall, the comprehensive thematic analysis of the interview guide for key informants has provided an in-depth understanding of the influence of deployed women in AMISOM. This encompassed a wide range of critical aspects, including conflict resolution, addressing gender-based violence (GBV), and advancing the protection of human rights. Through the synthesis of responses from key informants, the study has gained valuable insights into the roles, contributions, and challenges encountered by women in the context of peacebuilding efforts in Somalia.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter offers a concise summary of the study's findings and derives conclusions from the thorough analysis of the collected data. Additionally, recommendations for future actions and suggestions for further research are provided to enhance understanding and address gaps identified in the study.

5.2 Summary of Findings

The research gathered crucial demographic data and conducted a thorough assessment of the significant influence of women deployed in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The findings are summarized as follows:

5.2.1 Demographic Information

The demographic data obtained from the study yielded valuable insights regarding the characteristics of the respondents involved in the research. The survey engaged 350 participants, encompassing a diverse spectrum of backgrounds within the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Among the survey respondents, a diverse composition of military personnel, police personnel, and civilian staff was observed. This composition aptly portrays the multifaceted nature of the mission's operations and the array of responsibilities shouldered by its personnel.

The analysis of the age distribution indicates that the majority of participants were in the 26-45 age bracket, signifying a predominantly young to middle-aged demographic profile. Specifically, 28.6% of the survey participants were aged 26 to 35, while 24.3% fell within the 36 to 45 age brackets. This demographic trend suggested that a significant

portion of the workforce within AMISOM comprised individuals in their prime working years, potentially bringing a blend of energy, experience, and expertise to their roles within the mission.

Furthermore, the gender distribution among the respondents showed a slight skew towards male representation, with 57.1% of respondents being male and 42.9% female. While men constituted the majority of the sample, the notable presence of female respondents signifies the increasing inclusivity and active engagement of women in peacekeeping and security operations, such as AMISOM. This gender diversity was essential for ensuring a holistic approach to addressing complex security challenges and promoting gender equality within the mission's operations.

In terms of years of interaction with AMISOM in Dhobley, the data revealed that the majority of respondents (22.9%) had accumulated 7 to 10 years of experience within the mission area. This finding suggested a considerable level of institutional knowledge and familiarity among the respondents regarding the operational context, challenges, and dynamics within Dhobley. Such extensive experience could contribute to informed decision-making, effective coordination, and adaptive responses to evolving security threats and humanitarian needs within the mission area.

Overall, the demographic data presented reflects the diverse composition of the survey participants, representing a wide spectrum of age groups, genders, and levels of experience within AMISOM. It was imperative to comprehend these demographic characteristics for the purpose of contextualizing the findings and implications of the study. Additionally, this understanding will play a crucial role in informing targeted interventions and policies geared towards enhancing the effectiveness and inclusivity of peacekeeping and security efforts in conflict-affected regions like Dhobley.

5.2.2 Assessment Women's Involvement in Conflict Resolution

The objective findings clearly demonstrate the respondents' perceptions of the substantial contributions made by women in mitigating conflicts and promoting peace within the mission area. Recognizing the effectiveness of women in addressing gender-based violence highlights the crucial role they play in peacekeeping operations and their unparalleled ability to navigate delicate issues within conflict-affected communities.

Furthermore, the affirmation of deployed women's effectiveness in addressing gender-based violence highlighted the positive impact of their interventions on enhancing community safety and security. By actively engaging in conflict resolution activities, women demonstrated their commitment to fostering peace and stability within Dhobley. Their involvement in addressing gender-based violence not only helped prevent further harm but also contributed to promoting a culture of respect for human rights and gender equality within the mission area.

It is imperative to acknowledge that the efficacy of women in conflict resolution endeavours may have been influenced by several factors, including the level of support and recognition they received within the mission structure, their degree of integration into decision-making processes, and the availability of resources to bolster their initiatives. Despite the challenges and constraints, they may have faced, deployed women's efforts in conflict resolution were instrumental in advancing the mission's objectives and promoting sustainable peace in Dhobley.

