

Issues to watch – September 2014

- ▶ **Highest number of incidents recorded since April 2012**
- ▶ **Large increase in land disputes as farmers return to fields to prepare for rainy season**
- ▶ **Young people continue to instigate a high number of incidents**
- ▶ **Oekusi registers nine incidents related to animal trespassing**

Highest number of incidents recorded by EWER system since April 2012

In September, the EWER system recorded the highest number of incidents (103 incidents) since April 2012 (117 incidents), the month in which the second round of the last Presidential election took place. The spike in incidents can be attributed to a high number of incidents in Oekusi (related to land, animal and border disputes) and higher than average number of incidents in Likisá and Vikeke.

Large increase in land disputes as farmers return to fields to prepare for rainy season

There were 14 farming-related land disputes that led to incidents in September 2014 (Oekusi 5, Lautein 3, Aileu 1, Ainaru 1, Dili 1, Ermera 1, Manufahi 1, Likisá 1), while there was only 1 such incident in August. Incidents over farmland likely increased because farmers began returning to their fields in September to prepare them ahead of the rainy season. One particular incident – on 19 September in Koliata Letelu Suku (village), Hatolia Sub-District, Ermera District – led to the death of a man from injuries sustained during a machete fight with a farmer and his son over disputed land the day before. The land had reportedly been given to the farmer and son by a neighbor. When the farmer and son arrived at the land to clear the bush, the other man was already there clearing bush.

Total number of incidents by district in September 2014	
District	Incidents
Aileu	3
Ainaru	6
Baukau	8
Bobonaru	2
Covalima	4
Dili	25
Ermera	4
Lautein	3
Likisá	10
Manatuto	2
Manufahi	6
Oekusi	20
Vikeke	10
Total	103

The farmer and son called the Kableha (local traditional police) to show him that someone else was working on their land. When the Kableha, farmer and son arrived back on the land, the other man attempted to shoot them with a bow and arrow but missed. He then attacked the three men with a machete and injured the farmer's son in the chest and the farmer in the forehead. The farmer then slashed the aggressor's left hand and back with a machete. The farmer and his son fled to another village and returned the next day with the PNTL and local authorities to search for the man. They found him bleeding badly. He was taken to the hospital but died on the way. The farmer and son also went to hospital and survived.

Young people continue to instigate a high number of incidents

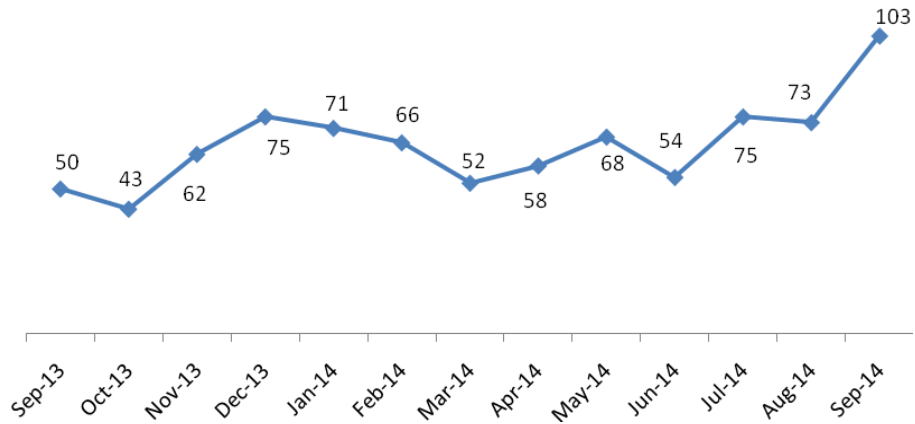
Young people continued to instigate a high number of incidents, with 34 young people starting incidents in September. One particularly serious incident occurred on 11 September in Lahane Oriental Suku, Nain Feto Sub-District in Dili District, in which a young man stabbed another young man with a knife after a heated argument. The young man with the knife attempted to flee the scene, but was arrested by the police and detained for 24 hours at the Caicoli police station. The victim was taken to the National Hospital by his family, where he recovered and was sent home. This incident was registered with the Public Defender's Office but has not yet been processed. The relationship between the two young men's families is strained and the community remains concerned that there may be retribution attacks in the future.

