



Somalia Protection Monitoring System
South Central and Puntland - Summary of Findings
July 2020 Highlights

In July 2020, the [Somalia Protection Monitoring System](#) partners interviewed 737 key informants (KIs) across 25 districts of Somalia. The report below will highlight the top key protection concerns reported by the KIs. Highlights for Somaliland are presented in a separate report.

Key highlights and observations

- **A concerning trend of extortion/abuse of assistance and exclusion from assistance was noted in July's findings.** It should be an active commitment by humanitarian actors and organizations to be accountable. This entails taking account **of**, giving account **to** and being held accountable **by** the communities we seek to assist. Measures to be taken, include but not limited to:
 - **Humanitarian actors to increase presence** in settlements **and improve monitoring** of aid delivery. This could be done by **mainstreaming monitoring of identified protection risks** into program monitoring process and post-post-distribution monitoring (PDM).
 - **Feedback and complaints mechanisms:** To be established/built upon and integrating wherever possible, feedback mechanisms to strengthen accountability and inform adjustments in the response, including safe reporting mechanisms on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). Ensure that staff are trained and know how to deal with the different types of feedback, including referrals for protection services and support.
 - Proactively **monitoring, recording, tracking protection concerns** and rights violations and strengthening already-existing mechanisms for reporting.
 - **Awareness/information** sharing especially when it comes to selection criteria, items that will be delivered and who to contact in case of challenges.
 - **Consulting, engaging** and working with all groups within affected communities to improve understanding of patterns of exclusion and marginalization; protection threats, vulnerabilities, coping capacities and priorities

KEY FINDINGS

PROTECTION CONCERN TRENDS

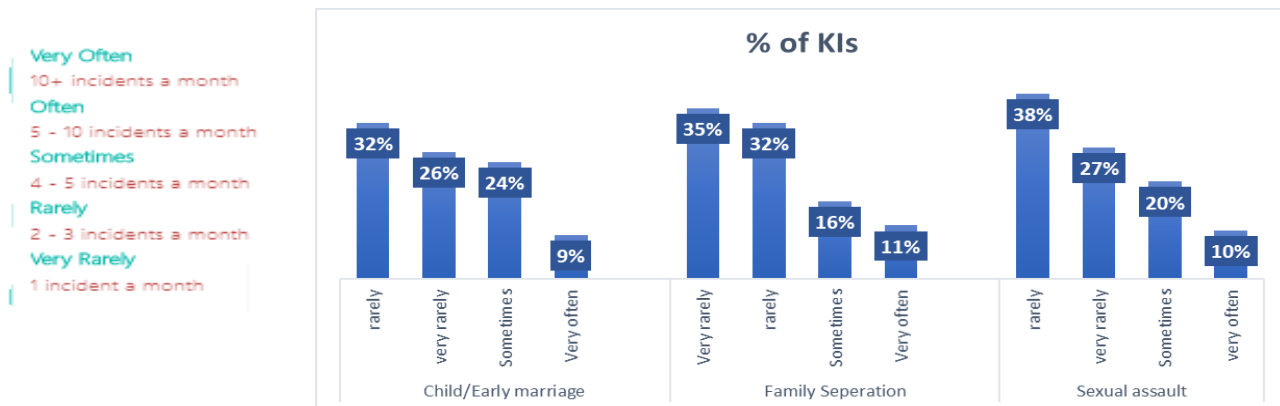
In July, not much change was noticed in protection concerns reported and % of KIs reporting the concerns have stayed the same. However, below are the top five (5) protection concerns reported across South Central and Puntland;

- Child/Early Marriage (70% of KIs)
- Family separation (33% of KIs)
- No access to duty-bearers (29% of KIs)
- No access to compensation (28% of KIs)
- Sexual assault (23% of KIs)



Prevalence of protection concerns from the perspective of the KIs how often did such situations occur in their settlement in the passing month.

