









## SOMALIA PROTECTION MONITORING SYSTEM

### Summary of Findings - April 2022

#### INTRODUCTION

	Data Collection Period	19.04-30.04
	KI providing consent	1176
	KI not providing consent	35
	Phone	301
	In person	875
	KI Reporting Violations	1120
	Female KI	563
	Male KI	557



#### Constraints/Clarifications

The SPMS Technical team is working to enhance the online dashboard to fully reflect disaggregation of Key Informants, including of those not reporting violations. In the process, some figures and labels may deviate from previous reports. Additionally, three violation reports accrued a lower total than the overall total number of responses, for which the reason is unclear. This may result in additional skewing of data.

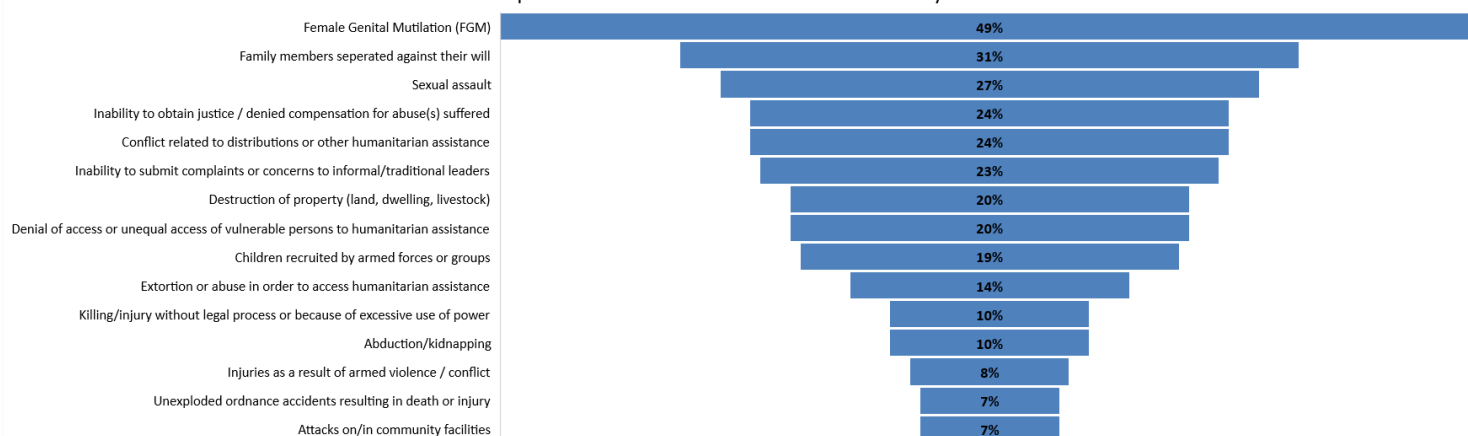
As each KI may report a number of incidents, the overall total will not be equal to 100%. Furthermore, the percentage calculated disregards the KI's who were not posed this question. Monitors are able to decide at their discretion based on sensitivity and appropriateness to not ask all questions.

This report highlights the most prevalent protection concerns reported by KIs to partners in the referenced data collection period in April 2022. Further reference can be made to the [Somalia Protection Monitoring System](#) dashboard.

#### OVERALL PROTECTION TRENDS

Below overview shows the overall reported occurrence of rights violations across Somalia/Land.

Reported Occurrence of Violations at Community Level



- Enhanced reliance on negative coping mechanisms is reported, including intimate partner violence and early marriage.
- At regional level, destruction of property and land grabbing are reported and observed by monitoring partners.
- Sexual assault remains widely reported, resulting from lack of light, distance to services, inadequate shelter, and overall lack of safety in IDP settlements.
- Violence related to humanitarian assistance is consistently reported as in March, indicating high needs and limited services seeing to influence inter- and intra-communal tensions.
- Exclusion from assistance continues to affect minority groups and women, highlighting needs for inclusive programming. This should not be limited to targeting, but inclusion of relevant community-based and representative agencies.
- Lack of sufficient GBV assistance is reported due to limited funding. This includes lack of services, as well as limited services such as reduced working hours. This causes delays in referrals and has detrimental consequences for survivors.

The overall protection environment in Somalia witnessed a further decline within April as a result of increased conflict and continued drought, and the displacement movements these phenomena produce. The impact on individuals and their families of increased food insecurity, widening gaps in ability to meet basic needs, and loss of livelihood assets and decline in coping capacities<sup>1</sup> cannot be seen separate from heightened susceptibility and vulnerability to protection risks.

The consequences are far-reaching, for example the closure of 60 schools in Galmudug as a result of drought and the 6,722 children having lost access to education<sup>2</sup> may result in a spike in early marriage, child recruitment and children associated with armed forces and armed groups, child labor – including worst forms of child labor, as well as (sexual) exploitation and abuse of children. Additional stress placed on the family may enhance risk of SGBV incidents including domestic violence.

