

Protection Monitoring in Kenya: Garissa & Turkana Counties (Dadaab, Kakuma & Kalobeyei)

PROTECTION MONITORING ANALYSIS

July - December 2023

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. The focus is on areas in northwest and northeast Kenya (Dadaab, Kakuma & Kalobeyei) where rights violations and protection information gaps remain prevalent.

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PMRT
Kenya

Protection
Monitoring
Risks and
Trends

 DANISH
REFUGEE
COUNCIL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About PMRT:	0
List of Acronyms	3
Key needs	4
Key findings	4
Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei Refugee Camps	
1. Population movement	6
2. Safety and security	7
3. Gender Based Violence	8
4. Child Protection	9
5. Persons with particular requirements	10
6. Access to rights and services	10
Reccomendations	11

List of Acronyms

CCPT	Community Protection and Peace building teams
CPIMS+)	Child Protection Information Management System
	Primer
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GVBIMS	Gender-Based Violence Incident Monitoring System
POCs	Persons of Concern
PWD	People with Disability
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Key Needs:

The following needs have been identified in Dadaab, Kakuma, and Kalobeyei refugee camps.

- Inadequate or poor lighting is observed in camps and improvement on lighting within the camp is required to address some of the protection, safety, and security risks.
- Need for focussed interventions tailored for children with disabilities girl/adolescent mothers, child returnees, and children with mental health issues as they face significant child protection risks.
- There is limited participation and inclusion of people with disabilities, minority and marginalized groups including LGBTQIA+ persons in community meetings and events. Need for actors to take measures aimed at enhancing inclusion of all groups in interventions.
- The primary information needs observed focus on sustainable sources of income, cash, and water, access to health and legal services, medicine, shelter, and education for children.

Key Findings:

Protection, Safety and Security

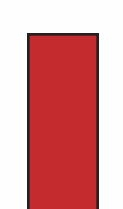
Individuals with mental health issues, returnees, unregistered refugees, and asylum-seekers are vulnerable to protection, safety, and security concerns. The most reported protection concerns include restrictions on freedom of movement, forced labour and exploitation, forced family separation, intimidation and threats, coercion/extortion, discrimination/stigmatization.

Liberty and freedom of movement

New arrival in the camps is a result of refugees' displacement in their country of origin. Increased insecurity within the camps, lack of information, inadequate and unsafe shelter, absence of lighting, and lack of access to safe drinking water forces refugees move within the camp. Departures are a result of voluntary repatriation, permanent resettlement, safety and security concerns, lack of access to basic services, unemployment, seeking specialized services such as medical care, and climate-related hazards such as droughts and floods.

Civil status documentation

Several barriers prevent refugees from accessing civil status documentation including arbitrary costs or bribes, lack of trust, discrimination, denial of access to justice or legal remedies, and financial costs.



Basic Economic and Social Needs

The primary needs of refugees include sustainable sources of income, cash, and water. Additionally, they require access to health services, medicine, shelter, education for children, and information about available services. However, several barriers need to be addressed to their access to these services. For instance, violence or conflict during delivery and information on basic services, health and mental healing services, livelihood opportunities, and legal assistance.

Education and Livelihoods

The lack of special needs schools, qualified and trained teachers, disability-friendly facilities, and inadequate access to livelihood opportunities leaves PWDs vulnerable to harassment and exploitation.

