

Gender Mainstreaming Policies and Women Participation in Peace Support Operations: A Case of Kenya's Contingents in African Mission in Somalia, 2011-2020

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Abstract

Gender mainstreaming as means of widening women participation in peace support operations is increasingly attracting scholarly attention. This study aimed at investigating the influence of gender mainstreaming policies on women participation in peace support missions using the case of Kenya's contingents in the African Mission in Somalia from 2011 to 2020. Specific objectives were to analyze the UN rationale for women participation in peace keeping operation in the context of Kenya, to assess enacted gender mainstreaming policies for women participation and their influence on women participation in peace keeping operations and to evaluate how inclusion of women in peace keeping operations influenced the overall mission outcome of Kenya's peacekeeping operations contingents in the African Mission in Somalia between 2011 and 2020. Guided by the liberal feminist theory and primary and secondary data gathered and analyzed using mixed approaches of qualitative and quantitative research, this study found that despite the UN Security Council resolution 1325 expanding peace support operations by incorporating inclusion of women in its operations, the proportion of women in peace support operation is still low. However, there is increased involvement of the women in peace support operations in the Kenyan contingents in Somalia. Secondly, Kenya has enacted gender mainstreaming policies including gender units and gender coordinators, training programs, gender sensitivity programs and workshops. Thirdly, deployment of women in the peace keeping contingents added value to the overall outcomes of African Mission in Somalia by reinforcing skill sets, increasing acceptance by the host country and reducing gender-based violence. Therefore, the study recommends increased integration of women in peace support, increased awareness on the role of gender mainstreaming policies in according women equal opportunities to participate in peace support operations.

Key Words: Kenya, Somalia, Women Participation, Peace Support Operations, Gender Mainstreaming, Kenya Defence Forces.

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Introduction

The UN Security Council resolution 1325 expanded peace support operations by incorporating the inclusion of women in all matters of this operations at the national, regional and international level (United Nations, 2020). Since the adoption of UNSCR 1325, a number of scholars have delved into the analysis of the extent of women inclusion in Peace Support Operations (PSO) in many jurisdictions. Many of these studies have underscored the role of the United Nations in championing women involvement in peace keeping missions around the world. Even though much effort is geared towards women involvement in PSOs and formulation of appropriate gender mainstreaming policies, existing literature shows that women participation in generally is still under par as observed by UN Department of Peace Operations (2019). Moreover, there is still low number of female personnel deployed in active missions accounting for approximately 5% of all total personnel deployed in missions (Braga, 2020).

Women participation in missions is critical as it seeks to address gender specific issues in the context of armed conflicts witnessed by women. In regions like in Sub-Saharan Africa which has been the key focus for the UN Peacekeeping Missions, women involvement in operation is still low in countries faced with civil wars and acts of terrorism such as South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Sudan, Central African Republic and Western Sahara where in 2019, the UN deployed 80,000 peace mission personnel (Sharland, 2021). Even though there have been major strides in relation to women inclusion in theatres war, there exist no agreement among researchers and scholars on the major reason of women exclusion in peace support tasks and in international politics (Carolyn, 2001). Studies have equally shown a major stride of women being deployed to all major security regime such as the police, civilian and military positions and have made several remarkable impacts on peace keeping assignments across Sub-Saharan Africa. This includes the support by women in building peace and in the protection of women's fundamental rights in all spheres of life. Notably, in these fields, the women peacekeepers have proved to equally perform in their assignments as effectively as their male counterparts (CRD, 2004). Under similar difficult and challenging conditions, women have proven themselves right. However, studies conducted indicate that women made less than 2 per cent of deployed uniformed contingents or UN personnel (Chonghaile, 2014).

The UN is known to encourage and advocate for increased placement of uniformed women in all operations (UN, 2008). The obligation of women placement into the military or the police is solely the responsibility of all the UN member states. The United Nations Police Division Commissioned 'the Universal Effort' of recruiting more women police officers into the national police services as well as the United Nations operations globally (United Nations, 2003). The UN target by year 2028 is to have more women serving in the police and in military contingents with about 15 percent and 26 percent for both military and other staff

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respectively. The attainment of this is anchored in the implementation of resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council. The UN has further called for an extension of all roles and participation of women in its missions which include all uniformed women peacekeepers (United Nations, 1996). This aims at promoting the contribution and involvement of women in both peacekeeping missions and within the social order in which they all serve. Therefore, roles and responsibilities undertaken by women in the peace support contingents cut across.

Most dominantly as studies indicate, the genesis of peacekeeping operations is found in Sub Saharan Africa. First, was the Congo crisis leading to the UN formation in Congo by the end of 1960 (Weiss, 2001). Several missions have been deployed in many Sub-Saharan African countries, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Chad, Central Republic of Africa, and Sudan among others. Therefore, peace keeping in Sub Saharan Africa has predominantly been the issue of the UNSC strategy. In the recent, the African Union has been drawn to peace operations. The case of AMISOM in Somalia is an example that has seen the AU come up with the approach, strategy and implementation similar to that of the UNSC.

Notably the Africa Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) which informed this study saw Kenya Defense Forces (KDF) join hands with other African countries to intervene with the aim of securing territorial integrity and responsibility to protecting its citizens in the region. The Kenya forces commissioned an autonomous military interposition into Somalia in October 2011 as a retaliation tactic for al-Shabaab attack on Kenya's territory which later saw Ethiopia Forces joining the intervention that led to the AU and the UN to come up with the military concepts for operations for AMISOM (Kimutai, 2014). This intervention saw Kenya Defense Forces at first enjoining more women who took part in the peace support operations in Somalia as well as other missions unlike before. Women were however withdrawn from the frontlines due to strategic and tactical reasons.

In December 2011, the African Union, and other various partners came up with new strategies and military ideas of actions for AMISOM. This created room for once again inclusion of women in military contingents deployed in Somalia. The AMISOM offered a broader spectrum of responsibility to protect civilians as well as capturing of several territories occupied by Al-Shabaab. With this expanded mandate, Kenya's military offensive against the al-Shabaab militia group that formally begun on the 16 October, 2011 (Kioko, 2014) rehattd to AMISOM through adoption UNSCR 2036. This resolution allowed several other African countries deploy their troops under the AU guidelines. Following this, several Sub-Saharan Africa countries signed the Memorandum of Understanding to joining AMISOM alongside Kenya, Djibouti and Sierra Leone and Burundi (Jackie, 2008). As peace keeping mission, the inclusion of women in the mission was crucial. Owing to the fact that Kenya had in past withdrawn uniformed women from the frontlines in Somalia, expansion of the AMISOM mandate offered opportunity to scrutinize the participation of women in peace support operations in Kenya contingents deployed AMISOM for the period of 2011 and 2020.