Several conflict-related incidents took place in April, including non-state armed groups' (NSAG) attacks on national and international armed forces' in Bay (South West State). Overall the presence of NSAGs affects populations' freedom of movement in turn limiting access to services, as well as humanitarian access for delivery of assistance. In areas where both NSAG presence as well as drought is taking place, this heightens the limited capacities of affected populations to mitigate risks and consequently increases reliance on negative coping mechanisms.

The above chart, in line with February and March overviews, indicates high reports of **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**. Monitoring partners report that school closures during the fasting month of Ramadan may have induced an overall spike in the practice. The resulting increased time for healing was also noted as influence throughout COVID-19 school closures, as reported by the Gender-Based Violence Protection Cluster Area of Responsibility (AoR).

**Family separation** remain the second most reported violation. Monitoring partners in various locations confirm its prevalence and observe high numbers of separated and unaccompanied girls and boys in IDP settlements. Reasons may be intentional separation – as a coping mechanism to either avoid recruitment into armed groups, or reduce the strain on limited family resources – as well as accidental during displacement. Regardless of reason, separated children are at higher risk of exposure to additional violations generally, and girl children in particular.

GBVIMS trend analysis of incident data shows that IDPs are the main victims of **sexual violence**, and especially from minority clans who lack clan protection.

At regional level, destruction of property is noted to be more reported though limited information is available to understand the reason for this.

<sup>1</sup> Somalia Updated IPC and Famine Risk Analysis, Technical Release (March-June 2022), 8 April 2022, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Somalia Education Cluster updates to the HCT, 20 April 2022.

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVOCACY

Based on overall findings as well as regional highlights, the Protection Cluster makes the following recommendations relating to advocacy and intervention methodologies. The recommendations below should be seen as additional to existing Protection advocacy messages and calls.

- **Enhance inter-sectoral coordination with GBV actors to conduct safety visits and initiate urgent response to safety and security risks seen to exacerbate and influence occurrence of sexual violence.** This should include attention to access to services, including water and firewood collection points, as well as respect for minimum standards of shelter and WASH facilities.



State-level Coordination mechanisms and implementing partners; GBV, CCCM, WASH, Shelter.

- **Enhance focus of inclusive programming to avoid exclusion from assistance, particularly by minority clan affiliated populations and women.** This should inform overall selection of beneficiaries by implementing partners, but expand further to enhance collaboration with community-based mechanisms and organizations as well as minority-led agencies.



Cluster Inclusion Focal points and the Community Engagement and Accountability Task Force, in collaboration with donors and community-based mechanisms at state and area level.

- **Increase funding allocations for standalone GBV and CP programming,** in expectation of continued and increased reports of reliance on negative coping mechanisms and their indiscriminate consequences on children and women. This should not negate overall responsibilities among other sector partners to mainstream CP and GBV in their responses. This recommendation also specifically applies to areas where funding was previously available but concluded, and areas where no funding has been allocated.



State-level Protection Cluster and GBV and CP AoRs to highlight area-specific gaps and needs to further highlight to funding mechanisms and donors.

- **Enhance understanding and response to destruction of property.** This includes detailed assessments to highlight circumstances surrounding destruction, most affected persons, and most appropriate response. This recommendation is highlighted considering limited reports at area-level providing the needed insights.



Area-level Protection and HLP actors, in coordination with Shelter actors. Inclusion of agencies conducting assessments is encouraged to ensure a wider understanding not limited to the regions and districts included in SPMS monitoring.

## REITERATION OF PREVIOUS MONTH RECOMMENDATIONS – SUMMARIZED

- Ensure accessible, visible, and understandable referral mappings are available to implementing actors, and communities at site/location level.
- Enhance communication with communities (CwC) initiatives to mitigate violence/conflict during humanitarian assistance provision.
- Enhance visibility of CFM mechanisms to allow assistance recipients to report if assistance was provided in exchange for money or free labor, and/or if recipients were forced to share/handover.
- Ensure key messages to households on the move are disseminated relating to best practices to avoid family separation.
- Engage in focused advocacy with all armed actors to refrain from targeting under 18-year olds for inclusion in armed groups.

## KEY FINDINGS (REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS)

STATE	REGION
Banadir Regional Administration	
Galmudug	Galgaduud
	Mudug
Hirshabelle	Hiraan
	Middle Shabelle
Jubaland	Gedo
	Lower Juba
	Sool
Somaliland	Woqooyi Galbeed
	Bakool
South West State	Bay
	Lower Shabelle

The table on the left provides an overview of the locations where data collection was conducted in April 2022, organized in alphabetical order of states, and noted regions. The regional highlights are presented in the same order in the section below.

The SPMS fully respects the humanitarian principle of neutrality. Denotation of geographical areas does not intend to reflect any political opinion or endorsement held by the Protection Cluster, or the monitoring partners.

To find more information on the protection situation in specific districts, including details on affected persons, and connectors and dividers - please visit the [Somalia Protection Monitoring System](#) online dashboard.

