Research Article

Beyond the Traditional Notions of Security in Africa: Exploring the Concept of Human Security in SADC through the Lens of Positive Peace

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Abstract: *This study is a modest step towards understanding the prospects of positive peace in the SADC region. Beyond the horizon of negative peace lies the numerous benefits that are offered by an environment characterised by positive peace. This study used the lens of Positive Peace to analyse the traditional notions of security in Africa, focusing on the challenges hindering the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region from achieving human security through positive peace, despite the presence of negative peace in most of its member states. Data were collected from 30 participants who had vast experience in the field of international and regional security. The analysis of data revealed that conflicts and violence in some SADC countries were emanating from the absence of positive peace in the region. Challenges such as inequalities in resource access, exclusion, compromised national and regional institutions, and violations of human rights and freedoms, were the particular factors contributing to the lack of human security and positive peace in the region. The study recommends the adoption of an integrated human security approach to address the root causes of conflict in the SADC region. The study suggests that positive peace can build human security and facilitates sustainable development in the region by reducing violence and conflicts. The study concludes that achieving positive peace is essential for SADC's prosperity and the well-being of its citizens.*

Keywords: Positive Peace, Negative Peace, Human Security, Peacebuilding

INTRODUCTION

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has experienced conflicts and insecurity that have hindered progress towards sustainable development and caused suffering and displacement. The Mozambican conflict in Cabo Delgado and the ongoing conflict in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are notable contemporary conflicts in the region. These conflicts have led to a refugee crisis, which has strained the resources of host countries, particularly South Africa. The refugee problem in South Africa has created a rise in xenophobic and security problems, as most refugees are undocumented. Despite efforts by governments and international institutions to address these challenges, traditional notions of security, which prioritise state security and the protection of borders, have often failed to address the root causes of conflict and violence in the region. A new paradigm of positive peace could be the panacea to recurring and emerging new conflicts in the SADC region. This approach places emphasis on the promotion of social justice, economic development and human rights as the foundation for sustainable peace. Positive peace recognises that peace and security are not just the absence of violence, but also the presence of conditions that promote human flourishing and well-being.

This study explored the concept of positive peace and how SADC can leverage on it to address the persistent conflicts and insecurity that continue to plague the region. Through this exploration, this study sheds light on the potential of positive peace to transform the traditional notions of security and pave the way towards a more peaceful and prosperous future for the SADC region. Positive peace will ensure that there is no exclusion and deprivation of communities. The "exclusion and deprivation of whole communities of people from the benefits of development naturally contribute to the tensions, violence and conflict within countries" (Commission on Human Security, 2003). Hence, this study is a modest step towards understanding and highlighting the need for policymakers, academics, political actors and activists among other stakeholders, to embrace the principles of positive peace and reframe their approach to peace and security in the region and create a more holistic and inclusive vision of peace.

Background of the Study

The SADC region has not been immune to the persistent conflicts that have plagued many parts of Africa. In recent years, the region has witnessed an increase in armed conflicts, political instability and human rights violations, and significant impact on human security. These conflicts have caused widespread displacement, loss of life, and economic disruption, leaving many individuals and communities vulnerable to poverty and deprivation. This has presented an incapacity problem on SADC as a block and the states within. SADC has shown that it has no capacity to deal with conflicts as exemplified by the DRC, Mozambican

and the salient Zimbabwean political problem. The ongoing conflict in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province has led to the displacement of over 700,000 people, while political polarisation in Zimbabwe has resulted in economic decline, currency instability and associated hardships, undermining the ability of citizens to access basic goods and services. In addition, the political turmoil in Madagascar and the Democratic Republic of Congo continued to destabilise the region, exacerbating the challenges of poverty, inequality, and underdevelopment. These conflicts not only threaten the lives and livelihoods of millions of people but also undermine efforts to promote sustainable development and regional integration in the SADC region.