5.2.3 Addressing Gender-Based Violence

Upon examining the endeavours aimed at addressing gender-based violence, it was confirmed by roughly 64.7% of the respondents that the involvement of women in AMISOM has effectively contributed to the prevention and resolution of gender-based

violence within local communities. The aforementioned discovery signifies a favourable perception among the survey respondents regarding the influence of female participation in peacekeeping operations on the reduction of gender-based violence and the advancement of human rights within the mission area.

The high percentage of respondents acknowledging the effectiveness of women's involvement in preventing and addressing gender-based violence suggests that their initiatives and interventions have had a tangible impact on improving the safety and well-being of community members. Through active engagement with local communities and harnessing their unique perspectives and skills, women within AMISOM have made a significant impact by raising awareness about gender-based violence, offering essential support to victims, and advocating for policy changes to address root causes.

Furthermore, acknowledging the role of women in preventing and addressing gender-based violence emphasizes the necessity of incorporating gender perspectives into peacekeeping operations. It also underscores the significance of facilitating the active involvement of women in decision-making processes concerning conflict resolution and the protection of human rights. The involvement of women in these endeavours not only amplifies the efficacy of peacekeeping missions but also advances the overarching objective of fostering gender parity and the empowerment of women in post-conflict environments.

However, despite the positive perception regarding the impact of women's involvement in addressing gender-based violence, it is essential to recognize that challenges and barriers may still exist, hindering the full realization of their potential in this area. These challenges may include limited access to resources and support, gender stereotypes and

biases, and the persistence of patriarchal norms within local communities. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive strategies that prioritize women's empowerment, strengthen institutional support for gender-sensitive programming, and promote community engagement and awareness on gender-based violence issues.

In conclusion, the assessment of initiatives to combat gender-based violence and advance human rights protection within AMISOM has revealed a strong positive perception among respondents regarding the impact of women's involvement in these crucial efforts. The recognition of women's contributions highlights the importance of integrating gender perspectives into peacekeeping operations and ensuring the active empowerment of women to participate in efforts aimed at preventing and addressing gender-based violence in conflict-affected communities.

5.2.4 Evaluation of the Role of Women in Promoting Human Rights

In evaluating the role of women in promoting human rights, it is noteworthy that over half of the respondents (52.9%) acknowledged that the mission provided adequate support and resources for women to protect human rights. This finding suggests a positive perception among the respondents regarding the institutional support available to women within the mission context.

The mission's commitment to supporting and providing resources for women highlights the importance of empowering women with the necessary tools and opportunities to effectively promote human rights. Adequate support can encompass various elements, including access to training and capacity-building programs, logistical assistance, and institutional frameworks that prioritize gender equality and women empowerment.

The mission's commitment to upholding international human rights standards and advancing gender equality within the peacekeeping context demonstrates strong support

for women in addressing gender-based violence and promoting human rights protection. By investing in initiatives that empower women to actively engage in human rights promotion and protection efforts, the mission demonstrates its commitment to fostering inclusive and sustainable peace in conflict-affected areas.

The prevailing acknowledgment of the mission's endeavours in providing support and resources for women is notable. However, it is imperative to comprehend that challenges and disparities may persist in ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment within the mission's operational context. The obstacles women face may encompass restricted access to training, unequal allocation of resources, and hindrances to their participation in decision-making processes.

To effectively tackle these challenges, we must adopt a multi-faceted approach. This includes bolstering institutional mechanisms for gender mainstreaming, improving women's access to resources and opportunities, and fostering a culture of gender equality and non-discrimination within the mission. Additionally, efforts should be made to address systemic barriers and structural inequalities that may hinder women's full participation and leadership in human rights promotion and protection activities.