Statement of the Problem

The adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 was a major gender mainstreaming policy. It provided for enlistment of more to provide peace and security to their respective countries and hence seconded to peacekeeping missions across the globe. Though many women in uniform have demonstrated that they can accomplish similar tasks and roles as their male counterparts under same working conditions and environment, the

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processes of recruitment and inclusion globally has not met the UN recommendations of raising women participation to 15 percent and 25 percent for military and staff officers respectively by 2028. Statistics on the proportion of women in peace support operation show that women involvement still lags behind even with clear guidelines that have been provided for and adopted by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1325 that seeks to have respective countries enjoin more women into the uniformed functions and peace support operations to catch up with their male counterparts. Therefore, this study sought to assess how gender mainstreaming policies influence the participation of women in peace support operations using the case of Kenya contingents in the AMISOM for the period of 2011 and 2020.

Objectives

The overall purpose of this study was to investigate the influence of gender mainstreaming policies on women participation in peace support missions using the case of Kenya's contingents in the African Mission in Somalia from 2011 to 2020. Specific objectives were:

1. To analyze the UN rationale for women participation in peace keeping operation in the context of Kenya's contingents in the AMISOM between 2011 and 2020.
2. To assess enacted gender mainstreaming policies for women participation in Kenya's contingents in the AMISOM between 2011 and 2020
3. To evaluate how inclusion of women in peace keeping operations influenced the mission outcomes of AMISOM between 2011 and 2020.

Review of Related Literature

Given the multidimensional perspective that peace operations may present, there is likely to be variations of mission impact from one gender to another. In-depth understanding of the host country's conflict and how it is affecting the women and men invariably informs effective decision making and implementation of peace keeping mission (United Nations, 2020). The United Nations has always had its clear guidelines on the aspects of gender and matters of military interventions or operations by all member states. The adoption of the UNSCR1325 by the year 2000 was a major landmark for women, peace and security (United Nations, 2008). The UN view of women participation in peace operations is that there should be equity and fair participation of both genders. The resolution 1325 presented four pillars which are considered as priority areas of focus for the women peace support (WPS) program: Involvement of women in decision making across all levels on matters pertaining to political, peace and security, protection and promotion of fundamental rights of the women and girls in conflict regions, preventing any kind of violence that may be directed against the women, putting an end to impunity as well as including the female gender in conflict prevention. This study investigated roles of women in the context of WPS. Another key priority area is the relief and recovery where there is aggressive promotion of meeting humanitarian needs of the women and empowering them to get involved in leadership that can help in supporting recovery and relief missions (United Nations, 2020).

Women have received international support based on the laws and declarations that have brought to light the issues of gender equality, women empowerment and fundamental rights hence increased participation of women in military and peace operations across the globe (UN, 1996). The elimination of violence against women which was adopted in 1993 by

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the UN General Assembly has been recognized as a key international tool in the fight against violence on the women gender hence a framework for national and international level (UNGA, 1993). Consequently, the UN rationale on women participation in peace and security regimes can be anchored on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 1995 (UN, 1995). Even though the declaration is not legally binding, it contained commitments by 189 governments across the globe to try and achieve gender equality and to foresee women empowerment in areas such as: prevention of violence against the women, empowerment, decision-making, human rights as well as taking part in peace support operations without any form of discrimination. This declaration was later pushed by the UN and was effective in 2018 (UN Charter, 1945).

Gender equality is the opportunity and enjoyment of resources that life brings to both men and women. It also means that both genders have equal right and chance to take advantage of opportunities as well as making their own choices on issues touching the different genders. Gender mainstreaming therefore is a plan, a strategy or any initiative that aims to support gender equality by promoting integration of gender issues/programs into policies and adopting diverse activities that allow both men and women to openly express their views and participating in decision-making (CIDA Peace Building, 2001).

There is increased recognition within the international community on the role of gender in peace process due to the differential effect of conflict on men and women thus more focus on gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping. Civil society organizations as well as academia have further reinforced the interest in women involvement in peace processes following the consideration of armed conflict and women in the Beijing conference of 1995 as well as the UN Resolution 1325 adopted in the year 2000. This has resulted to achievement by the UN through institutionalization of gender mainstreaming across all levels leading to the deployment of female police officers in countries such as Haiti, Liberia and Democratic Republic of Congo, increased training to police and military personnel on issues related with men and women and the incorporation of gender in the planning and budgeting (ACCORD, 2013). This study sought to assess increased recognition within the international community and in particular Kenya on the role of gender in peace process due to the differential effect of conflict on men and women thus more focus on gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping.

Bertolazzi (2010) observes the trends within the UN peacekeeping noting that initially, the operation was meant to foster sustainable peace where mission personnel were majorly carrying out patrol within the borders on nations in conflict, ensuring that the conflicting armies are kept apart and performing other military functions. However, with the change in inter-state and intra-ethnic wars, there have been dynamics in conflict patterns in the last 20 years with numerous challenges experienced within the international community. This has prompted the UN to change its strategy that does not only focus on military operation but a multidimensional approach to address the complexities of the conflict through inclusion of diverse skills among its mission personnel.

Amei (2019) study on women and peace building in Somalia used a sample of 300 where participants were systematically selected using random sampling. Data collection was done through interview and questionnaire. Expert opinion was sought to improve the study instrument. The variables under study were peace policy, negotiation and mediation. The study found that women were consulted in the drafting of peace policy agreements and review. The study observed that the only time women act as mediators is during war when

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men are not supposed to move from clans. However, the cultural belief does not allow women to participate in meetings hence their low involvement. The study concluded that women were more involved at the peace policy than at the mediation due to their multiple affiliation with the different clans. Overall, women were fairly represented where powerful women with education, those who work with NGOs or have political appointments were seen to have more participation and influence in peace building processes (Amei, 2019).

Amadi (2014) investigated peace keeping strategies in Africa with consideration of AMISOM. The author notes how over the years, Somalia has been known for clannism, terrorism, violence, conflict, famine, civil war, war loads, jihads, underdevelopment and piracy which have affected the country since the colonial government left in the 1960's. Using qualitative study that involved exploratory and descriptive studies, the study made an extensive review on peace and security issues touching on UN, AU and OAU documents. The study noted how AMISOM was able to protect transitional government institutions and personnel, captured Kismayo port that denied Al-Shabaab access to key areas such as seaport thereby reducing their funding of criminal activities. The mission also involved the community through meetings and prioritized cultural ties with the locals. However, AMISOM had challenges such as skilled staff and low level of experience, understaffing, language problem, sustainable funding, poor coordination and team coherence, and lack of exit strategy (Amadi, 2014). Even though the study was focused on peace keeping operations in Somalia, It however, was geared towards strategies, opportunities for the women involvement in peace keeping operations.