While the need for peace and security in Africa is widely recognised, traditional notions of security have often failed to address the root causes of conflict and violence in the continent in general and SADC region in particular. The necessity for adopting a positive peace framework continue to be overlooked in the SADC region. As a security paradigm, positive peace emphasises the promotion of social justice, economic development, and human rights as the foundation for sustainable peace. It recognises that peace and security are not just the absence of violence, but also the presence of conditions that promote human flourishing and well-being. The United Nations' (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognises the importance of peace and security in achieving sustainable development and calls on nations, regional bodies and international institutions to work towards the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies. Specifically, SDG 16 compels nations to "promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels" (Gao & Zhang, 2021; Sachs, 2019; & Nilson *et al.,* 2016).

While each state has the primary responsibility to ensure peace and security, regional groupings are key players in the regional peace and security agenda. However, both armed and non-armed but equally violent conflicts endure relentless in many countries in the region to warranty Aeby's (2019) conclusion that SADC was characterised by insecurity. Recent evidence indicates that politics in Africa, SADC region included, has failed vast populations, with many countries relapsing into civil wars (Zishiri, 2022). While the desire for peace and security in the SADC region is strong, the focus on traditional notions of security remain the biggest challenge which undermine both lasting peace and sustainable development.

Through the lens of positive peace, this study explored the utility and applicability in SADC, a region which places priority on state security ahead of human security. By examining the role of positive peace in promoting sustainable peace and security in the SADC region, this study contributed to a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the region in its quest for sustainable peace and development. Through this exploration, this study illuminated the potential of the positive peace framework to transform the notion of security in the SADC region from the existing state-centric to human-centric notions of security, and pave the way towards a more peaceful and prosperous future for all.

Research Question

What are the prospects of positive peace in the SADC region, where traditional notions of security have failed to bring sustainable peace and development?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Positive Peace is a framework that goes beyond the traditional notion of peace as simply the absence of violence, and instead focuses on the presence of attitudes, institutions, and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies. Positive Peace as a term was first introduced in the 1960s by Johan Galtung and has historically been understood qualitatively based on idealistic or moral concepts of a peaceful society (Positive Peace Report, 2022). The framework identifies eight pillars of Positive Peace, which include well-functioning government, sound business environment, equitable distribution of resources, acceptance of the rights of others, low levels of corruption, free flow of information, high levels of human capital, and good relations with neighbour's (Weble & Galtung, 2021). Therefore, this framework was the most appropriate for this study which explored the concept of peace in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), as it provides a comprehensive and multidimensional approach to understanding peace beyond the absence of violence. The Positive Peace framework was used to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the SADC's peacebuilding efforts, and to identify areas where further efforts was needed to build a more sustainable and positive peace in the region.

This study used the concept of Positive Peace as the guiding theoretical framework on the consideration that the traditional notions of security and peace in the SADC, has failed to address conflicts in this region. The study considered that a theoretical framework that goes beyond the traditional notion of peace, was required to understand the underlying factors that fuel enduring conflicts in the region. This is because traditional notions of security and peace tend to be state-centric, focusing on the use of military force and law enforcement to address violence and conflict, without necessarily addressing the underlying social and economic factors that contribute to instability and conflict (Parks & Scheuller, 2020). In contrast, the Positive Peace framework developed by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) provides a comprehensive and multidimensional approach to understanding peace that goes beyond the absence of violence. Positive Peace focuses on the presence of

attitudes, institutions, and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies. According to Lantieri & Haper (2020), Positive Peace framework has eight pillars; well-functioning government, sound business environment, equitable distribution of resources, acceptance of the rights of others, low levels of corruption, free flow of information, high levels of human capital, and good relations with neighbors. This study argued that these pillars are vital in attaining lasting peace in the SADC region.

Adopting the Positive Peace framework for this study was appropriate for several reasons. First, the framework recognises that peace is not just the absence of violence, but is a complex and multifaceted concept that requires a holistic approach to understanding and addressing the underlying causes of conflict and instability (Shank & Bashir, 2021). By examining the eight pillars of Positive Peace, the study can identify the factors that contribute to peace and stability in the SADC region, as well as the factors that hinder progress towards a more peaceful society. Second, the Positive Peace framework is particularly relevant to the African context, where many countries face challenges related to governance, corruption, poverty, and inequality. By adopting a Positive Peace framework, the study can explore how these challenges impact peace and security in the SADC region, and identify strategies for addressing these challenges to build a more sustainable and positive peace. Third, the Positive Peace framework provides a useful lens through which to examine the role of regional organizations like the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in promoting peace and security. By examining the eight pillars of Positive Peace, the study assessed the effectiveness of SADC's peacebuilding efforts, and identified areas where further efforts are needed to build a more sustainable and positive peace in the region.