The recognition of the mission's support for women in promoting human rights signifies a positive stride in advancing gender equality and fostering women's empowerment within the peacekeeping framework. However, there is still room for improvement, and concerted efforts are needed to address remaining challenges and ensure that women have equal opportunities to contribute to human rights promotion and protection efforts effectively.

5.3 Conclusion

In conclusion, the study undeniably demonstrates the influential role of deployed women in AMISOM, showcasing their pivotal contributions to conflict resolution, addressing gender-based violence, and advancing human rights protection. Through an analysis of survey data and key informant interviews, the study has illuminated the multifaceted contributions of women within the mission context, offering an understanding of their impact on peace and security in Somalia.

One crucial discovery from the study highlights the impactful role of deployed women in conflict resolution efforts. The data revealed that a substantial proportion of respondents affirmed the effectiveness of women in addressing conflicts within the mission area. Women's involvement in mediation, negotiation, and community-based initiatives has been instrumental in promoting dialogue, reconciliation, and peacebuilding, thereby contributing to the overall stability and security of the region.

Moreover, the study highlighted the crucial role of deployed women in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and promoting human rights protection. A considerable percentage of respondents acknowledged the effectiveness of women in preventing and addressing GBV within local communities. The active participation of women in sensitization programs, training initiatives, and advocacy endeavours has played a pivotal role in heightening awareness, challenging detrimental societal standards, and fostering the empowerment of survivors of violence. This collective effort has notably contributed to the cultivation of a culture characterized by reverence for human rights and the principle of gender equality.

Furthermore, the study highlighted the critical role of institutional support and resource allocation in strengthening the impact of women in peacebuilding efforts. Respondents

acknowledged the mission's efforts in providing support and resources for women, but also identified areas for improvement, such as ensuring equal access to training opportunities and addressing structural barriers to women's participation and leadership. Feminist peace and conflict resolution theory argues for the need for institutional support to ensure the successful integration of women in peacekeeping missions. This includes gender-sensitive policies, training, and resources, which have sometimes been lacking in AMISOM.

In this view, the findings of the study highlight the need for continued investment in women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming within AMISOM. Through the enhancement of institutional support, cultivation of collaborative partnerships, and promotion of women's leadership development, the mission seeks to optimize the impact of women's involvement in peacebuilding endeavours, ultimately contributing to the advancement of sustainable peace and security in Somalia. Moving forward, it is imperative to prioritize gender-responsive approaches and policies that recognize and harness the potential of women as agents of positive change in conflict-affected contexts.

5.4 Recommendations

After careful consideration of the findings, the following recommendations are proposed to bolster the effectiveness of women's involvement in peacebuilding efforts within AMISOM.:

- i. There is need to develop and implement specialized training programs to equip women with the skills and knowledge necessary for effective conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

- ii. There is need to enhance institutional support and resource allocation to facilitate women's meaningful participation in addressing gender-based violence and promoting human rights protection.
- iii. There is need to establish collaborative partnerships with local stakeholders, including community leaders and civil society organizations, to leverage collective efforts in addressing gender-based violence and human rights violations.
- iv. There is need to develop and implement gender-responsive policies and guidelines within AMISOM to ensure the integration of women's perspectives in decision-making processes and programmatic interventions.
- v. There is need to create opportunities for women's leadership development and capacity-building to enable them to take on leadership roles in conflict resolution and peacebuilding initiatives.
- vi. There is need to establish robust mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of women's participation in peacebuilding efforts, with a laser focus on assessing impact and proactively identifying areas for improvement.

5.5 Suggestions for Further Research

In light of the findings, the following suggestions are proposed for future research:

- i. There is need to undertake longitudinal studies to track the long-term impact of women's participation in peacebuilding efforts within AMISOM.
- ii. There is need to explore intersectional approaches to understand how intersecting identities, such as ethnicity and socio-economic status, influence women's experiences and effectiveness in peacebuilding.

