

# Final Report

## Data Analysis: Incident Reporting Database

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**Presented to:**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Violence Observatory System (VOS) is a tool developed by the Somali Women Development Centre (SWDC) and the Somali Women's Study Centre (SWSC) to collect data on violence against women activists and journalists in Banadir, Jubaland and South West State. The VOS provides an overview of the victims of violence reports collected by these organizations in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Kismayo and Wajid.

The following report provides an overview of the data collected, as well as recommendations for improving the situation, including strengthening the legal framework to protect women's rights, providing training for law enforcement officials, supporting survivors, advocating for better legal protection for women and girls, and improving access to justice for survivors. The data collected can be used to influence decision-makers and authorities, push for better legal protection, and inform policies and programs to prevent violence against women.

An overview of the findings from the data included the following:

- Violence against women journalists and activists is widespread and multifaceted in Kismayo, Mogadishu, Wajid and Baidoa. A number of threats were mentioned in the data, with the most prevalent including physical assault, rape, psychological/emotional abuse, denial of resources, online sexual harassment, as well as domestic abuse.
- The majority of the survivors were married (41.74%), divorced/separated (30.43%), or single (21.74%).
- The most common locations of the incidents included the survivors' homes (37.84%), place of work (14.41%), street/road (12.61%), and perpetrator's home (11.71%).
- Survivors included survivors with disabilities (16.5%), and the majority of them were mentally challenged.
- Male perpetrators were responsible for the majority of violence, while female perpetrators accounted for only a small percentage.
- The majority of survivors were not referred to a safe space (85.11%), nor did they receive medical services upon referral.
- A significant percentage of survivors chose not to pursue any legal action (62.77%), while a small percentage remained undecided.
- Access to justice remains a significant challenge, with the majority of survivors not referred to legal assistance services.
- Only a small percentage of survivors relied on traditional justice systems.
- The vast majority of survivors relied on the formal justice system to pursue redress actions.

As part of the analysis, a number of recommendations were highlighted, which included:

1. The government should strengthen the legal framework to protect women's rights and enforce laws that protect women from violence. It should also **provide training for law enforcement officials on how to handle cases of gender-based violence**, including how to sensitively engage with survivors and the importance of protecting their rights.
2. **Civil society organizations should advocate for women's rights and provide support to survivors.** Saferworld, SWDC and SWC can work with civil society organizations to provide training and support to women journalists and activists, including how to report cases of violence, how to access support services, and how to seek redress for violations of their rights.
3. **Saferworld can support civil society organizations to advocate for better legal protection for women and girls**, including advocating for stronger legal frameworks that address gender-based violence, sexual harassment, and discrimination against women.
4. Saferworld can also work with **civil society organizations to provide psychosocial support to survivors of violence**, including through counseling and other forms of support.
5. **The VOS data can be used to inform the development of policies and programs** aimed at preventing violence against women journalists and activists. By providing a clear understanding of the problem and its causes, the VOS can help to guide the development of targeted interventions that address the specific needs of women in these roles.
6. **Continued investment in the VOS is critical to expanding its reach and impact**, providing even more women with evidence-based information on the prevalence and nature of violence against women activists and journalists, and raising awareness about the issue to put pressure on governments and other actors to take action.

## INTRODUCTION

The Violence Observatory System (VOS) is a crucial tool for collecting data on the types of violence that women activists and journalists face in Somalia. The VOS was developed as part of the ‘Making Space for Peacebuilding: Strengthening Participation and Safety of Women Activists and Journalists in Southwest State, Jubaland, and Mogadishu, Somalia’ Project, which was implemented by the Somali Women Development Centre (SWDC) and the Somali Women’s Study Centre (SWSC). The aim of the project was to strengthen the participation and safety of women activists and journalists in the region.

The VOS toolkit is designed to provide an overview of the existing data collected on the types of violence that women activists and journalists face in Somalia. The toolkit includes a dashboard that presents the survivor reports collected by the SWDC and SWSC, which totaled 115 survivors in Baidoa, Mogadishu, Kismayo, and Wajid. The toolkit is essential for addressing the data-related challenges in South West and Jubaland in collecting data on violence against women activists and journalists.

The VOS provides a standardized approach to collecting data on violence against women activists and journalists. With a consistent mechanism for collecting data across different regions, the toolkit will allow for cross-regional data comparison, providing a more accurate picture of the types of violence that women activists and journalists face in Somalia.

The data gathered by the VOS will help women activists in their engagement with police, clan, and religious leaders at the Federal Member States (FMS) level. By sharing evidence-based data with FMS authorities, as well as non-governmental organizations, the response to violence against women activists and journalists can be strengthened. The data will also be used to advocate for policy changes and legal reforms to address violence against women activists and journalists.

This report will provide an in-depth analysis of the gathered data at the end of last year, which was established to document incidents of violence against women and girls in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Kismayo and Wajid. The report will be divided into several sections to provide a comprehensive overview of the findings, identify any gaps in the data, and make recommendations for future iterations of the system. The breakdown of findings will include a regional analysis of the percentage of participants reporting violence, the type of violence reported, and the percentage of reports submitted by survivors/victims. Additionally, the report will examine the age, civil/marital status, disabilities, and location of the incidents reported. It will also analyze the perpetrators of the violence and the referrals made for survivors, including access to justice and legal actions. Finally, the report will provide recommendations for government, law enforcement, and civil society, and highlight why further support and funding for the VOS is critical.

## Methodology and Approach

Through the use of Kobo, an open-source data collection tool, SWDC and SWSC documented the experiences of survivors of violence. A set of standardized questions were developed to collect information on the types of violence experienced, the identity of the perpetrators, and the response of the victims to the violence.

The questionnaire was administered by trained enumerators who conducted face-to-face interviews with survivors. The data was collected over a period of six months, and the reports included women activists and journalists from Baidoa, Mogadishu, Kismayo, and Wajid.

The standardized methodology used in collecting data will enable the comparison of data across different regions, providing a more accurate picture of the types of violence that women activists and journalists face in Somalia.

### *Overview of Survivors Surveyed:*

Location	Number of Survivors
Kismayo	46
Mogadishu	28
Baidoa	34
Wajid	7
<b>Total Survivors</b>	<b>115 Survivors</b>

The survey consists of 26 questions<sup>1</sup>, covering details such as the date and location of the incident, the survivor's demographics, the type of violence experienced, the alleged perpetrator's details, and whether the survivor wants to pursue any redress or legal action.

The data analysis was conducted through Excel and PowerBi, a data visualization tool. The data was first cleaned and organized to ensure accuracy and completeness. The main objective of the analysis, was to identify, analyze, and interpret trends or patterns in the complex data sets, which included 115 respondents from Kismayo, Mogadishu, Baidoa, and Wajid.

## BREAKDOWN OF KEY FINDINGS

In this section, the report will analyze the key findings from the Violence Observation System (VOS) database. The key findings will focus on the following sub-sections:

1. Regional Indicators
2. Average Ages of the Survivors
3. Report Authors
4. Civil/Marital Status
5. Location of the Incidents
6. Disabilities
7. Who are the Perpetrators?
8. Referrals
9. Access to Justice
10. Legal Assistance

### 1. Regional Indicators

The VOS system provided data on incidents of violence in Kismayo, Mogadishu, Baidoa, and Wajid. Kismayo (combined districts of Farjano, Calanley and Shaqaalaha) had the highest number of reported incidents, with 46 cases (40%).

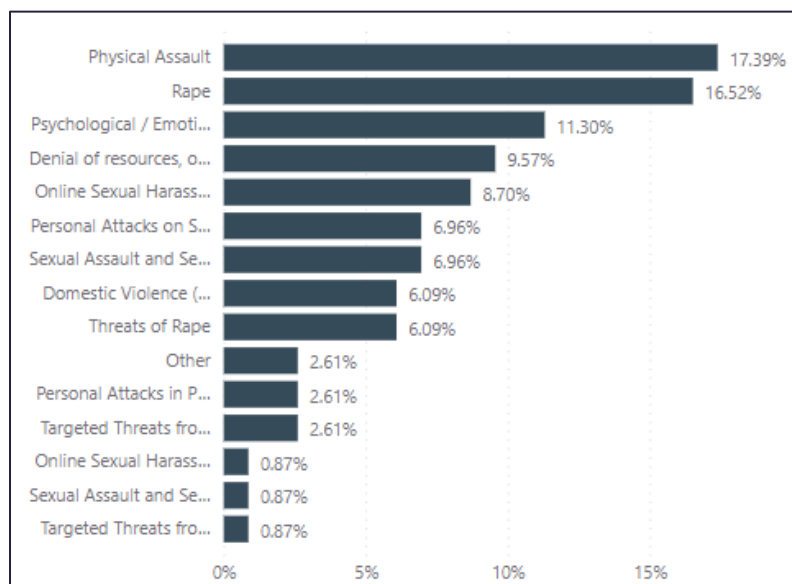
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<sup>1</sup> The survey questions are included in the annex below.

Baidoa and Mogadishu followed with 34 cases (29.57%), and 28 cases (24.35%) respectively, while Wajid had seven cases (6.09%).

The data illustrates the prevalence of different types of threats across various locations. Physical assault and rape were the most frequently reported types of violence, accounting for 17.39% and 16.52% of incidents respectively. Psychological and emotional abuse was also a prevalent issue, making up 11.30% of reported incidents. Denial of resources, such as access to basic needs like food, water and shelter, was another type of threat reported in 9.57% of incidents. Online sexual harassment, including harassment related to media work, accounted for 8.7% of reported incidents, while personal attacks on social media made up 6.98%. Sexual assault and harassment by strangers and domestic violence are also reported, with each making up 6.96% and 6.09% of incidents respectively. Finally, threats of rape accounted for 6.09% of reported incidents, while other types of threats made up 2.61%.