As the SADC region attempts to achieve sustainable development positive peace is therefore a transformational concept because it shifts the focus away from the negative by describing the necessary conditions for peace and society to flourish. Due to its systemic nature, improvements in Positive Peace not only strengthen peace, but are also associated with many other desirable outcomes for society, such as higher GDP growth, better measures of wellbeing, higher levels of resilience and more harmonious societies. Importantly, it provides a theory of social change, explaining how societies transform and evolve. Positive Peace describes an optimal environment under which human potential can flourish (Positive Peace Report, 2022). Positive Peace provides a framework to understand and address the many complex challenges the world faces. It is transformational in that it is a cross-cutting facilitator of progress, making it easier for businesses to sell, entrepreneurs and scientists to innovate, individuals to produce and governments to effectively regulate.

In summary, the adoption of a Positive Peace framework in this study was considered the most appropriate guiding theory because it provided a comprehensive and multidimensional approach to understanding peace and security in the SADC region. The framework recognises that peace is not just the absence of violence, and provides a useful tool for identifying the factors that contribute to peace and stability, as well as the challenges that must be overcome to build a more sustainable and positive peace.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The SADC region has experienced several conflicts that hinder the region's prospects of graduating from negative peace to positive peace. Thousands of people in the SADC region have suffered deaths and displacements as a result of armed conflict and other forms of violent conflicts. The most affected countries include the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mozambique, Lesotho, South Africa and Zimbabwe. While it is acknowledged that it is difficult to capture all instances of armed conflict and battle-related deaths, Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP), estimated that 7,310 people died due to armed conflicts in Southern Africa between 2010 and 2020. The actual number of deaths caused by armed conflicts in the region could be much higher than the reported figures. The 7.310 estimated figure was related to armed conflict and related violence in countries such as Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and the DRC. Additionally, the UCDP's. On the hand, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), reported that there were approximately 1.7 million refugees and asylum-seekers in the SADC region as of the end of 2020. Although this figure included refugees and asylum seekers from regions outside the SADC region, the majority were from within SADC region and figure was not including the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in SADC countries which were affected by conflicts. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) estimates that there were approximately 1.2 million IDPs in the SADC region in 2020. However, this figure only includes IDPs in a few countries, such as the DRC, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. In addition to the deaths, the displacement of people due to conflicts in the SADC region posed significant humanitarian and human security implications, including the loss of livelihoods, increased vulnerability, exposure and the spread of diseases. Looking at these figures, the need for positive peace and human security in the SADC region cannot be overstated. Bringing positive peace in the SADC region requires comprehensive approaches that promote human security.

There is a growing body of literature suggesting that positive peace can play an important role in promoting human security, sustainable development and social cohesion in Africa, a continent characterised by enduring violent conflicts. The SADC is not immune to these violent conflicts. Some of the persisting conflicts in

the SADC region occur in Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Zimbabwe and Lesotho. According to Muggah & Aguirre (2021), Mozambique's northern province of Cabo Delgado has been experiencing an insurgency since 2017 (Vhumbunu, 2021). This insurgency, led by a group known as Ahlu Sunnah Wa-Jamo, has been responsible for numerous attacks on civilians, government forces and infrastructure, resulting in widespread displacement and humanitarian crisis. The eastern part of the DRC has been experiencing conflict for decades, involving various armed groups and government forces. The conflict has been fuelled by competition over natural resources, ethnic tensions and political instability (Human Rights Watch, 2021). Lesotho has also been experiencing political instability and violence, including the assassination of the army commander in 2017 and the killing of the wife of the former prime minister in 2020. The violence is linked to a power struggle between different factions of the ruling party. Eswatini has had a long running conflict led by the anti-monarchy campaigners. These anti monarchy campaigners seek to abolish the Mswati monarchy. Amnesty International (2019) reported that Zimbabwe experienced periodic outbreaks of political violence and human rights abuses, including the killing of protesters by security forces in 2018 following disputed election outcomes. All the mentioned conflicts can be attributed to the affected states' attempt to enforce negative peace which however, invariably excludes the majority from resources that promote their well-being.