Percentage (%), of KIs who recalled protection incidents or risks indicating its prevalence in their settlement in a specific month



PROTECTION KEY HIGHLIGHTS PER REGION

Banadir region

36 KIs were interviewed across the 11 districts. Below are the top six (6) protection concerns reported.

Type of protection concern	% of KIs
Child/Early marriage	61%
Family separation	30%
No access to compensation	21%
Destruction of property	20%
Sexual assault	14%
No access to ADR	14%

No access to compensation:

Overall as reported by KIs the below groups are the most affected in the community:

- Adult women (48%)
- IDPs (39%)
- Adolescent girls (33%)
- Marginalized groups (14%)
- Persons with disabilities (14%)

The most prevalent protection concerns that did not receive compensation as recalled by KIs included physical abuse cases and rape cases. It is also important to mention that the same protection concerns had no access to alternative dispute resolution mechanisms (ADR). Only 7% of KIs recalled HLP cases having no access to ADR.



We also see the same trend when it comes to access to formal justice. The below tables highlight the type of protection concerns that received no access to compensation and reasons why access was not possible, as reported by KIs.

Type of cases	% of KIs
Physical abuse	55%
Rape cases	41%
HLP	11%

Reasons	% of KIs
No formal courts	37%
Denied due to social background	31%
Denied due to gender	17%

Coping strategy: 60% of KIs reported the community uses ADR when they have no access to compensation. 22% of KI also indicated that the community takes no action.

Bakool region (Wajid & Xudur districts)

Protection monitors conducted 137 interviews in the two (2) districts. Below are the most common protection concerns reported by the KIs in the Bakool region.

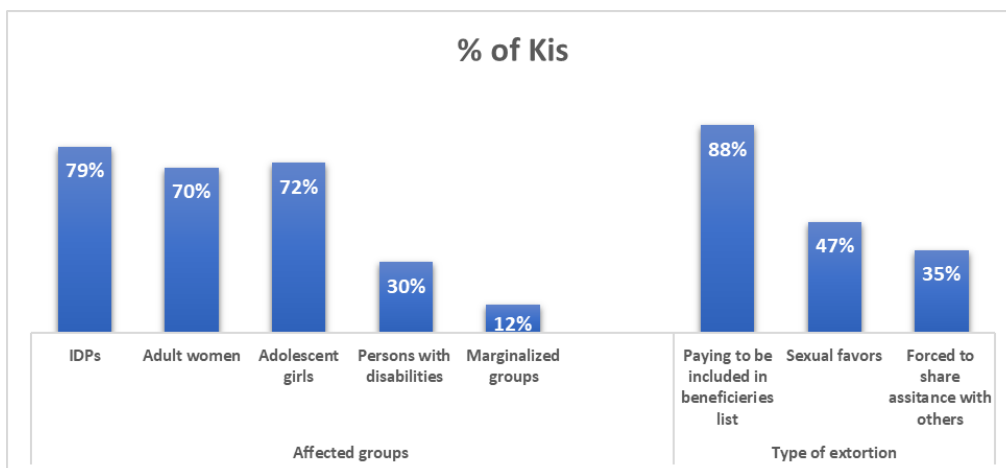
- Family separation (72%)
- Sexual assault (50%)
- Extortion/abuse of assistance (42%)
- Exclusion from assistance (40%)

Access to both **formal** and **informal justice systems** remains one of the most prevalent protection concerns reported by the KIs.

Sexual assault: In May the SPMS recorded the highest cases with 74% of KIs recalling sexual assault cases.

No cases around child recruitment was reported by any of the KIs.