### *Types of Threats Across All Locations*



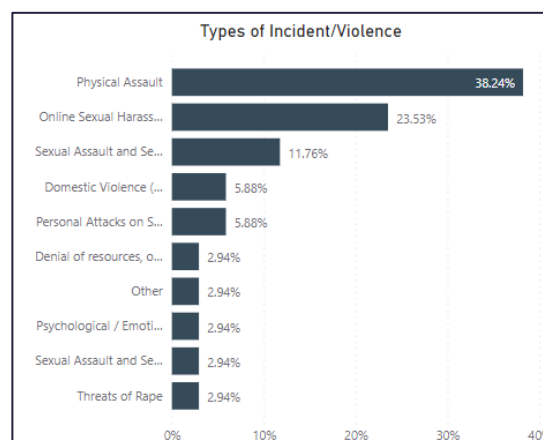
Of the 115 reporters surveyed, 50 of them (43.5%) reported having experienced violence related to their work. In Mogadishu, 23 out of 115 reporters (20%) had previously experienced violence, while the numbers were lower in other cities, with 7 out of 115 reporters in Baidoa (6%) and 7 out of 115 in Wajid (6%) having faced violence. However, in Kismayo, 13 out of 115 reporters (11%) also reported having experienced violence. These statistics highlight the significant percentage of reporters who face dangers and challenges while carrying out their work.

The below provides an overview of the different types of threats reported across the different locations.

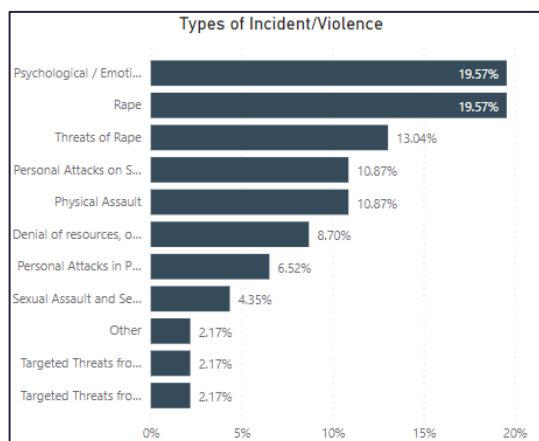


## Baidoa

Baidoa has a significantly higher percentage of physical assault incidents than other locations, with 38.24% of incidents involving physical assault. This is notably higher than the overall percentage of physical assault incidents reported across all locations, which stands at 17.39%. Online sexual harassment related to media work is a major issue in Baidoa, accounting for 23.53% of incidents. This suggests that journalists and other media workers in Baidoa may face heightened risks of harassment and intimidation whilst undertaking their work.



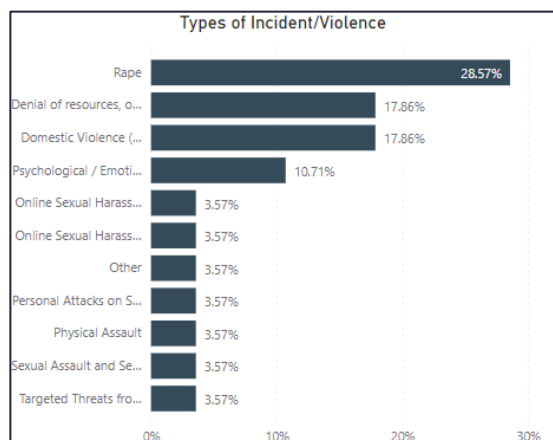
## Kismayo



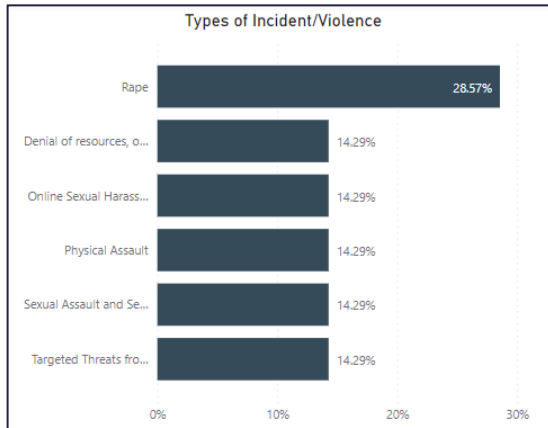
Psychological/emotional abuse and rape are the two most commonly reported types of violence in Kismayo, both accounting for 19.57% of incidents, separately. Threats of rape was at 13.04%, whilst personal attacks on social media accounted for 10.87% of incidents. This suggests that online harassment and intimidation may be a significant issue in Kismayo, and underscores the importance of addressing online violence as a form of gender-based violence.

## Mogadishu

In Mogadishu, rape is the most commonly reported violence (28.57%). Denial of resources and domestic violence follows, accounting for 17.86% of incidents each. The denial of resources and domestic violence suggests that economic insecurity and gender inequality are significant drivers of violence in Mogadishu. It is notable that online sexual harassment related to activism and peacebuilding is also reported, albeit at a lower rate (3.57%), highlighting the need to address online violence in all its forms.



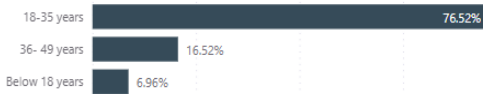
## Wajid



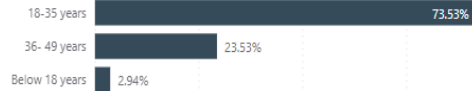
Despite the comparatively small number of reported incidents in Wajid (only 7 cases), the data highlights that rape was the most frequently reported type of violence, accounting for 28.57% of cases. Denial of resources and online sexual harassment related to media work were both reported at 14.29% each, indicating that journalists may face challenges accessing resources and also facing harassment in the digital space. Physical assault was also reported at 14.29%, indicating that journalists are at risk of physical harm while performing their duties. Sexual assault and harassment by strangers were reported in 14.29% cases, highlighting the risk that journalists face from unknown individuals.

## 2. Average Ages of Survivors

### All Locations



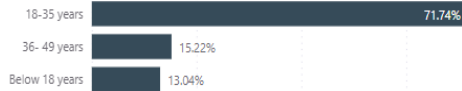
### Baidoa



### Mogadishu



### Kismayo



### Wajid



Across all locations, 76.52% of survivors were aged between 18-35 years, 16.52% were aged between 36-49 years, and 6.96% were below 18 years of age. The most prevalent types of threats experienced by survivors aged 18-35 years was physical assault (17.05%), rape (15.91%), and psychological/emotional abuse (11.36%). Those aged between 36-49 years mainly experienced physical assault (21.05%), denial of resources (21.05%), and psychological/emotional abuse (15.79%), whilst those aged below 18 years mainly faced rape (37.50%), denial of resources (25%), and physical assault (12.5%).

In Baidoa, 73.53% of survivors were aged between 18-35 years, 23.53% were aged between 36-49 years, and only 2.94% were below 18 years of age. Of those in Baidoa, the most prevalent threats faced by 18-35 years included physical assault (36%), online sexual harassment (32%) and sexual assault (12%). Survivors aged between 36-49-years-old in Baidoa had more challenges related to physical assault (50%), denial of resources (12.5%) and domestic violence (12.5%), whilst survivors under 18 years in Baidoa mainly faced challenges related to physical assault (17.39%), rape (16.52%) and psychological/emotional abuse (11.30%).

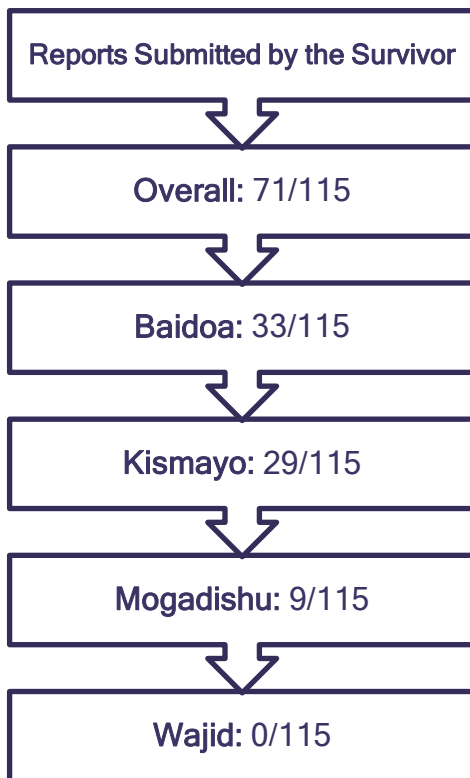
In Mogadishu, the trend towards younger survivors was even more pronounced, with 85.71% aged between 18-35 years, 10.71% aged between 36-49 years, and 3.57% below 18 years of age. The most common incidents for 18-35-year-olds in Mogadishu included rape (29.17%), denial of resources (20.83%), and domestic violence (16.67%). This varied for survivors aged between 36-49 years, who mainly experienced challenges related to rape (33.33%), psychological/emotional abuse (33.33%), and targeted threats by hostile groups (33.33%). The one survivor aged under 18 in Mogadishu experienced challenges related to domestic violence.

Kismayo had the highest percentage of survivors below 18 years of age at 13.04%, while 71.74% were aged between 18-35 years, and 15.22% were aged between 36-49 years. The most common challenges faced by 18-35-year-olds in Kismayo included psychological/emotional abuse (21.21%), threats of rape (18.18%) and rape (15.15%). Survivors aged 36-49 years in Kismayo mainly experienced psychological/emotional abuse (28.57%), denial of resources (28.57%) and personal attacks on social media (14.29%). Those aged below 18 years in Kismayo mainly experienced rape (50%), denial of resources (33.33%) and physical assault (16.67%).

In Wajid, the trend towards younger survivors was similar to that of Mogadishu, with 85.71% aged between 18-35 years, 14.29% aged between 36-49 years, and there were no reports of survivors below 18 years of age. The most common incidence in Wajid for 18-35-year-olds were rape (33.33%), physical abuse (16.67%) and online abuse (16.67%). Survivors aged 36-49 years mainly experienced denial of resources (100%).

