



Somalia Protection Monitoring System

South Central Summary of Findings

June 2020 Highlights

In June 2020, the [Somalia Protection Monitoring System](#) partners interviewed 684 key informants (KIs) across 23 districts of Somalia and Banadir. Below are the key findings. The highlights for Somaliland are presented in a separate report.

Key highlights and observations

- **Positive community coping responses to protection concerns:** Based on feedback received from key informants (KIs), most known survivors of sexual assault are seeking medical and psycho-social support. This is a positive indication that the community, including the survivors, acutely understand the importance of seeking support rather than staying silent. Even though access to justice remains an ongoing concern, the known survivors are reporting cases to local authorities, religious leaders, and humanitarian actors.
- **Family Separation:** The concerning trend of increased family separation is being reported by the KIs as a result of families facing financial constraints and forced evictions. The most affected group are women and children (12-17 years old), a protection risk for both groups as they lose their community protection mechanisms and thus can be exposed to further protection risks.
- **Access to formal justice and ADR:** Most KIs report that community members have no access to justice, including access to alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms. This finding indicates a need for agencies supporting ADR to increase their awareness raising on services and how different groups can access the services.

KEY FINDINGS

PROTECTION CONCERN TRENDS ACROSS DISTRICTS

Child/Early marriage remains one of the highest protection concerns reported by the key informants, followed by 33% of KIs reporting family separation as one of the top concerns across the districts. The most affected groups are adult women as recalled by 39% of KIs, 51% recalled IDPs being most affected, 32% recalled adolescent girls, and 28% recalled adolescent boys (12-17 years old) being affected.

One of the reasons contributing to family separation, as reported by 71% of KIs, is due to a lack of the financial means to support family, 25% family conflict, 16% of KIs report family separation occurred due to forced evictions, and 16% due to armed conflict.

In May, 25% of the KIs recalled the occurrence of sexual assault in their settlement, which has been the highest percentage during the past 12 months. In June, 25% of the KIs reported incidents of sexual assault in their settlements. The most affected group being adolescence girls and adult women.

32% of KIs recalled that lack of fair compensation has also been a major concern within the different communities. 51% of KIs recalling that the most affected group is adult women and IDP groups, 33% of KIs recall that adolescence girls between the ages of 12-17 years old and 16% of KIs recalled that marginalized groups being part of the affected group.



53% of KIs recalled physical abuse cases did not receive compensation, and 39% of KIs recall rape survivors did not receive compensation.

PROTECTION KEY HIGHLIGHTS PER DISTRICT

Baidoa District (Bay region)

Land grabbing: 64% of KIs reported cases of land grabbing, which is a significant drop from last month where 89% of KIs reported cases of land grabbing this has significantly decreased compared to what was reported in May with 89% of KIs reporting **cases of land grabbing**. The drop could be attributed to the fact that in Baidoa issued a formal order suspending evictions of IDPs for three months. The forced evictions moratorium was issued to protect vulnerable IDP communities against forced evictions during COVID-19 crisis.

In response to the question *“was there anyone who supported people in accessing their rights (connector) or mitigate impact of the protection incident?”* 85% of KIs indicated local authorities taking mitigation measures to reduce the impact of land grabbing and other connectors identified by KIs included INGOs, NNGOs and community members.

Land brokers were identified as **dividers** and increasing the protection risk of IDPs in the community as recalled by 64% of KIs

Community coping strategies:

- 65% of KIs recalled that one of the major coping strategies is to engage in mediation;
- 43% recalled that affected persons will move to another location;
- 35% stated that the community will seek support from NGOs and 22% recall cases will be reported to local authorities.

Sexual assault: 67% of KIs remembered cases of sexual assault compared to May where 100% of KIs recalled cases of sexual assault. This makes it the second-highest concern recalled by KIs. 92% of KIs recall cases being reported to NGOs and health facilities, 67% of KIs recall survivors receiving psychosocial support and 58% of KIs recall survivors receiving medical assistance.

It is important to note that for the rape cases, 50% of KIs recall that there was no formal justice to address this concern, and some affected groups were purposefully denied access due to age. Most KIs reported that the connectors that ensure survivors have access to their rights and services are INGOs and NNGOs. 63% of KIs also recalled women’s group being connectors within the community.

92% of KIs recall that the cases were reported to NGOs and health facilities, received medical support and psycho-social support. 17% of KIs reported that survivors received compensation.

