



Protection Monitoring System
South Central and Puntland - Summary of Findings
March 2021

In March 2021, the Somalia Protection Monitoring System (SPMS) interviewed **458 key informants** (KIs) in south central Somalia and Puntland. This report highlights the most prevalent protection concerns reported by the KIs.

KEY FINDINGS

Banadir Region

Protection monitors in Banadir interviewed 130 key informants

No access to compensation: 30% of KIs reported that the community had no access to fair compensation. The protection concern was specifically reported in Dayniile and Wardiigle district. Below are the most affected groups when it comes to access to fair compensation:

- Adult women (62% of KIs)
- Adolescent girls (31% of KIs)
- IDPs (49% of KIs)

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 Incident	% of KIs
Rape	38%
Physical abuse	36%
Inheritance	13%
Divorce cases	31%

It is important to note that the same cases mentioned above also received no access to formal courts. 63% of KIs in Banadir reported that they do not know the reason access was denied. 11% of KIs reported that they have no formal courts in the area and 11% of KIs reported that access was denied due to age.

To cope with the lack of access to fair compensation, 55% of KIs reported that the affected individuals will use alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and 33% of KIs reported the community will take no action.

Family separation: 24% KIs reported incidents of family separation in the Banadir region. Dharkenley district reported the highest incident of family separation, followed by Dayniile district. Below are the most affected groups when it comes to family separation:

- IDPs (71% of KIs)
- Women (35% of KIs)
- Men (26% of KIs)
- Adolescent boys (19% of KIs)
- Boys (0-11) (16 % of KIs)
- Adolescent girls (10% of KIs)

77% of KIs reported that family separation happened due to financial reasons, and 19% of KIs reported that family separation happened due to forced evictions. 25% of KIs in Dharkenley district reported families were separated due



to armed clashes. To cope with the incident, 81% of KIs reported that the family will search for the missing family member and 19% of KIs reported that the affected groups will move out of the settlement. It is difficult to know the reason the family has left but armed clashes and forced evictions in the area may be a contributing factor.

Sexual assault: 17% of KIs reported incidents of sexual assault happening in their area or settlement. Dayniile, Dharkenley, and Wardhiigle districts reported the highest incident of sexual assault. It could be linked to the high incidents of family separation, forced evictions, and armed clashes happening in the settlements. IDPs, women, and adolescent girls reported being equally affected. Due to the displacement taking place, existing protection risks are exacerbated, making women and girls even more vulnerable.

Below are the community coping strategies:

- 33% of KIs reported that the community will do nothing to respond to the incident
- 20% of KIs reported that the incident will be reported to traditional leaders
- 13% of KIs reported that the community will go to NGOs or health facilities for support.

Important to mention that the percentage of communities going to NGOs for support has drastically reduced. In January, 53% of KIs reported the community will seek medical support from NGOs compared to February (20%) and March (13%). These could be linked to lack of services in the area due to funding gaps, or NGOs do not have to access the settlement and create awareness on the existing referral systems, especially to the newly displaced due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Bay Region

Protection monitors in Bardaale district interviewed 66 key informants.

No access to Justice: Key informants reported the community had no proper access to both informal and formal justice systems. Below are the justice systems the community could not access:

- No access to duty-bearers (39% of KIs)
- No access to informal leaders (30% of KIs)
- No access to fair compensation (36% of KIs)
- No formal courts (21% of KIs)

When it comes to access to duty-bearers, KIs reported the following obstacles: 63% of KIs reported the community could not have access due to their social background/status, 19% of KIs reported that the community was asked to pay a bribe, and 6% reported incidents of intimidation. As a coping strategy, 44% of KIs reported that the community will seek support from traditional leaders even though access to them was reported as a challenge and 44% of KIs reported that the community will reach out to religious leaders for support.

Family separation: 36% of KIs reported incidents of family separation. Lack of financial means to support family member was highlighted as the highest contributing factors, but some of the KIs reported the family separation was also caused by:

- Military operations in the area
- Forced returns and forced evictions
- Forced recruitments.

