

The Early Warning and Response System (EWER) continued to monitor violence incidents that occurred in Dili and Likisá municipalities in the period March-April 2021. As usual, this system is implemented in partnership with a monitoring network that gathered information about violence incidents on the field. Information (or data) on violent incidents are gathered and sent to the Municipality Coordinator who entered it into the online national database. The national database manager uses the data to undertake the final verification and then send it to the program manager to analyze the causes that triggered the violence. If you are interested in receiving more information about the conflict situation in Timor-Leste, please contact Belun at www.atres.belun.tl

The situation review for March-April 2021 covers 2 administrative posts in Dili municipality and three administrative posts in Likisá municipality. There are four monitor partners (all male) involved in the monitoring and the coordinator (female) of Likisá municipality monitors directly incidents that occurred in the field in Likisá Vila administrative post. The incident data in the two municipalities for this period are described below:

ISSUES THAT REQUIRE ATTENTION

- ▶ **Violence involving martial arts and ritual arts members amounted in 7 cases.**
- ▶ **PNTL intervened in 6 incidents involving citizens during the sanitary lockdown.**
- ▶ **Domestic and sexual violence amounted in six cases (sexual violence and abandonment amounted 1 case, attempt of sexual violence amounted 1 case and domestic violence amounted 4 cases).**
- ▶ **Violence incidents due to land dispute amounted in 5 cases.**

Total Incidents for the two municipalities	
Municipality	Total Incidents
Dili	47
Likisá	23
Grand Total	70

VIOLENCE INCIDENTS IN DILI AND LIKISÁ FOR PERIOD MARCH –APRIL 2021

Belun and its EWER system, with the support of our partners from the Asia and Pacific Partnership Atrocity Prevention (APPAP) network, continued to collect incident data in Dili municipality comprising of Dom Aleixo and Cristo Rei administrative posts and in Likisá municipality comprising of Likisá Vila, Bazartete and Maubara administrative posts for period March - April 2021. Violence incidents that took place during this period amounted 70 cases where 67% occurred in Dili municipality and 33% in Likisá municipality.

From the perpetrator’s sex, 52 incidents involved men, 3 incidents involved women, 2 incidents involved both men and women, while in 13 incidents the gender of the perpetrators was unknown. Meanwhile the social position or status of the perpetrator was unknown and others amounted 28 cases (unknown 19 and others 9). Subsequently, there were six incidents involving family members who live in other households, seven incidents involving members of martial arts groups, PNTL, neighbors, unemployed individuals, sixteen incidents involving family members

living in the same household (4 for each household), farmers and suku council members 2 incidents respectively and other social positions such as F-FDTL- PNTL- government officials, students, teachers, journalists and veterans 1 case respectively. In the meantime, victims of these incidents including 45 men, 10 women, and women and men victims 12 and unknown 3.

Tools used in these incidents including mouth (brawl, quarreling, arguing with each other, etc) in 24 cases, body parts (e.g. hands, feet, teeth used to bite, etc.) in 26 cases, club/iron pipe in 2 cases, *rama ambon* [slingshot propelled arrow] or other sharp objects in 4 cases, stones used in 9 cases, body and stones in 2 cases, verbal or physical threat in 17 cases, machete in 1 case and others in 2 cases.

The most used ways of committing violence during this period was physical aggression comprised of 25 incidents, quarrelling 21 incidents, public disturbance 6 incidents, property destruction 3 incidents, verbal threat 2 incidents, stone throwing 2 incidents, and rape 2 incidents. Other ways of committing violence including provoking, stone throwing, defaming, quarrelling and threatening, suspecting without facts, forcing journalists to cover incidents for own house that injured by calamity, forcibly arresting citizens who are undertaking physical exercise with the excuse of implementing the law, swearing, and destroying property in other incidents.

From the 70 incidents in this period, 81% of the causes of all incidents is dissatisfaction for the actions or behavior of other parties, suspecting each other, intoxication, land dispute, hatred and vengeance, economic problems, breach of sanitary lockdown rules, misunderstanding, having different opinions in decision making, intent to own property, moral irresponsibility/abandonment, insecurity and jealousy. In the meantime, rape which resulted in pregnancy on the part of the victim happened because of the habitual pattern of behavior or a matter of values. The cause of 19% of the incidents were unknown.