Mungacl (2010) appreciates the role played by the UN resolution 1325 that has helped in enhancing women participation in peace operations. Karim and Beardsley (2016), Kenny (2016) have also recognized how women participants have contributed to the improvement of quality and efficiency in peace keeping operations (Tidblad-Lundholm, 2017). The UN Women (2015) further adds that inclusion of women enhances skills, operational effectiveness and broadens the image of the mission, its credibility and accessibility. Women peace keepers have also been known to foster strong civil-military coordination and providing early warning of attacks thereby acting as intelligence to the mission. The UN through its Global effort in 2009, in recognition of the benefits of women inclusion in the peace keeping force, did set a target of having 20% of police women recruited and 8% military women enlisted in the national disciplined forces with the target to be achieved by 2014.

Perret (2006) recognizes the low representation of women in peacekeeping work despite the resolution 1325 that suggested the inclusion of women in all peacebuilding processes to support neutrality in the conflict environment as well as removing the perception of male dominated operations. The author observes that there was 1% women military and 4% civilian police by the year 2005 which calls for the need for more review on current practices that can enhance the recruitment and retention of women personnel within the UN peace operations (Perret, 2006). UN Women (2015) provides more analysis such as Belarus which has 40% of women representation, European and North American countries have 8% and 20% respectively, South Africa 15%, Ghana 10%, Uruguay having 7.5%, Ethiopia 7%, Nigeria 7%, and Tanzania 6.6% of women representation in the disciplined forces. Of worrying concern is the UN military mission experts which has 1757 personnel where only 65 are women translating to 3.6% participation of women (UN Women, 2015).

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M'Arimi (2020) did a study on troops influence on peace keeping operations in Dhobley District of Somalia using descriptive design with a population of 3050. The study adopted stratified simple random sampling to generate a sample of 305. The study's objective was to find out the effectiveness of command, relevancy of the mission mandate and the adequacy of mission resources. The study used different sampling techniques to identify respondents where; snowball sampling, convenience and stratified random sampling were used. Pre-testing with 10% of the respondents was done. Using questionnaire and interview in data collection, the study found that 94.6% of the troops were men whereas, 5.4% were women indicating low involvement of the women in peacekeeping. The study also found that the leadership did not offer adequate direction on mission accomplishment, there was lack of cooperation where each contingent wanted to work on their own, the mission mandate was not clear to all the troops and it was not addressing the real issues on the ground (M'Arimi, 2020).

A study undertaken by Tidblad-Lundholm (2017) sought to understand the proportion of women participation in UN peacekeeping operations between the year 2009 to 2013 where desktop review and survey was used in data collection. The study argued that women are less likely to be deployed in new missions due to the uncertainty surrounding the operation. The findings indicated that there was a positive relationship between duration of the mission and women participation. The study further found that there was increased number of women participations up to 17% in UN missions that were considered small or lasted for one year. The study also revealed that the participation of women tends to be lower during the initial stages of the operation but increases as the operation progresses. As well, there was minimal participation of women in new missions as compared to ongoing operations.

The literature reviewed concluded that in the recent years, there have been an increase in recognition at the international arena of the crucial standing of endorsing the inclusion of females at all levels of peace, security and conflict resolution management as well as during the post- conflict recovery and alignments. Thus, the most vital aspect of this is to foster an increase of participation of women on various peace support missions around the globe. The literature observes that women's participation in peace support operations can subsequently activate optimistic modifications for women in their respective nations in terms of gender mainstreaming policies. Lastly, the literature highlighted the aspect of mixed mission on its advantages of reflecting the composition of the host society which showed that the locations these military contingents are assigned to consist of both women and men who live together in harmony. Therefore, with proper integration of women in the civilian composition during their peacekeeping operations still lurks behind of the UN requirement and the target of up to 20 percent by 2028.

It is with this breath that this study found various study gaps on the women participation in peace support operations in Kenya more specifically on the KDF intervention in Somalia in October 2011 to 2020. The low number of women taking part in military peacekeeping operations is a likeness of the little number of females taking part in service to their country which is a big discourse in the UN. This study sought to examine challenges women face and how gender mainstreaming has been used to discriminate the female gender in the recruitment, inclusion and training into the uniformed functions that cover peace and security aspects of a country.

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Theoretical Framework

This study was anchored on the liberal feminist theory. Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797) was the first proponent of liberal feminism theory through the publication of her book “*A vindication of the rights of women*” published in 1792. Wollstonecraft (1792) noted how the society ignored inequalities and oppression that were existing and how they made issues surrounding gender more complicated to the women. She argued that because women are human beings, they should be given equal treatment and access to opportunities such as education and employment. Wollstonecraft (1792) believed that when women are given rights to education, discrimination will be eliminated to allow access of public and private sphere to the women (Duman, 2012).

The theory assumes that all men and women are the same hence should be given similar opportunities in both political and civil rights (Efflong & Inyang, 2020). Liberal feminism theory challenges patriarchal society by calling for removal of barriers that hinders women's full participation and access to powerful positions and social wealth. It also refuses male dominance and stereotyping of women by supporting gender equality and advices on legal reforms and policy to develop systems that can enhance women participation. It therefore focuses on existing formal decision-making structures and political systems. However, the theory has been criticized for accepting male values as human values and too much emphasize on freedom of individualism rather than collected freedom (Strutt, 1987). The theory has also been seen to favor powerful women who can access education and with resources that can allow them to compete with men at the expense of the vulnerable women who may lack resources.

Cohen (2013), Eager (2014) note that liberal feminism theory aims to understand and find solutions to gender inequalities that have been ignored within the male dominated international sphere. It is for these reasons that feminist scholars believe that international community can only conceptualize insecurity, war and conflict if it understands how these phenomena affect social relations and how different genders are affected (Enloe, 2000; Kronsell, 2012).

Enloe (2014) adds that the role of women within the international politics can be understood from the perspective of politics that touch on the uniformed women and diplomats. This according to the author, it brings more clarity in the understanding of gender roles of women in security and political positions. The theory aims to understand the distribution of power within institutions with a focus on gender. It seeks to bring change by causing disruptions on existing power relations systems, removing barriers that hinder women from advancing as well as alienating all forms of discrimination within the peacekeeping environment.

The resolution 1325 of the UN calls for women participation across all levels from national to international, even though there are very few women participating in these platforms. The liberal feminist theory seeks to question the existing systems in all these levels by coming up with policies that support the integration of UN 1325 resolutions in institutions and systems thereby support women involvement across all levels such as in the recruitment and deployment of peacekeeping forces (Ghittoni et al. 2008).

Peacekeeping is one of the international relations foreign policies where different states come together through UN to support peacebuilding in war tone countries. Liberal feminism theory has shown that having women as participants in the peacekeeping force can

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bear positive results as women have been reported to improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping in areas such as Kosovo, Somalia, Liberia and Sierra Leone (Nagar, 2016).