Land and Property

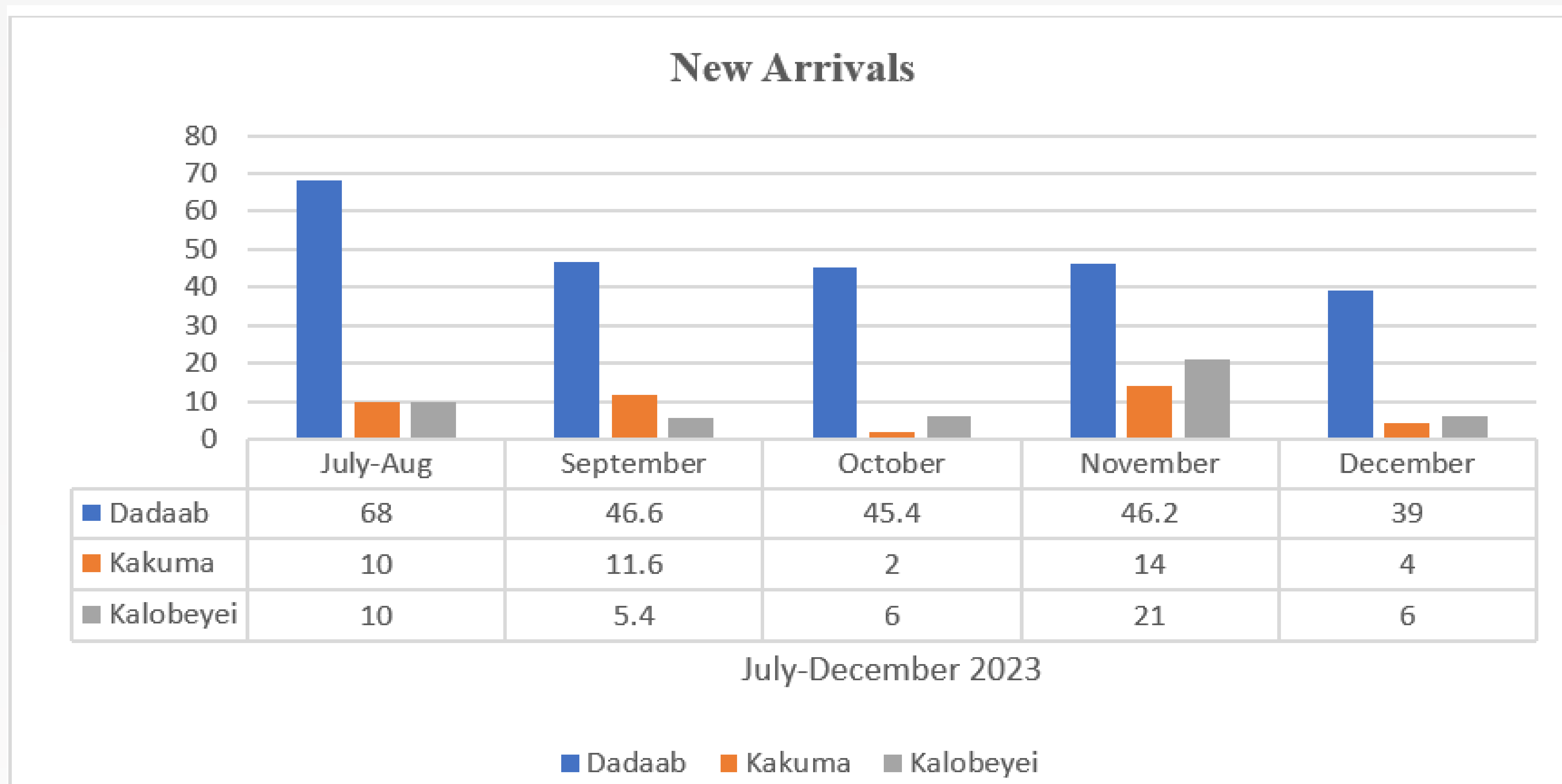
The lack of access to decent shelter and access to land makes it difficult for refugees to have access to and control over productive resources.

