



Somalia Protection Monitoring System
South Central and Puntland - Summary of Findings
August to October 2020

In August, September and October 2020, the [Somalia Protection Monitoring System](#) partners interviewed **2210** key informants (KIs) across 25 districts of Somalia. This report highlights the most prevalent protection concerns reported by the KIs.

Key highlights and observations

- **Access to both formal and informal justice:** Lack of access to fair compensation and an equitable justice system is one of the most prevalent protection concerns identified by SPMS protection monitors. Key Informants (KIs) have indicated that IDPs, adult women, adolescent girls (12-17) and marginalized groups¹ do not have access to both the formal and informal justice mechanism, including the dispute resolution mechanism (ADR). Somalis continue to use alternative dispute mechanisms because they are accessible and low in cost. Additionally, it is reported that ADR are often better placed to respond to the immediate justice needs of the community. Despite the acceptance and accessibility, women and other vulnerable groups are unable to access such services.
- **Physical assault and Rape:** KIs reported that physical assault and rape cases were the two most prevalent protection concerns that received no access to fair compensation, formal justice, and had no access to alternative dispute resolution mechanisms (ADR).

KEY FINDINGS

PROTECTION CONCERN TRENDS

Child marriage remains the most prevalent protection concern reported. KIs reported family separation as the second-highest protection concerns in the last three months.

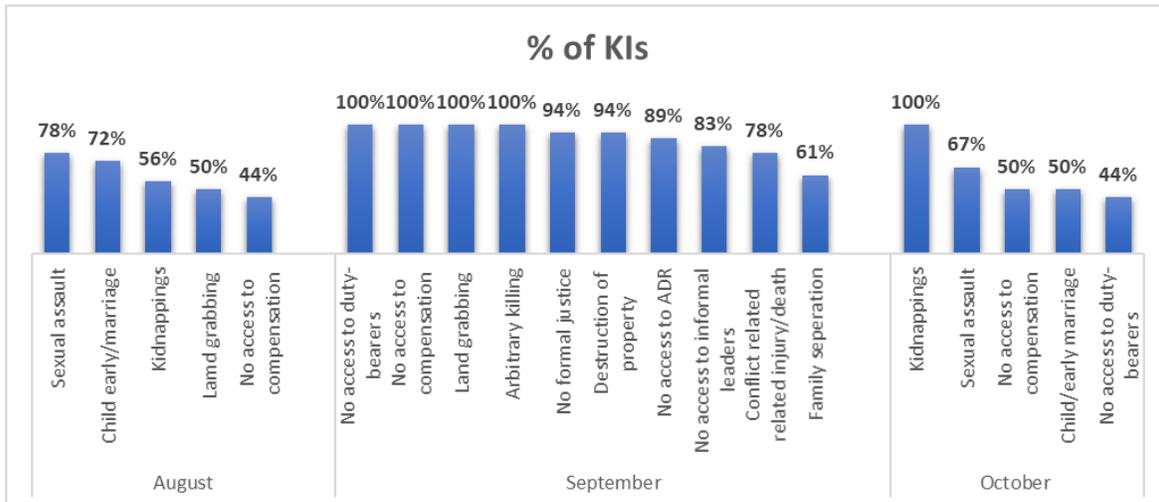
There was a notable increase in the number of KIs reporting lack of access to duty-bearers (26% in August, 29% in September, and 30% in October). The most affected groups being adult women, IDPs, and adolescent girls (12-17). The most common obstacles reported by KIs, as to why the community does not have access to duty-bearers, was due to intimidation, request to pay a bribe, and access denied due to their social background. It is important to note that adult women, IDPs, and adolescent girls (12-17) also do not have access to fair compensation.

Sexual assault is reported as one of the top six protection concerns identified. KIs reported that most affected groups included adolescent girls (12-17), adult women, and IDPs, followed by persons with disabilities. Land grabbing, destruction of property, and no access to informal leaders were protection concerns that we reported mostly in October.

¹ Glossary of terms included in Annex

PROTECTION KEY HIGHLIGHTS PER DISTRICT

Bay region: Baidoa district



In September, access to justice, both formal and informal was reported as one of the most prevalent protection concerns in Baidoa district. The most affected groups include marginalized groups, host community members, and IDPs.

Protection concerns that typically do not receive access to justice includes: rape, physical abuse, divorce, and HLP. Across the different types of justice systems in Somalia, we have noted that the same protection concerns are denied access to justice due to lack of money, intimidation, and social background. For example, in September, 83% of KIs reported that HLP cases did not have access to fair compensation.

