

# Protection Monitoring in Kenya:

## Garissa & Turkana Counties

(Dadaab, Kakuma & Kalobeyei)

# PROTECTION MONITORING RISK AND TRENDS

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**AUGUST 2023**

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# INTRODUCTION

## About PMRT

The Protection Monitoring Risks and Trends (PMRT) by DRC Kenya gathers primary and secondary data from an indicative sample of at-risk communities in Kenya to provide a community-centric understanding of local protection dynamics, and an analysis of protection incidents and trends. In July-August, the focus was on areas in northwest and northeast Kenya (Dadaab, Kakuma & Kalobeyei) where rights violations and protection information gaps remain prevalent.

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## Introduction

Protection monitoring during forced displacement is essential to safeguard fundamental rights enshrined in international human rights and refugee law instruments, regional treaties, and national legislation. By collecting, verifying and analysing information, it is possible to identify human rights violations and protection risks in order to inform advocacy strategies, design and implement programmes, and make quality interventions.

DRC pioneered protection risk and trends monitoring that is aimed at collecting, collating and triangulating protection trends to provide an overview of the protection environment. During July/August 2023 DRC's trained protection monitors carried out 686 interviews encompassing diverse range of roles within the camps, i.e., community structures and the general community members, as part of the ongoing study into protection concerns across northwest and northeast Kenya.

The geographical scope of the interviews encompasses areas of Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei.

The contextual analysis derived from these

interviews aims to provide an overview of the protection environment in these locations, as described by communities themselves, with particular considerations given to safety and security, gender-based violence, child protection, persons with disability, elderly, movement in/out of the camps and access to services.

## Methodology

During July and August, our team conducted routine interviews with 686 refugees (59.91% females, 40.09% males) in Dadaab, Kakuma, and Kalobeyei. The distribution across sites was 72.8% Dadaab, 17.9% Kakuma and 9.3% Kalobeyei Settlement. The disparities between the samples across camps was as a result of few monitors in Kakuma and Kalobeyei but in no ways affects the study results.

This information reflects harmonized methods and tools used to monitor protection trends, violations, their scale, and their impact during July and August 2023. Key informants, representing diverse roles within the camps, were selected for this ongoing study on protection concerns in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei.

Participants shared their experiences and observations from the community, addressing protection issues like legal safeguards, safety, gender-based violence (GBV), child protection, access to services, and movement within and beyond camps. This comprehensive approach informs future actions to enhance overall protection. Additionally, the PMRT report integrates data from DRC's Gender-Based Violence Incident Monitoring System (GVBIMS) and the Child Protection Information Management System Primero (CPIMS+).

## KEY FINDINGS

**Safety and security:** The most prevalent incidents reported include conflicts over water, conflicts between neighbours, disputes over resources, robbery and theft and harassment by criminal groups. Incidents between neighbours decreased, possibly signalling improved community relations, while reports of robbery and theft increased, indicating potential rising criminal activities. Key hotspots for incidents included homes, water points and food distribution areas, calling for targeted security measures in these locations. Perpetrators primarily included neighbours, intimate partners, friends, and female family members, highlighting the role of close relationships in safety risks. Affected demographic groups encompass adult women, adolescent girls, and boys, revealing gender and age-specific vulnerabilities. The morning emerged as the riskiest time of day, necessitating enhanced security during this period. Preferred coping mechanisms involve reporting to community leaders, security, police, or relevant agencies, showcasing a reliance on community support and external assistance in addressing safety and security concerns within the camps.

**Gender-Based Violence:** (GBV). High awareness of GBV incidents was recorded. Most common GBV types include domestic violence, physical assault, emotional/psychological abuse, rape, and sexual assault. Most affected population were adult women (18-59 yrs), followed by adolescent girls, adult men, persons with disabilities, and elderly women. GBV occurred in various places, with homes, roads, water points, and food distribution areas as hotspots. Perpetrators included neighbours, friends, intimate partners, and female family members. One of the respondents expressed “*why would a husband ask for consent from his wife, we consider our partners like the garments we wear, their body is ours.*”

*As men we do not request to be intimate with our wives rather, we just do it. As for the women, when they behave in a particular manner, we know what they want”.* Respondents typically involved police, community leaders, or the Danish Refugee Council in responding to GBV, indicating a willingness to seek external support and resolution.