- iii. There is need to investigate context-specific factors that facilitate or hinder women's participation in peacebuilding efforts across different regions within Somalia.
- iv. There is need to assess the implementation of gender-responsive policies and guidelines within AMISOM to identify gaps and areas for improvement.
- v. There is need to examine community perceptions of women's involvement in peacebuilding efforts to understand the social dynamics and cultural factors shaping women's roles.
- vi. There is need to explore the role of technology and innovation in enhancing women's participation and effectiveness in conflict resolution and peacebuilding initiatives.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL, POLICE PERSONNEL AND CIVILIAN STAFF

a) Age: Please tick as appropriate

18-28 ()

29-39 ()

40-50 ()

51-61 ()

62 and above ()

b) Gender: Please tick as appropriate

Male ()

Female ()

c) Occupation: Please tick as appropriate

Military Personnel ()

Police Personnel ()

Civilian Staff ()

Other (please specify: _____)

d) Years of experience in AMISOM: Please tick as appropriate

Less than 1 year ()

1-4 years ()

5-7 years ()

8-10 years ()

More than 10 years ()

Involvement in Conflict Resolution:

a) Did you actively participate in conflict resolution activities during your deployment in AMISOM? (Yes/No)

b) If yes, please briefly describe the nature of your involvement and the impact it had on the community.

Please rate the following statements based on your perception of the Involvement of women in Conflict Resolution in the AMISOM, in Dhobley between 2013 and 2023. Use the Likert scale below, where 1 represents "Strongly Disagree" and 5 represents "Strongly Agree."

| STATEMENT | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Deployed women actively participate in community engagement activities related to AMISOM. | | | | | |
| Deployed women contribute to conflict resolution efforts within the local community. | | | | | |
| Deployed women collaborate with local stakeholders to resolve conflicts | | | | | |
| Deployed women are supported and empowered to engage in conflict-resolution activities | | | | | |

Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Human Rights Protection

- a) Were you involved in initiatives addressing GBV and promoting the protection of human rights? (Yes/No)
- b) If yes, please share your experiences and the effectiveness of these initiatives in promoting gender equality and protecting human rights.
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Please rate the following statements based on your perception of women's participation in Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Human Rights Protection in AMISOM, in Dhobley between 2013 and 2023. Use the Likert scale below, where 1 represents "Strongly Disagree," 2 represents "Disagree," 3 represents "Neutral," 4 represents "Agree," 5 represents "Strongly Agree."

| STATEMENT | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Women in AMISOM effectively address GBV | | | | | |
| Women deployed in AMISOM play a significant role in promoting human rights protection | | | | | |
| The mission provides adequate support and resources for women to address GBV and protect human rights. | | | | | |

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| <p>GBV is effectively prevented and addressed within the local communities where AMISOM operates as a result of women's involvement</p> | | | | | |
| <p>Women's voices and perspectives are valued and integrated into human rights protection and gender-based violence decision-making processes.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>Women conduct training and sensitization on gender-based violence and human rights protection</p> | | | | | |

APPENDIX II: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CIVILIAN HOUSEHOLDS

Age: Please tick as appropriate

18-28 ()

29-39 ()

40-50 ()

51-61 ()

62 and above ()

b) Gender: Please tick as appropriate

Male ()

Female ()

d) Years of interaction with AMISOM in Dhobley: Please tick as appropriate

Less than 1 year ()

1-4 years ()

5-7 years ()

8-10 years ()

More than 10 years ()

INVOLVEMENT IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION:

a) Did you witness AMISOM women actively participate in conflict resolution activities during your stay in Dhobley between 2013 and 2023? (Yes/No)

b) If yes, please briefly describe the nature of women's involvement and the impact it had on the community.