The conflicts cited above and many others occurring in the region, indicate that while SADC enjoys relative peace, such tranquility is what Galtung & Correlie (2021), describes as negative peace, which always tend to relapse into violent conflict. The SADC can play a critical role in promoting positive peace in the region by addressing the root causes of conflict. Several scholars have highlighted the importance of positive peace in the SADC region. For example, Othman and Mulugeta (2018) argue that positive peace is crucial for promoting economic growth, social inclusion and human security in the region. They suggest that positive peace can be achieved through policies and programs aimed at promoting social justice, equality and human rights among other aspects of human security. This argument on the importance of positive peace in the SADC region is based on the fact that the region faces numerous challenges that hinder the achievement of sustainable development. The challenges include poverty, inequality, social exclusion, all leading to conflict and human insecurity. Extent literature (Zishiri, 2022; Shank & Bashir, 2021; & Weble & Galtung, 2021) suggest that addressing these challenges requires an integrated and comprehensive approach that promotes economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection while ensuring human security.

Obadare (2020) highlighted that Africa is facing a range of challenges that hinder the achievement of positive peace, human security and sustainable development. His study attributed poverty, inequality, and social exclusion as some of the underlying causes of conflict in Africa. Studies have also shown that these challenges can only be addressed if regions adopt comprehensive and integrated approaches that promotes the attainment of positive peace, social inclusion and equality while ensuring human security. The interconnected concepts of human security, positive peace, and sustainable development share a common goal of promoting the well-being and security of individuals and communities, and are important for Africa in general and SADC in particular. Recent studies (Lantieri & Haper, 2020; Shank & Bashir, 2021; & Weble & Galtung, 2021) have shown that by providing individuals with access to basic needs such as food, shelter, healthcare, and education, human security can help to reduce poverty and inequality and promote social inclusion, resulting in positive peace.

Building strong and peaceful relationships between individuals and communities, positive peace can help the SADC region to create a more stable and secure environment for sustainable development. A study by Muzondidya & Nkomo (2020) used a qualitative approach to explore the role of SADC in promoting peace and security in Zimbabwe. The study found that SADC can play a critical role in promoting peace and security by facilitating dialogue, providing technical assistance and monitoring the implementation of peace agreements among many other peacebuilding initiatives. Given that Zimbabwe is highly polarised along political dispositions, the need for cultivating positive peace cannot be overstated if the country is to overcome the recurrence of violence during every election season (Amnesty International , 2019; & Othan & Mulugeta, 2018). According to literature, such a positive peace environment is achievable through peacebuilding interventions that play a critical role in promoting not only human security but also sustainable development and social cohesion for lasting peace and security in Zimbabwe. This view was confirmed by Makamure & Chakunda (2020) in their study which used a mixed-methods approach to explore the role of civil society in promoting peace and social cohesion in Zimbabwe. They found that civil society organisations can play a critical role in promoting positive peace by engaging in dialogue, fostering social cohesion and advocating for human rights. In this role, civil society could act as the watchdog to raise alarm when states become perverted and a threat to the security its citizens under the guise of protecting the security of the state. What is apparent is that a new focus on positive peace can help the SADC, in collaboration with civil society, to attain human security in the region. Robust, resilient and integrated human-centric security approaches are needed if prospects for positive peace in the SADC are to be realised.

The reviewed empirical studies show that SADC was still glued on providing state security while overlooking the underlying causes of human insecurity. Sustainable development is crucial for Africa as it aims to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, while promoting economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection. Sustainable development is better achieved in an environment characterised by positive peace, which provides for reduced likelihood of conflict and violence.

