

The Early Warning and Early Response System (EWER) supported by the UNOPS-Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and the Timor Leste SASCAS (now called: Civil Society Support Cabinet) continued to implement monitoring services for incidents of violence that occurred during the period of January to March 2024. The system, in partnership with monitoring networks on the ground, gathers information regarding a wide variety of incidents of violence. Incidents collected are regularly sent to municipal coordinators to be registered in the national data base system with online system verification of data validity. The national data base manager verifies the data with municipal coordinators and then sends the material to the program manager to analyze the causes of the incidents of violence. For those interested in incident data and conflict prevention activities in Timor-Leste communities, it can be accessed through [www.atres.belun.tl](http://www.atres.belun.tl)

The Situation Review for this period covers the municipalities of Baukau, Bobonaro, Covalima, Dili, Ermera and Vikeke, in the 15 administrative posts such as administrative posts of Balibo, Baukau, Bobonaro, Cristo Rei, Dom Aleixo, Ermera, Letefoho, Lolotoe, Maliana, Maucatar, Nain Feto, Ossu, Suai Vila, Uatulari and Vikeke Vila.

Nine monitoring partners (male 3, female 6) together with six coordinators (male 3, female 3) work collaboratively in data collection areas within the program’s coverage area. In three administrative posts from the UNOPS and PBSO program, namely Cristo Rei, Vikeke Vila and Maliana Vila the data collection is covered directly by municipal coordinators. Data on incidents in the six municipalities during the specified period are described as follows:

**ISSUES THAT NEED ATTENTION**

- ▶ **64 Domestic violence**
- ▶ **35 Violent incident caused by land disputes**
- ▶ **24 Incidents involved GAM members**
- ▶ **14 Sexual violence**

Total Incident by Municipality		%
Dili	47	19.42%
Bobonaro	45	18.60%
Ermera	42	17.36%
Baukau	37	15.29%
Vikeke	36	14.88%
Covalima	35	14.46%
Total	242	100.00%

**INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE  
IN BAUKAU, BOBONARO, DILI, ERMERA, COVALIMA AND VIKEKE,  
DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY TO MARCH 2024**

Using the EWER System during this period, Belun, with the support of UNOPS-PBSO and SASCAS partners, continued to collect incident data in six municipalities, totaling 242 incidents. The percentage was highest in Dili and Ermera although there were no significant differences with other municipalities. Looking at perpetrator’s gender breakdown from the total 242 incidents: there were 212 incidents involving male perpetrators, 10 involving female perpetrators, 11 involving both male and female perpetrators, 8 involving unknown individuals and 1 involving an LGBTQ individual.

Regarding the victims in this incidents: there were 120 male victims and 100 female victims. There were 20 incidents involving both male and female victims, and 2 incidents where the victim was unknown.

The perpetrators involved in these incidents generally reside in the community and live in the same or different house, are neighbors, members of government institutions or village council members. Their roles or positions vary, with the breakdown in incidents including farmers in 89 incidents, unknown roles in 67 incidents, members of GAM and GAR in 24 incidents, other unspecified roles in 21 incidents, students in 18 incidents, unemployed individuals in 11 incidents, government officials in 5 incidents, teachers in 2 incidents, PNTL (National Police of Timor-Leste) in 2 incidents, village council members, party militants and private security each involved in 1 incident.

The methods and tools used by perpetrators to commit violence include: physical violence (e.g., fists, feet etc) in 120 incidents, verbal altercations in 118 incidents, threats (verbal or physical) in 89 incidents, stones or rocks in 48 incidents, use of club or pipe in 28 incidents, use of other tools in 21 incidents, firearm in 2 incidents and using an arrow in 1 incident. From the total number of tools or means used to commit violence it shows that perpetrators typically use more than one tool or method, not just a single method in each incident.