### 3. Report Authors

Overall, 61.74% of the reports were submitted by the survivors, indicating a willingness among survivors to come forward and report the event.



Baidoa had the highest percentage (28.7%) of reports submitted by survivors, followed closely by Kismayo (25.22%). Mogadishu had the lowest percentage (7.83%) suggesting that survivors there were less willing to report the event compared to those in Baidoa and Kismayo.

In terms of age, the majority of survivors who self-referred their incidents in all locations were in the 18-35 age range. In Baidoa the majority of the self-referrals were made by 18-35-year-olds (75.76%), whilst self-referral from 36-45-year-olds (21.21%) and below 18-year-olds (3.03%) were less common. In Kismayo, the self-referrals were also mainly made by 18-35-year-olds (79.31%), with Mogadishu also having a significant percentage of self-referrals being made by 18-35-year-olds (88.89%).

It is evident from the data that there are significantly lower number of self-referrals being made by survivors aged over 35 years old, as well as those aged below 18 years old. The data also showed significantly lower self-referrals in Mogadishu in particular. Factors such as fear of reprisals, lack of access to reporting mechanisms, or mistrust of authorities may have contributed to the lower percentage of reports submitted by these groups.

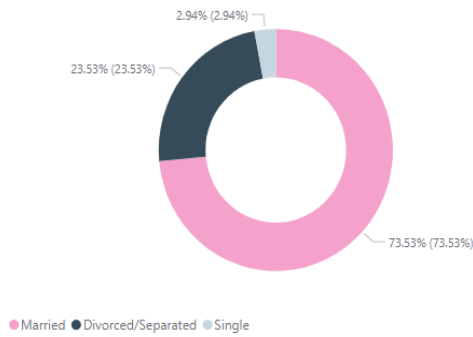
### 4. Civil/Marital Status

The data reveals that across all regions, the majority of survivors were married, accounting for 41.74%. The next largest group were those who are divorced/separated, comprising 30.43% of survivors, followed by single women who made up 21.74%. The smallest group were widowed individuals, accounting for only 6.09% of survivors. This indicates a prevalence of violence among married individuals.

#### *Marital Status Across All Locations*

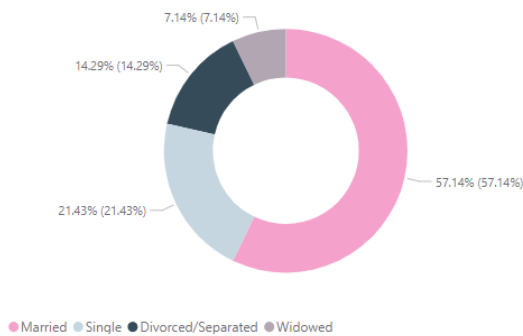


### Baidoa



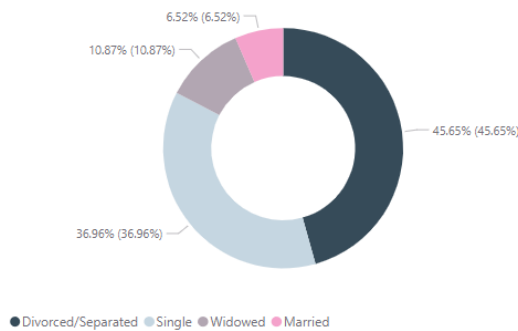
The data shows that married women are at a higher risk of violence compared to single and divorced women, with varying patterns across regions. In Baidoa, the highest percentage of survivors are 73.53%, single women survivors make up 2.94%, the lowest of all the regions.

### Mogadishu



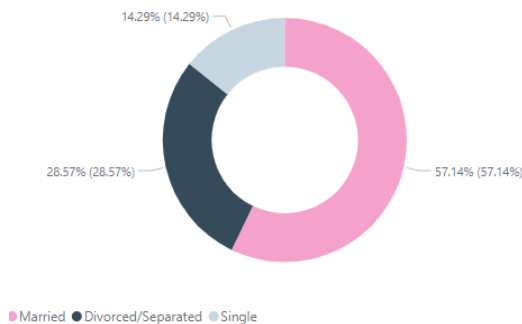
In Mogadishu, married survivors account for 57.14% of the total, while single women survivors account for just 21.43%. There is a higher percentage of divorced/separated women survivors (14.29%).

### Kismayo



Kismayo shows a higher percentage of divorced/separated survivors (46.65%), the highest of all the regions. Additionally, the percentage of single women survivors in Kismayo is higher than the overall average at 36.96%.

### Wajid



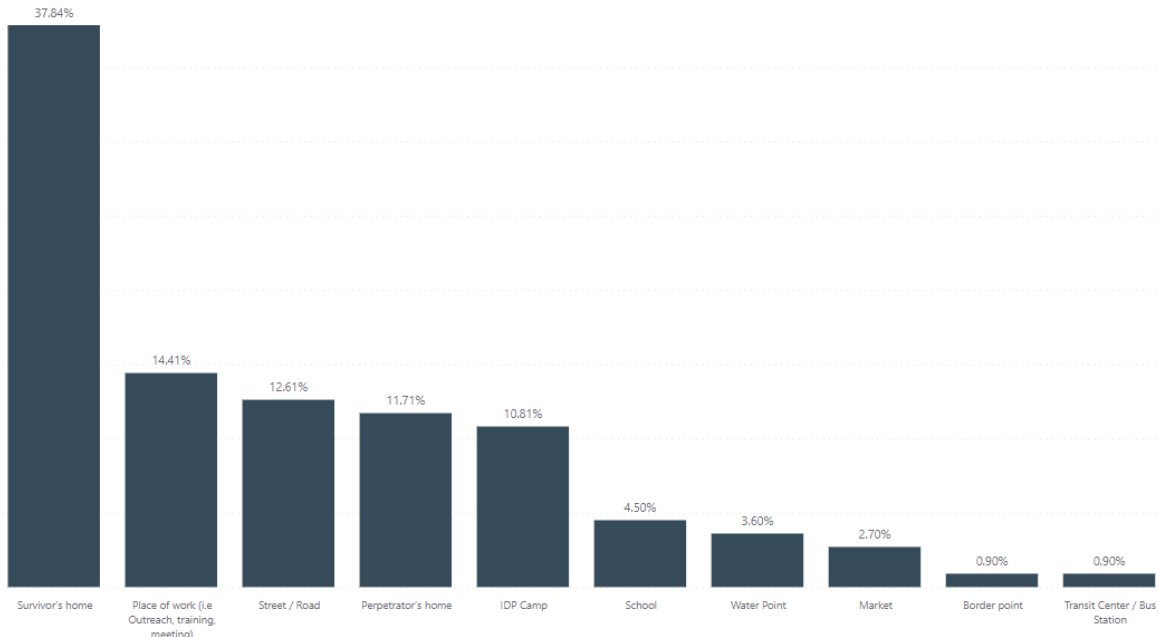
In Wajid, the percentage of married survivors is similar to Mogadishu at 57.14%, but the percentage of divorced/separated survivors is lower at 28.57%, closer to the overall average. The percentage of single survivors is also lower at 14.29%.

The data presented in the regional breakdowns may suggest that there are higher rates of domestic abuse among married women. However, it is also possible that other factors, such as stigma or fear of retaliation, may contribute to lower reporting rates among single and divorced/separated women.

## 5. Location of the Incidents

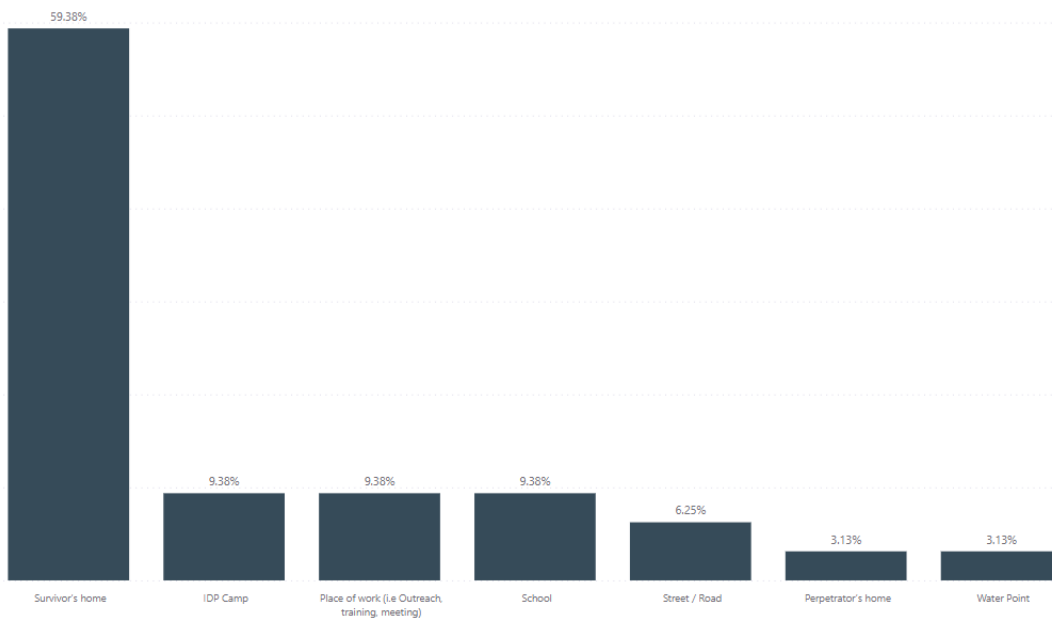
Overall, the incidents occurred mostly at survivors' homes (37.84%), followed by the place of work (14.41%), street/road (12.61%), and perpetrator's home (11.71%). IDP camps, schools, water points, markets, transit centers/bus stations, and border points accounted for a lower percentage of incidents.

