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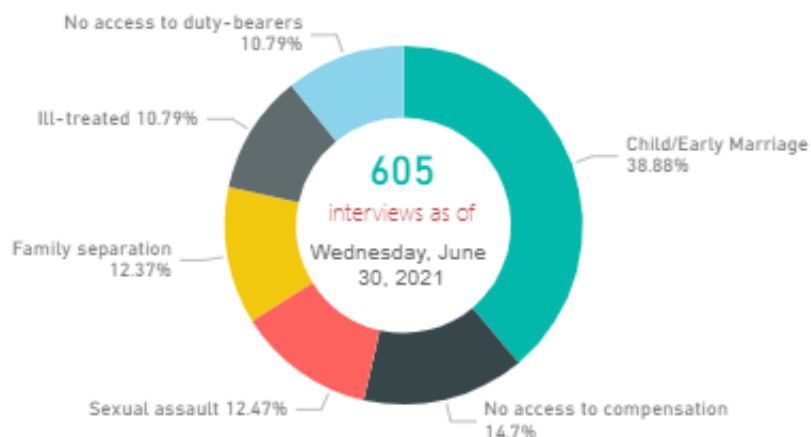
Somalia Protection Monitoring System South Central and Puntland - Summary of Findings

June 2021

In June 2021, the Somalia Protection Monitoring System (SPMS) interviewed **605 key informants** (247 female; 358 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:

Overall protection trend



Child marriage remains one of the most prevalent protections concerns across the country. Child marriage is among the extreme forms of child rights violations affecting adolescent girls. Adolescent girls, boys and IDPs were reported as the most affected groups in the community. The ongoing humanitarian crisis has exacerbated poverty, insecurity and access to education, factors which tend to increase rates of child marriage.

KEY FINDINGS

Banadir Administrative Region

Protection monitors in Banadir interviewed 140 key informants in the month of June.

Access to Justice: In Banadir, KIs reported the community did not have access to fair compensation or access to duty bearers. Adolescent girls, IDPs and women were reported to be the most affected. Physical abuse, rape and divorce cases were reported to not receive access to effective remedy/redress and one of the obstacles to this was intimidation of the affected groups/individuals. Somali citizens struggle to have their grievances justly resolved as they often face discriminatory practices, are not well informed about their rights, and have few functional institutions to meet their justice needs. Seeking justice is especially challenging for women, minority groups, IDPs and persons with disabilities.



Extortion/abuse of assistance: 21% of KIs reported incidents of extortion/abuse of assistance in KM13 Dayniile and KM13 Khada areas of Banadir. Adult women, IDPs, adolescent girls and men were reported to be the most affected. The type of extortion/abuse of assistance reported by KIs included:

- Paying money to be included in the beneficiaries list
- Conduct free labor in exchange for assistance
- Exchange of sexual favors
- Forced to handover some of the assistance
- Forced to share the assistance with others

Coping mechanism: To cope with this violation, the community requests support from traditional leaders, complains to CSO's or NGOS and 17% of the KIs reported the community will not take any action.

Exclusion from assistance: 25% of KIs in KM13 Dayniile reported incidents of exclusion. 75% of KIs reported that the reason for exclusion is due to discrimination by community leaders based on social background (i.e. clan) and 25% reported access was denied based on gender. The type of assistance denied included:

- Shelter (50% of KIs)
- Access to cash for work activities (25% of KIs)
- Cash based assistance (25% of KIs)

Bay Region

Protection monitors in Baidoa interviewed 30 key informants in the month of June.

Sexual assault: The second most prevalent protection concern reported in Baidoa is sexual assault. Adolescent girls (12-17), women, IDPs, marginalized* groups and girls (0-11) were reported to be the most affected. 33% of KIs reported 4-5 incidents occurring within a month. 36% of KIs reported rape cases received no access to family courts. One of the major obstacles reported was the lack of formal courts/access to justice in the area.

Community coping strategies: 74% of KIs reported the affected groups will reach out to NGOs or health facilities for support, report to authorities for support and only 4% of KIs reported marriage between the survivor and perpetrator. Based on feedback received from key informants (KIs), most known survivors of sexual assault are seeking medical and psycho-social support. Even though access to justice remains an ongoing concern, the known survivors are reporting cases to local authorities.

*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.

Galgaduud Region

Protection monitors interviewed a total of 86 key informants. 75 interviews in Cadaado and 15 interviews in Guriceel.