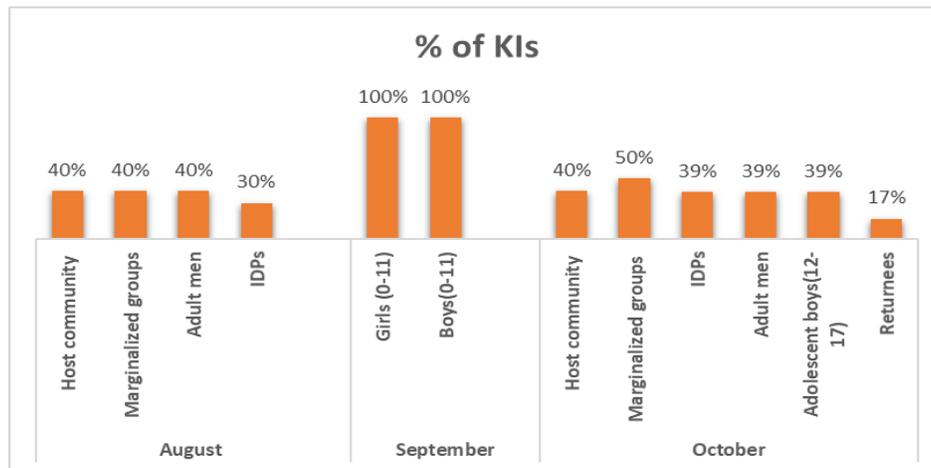
Destruction of property: 94% of KIs reported incidents of property destruction in September. The top three reasons for destruction of property were due to forced evictions, flooding, and villages attacks. Host community, IDPs, and marginalized groups identified as the most affected groups in Baidoa.

In August and October, KIs reported an increase in **sexual assault** cases in Baidoa. 78% of KIs reported sexual assault cases happening in their settlement or village, the highest number recorded since May (100% of KIs). The most affected groups being IDPs, marginalized groups, and returnees. Important to note that in October, 25% of KIs reported boys (0-11) years old being the most affected groups.

Coping strategy: KIs reported that the community reaches out to NGOs, health facilities, psycho-social support services or local authorities for support.

Kidnappings: In August and October, KIs reported high cases of kidnappings in Baidoa. In September, KIs reported that girls and boys (0-11 years old) were the most affected groups. In October, only 39% of KIs reported adolescent boys (12-17 years old) being affected. As a coping strategy, the community will reach out to local authorities for support, move to another location, or engage in negotiations with the kidnapers.

Groups affected: Kidnappings



Bakool region: Dinsoor, Waajid and Xudur District

Protection monitors conducted a total of 414 interviews. Protection trends in Bakool region have stayed the same for the past three months. The below table highlights the overall protection trend in Bakool region:

Dinsoor district: Sexual assault cases were the most prevalent protection concern reported by KIs in the last three months. Most affected groups included persons with disabilities, IDP, adolescent girls (12-17 years old), adult women, and 43% of KIs in August reported older women (60+) being affected. The above-identified groups were also reported not having access to informal or formal justice mechanisms.

- **Top three community strategies:** (1) reporting the incident to NGOs or health facilities; (2) reporting to traditional leaders; and (3) reporting to local authorities.

Extortion/abuse assistance: KIs reported the affected community members were either forced to share the assistance received or pay money to be included on the beneficiary list. To respond to the protection concern, KIs reported that NGOs will register people initially left out or organize a community meeting to discuss the issue. KIs reported that the most affected groups included IDPs, adult women, adolescent girls (12-17 years old), and persons with disabilities.

Exclusion from assistance: KIs reported that the most affected groups included persons with disabilities, marginalized groups, IDPs, adult women, and adolescent girls (12-17 years old). KIs reported that the following services were denied: access to NFI distribution; access to latrines; cash for work; access to water.

KIs reported access was denied due to the following reasons: (1) access denied by community leaders based on social background and age; (2) access denied by gatekeepers based on gender and social background.



Waajid district: Top protection concerns reported by KIs included the destruction of property, ill-treatment², and lack of access to compensation. KIs reported an upward trend in the destruction of property, especially in September and October. The top three reasons for destruction was due to natural disasters, accidental fires, and forced evictions. KIs also reported an upward trend in ill-treatment in Waajid more than Dinsoor and Xudur. Most affected groups included persons with disabilities, adult women, and adolescent girls (12-17 years old).

Xudur district: Overall in Xudur KIs reported lack of access to justice both formal and informal, family separation, ill treatment, child recruitment and sexual assault as the most prevalent protection concerns in the district.

Family separation: KIs reported apart from lack of means to supporting family members as a leading cause to family separation, they also reported that another reason for separation was due to forced recruitment, forced evictions, kidnapping, armed clashes, and maiming.