These contributing factors have also been captured in the recent circulated by Community Empowerment & Social Development Organisation (CESDO), regarding a large influx of IDPs to Berdale district due to armed conflict broke out in Toosweyne village, 25km from Berdale district.



Extortion/abuse of assistance: 29% of KIs reported incidents of extortion in Bardaale district. Below table highlights the type of extortion reported by the KIs and action taken by NGOs to respond to the protection concerns.

Type of Extortion	% of KIs
Paying money to be included in beneficiary list	53%
Forced to handover some of the items received	42%
Forced to share assistance with others	26%
Exchange of sexual favors	26%

Action taken	% of KIs
Engage community committees to mediate	63%
Organize community meetings to discuss the issue	47%
Register people initially left out	21%
Withdraw from the area	16%
Nothing will be done	11%

KIs reported the below groups to be the most affected in Bardaale district:

- Host community (58% of KIs)
- IDPS (42% of KIs)
- Marginalized groups (21% of KIs)
- Adolescent girls (16% of KIs)
- Persons with disabilities (11% of KIs)
- Women (11% of KIs)

Below are the community coping strategies reported by the KIs:

- Complain to CSOs or NGOs (47% of KIs)
- Request support from traditional leaders (32% of KIs)
- Request support from religious leaders (26% of KIs)
- Move out of the settlement (21% of KIs)
- No action taken by the community (11% of KIs)

Hirshabelle Region

Protection monitors in Hirshabelle interviewed 89 key informants. 32 interviews in Hiraan and 57 interviews in Middle Shabelle.

Family separation: 31% of KIs in Hirshabelle reported incidents of family separation. Beletweyne reported the highest incident with, 45% of KIs reporting incidents of family separation to protection monitors. Just as reported in other regions, lack of financial support and family conflicts are the major contributing factors to family separation.

Destruction of property: 28% of KIs reported incidents of property destruction in Hirshabelle. 92% of KIs reported flooding as one of the major reasons for the destruction of property, and only 8% indicated forced evictions. KIs reported the below groups being the most affected:

- IDPs (80% of KIs)
- Older persons - women (48% of KIs)
- Women (48% of KIs)
- Adolescent girls (44% of KIs)

To cope with the protection concern, KIs reported the community either requests support from traditional and religious leaders, and 20% of KIs reported the community request support from the authorities.

Child recruitment: 20% of KIs reported incidents of child recruitment to the protection monitors. Incidents of child recruitment were only reported in Middle Shabelle region, Balcad district.



KIs also reported the child recruiters being:

- Non-state armed actors (89% of KIs)
- Traditional leaders (11% of KIs)
- State armed forces (5% of KIs)

KIs reported the below groups being the most affected:

- Adolescent boys (89% of KIs)
- Boys between the ages of 0-11 (68% of KIs)
- Adolescent girls (26% of KIs)
- Girls between the ages of 0-11 (11% of KIs)

To cope with the protection concern, 89% of KIs reported that the community will pay a ransom to the recruiters, 16% of KIs indicated the community engages in negotiations, and 11% of KIs reported that the community request support from the authorities.

Lower Juba Region

Protection monitors interviewed 87 key informants in Kismayo.

Land grabbing: 20% of KIs reported incidents of land grabbing in Kismayo. 82% of KIs reported IDPs were the most affected groups. 82% of KIs reported that IDPs are the most affected groups in Kismayo, and only 6% indicated returnees being affected. 76% of KIs reported that the affected communities will engage in mediation as a coping strategy, 29% of KIs reported the community will seek support from local authorities, and 24% KIs reported they will request support from NGOs. 7% of KIs also reported destruction of property due to forceful evictions.

Exclusion from assistance: 15% of KIs reported incident of exclusion from assistance in Kismayo district. 77% of KIs reported that returnees are the most affected groups in Kismayo and only 8% of KIs reported older persons being affected.