Please rate the following statements based on your perception of the Involvement of women in Conflict Resolution in AMISOM, in Dhobley between 2013 and 2023. Use the Likert scale below, where 1 represents "Strongly Disagree," 2 represents "Disagree," 3 represents "Neutral," 4 represents "Agree," and 5 represents "Strongly Agree."

| STATEMENT | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|--|-------------------|----------|---------|-------|----------------|
| Deployed women actively participate in community engagement activities related to AMISOM, contributing to conflict resolution efforts. | | | | | |
| Deployed women consistently engage in various conflict resolution activities within the local community. | | | | | |
| Deployed women frequently collaborate with | | | | | |

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| local stakeholders to actively resolve conflicts in the mission area. | | | | | |
| Deployed women participate in various conflict resolution activities, including mediation, negotiation, peacebuilding, and community-based initiatives. | | | | | |
| Deployed women engage in various community-based conflict resolution initiatives, addressing different aspects of conflict in the mission area. | | | | | |
| Deployed women hold leadership roles in conflict | | | | | |

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| <p>resolution efforts within the mission, actively shaping and leading conflict resolution strategies.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>Deployed women are actively involved in decision-making processes related to conflict resolution, influencing and contributing to the mission's conflict resolution policies.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>Deployed women have clear and defined responsibilities in conflict resolution activities, with well-defined roles and tasks.</p> | | | | | |

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|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Deployed women are significant in shaping conflict resolution strategies and policies within the mission.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>The mission actively promotes and supports women's leadership in conflict resolution efforts, actively working to empower and elevate women in leadership roles within these initiatives.</p> | | | | | |

Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Human Rights Protection

a) Were AMISOM women involved in initiatives addressing GBV and promoting the protection of human rights? (Yes/No)

b) If yes, please share your experiences and the effectiveness of these initiatives in promoting gender equality and protecting human rights.

Please rate the following statements based on your perception of women's participation in Addressing Gender-Based Violence in AMISOM, in Dhobley between 2013 and 2023. Use the Likert scale below, where 1 represents "Strongly Disagree," 2 represents "Disagree," 3 represents "Neutral," 4 represents "Agree," and 5 represents "Strongly Agree."

| STATEMENT | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|---|-------------------|----------|---------|-------|----------------|
| Deployed women in AMISOM effectively address gender-based violence within Dhobley | | | | | |
| Women are well-resourced to address gender-based violence | | | | | |

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|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>GBV is effectively prevented and addressed within the local communities where AMISOM operates as a result of deployed women's involvement</p> | | | | | |
| <p>Deployed women's voices and perspectives are valued and integrated into decision-making processes regarding gender-based violence.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>Deployed women conduct training and sensitization on gender-based violence in local communities</p> | | | | | |

**INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN PROMOTING THE PROTECTION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AFRICAN UNION MISSION**

Please rate the following statements based on your perception of the Involvement of women in Promoting the Protection of Human Rights in AMISOM in Dhobley between 2013 and 2023 Use the Likert scale below, where 1 represents "Strongly Disagree," 2 represents "Disagree," 3 represents "Neutral," 4 represents "Agree," and 5 represents "Strongly Agree."

| Statement | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Deployed women actively use tracking mechanisms to monitor and assess human rights violations and abuses in the mission area, contributing significantly to protection efforts. | | | | | |
| The mission has effective systems for tracking human rights violations and abuses, | | | | | |

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| and deployed women are pivotal in these mechanisms. | | | | | |
| Tracking mechanisms are regularly utilized to identify trends in human rights violations and ensure timely responses, with the active involvement of deployed women. | | | | | |
| Deployed women are well-informed about reporting mechanisms for human rights violations and use them effectively to promote protection. | | | | | |
| Deployed women's efforts have made reporting mechanisms for human rights violations and abuses | | | | | |

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| accessible and confidential, enhancing protection efforts. | | | | | |
| The mission has established transparent and efficient reporting mechanisms for human rights issues, with deployed women at the forefront of these efforts. | | | | | |
| The mission has well-defined policies and guidelines for protecting human rights and deployed women actively support and enforce these policies to enhance protection. | | | | | |
| Human rights policies are integrated into the | | | | | |