Holmes (2020) observe how the Ghanaian armed forces once dominated by men, has since adopted recommendations by the UN 1325 resolutions based on feminist advocacy, to advance the women participation through institutionalizing recommendations of the UN in recruitment and deployment processes. This has supported the inclusion of women in military, enhanced acceptability of the women as well as witnessed the growth of women among key military positions in peacekeeping (Holmes, 2020).

Enyew and Mihrete (2018) observe how Ethiopian society have discriminated the women where women occupy low positions, are not allowed to access social resources and are discriminated, subjected to violence and denied certain civil rights. Liberal feminism theory advocates have sought to challenge the government to change legal reforms and welfare issues that can bring equality through affirmative actions to bridge the gender gap. The impact has been felt where the government has revised domestic laws, given women voting rights and equal opportunity in employment (Enyew & Mihrete, 2018).

Alchin (2015) on South African Women peacekeepers noted the participation of the women in roles that were previously reserved for the men where women soldiers expressed their love for the work as when in the field, they work as soldiers and not as women. They also felt empowered. The study also noted as the society is accepting women roles as there were some who noted that they were advised to join army by their families signifying the advocacies of the liberal feminist to challenge patriarchal society to consider women participation in roles that were previously seen as masculine and therefore reserved for the men (Alchin, 2015).

The study used the theory to understand how the Kenyan government supports the UN resolution of 1325, determine the Kenya Armed Forces and Kenya Police inclusion of the women in peacekeeping. The theory also revealed the barriers that hinder women involvement in peace operation with an aim of finding solutions to improve and make recommendations on possible policies that can be used to advance the inclusion of women across all levels of peacekeeping. The theory therefore touches on the independent variable; women participation, analyzed where the women are, their roles, as well as determine the effect of their involvement on the dependent variable; peacekeeping in Somalia. This supported the building of conceptual framework and the study instrument.

Methodology

The study adopted an exploratory research design. The study location was Nairobi County that hosts the headquarters of the Ministry of Defense and National Police Service. The location was chosen due to the presence of military barracks and availability of national police training schools as well as being headquarter of government security agencies where decision making on recruitment, training and deployment of disciplined forces takes place. The city was also considered as the home to other government agencies such as the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Target population consisted the Ministry of Defense, National Police Service and the National Counter Terrorism Centre. A sample size of 105 was used for the study. Stratified proportionate random and purposive sampling helped in identifying study participants. Purposive sampling technique was used in selecting key study informants for they contained officials' directly in charge or responsible in offering relevant data for this study. The study achieved 82% response rate. This study used both qualitative

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and quantitative data. Questionnaires and interviews guides were used to collect quantitative and qualitative data from respondents and key informants respectively. Analysis was done through descriptive and inferential statistics as well as narratives and verbatim.

Data Presentation, Analysis and Discussion

UN Rationale for Women Participation in Peace Support Operations in Kenya

The first objective of this study analyzed how UN rationale for women participation influenced peace support operations of Kenya's mission contingents in Somalia in the period 2011-2020. By UN rationale for women participation in peace support, we mean, the recognition of the UN on the role the women could play as change agents in the contribution to international peace and security and therefore the need for their participation. The UN rationale goes on to acknowledge the disproportionate impact of conflict the women and girls experience hence the importance of involvement in peace and security issues (United Nations, 2020). Three components of the UN rationale for women inclusion i.e. UN principle on equality and equity, UNSCR 1325 and Women Peace Security Agenda (WPS) were analyzed.

UN Rationale on Equality and Equity of Men and Women

According to United Nations (2015) Article [1] of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, all humans have equal rights and dignity as they are born free. Article [2] states that all humans have entitlement without any distinction evidenced in sex, race, religion or any other status while article seven of the declaration of human rights states that all humans are equal and therefore should be given equal treatment without any discrimination. According to UN (2020), gender equality concept signifies the equal responsibilities, rights and opportunities available to both men and women regardless of them being male or female. This means that when decisions are being made, consideration should be put in place according to the interests of both women and men while also recognizing their diversity. This helps in engaging men and women equally based on their different needs. Gender equity on the other hand allows fairness and justice in the distribution of responsibilities and benefits between the two genders by putting in place mechanisms that help in compensating for any social disadvantage the women have experienced. This ensures that women are able to compete at the same level with the men (United Nations, 2021).

An analysis of the participation of women in peace support operations as observed by SIPRI (2020) indicates the significant improvement that has been made between 2011-2020 where 10% of the women in military were force commanders while over 18% were military staff and officers. A further analysis between different countries revealed that an improvement in the number of women had been achieved. The number of uniformed women was as follows: Ethiopia had 9.5%, Ghana 14%, Rwanda 4% while by proportion, Sweden had 33%, Kenya 23% while Gambia and South Africa had 17% and 16% respectively. This is different to women in police where the proportion has remained stable but there is reduction in the number; 43% of women were commissioners, and senior police advisors, Rwanda had higher number at 19%, Bangladesh 24% and Ghana 26%. The proportion on the other hand, Thailand had 9%, South Africa 7%, Malawi 8% while Kenya 10% (SIPRI, 2020).

The study analyzed how UN rationale related with equality and equity was practiced to enable women participation in Kenya's, peace operations in Somalia. This study found that 42.5% of the respondents agreed that women were involved in Kenya peace support

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operations in Somalia's, 18.4% strongly agreed, 13.8% strongly disagreed, 11.5% disagreed while 13.8% remained neutral. From the findings, majority at 60.9% of the participants agreed that women were represented in peace operations. According to Jonnes (2009), equity is based on the fact that both genders should be given equal treatment to allow men and women to access opportunities. This means that both men and women have equal life chances, concern for people's needs as well as rewarding the genders equally (Jones, 2009). From the findings, the women and men in security are given opportunities to serve as mission contingents. Interview reports from Key Informant Interviewee No. 1 indicated that women were involved in peace operations as observed:

Women are involved in providing peace support operations as enshrined in Chapter 7 of UN Charter which is peace enforcement. They have been fully engaged in peace operations where in various departments which falls on rank and file during deployment, women participation has been given a priority. In every peace operation in Somalia women have been positively included in the tour of duty. When there is any peace mission, women are encouraged to participate in the interviews. (KII 1, Ministry of Defence)

From the interview, it is evident that consideration has been made to involve the women in peace support operations. This is in line with the UN rationale of gender equality and equity which calls for the inclusion of women and the placement of mechanisms that allow the women to compete at the same level with men. The involvement of the women in the interview process and tour of duty is a clear indication that mechanisms and platforms have been put in place to encourage more women to participate in peace support operations. United Nations (2008) recommends the need for more involvement of the women in all levels of decision making in areas such as security, peace and political spheres. The findings showed that the women in Kenya have not been left out as their input was felt in their representation in Somalia's peace operations.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325