As a result of these incidents, a man was heavily injured, 8 people (7 men and 1 women) were slightly injured, 1 house or construction was destroyed by burning, 8 houses or constructions were damaged, 1 vehicle was damaged, burned or destroyed, 1 other item damaged.

There were 12 violence incidents that the monitor or the EWER municipality coordinator considered have the possibility to reoccur or resumed because the cases were not properly handled by security agencies and other competent parties. Hatred and vengeance will continue to exist between the parties involved and have the potential to trigger further incidents in the future.

VIOLENCE INCIDENTS INVOLVING MARTIAL ARTS AND RITUAL ARTS MEMBERS IN DILI AMOUNTED 7 CASES

Violence actions involving members of MAGs and ritual arts during this period continued to occur with a total of 7 cases (4 cases occurred in Dili spread across Dom Aleixo administrative

post 3 cases, Cristo-Rei 1 case) and 3 cases in Likisá (spread across Maubara administrative post 2 cases and Bazartete 1 case).

The causes of these incidents were different including dissatisfaction over the behavior of the two parties, suspicion from part of the perpetrator against the victim, hatred and vengeance over past issues, intoxication, and one unknown cause. In the seven incidents, three men were slightly injured and the monitor's and the coordinator observed that these incidents have the potential to recur in the future because in one of the incidents the cause was unknown and dissatisfaction continued to exist when a just solution is not found between the parties.

The following is a chronological description of the incidents:

- ▶ On 28-03-2021 at about 10:00 am a member of a martial arts group (MAG) in suku Bekora, aldeia Mota-Ulun beat the victim because he belongs to a rival MAG. Although the latter denied being a member of any MAG, the perpetrator continued beating him. The community and PNTL intervened rapidly and the victim was taken to the Bekora clinic for treatment of his wounds while the perpetrator was detained by PNTL. Latterly the victim forgave the perpetrator for his behavior and requested PNTL to release him as they still have a family relationship and the perpetrator has also have helped his parents during the sanitary lockdown.
- ▶ On 30th April at about 4:25 am in aldeia Pande Vou suku Guico, Maubara administrative post, a member of MAG A provoked a member of MAG B. They were all drunk. The perpetrator from MAG A hit the victim but missed him and the victim from MAG B went home and brought back a machete to attack the perpetrator who then ran away as well community members who were attending a night vigil. Some of the community members contacted PNTL (OPS) and the suku chief arrived at the scene who then summoned the two parties. The member of MAG B refused to cooperate and the case is still unresolved. The case is pending while the two parties are being approached to find a solution.
- ▶ On 16 March 2021, at about 09:15 am, at suku Lisadila, Maubara Administrative post, a perpetrator from MAG A and the victim from MAG B were at the marketplace. Members of MAG A provoked members of MAG B and the two groups got involved in a brawl. The incident was caused by a past case where MAG A members attacked a MAG B member's house and destroyed it. As the case was not immediately resolved latterly the two parties used the marketplace as a fighting arena. PNTL intervened immediately following the incident and nobody was injured although they have been throwing stones at each other. The case was handed over to the suku OPS for resolving.
- ▶ On 21 April 2021 at about 04:00 pm, at suku Maumeta, Bazartete administrative post, a perpetrator from MAG A and members of MAG B were fighting as the two parties had problems previously. The problem occurred because a young man from MAG A passed by another man who was a member of MAG B who was drinking liquor by calling him "where are you going Monkey?" The victim felt offended and had a quarrel with him which ended with a fight at the public road. Nearby community members and their colleagues intervened and stopped the fight. The incident was resolved immediately in the scene.

