

A large, light orange map of Guinea-Bissau serves as the background. Overlaid on the map are several orange icons: a lightning bolt inside a circle in the upper left, and two sets of arrows pointing towards each other in the center.

Local Conflict Bulletin

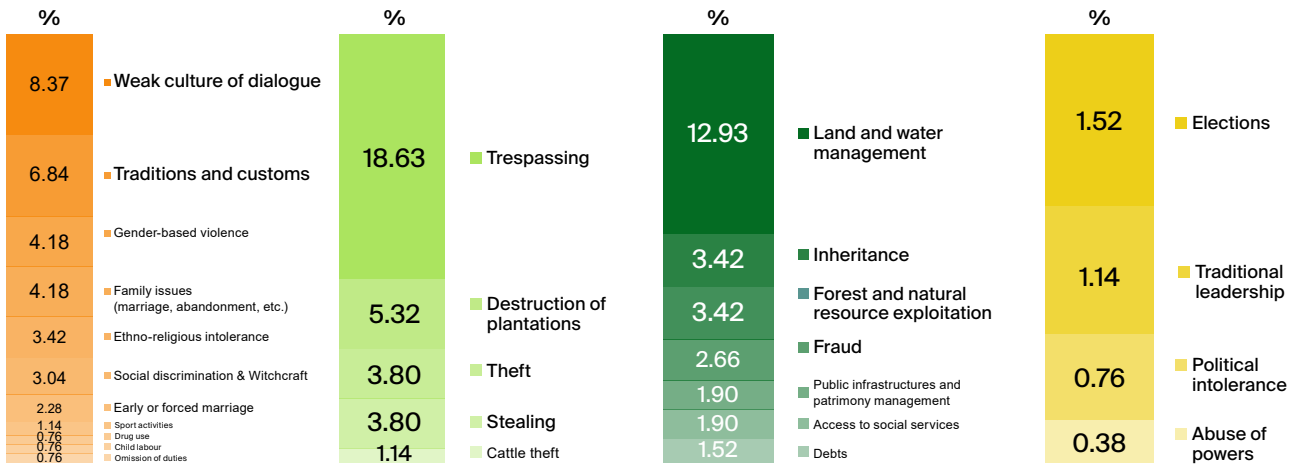
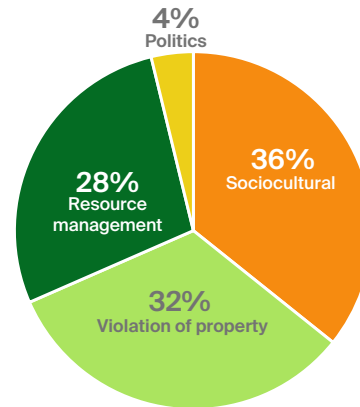
Conflict dynamics in Guinea-Bissau

This bulletin presents conflict occurrence data, collected monthly by a network of local mediators, the Regional Spaces for Dialogue (RSD, ERD in Portuguese), present in all administrative sectors of the country (except Caravela and Uno). The presentation and analysis of the data presented here was prepared by the Voz di Paz team and its partner Interpeace, and validated by civil society partners, relevant institutions, and international partners in the country.

Conflict themes and subthemes

To better synthesize information on conflicts reported at the national level, 4 main conflict themes were established, each divided into several subthemes. Recognizing that conflicts are complex and often arise from multiple causes, data collection allows the identification of up to 2 subthemes with which a conflict is related, highlighting which of them was the main motivator of the conflict and which was secondary. Below, the main themes and subthemes of the 263 conflicts reported between January and August 2023 are presented, in percentage of total conflicts.

Percentages of conflict per main theme



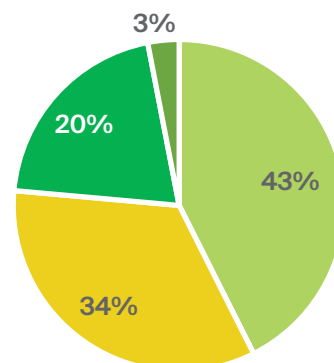
Level of conflict by theme

Conflict level is categorized according to the themes and spheres it involves, rather than the number of people involved.