METHODOLOGY

The study used a qualitative research approach due to the subjective and contested nature of peace and security. A qualitative methodology was adopted because it embraced multiple realities and contextual validity required in this study. In-depth interviews were used to gather rich data from participants, and the researcher was aware of the potential biases and used triangulation and member checking to mitigate them. Qualitative methods were considered appropriate for the study due to the physical and psychological dimensions of peace and security and the importance of understanding people's experiences and perceptions. The study used an exploratory research design, a design that enabled this study to maximise the discovery of generalisations leading to a description and understanding of a problem being investigated. The exploratory design was chosen due to the complex nature of the problem being investigated, which required flexibility and the development of grounded theory. The purpose of the study was to produce inductively derived generalisations about the phenomenon under investigation, and to proffer alternative approaches that could enhance the effectiveness of SADC and other RECs in maintaining peace and security in their regions.

The target population of the study was academics and security experts in Harare who were knowledgeable about peace, conflict, and regionalism. The sample frame included security organisations from Defence Forces and Peace related institutions from the SADC region. Purposive sampling was used to select 30 participants based on their suitability and availability to provide relevant data. The sample size was determined based on the principle of data saturation. The study used both primary and secondary data collection methods. Interviews were used to collect primary data from key informants who provided insight into the reality of SADC's prospects of bringing positive peace in the region. Open-ended questions enabled the study to unpack the reasons why SADC had challenges transitioning from negative to positive peace. Secondary data were collected from journal articles, books, documents from AU, RECs and reports written by agencies promoting peace and security in Africa and beyond. The use of both primary and secondary data provided a balanced analysis of the studied phenomenon, with the documentary analysis being the most inexpensive method of collecting large amounts of information about the phenomenon. The use of two data collection methods was designed to offset weaknesses of one method by the strengths of another, in a complementary way. The study also addressed concerns of bias through member checking, peer reviews, and constant supervision by a seasoned supervisor.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The SADC's focus on traditional notions of security has been identified as a significant hindering factor to the region's prospects of attaining positive peace. The region's state-centric approach to security emphasises the protection of state sovereignty and territorial integrity, often at the expense of human security. As a result, conflicts in the region have proven difficult to resolve, and SADC's peace and security mechanism has been inadequate to the task. This problem has rendered SADC a community of insecurity due to its inability to end conflicts in the region.

Various other factors undermine SADC's prospects of attaining positive peace. Some of the key factors include structural inequality, political instability, and high rate of unemployment, corruption, external interference and spilling regional conflicts (Olasya, 2022; & Sambo, 2022). Structural inequality is a significant factor that sustain conflict in the SADC region. Structural inequality refers to a situation where some groups within society have unequal access to resources, opportunities, and power, leading to social and economic disparities (Munyaradzi & Mubava, 2018). In the SADC region, structural inequality is often rooted in historical factors such as colonialism and apartheid, which created a legacy of inequality and marginalisation. The same status quo has been maintained and remain perpetuated by SADC's political leadership, who have morphed to become the new elites. Structural inequality leads to political exclusion and marginalisation, where certain groups are excluded from the political process and decision-making. This creates a sense of frustration and anger among marginalised groups, leading to social unrest and political violence.

Lack of representation of certain groups in political institutions and processes also creates a sense of alienation and mistrust, leading to conflict. In the SADC regions, structural inequality is glaring in the SADC regions and it reinforces social divisions based on ethnicity, race and religion, which also contribute to conflict. These divisions are often exploited by political leaders to mobilise support and gain power, leading to identity-based conflicts. Thus, structural factors create a fertile ground for conflict and make it difficult for SADC to achieve positive peace. This study argues that addressing structural inequality requires a comprehensive approach that involves addressing historical legacies, promoting equitable distribution of resources, and ensuring political representation and inclusion of all groups in decision-making processes.

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Such an approach will enable SADC to transform its negative peace potential into positive peace.