No access to informal leaders: 69% of KIs reported that community members do not have access to informal leaders. 28% of KIs recall a lack of access to duty bearers. According to the KIs interviewed access was not possible due to age, or the community member was unable to pay the bribe.

72% of KIs recalled that the most affected groups are IDPs, and 36% of KIs reported that marginalized groups were also affected. To address the issues, KIs said the community members complained to NGOs and Civil Society Organizations.



Xudur District (Bakool region)

Sexual assault: 62% of KIs recalled cases of sexual assault in Xudur. To address the issue KIs said most cases were reported to NGOs or health facilities (reported by 77% of KIs). Sexual assault was affecting mostly adolescent girls (12-17 years old) as reported by 90% of KIs and 29% of KIs reported persons with disabilities being most affected.

63% of KIs recalled that INGOs as being connectors and helping the community access their rights, 37% KIs recalled traditional leaders as connectors, 35% KIs recall religious elders and 41% of KIs recall that local authorities as being connectors in the community. 50% of KIs recall community members are being dividers and increasing the protection risk.

Access to duty-bearers: 86% of KIs recalled that the community had no access. 95% of KIs reporting that access was not possible due to intimidation; 90% recalled that it was due to physical retaliation.

Most affected groups included adult women as recalled by 75% of KIs, adolescent girls, 49% of KIs recalled IDPs being affected, 25% recalled persons with disability being affected. Coping mechanisms include: requesting support from traditional and religious elders and submission of complaint to CSOs or NGOs.

The community saw religious elders as connectors as recalled by 63% of KIs and, 100% of KIs recalled community members as being dividers.

Family separation: 90% of KIs recalled cases of family separation and one of the main reasons being lack of means to support all family members as recalled by 74% of KIs, other reasons included armed clashes and forced recruitment.

Coping strategy to address the protection concern, 34% recalled that the community will search for the family member, 12% will reach out to local authorities, 72% of KIs recalled that the community will request support from NGOs and 21% of KIs recalled that the community will do nothing.

INGOs and NGOs were perceived as connectors and help the community to access their rights. Other stakeholders seen as connectors included religious and traditional leaders. 83% of KIs recalled non-state armed actors as dividers, 44% recalled local authorities, and 15% KIs remembered landowners as being dividers.

Extortion/abuse of assistance: 56% recalled cases of extortion/abuse of assistance. Type of extortion reported by KIs included; paying money to be included among the beneficiaries, exchange of sexual favors and forcing the community members to share the assistance with others.

Coping mechanism: Community organizing meetings to discuss the issue, engaged community committees to mediate and, 36% of KIs recall people initially left out being registered. It is important to note that the NGOs are supporting the above actions.

Most affected groups include adolescent girls (12-17 years old), adult women being affected, 73% stated that IDPs are affected and, 34% KIs indicated that persons with disabilities being part of the most affected groups in the community.

Coping mechanisms: complaint to the CSOs or NGOs, request support from local authorities, and reach out to traditional and religious leaders.



In response to the question, **“if there was anyone who supported people in accessing their right”** 63% of KIs recalled that INGOs were connectors, 41% recalled NGOs, 38% of KIs recalled religious leaders and 34% recalled traditional leaders as connectors. To the question of if **“there is anyone who increased the protection concerns,”** 36% of KIs recalled host communities not selected were dividers, 12% of KIs recalled camp leaders.

Child recruitment: 47% of KIs recalled child recruitment cases. 89% of the KIs listed non-state armed actors as recruiters and, 87% KIs remembered state armed forces as the recruiters.

The most affected groups by the reported protection concern, 96% of KIs remembered adolescent boys (12-17) being the most affected group and, 40% of KIs recalled that IDPs being affected.

To cope with the protection concern, the community will request support from local authorities, engage in negotiations, or pay a ransom.

Balcad (Middle Shabelle region)

Alternative dispute resolution mechanism: In Balcad, 75% of KIs recall a lack of access to alternative dispute resolution mechanisms (ADR). 77% of KIs also stated that IDPs are also affected and 40% KIs indicated that marginalized have no access to dispute resolution mechanisms.

100% of KIs also indicated that IDPs have no access to the formal justice system and, 95% of KIs recalled marginalized also being affected. Important to highlight that 62% of KIs indicated that persons with disabilities have no access to duty-bearers.

Stakeholders identified as connectors included, traditional and religious leaders. The same group mentioned above also identified as dividers, including local authorities.

Family separation: 70% of KIs recall family separation as one of the significant protection concerns in Balcad. Reasons based on KIS recollection included; lack of means to support all family members and forced evictions leading to separation.