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| <p>mission's objectives and deployed women ensure their enforcement, furthering protection efforts.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>The mission has a proactive approach to investigating and addressing human rights violations and abuses, and deployed women play a vital role in this process, contributing significantly to protection efforts.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>Deployed women receive comprehensive training on human rights issues and their roles in promoting and protecting human rights within the</p> | | | | | |

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| mission, actively supporting protection efforts. | | | | | |
| Deployed women sensitize local communities on human rights principles and the importance of respecting and protecting human rights. | | | | | |
| Deployed women participate in training programs focusing on gender-sensitive human rights protection approaches, contributing significantly to protection efforts. | | | | | |

APPENDIX III: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS

Introduction:

Thank you for accepting to participate in this interview. This interview aims to gather insights and perspectives regarding the influence of deployed women in the AMISOM, specifically in the case of Dhobley between 2013 and 2023. Your input will significantly contribute to understanding women's involvement in conflict resolution, effectiveness in addressing gender-based violence, and human rights protection toward achieving the AMISOM mandate. Please note that your responses will be treated confidentially and used for research purposes only.

Background and Experience

- a) What is your role and responsibilities within the Ministry of Defence?
- b) How long have you been involved in AMISOM, and what capacity?
- c) Are you familiar with the involvement of women in conflict resolution activities within AMISOM from 2013 to 2023?

Women's Involvement in Conflict Resolution

- a) Based on your experience, how have women been involved in conflict resolution activities within AMISOM in Dhobley during the specified period?
- b) Can you provide examples of specific initiatives or projects where deployed women have significantly impacted Dhobley?
- c) From your perspective, what factors contribute to the effectiveness of women in conflict resolution activities?
- d) What training and sensitization programs for conflict resolution were women involved with?

Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Promoting Human Rights

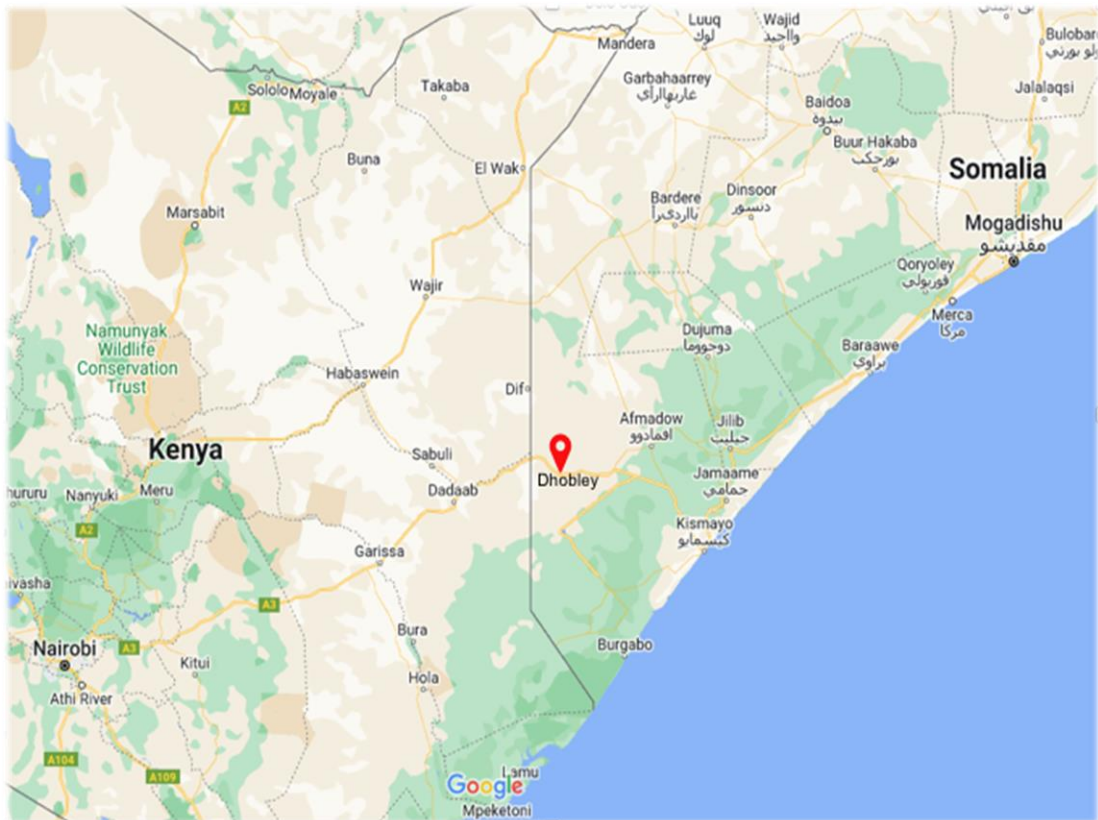
- a) How would you evaluate the effectiveness of deployed women in addressing GBV and promoting human rights protection in Dhobley from 2013 to 2023?
- b) Are there any specific strategies or programs women use to address GBV and protection of human rights within AMISOM?
- c) What types of training and sensitization programs for addressing GBV and protection of human rights were women involved with?
- d) In your opinion, does AMISOM support women in their strategies to address GBV and promote the protection of human rights?