Countries in the SADC region have a history of focusing on state-security while overlooking factors that undermine human security. Traditionally, SADC member's states prioritise state security, which refers to the protection of their territorial integrity, political sovereignty and national interests (Göran, 2004). Focus on state security often comes at the expense of human security, which refers to the protection of individuals and communities from threats to their physical safety, livelihoods and basic rights. The imbalance in priorities has hindered the development of positive peace in SADC region. Countries that prioritise state security over human security, use repressive measures such as censorship, surveillance and the suppression of dissenting voices to maintain control and stability, resulting in negative peace. In the long-term however, negative peace leads to violent conflicts as it undermines trust between the state and its citizens, resulting in human insecurity. The neglect of human security can exacerbate existing social and economic inequalities, as marginalised groups such as women, youth, and rural communities are disproportionately affected by insecurity and violence. This can contribute to further conflict and instability, and hinder efforts to build a more peaceful and prosperous region. To address these challenges and increase prospects of positive peace in the region, it is important for SADC states to adopt contemporary and more holistic approaches to security that promote human security. This includes investing in social programs that promote education, health, and equal economic opportunities, as well as strengthening institutions that protect human rights and promote the rule of law. By prioritising human security alongside state security, SADC states can build a more inclusive and sustainable peace that benefits all members of society.

The study found that political instability affecting conflict prone countries in the SADC region, are rooted in weak institutions, bad governance, lack of democratic institutions and elite corruption among other injustices. A look at these shows that they are interrelated as weak institutions fuel bad governance and undemocratic processes while aiding corruption. Whereas most SADC countries have constitutions that provide for separation of powers through independent institutions, a closer look at them shows a conflation of party politics and state business. These aspects undermine efforts to promote positive peace in SADC region. These factors create a climate of mistrust and make it difficult to address the root causes of conflict. Political instability in the SADC region is having a significant negative impact on human security, positive peace, and sustainable development. One of the main ways that political instability affects human security is through the breakdown of law and order and the increase in violence, mainly perpetrated by state actors to protect their personal agendas. Political instability often leads to weak governance and the erosion of state authority, which creates a vacuum that is often filled by criminal groups that are aligned to political elites and armed militias. This, in turn, leads to increased violence, insecurity, and human rights abuses, which negatively affect human security.

Political instability also undermines positive peace by creating conditions that hinder amicable resolution of conflicts and the establishment of sustainable peace. This is often because political instability stems from lack of political will and capacity to address existing conflicts, and can also lead to the emergence of new conflicts. Furthermore, political instability negatively impacts sustainable development by creating a challenging environment for economic growth and development. Instability often leads to a decline in investment, trade, and other economic activities, which negatively affects economic growth and development. This, in turn, leads to increased poverty and inequality and undermine sustainable development. Political instability also erodes social cohesion and trust, which negatively affects sustainable development. Instability creates conditions of fear, uncertainty, and mistrust, which make it difficult for communities to work together towards common goals. This, in turn, hinders the establishment of a stable and prosperous society, resulting in human insecurity. It was apparent therefore, that political instability in the SADC region was having a significant negative impact on human security, positive peace, and sustainable development. Addressing political instability in the SADC region requires a comprehensive approach that involves addressing the underlying causes of instability, promoting good governance, strengthening institutions, and promoting inclusive political processes.

The study also found that external interference from foreign powers was exacerbating conflicts in the SADC, making it difficult for the region to achieve positive peace. This interference was in numerous forms including military interventions through proxies, economic sanctions and direct political pressure from superpowers. Given the limited financial resources that characterised the majority of SADC member's states, it was apparent that in their bid to conform to the prescriptions and demands imposed by external powers, their efforts to promote positive peace are constrained. External interference was making it difficult for SADC countries to implement home grown peacebuilding programs and sustain them over the long term. External interference was also destabilising the region as conflict in one country spilled over into neighbouring countries, creating regional crisis. Spillover conflicts refer to the extension of conflict beyond national borders, often leading to the spillage of violence, instability and insecurity into neighbouring countries and regions. For example, the insurgency in Mozambique were spilling over to countries such as Tanzania and Malawi while the

DRC conflict was spilling over to its neighbouring countries within the Greatlakes region. The political instability and economic crisis in Zimbabwe have spilled over into neighbouring countries, particularly South Africa, through increased migration flows. These spillovers were making it difficult for SADC to achieve positive peace and ensure human security. Spillover conflicts affect human security through the displacement of people who are forced to flee their homes and seek refuge in neighbouring countries. This, in turn, leads to overcrowding, inadequate living conditions, and a lack of access to basic services, negatively affecting human security. Spillover also undermines positive peace by creating conditions that hinder the resolution of conflicts and the establishment of peacebuilding initiatives. Furthermore, the spread of violent conflict and instability can also lead to the emergence of new conflicts. Thus, spillover conflicts posed significant negative impact on human security, positive peace, and sustainable development in the SADC region. This study argues that the problem of spillover conflicts can be mitigated by addressing the underlying causes of conflict, promoting good governance, strengthening institutions and instituting peacebuilding intervention programs to transform negative peace to positive peace.