### Banadir Regional Administration

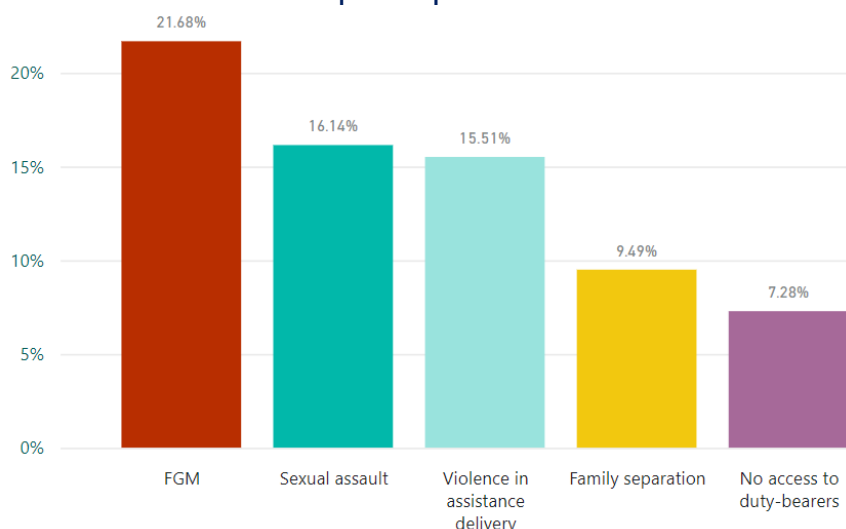


KI Reporting Violations

245

Banadir continues to see a large influx of IDPs from various conflict and drought affected areas. Therefore, family separation can be assumed to have taken place during displacement. This assumption is supported by IDPs being the most affected population group with 23% (in comparison with other statuses). Adult women being most affected indicates mothers being separated from children. Only 6% indicate to seek support from NGOs to find their family members. As in March, violence in assistance delivery (conflict/violence related to distributions or other humanitarian assistance) and no access to duty-bearers remain highly reported. Monitoring partner SSWC reports malnourished children were seen during direct observation. This may influence violence in assistance delivery, as families may grow increasingly frustrated and desperate in the face of famine. A conducive environment for sexual assault is seen, as report state incidents mostly take place as a result of poor lighting in sites and long distance between dwellings and water and firewood collection locations.

### Banadir Top 5 Reported Violations



- KI assessment fatigue and disgruntlement due to lack of responsive action remains a reported challenge.

## Galmudug - Galgaduud Region



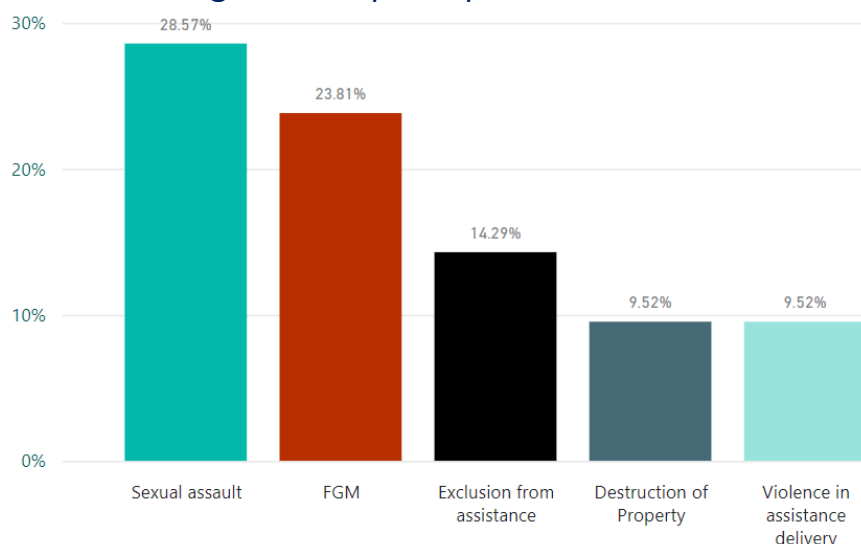
KI Reporting Violations

63

As in February and March, sexual assault continues to take place as a result of shelter providing inadequate security. Destruction of property is not seen to distinctly affect one population group, highlighting overall lack of respect for HLP related rights and principles. This is denoted also by monitoring partner WISE reporting instances of land grabbing.

Exclusion from assistance is on the rise in comparison with previous months' analysis. Most affected populations are reported to be IDPs (22%), marginalized groups (12%) (indicating minority clans), refugees (10%), and persons with disabilities (10%). This may be the cause of gatekeepers excluding these groups, or lack of physical accessibility particular in the case of PwDs.

### Galgaduud Top 5 Reported Violations



- A limitation of the SPMS questionnaire structure, is that under affected groups it does not disaggregate status from age-gender-diversity/disability factors.
- KIs are increasingly reported to disengage from the SPMS process, more difficult to reach, and requesting financial remuneration for participation.