Banadir Region: Dayniile, Dharkenley, Khada, Wadajir, Waberi and Wardiigle

Protection monitors conducted 568 interviews. The below table highlights the overall protection concerns in Banadir as reported by the KIs:

% of KIs			
Type of protection concern	August	September	October
Child marriage	59%	52%	61%
Family separation	23%	19%	22%
Ill treated	20%	15%	16%
No access to compensation	19%	12%	17%
Arbitrary killing	13%	16%	16%
Sexual assault	12%	12%	13%
Destruction of property			9%

Dayniile district: In September, KIs reported sexual assault as the second-highest protection concern. Violence during assistance and no access to justice were protection concerns reported in August.

Dharkenley district: A gradual increase in the number of KIs reported family separation incidents. In August, KIs reported forced evictions as a leading cause of family separation. 17% of KIs in October reported family separation was due to forced recruitment.

Khada district: An upward trend in the destruction of property and most of the KIs reported the reason being due to forced evictions and only 13% of KI in September indicated natural disasters as a cause to destruction of property.

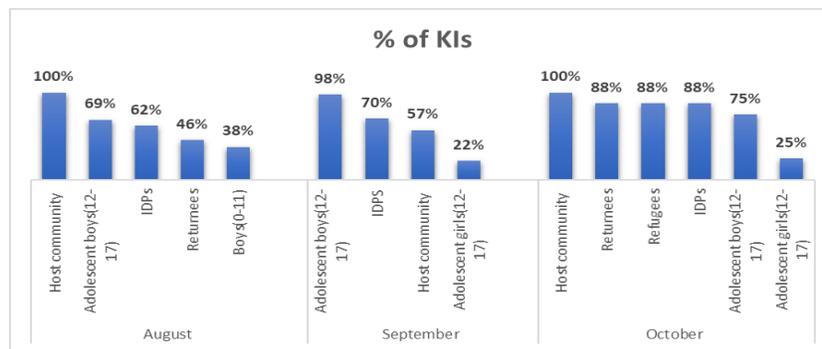
Waberi district: KIs reported exclusion from assistance, land grabbing, family separation, ill-treatment, and destruction of property as the top protection concerns. KIs only reported child recruitment incident in September as reported by 33% of KIs.

² Glossary of terms included in Annex

Gedo region: Belet-xaawo, Dollow and Luuq

Protection monitors conducted 262 interviews. Overall, in the Gedo region, the most prevalent protection concern reported is child marriage and child recruitment. It is important to note that we recorded high cases of child recruitment in September as reported by 54% of KIs as compared to what was reported in August (13%). KIs have also reported on conflict-related injuries and lack of access to duty-bearers. Belet-xaawo recorded the highest child recruitment incidents as reported by 80% KI in September. None of the KIs in Luuq reported any child recruitment incidents.

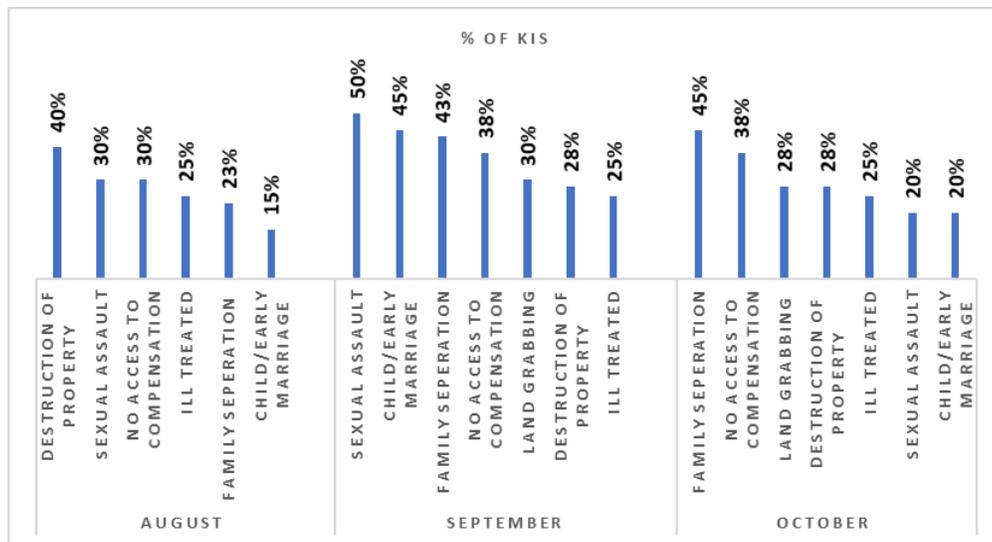
Below graph highlights the overall trend on child recruitment incidents reported by KIs in Belet-xaawo and Dollow.