KIs reported that the affected groups were mostly denied access to the following assistance:

- Access to water
- Access to latrines
- Access to cash for work activities

Community coping strategies: 38% of KIs reported that the affected groups will take no action, 23% of KIs reported that they will request support from traditional leaders and 15% reported that the community will complain to CSOs or NGOs.

Lower Shabelle Region

Protection monitors interviewed 70 key informants. 30 interviews conducted in Afgooye and 40 interviews conducted in Marka.

Exclusion from assistance: Protection concerns specifically reported in the Afgooye district. 33% of KIs reported that marginalized groups were the most affected groups in the community, and 22% of KI persons with disabilities also being affected.

KIs reported the below assistance/services being doing to the affected communities:

- Cash based assistance
- Access to water



- Access to NFI distributions
- Health facilities
- Access to cash for work activities.

Below table highlights the reasons access was denied and action taken by NGOs to respond to the protection concerns.

Reasons	% of KIs
Discrimination by community leaders based on social background	43%
Discrimination by gatekeepers based on social background	29%
Discrimination by NGO based on age	14%

Action taken by NGOs	% of KIs
Engage community committees to mediate	29%
NGO will do nothing	29%
Register people initially left out	14%
Organize community meetings to discuss the issues	14%

To cope with the protection concern KIs reported, the community will reach out to either traditional or religious leaders for support. 22% of KIs reported that the community will organize a protest, and 11% of KIs reported that the community will complain to non-state actors.

Extortion/abuse of assistance: Protection concern was specifically reported in Afgooye district. KIs reported the below are the two type of extorting the affected community is facing:

- Paying money to be included in the beneficiaries list (86% of KIs)
- Forced to hand over some of the assistance received (16% of KIs)

KIs reported the below actions will be taken by the NGO to respond:

- 43% of KIs reported that in most cases the NGO will do nothing.
- 14% of KIs reported that they will register the people initially left out.
- 14% of KIs also reported that the NGO will withdraw from the area.

To cope with the concern, 57% of KIs reported that the affected communities will take no action, 14% reported that they request support from religious leaders, and 14% of KIs reported the community will request support from the authorities.

Child recruitment: 93% of KIs reported incidents of child recruitment. Child recruitment incidents were only reported in the Marka district. 100% of the KIs reported that state armed forces are child recruiters, and only 11% of KIs reported non-state armed actors recruiting children. Important to note that Marka also reported the highest incidents of family separation, and 48% of KIs reported that adolescent boys (12-17) years old are affected. Forced recruitment reported as one of the reasons for family separation. 38% of KIs reported military operations in Marka are also leading to family separation.

92% of KIs reported adolescent boys (12-17) years old are the most affected, and 46% of KIs reported IDPs also affected. To cope with the protection concern, KIs reported that the community in Marka will ask NGOs for assistance or engage in negotiations.

Bari Region

Protection monitors interviewed 15 key informants Bossaso district.

Sexual assault: 47% of KIs reported incidents of sexual assault in Bossaso district. KIs reported adolescent girls, women and IDPs being the most affected. Below are the community coping strategies reported by the KIs:

- 71% of KIs reported that the community will report the incident to traditional leaders.
- 29% of KIs reported that they will reach out to NGOs or health facilities for support.
- 29% of KIs reported that they will report the indecent to the authorities.



Implementing partners in Bossaso need to do more awareness within the community on the importance of seeking medical support within 72 hours of the incident happening. Awareness sessions should also target traditional leaders to ensure they are aware of the referral pathways that exist in the area, and to inform them the importance of survivors getting access to medical treatment.

Family separation: 33% of KIs reported incidents of family separation. KIs reported that women, adolescent girls and IDPs are the most affected. Only 20% of KIs reported that girls (0-11) years old are also affected. KIs reported that family separation is mostly happening due to lack of financial means to support the family and due to family conflicts.

Important to note 91% KIs reported adolescent girls (12-17) year old were the most affected when it comes to early marriage and this could also be linked to the family separation incident. Due to financial problems the family is facing girls are married off early to get the dowry. 43% of KIs also reported girls (0-11) years old also being married off.

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 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

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.