Extortion/Abuse of Assistance



Action taken by NGOs:

- Organize meeting with the community to discuss the issue (65% of KIs)
- Register people initially left out (44% of KIs)

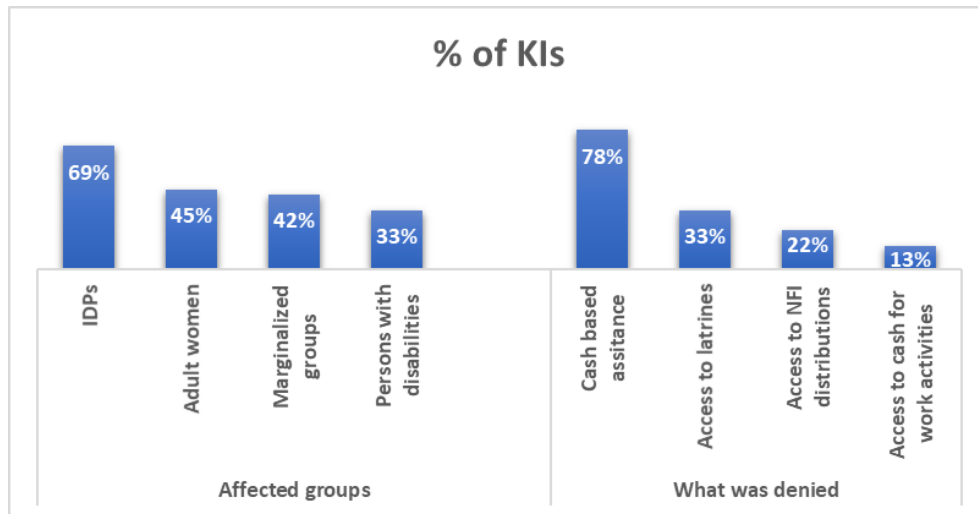


- Engage community committees (14% of KIs)

Community coping strategies:

- Submit a complaint to CSOs or NGOs (67% of KIs)
- Request support from authorities (44% of KIs)
- Request support from traditional leaders (35% of KIs)
- Request support from religious leaders (26% of KIs)

Exclusion from Assistance



The below table outlines the reasons reported as to why access was denied

Reasons	% of KIs
Discrimination by community elders based on social background	43%
Discrimination by gatekeepers based on social background	36%
Discrimination by community elders based on age	32%
Discrimination by gatekeepers based on gender	11%

Actions taken by NGOs:

- Organize meeting with the community to discuss the issue (69% of KIs)
- Register people initially left out (36% of KIs)
- Engage community committees (16% of KIs)

Important to note that even though traditional leaders prevented some community members from accessing assistance, the KIs reported that the community still reaches out to elders for support.



Hiraan region (Belet-weyne district)

Protection monitors conducted 29 interviews in Beledweyne district. Below are a few of the protection concerns the KIs reported:

- Sexual assault (38% of KIs)
- Family separation (34% of KIs)
- No access to compensation (31% of KIs)
- Kidnappings (24% of KIs)

Sexual assault: KIs reported that adult women and adolescent girls (12-17 years old) are the most affected by the protection concern.

- Adult women (91% of KIs)
- adolescent girls (55% of KIs)

Coping strategies: % of KIs who indicated particular coping strategy in relation to the protection concern.

- Nothing (73% of KIs)
- Prosecution of the perpetrator by the police (9% of KIs)
- Report to traditional leaders (9% of KIs)
- Mediation using community structures (9% of KIs)

Kidnappings: KIs reported that adult women, adolescent girls and adult men being most affected groups.

Coping strategies: 80% of the KIs have reported that they do not know the coping strategy and only 20% of KIs recalled that the community would request help from authorities.

Lower Shabelle region (Marka district)

Protection monitors conducted a total of 40 interviews in Marka. Below are the protection concerns reported by the KIs:

- Child recruitment (85% of KIs)
- Child Marriage (87% of KIs)
- No access to compensation (31% of KIs)
- No formal justice (36% of KIs)

Child Recruitment

Most affected groups: 88% of KIs reported that all groups are affected, 9% recalled adolescent boys (12-17yrs old), and 9% of KIs reported refugee returnees from Kenya and Djibouti being affected. On the question of how often the protection incident occurs (prevalence), 33 % of KIs recalled that it often happens in their settlement or village.