Family separation: IDPs, women, adolescent boys, girls, and boys (0-11) reported to be most affected. 40% of KIs in Guriceel reported incidents of kidnappings that have resulted in family separation. 43% of KIs reported 4-5 kidnapping incidents occurred within one month.

Violence in assistance delivery: This protection concern was specifically reported in Cadaado district. Adolescent girls (12-17), IDPs and persons with disabilities were reported to be most affected. Host communities, IDPs who were not selected to receive assistance, and gatekeepers were identified as dividers. It is important to note gatekeepers were identified both as dividers as well as connectors within the community. Currently SPMS defines **violence in assistance delivery** as:

Conflict/violence as a result of or during distributions of humanitarian assistance: Includes incidents of violence (stampede, fighting, shooting, extortion for instance) during registration for, and distribution of humanitarian assistance (cash and non-cash), whether among beneficiaries, between beneficiaries and other people in the communities or from other communities, between beneficiaries and security personnel. It can also include conflict and violence within household.

What incidents happened?:

- Someone tried cutting the queue
- Someone took some of the items received: This could be linked to the gatekeepers since in most cases they are identified as perpetrators in extortion/abuse of assistance and force the affected groups to handover or share the assistance with others
- Someone's name not in the distribution list
- Item received differed from the entitlement

KIs reported the below actions were taken by NGOs:

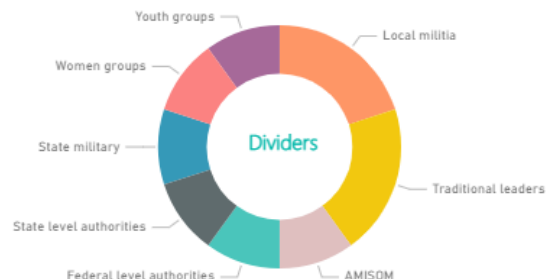
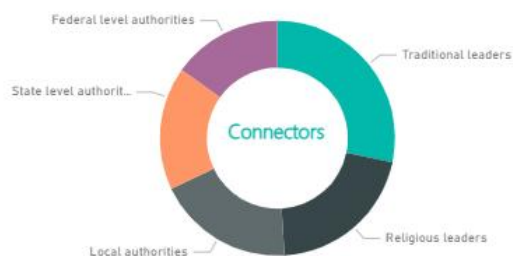
- Mediate conflict
- Ask local authorities for support
- As community leaders to mediate
- Suspend or leave the distribution site

Exclusion from assistance: Incidents reported in Cadaado district. IDPs, marginalized* groups, women and persons with disabilities reported to be the most affected. Assistance denied:

- Cash based assistance (61% of KIs)
- Access to latrines (23% of KIs)
- Access to NFI distribution (21% of KIs)

Conflict related injuries/death: Only 9% of KIs in Cadaado reported incidents of conflict related injuries. Adult men, women, adolescent boys, and girls to be the most affected.

Connectors and Dividers:



Connectors are people in the community who support access rights or mitigate the impact of protection incident.

Dividers: are people who increase the protection risk for other people.

Causes of Injuries	% of KIs	Conflicted related to	% of KIs
Village attack	45%	Clan conflict	55%
Assassinations	21%	Personal dispute	27%
Military operation	16%	State vs non state armed actors	9%

*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.

Gedo Region

Protection monitors in Doolow interviewed 40 key informants in the month of June.

Sexual assault: the second most prevalent protection incident reported in Doolow is sexual assault. IDPs, women and adolescent girls (12-17) reported to be the most affected groups. 46% of KIs reported 2-3 incidents occurring within a month. 89% of KIs reported the affected group will report the incident to NGOs or health facilities for support. Based on the SPMS findings, the community does reach out to local authorities and duty bearers for support, but the response is slow or non-existence due:

- to the lack of formal courts in the area
- Request to pay bribes
- Lack of financial means
- Access denied due to social background (i.e. clan)

Hiraan Region

Protection monitors in Belet-weyne interviewed 40 key informants in the month of June.

