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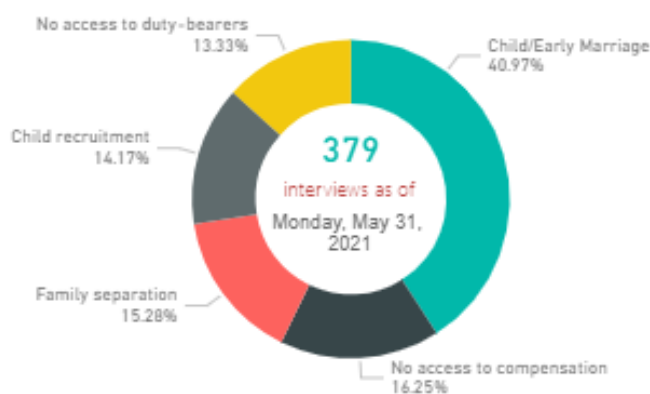
Somalia Protection Monitoring System

South Central and Puntland - Summary of Findings

May 2021

In May 2021, the Somalia Protection Monitoring System (SPMS) interviewed **379 key informants** (215 female; 164 males) in South Central Somalia and Puntland. This report highlights the most prevalent protection concerns reported by the KIs.

Graphic below demonstrates the % Of KIs reporting the occurrence of a protection concern in their settlement/village in a specific month



KEY FINDINGS

Banadir Administrative Region

Protection monitors in Banadir interviewed 122 key informants in the month of May.

Family separation: Protection concern was specifically reported by the KIs in Dayniile. A total of 42% of KIs reported 2-3 incidents happening in a month. The most affected groups being adult women, IDPs, adult men, adolescent boys, and boys (0-11). 75% of KIs reported the main reason for family separation is due to lack of financial means to support the family. Families especially women being the ones leaving to look for job's leaves children even more vulnerable. Family conflicts also reported as the leading cause of family separation as reported by 33% of KIs.

Child recruitment: KIs in Dharkenley district reported incidents of child recruitment with 22% of KIs reporting one incident a month. Adolescent boys (12-17) and IDPs were reported to be the most affected and only 8% of KIs reported girls (0-11) also being affected. A total of 53% of KIs reported state armed actors as the recruiters and 46% of KIs reported that they do not know who is recruiting the children. Below are the community coping strategies:

- No action taken by the community (34% of KIs)



- Reporting to authorities (17% of KIs)

Sexual assault: Incidents of sexual assault were reported from Dharkenley, Hawl-wadaag, and Wardhiigle. Adolescent girls (12-17) IDPs and girls (0-11) were reported to be the most affected. To cope with the protection concern 40% of KIs reported survivors will seek medical support. KIs reported that rape cases did not receive access to justice, and this includes both formal and informal justice mechanisms.

Bay Region

Protection monitors in Baidoa interviewed 29 key informants in the month of May.

Land grabbing: IDPs, host communities, and marginalized groups reported to mostly being affected. A total of 46% of KIs reported 4-5 incidents are happening within a month. Below groups were reported as dividers and increased the protection risk:

- Landowners
- Local authorities
- Business owners
- Land brokers

NRC's [Evictions Information Portal](#) reports increased evictions in May with 366 incidents and 342 incidents recorded in April. The evictions portal also indicated properties were privately owned and reasons for the evictions happening was due to landlords wanting to develop the land/property. 40% of KIs reported incidents of housing, land, and property received no access to formal courts

Sexual assault: 40% of KIs reported 4-5 incidents of sexual assault happening within a month. IDPs, host communities, adolescent girls are reported to be the most affected groups. To cope with the protection concerns 85% of KIs reported that survivors will reach out to NGOs or health facilities for support including medical and psycho-social support. This is a positive indication that the community, including the survivors, understands the importance of seeking support rather than staying silent.

43% of KIs reported the community will report the incident to the authorities; 4% of KIs reported marriage between survivor and perpetrator and only 3% of KIs reported prosecution of the perpetrator by the police. Despite the high number of communities reaching out to local authorities for support 40% of KIs still reported rape cases received no access to formal courts.

Lower Juba Region

Protection monitors in Kismayo interviewed 86 key informants in the month of May.

Exclusion from assistance: IDPs and persons with disabilities were reported to be the most affected. KIs reported below assistance being denied:

- NFI distributions
- Cash-based assistance
- Access to latrines and water

Access was denied due to the following reasons:

- Discrimination based on social background, including clan affiliation



- Discrimination based on age and/or gender
- Gatekeepers requesting a bribe

30% of KIs reported that in most cases NGOs will call for a community meeting to discuss the matter or mediate. 21% of KIs reported that NGOs will register people who were left out of the beneficiaries list. Below are the top three community coping strategies:

- Complain to CSOs or NGOs (37% of KIs)
- Request support from traditional leaders (35% of KIs)
- No action will be taken (25% of KIs)

Considering the community in most cases will reach out to NGOs for support we need to have 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.

Destruction of property: IDPs, returnees, and persons with disabilities were reported to be most affected. KIs reported community members, landowners, local authorities, and local militia as dividers within the community and are increasing the protection risk for other people. 49% of KIs reported the property was destroyed due to forced evictions and 18% of KIs reported accidental fire leading to the destruction of property. This leads to increased displacement which in turn breaks down the community protection mechanisms and exacerbates already existing inequalities aggravated due to the loss of property and livelihoods, and this introduces a new dimension of vulnerability, marginalization, and exclusion.

Lower Shabelle Region

Protection monitors in Marka interviewed 68 key informants in the month of May.

Child recruitment: Remains the most prevalent protection concern in Marka district. 34% of KIs reported that the incident took place, with 2-3 cases reported in a month and 24% of KIs reported that the incident took place often, with 5-10 cases reported in a month. 33% of KIs reported that all groups were equally affected but adolescent boys (12-17) were also reported as the most affected groups in the district.

Below entities were reported as child recruiters:

- State armed forces (58% of KIs)
- Non-state armed actors (57% of KIs)
- Traditional leaders (11% of KIs)

Middle Shabelle Region

Protection monitors in Balcad interviewed 59 key informants in the month of May.

Destruction of property: IDPs, older women, and marginalized* groups were identified as the most affected groups. Important to note that 12% of KIs reported persons with disabilities also being affected. Landowners, local authorities, and non-state armed actors were identified as the top three dividers in the Balcad district. 36% of KIs reported destruction of property was because of forced eviction and this could also be linked to the land grabbing incidents reported by 17% of KIs.

*Note: the term marginalized groups is being phased out of the SPMS tool in order to have a more precise definition of those that are most affected.



Child recruitment: Incidents of child recruitment reported in the Balcad district. Adolescent boys (12-17) and boys (0-11) were reported to be the most affected. Only 6% of KIs reported adolescent girls (12-17) being affected. Adolescent girls were also most affected when it came to family separation, and this could also be linked to them being recruited by state or non-state armed actors.

Bari Region

Protection monitors in Bossaso interviewed 15 key informants in the month of May.

Sexual assault: Second highest protection concern reported in Bossaso after child marriage. IDPs, adolescent girls (12-17) adult women, and girls (0-11) reported being the most affected. Below are the community coping strategies:

- Report to authorities (54% of KIs)
- Report to NGOs or health facilities (46% of KIs)
- Report to traditional leaders (46% of KIs)

Incidents of family separation were also reported in Bossaso district with 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

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 to inform 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 <https://spms.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.