Recruiters as reported by KIs:

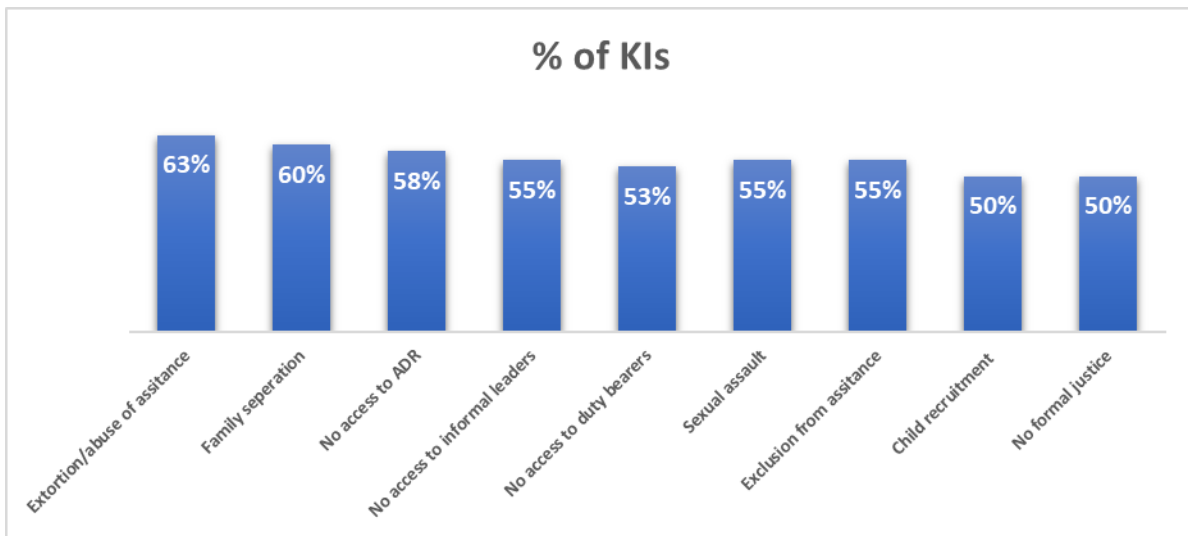
- State armed actors (91% of KIs)
- Non-state armed forces (24% of KIs)

Coping strategies:

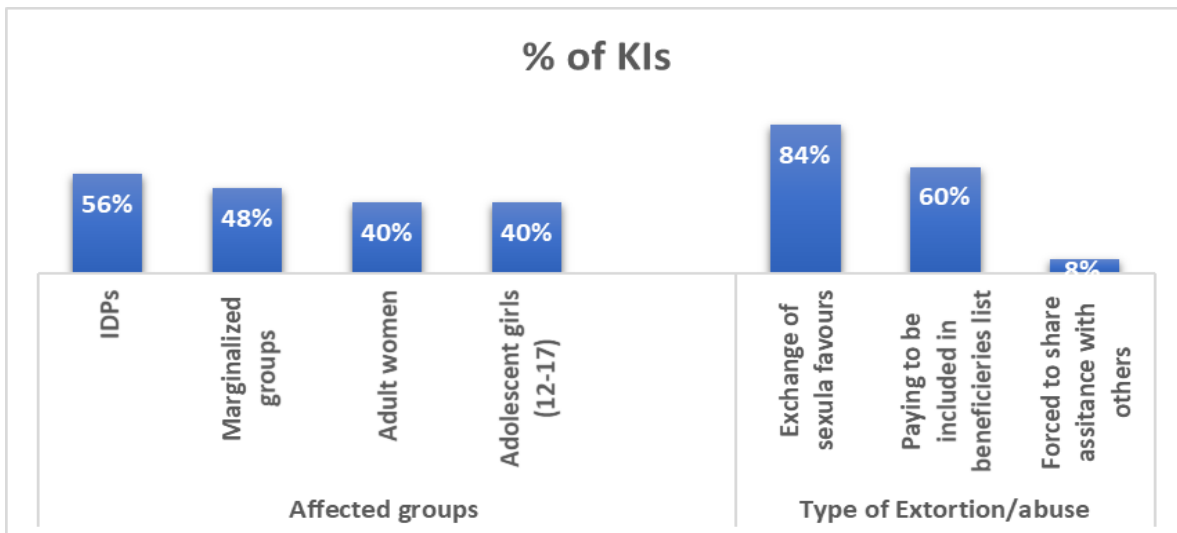
- Engage in negotiations (61% of KIs)
- Engage CSOs in advocacy (18% of KIs)
- Ask NGOs for assistance (18% of KIs)
- Request support from authorities (9% of KIs)