Coping strategy: Most of the KIs reported that the community will request support from the authorities.

Hiraan region: Belet-weyne

Protection monitors conducted 120 interviews. The below graph highlights the different protection concerns reported by the KIs.





KIs in Beletweyne reported high incidents of sexual assault, family separation, and destruction of property. Land grabbing incidents were reported in September and October.

Sexual assault cases: In September, 50% of KIs reported incidents of sexual assault in their settlements. The top three most affected groups included women, adolescent girls (12-17 years old), and the host community. As a coping strategy, KIs reported that the survivors will report the incident to NGOs or health facilities; report the incident to traditional leaders, and report to the local authority.

A high percentage of KIs also reported that in most cases, the community will do nothing. For example, in October, 50% of KIs reported that the community will do nothing to address sexual assault cases. KIs also reported that rape survivors had no access to fair compensation and no access to formal justice. 40% KIs in August and 33% of KIs in September reported rape cases had no access to formal justice.

Reasons for lack of access: (1) no formal courts in the area; (2) 33% of KIs in September reported access was denied due to the gender of the survivor; (3) 17% of KIs in October reported that access was denied due to the age of the survivors.

Destruction of property: KIs reported properties in Beletweyne destroyed due to floods and other natural disasters. To cope, most of the community members moved out of the settlement, reach out to local authorities and local elders for support. Only 14% of KIs in August reported the community will request support from CSOs or NGOs.

Lower Juba: Kismayo district

Protection monitors conducted 425 interviews. Child marriage is consistently reported as one of the most prevalent protection concerns in Kismayo.

No access to duty-bearers was the second-highest protection concern reported. Most affected groups include returnees, IDPs, persons with disabilities, and refugees. As a coping strategy, KIs reported that community members will reach out to traditional/religious leaders and local authorities for support.

In October, there was an increase in **kidnapping** with 13% of KIs reporting the incidents as compared to, August where only 9% of KIs reported cases of kidnapping. To cope with the protection concern, most of the community members will request support from the authorities. KIs also reported that the community will also engage in negotiations with the kidnapers.

Lower Shabelle: Marka district

Protection monitors conducted a total of 116 interviews. Child recruitment, child marriage, and no access to formal justice and ill-treatment are consistently reported as the top four protection concern in Marka.

Child recruitment: Most affected groups were adolescent boys (12-17 years old), IDPs, and boys (0-11 years old). In October, only 10% of KIs reported adolescent girls (12-17 years old) were also affected. To cope with the protection concern, KIs reported that the community will reach out to traditional leaders for support. In October 100% of KIs reported that no action will be taken by the community.

No access to formal justice: KIs reported that the community had no access because of the lack of formal courts in the area and access was also denied due to social background. The top four cases that received



no access to formal justice include physical abuse cases, theft, HLP, and business disputes. Only 27% in August and 17% of KIs in September reported that rape cases received no access to formal justice. It was reported that the above incidents did not have access to fair compensation or alternative dispute resolution mechanisms (ADR). KIs reported that the affected community members will take no action to address the protection concern. Only 10% of KIs in August reported that the affected community members will move out of the settlement.

Middle Shabelle: Balcad district

Protection monitors conducted a total of 79 interviews. Access to justice, family separation, child recruitment and extortion/abuse of assistance were reported by KIs as protection concerns in Balcad.

Access to formal justice: reported as one of the protection concerns. The major reason why the community could not access formal justice was due to the lack of formal courts in the area. A small percentage of KIs in August and September reported that access was denied due to the social background. KIs reported the top four most affected groups include marginalized groups, IDPs, adolescent girls (12-17 years old), and adult women. Important to also note that the KIs reported that the same group mentioned above also had no access to informal leaders or alternative dispute resolutions mechanism (ADR). In September, 53% of KIs reported that older women (60+) had no access to ADR.

Family separation: reported as one of the most prevalent protection concerns in the district. Most KIs reported that family separation was happening because of a lack of means to support all family members. In September, 20% of KIs indicated that family separation happened due to forced evictions, and 20% of KIs in September reported that separation happened as a result of armed clashes.

Child recruitment: In August and September KIs reported that the recruiters were non-state armed actors and traditional leaders. The top 3 most affected groups include IDPs, marginalized groups, host community, and adolescent boys (12-17 years old). Only 21% of KIs in August reported adolescent girls (12-17) also affected. Most of the KIs reported that they are not aware of what the community did to address the protection concern. 18% of KIs in August and 27% of KIs in September reported that the community will request support from the authorities.