Many factors contribute to the incidents, with the main one being intoxication. Perpetrators or victims contributed to 15 incidents, revenge or hatred contributed to 11 incidents, social jealousy contributed to 10 incidents, problem between MAG members contributed to 10 incidents, abandonment contributed to 9 incidents, problems related to money in 6 incidents, problems dealing with land heritage for

farm and rice field contributed to 6 incidents, conflict over inheritance of farm land and rice field in 5 incidents, while adultery contributed in **8 incidents**. Other factors, although not numerous, significantly contributed to the occurrence of violent incidents, as shown in the graph depicting contributing factors on the following pages.

Impact of incidents during this period: 6 people died (4 men and 2 women) from Administrative Posts (AP) in Bobonaro, Maliana, Cristo Rei and Balibo. People with serious injuries totalled 10 people (6 man, 4 women) from AP in Dom Aleixo, Ermera, Letefoho, Maliana, Nain Feto and Lolotoe. Incidents leading to small injuries totalled 85 people 65 man and 20 women from Dili 24 people (man 19, women 5), Ermera 22 people (man 17, women 5), Bobonaro 20 people (man 17, women 3), Vikeke 10 people (man 6, women 4), Baukau 7 people (man 5, women 2) and Covalima 2 people (a man and a woman). People felt unsafe and fled from the incident scene in 17 cases, animals died in 2 incidents, and 8 incidents resulted in private property such as windows, house and store/kioske with damages. Also damage to public and private transport such as 4 mikrolet, 3 private vehicle, 3 motorcycle etc. Also damage to personal belongings such as block printing machine, plates and chairs.

From these 242 incidents, monitor or EWER coordinators considered that incidents could occur again if not properly addressed. The desire for revenge could persist between parties, potentially leading to further incidents in the future.

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS TOTALLED 64 IN BAUKAU, VIKEKE, COVALIMA, DILI, ERMERA AND BOBONARO**

Domestic violence in this period occurred in 6 municipalities totalling 64 with the highest in Baukau with 16 incidents (in Baukau AP) and Vikeke with 16 (in AP Vikeke Vila 7, Ossu 5, Uatulari 4) incidents, Dili 9 incidents (in Dom Aleixo 6, Nain Feto 2 and Cristo Rei 1), Ermera 8 incidents (in Letefoho 5 and Ermera 3) incidents and Bobonaro 4 incidents (in AP Maliana 3 and Bobonaro vila 1). These incidents mostly occurred between intimate partners and family members living in the same house. There were 53 incidents occurring between intimate partners and 11 incidents occurred between family members living in the same house.

People who responded to these incidents mostly include family member of the perpetrator and victims totalling 35 incidents. Furthermore, neighbours responded to

26 incidents, village council members were involved in responding to 12 incidents, PNTL intervened in 10 incidents, colleagues were involved in response to 9 incidents, elder non council members responded to 5 incidents, other individuals responded to 2 incidents and veterans were involved in 1 incident. While in 23 incidents there was no intervention from anyone.

The causes or contributing factors to these incidents include jealousy, suspicion of adultery, intoxicated/drunk, financial issues and dissatisfaction with behaviour between parties.

### **INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE DUE TO LAND DISPUTES, TOTALING 35**

Violent incidents due to land disputes in this period totalled 35 in Covalima 14 incidents (land problem 7 incidents, land dispute for farm 3 incidents, problems dealing with the land border 1 incident and 3 incidents deal with land heritage. In Dili 7 incidents were caused by land disputes there were 6 incidents, disputes due to land border 1 incident. 6 incidents in Ermera, land disputes 4 incidents, land dispute for housing 1 incident and 1 incident dealing with land dispute for farm and housing. In Baukau 4 incidents related solely to land disputes, similarly 2 incidents in Bobonaro Municipality. There have been 2 incidents caused by land dispute and land dispute over farming.

The majority of perpetrators are men totaling 26 incidents, 7 incidents involved men and women as perpetrators while in 1 incident LGBTQ was the perpetrator and one other case involved women as perpetrator. Victims in land dispute were men in 20 incidents, women in 8 incidents, men and women in 6 incidents and unknown victim in 1 incident. From these 35 incidents, 25 were responded to by a family member of the perpetrator and the victim, 22 incidents were responded to by neighbours, colleagues responded in 14 incidents, council members responded in 10 incidents, PNTL intervened in 8 incidents and 6 involved elder non council members in response.