- ▶ On 16 March 2021 at about 16:00 hours at suku Fatuhada, Dom Aleixo administrative post, the victim from MAG A meet the perpetrator who is a member of MAG B at the road who asked the victim, "Did you involve in a MAG who insulted us, didn't you?" The victim said that he was really involved in MAG but never insulted anybody from other MAGs. The perpetrator didn't accept his explanation and hit the victim on his mouth. PNTL arrived at the scene and both the victim and the perpetrator ran away from scene.
- ▶ On 22 March 2021 at about 15:30 hours at suku Bebonuk, Dom Aleixo administrative post perpetrators who posed as police agents arrested the victim at Ai-tarak Laran because they suspected him of damaging the house and motorcycle of a member of MAG A with a hammer several nights before. The victim was then taken to the aldeia mentioned above and beat him badly and then handed him over to PNTL at Dom Aleixo Administrative post. This is a grave case as besides beating they also made a video and posted it on social media. The perpetrators of this incident are currently in preventive imprisonment to further participate in judicial proceedings.
- ▶ On 22 March 2021 at about 12:30 midnight at suku Bebonuk, Dom Aleixo posto administrative a member of MAG A attempted to attack a member of MAG B at suku Bebonuk but failed because PNTL and FFDTL was present at the scene to secure the community during the sanitary lockdown.

INCIDENTS RELATED TO PNTL INTERVENTIONS DURING THE SANITARY LOCKDOWN AMOUNTED 6 CASES

Issues that required attention during this period including incidents involving actions of PNTL which raised the concern of community members amounted two cases. Nevertheless, violence incidents during the sanitary lockdown became a concern of the public and it was lamentable although they happened outside the area covered by the EWER. The chronology of incidents involving PNTL intervention are as follows:

- ▶ On 13-03-21 at 8.00 am at aldeia Maucocomate, suku Bekora, Cristo Rei Administrative post, PNTL or perpetrators beat community members walking on the road although they explained that they have no money to buy masks but were told by PNTL that if they don't have masks they should not wander around but stay at home. Community members were dissatisfied with this incident because the victims beaten by police are people who were selling their products to buy rice.
- ▶ On 13-03-21 at 11.00 am at aldeia Becuse Centro, suku Bekora Cristo Rei administrative post a PNTL officer or perpetrator was quarreling with the victim, a docent, to stop school activities although the school was following the world health protocol rules. the victim told PNTL, "We are undertaking activities but we keep following the COVID-19 protocol and the PNTL officer yelled and said, "The school must be closed down otherwise we will lock you inside and release you when the sanitary lockdown ends. Nobody intervened because

PNTL said they are following the orders.

- ▶ On 13 March 2021 at about 17:00 hours at suku Bidau Santa-Ana, Cristo-Rei administrative post community youngsters were quarreling with PNTL who were patrolling from home to home and found them playing billiard. When told by PNTL not to gather in big numbers the victim said, “We are all brothers playing here and PNTL got angry and had a quarrel with them. Nobody intervened in this incident because PNTL said they are implementing the law and order.
- ▶ On 14 March 2021 at about 07:00 am at suku Fatuhada, Dom Aleixo administrative post, the victims were undertaking physical exercise at the beach. The perpetrators arrived and forced the victims into the PNTL vehicle and brought them to the PNTL Dili municipality headquarters. The reason was the victims didn’t follow the rules of the sanitary lockdown set by the government which forbids all citizens to leave their houses.
- ▶ On 09 April 2021 at about 02:15 pm at Suku Guico, Maubara administrative post there was a misunderstanding between the perpetrators and the victims about the COVID-19 rules. Health officers got into a quarrel with the families of two students whom they tested positive having COVID-19. They refused to acknowledge that their sons was having COVID-19 because if their sons were positive why the rest of their families didn’t. In this incident health officers failed to bring the victims to the quarantine center. Latterly, the two students cooperated and followed health officers to the health center with a motorcycle who were then referred to the isolation center.
- ▶ On 27 April 2021 at about 10:00 pm at suku Bekora, Cristo Rei administrative post PNTL was providing security to the sanitary lockdown and found the victim at the street who was trying to find a taxi to bring his sick family member to the HNGV. PNTL stopped their car and hit and kicked the victim until he fell to the ground. They were still beating him even though he had fallen to the ground and suffered heavy injury on his head. They then brought him to the HNGV. This incident is already in the judicial process.

RAPE AND ABANDONMENT, RAPE ATTEMPT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMOUNTED 6 INCIDENTS

Rape (1 incident), rape attempt (1 incident), and domestic violence (4 incidents) during this period in Dili and Likisá municipalities spread over Cristo Rei, Dom Aleixo, Bazartete, Likisá and Maubara administrative posts.