According to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (2015), the UN through UNSCR 1325 (2000) acknowledged the impact of armed conflict on the women hence advice on the involvement of the female gender in peace operations. Through parliamentary motions, discussions may be made focused on women involvement. Additionally, other structures such as in parliamentary commission and the staff, awareness may be made to the members of parliament on issues related with women, peace and support. Civil societies and women caucuses may also organize for seminars to sensitize the members of parliament. The legislatures can then use their powers to promote laws, policies, programs and budgets to enhance women participation. National Action Plans where priorities are made, resources availed, assignment of responsibilities and deadlines may be made possible. Other participatory structures such as involvement of government agencies, national security services, civil society and national human rights commission may also be used in the advocacy of UNSCR 1325 on the inclusion of the women in peace building operations (UNDP, 2022). This will ensure increased support for the women inclusion in decision making at the national and international level, prevention of all forms of violence against the

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women and empowerment to enhance their involvement in decision making. The study analyzed how UNSC 1325 of women participation influenced peace operations in Somalia.

The study established that 43.7% of participants agreed that the Kenya government has put in place better integration of women needs within the peace and security system that has created empowerment for the women leading to more participation, 19.5% of participants strongly agreed to the statement, 13.8% were neutral, 12.6% strongly disagreed while 10.3% expressed their disagreement. The results confirm the progress that has been made by the government in improving security environment, putting in place systems that have enhanced women empowerment, reducing gender gap and inequality that exists in peace operations. OECD (2020) while observing twentieth anniversary of UNSCR 1325, highlights countries that are still receiving gender aid due to the gap that is still felt as well as classifying the countries as fragile. For instance, while there has been progress in Ethiopia where women are participating in political processes such as becoming the head of state, there are still challenges in Uganda that has been listed in the top ten countries that received gender aid in the financial year 2017-2018. Kenya on the other hand, received aid in 2014-2015 and due to progress made over the years, has not been featured in the UN top ten countries in 2017-2018 that were considered fragile hence requiring gender-aid. This is in line with the findings of the study that there is progress in women participation in decision making as well as in security and peace operations.

Women, Peace and Security Agenda

Women, peace and security (WPS) was developed from UNSCR 1325 in support of increased participation of the women in decision making (OECD, 2020). Specifically, WPS aims to ensure inclusion of the women, justice and security. One of the key indicators in determining the implementation of WPS is whether the government has put in place laws and regulations that encourage women involvement in decision making, infrastructural developments aimed at supporting women inclusion as well as women participation in peace building and peace keeping. The study analyzed how UNSCR 1325 through WPS of women participation influenced peace operations in Somalia.

The study established that 34.5% of respondents agreed that the Kenya government has put in place laws aimed at promoting women participation in peace support operations, 31.0% strongly agreed, 17.2% were neutral, and 10.3% disagreed while 6.9% strongly disagreed to the statement. According to African Union (2019), African countries have made progress towards the implementation of WPS to support 2063 agenda where by 2018, there were 23 African countries that have developed implementation plans to ensure progressive improvements of women inclusion as per the UNSCR 1325. For instance, Kenya was listed as among the 23 countries that have signed up to ensure laws supporting women inclusion in peace building, political leadership and other high-level decision making (African Union, 2019).

Gender Mainstreaming Policies and Inclusion of Women in Peace Support Operations of Kenya's Mission Contingents in AMISOM from 2011 to 2020

The second objective sought to find out how gender mainstream policies influence inclusion of women in peace support operations in the Kenya contingent in Somalia. Gender mainstreaming was understood as the inclusion of policies, legislations and programs into government processes at all levels to ensure that women and men get equal treatment (United

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Nations Human Rights , 2013). The study analyzed how gender mainstreaming influenced peace operations looking at government support for gendered units, gender coordinators, training programs, gender sensitivity programs and workshops aimed at improving gender mainstreaming and the involvement of women in peace and support operations.

Gender Units

Gender unit is the lead agency that oversees, coordinates, monitors, and evaluates gender mainstreaming of policies, initiatives, and programs in organizations. The ultimate goal of gender unit is to implement a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA), which includes non-discrimination, equitable participation, inclusion, accountability, and the rule of law, which continues to be the cornerstone of social justice (Government of Mauritius, 2020). These units are established at the headquarter level working as gender advisory team to provide policy advice to mission contingents while at the same time, serving as knowledge pool that guides effective and inclusive peace support practices at the strategic level. A task force on gender issues is then put in place to help in the translation of policies to the field. This consists of representatives from diverse mission that helps in promoting effective mainstreaming at both the mission and the headquarter level (Gounden, 2013). The study analyzed how gender unit influenced women participation for Kenya's mission contingents in Somalia.

The study found that 36.8% of respondents agreed that there was gender unit that was established within the National peace support operations to address women issues, 19.5% remained neutral, 16.1% disagreed to the statement, 16.1% strongly agreed while 11.5% strongly disagreed. From the findings 52.9% agreed that there was a gender unit that has been established to address women issues related with AMISOM. An analysis of the government's vision 2030 presents how Kenya is targeting to end discrimination at all forms evidenced in the creation of the State Department of Gender within the Ministry of Public, Youth and Gender with a clear mandate to review and evaluate gender-based policies in Kenya. The Department works with diverse stakeholders such as gender officers from national government, state and non-state actors, civil societies, state corporations, community-based organizations and private businesses (State Department for Gender, 2019). This shows that the government, through its state department is focused on ensuring that women are involved in all its programs and activities across diverse agencies.

The study findings agree with the State Department (2019) that there is a gender coordinator at the headquarter level that is working with different representatives from government offices. Liberal feminism proposed by Wollstone Craft (1792) challenged government systems to foster legal reforms that will see more women representation in key decision-making areas. The establishment of gender units such as the Gender Department is focused on recommending policy areas for evaluation and review and working with diverse multi-agencies to initiate reforms capable of improving women representation in peace support operations. This also means that the theory has been integrated in the UN recommendations to its member countries such as Kenya national peace mission that has facilitated establishment of gender units that is advocating for more women representation in peace support operations.

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Gender Coordinators

Gender coordinator is an officer in charge of directing and fostering coordination for gender equality and women's empowerment in collaboration with local government, NGOs, and civil society partners. In different capacities, gender coordinators have ensured inclusion, recognition and participation of women to ensure equality (UN Women, National gender coordinator, 2020). The study analyzed how establishment of gender coordinators was influencing women participation in peace support operations for Kenya mission contingents in Somalia.