The study found that regional liberation solidarity has led to the development of a static peace structure which focuses on the traditional security discourse. The liberation movements in SADC notably ZANU PF, FRELIMO in Mozambique, ANC in South Africa and MPLA in Angola have formed their own regional liberation grouping which views any dissenting voice with suspicion. They are still inclined to the Marxist grandiloquence which promotes the supremacy of one-party systems. The analysis shows that there is a conflation between the state and security sectors in SADC. This has created problems towards the attainment of positive peace as these institutions are deeply embedded in state politics. In Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique the security systems are clearly partisan and aligned to liberation parties, who are the majority ruling parties in the SADC region. Conflation of politics

and security organs have often resulted in violence perpetrated under the guise of repelling regime change agendas every time liberation parties in the region face the risk of losing elections. To achieve positive peace, there is need to do away with predatory politics as seen in most security cantered countries in SADC.

In sum, the discussion highlights various factors that hinder SADC's prospects of achieving positive peace in the region. The region's focus on traditional notions of security is the major challenge inhibiting SADC's prospects of achieving positive peace and human security in the region. SADC's state-centric approach to security prioritises state security over human security, leading to negative peace and violent conflicts. Lack of positive peace and human security in SADC, were producing structural inequality and nurturing conditions that attract external interference from foreign powers, and this was causing political instability in the region. Structural inequality and political exclusion exacerbate existing social and economic disparities and creating a fertile ground for conflict. Political instability and weak governance often lead to violence, insecurity, and human rights abuses, negatively affecting human security and sustainable development in the SADC region. External interference from foreign powers in the form of military interventions, economic sanctions, and political pressure exacerbate conflicts, making it difficult for SADC countries to implement home-grown peacebuilding programs and sustain them over the long term. Spillover conflicts further destabilise the region, negatively affecting human security, positive peace, and sustainable development. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach that involves promoting good governance, strengthening institutions, and promoting inclusive political processes.

Based on the key findings, this study proffered a security framework that SADC can use to transition from its traditional notion of security which is state-centric to human-centric security, whose focus is on attainment of positive peace. Figure 1 shows the proposed framework.
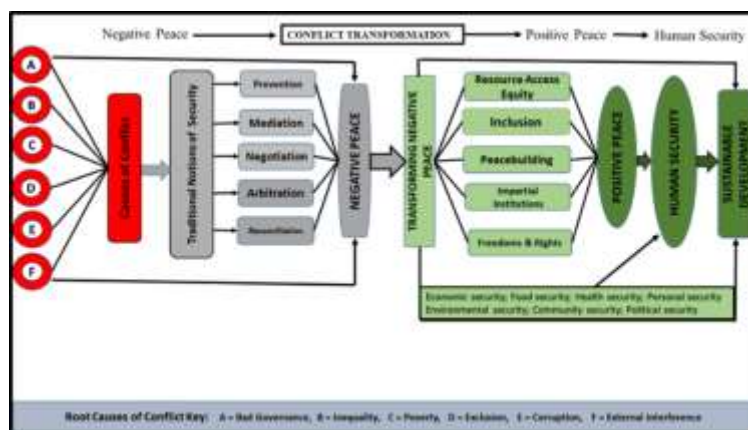

Figure 1: Positive Peace Framework
Source: Zishiri, 2023

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While the SADC enjoys negative peace as characterised by the security of most its member states, the region faces challenges that hinder the achievement of positive peace. For example, there are still conflicts and violence in some parts of the region, which undermine efforts towards achieving positive peace. Issues related to poverty, inequality and social exclusion need to be addressed to promote social justice and equality. Figure 1 shows an integrated approach that SADC can use to address the root causes of conflict, and promote positive peace in the region. This approach creates conditions for the realisation of sustainable development, leading to the attainment of human security. By addressing the root causes of insecurity and promoting the well-being and security of individuals and communities in a holistic and integrated manner, SADC can overcome its security challenges and achieve positive peace, human security, and sustainable development.