**Child Protection:** Neglect by parents or caregivers emerged as the most prevalent issue affecting children in the camp, followed by challenges related to education, child labor, instances of nothing happening, and forced child marriage. These findings highlight a range of complex challenges that children face, necessitating comprehensive support and intervention strategies. Incidents occur in various locations, with roads, homes, and tasks like fetching firewood and water being particularly vulnerable settings. Vulnerable groups include adolescent girls, children with disabilities, younger girls, adolescent boys, unaccompanied or separated children, girl mothers, and younger boys. Perpetrators are varied, with family members, neighbours, friends, parents, caregivers, and even community leaders being involved in child protection incidents. Response mechanisms involve community leaders, security personnel, the police, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), local dispute resolution, and external agencies like UNHCR.

**Persons with Disabilities:** A significant majority of respondents (71.2%) acknowledge the presence of PWDs in their section/block of the refugee camp, highlighting the significant representation of this group. The most pressing issues affecting PWDs include the lack of livelihood opportunities, discrimination, neglect, barriers to accessing essential services, and various forms of abuse, including gender-based violence (GBV).

It is alarming that 5.5% of PWDs report experiencing sexual assault, while 5.3% report cases of rape. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach, including combatting discrimination, enhancing access to services, and providing protection against abuse and neglect. PWDs and their families seek assistance through various channels, including UNHCR, DRC field offices, community workers, and community leaders. associated with conflict.

**Elderly Persons:** A majority of respondents (72.8%) confirm the presence of elderly individuals in their locality, underscoring the significant representation of this demographic group. The challenges confronting elderly persons are multifaceted, with the most prevalent concern being the lack of livelihood opportunities, followed by discrimination, neglect by family members or caregivers, and difficulties accessing essential services. Alarming, a notable percentage of elderly individuals report experiencing various forms of abuse, including physical assault and sexual violence. These findings highlight the urgent need for targeted interventions and support systems to address the complex challenges faced by elderly persons in camps. Elderly individuals and their families seek assistance through various channels, including direct contact with humanitarian agencies, community leaders, and community workers.

**Movement in/out of camps:** A significant majority of respondents (68.2%) reported the presence of new arrivals within the camp, highlighting the dynamic nature of camp populations. These newcomers arrive from diverse backgrounds, driven by a range of factors such as conflicts, environmental challenges, and the pursuit of better life opportunities. Notably, 94% of new arrivals have been able to access registration and documentation support services, facilitating their integration into the camp and access to essential services. Security, health, and gender-based violence (GBV) services emerged as top priorities for new arrivals, reflecting their immediate needs and concerns.

A respondent expressed “we have witnessed a lot of GBV cases occurring at the clusters, affecting the new arrivals. We have also witnessed new arrivals being exploited by unknown people posing as Agency staff, the most affected are the young girls in the clusters who are also the most vulnerable.” While a majority (53%) expressed satisfaction with their ability to access services, 45% had mixed or uncertain experiences, suggesting room for improvement.

The challenges faced by new arrivals primarily revolve around shelter, registration for new-borns, and general difficulties in accessing services. Addressing these challenges is crucial to ensuring the well-being and integration of new arrivals into the camp community, emphasizing the importance of equitable access to essential services.

## Recommendations

Based on overall findings, we make the following recommendations that should be seen as additional to existing Protection advocacy messages and calls:

### Protection Actors

- Ensure accessible, visible and understandable referral mappings are available to implementing actors and communities at the camps/reception centres. The referral mapping should be presented to communities in a language they understand and an easy-to-read format in locations often frequented. This aims to ensure newly displaced/arrived individuals and households are aware of agency presence and services. CFM information should be included.
- Enhance communication with communities (CwC) initiatives to mitigate violence/conflict during humanitarian assistance provision. Agencies providing assistance in the form of distributions or otherwise are recommended to explain selection criteria, options for alternative assistance providers and future timelines of assistance provision, as well as information on CFM. Engagement with community leaders is advised to understand additional mitigation measures to violence reported, as well as most appropriate language and settings for CwC initiatives. Furthermore, opportunity for stress-release – in the shape of sharing fora or MHPSS services, should be provided to the community under distress.
- 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. Simultaneously, engagement with local authorities, at both regional and district level should be carried out to further raise concerns and agree on mitigation measures. Additionally, training of PSEA for staff and community leaders is recommended to be prioritized, with associated messages of unconditionality of assistance being disseminated to communities.
- Ensure key messages to households on the move are disseminated relating to best practices to avoid family separation. These messages should include child-friendly formats to ensure children are aware of full and detailed (contact) information of their parents and parents/family members have mitigation measures in place.

**We would like to thank our generous donors whose contributions make our work possible:**



**Co-funded by  
European Union  
Humanitarian Aid**



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