Oekusi registers nine incidents related to animal trespassing

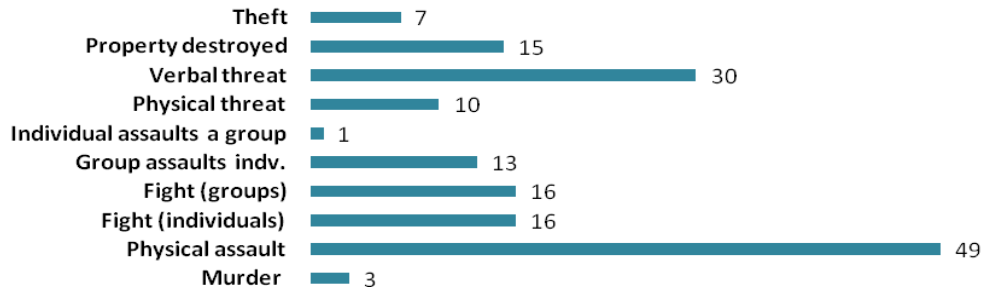
In September, Oekusi District registered nine incidents related to animal trespassing, while the rest of the country registered no such incidents. In one case – on 7 September in Usi Tasae Suku, Oesilo Sub-District – a farm owner killed a neighbor's pig for destroying his crops. In response, the pig owner confronted his neighbor and told him that he would have paid for the destroyed crops, had the neighbor not killed his pig. The men asked the lia nain (local elders) to mediate the dispute, and they came to an agreement whereby the pig owner would pay his neighbor \$10 for the destroyed crops and the neighbor would provide the pig owner with a new pig of the same size and variety.

INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS

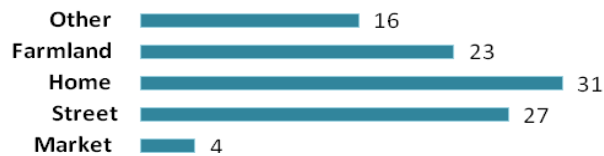
Total Incidents Reported: Sept 2013 - Sept 2014



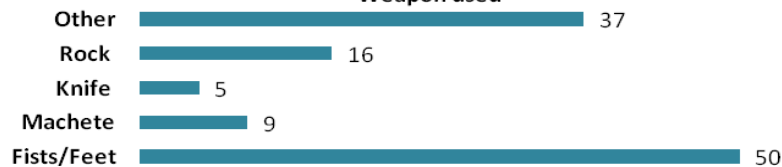
Incident Type



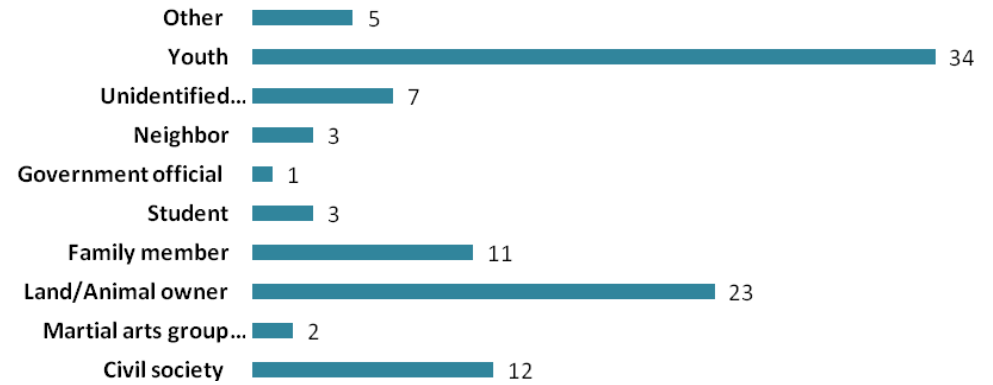
Incident Location



Weapon used



Who Initiated the Incident?