Non-Discrimination and Equality

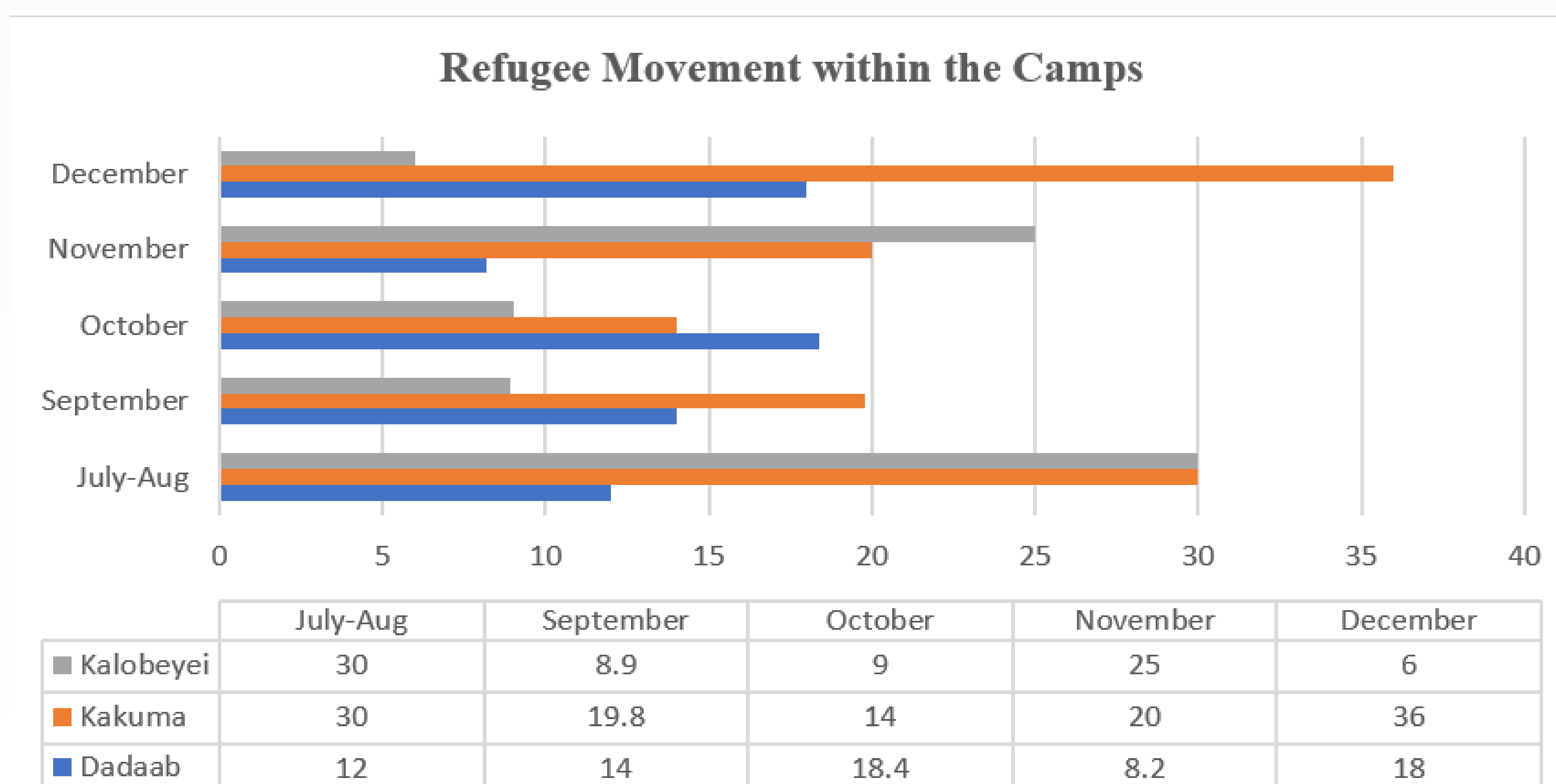
People with disabilities and minority groups face discrimination that limits their opportunities and participation in community life. Lack of assistive devices hinders their mobility and productivity.

Population Movements:

According to the UNHCR operational update (November 2023), Kenya recorded 686,773 registered refugees and asylum seekers from over 20 countries. 274,920 refugees reside in Kakuma Refugee Camp and the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement, and 313,582 refugees reside in Dadaab refugee camps. 2,563 refugees departed through resettlement this year. Majority of refugees and asylum seekers originate from Somalia 366,429. Other major nationalities are South Sudanese 171,258, Congolese 58,629 and Ethiopians 37,139.



Despite a declining rate of new arrivals between the months of July and December, the overall population of new arrivals in Dadaab remained higher than in Kakuma and Kalobeyei. The Dadaab camp experienced an influx of new arrivals due to increased opportunities for resettlement and voluntary repatriation, while the influx in Kakuma and Kalobeyei was driven by safety concerns resulting from conflicts in their countries of origin.



Movement within the camps is highly reported in Kakuma and Kalobeyei camps. Refugees seek better living conditions as they face multiple challenges including insecurity, lack of information, inadequate and unsafe shelter, absence of lighting, and lack of access to safe drinking water. Inadequate water and sanitation services and ineffective responses to these issues resulted in movement within the camps. In Dadaab, movement within the camp is relatively stable, for example in IFO 2 refugee camp, the relocation of refugees has been initiated by UNCHR. UNHCR targets 100% new arrivals to prevent influx and overcrowding in other camps. Search for access to services and resources are the major driving factors for movement within the camp.