Middle Shabelle region (Balacad district)

Protection monitors in Balacad conducted a total of 40 interviews. The below graph highlights the different protection concerns reported/recalled by KIs.



Most affected groups and type of extortion/abuse





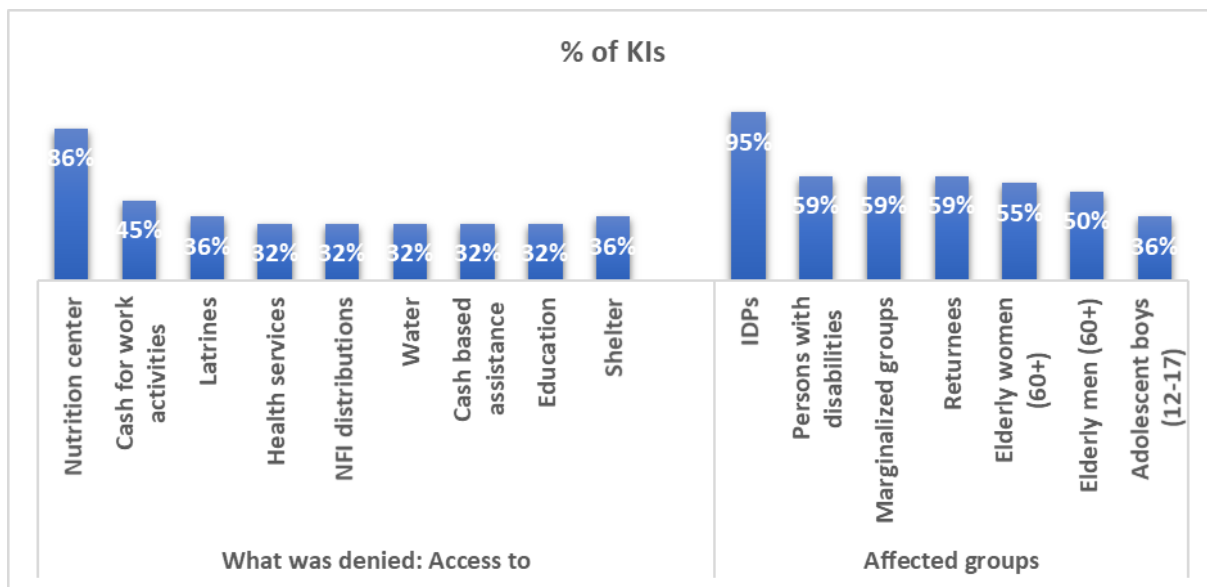
Coping strategies:

- Engage in negotiations (61% of KIs)
- Engage in CSOs in advocacy (18% of KIs)
- Ask NGOs for assistance (18% of KIs)
- Request support from authorities (9% of KIs)

Action taken by NGO as recalled by KIs:

- 64% of KIs reported that they don't know
- 28% of KIs recall that nothing was done
- Register people initially left out

Exclusion from assistance:



Reasons why access was denied as recalled/reported by KIs:

- Discrimination by community leaders based on social background (68% of KIs)
- Discrimination by gatekeepers based on social background (9% of KIs)

Community coping strategy:

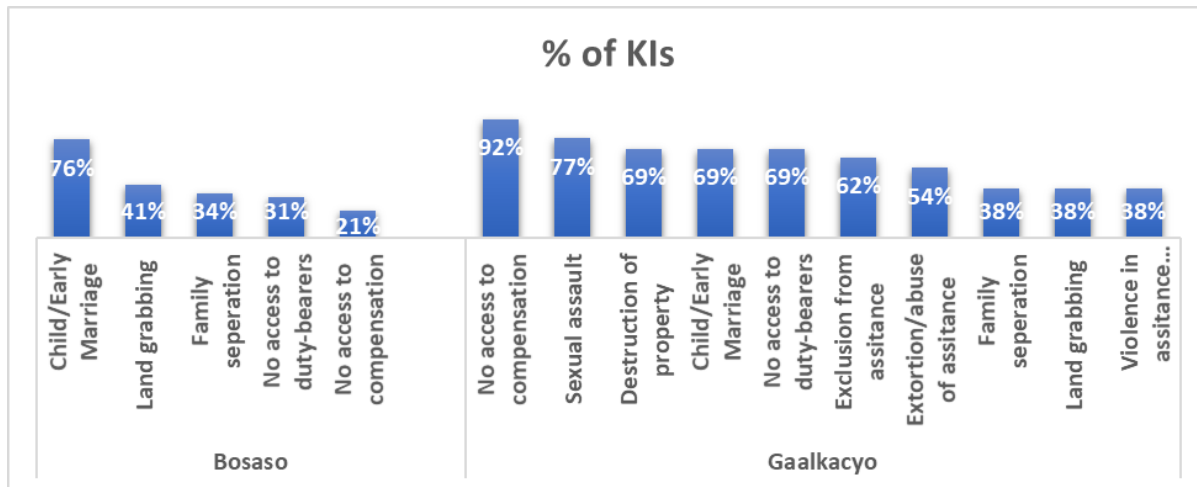
- Request support from traditional leaders (68% of KIs)
- Request support from authorities (32% of KIs)

Action taken by NGOs:

- 41% of KIs responded that they are not aware of actions taken.
- 50% of KIs reported that no action was taken.
- 5% of KIs indicated that NGOs registered people who were initially left out.

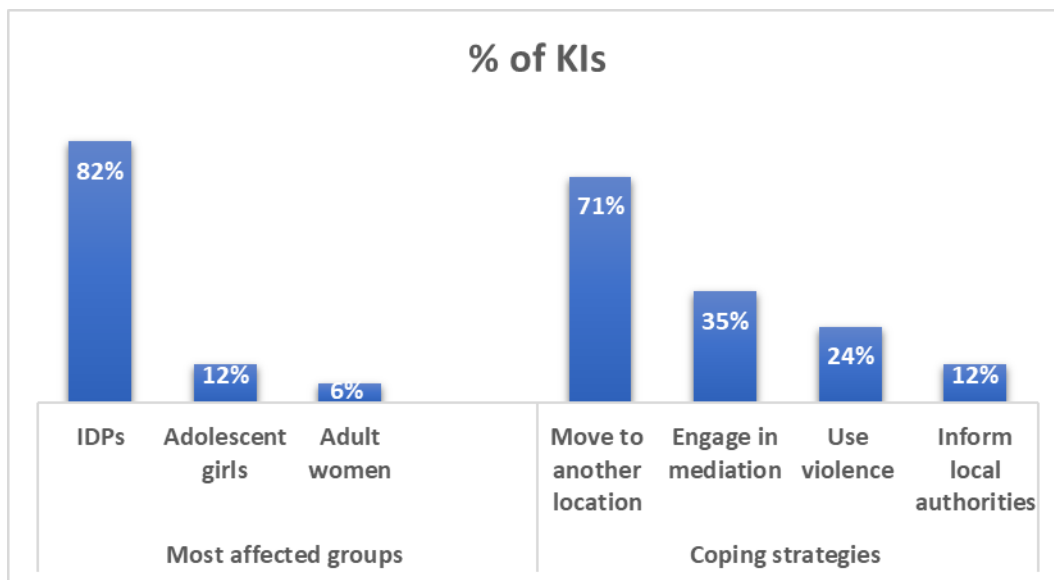
Puntland region (Bossaso and Gaalkacyo district)