*Location of Incident (All locations)*



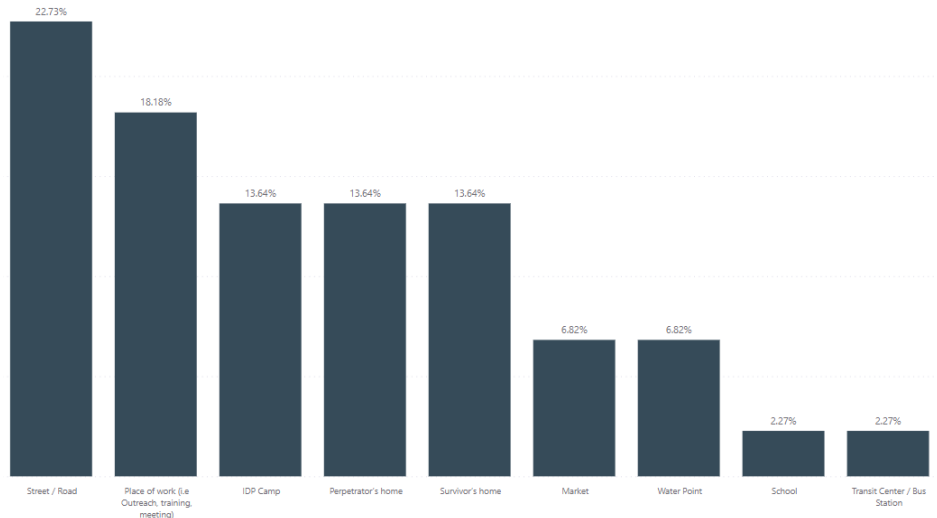
When disaggregated by region, the data shows that in Baidoa, the majority of the incidents occurred at survivors' homes (59.38%), followed by schools, places of work, and IDP camps, each accounting for 9.38%.

*Location of Incident (Baidoa)*



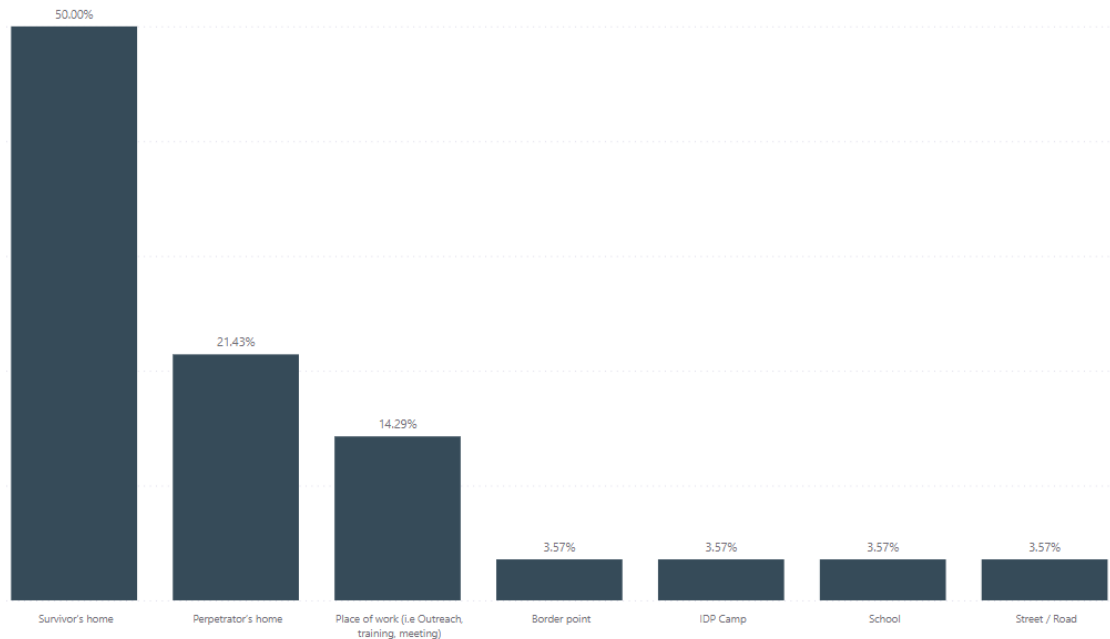
In Kismayo, the highest percentage of incidents occurred on the street/road (22.73%) and at the place of work (18.18%), followed by IDP camps, perpetrators' homes, and survivors' homes, each accounting for 13.64%.

### *Location of Incident (Kismayo)*



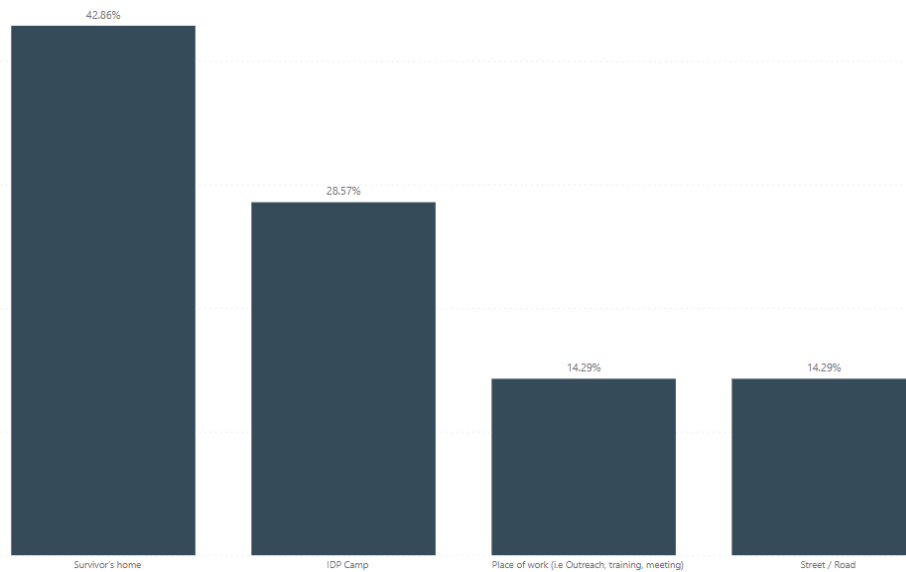
In Mogadishu, the majority of the incidents occurred at survivors' homes (50%), followed by perpetrators' homes (21.43%) and the survivors' place of work (14.29%).

### *Location of Incident (Mogadishu)*



Finally, in Wajid, the highest percentage of incidents occurred at survivors' homes (42.86%), followed by IDP camps (28.57%), and the place of work and street/road, each accounting for 14.29%.

### *Location of Incident (Wajid)*



Across all regions, the data shows that survivors' homes were the most common location for incidents of violence, with the highest percentage in Baidoa. The place of work was the second most common location, with the highest percentage in Kismayo. The street/road was also a significant location for incidents, particularly in Kismayo.

When disaggregated by age, the data shows that for the 18-35 years age group, the majority of incidents occurred at survivors' homes (38.82%), followed by perpetrators' homes (14.12%) and their place of work (12.94%).

For the 36-49 years old age group, survivors' homes were also the most common location (38.89%), followed by the place of work (16.67%) and street/road (16.67%).

For the below 18 years old age group, the incidents were distributed more evenly, with the highest percentage of incidents occurring at the place of work and survivors' homes, each accounting for 25%, followed by IDP camps, perpetrators' homes, and street/road, each accounting for 12.5%, and schools also accounting for 12.5%.

Similar to the regional disaggregation, the data shows that survivors' homes were the most common location for incidents across all age groups. For the 18-35 years old age group, perpetrators' homes were the second most common location, while for the 36-49 years old age group, the place of work and street/road were also significant locations for incidents. For the below 18 years old age group, the incidents were more evenly distributed among various locations, with the place of work and survivors' homes being the most common.

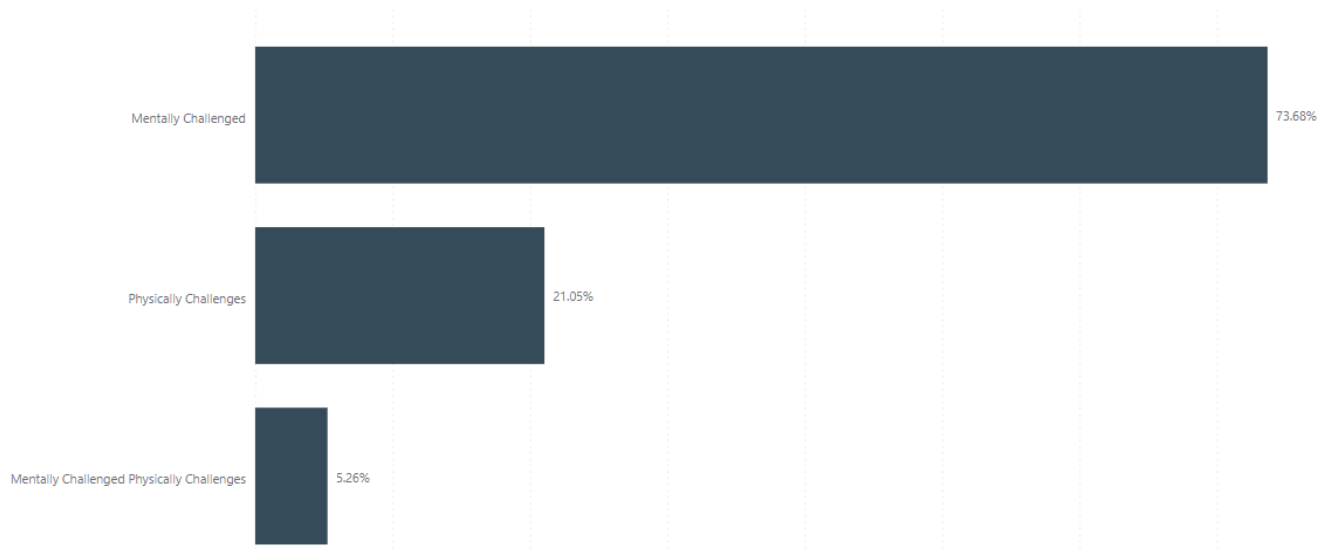


## 6. Disabilities

The data shows that 19 out of 115 survivors have a disability, which accounts for approximately 16.52% of the total reports. The highest number of victims/survivors with disabilities were in Kismayo, where nine individuals (47.37%) had a disability, followed by Baidoa with five individuals (26.32%), Mogadishu with four individuals (21.05%), and Wajid with one individual (0.05%).