The scene of these incidents mainly took place in private homes and only one incident occurred in other place (a quarantine center in Dili). As a consequence of this rape a minor girl got pregnant and the perpetrator, who is married, refused to take the responsibility and abandoned her and the fruit of their relationship.

There were many factors that caused these incidents namely dissatisfaction over the behavior of one of the parties, failure of cultural values and moral responsibility, and economic reasons (no

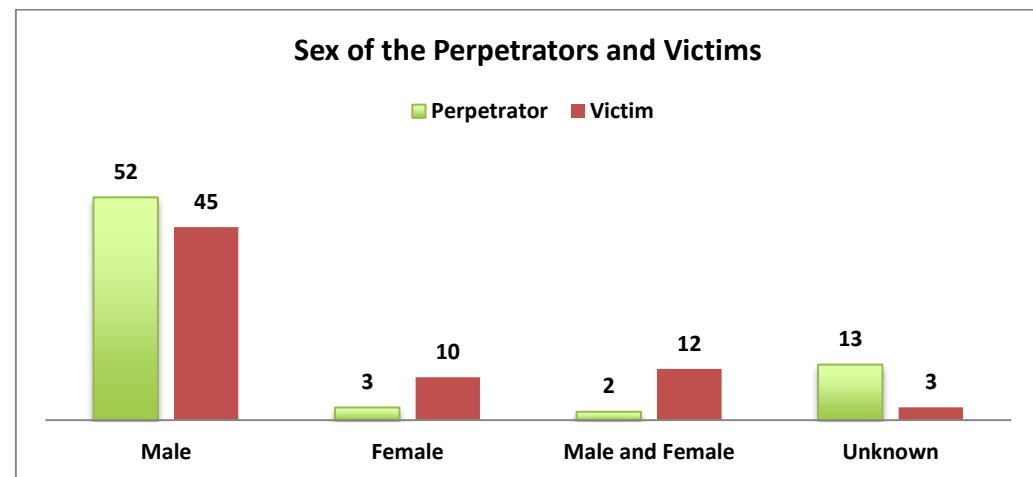
rice for consumption). Intoxication and moral irresponsibility. These factors contributed to these incidents including rumors, hatred and vengeance, attraction and family economic condition. Out of these six incidents that occurred during this period, family members of the perpetrators and victims, suku council members and colleagues intervened for its resolution.

VIOLENCE INCIDENTS CAUSED BY LAND DISPUTE AMOUNTED 5 CASES

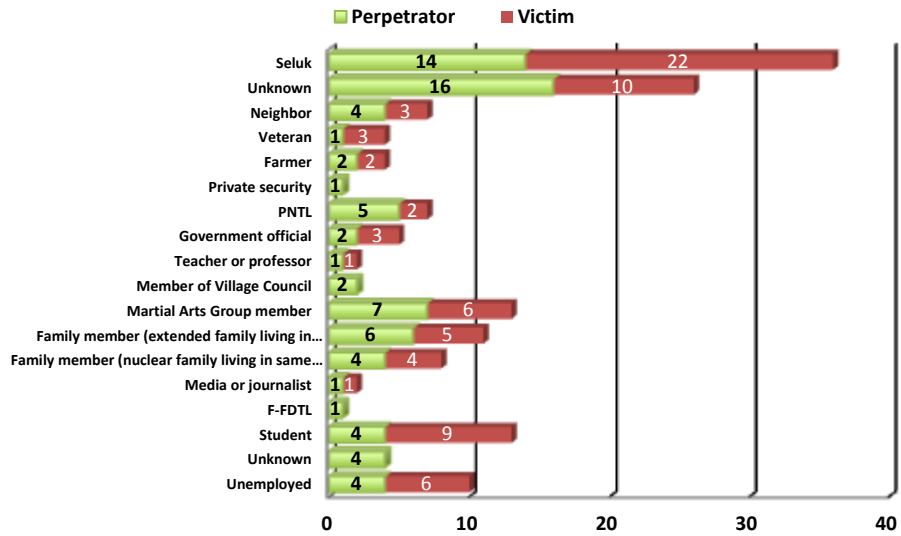
Violence incidents due to land and property disputes during this period amounted in 5 cases in Likisá municipality (3 cases in Likisá Vila and 2 cases in Maubara). One incident of paddy field land dispute and two incidents of land inheritance between family members occurred in Likisá Vila administrative post. Meanwhile two other incidents in Maubara administrative post are related to the need to open a public road and the community of one suku disagreed to offer their land for the public road and one other incident was related to land dispute between two community members located between two aldeias. The place of occurrence was in the farm, land border, and at a house.