## Galmudug - Mudug Region



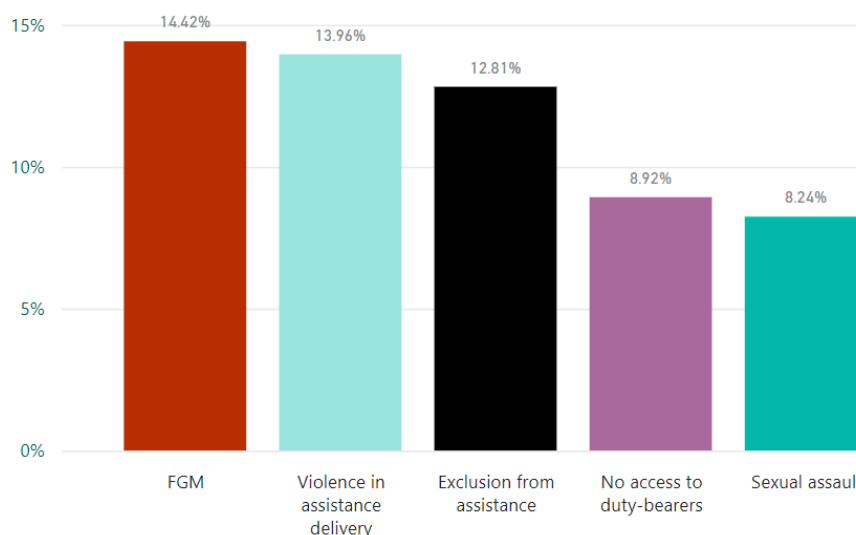
KI Reporting Violations

153

Compared to February and March, with a slight fluctuation in specific numbers, the most reported violations remain consistent. This is also clarified by monitoring partner NoFYL, noting that KIs in April specifically mentioned to not witness vast changes in context or violations between months. Clan-related conflict as well as armed conflict between state and non-state actors is reported to continue, but reportedly does not necessarily affect the prevalence or occurrence of rights violations or the populations' sense of security.

Monitoring partner PMWDO reports an increase of intimate partner violence, domestic violence, rape and attempted rape. In the SPMS categories these may all be reported under sexual assault. The stress associated with conflict and drought may be a contributing factor to this trend, as noted in the overall analysis. Reports of sexual assault against boys were also received by PMWDO, countering

### Mudug Top 5 Reported Violations



the general perception that sexual assault is limited to girls and women. A challenge in response to this are limited medical services, and limited working hours of medical assistance providers. This can result in delays for immediate care, and pose additional medical and mental health challenges for survivors.

- Fatigue amongst KIs is noted, as well as requests for incentives, and limited time due to daily livelihoods activities.

## Hirshabelle - Hiraan Region

### KI Reporting Violations **33**

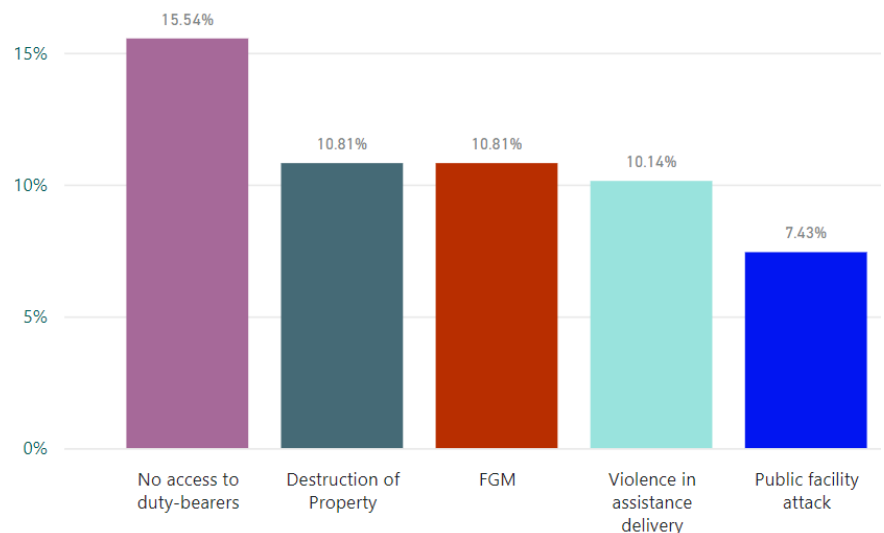
As was the case in March, the types of violations reported in Hiraan indicate a different environment and context than overall trends seen. The public facility attack reported may be the result of an inter-clan clash as a result of land grabbing, yet it is unclear whether the reported incident is renewed violence or remained tensions from a similar incident which occurred in 2021. Regardless, monitoring partner NoFYL reports an overall trend of wounded civilians being transported to medical facilities.

As in March, a high level of destruction of property reported. Monitoring partner NoFYL explains that residential land is not under ownership of its residents. In response, it is recommended for increased attention to fund HLP interventions in Hiraan to assist in mediation, outreach, and dispute resolution. Furthermore, it is reported that populations move between sites and settlements in search of shelter and food. This may explain violence in assistance delivery, as it is an indicator of lack of sufficient resources and assistance, and may result in heightened tensions and conflict when distributions occur.

Additional challenges reported which may reflect future violation trends if not responded to include lack of water sources within settlements/sites, long distance from water sources, insufficient safety and security of shelter (constructed from carton and burlap sacks), lack of sanitation, and no education for children.

- KIs themselves are indicating to be affected by the drought and livelihood gaps, resulting in requests for financial support.