When looking at the specific types of disabilities, the majority (73.68%) of the victims/survivors with disabilities were mentally challenged. This implies that 14 out of 19 individuals with a disability had a mental challenge. Additionally, 21.05% of the victims/survivors with a disability were physically challenged. Only one person had both types of challenges, representing 5.26% of the victims/survivors with disabilities.

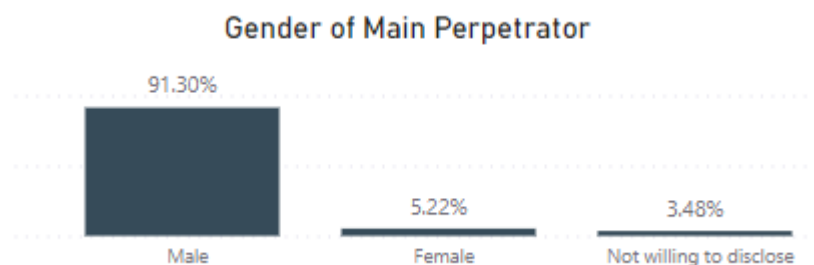
### *If they have disability, what type? (All locations)*



The findings regarding the high percentage of mentally challenged survivors highlight the need for greater attention to mental health issues, particularly when supporting survivors in the target locations. The results also underscore the importance of ensuring that humanitarian assistance and services are accessible and inclusive for individuals with disabilities in Kismayo, Mogadishu, Baidoa and Wajid.

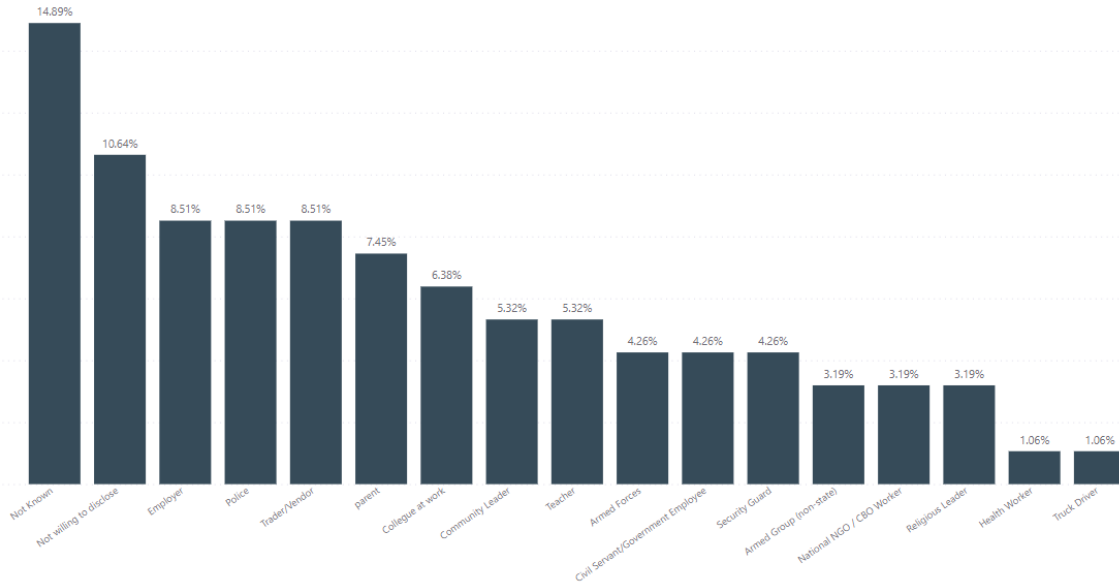
## 7. Who are the Perpetrators?

The data shows that male perpetrators are responsible for the majority of violence in the target location, constituting 91.30% of all perpetrators, while female perpetrators constitute only 5.52%. The remaining 3.48% did not disclose their gender.



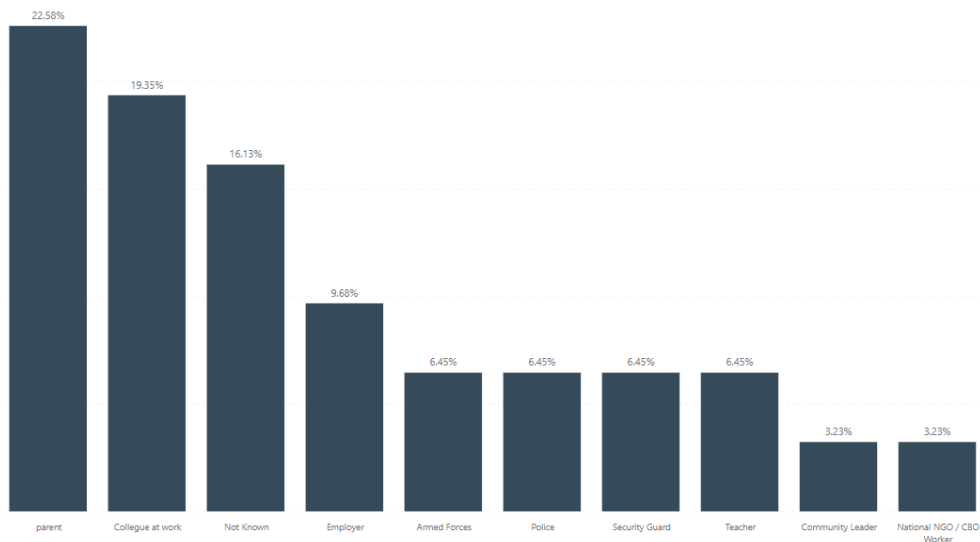
The data indicates that perpetrators from different professions contribute to violence in Baidoa, Mogadishu, Kismayo and Wajid. Among the known perpetrators, 14.89% of them had an unknown profession, and 10.64% did not disclose their profession. Employers, police, and traders/vendors each constituted 8.51% of all known perpetrators, followed by parents at 7.45% and colleagues at 6.38%. The data also shows that community leaders, teachers, armed forces, government employees, security guards, armed groups, NGOs, religious leaders, and health workers were involved in violence, though to a lesser extent.

### Perpetrators by Profession - All Locations



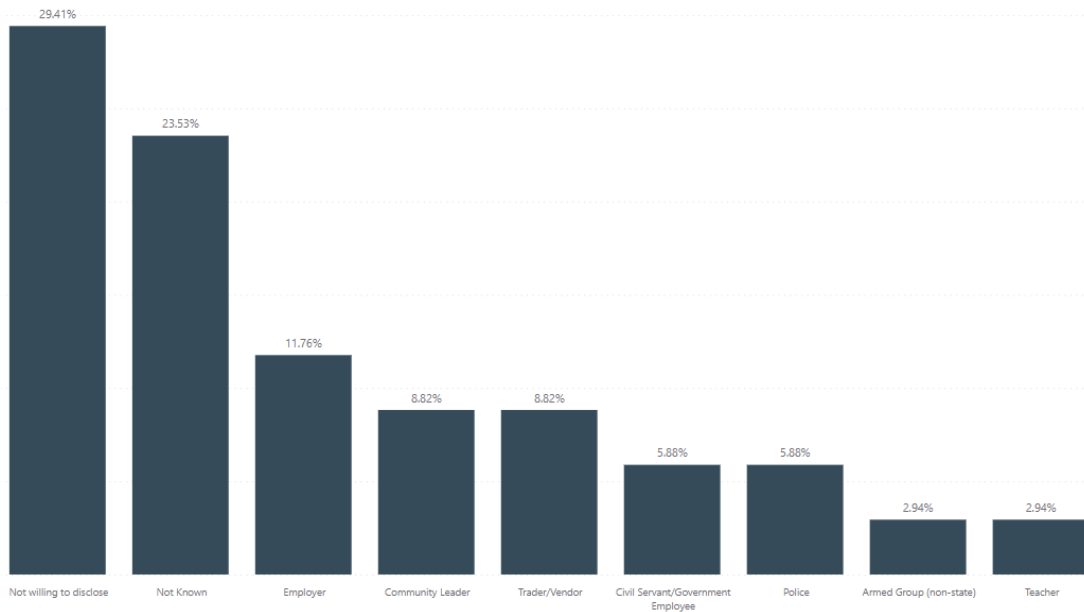
### Perpetrators by Profession - Baidoa:

In Baidoa, parents were responsible for the highest percentage of violence at 22.58%, followed closely by colleagues at work at 19.35%. Among the known perpetrators, 16.13% had an unknown profession, while employers, armed forces, police, security guards, teachers, and community leaders each accounted for less than 10% of all known perpetrators. NGOs were responsible for 3.23% of violence in the region.