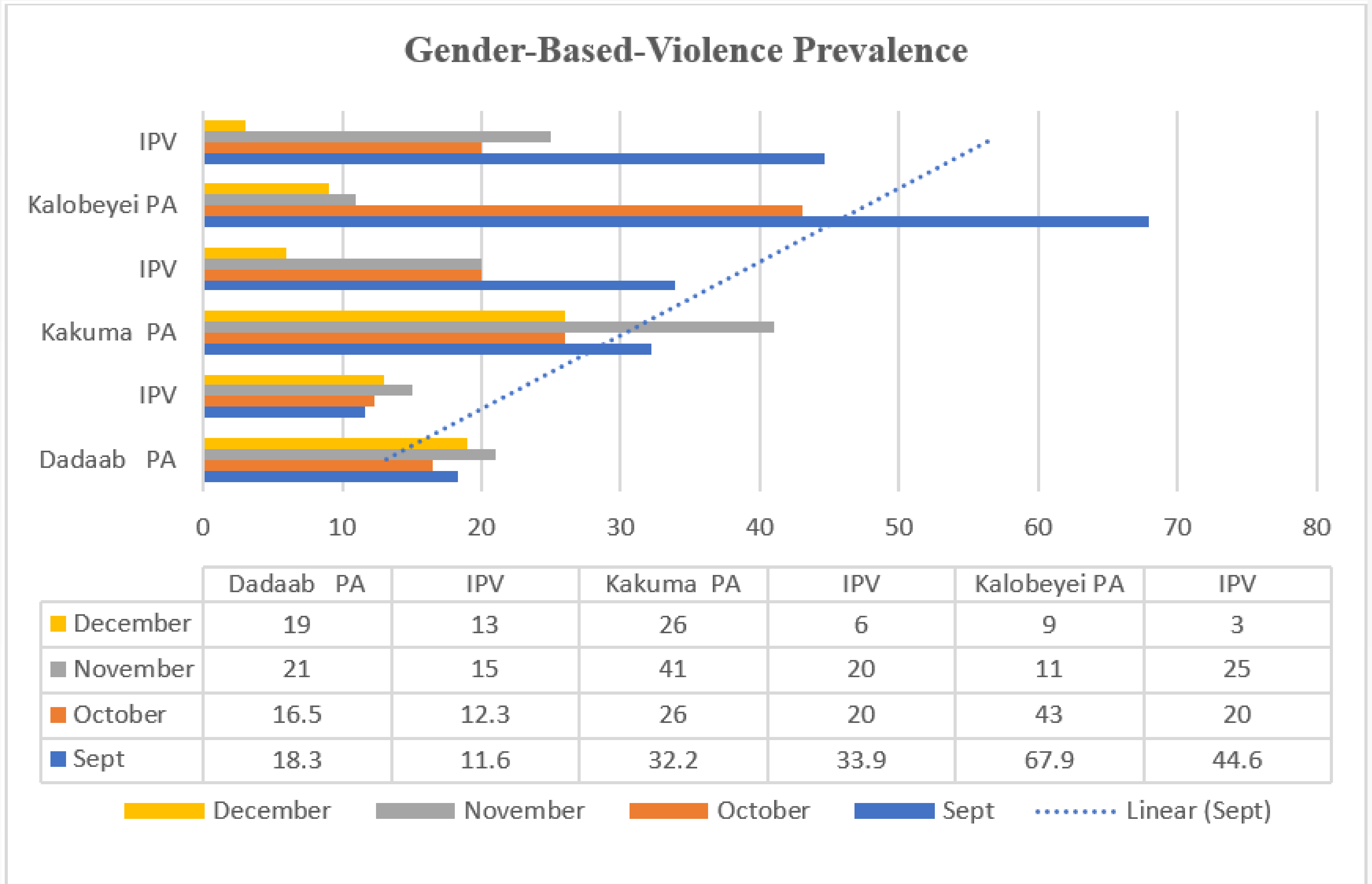
Protection risks, safety & security:

Between the months of July and August, findings show that 61.9% of the population reported experiencing high levels of risk and insecurity. Safety concerns were also prevalent in Kakuma, with 33.33% of its residents not feeling safe due to increased tensions between the host communities, the presence of gangs, and the lack of security personnel in the area among others. The most affected were women and girls 37.4%, children 25.2%, and adolescent youths 36.59%. In December, 63% of respondents expressed concerns regarding protection risks in Dadaab camp.