All perpetrators in the incidents that occurred during this period were male, while the victim was a woman. From these five incidents, three got the intervention of suku council members and the PNTL while two other incidents got the intervention of other government officer (DNPCC) and nobody intervened in one incident.

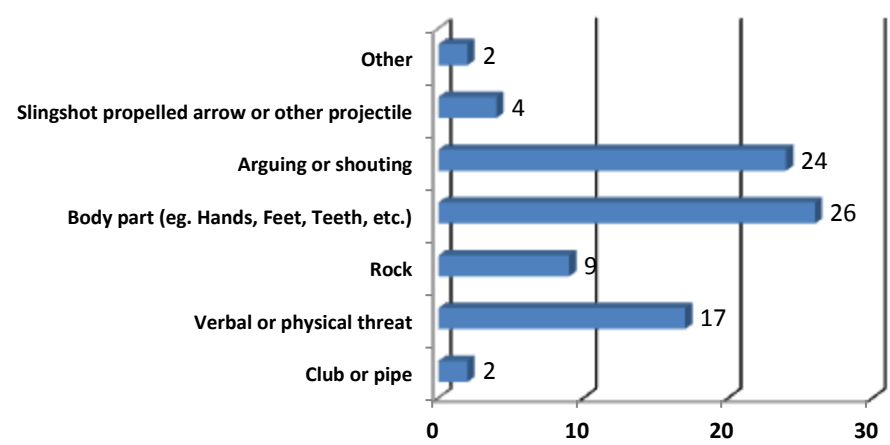
GRAPHIC OF GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF INCIDENTS



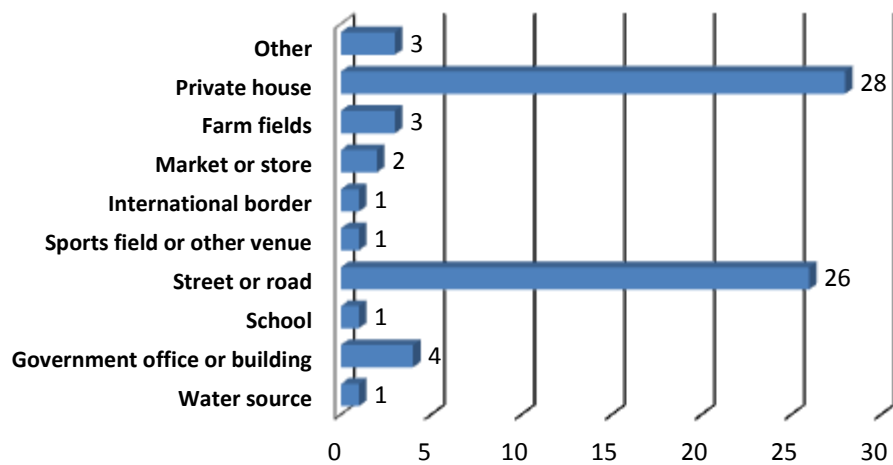
The Role of the Perpetrators and the Victims