Most affected groups included: IDPs, adult women, marginalized groups and adolescent girls (12-17 years old).

Coping strategy: The community will search for separated family members (recalled by 71% of KIs), request support from NGOs and local authorities.

81% of KIs recall religious elders as connectors, and at the same time, they perceived as dividers as remembered by 100% of KIs. Due to forced eviction being one of the reasons for family separation, 19% of KIs recalled landowners as connectors.



Exclusions from assistance: 55% of KIs recalled protection concerns around exclusion from assistance. 73% of KIs reported that the reason is due to discrimination by community leaders based on social background.

Type of assistance denied	% KIs
Access to nutrition services	86%
Access to cash for work activities	55%
Cashed based assistance	41%
Access to water	41%
Access to NFI distributions	41%
Access to latrines	41%
Access to health services	41%

Most affected groups	% KIs
IDPs	95%
Marginalized groups	64%
Persons with disability	59%
Older persons (female 60+)	55%
Older persons (male 60+)	50%
Adult women	45%
Returnees	45%

Coping strategy: KIs reported that the community members reached out to traditional and religious leaders, and only 32% recalled requesting support from local authorities. 85% of KIs recalled women's group as connectors and religious leaders also identified as connectors.

Sexual assault: 53% of KIs recalled sexual assault as one of the significant protection concerns in Balcad and has increased compared to May. 43% of KIs reported that rape survivors had no access to the formal justice system and ADR.

The most affected group included; adult women, adolescent girls, IDPs, and marginalized communities.

We have noticed a positive coping strategy where; 62% of KIs recalling that survivors received medical assistance; 57% of KIs stated that survivors accessed psycho-social support, and 43% KIs indicated that cases reported to local authorities.

89% of KIs recall women's groups as connectors, and the same goes for religious and traditional leaders. The same group reported as connectors also acted as dividers within the community. 100% KIs recall INGOs as dividers.

Merka (Lower Shabelle region)

Child recruitment: 79% of KIs recall child recruitment as one of the districts' major protection concerns. 97% of KIs stated that the recruiters are state armed forces and that 27% recalled recruiters as non-state armed forces.

All groups within the communities were equally affected as recalled by 97% of KIs, and the only coping strategy recalled by 100% of KIs was to a pay ransom.

No access to formal justice: 39% of KIs recall that lack of access to justice is a concern and that 87% of the cases are on HLP. 40% of KIs reported they didn't know why access was denied; 60% of KIs recalled no access to formal justice due to the social background.

The most affected groups included: marginalized groups as reported by 40% of KIs, older persons (male), adult women and adolescent girls (12-17 years old)

Coping strategy: 100% of KIs reported the community took no action, and 7% of KIs could not recall anything.



Dayniile District (Banadir region)

Family Separation: 28% of KIs reported family separation as a concern. 93% of KIs recall the reason was a lack of means to support the family.

Most affected groups include: Women, adult men, IDPs and adolescent boys and girls (12-17 years old).

Coping strategy: 58% reported that the family will do nothing, and 42% of KIs recall the community will search for the family member.

No access to compensation: 20% recalled no access to compensation. Cases that received no compensation included: business dispute as recalled by 45% of KIs, physical abuse cases, and 9% KIs recollected rape survivors receiving no recompense.

Most affected groups included: Adult women as reported by 36% of KIs; 18% KIs recalled marginalized groups affected, and 9% indicated persons with disabilities affected. To address the obstacle, 36% of KIs remembered community members looked for alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and 55% of KIs said they don't know the community's coping strategy.

Access denied as recalled by 50% KIs, and 50% remembered access was not possible due to a lack of money. Important to mention that 67% of KI recall that adult women are most affected when accessing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms (ADR).

Sexual violence: 17% of KIs recalled sexual violence as one of the concerns. Coping strategy: 56% of KIs remembered that survivors received medical support, and 11% indicated that survivors also received psycho-social support.

22% of KIs said they are unaware/ don't know the coping strategies in the community. 78% of KIs recall adolescent girls (12-17) being the most affected; 22% KIs recall girls (0-11) being affected, and 11% KIs recalled IDPs as part of the most affected groups.

Kaxda District (Banadir region)

Family separation: Slightly gone up with 28% of KIs recalled family separation compared to last month. 57% of KIs reported that the reason was due to lack of means to support the family, and 33% of KIs recalled forced evictions leading to separation.

Most affected groups included: IDPs as recalled by 71% KIs; 38% recall adult women being affected, and 14% KIs indicated adolescent boys affected.