In all the camps, young women (18-25 yrs.), adolescent girls (12-17 yrs.), and adult women (26-59 yrs.) are exposed to protection risks. The common forms of protection risks reported in the camps include physical abuse, harassment, looting/theft due to scarcity of resources. Other protection concerns include restrictions on freedom of movement, forced labour and exploitation, forced family separation, intimidation and threats, coercion/extortion, discrimination/stigmatization, abduction/kidnapping/enforced disappearance, inter/intra-communal conflicts between host and refugee communities, destruction of property, arbitrary or unlawful arrest or detention, and attacks on civilians or civilian objects.

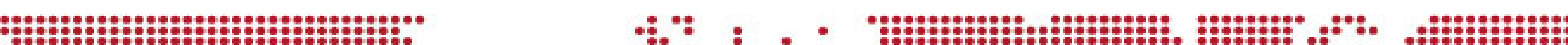
Survivors of protection and safety incidents are individuals with mental health issues, returnees, unregistered refugees, and asylum-seekers. Protection incidents occur outside the camp, mainly while collecting firewood, streets or blocks, market areas, people's homes, roads during travel to/from home, water points/tap stands, and latrines/WASH facilities. Protection and safety concerns are reported to community leaders, community-based protection structures, camp management structures, and incentive and national agency staff, the most trusted channels for reporting incidents.

Gender Based Violence:



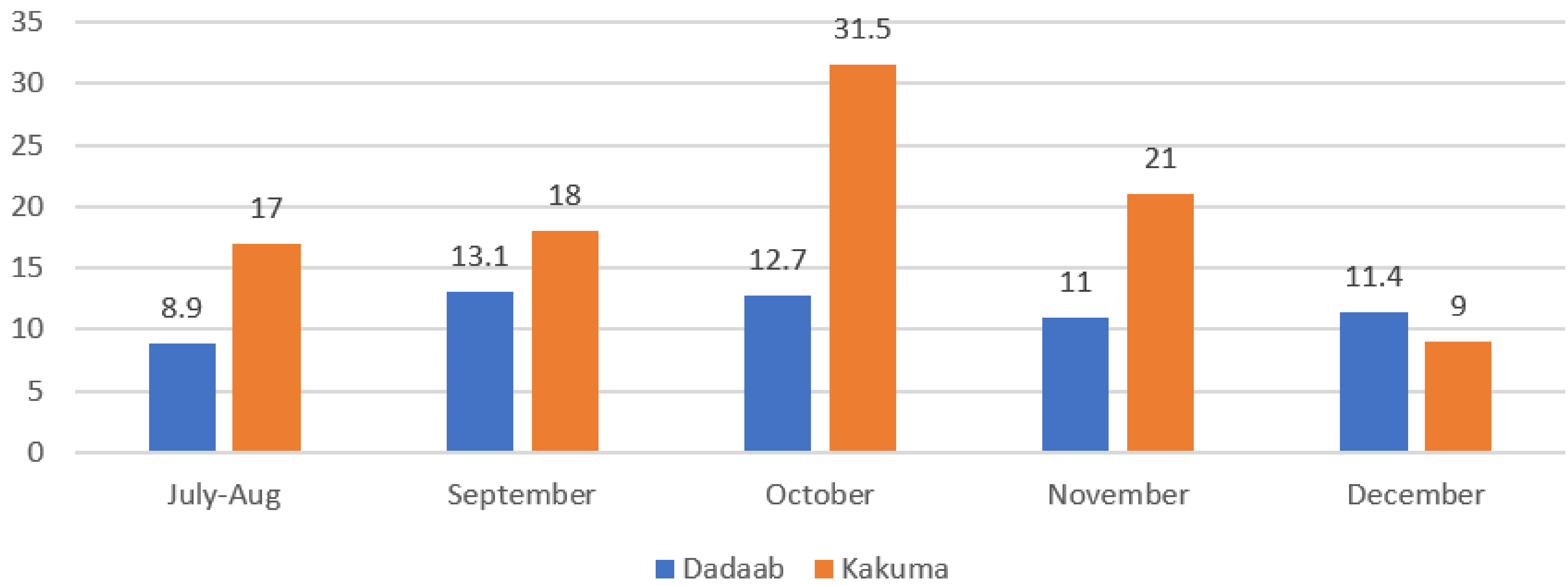
GBV incidents are prevalent in Kakuma and Kalobeyei Refugee Camps. Physical abuse incidents were high in Kalobeyei 67.9% and 32.2% in Kakuma in September. High intimate partner violence (IPV) 44.6 % were reported in Kalobeyei in September, however in the month of December physical violence 9% and IPV 3% incidents significantly reduced in in Kalobeyei. Physical abuse is the most reported form of GBV in Kakuma and Kalobeyei refugee camps. The analysis of the risk factors show substance and drug abuse is associated with physical abuse and intimate partner violence (IPV).