### **INCIDENTS WITH INVOLVEMENT OF GAM OCNUM TOTALLED 24**

Incidents involving martial art and ritual art members during this period resulted in a total of 24 incidents. 10 incidents occurred in Dili, in Covalima there were 6 incidents, in Ermera there were 5 incidents and in Bobonaro with 3 incidents. Factors triggering of the incidents vary such as provocation caused 8 incidents, vengeance between parties caused 5 incidents, dissatisfaction between parties caused 3

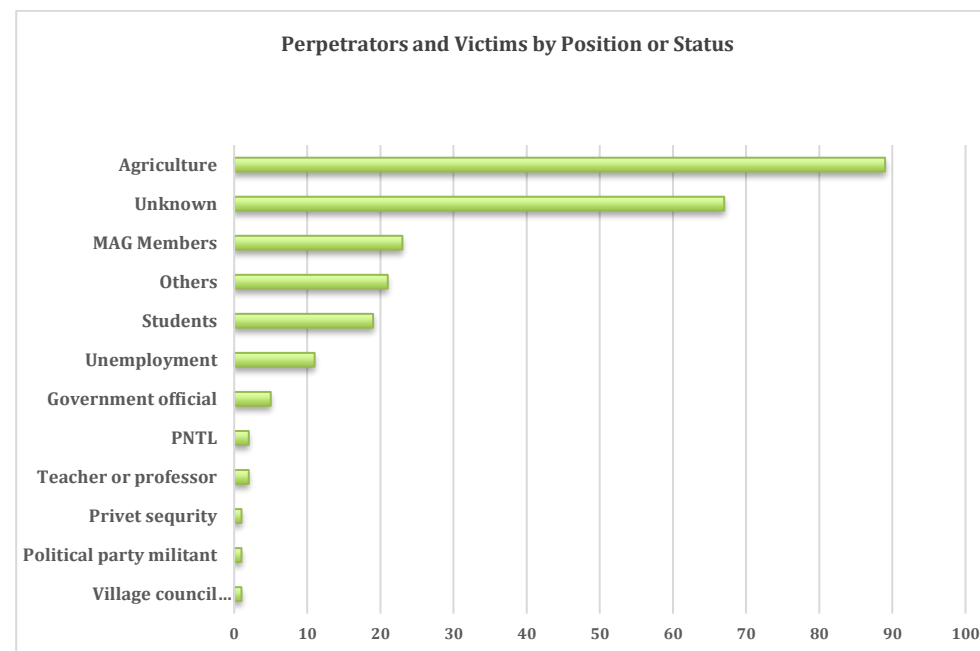
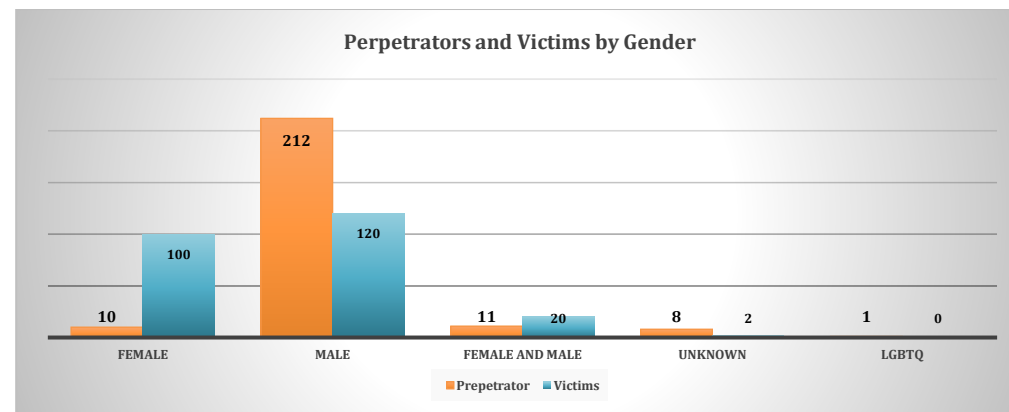
incidents, unknown factor in 3 incidents and others such as suspect entering another group, because of differences with the other group, not accepting the other group, provoking through the phone and due to the victim entering another MAG . Most of the incidents were intervened by PNTL (20 incidents), family member of perpetrator and victim intervened in 9 incidents, the village council member intervened in 7 incidents as well as colleagues and neighbours intervened in 6 incidents. Elder non-council member intervened in 3 incidents, teachers and the F-FDTL each intervened in 2 incidents, and no one knows who intervened, other, civil society or NGO and no one intervened in the incident each of them intervened in one incident.