38% KIs recalled that women groups are connectors, and 38% also recalled that traditional leaders seen as connectors in terms of supporting the families. 100% of KIs recall landowners as dividers since 33% of KIs did mention that reason for family separation was due to forced evictions.

Access to formal justice: 20% of KIs recall that there is no access to formal justice. Services purposefully denied due to their gender as reported by 33% of KIs; 20% recalled that access denied due to age, and 13% stated that there are no formal courts in the area.

71% of KIs recalled that rape survivors did not get access to formal justice and 50% recalled domestic violence survivors did not get access. Rape and domestic violence survivors also had no access to ADR. 53% of KIs recall adult women being the most affected and unable to access the services. Women are also



unable to access informal leaders, as reported by 64% of KIs. These puts women at risk in terms of not being able to access their rights or protected from the negative impact of protection incidents.

Land grabbing: 11% of KIs reported incidents of land grabbing in Kaxda, compared to only 6% of KIs recalling land grabbing cases in the previous month. Important to note that for the past few months, most of the KIs did not report land grabbing incidents. These could be attributed to the Moratorium and exacerbated by the Ramadhan period.

88% of KIs recall that the host community is part of the affected group when it comes to land grabbing; 13% reported that women are also affected, and 86% of KIs indicated local authorities as connectors. Local authorities mentioned as dividers within the community.

Despite local authorities being reported as dividers when it comes to land grabbing, 88% KIs recall the community informing local authorities, and 13% recall the use of violence as a coping strategy.

Beledweyne District (Hiraan regions)

No access to compensation: 58% of KIs recall community having no access to compensation. This is also linked to 28% recalling no access to formal justice and 24% KIs saying there is no access to alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. 29% of KIs recall no formal courts in place and 29% indicated that services were denied due to the age.

HLP cases received no access to the formal justice system as recalled by 33% of KIs, and 17% also recalled HLP cases did not get access to alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

33% recalled that cases of physical assault did not get access to the services as well. 100% of KIs also indicated as intimidation as one of the reasons why community members could not access duty bearers. When it comes to the formal justice system, 29% of KIs recall ed adult women being affected, followed by IDP and 14% recalling adolescent girls being affected as well. The same group also impacted when it comes to accessing alternative dispute mechanisms.

Family separation: 48% of KIs recall family separation as one of the protection concerns in the district. The reasons for the separation were due to lack of means to support family members as reported by 82% of KIs, and family conflict was also a contributing factor. The coping strategy was to reach out to NGOs to support.

Sexual assault: 24% of KIs recall cases of sexual violence in the district. 17% of KIs reported that rape survivors did not have access to the formal justice system. 83% of KIs recalled cases reported to NGOs and health facilities; 33% of KIs stated that survivors received psycho-social support.

Dollow (Jubaland region)

Child recruitment: 20% of KIs reported child recruitment as one of the protection concerns in the area. 78% of KIs recalled that child recruiters are non-state armed forces, state armed forces, and 11% of KIs recalled traditional leaders.

Most affected groups: 100% of KIs are host communities; 67% of KIs recalled that adolescent boys (12-17 years old); 44% KI recalled refugees and returnees as being part of the most affected groups and 33% KIs reported that IDPs also being affected.



Coping strategy: 100% of KIs recalled that the community would request support from the authorities, and 11% of KIs recalled that the community would engage in negotiations.

Sexual assault: 11% of KIs recall sexual assault as a protection concern in the area. Groups particularly affected include adult women as reported by 100% of KIs; 100% of KIs recalled IDPs being affected, 60% recalled adolescent girls, and 60% recalled refugees also impacted.

Coping strategy: Community members reached out to NGOs or health facilities; KIs also reported that survivors received psychosocial and medical support. Cases also reported to traditional leaders, and 60% of KIs indicated that the community reaches out to local authorities.

Connectors: 100% of KIs recalled the UN supporting the community to access their rights or reduce the impact of the protection concern. INGOs and NGOs also identified as connectors. 80% of KIs recalled local authorities as connectors.

The same groups identified above are also mentioned as dividers by the KIs within the community. For example, 100% of KIs also recalled the UN as dividers, and 50% reported traditional leaders as dividers.

CONCLUDING NOTES

The purpose of the Somalia 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, 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.

One prominent competency is to ensure community interests and priorities shape all stages of the data collection and dissemination process. This is why the Protection Cluster and SPMS partners ensured that key informants are from the community because they have contextual knowledge and have a personal connection with the community members.