### Hiraan Top 5 Reported Violations



## Hirshabelle – Middle Shabelle Region



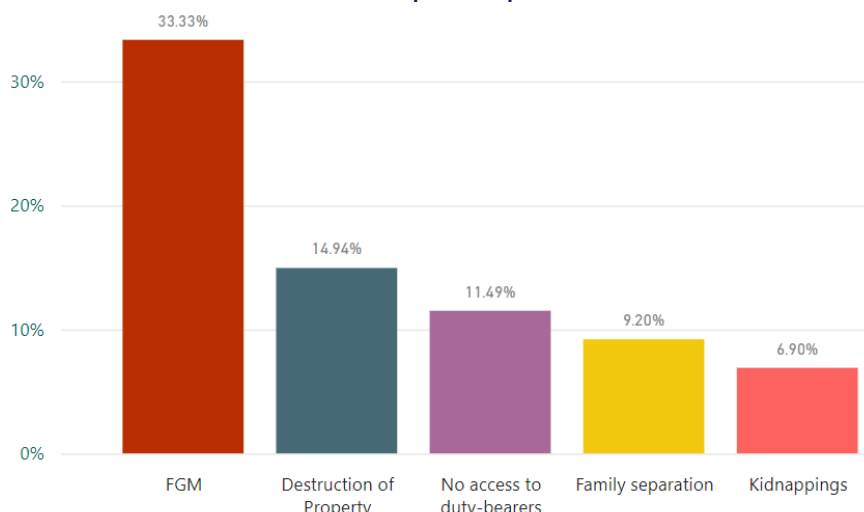
KI Reporting Violations

68

The overall situation reported in Middle Shabelle region remains unchanged from March, relating to increased gaps in affected populations' ability to meet their basic needs. This is compounded by inflation. Monitoring partner WISE reports a number of violations which may indicate a trend in negative coping mechanisms, as forecast in the March report. Reports of early marriage are increasing, as receipt of dowry may provide temporary relief from financial strain on families.

Additionally, rape, looting, and violent attacks at night are reported to take place in IDP settlements. The reported violation of kidnapping may be linked to WISE's reports of child recruitment. Non-state actors do not always specifically conduct targeted recruitment, yet may kidnap children and enlist them. No new reports of open defecation as a result of lack of latrines is reported, yet no response has been provided as known at reporting time. In addition to destruction of property, land grabbing is reported.

### Middle Shabelle Top 5 Reported Violations



- KIs are reported to be uninterested or have limited time to respond to the SPMS questionnaire due to other engagements, including work.

## Jubaland – Gedo Region

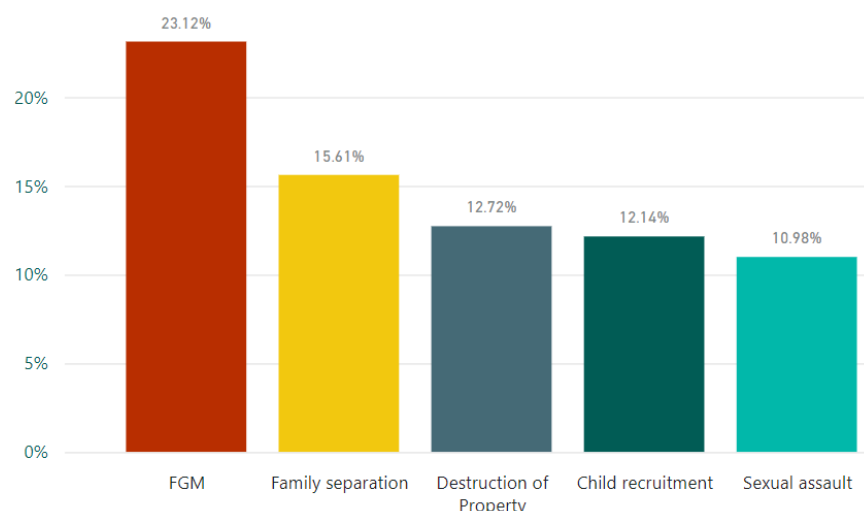


KI Reporting Violations

116

Violations in Gedo slightly adjusted from March, with less reports of sexual assault and introduction of destruction of property. However, monitoring partner AMARD reports a notable increase of FGM as a result of Ramadan school closures. Additionally, sexual assault is reportedly on the rise and specifically perpetrated at night time. Lack of lighting and insufficient shelter structures – makeshift constructions out of sticks and cloth with no locks, provide minimum safety against intrusion. There is insufficient background to provide an analysis of the increased report of destruction of property at the regional level.

### Gedo Top 5 Reported Violations



- As in March, some KIs are reported to have been reluctant to participate without remuneration.