Closing Remarks

- a) Is there anything else you would like to share regarding the influence of deployed women in AMISOM, specifically in Dhobley?
- b) Do you want to provide any additional insights or suggestions for this study?

Thank you very much for your time and valuable input. Your perspectives are highly valued in furthering our understanding of the influence of deployed women in AMISOM, particularly in Dhobley.

APPENDIX IV: MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF DHOBLEY SOMALIA



Source: Google maps.

APPENDIX V: DATA COLLECTION AUTHORIZATION LETTER



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL

E-mail: dean-graduate@ku.ac.ke

Website: www.ku.ac.ke

P.O. Box 43844, 00100
NAIROBI, KENYA
Tel. 810901 Ext. 4150

Internal Memo

FROM: Executive Dean, Graduate School

DATE: 13th March, 2024

TO: Alex Nasieku Barasa
C/o Security, Diplomacy and Peace Studies Dept.

REF: S205/OL/CTY/20924/2021

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL

We acknowledge receipt of your revised Research Proposal as per our recommendations raised by the Graduate School Board 17th January, 2024 entitled "Deployed Women in African Union Mission Mandate in Dhobley, Somalia Between 2013 and 2023".

You may now proceed with your Data Collection, Subject to Clearance with Director General, National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation.

As you embark on your data collection, please note that you will be required to submit to Graduate School completed Supervision Tracking and progress report forms per semester. The forms are available at the University's Website under Graduate School webpage downloads.

Also, please ensure that you publish article(s) from your project before submitting it to Graduate School for examination as per the Commission for University Education and Kenyatta University guidelines.

Thank you.

JACKSON LUVUSI
FOR: EXECUTIVE DEAN, GRADUATE SCHOOL

C.c. Chairman, Department of Security, Diplomacy and Peace Studies.

Supervisors:

1. Dr. John Omboto
C/o Department of Security, Diplomacy and Peace Studies
Kenyatta University


JL/inn

APPENDIX VI: NACOSTI RESEARCH PERMIT

Republic of Kenya
National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation

Ref No: **298599**

RESEARCH LICENSE




This is to Certify that Mr. ALEX NASIEKU BARASA of Kenyatta University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Nairobi on the topic: DEPLOYED WOMEN IN AFRICAN UNION MISSION MANDATE IN DHOBLEY, SOMALIA BETWEEN 2013 AND 2023 for the period ending : 03/April/2025.

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