



**Somalia Protection Monitoring System**  
**South Central and Puntland - Summary of Findings**  
**November 2020**

In November 2020, the Somalia Protection Monitoring System (SPMS) partners interviewed **446 key informants** (KIs) across 38 districts of South Central, Puntland and Somaliland. This report highlights the most prevalent protection concerns reported by the KIs.

**KEY FINDINGS**

**PROTECTION CONCERN TRENDS**

- **Child marriage** remains to be the most prevalent protection concern reported. 68% of KIs reported that adolescent girls (12-17) are the most affected group across Somalia and 29% of KIs reported that IDPs also affected.
- **Access to justice:** Overall, in November, KIs reported that the community did not have access to:
  - formal justice mechanisms (11%)
  - duty bearers (16%)
  - fair compensation (16%)
- **Physical assault cases** were reported by KIs (73%) as one of the most prevalent protection concern that received no access to formal justice. 27% of KIs reported that **HLP cases** also received no access to fair compensation. KIs highlighted the below reasons as to why the community had no access to formal courts:
  - No formal courts in the area (34% of KIs)
  - Access denied due to social background (26%)
  - 26% of KIs reported that they did not know why access was denied

To cope with the lack of access to formal courts KIs reported that in most cases the community will take **no action** or use **Alternative Dispute Resolutions Mechanisms** (DRM). Most affected groups were IDPs and adult women.

- **Sexual assault:** In November 14% of KIs reported cases of sexual assault and 27% of KIs reported that rape cases had no access to formal courts. KIs also reported that rape cases did not have access to ADR or fair compensation. KIs reported that the most affected persons included adolescent girls (12-17), adult women and IDPs. The lack of legal redress for survivors is concerning and Somalia is a difficult environment to provide legal services to GBV survivors. Due to social and cultural barriers survivors and their families are often reluctant to take any legal action against perpetrators due to the social stigma associated with rape. In rural and remote areas, the customary law (Xeer) is the mechanism used to resolve cases. In most cases the decisions taken are not in favor of the survivor or survivor centered.
- **Family separation:** Overall 14% of KIs reported incidents of family separations across the region. 81% of KIs reported that family separation occurred due to a lack of financial means to support family members and 37% of KIs reported that conflict within the family was the reason why family separation occurred.



- **Child recruitment:** 12% of KIs reported cases of child recruitment across Somalia. KIs reported that the primary recruiters of children are state-armed actors (64%) and non-state armed actors (47%). 57% of KI reported that adolescent boys (12-17) were the most affected and 11% of KIs reported boys (0-11) being affected.

## CONCLUDING NOTES

The purpose of the Protection Monitoring System (SPMS) is for 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 key informants representing a variety of backgrounds and profiles in the community. Currently, in Somaliland the SPMS covers 5 regions. To find more information on the protection situation in the specific districts, please visit [www.protection.drchub.org](http://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.