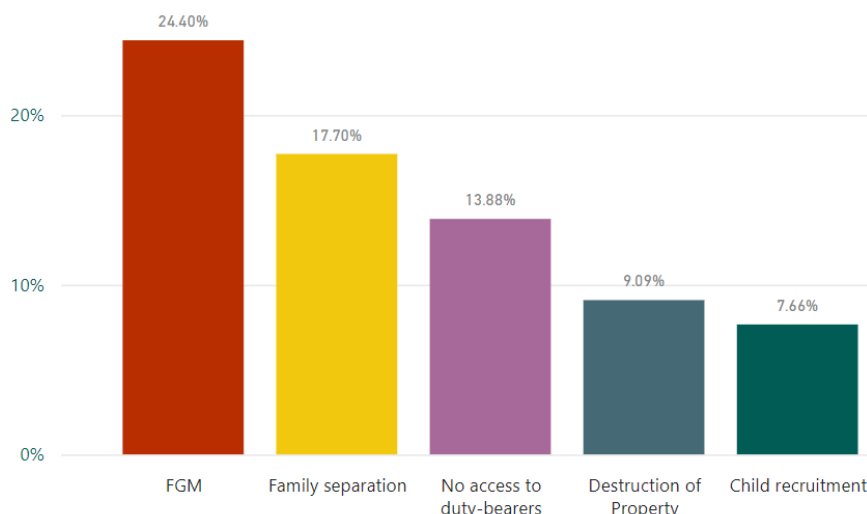


## Jubaland – Lower Juba Region

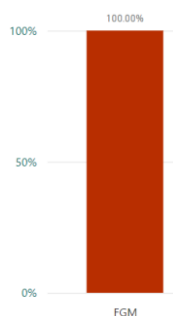
### KI Reporting Violations 143

In comparison with March, trends for Lower Juba remain consistent with exception of the noting of kidnapping. Destruction of property is seen to distinctly affect IDPs (53%), with host communities (11%) and returnees (10%) falling far behind. The March assumption that destruction of property can be a reason for displacement should therefore be considered. Additionally, heightened vulnerability of IDPs due to lack of resources, community coping mechanisms, and potentially options for residence may make them more susceptible to destruction in new arrival locations.


### Lower Juba Top 5 Reported Violations



## Sool Region



### KI Reporting Violations 15

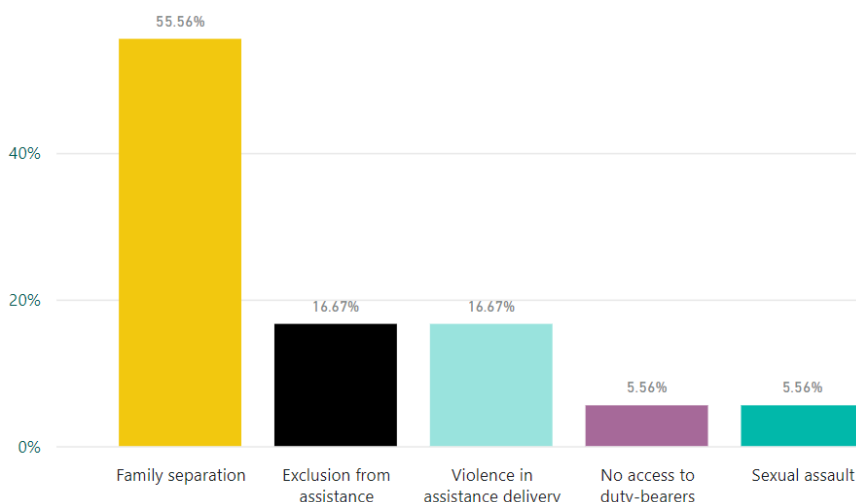
 There is insufficient information available to provide analysis or explanation for the sole reporting of FGM in Sool.

## Somaliland – Woqooyi Galbeed Region

### KI Reporting Violations 26

The Somaliland region is solely affected by drought, and therefore family separation may be the result of overall trends as coping mechanism to reduce financial strain, or occurring during displacement. It should be noted, however that prevalence is limited to reports of it occurring sometimes, rarely, or very rarely. Exclusion from assistance is seen to predominantly affect IDPs (30%), refugees (17%) and women (17%).

### Woqooyi Galbeed Top 5 Reported Violations



- March reporting did not include data from Woqooyi Galbeed, limiting ability to draw conclusions on trends.