Destruction of property: Below table highlights the most affected groups in Belet-Weyne

Affected groups	% of KIs
All groups equally affected	32%
IDPs	24%
Marginalized groups*	14%
Adult women	6%

75% of KIs reported destruction of property was due to flooding and 12% of KIs reported destruction of property was due to forced eviction. In May 2021, more than 16,000 persons were displaced to higher grounds, as new flooding affected 12 villages in Beledweyne, Hiraan region. Most of the displaced people from the twelve rural villages depend primarily on farming. Their normal life routines have been disrupted



and livelihood strategies destroyed¹. To cope with the incident 46% of KIs reported affected groups moved out of the settlement/location.

*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.

Lower Shabelle Region

Protection monitors interviewed 90 key informants in the month of June. 24 interviews in Afgooye and 40 interviews in Marka.

Child recruitment: was reported in Marka. Adolescent boys (12-17) reported to be the most affected groups. 35% 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.

Below entities were reported as child recruiters:

- State armed forces (76% of KIs)
- Non-state armed actors (24% of KIs)

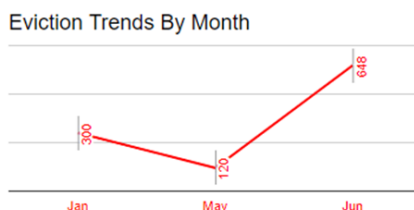
Most actors in the conflict, including SNA, recruit civilians by force, but al-Shabaab remains the main perpetrator. This is also true for child recruitment. The government seeks to combat the forceful recruitment of civilians through various initiatives, but with little success so far. Forced recruitment and the recruitment of children occur throughout South and Central Somalia as well as parts of Puntland².

Lower Juba Region

Protection monitors in Kismayo interviewed 90 key informants in the month of June.

Destruction of property: Second highest protection concern reported in Kismayo. 54% of KIs reported IDPs as the most affected group and 11% of KIs reported persons with disabilities being affected. 35% of KIs reported the property was destroyed due to forced evictions and this could also be linked to the land grabbing incidents reported by 21% of KIs.

NRC's [Evictions Information Portal](#) reports increased evictions in June with 366 incidents compared to 120 incidents reported in May. The KIs reported landowners as dividers and increasing the protection risk for the community. The evictions portal also indicated properties were privately owned and reasons for the evictions occurred because the landowners wanting to develop the land/property.



¹ [Flash Report 10 - Baladweyn floods 26 May 2021.pdf](#)

² [South and Central Somalia Security situation, forced recruitment, and conditions for returnees \(justice.gov\)](#)

According to the evictions tracker the affected groups only had oral agreements with the landowners, which does not ensure security of tenure and thus places individuals/IDPs at a heightened risk of forced eviction.

Middle Shabelle Region

Protection monitors in Kismayo interviewed 73 key informants in the month of June. 60 KIs interviewed in Balcad and 13 interviews in Jowhar

Extortion/abuse of assistance: Incident was reported in Balcad. IDPs, adolescent girls, adult women, marginalized groups, and older women (60+) reported to be the most affected. The below table highlights the type of extortion and action taken by NGOs:

Type of Extortion	% Of KIs	Action taken	% of KIs
Pay money to be included	79%	Register people initially left out	33%
Exchange of sexual favor	36%	Organize community meetings	29%
Forced to share the assistance	17%	Withdraw from the area	5%

Connectors and Dividers



Bari Region

Protection monitors in Bosaso interviewed 30 key informants in the month of June.

Ill-treatment: 57% of KIs reported incidents of ill-treatment making it the second highest protection concern reported in Bosaso. IDPs, women, persons with disabilities, adolescent girls and marginalized groups reported to be the most affected groups in the community. Currently SPMS defines ill-treatment as:

Inhumane, cruel, or degrading treatment or punishment. For example, severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him/her or a third person information or a confession, punishing him/her for an act he/she or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him/her or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind.



Overall community-level sensitization on inclusion and tolerance is needed. Given their influence in the community, religious leaders to be engaged to promote human rights for all and tolerance of others. This activity will require awareness and trust-building with the religious leaders.

Sexual assault: Third highest protection incident reported. IDPs, adult women, adolescent girls, returnees, and girls (0-11) reported to be the most affected. To cope with the protection concern 59% of the KIs reported the survivors will reach out to NGOs or health facilities for support and 42% reported the community will reach out to the local authorities for support. Despite the community reporting the incidents to the local authorities, 75% of KIs reported rape cases received no access to formal courts. In August 2016 Puntland passed a law criminalizing all sexual offences but access to justice is still a large gap reported in Puntland.

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.