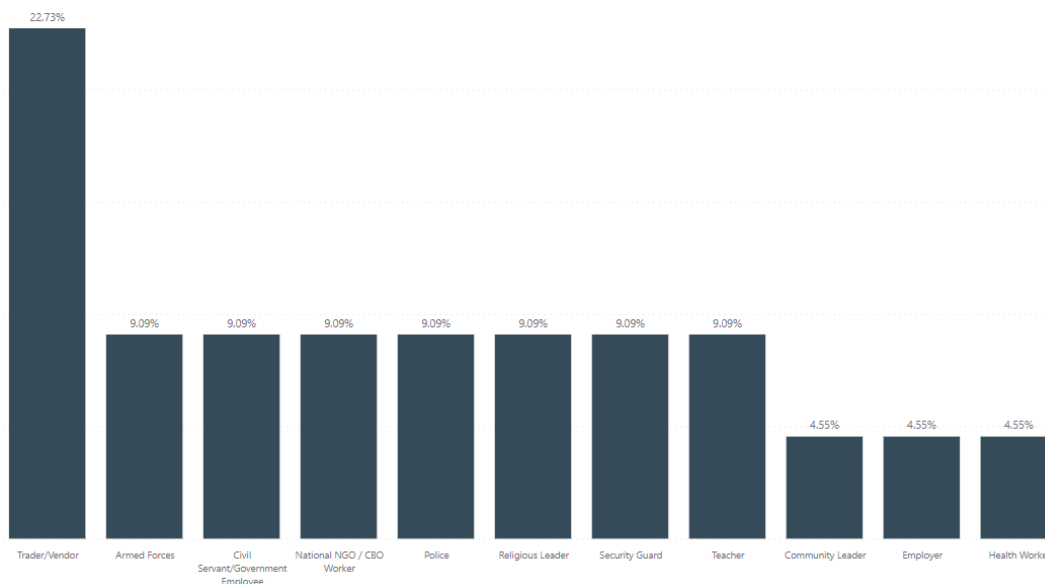
### Perpetrators by Profession - Kismayo:

In Kismayo, the highest percentage of perpetrators chose not to disclose their profession, accounting for 29.41% of all known perpetrators, while 23.53% had an unknown profession. Among the known perpetrators, employers and community leaders each constituted 11.76% of perpetrators, followed by traders/vendors at 8.82% and government employees and police at 5.88%. Armed groups and teachers were responsible for only 2.94% of violence each.



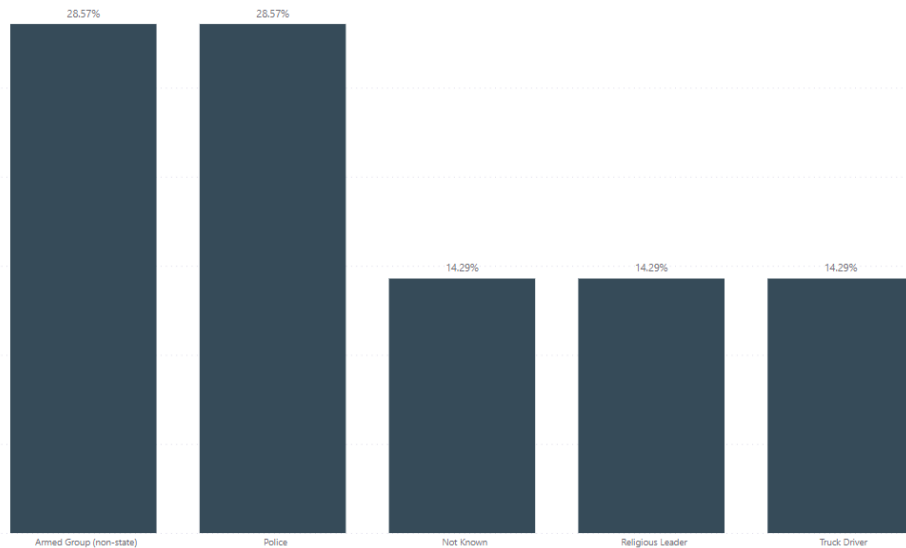
### Perpetrators by Profession - Mogadishu:

In Mogadishu, traders/vendors were responsible for the highest percentage of violence at 22.73%, followed by various professions that each accounted for 9.09% of perpetrators: armed forces, government employees, NGOs, police, religious leaders, and security guards. Teachers were responsible for 9.09% of violence, followed by community leaders and employers at 4.55% each, and health workers at 4.55%.



### Perpetrators by Profession - Wajid:

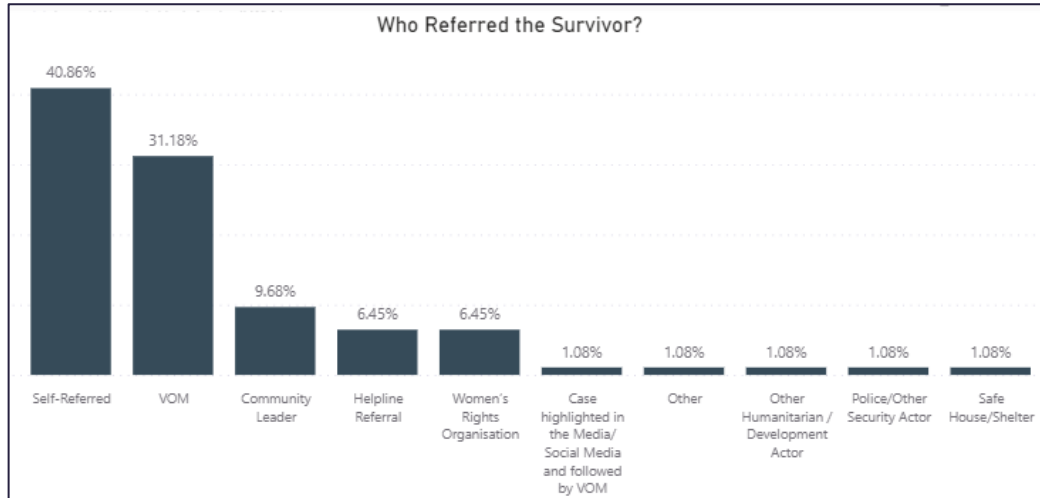
In Wajid, armed groups and police each constituted 28.57% of all known perpetrators, followed by religious leaders and truck drivers at 14.29% each. Among the known perpetrators, 14.29% had an unknown profession, and there were no disclosed cases of violence involving employers, traders/vendors, community leaders, or health workers.



Overall, the analysis reveals that male perpetrators are responsible for the majority of violence in Baidoa, Mogadishu, Kismayo and Wajid, while the professions of perpetrators are diverse and vary across different regions. The data shows that parents, colleagues, employers, police, and traders/vendors are the most common perpetrators across regions, while community leaders, teachers, armed forces, government employees, security guards, armed groups, NGOs, religious leaders, and health workers were also involved in violence, though to a lesser extent. The large proportion of survivors who did not disclose the occupations of their perpetrators also may suggest that factors such as fear in identifying them may be at play, especially if the perpetrators hold positions of power in the police or law enforcement. It remains important to provide the appropriate safe spaces for such survivors to enable them to feel safe enough to identify and report the perpetrators of violence in their communities.

## 8. Referrals

The data indicates that in general, survivors self-referred most frequently, followed by referrals from violence observatory monitors (VOM) as part of the project network, community leaders, helpline referrals, women's rights organizations, and other actors.



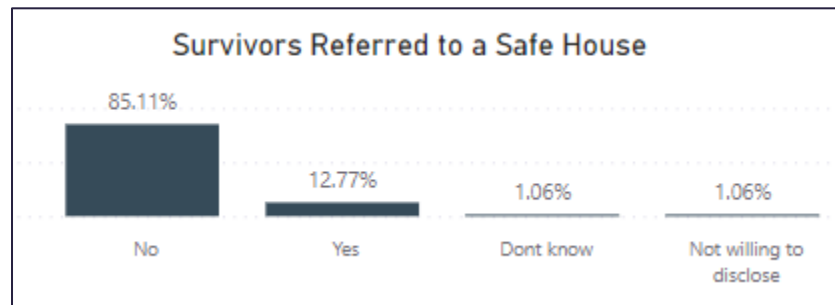
In Baidoa, self-referral was the most common source of referral, accounting for 70.97% of all referrals. This was followed by VOM referrals at 16.13%. In Kismayo, VOM referrals were the most common, accounting for 44.12%, followed by self-referral at 38.24% and referrals from women's rights organizations at 14.71%.

In Mogadishu, VOM referrals accounted for 28.57%, helpline referrals for 23.81%, and community leaders for 19.05%. Self-referrals accounted for 14.29% of referrals, while other humanitarian actors, safe houses/shelters, and women's rights organizations each accounted for 4.76%. In Wajid, VOM referrals accounted for 42.86%, community leaders for 28.57%, and police/other security actors and other actors each for 14.29%.

The data suggests that the sources of referral for survivors varied significantly by region. Self-referral was the most common source of referral overall, but in Baidoa it was particularly prevalent, while VOM referrals were the most common in Kismayo and Wajid. In Mogadishu, referrals were more evenly distributed among VOM, helpline, and community leader referrals.

### *Referrals to Safe Spaces*

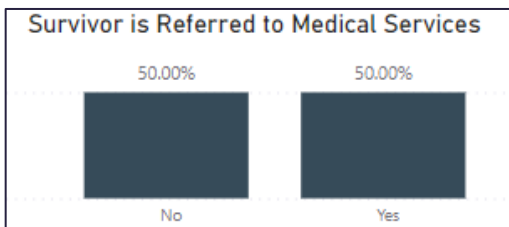
The overall data suggests that the majority of survivors (85.11%) were not referred to a safe space. However, 12.77% of survivors were referred to a safe space, and 1.06% did not disclose whether they were referred or not, while another 1.06% did not know.



Looking at the data disaggregated by region, the percentage of survivors referred to a safe space varied significantly. In Baidoa, 100% of survivors were not referred to a safe space, while in Mogadishu, 36.36% of survivors were referred to a safe space, and in Wajid, 42.86% of survivors were referred to a safe space. In Kismayo, 97.96% of survivors were not referred to a safe space, and 2.94% did not disclose whether they were referred or not.

The data also provides information on the percentage of survivors who were referred to safe spaces disaggregated by age. Looking at the data by age, the majority of survivors aged 18-35 years old (82.19%) were not referred to a safe space, while 16.44% were referred to a safe space. Among survivors aged 36-49 years old, 93.75% were not referred to a safe space, while only 6.25% were. No survivors below 18 years old were referred to a safe space.