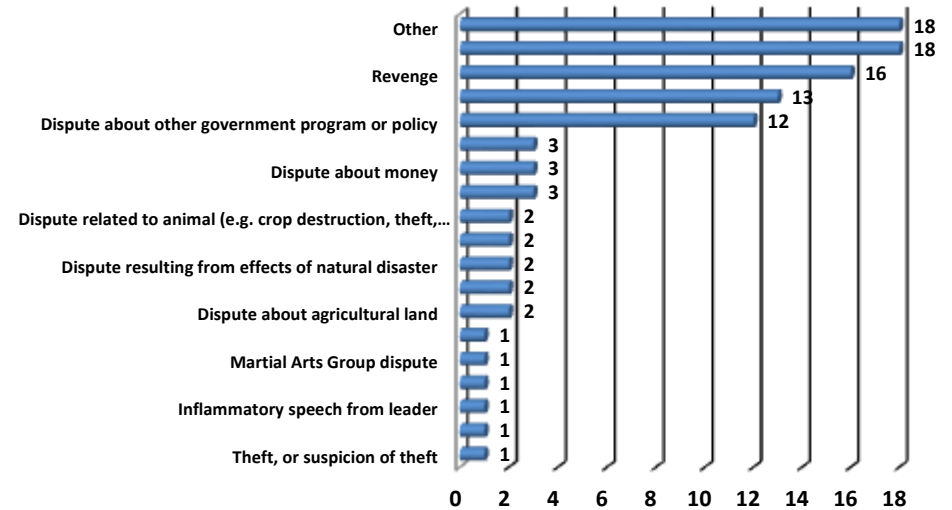
Tools Used During These Incidents



Place of incidents



Contributing Factors to the Incidents



PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The EWER Program

- ▶ Belun NGO, in partnership with the Asia Pacific Partnership Atrocity Prevention (APPAP), continued participating in training on the 1st, 3rd, 8th and 10th of March 2021 through the EWER organized by APPAP. As mentioned in the Situation Review report period January-February, this training was an opportunity for APPAP organization members to be more interactive with specialists, legal defenders and professionals in the region in regards to the atrocity prevention. This training is part of the APPAP mission to developing the capacity of interested parties in the Asia and Pacific Region. The themes of the four-day training mentioned above is:

- ▶ Atrocities Prevention and Women, Peace and Security (WPS)
- ▶ COVID-19: Implications for Atrocities Prevention in the Asia Pacific
- ▶ The Future of Atrocities Prevention in the Asia Pacific
- ▶ Transitional Justice and Atrocities Prevention

The SI-UNW Program

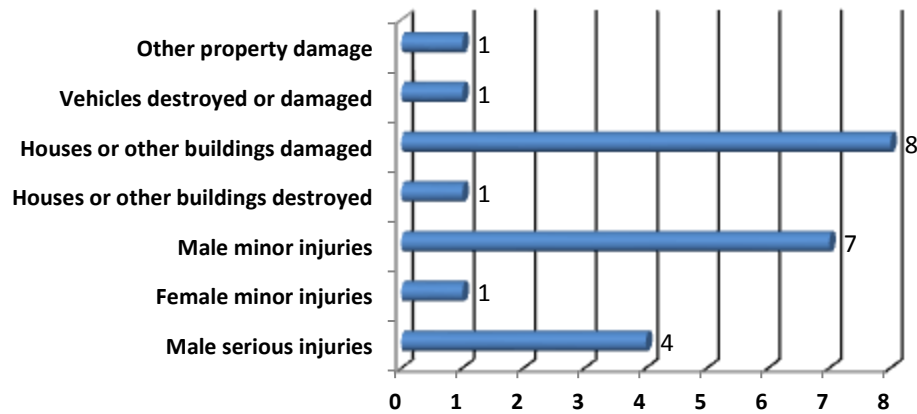
Belun NGO, through the Spotlight Initiative program and with financial support from the European Union provided through the Timor-Leste UN Women, participated in a solidarity visit to provide humanitarian support to women and children in suco Comoro comprising of Aldeia 12 Outubru, Bairu Masalidun, suco Dare Aldeia Lemorana no iha suco Hera-Aldeia Mota Kiik who were affected by natural disasters on 4 April 2021.

This visit started with an introduction from the National Commission for Children's Right (KNDL) team and Belun NGO which then made several groups and conducted a short dialog with the community. The visit ended with the distribution of humanitarian aid to women and children based on the assessment list; women and children amounted 141 (comprised of 65 in Lemorama, 61 in Masalidun and 15 in Mota Kiik). Humanitarian aid distributed at Lemorama aldeia including hygienic items, books, snack, buckets and mat while at Masalidun and Mota Kiik communities received hygienic items, buckets, water-dipper and mats.