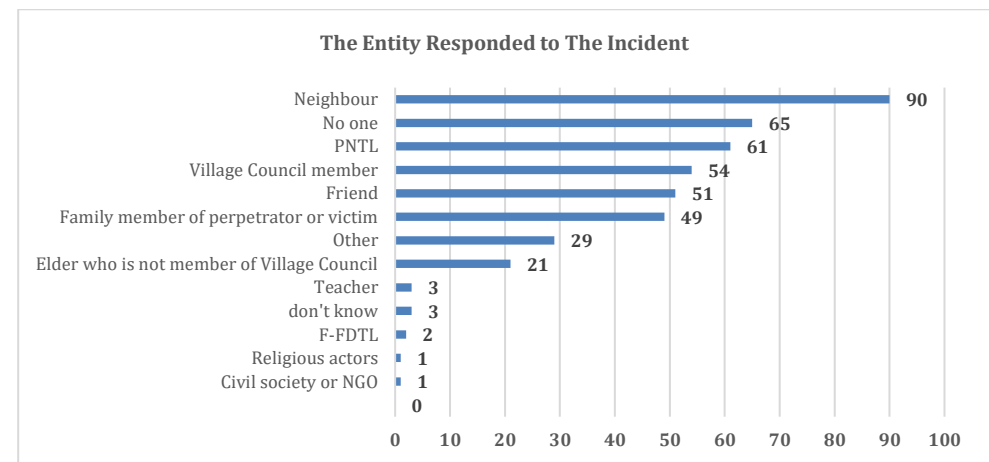
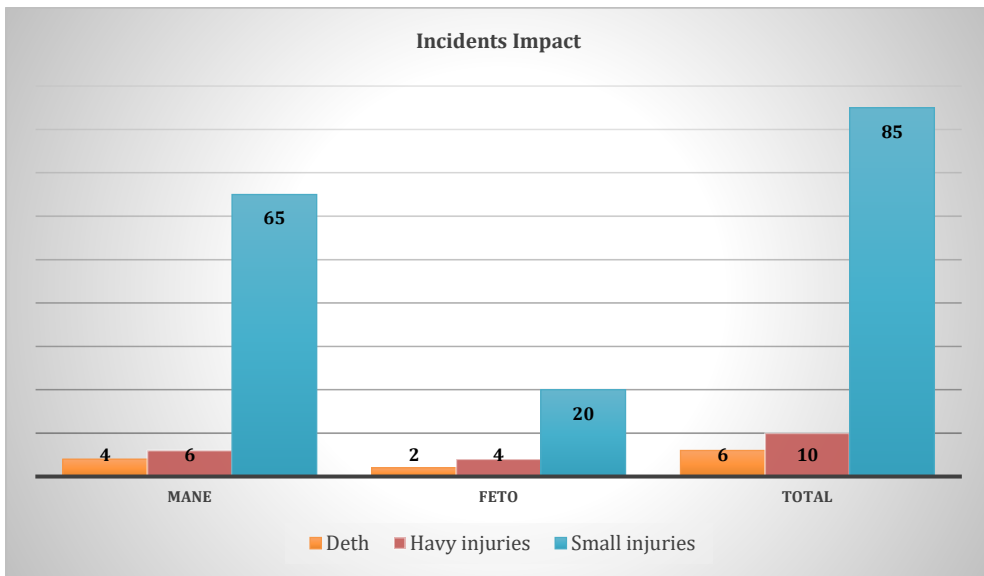
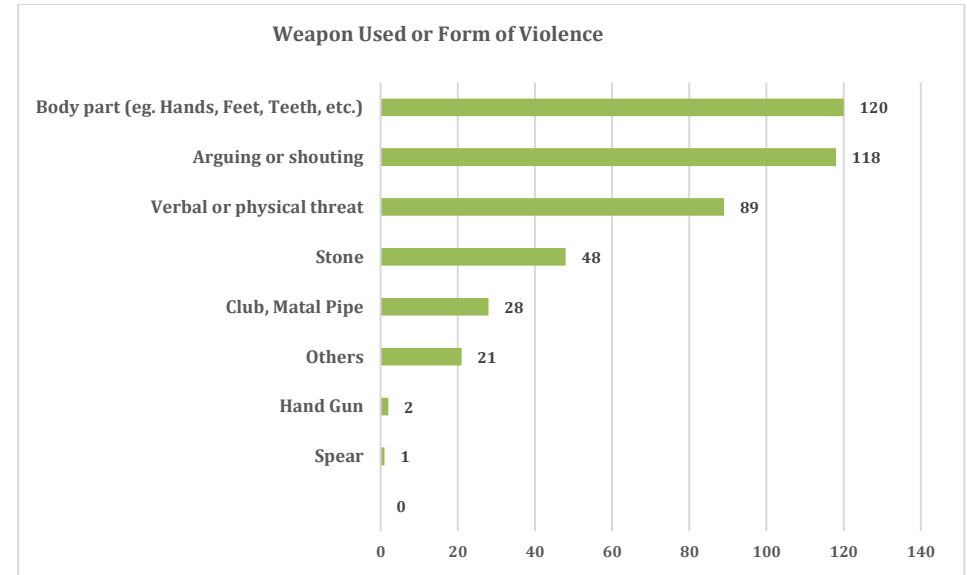
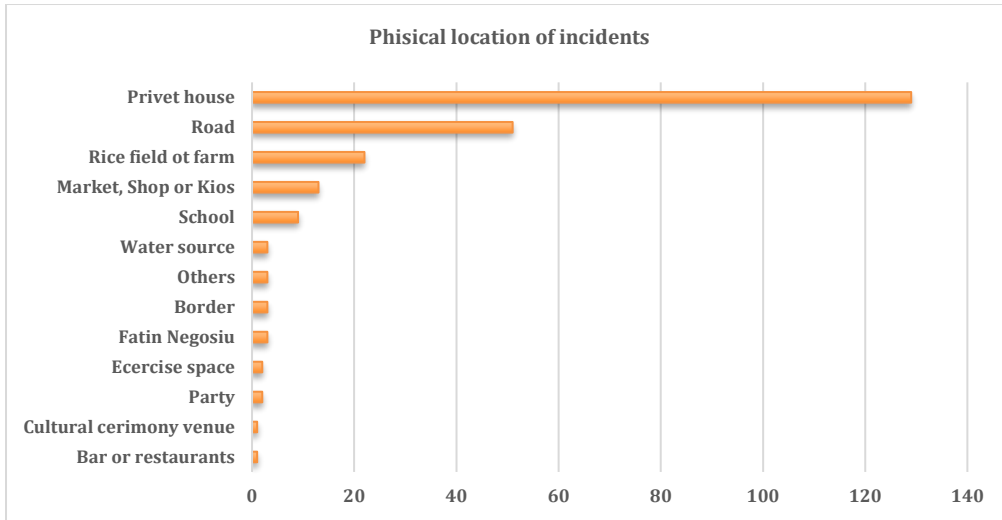
### SEXUAL VIOLENCE TOTALLED 14 INCIDENTS