The study found that 35.6% of respondents agreed that the national peace support operations has appointed gender coordinator who oversees women appointment in peace operations, 27.6% of participants remained neutral, 18.4% strongly agreed to the statement, 10.3% strongly disagreed while 8.0% disagreed. The findings showed that 54% of participants agreed that there is a gender coordinator who oversees women appointment in peace operations. According to a study by Bista, Standing, Parker, and Sharma (2022), women are more likely to experience various forms of discrimination due to lack information. By incorporating gender equality across the activity of all clusters, UN Women uses its triple mandate—normative, coordinating, and operative—to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are incorporated into the government program to enhance more participation of the women. The gender coordinator works to fulfil the UN women's mandate of coordinating activities in areas where women may feel discriminated thus reducing gender inequality and increasing more women involvement in peace support operations in Somalia.

Training Programs

A training program is a carefully thought-out series of tasks intended to give security officers the knowledge and skills they need to advance their careers within peace support operations. There may be various training programs depending on the goal. In this study, training programs are aimed at empowering women so they can take up roles that are otherwise given to men within peace support operations (Bhasin, 2022). The study analyzed how training programs have helped empower the women in security to enhance their participation in peace support operations as mission contingents in Somalia.

This study found that 27.6% of the respondents agreed that there were ongoing training programs where all permanent, temporary and field mission personnel are given opportunity to attend. It was also found that 27.6% of respondents were neutral to the statement, 20.7% strongly agreed, 12.6% disagreed while 11.5% strongly disagreed. This means that 48.3% agreed that there were ongoing trainings where all were given opportunity to attend. It was also found that 24.1% disagreed that there were training where all were accorded the opportunity to attend. The UN resolution 1325 (2000) aims to make achievement through more deployment of the women in police and military through enhanced training necessary for increasing the chances of recruitment in peace operations and senior positions. The findings showed that the Kenya being one of the member states of the United Nations, has made progress in enhancing women capacities through training that has provided more opportunities to the women to involve in peace support operations in Somalia. Despite the progress made in training opportunities, there were 24.1% of respondents who disagreed which means that there are still gaps in training.

The United Nations (2008) suggests the need for equity which extends in training opportunities and treatment of all peacekeeping mission personnel. This may provide the

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ground for skill enhancement thereby increasing the chances of being recruited as part of peace keeping support operations. The policy makers should enhance more capacity building through training to enable inclusion of many women in peace support trainings in order to gain necessary skills needed for participation in mission work. This will reduce inequality that may be present due to lack of training among potential women in security. Opinion from Key Informant No. 2 captured in the interview agreed with affirmative actions that are being taken to train the women as observed:

Yes, there is gender mainstreaming and affirmative action has been taken including taking women for driving courses to acquire requisite driving skills required. Equally, women continue to attend several UN and AU peace keeping conferences to equip them with skills and competencies that will enable them apply for all openings in UN and AU peace keeping operations. Kenya Police has deployed a senior female officer at AU headquarters at Addis Ababa. (KII 2. Kenya Police Service)

The interview report is a clear testimony that there are programs that have been initiated by the employer to ensure that the women are able to gain skills and experience that will make them be able to compete equally with the men. The deployment of a female officer further confirms the commitment to include the women at the senior level thereby providing opportunity for the women to participate in decision making levels.

The interview findings corroborate with the findings from the questionnaire indicating increasing training opportunities to the women. Additionally, these training equip the women with skills necessary for participating at the senior levels, technical and as combatants in peace and support operations.

4.5.4 Gender Sensitivity Workshops

Gender sensitization is the process of making people more aware of the issues surrounding gender equality. It aids individuals in considering their own attitudes and beliefs as well as challenging the realities of both sexes. Organizations all over have taken an initiative in holding workshops to sensitize people on gender issues (UNDP, 2022). The study analyzed how gender sensitization has enhanced women participation in peace support operation for the Kenya mission contingents in Somalia.

This study found that 32.2% of respondents agreed that national peace support operations regularly organize gender sensitivity workshops and awareness of women issues for all the staff. The study established that 19.5% strongly agreed to the statement, 27.6% were neutral, 11.5% disagreed while 9.2% strongly disagreed. UNDP (2022) observe how people who have undergone gender sensitization have a better understanding of the differences between sexes, how gender is socially produced, and gender stereotypes which aids individuals in distinguishing between stereotypes and true gender-based assumptions. From the findings, majority at 51.7% agreed that there were gender sensitization workshops. This means that there was more understanding of issues affecting both men and women in military which created harmony within the working environment necessary for increasing women participation in peace support operations. Confirmation from the Ministry of Defense, from Respondent No. 3 noted;

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Gender studies has been introduced in all National Police training institutions. In selecting course participants, there is an emphasis to ensure gender balance and taking care of the marginalized communities. During training, all students, both male and female are given equal opportunities to learn and excel. Other relevant courses that enhance gender mainstreaming like mental health, HIV & AIDs, Counseling and the constitution are taught and practiced in the National Police Service. In every decision-making strategy, gender policy is followed to the letter. Gender parity has been given priority both in promotions and duties to ensure equality. (Respondent 3, Ministry of Defence)

From the findings, it is clear that the AMISOM mission contingents received gender sensitization that included all the staff. This helped in reducing any marginalization that may exist to reduce women participation in peace support operations. The interview results agree with the findings from the questionnaire thereby validating the results.

5.4.5. Women Focused Workshops

These are ideas for women empowerment workshops focused on developing a setting where women may make decisions on their own behalf for the good of society as a whole. These ideas are created to assist women in gaining self-assurance, practicing self-care, and encouraging one another's success in personal and professional endeavors (Gwale, 2021).

Previous workshop involving the women was held in 2018 in New York which was the 62nd yearly commission on the status of women. The forum helped in raising awareness about women issues, developing guidelines while also holding the government accountable. These forums are also used to benchmark improvements made in other countries which are then used to make policy recommendations of women participation at the national level as well as cascading at the government agencies and ministries. Other consultation platforms and cooperation involving stakeholders are joint gender steering committees which is held every two years to provide regular policy areas on gender related issues (Ministry of Public, Youth and Gender Affairs, State Department for Gender Affairs., 2018). The study analyzed how women focused workshops helped in enhancing women participation as mission contingents in Somalia.

The findings were found that 24.1% agreed that national peace support operations occasionally organized workshops aimed at improving women skills in decision making. The study established that 19.5% strongly agreed to the statement, 36.8% were neutral, 13.8% disagreed while 5.7% strongly disagreed to the statement. This means that 43.6% of the participants agreed that there were workshops that were occasionally organized to enhance women skills in decision making. However, the high number of respondents who remained neutral at 36.8% was surprising as they chose not to agree nor disagree to the statement while 19.5% disagreeing.