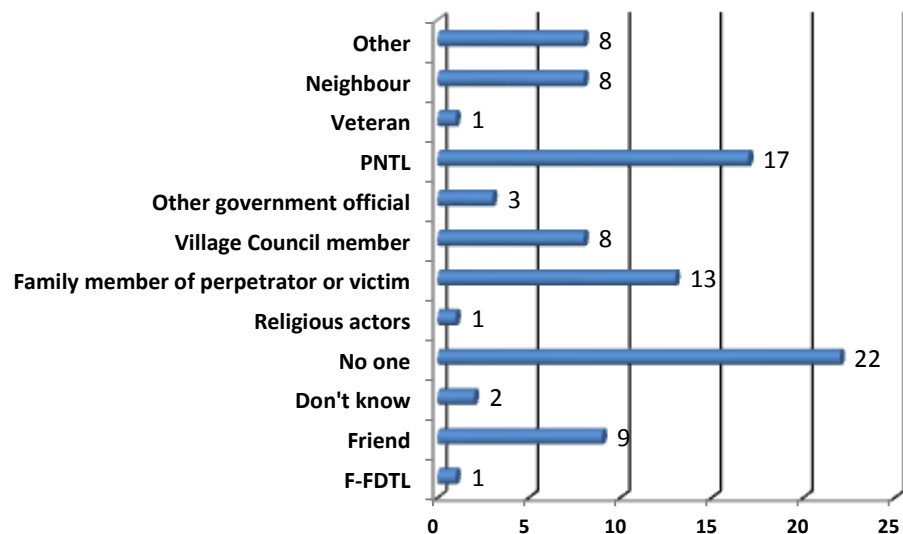


Pic. 1: Sunday, 9 May 2021, Belun NGO worked in cooperation with community leaders carried out a solidarity visit to provide humanitarian aid to 61 women and children who were affected by the flooding on 4 April 2021 at Suco Comoro, Aldeia 12 de Outubru, and Bairo Masalidun. (Photo: Ludgeria Noviana Reiskha)

Impact of the Incidents



Entities Who Responded



ABOUT THIS REVIEW

Since the establishment of the EWER system in Belun in 2008 to 2016, the system has covered all municipalities in 43 Administrative Posts, but due to financial limitations being faced by the organization, the system became temporarily inactive in 2017.

The system was reactivated in 2018 with the support of UN Women and the Women Peace and Security Program which covered only three municipalities (Baukau, Covalima and RAEOA).

In mid-2019 (May-September) it also covered Dili municipality (with 6 administrative post) with financial support from the DAP-DFAT. In the same year, with the support of the German Government and GIZ, the EWER system was also reactivated in four other municipalities including Dili, Baukau, Lautein and Viqueque (two administrative posts for each municipality). In 2020 it reactivated the system in Likisá municipality with the support of G7+ Secretariat and it also reactivated the system in Covalima municipality with the support of the UNDP. In 2021 with the support of Asia and Pacific Partnership Atrocity Prevention (APPAP) Network it reactivated the system in two municipalities in Dili (2 administrative post) and Likisá (3 administrative post 3).

This situation review reports on key issues related to violence incidents and the trend of monitoring data through the Timor-Leste Early Warning and Response System (EWER) during March-April 2021 in Dili and Likisá municipalities. Actually this review should have been published on May but due to the technical error on the Belun website and technical issues related to unstable Internet connection for the EWER service in the field has had in implication over the late publication of this review. These activities were financially supported by the Asia Pacific Partnership Atrocity Prevention (APPAP) Network.

For more information please visit www.EWER.belun.tl

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Women and children at aldeia Lemorana shared their experience on the sanitary lockdown and the natural disaster (Photo: Isac Mascarenhas)



Pic. 2: Women and children at Masalidun shared their experience on the sanitary lockdown and the flooding (Photo: Ludgeria Noviana Reiskha)



Pic. 3: Tuesday, 11 May 2021, Belun NGO carried out a solidarity visit with local authorities to provide humanitarian aid to 15 women and children who were affected by the flooding at Suku Hera, Aldeia Mota Kiik. (Photo: Isac Mascarenhas)



Pic. 4: Short discussion with women at Aldeia Mota Kiik affected by the flooding to share their experience about the sanitary lockdown (Photo: Isac Mascarenhas)