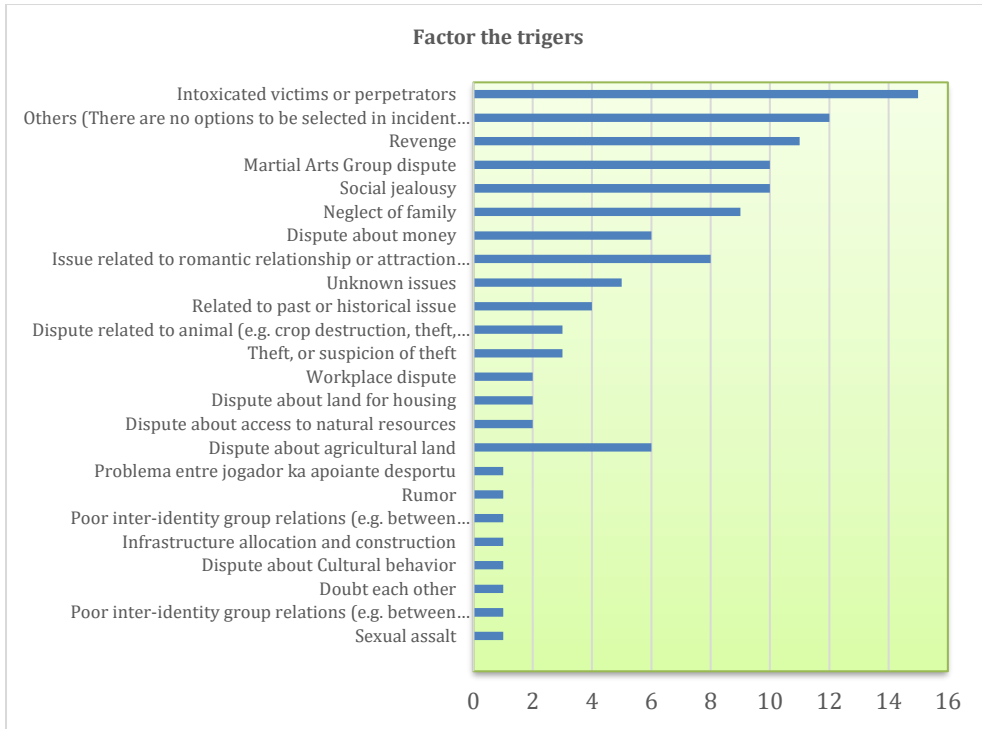
Sexual violence includes any physical or sexual act that occurs through force or intimidation against the victim's will or by exploiting the victim. They include sexual assault, sexual abuse, and other forms of abuse in a sexual context. During this period there were 14 incidents including 8 incidents of sexual violence (including 1 involving a minor), 4 incidents of harassment/sexual abuse, 1 incident of sexual assault and 1 attempted sexual abuse.