## South West State - Bakool Region



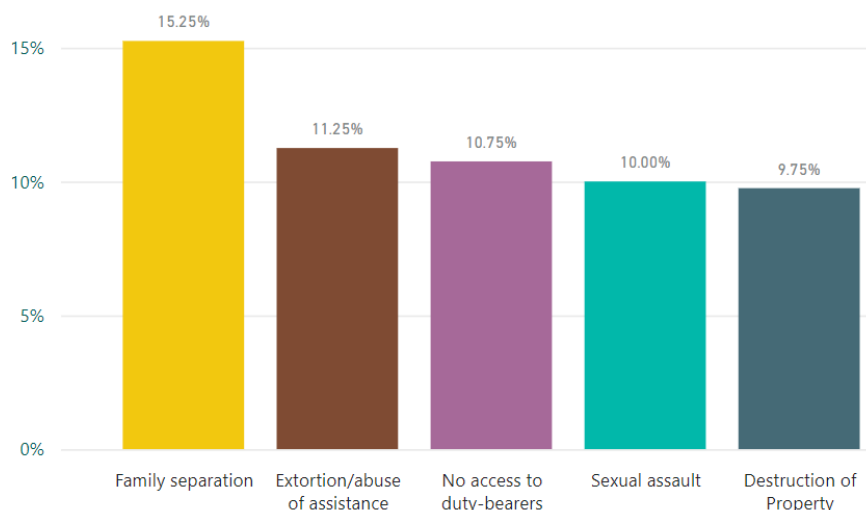
KI Reporting Violations

89

As in Gedo, AMARD reports sexual assault to be on the rise, and women sharing that this specifically takes place at night time. Lack of lighting and the makeshift nature of shelter structures provide minimum safety against intrusion. Extortion and/or abuse of assistance is seen to affect adult women (30%), IDPs (26%), and adolescent girls (25%) mostly. This is followed by persons with disabilities (7%) and minority groups (6%). The figures highlight overall trends of discrimination of specific population groups, and result in severe concerns for additional risks and reliance on negative coping mechanisms in the face of reduced ability to rely on humanitarian and community support to mitigate gaps in basic needs.

It should be noted that conflict/violence in assistance delivery and exclusion from assistance were also reported, falling out of the top 5 with a .25 percentile decrease from destruction of property. Exclusion from assistance is seen to affect IDPs (26%) and minority groups (19%) the most, highlighting the need for inclusive assistance drawing on presence of minority-led organizations where possible.

### Bakool Top 5 Reported Violations



## South West State - Bay Region



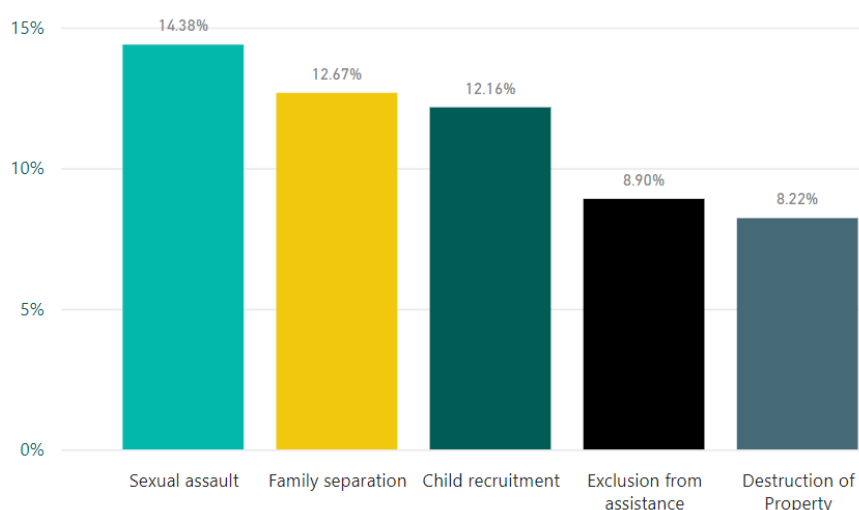
KI Reporting Violations

123

Reports of sexual assault are seen to be on the rise in its relative reporting status, compared to March. Monitoring partner CESDO highlights specific incidents, and distance of firewood and water collection points placing women and girls at additional risk. AMARD reports also confirm sexual assault to be on the rise, with reports of incidents taking place specifically at night time. Lack of lighting and the makeshift nature of shelter structures provide minimum safety against intrusion. Monitoring partner DRC additionally reports similar trends, including increase of intimate partner violence and rape. Inadequate shelter structures, distance to

services including water points, and lack of separation of latrines by sex with no locks on latrine doors are listed as expediting factors. Difference in the circumstances surrounding the violation result from area-based knowledge, and highlight the overall susceptibility and conducive circumstances for sexual assault to occur.

### Bay Top 5 Reported Violations



In addition to the high number of IDPs residing within Bay region, CESDO reports a significant influx of new arrivals on 6 April as a result of conflict induced displacement. This may affect the figures of child recruitment and family separation, though its relative reporting status remains unchanged in comparison with March. Child labor, while not a violation reported under SPMS, is also reported to increase. This may be the result of the influx of new IDPs and indicates the mentioned overall trend of reliance on children to generate additional income.

In addition to destruction of property remaining a highly reported violation, DRC also notes (forced) eviction. Both exclusion from assistance and extortion/abuse related to assistance are highly reported. Extortion and abuse affect the host community (30%) and IDPs (28%) mostly, followed by minority groups (12%). This includes requests for financial remuneration to ensure registration by gatekeepers and local authorities.

- KIs are seen reluctant to participate without financial compensation, and some are unreachable as they have left the area due to the ongoing drought.