In the two districts protection monitors conducted a total of 42 interviews. The below graph highlights the protection concerns raised for each of the districts:



Land grabbing: Bossaso and Gaalkacyo

Affected groups and coping strategies



Prevalence: 47% of KIs recalled that incidents happen sometimes (4-5 times a month)

To the question: *Was there anyone who supported people in accessing their rights (a connector) or mitigate impact of the protection incident? Was there anyone who increased the protection risk (a divider) for people?*



Connectors as recalled by KIs:

% of KIs who indicated a particular group as a connector in relation to the protection risk in their settlement in the last month.

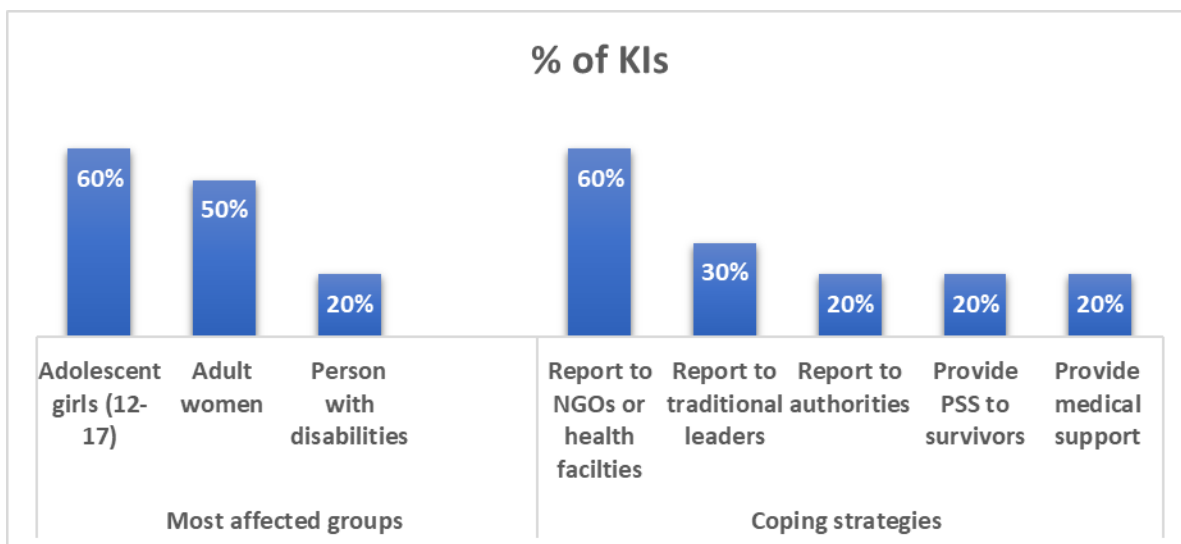
- Local authorities (56% of KIs)
- Religious leaders (38% of KIs)
- Traditional leaders (38% of KIs)
- INGOs (19% of KIs)
- Gatekeepers (13% of KIs)

Dividers as recalled by KIs:

- Land owners (100% of KIs)

Sexual assault: 77% of KIs in Gaalkacyo recalled incidents of sexual assault.

Most affected groups and coping strategies:



To the question: ***Was there anyone who supported people in accessing their rights (a connector) or mitigate impact of the protection incident? Was there anyone who increased the protection risk (a divider) for people?***

Connectors as recalled by KIs:

% of KIs who indicated a particular group as a connector in relation to the protection risk in their settlement in the last month.

- INGOS (90% of KIs)
- Religious leaders (10% of KIs)
- State level authorities (10% of KIs)
- Women’s group (10% of KIs)



- Traditional leaders (10% of KIs)

Dividers as recalled by KIs:

% of KIs, out of those who confirmed presence of connectors, who indicated a group as dividers in relation to the protection risk in their settlement in the last month.

- INGOs (100% of KIs)

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.