Puntland region (Bossaso, Gaalkacyo and Qardho district)

Protection monitors conducted a total of 128 interviews. The five most prevalent protection concerns reported by KIs included child marriage, family separation, sexual assault, no access to duty-bearers, destruction of property, and land grabbing.

Family separation: There was an increase in the number of KIs recalling on community members reporting incidents of family separation (56% in August, 100% in September, and 38% in October). Lack of means to support a family member was one of the highest reasons leading to family separation. The most affected groups being adult women, adolescent boys and girls (12-17 years old), and adult men. Most of the KIs reported that the family will look for the separated family member. In August, 100% of KIs reported that the community will do nothing to address the concern.

Sexual assault cases: In Puntland sexual assault cases were only reported in August (46%), and no KI reported any incidents reported in September and October. Most affected groups included adolescent girls (12-17 years old), adult women, and girls (0-11). To respond to the protection concern, KIs reported



that the community reported the incident to NGOs or health facilities, reported it to local traditional leaders and local authorities. KIs reported that rape cases had no access to formal courts, access to fair compensation, and alternative dispute resolutions mechanism (ADR).

Destruction of property: 90% of KIs in September reported the destruction of property incidents as compared to what was reported in August (33%) and October (28%). KIs reported the reason was due to accidental fire, village attack, and other forms of armed violence. Only 6% of KIs in August reported forced evictions as the reason for the destruction of property. The most affected groups are IDPs, adult women, adolescent boys and girls (12-17years old), and adult women (60+).

- **No access to duty-bearers:** In September, 85% of KIs reported communities reporting a lack of access to duty-bearers. KIs reported communities had no access due to the below obstacles: (1) intimidation; (2) fear of physical retaliation; (3) access denied due to age and community background; (4) requested to pay a bribe; (5) lack of money to travel to the local authorities.

Most affected groups included: IDPs, adolescent girls and boys (12-17 years old), adult women, and adult men. As a coping strategy the community request support from traditional/religious leaders or complain to CSOs and NGOs. reported

Land grabbing: KIs reported that all groups within the districts were affected and as a coping strategy, they will inform local authorities or engage in mediation. In August, 83% of KIs reported that the affected community members will move to another location as a coping strategy. HLP cases had no access to formal courts or alternative dispute resolution mechanisms (ADR).

CONCLUDING NOTES

The purpose of the Somalia Protection Monitoring System (SPMS) use the **systematic** and **regular collection** and **analysis of information** over an extended period of time to identify trends and patterns of violations of rights and protection risks for populations of concern for the purpose of informing effective programming and advocacy. The information is obtained through monthly interviews with the same group of key informants representing a variety of backgrounds and profiles in the community. Currently, the SPMS covers 24 districts across Somalia, including Banadir, and is supported by six protection cluster partners. To find more information on the protection situation in the specific districts, please visit www.protection.drchub.org

The information provided through the SPMS reflects solely the perspective of Key Informants and does not aim to provide statistically representative information or data about specific protection cases. Validation of findings is conducted periodically during area-level joint analysis workshops attended by community representatives, local authorities, civil society organizations and NGOs.



ANNEX: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- **Marginalized groups** – social groups that in a specific area/time/context do not enjoy equal political and social representation and cannot participate in community life, decision- making and accountability processes on equal terms with the dominant groups because of their gender, age, health status, disability or clan affiliation. Therefore, they are at a higher risk of discrimination, exclusion and abuse.
- **Ill-treatment** - inhumane, cruel or degrading treatment or punishment, severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.
- **Lack of access to a judiciary system** due to absence of reachable structures or discriminatory practice. Judiciary system understood as a formal process based on statutory law.
- **Denied access to an effective remedy / redress** - denied or unequal access to proportional compensation for the violation suffered either from state actors or private parties. Applicable to both cases settled by formal court and via alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms.
- **Denied access to voice complaints and concerns to duty-bearers** - denial of or lack of channels for rights holders (residents/citizen) to express complaints, concerns and needs to duty- bearers (local, state or federal authorities) due to discriminatory practice
- **Denied access to voice complaints and concerns to informal leaders** - denial of or lack of channels for rights holders (residents/citizen) to express complaints, concerns and needs to traditional or religious leaders especially in situation when those substitute formal authorities in securing access to rights.
- **Lack of access to alternative dispute resolution mechanisms** - Denied or unequal access to alternative dispute resolution mechanisms based on customary (xeer) or religious law (sharia) due to discriminatory practice. Should be applicable only to non-criminal cases.