In order to ensure that women have equal rights and to give them the self-confidence to assert those rights, it is essential to strengthen and increase the social, economic, political, and legal position of women by giving them a chance to take part in decision making on security issues (Gwale, 2021). The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) each year evaluates progress in the implementation of women's empowerment which stresses the importance of taking action in important policy areas with the full and active participation

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and leadership of women such as policy frameworks to combat gender-based discrimination and the enduring structural barriers in the workplace, improving women's access to education, training, and skill development (UN Women, Commission on the Status of Women, 2022). The findings showed that there is improvement in women empowerment initiatives aimed at developing skills needed for more women to participate in decision making and involvement in peace support operations.

Impacts of women Participation in Peace Support Operations of Kenya's on Overall AMISOM Outcomes in the Period 2011-2020

The third objective sought to establish how women participation in Kenya contingents influenced the overall mission of the peace support operations in Somalia. To determine its impact key aspect related to gender-based violence, operational effectiveness, reinforced skills sets, longevity of peace and acceptance by the host country were analyzed. Although women have been involved in AMISOM operations, there have been challenges in involving women fully. Hendricks (2018) on progress and challenges in implementing the women, peace and security agenda in the African Union's peace and security architecture notes that women are now better represented in architecture, but there is still much work to be done on a programmatic level by the AU, especially in peace negotiations and peace support operations. The study investigated AMISOM peace support operations in Somalia to determine its impact based on gender-based violence, operational effectiveness, reinforced skills sets, longevity of peace and acceptance by the host country.

Reduced Gender Based Violence

Gender based violence is directed at certain individuals of groups based on their gender or sexual orientation usually experienced by the women in a male dominated systems, families or organizations such as the military. This includes sexual harassment, physical assault, psychological, emotional, enslavement and forced prostitution (Collins, 2013). These are rarely reported where those who victims are forced to conceal. The study analyzed how AMISOM mission contingents influenced gender-based violence based on women inclusion.

From the findings, it was noted that 35.6% of respondents agreed that AMISOM peace support operations recorded reduced gender-based violence due to participation of the women contingents in Somalia. It was also found that 23.0% strongly agreed to the statement, 28.7% remained neutral, 6.9% strongly disagreed while 5.7% disagreed. This means that majority at 58.6% agreed that involvement of the women in AMISOM helped in reducing gender-based violence in peace operations in Somalia.

According to the Elsie initiative for women in peace operations study baseline, gender-based harassment is a major deterrent to women's full involvement in peacekeeping operations. According to this study, while sexual and gender-based harassment occurs frequently throughout all security institutions, incidents are more common during deployments because of morale-loosening effects of being away from one's home country, competition between units and cohorts, and the emergence of cliques with "boys' club" mentalities. Sexual and gender-based harassments are frequently mentioned in the literature on increasing women's participation in peacekeeping. This shows that the problem is widespread, significant, and that neither national institutions nor the UN system has adequate prevention or response procedures (Bista, Standing, Parker, & Sharma, 2022).

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The findings indicated by majority agreement that there was reduced gender-based violence is a clear indication that gender sensitization programs and improvement of the systems within the security environment for AMISOM mission contingents is bearing fruits. Further, findings from interview indicated how peace keeping has provided support to host countries through realizing peace, changing attitude of the community through involvement of the women in peace keeping operations as opined by Respondent No. 1:

.... there has been support to host countries especially in addressing issues of sexual gender-based violence, women leadership and participation in peace operations, protection of civilians and children, negotiations and general improvement in quality of life for the civilians in the host country.... civil and military cooperation, gender parity, realistic peace, gender equality is achieved (Respondent 1: Ministry of Defence)

Further, Respondent No. 4 said:

AMISOM has succeeded in changing attitude of Somali women towards fields that are male dominated ...Women are peace makers and this has greatly helped AMISOM in peace process...."The refugees especially women when attended by women who work in security institution, they feel secure...Women get inspired and empowered when they are considered to participate in peace support operations. (Respondent 4: Ministry of Defence)

The findings in the above verbatim demonstrate how the diversification of gender in peace support operations can bear fruits as the women come with skills that the men may not be able to provide. The women easily interact with the locals and fellow women which creates environment of trust and safety to the women victims. The women are also able to offer capacity building to their fellow women in the conflict areas thereby be able to report cases of violence as well as take report gender-based violence. The cooperation of the military and the locals is further enhanced by the presence of the women in peace support operations. The involvement of the women in peace operations as stated in the interview that women refugees feel safe when they are attended to by women in security confirm what Bertalazzi (2010) observed that women inclusion in peace operations may enable the troops to access vulnerable population as well as working with the female refugee victims who have experienced sexual violence.

Increased Operational Effectiveness

Operational effectiveness is having processes in place according to an organization's capabilities which are then used to realize the objectives of the organization. Additionally, operational effectiveness is improving the system to make it better and using existing resources to reduce chances of failure hence improving performance (Santa, Ferrer, & Hyland, 2022). Within the AMISOM troops, mission contingents may be based on a combination of men and women troops based on their capabilities to improve performance.

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The study analyzed operational effectiveness based on inclusion of women in AMISOM mission contingents in Somalia.

This study noted that 28.7% of participants agreed that with the inclusion of women in AMISOM troops, there was increased operational effectiveness due to gender diversity, 26.4% agreed to the statement, 35.6% were neutral, and 5.7% disagreed while 3.4% strongly disagreed. The findings showed that majority at 55.1% agreed that there was improved operational effectiveness due to participation of the women in peace support operations in Somalia.

Narang and Niu (2021) in research, does gender parity in peacekeeping forces affect their effectiveness? Investigating how female peacekeepers affect post-conflict behavior and consequences, found that the idea behind female recruitment is that female peacekeepers have unique skills that increase the effectiveness of their units in a variety of ways. The study found evidence that a higher percentage of female staff is consistently associated with greater implementation of women's rights laws and a greater willingness to report rape. The findings agreed with Narang and Niu (2021) that women bring in more value to the troops through their unique skills that improved the AMISOM effectiveness in Somalia.

Reinforced Skills Sets

Skills are gained through accredited programs that individuals undertake to improve their cognitive capabilities as well as enabling the access of career opportunities within the organization (State of Victoria, 2021). The study analyzed skills sets within AMISOM mission contingents based on the inclusion of women. The findings revealed that 35.6% of respondents agreed that women participation in peace support operations reinforced skills sets of AMISOM troops leading to better engagement with the host country. There were 27.6% of participants who strongly agreed to the statement, 29.9% remained neutral, 4.6% disagreed while 2.3% strongly disagreed. This showed that 63.2% of the respondents agreed that women inclusion in AMISOM reinforced skills sets that enhanced engagement with the host country.