These incidents occur in Vikeke municipality (5 incidents), Ermera 4 incidents, Baukau 3 incidents and in Dili 1 incident. Most of the incidents occurred in private homes (9 incidents), 2 incidents occurred on the road, 1 incident happened at school and 1 incident took place in an isolated location. There are a number and variety of factors contributing to these incidents, including power imbalances, social attitudes towards gender and sexuality, alcohol use or abuse, lack of education about consent and individual psychological factors of the perpetrator.

### GRAPH OF GENERAL INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS







## Belun's ACTIVITY ON CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACEBUILDING

- In January 2024, Belun strengthened its partnership with a USAID in Timor-Leste, conducting training on Gender-Sensitive Conflict Transformation and disseminating information on the roles on National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) in their response to acts of violence and Laws Against bladed **Weapons** and the Martial Arts for Belun constituents in Dom Aleixo and Metinaro administrative posts. The objective of this activity is to enhance the



knowledge and capacity of inclusive communities of women, men and youth to effectively respond to and prevent conflicts in their daily lives within the community. A total number of 36 participants took part in training, including 11 women and 25 men. This activity was carried out with funding support from USAID Activity/Advocacy and Good Governance.

- On January 24th through the climate change mitigation and adaptation program, 1040 tree were planted in Labarai-Lagoa Tasi Ninin village with a total of 124 participants (38 women and 86 men). The participants included representatives from the Covalima municipal authority, administrators of Suai and Maucatar administrative posts, Belekasak and Labarai Village councils as well as village chiefs, delegates, PNTL, environmental institutions and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Group members of Wee Kaduak in Busadao and communities (youth and children) also participated. This activity was supported by the UNDP-GEF fund.