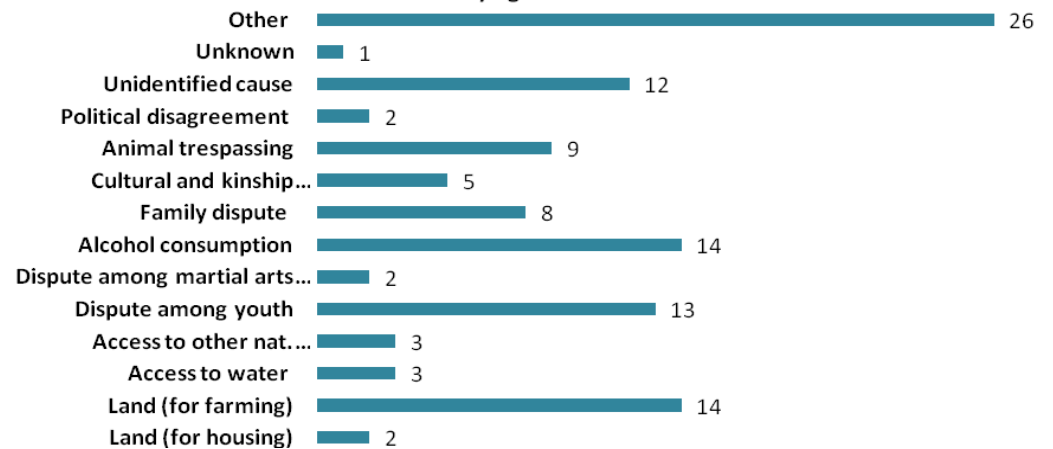
Gender of Initiator



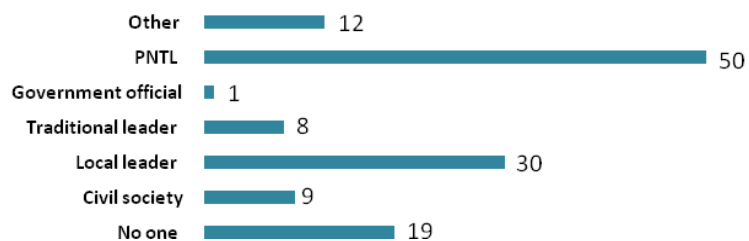
Gender of Victim



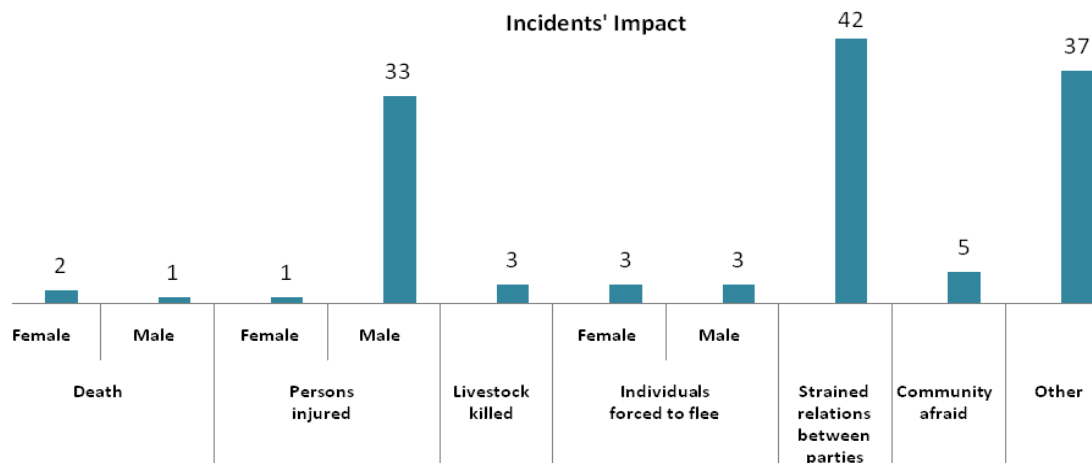
Underlying Cause of Incident



Who Responded to the Incident?



Incidents' Impact



CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

By the Democracy and Development in Action through Media and Empowerment (DAME) team:

- ▶ The team hosted community radio talkshows in September in Aileu, Likisá and Manatuto Districts. The talkshows, which included Belun staff members and members of local Conflict Prevention and Response Networks (CPRNs), discussed the roles of the CPRNs in conflict prevention and peacebuilding and shared findings from the DAME project's research on conflict transformation.



By the Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) team

- ▶ On 2 September, Belun supported the Conflict Prevention and Response Network in Hatu-Udo Sub-District, Ainaro District to hold a Tara Bandu traditional ceremony. The ceremony banned negative practices that regularly caused conflict in the sub-district, including illegal land grabbing, livestock trespassing leading to crop destruction, illegal clearing or logging and domestic violence. The event was attended by 500 people from two villages and included representatives from the Department of Land, Property and Cadastral Services, the Police, Forestry Department of Ainaro, the Sub-District Administration and District Administration.
- ▶ From 10-12 September, 14 EWER volunteer monitors were trained in conflict transformation, conflict analysis and peacebuilding at Belun's office in Dili.

By the Land Mediation and Dispute Resolution (LMDR) team

- ▶ From 24-26 September, the team trained members of the civil society land network at FOKUPERS office in Dili. The training session built the capacity of network members to mediate land disputes with various approaches, mediation procedures and a code of ethics for mediators.
- ▶ On 29 September, the team successfully mediated a land dispute in Dau Suku, Manatuto District, which had previously been mediated without resolution by the LMDR team. This time, one party agreed to leave the land, and the *uma lulik* (traditional ancestral house) that is on the land, to those who are residing there. Local elders and some community members witnessed the agreement, which included a pledge not to repeat the dispute over the said land.



ABOUT THIS SITUATION REVIEW

This situation review reports on violent incidents and trends in Timor-Leste that were identified by Belun's Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) monitoring system during September 2014. Belun strives to share up-to-date and verified information. Considering that situations change rapidly, we appreciate receiving information to clarify or update our EWER monitoring data.

For more information or to report an incident, please contact:

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