### ***Referrals to Medical Services***



Overall, 50% of survivors received medical services upon referral, while the other 50% did not. Among the regions, Mogadishu had the lowest percentage of survivors who received medical services (36.36%) while Baidoa had the highest percentage (41.94%).

When looking at the data disaggregated by age, 47.95% of survivors between the ages of 18-35 received medical services upon referral, while 43.75% of survivors between the ages of 36-49 received medical services. Among survivors below the age of 18, 40% received medical services upon referral.

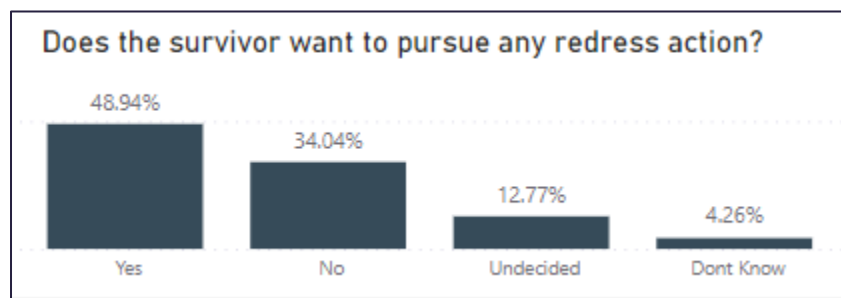
It is worth noting that in all age groups, more than half of the survivors did not receive medical services upon referral. This suggests a need for increased awareness and accessibility of medical services for survivors of violence.

In terms of regional differences, the data suggests that there may be variations in the availability and accessibility of medical services for survivors depending on their location. While Baidoa had the highest percentage of survivors who received medical services upon referral, Mogadishu had the lowest percentage. This could be due to a range of factors such as the availability of healthcare facilities or the quality of services provided. Overall, the data highlights the need for increased efforts to ensure that survivors of violence have access to medical services, regardless of their location or age.

## 9. Access to Justice

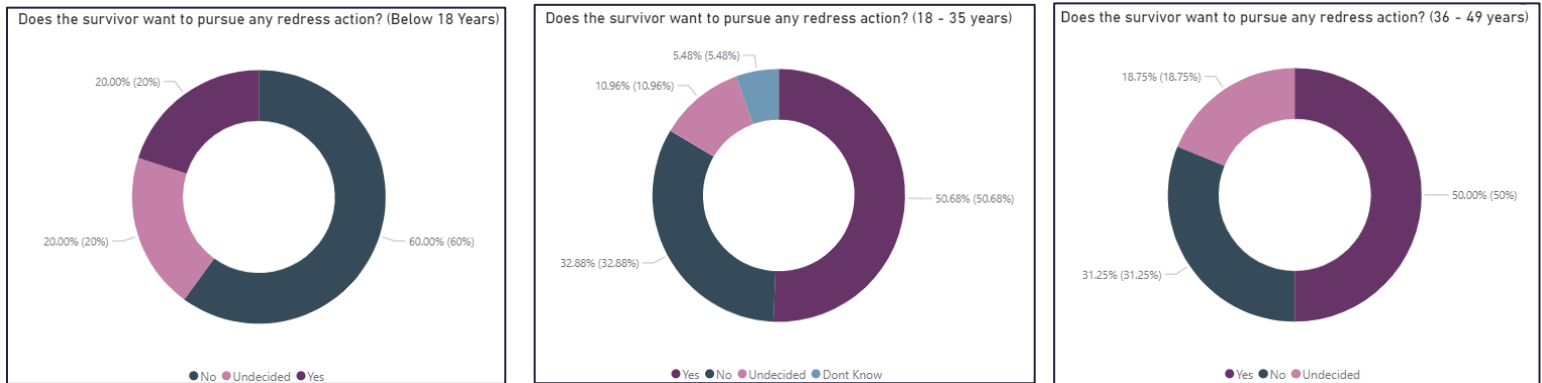
Access to justice is a fundamental human right that is essential for women journalists and activists who have experienced abuse. The ability to seek redress for the harm inflicted upon them is not only necessary to hold perpetrators accountable but also to provide a sense of closure and healing for survivors. Unfortunately, women who have experienced abuse often face significant barriers to accessing justice, including social stigma, economic constraints, and systemic bias in the legal system. As a result, many cases of abuse go unreported, and survivors are left without the support they need.

The data gathered by VOS can be a valuable resource for implementers in helping women journalists and activists to navigate the justice system and access the support they need. By providing information on legal rights and resources, the implementers can help survivors understand their options and make informed decisions about how to proceed. Looking at the data, overall, almost half of the survivors (48.94%) have expressed a desire to pursue some form of redress action. A significant percentage (34.04%) have chosen not to pursue any legal action, while a small percentage (12.77%) remain undecided. It is worth noting that a small percentage (4.26%) of survivors do not know if they want to pursue any redress action, which could suggest a lack of information or support for these survivors.



The data also shows a considerable variation in the desire to pursue redress actions across different regions. In Baidoa, only 25.81% of survivors expressed a desire to pursue any legal action, while the majority (70.97%) chose not to pursue any legal action. On the other hand, in Mogadishu, a vast majority (95.45%) of survivors expressed a desire to pursue some form of legal action. In Kismayo, survivors appear to be more undecided, with 35.29% expressing uncertainty about pursuing any legal action. Wajid was the only region where all survivors expressed a desire to pursue some form of legal action.

The breakdown of the data by age groups provides further insight into survivors' willingness to pursue redress actions. Among survivors aged 18-35 years, more than half (50.68%) expressed a desire to pursue some form of legal action. A significant percentage (32.88%) chose not to pursue any legal action, while a smaller percentage (10.96%) remain undecided. A small percentage (5.48%) of survivors in this age group do not know if they want to pursue any legal action.



The data for survivors aged 36-49 years is similar, with exactly half of the survivors expressing a desire to pursue some form of legal action. A smaller percentage (31.24%) chose not to pursue any legal action, while a considerable percentage (18.75%) remain undecided.

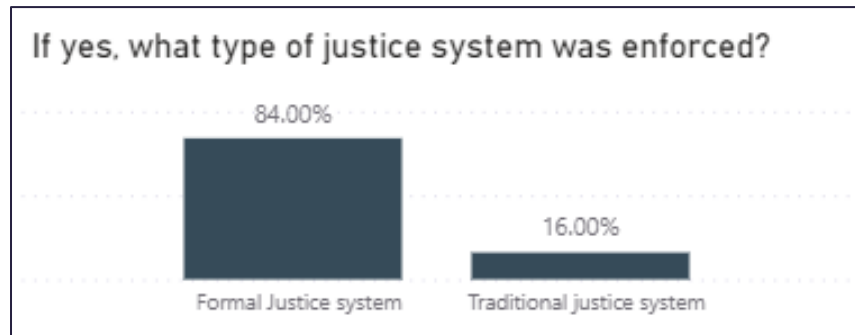
The data for survivors below 18 years is notably different from the other age groups. Only 20% of survivors in this age group expressed a desire to pursue some form of legal action. The majority (60%) chose not to pursue any legal action, and a smaller percentage (20%) remain undecided. It is important to note that survivors below 18 years are a particularly vulnerable group and may face additional barriers to accessing legal support and making informed decisions about pursuing redress actions.

Overall, the data suggests that survivors aged 18-49 years are more likely to express a desire to pursue legal action, while survivors below 18 years are less likely to do so. However, the reasons for these differences are not clear from the data and may be influenced by a range of factors such as access to legal services, social stigma, and fear of retaliation. Providing survivors with information and support tailored to their age group could be crucial in breaking down these barriers and helping survivors make informed decisions about pursuing redress actions.



### *Types of Justice Enforced*

The data provides important insights into the types of justice systems enforced in response to cases of abuse experienced by women journalists and activists. Overall, the majority of survivors who pursued redress actions relied on the formal justice system (84%), while a smaller percentage relied on traditional justice systems (16%).



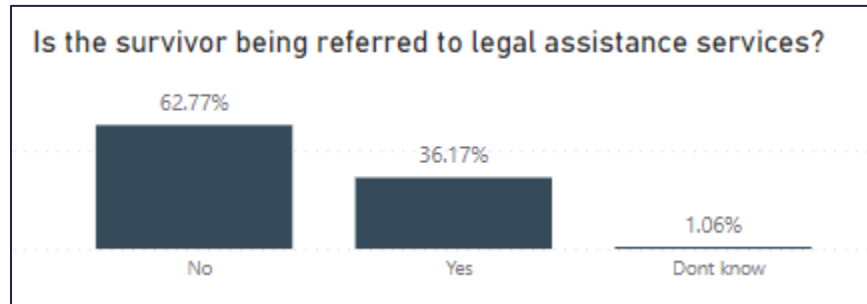
The breakdown of data by region also shows some differences in the types of justice systems enforced. In Baidoa, survivors relied more heavily on traditional justice systems, with 54.55% of survivors opting for this approach, compared to 45.45% who relied on the formal justice system. In Mogadishu, on the other hand, the formal justice system was the preferred option for the vast majority (90.91%) of survivors, with only 9.09% opting for traditional justice systems. In Kismayo and Wajid, all survivors who pursued redress actions relied on the formal justice system.

When the data is broken down by age groups, survivors aged 18-35 years were more likely to rely on the formal justice system (90%), with only 10% opting for traditional justice systems. Survivors aged 36-49 years were more evenly split between the formal justice system (55.56%) and traditional justice systems (44.44%). In contrast, survivors below 18 years relied solely on the formal justice system.

It is important to note that the data does not provide information on the effectiveness or quality of the justice systems enforced. Survivors may have chosen one option over the other based on factors such as accessibility, affordability, and perceived fairness or effectiveness. A more in-depth qualitative analysis of the types of justice systems enforced and survivors' experiences could provide valuable insights into the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches and inform efforts to improve access to justice for survivors of abuse.