- In addition, the community, including 13 members from Wee Kaduak group, engaged in cultivating various crops for both short-term and long-term needs such as corn, cassava, sweet potatoes, long beans, eggplant, mustard greens, water spinach, papaya and banana trees on nearly 2 hectares of land in Holba hamlet in Labarai village. This activity was realized with the assistance of the Belun Coordinator and the representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture in Covalima Municipality. The activity was also funded by UNDP-GEF.



- On February 21, 2024, Belun facilitated the establishment of a loan cooperative exclusively circulating within the Wee Kaduak group, following its training provided by IADE in the previous year. The cooperative currently has a total of 13 members (6 women, 7 men). This activity was realized with



funding support from Government (SASCAS).

- In March 2024, the Integrated Reproductive and Sexual Health Program, conducted monitoring of the maternity and health center Emergency Obstetric Newborn Care (EmNOC) in Gleno Ermera Administrative post in Ermera Municipality and Oesilu and Baoknana in RAEOA. Besides the monitoring, there was also an introduction of the program to the Health Director of Ermera and the Regional Health Director in Oecusse Ambeno, at 3 Health Posts in Baoknana, Oesilu, and Passabe Administrative Posts. The program also reached the village chiefs in the coverage areas including 7 chief of villages in Ermera administrative posts, 2 chiefs of villages in Passabe administrative posts and 1 chief of village in Oesilu administrative post. This program was carried out with funding support from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
- On March 15, 2024, Belun together with UNDP-GEF, facilitated a “Risk Assessment for Vulnerabilities” involving a community of 23 participants (7 women, 16 men) consisting of the Labarai Village chief, the hamlet chief, the Wee Kaduak group members and the Ai-hun Siriatu group members as well as elders from Belekasak Village who gathered at the Belekasak Village headquarters.



In 2020 with the support by the Secretariat of g7+ EWER was reactivated in Likisa municipality, and with the support of UNDP through Justice System program it was reactivated into Covalima municipality. In July 2020, due to the financial limitation the system itself was temporarily paused until December 2020. In 2021 with the financial support of the Asia Pacific Partnership Atrocity Prevention (APPAP) EWER was reactivated in 2 municipalities in Dili (2 Administrative posts) and Likisa and in Likisá municipality (3 Administrative Posts).

In 2022 with support from the Government through Komisaun Nasional Chega! I.P (CNC! I.P) and Civil Society Support Services and Social Audit (SASCAS) EWER System covered 5 more municipalities including Baukau, Covalima, Ermera, Likisa and Manufahi. In 2023 with the same support from CNC! I. P. and SASCAS EWER continued in Baukau, Covalima, Ermera, Likisa, Manufahi municipalities and expanded into Vikeke municipality.

In 2024, with the same funding from SASCAS EWER was implemented in Baukau, Covalima and Ermera and support funding from United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)-Peace Building Support Office (PBSO) EWER implemented in 3 municipalities such as Bobonaro, Dili and Vikeke in 9 administrative posts.

This situation review reports about key issues related to incidents of violence and the resulting trends, gathering monitoring data through the EWER system in Timor-Leste for the period of January to March 2024 in the municipalities of Baukau, Bobonaru, Covalima, Dili, Ermera and Vikeke. This situation review was due to be published at the beginning of May however, due to technical issues and lack of human resources the report was delayed. These activities have been implemented as a result of support from a small grant from UNOPS-PBSO no SASCAS.

## ABOUT EWER AND THIS SITUATION REVIEW

Since the establishment of the EWER System at Belun in 2008 the system has covered all the municipalities in 43 administrative posts. However due to financial limitations that faced the organization in 2017 the system itself was temporarily paused.

The EWER system was reactivated in 2018 with support from UN Women with Women Peace and Security Program within 3 Municipalities of coverage area such as Baukau, Covalima no RAEOA.

In the middle of 2019 (May-September) EWER expanded to Dili municipality (in 6 administrative posts) and was funded by DAP-DFAT.

More information available at [www.atres.belun.tl](http://www.atres.belun.tl)

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