In recent years, the SADC has made efforts to resolve conflicts through peaceful means, such as negotiations and mediation. However, these exertions have produced negative peace, with some resolved conflicts recurring while new ones emerge. Such problems can be addressed if SADC pays particular attention on issues around focusing on resource access equity, inclusion and peacebuilding. Upholding institutional impartiality and prioritisation of freedoms and rights of its citizens are vital for transitioning from negative peace to positive peace as indicated in Figure 1. These aspects are overlooked in SADC's state-centric notion of security, yet scholars have identified t6hem as vital in transforming negative peace to positive peace.

Findings from recent studies (Caballero-Anthony & Emmers, 2022; Muggah & Aguirre, 2021; Lantieri & Haper, 2020; Weble & Galtung, 2021; & Weble & Galtung, 2021) have shown that positive peace can build human security and a sustainable environment in various ways. Firstly, positive peace can reduce violence and conflicts in the region, promoting human security. SADC can engage in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts to address the root causes of conflicts and promote peaceful coexistence among member states. This will create an environment conducive to sustainable development and ensure that the basic needs of people are met. Secondly, positive peace promotes good governance, which is crucial to achieving sustainable development and human security. SADC can work with its member states to promote transparency, accountability, and the rule of law. This will reduce corruption, promote social justice and ensure that the benefits of economic growth are shared equitably among citizens. Thirdly, positive peace supports sustainable development by promoting economic growth that is inclusive and environmentally sustainable, resulting in the realisation of the aspired SDGs. Lastly, positive peace strengthens regional cooperation among SADC member states, promoting peace, security, and stability in the region. Overall, positive peace can help SADC build human security and a sustainable environment by promoting conflict transformation, focusing on resolution and peacebuilding, good governance, sustainable development, and regional cooperation.

CONCLUSION

This study argued that it is essential for the SADC region to achieve positive peace because it is the foundation for sustainable development, social justice, and human security. It requires addressing issues such as political stability, economic development, and social cohesion. Achieving positive peace in the SADC region will ensure that the citizens of member states can live in a secure and stable environment where their basic needs are met, and their human rights are protected. This, in turn, will promote economic growth, trade, and investment, leading to sustainable development. Positive peace also fosters social cohesion and unity, enabling communities to work together towards common goals, which strengthens democracy and promotes good governance. A peaceful SADC region will also be able to address challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, and health pandemics, which require cooperation and collaboration among member states. Hence, achieving positive peace is essential for the SADC region's prosperity and its citizens' well-being.

Recommendations
Based on the study findings, the following recommendations are made to SADC towards achieving positive peace:
- SADC member states should adopt the suggested integrated positive peace approach at Figure 1, to address the root causes of conflict, which includes focusing on resource access equity, inclusion and peacebuilding.
- SADC should prioritise institutional impartiality and prioritise freedoms and rights of citizens in all its member countries.
- SADC should work with its member states to promote good governance by promoting transparency, accountability and the rule of law. This will reduce corruption, promote social justice and ensure that the benefits of economic growth are shared equitably among citizens.
- SADC should focus on sustainable development by promoting economic growth that is inclusive and environmentally sustainable, resulting in the realisation of the aspired SDGs.
- SADC should prioritise social cohesion and unity by enabling communities to work together towards common goals, which strengthens democracy and promotes good governance.
- SADC should prioritise the protection of human rights and the promotion of the well-being and security of individuals and communities in a holistic and integrated manner.

- SADC should work with Civil Society movements to get firsthand information on security and insecurity in its member states.
- SADC should empower the SADC tribunal as a court of resort for citizens within member states.
- The SADC Organ on Politics and Defense must be reformed to ensure that its existence is to protect citizens and not ruling parties.

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