## 10. Legal Assistance

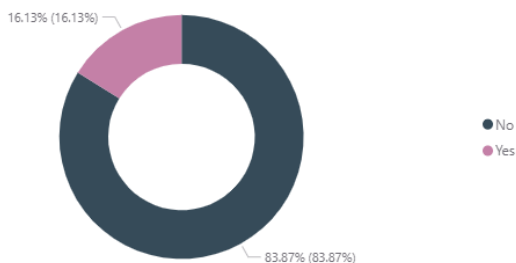
The data on whether survivors were referred to legal assistance provides important insights into the extent to which survivors of abuse have access to legal support in pursuing redress actions. Overall, the majority of survivors (62.77%) were not referred to legal assistance, while 36.17% were referred. The data also shows that only a small percentage of survivors (1.06%) did not know whether they were referred to legal assistance.



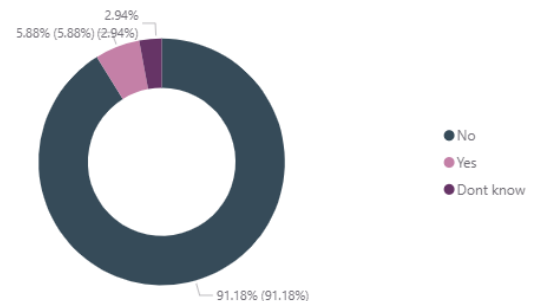
When the data is broken down by region, there are some differences in the extent to which survivors were referred to legal assistance. In Baidoa, the majority of survivors (83.87%) were not referred to legal assistance, while only 16.13% were referred. In Kismayo, an even higher percentage of survivors (91.18%) were not referred to legal assistance, while only 5.88% were referred. In Mogadishu, however, the majority of survivors (90.91%) were referred to legal assistance, while only 9.09% were not. In Wajid, all survivors who pursued redress actions were referred to legal assistance.

### Referrals to Legal Assistance Service by Location

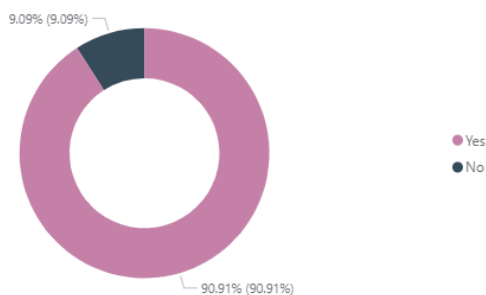
Is the survivor being referred to legal assistance services? (Baidoa)



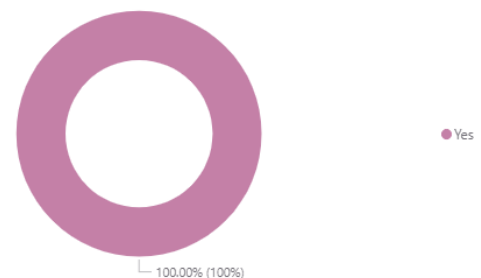
Is the survivor being referred to legal assistance services? (Kismayo)



Is the survivor being referred to legal assistance services? (Mogadishu)



Is the survivor being referred to legal assistance services? (Wajid)



When the data is broken down by age groups, the majority of survivors aged 18-35 years (60.27%) were not referred to legal assistance, while 38.36% were referred. The percentage of survivors referred to legal assistance increased slightly for those aged 36-49 years, with 31.25% of survivors referred and 68.75% not referred. Among survivors below 18 years, the majority (80%) were referred to legal assistance, while only 20% were not.

The data highlights the need for improved access to legal assistance for survivors of abuse, particularly in regions where a high percentage of survivors were not referred to legal assistance.

## GAPS IN EXISTING VOS DATABASE

While the VOS toolkit provides an overview of the data collected by the Somali Women Development Centre (SWDC) and Somali Women's Study Centre (SWSC), it is important to note that there are still gaps in the information provided.

One of the significant gaps in the VOS database is the lack of information on whether survivors achieved access to justice after pursuing legal action. Understanding whether access to justice was achieved is crucial in developing effective strategies to prevent and address violence against women activists and journalists. This information can provide insights into the effectiveness and accessibility of the justice system (whether formal or traditional) for survivors of violence against women.

Additionally, knowing whether justice was achieved can provide important information on the survivor's perception of the justice system and the outcome of the case. It would be helpful to know whether the survivor felt that their case was adequately addressed and whether they received any compensation or support following the legal proceedings. By capturing this information in future iterations of the VOS system, we can better understand the gaps and challenges in the justice system and work towards improving access to justice for survivors.

Further gaps, include additional questions related to the care provided to the survivors upon reporting the cases. Information related to the various types of legal and medical assistance, as well as whether the survivor feels safe upon referring the perpetrator could also provide better insights to the toolkit.

## CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis of the Violence Observation System (VOS) database reveals that violence against women journalists and activists in Kismayo, Mogadishu, Wajid and Baidoa is widespread and multifaceted. The report identified that the majority of survivors were married (41.74%), divorced/separated (30.43%), or single (21.74%) individuals. The location of the incidents mainly occurred in survivors' homes (37.84%), place of work (14.41%), street/road (12.61%), and the perpetrator's home (11.71%). The data also revealed that the survivors included victims/survivors with disabilities, and the majority of the victims/survivors were mentally challenged. Male perpetrators were responsible for the majority of violence, while female perpetrators accounted for only a small percentage of violence.

Although the majority of survivors self-referred, community leaders, helpline referrals, women's rights organizations, and other actors also referred some survivors. However, the overall data suggested that the majority of survivors were not referred to a safe space (85.11%), nor did they receive medical services upon referral. Additionally, a significant percentage of survivors chose not to pursue any legal action (62.77%), while a small percentage remained undecided, suggesting a lack of information or support for these survivors.

Access to justice remains a significant challenge, with the majority of survivors not referred to legal assistance, and only a small percentage relying on traditional justice systems. The data indicates that a vast majority of survivors relied on the formal justice system to pursue redress actions.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the Violence Observation System (VOS) database, several recommendations can be made to improve the situation for women journalists and activists in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Kismayo and Wajid. The government can play a critical role in improving the situation for women journalists and activists by strengthening the legal framework to protect women's rights and enforcing laws that protect women from violence. Additionally, the government should provide training for law enforcement officials on how to handle gender-based violence cases, including how to sensitively engage with survivors and the importance of protecting their rights.

Civil society organizations can also play a significant role in improving the situation for women journalists and activists by advocating for their rights and providing support to survivors. Saferworld, SWDC and SWSC can work with civil society organizations to provide training and support to women journalists and activists, including how to report cases of violence, how to access support services, and how to seek redress for violations of their rights.

Additionally, Saferworld can support civil society organizations to advocate for better legal protection for women and girls in Somalia, including advocating for stronger legal frameworks that address gender-based violence, sexual harassment, and discrimination against women. Saferworld can also work with civil society organizations to provide psychosocial support to survivors of violence, including through counseling and other forms of support.

Finally, it is important to address the issue of access to justice for survivors of violence. Saferworld can support civil society organizations to advocate for better access to justice for survivors, including by working with the government to strengthen the formal justice system and by promoting the use of traditional justice systems that respect women's rights. Saferworld can also support the establishment of safe spaces for survivors of violence, including providing funding for shelters and other support services.

### **Use of the VOS System in the Future**

The data collected through the VOS toolkit can be used by women activists to influence decision-makers and authorities. By providing evidence-based information on the prevalence and nature of violence against women journalists and activists,

the VOS can help to raise awareness about the issue and put pressure on governments and other actors to take action.

Women's rights organizations can use the data from the VOS to advocate for better legal protection for women and girls, including stronger laws on gender-based violence, sexual harassment, and discrimination against women. They can also use the data to engage with the government and other stakeholders on the issue of violence against women journalists and activists, including by calling for increased support and protection for these groups.

Furthermore, the VOS data can be used to inform the development of policies and programs aimed at preventing violence against women journalists and activists. By providing a clear understanding of the problem and its causes, the VOS can help to guide the development of targeted interventions that address the specific needs of women in these roles.

Given the important role that the VOS has played in raising awareness about violence against women journalists and activists, it is critical that further support and funding is provided to ensure that this important work can continue. Continued investment in the VOS will enable it to expand its reach and impact, providing even more women with the tools and knowledge they need to advocate for their rights and stay safe while doing so.

## ANNEX 1: SURVEY QUESTIONS

Toolkit Questionnaire
1. VOM Code
2. Report Date
3. Incident Date
4. Report by Survivor
5. Age
6. Survivor's/Victim's Country of Origin
7. Current civil / marital status
8. Is the Survivor a Person with Disabilities
8a. If yes, which type of disability
8a. If yes, which type of disability/Physically Challenges
8a. If yes, which type of disability/Mentally Challenged
8a. If yes, which type of disability/Other
9. Incident location / Where the incident took place
9a. If Other, please specify
10. Incident Area
11. Incident Sub-Sub-Area
12. Type of incident/violence
12a. If other, Specify
13. Did the situation include an abduction at time of the incident
13a. If yes, please include details if known
14. Has the survivor reported this incident anywhere else
15. Has the survivor experienced any previous incidents of Violence or threats perpetrated against them due to their media or activism related work
16. Number of alleged perpetrator(s) if known
17. Alleged perpetrator(s) sex
19. Main occupation of alleged perpetrator (If known)
19a. If other, please specify
20. Who referred this survivor to you
20a. If Other, please specify

21. Is the survivor being referred to a safe house/ shelter or support group/Family member or relative
21a. If yes, what are the Referral Details
22. Is the survivor being referred to medical services
22a. If yes, what are the referral details?
23. Does the victim/Survivor want to pursue any redress actions?
23a. If yes, which one?
23b. If other, please specify
24. Does the survivor want to pursue legal action
25. Is the survivor being referred to legal assistance services?
25a. If yes, what are the referral details
26. Is the survivor being referred to a district police?
26a. If, yes what are the referral services?