According to a study on the Participation of Women in Peace Building in Somalia: A Case Study of Mogadishu by Gichuru (2014), for both men and women to be able to constructively engage, especially in governing institutions, education, skills, and experience are important. Men tend to rule the majority of institutions in many African nations due to the gender disparity in literacy rates and skill sets. Additionally, the few literate women are frequently excluded from society and left alone. Additionally, it is expected that fewer women will participate in highly technical fields like mediation and peace talks. Women who have participated in leadership positions in AMISON are mostly the educated ones and although they bring unique skills like crisis management and decision making, they are also included in technical capacities due to their skills combination. The findings showed that the diversity in skills sets existing in AMISOM reduced the gender inequality and dominated male society. It also showed that with more skill sets from the women, the future is promising where women will occupy other positions within the security environment previously reserved to the men.

Longevity of Peace

The study analyzed how AMISOM mission contingents in Somalia impacted longevity of peace due to women inclusion as mission contingents. The findings observed

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that were 28.7% of the participants who agreed that AMISOM peace operations recorded prolonged peace due to the inclusion of women in peace operations, 23.0% strongly agreed, 28.7% were neutral, and 13.8% disagreed while 5.7% strongly disagreed. From the findings, majority at 51.7% agreed that the participation of women as AMISOM peace support officers enabled longevity of peace.

According to a study by Krause, Werner and Branfos (2018) on Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations and the Durability of Peace, there is a growing consensus that women's involvement in peace talks improves the standard and longevity of peace following a civil conflict. The research showed a strong link between lasting peace and peace treaties signed by female delegates. Additionally, peace treaty clauses targeted at political reform were found in much higher numbers and with higher implementation rates in accords signed by women. This is because women use regional mediation networks with influence in peace processes. These help in building bridges and formulating gender-sensitive inputs necessary for consideration in ending the conflict (UN Women, 2018). There is therefore a connection between female signatories and female civil society organizations that account for the beneficial effects of women's active involvement in peace negotiations and support. The findings have confirmed what Krause, Werner and Branfos (2018) found that women inclusion reinforces the need for long duration of peace hence their inclusion in peace support operations.

Increased Acceptance by the Host Country

The study analyzed how the participation of women helped in improving acceptance of AMISOM in the host country. The Findings established that 35.6% of respondents agreed that women involvement as AMISOM contingents increased acceptance by the host country, 27.6% strongly agreed, 23.0% were neutral, 8.0% disagreed while 5.7% strongly disagreed. This showed that majority at 63.2% agreed that the inclusion of the women in peace support operations helped bring more acceptance from the host country, Somalia.

This has been made possible through the intervention of civil societies who are calling upon the women to take the roles of peacebuilding and therefore there is progress in perception change on women involvement within the Somali society. Additionally, women centered transformative dialogues have been held in Kismayo with women groups that aim to encourage the women to share their experiences and perspectives in ending the conflict. The inter-clan dialogue for women who have experienced conflicts is made possible to highlight issues that create conflicts. These are later linked in with peacebuilding structures within the national level for enhanced peace building and advocacy (Life and Peace Institute, Peace Direct, Somali Women Solidarity Organization., 2018).

Pruitt (2026) observed how the deployment of an all-female peacekeeping unit in Liberia was received positively by all people including the locals and the government. The officers who were well-trained for the mission managed to calm the anxious citizens since they were not seen as a threat but rather as allies in the fight. Women's involvement in peacekeeping help maintain the human rights of women and girls in the war-torn country. Cases of sexual and gender-based violence are reduced and this makes the locals and the host country receive them well. The findings agree with Pruitt (2016) who observed how the troops consisting of women were well received in Liberia. The current study has also observed the well reception the AMISOM troops received in Somalia. This shows that there should be consideration for the inclusion of the women in any peace support operations as

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they come with diversity of skills, increase more chances of being acceptable by the locals, helps in reducing gender-based violence as well as increasing the effectiveness of the mission contingents.

Conclusion

The study aimed to investigate women participation in peace support operations; a case of Kenya's contingents in Somalia, 2011-2020. Specific objectives were; to evaluate UN rationale for women participation in peace support operations, to assess the extent of gender mainstreaming of women in peace support operations, to establish the proportion of women in peace support operations and to examine the challenges to sustainable increase of women in peace support operations of Kenya's mission contingents in Somalia in the period of 2011 and 2020.

On the first objective, UN rational of equality and equity, the study concluded that Kenyan women are involved in peace support operations in Somalia. It was concluded that AMISOM peace support operations had put in place better integration of women needs in the peace support operations that has empowered the women to participate more in peace support operations in Somalia. Conclusion was made that there are laws that have been put in place by the Kenya government to enhance the women participation in AMISOM.

On the second objective of gender mainstreaming of women, the study concluded that there was gender unit that was established within the peace support operations that was handling women issues related with peace operations. Conclusion was made that there was establishment of gender coordinators to oversee the appointment of women in peace support operations. It was concluded that there were on-going trainings that were organized for all the security staff where all were given opportunities to enhance their skills. It was also concluded that the national peace support operations regularly organized gender sensitivity workshops that helped in creating awareness about women issues to all the staff. The study concluded that there were occasional workshop trainings that were being organized to increase women skills in peace support operations.

On the third objective of proportion of women working as in peace support operations, the study concluded that there were women who are working as UN mission experts in AMISOM, it was concluded that there were few women working as commanders in AMISOM. It was also concluded that there were women who were working in the lower-level cadres of AMISOM contingents of Somalia. On the impact of women participation in AMISOM peace support operations in Somalia, the study concluded that reinforced skill sets and acceptance by the host countries were some of the strong impacts that women involvement added to the AMISOM troops. It was concluded that participation of the women helped in reducing gender-based violence. It was concluded that there was operational effectiveness due to the women inclusion. The study also made conclusion that the inclusion of the women in AMISOM helped in the longevity of peace in Somalia.

Recommendation

On policy and practice, this study noted that the UN rationale had made improvements where there were increased number of women participating in peace operations. However, it was noted that women were not involved in all peacekeeping measures. There was lack of adequate integration of women needs in peace keeping force. The study recommends that there should be more inclusion of the women at the high levels of

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decision making to ensure that peace keeping policies are based on diversity of gender in the peace keeping missions. This will also ensure that the needs of the women are incorporated in the peace keeping planning. The study recommends that there should be more integration of women needs within the peace support operations to empower more women to participate in peace operations. It is also recommended that more laws targeting women inclusion should be formulated and incorporated within the security system to enhance women involvement in peace support operations.

On gender mainstreaming, it was noted that there was the establishment of gender units and gender coordinators who were overseeing women appointments and handling issues related with women in peace operations. The study recommends that more awareness be made on existence of gender units and coordinators within the peace support operations. This will enable the women get informed on information and opportunities that may help accelerate their involvement in peace support operations. The study also recommends that there should be inclusive training to enable all staff attend to tap skills and expertise that will enhance their employability within the peace support operations. The study recommends that more sensitization be made to increase the level of awareness of the women in peace support operations. The study recommends the need to involve more women as experts and in strategic decision-making positions.

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