### South West State - Lower Shabelle Region

 KI Reporting Violations **46**

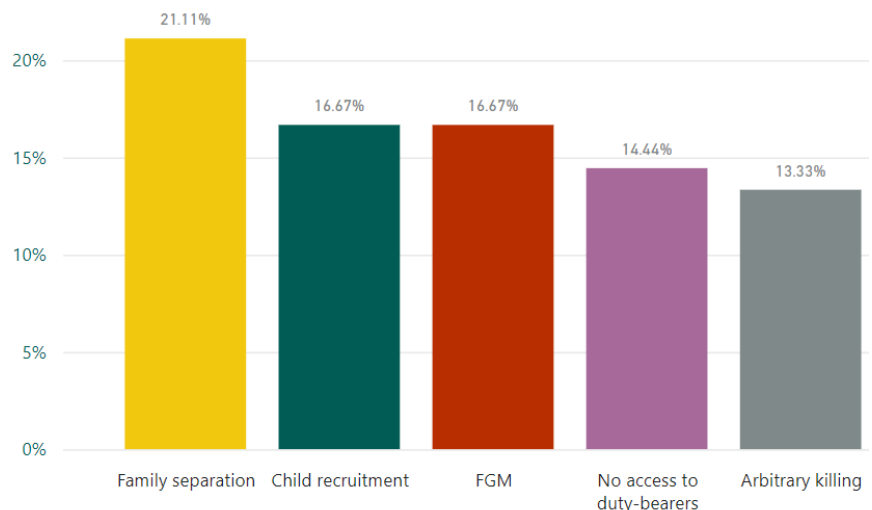
Family separation and child recruitment are seen to take over as relatively most reported violations in Lower Shabelle. This coincides with reports from monitoring partner SOYDA, indicating an influx of new arrivals. Additionally, SOYDA observed children living on the street. This may be the result of family separation, or at a minimum heighten these children's susceptibility to being recruited by armed forces. Child recruitment is seen to mostly affect adolescent boys, between ages 12-17 (27%), from all population groups.

Child labor, while not recorded under SPMS is observed by SOYDA. This confirms the increased reliance on negative coping mechanisms of drought affected populations, though may also be the result of family separation. If children are unaccompanied or separated, they may need to engage in income generation activities to provide for themselves and any other siblings they may be with.

As in March, there is no further background reported to the high reports of arbitrary killing. It is reported to mostly affect adult men (53%), followed by adult women (15%).

Lack of access to duty-bearers is seen to affect adult males (16%) as well as IDPs and elderly males (15%), and adult women (14%). This highlights that constraints in access to justice are not limited to women, while this was highlighted in the March overall trends analysis. It is possible, however, that the disparity is the result of area-specific contexts.

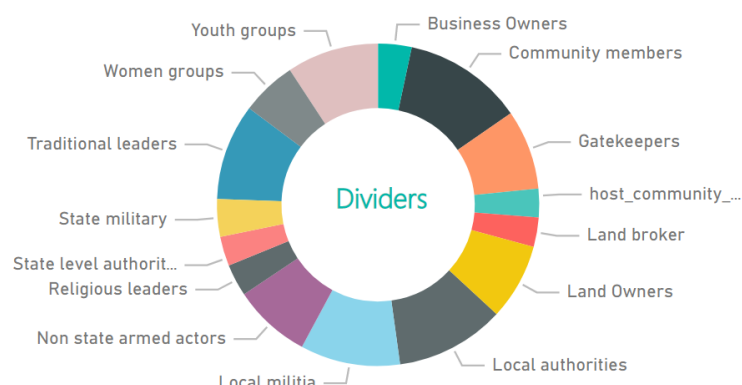
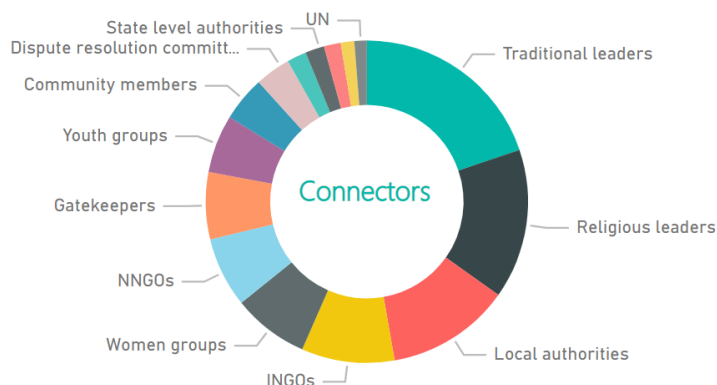
### Lower Shabelle Top 5 Reported Violations



- Due to same level of reports received, the graph shows 6 instead of 5 top reported violations.

## CONNECTORS AND DIVIDERS

*Connectors are people or groups in the community who support access to rights or mitigate the impact of a protection risk. Dividers are people who increase the protection risk for others. In some instances, people or groups may influence as both.*



## ABOUT THE SPMS AND ITS PARTNERS

In January 2019, SPMS data collection began in Banadir region and rolled out to other areas of Somalia throughout the years.

### SPMS data collection is conducted by 11 partners:

- ✧ Agency for Minority Rights and Development (AMARD)
- ✧ Asal Youth Development Association (ASAL)
- ✧ Community Empowerment and Social Development Organization (CESDO)
- ✧ Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- ✧ Northern Frontier Youth League (NoFYL)
- ✧ Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- ✧ Peace Hub Foundation (PHF)
- ✧ Puntland Minority and Women Development Organization (PMWDO)
- ✧ Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC)
- ✧ Somali Young Doctors Association (SOYDA)
- ✧ Women Initiative for Society Empowerment (WISE)

### With special thanks to April narrative contributors:



The purpose of the Somalia 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.

Information provided through the SPMS solely reflects 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.