In addition, poor living conditions, lack of access to basic services, and exhausted coping capacities, such as a lack of financial resources, have led to negative coping mechanisms among refugees, causing tensions/conflict between different population groups. The study highlights the significance of implementing protection interventions and programs that include integral measures to reduce the prevalence of GBV in the camp setting.



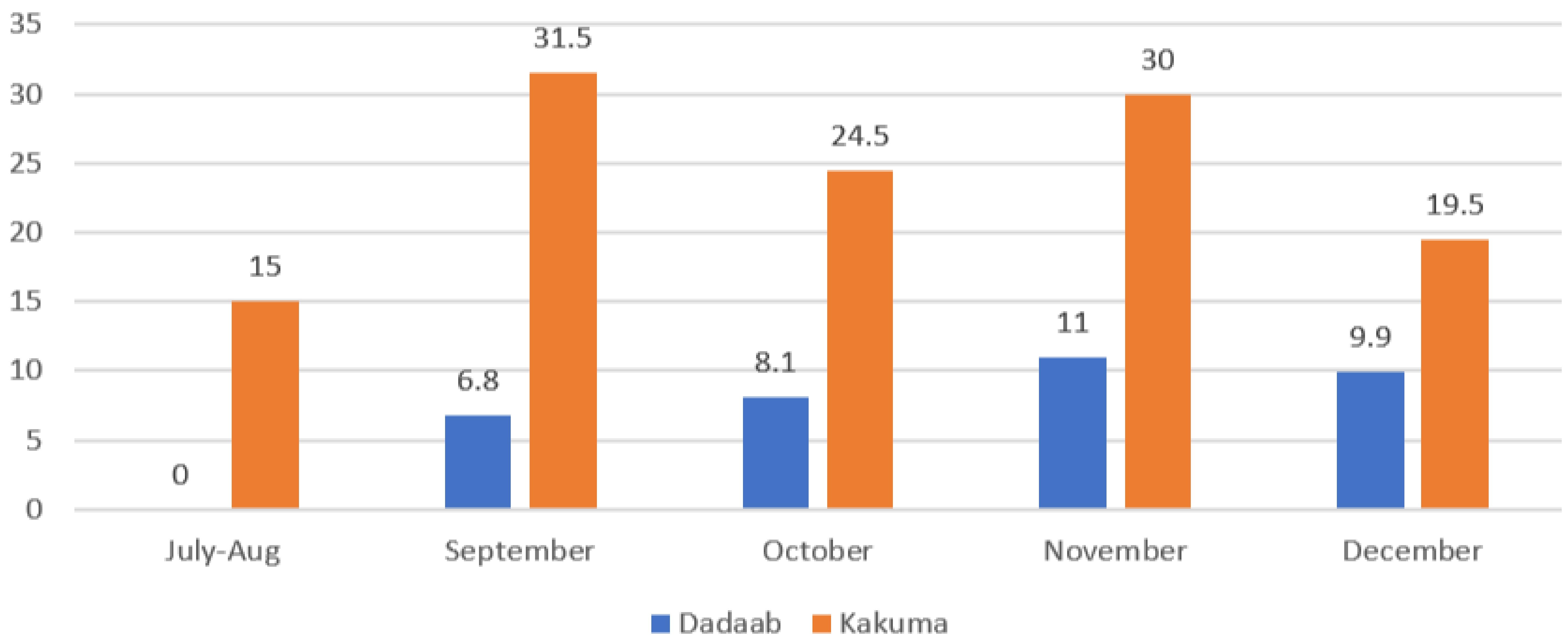
Child Protection:

Child Marriage



The findings reveal child protection concerns are significant in both the camps. Movement within the camp-related safety and feeling of insecurity, and lack of financial and economic security for families to meet basic need are drivers of child marriage in the camp. GBV interventions need to be tailored to the needs of children and adolescent/girls' mothers to address harmful traditional practices and raise awareness about its negative consequences.

Adolescent/Child Pregnancies



According to the findings, the lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services has resulted in a rise in adolescent/child pregnancies, particularly in Kakuma. Neglecting the reproductive and sexual health of vulnerable adolescent girls, lack of responsible family, and risky behaviours of peers are some of the reasons for the lack of access to these services. It is important to improve the information needs of refugees by creating awareness to provide timely and life-saving health services.

Adolescent girls (12-17), children with disability, unaccompanied or separated children, children without Documentation / Birth Certificates, children living with mental health issues (3%), and children identifying as LGBTQIA+ are most at risk of child protection concerns.

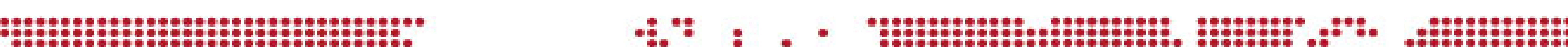
Persons with particular requirements:

In Dadaab, Kakuma, and Kalobeyei, PWD, minority and marginalized groups including LGBTQIA+ persons face similar challenges. They face discrimination and limited mobility within and outside the camps. Due to their mobility challenges, they have limited access to services and opportunities, and their participation in community activities and events is often restricted. They also experience neglect and abuse.

Access to rights and services:

Access to clean water, health services, cash, education, medicine, civil documentation, and sustainable sources of income are identified as primary needs for the refugees. Unfortunately, these services are either limited or unavailable. There are several obstacles to accessing these services, including lack of access, lack of information, long wait times, services being too far away or unavailable service consultation hours. Moreover, concerns exist about denial or unequal access to services due to discrimination, bias, exclusion, financial costs, fear, lack of trust, and documentation issues.

Several mechanisms are available for dispute resolution, such as legal service providers, the police, and alternative dispute resolution. However, accessing justice and legal remedies can be challenging due to several factors. These include fear, lack of trust, corruption, accountability, discrimination, costs, language/cultural barriers, and absence of documentation and identification. These factors can hinder people's access to legal services. In such situations, coping strategies may include seeking support from community leaders, friends, family, and humanitarian organizations. Some people may resort to borrowing, begging, or selling their belongings.



Recommendations:

General protection:

- Strengthen community-based structures and coordination efforts to address protection risks.
- Engage local authorities, police and informal justice systems in protection capacity building initiatives.
- Advocate for the inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons, minority and marginalized groups in service provision and participation in community meetings and events, peace dialogues and other initiatives.
- Coordinate with legal actors/partners to ensure unregistered refugees and asylum-seekers have access to essential services and protection.
- Improve on information needs of refugees through timely information dissemination.
- Strengthen feedback and complaint mechanisms for refugees.
- Engage women in Economic Empowerment opportunities.

Gender-based Violence:

- DRC to strengthen the capacity of different stakeholders in GBV prevention and response. These include youths, local leaders, faith/religious leaders, among others.
- DRC to support awareness campaigns on GBV prevention, livelihood support services, and legal remedies.

Child Protection:

- Engage with child protection actors, including government ministries and civil society organizations, on child protection concerns.
- Strengthen the referral pathways through multi-sectorial coordination with other actors/stakeholders.
- Strengthen child protection initiatives conducted within child friendly spaces.
- Advocate for improved child protection services to enhance access to civil documentation.

Shelter and Camp Management:

- Address overcrowding and the influx of new arrivals within the camp.
- Implement measures to mitigate inter/intra-communal violence, including mediation and conflict resolution mechanisms.
- Coordination with WASH actors and partners to ensure protection is mainstreamed in WASH facilities.

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