Institutional conflicts are usually more difficult to report as they are not as accessible by the RSD.

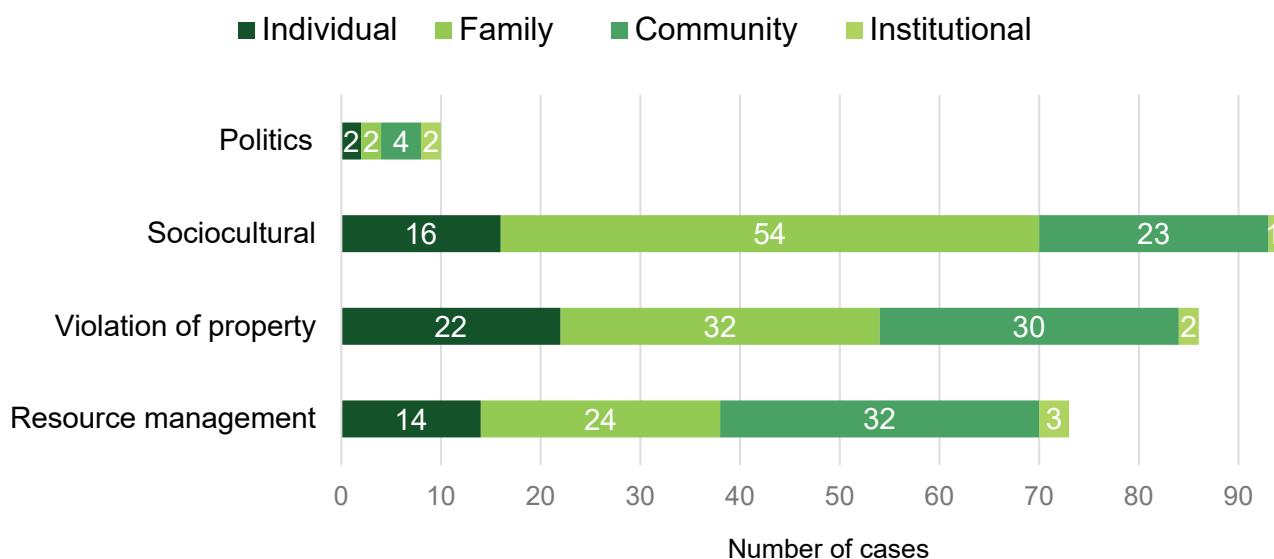
The existence of more family conflicts may indicate a change in society's values, and/or that currently there is a lack of spaces to limit or manage these conflicts.

Percentage of conflicts by level



■ Family ■ Community ■ Individual ■ Institutional

Level of conflict by theme



The Sociocultural theme includes several subthemes linked to the treatment of women, children, marriage and family matters, hence its family-level focus.

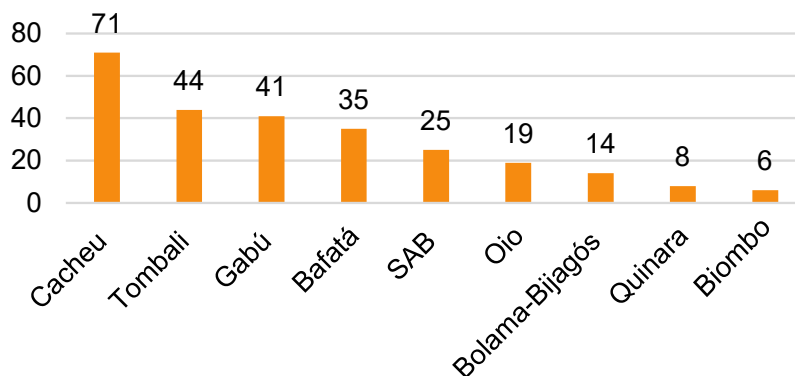
In terms of Resource Management, the main subtheme of conflict is land ownership, hence the community and family tendency.

Conflict location

The number of conflicts reported depends on the activity of the local monitors (RSD).

There are also, in some areas in particular, cultural issues that make reporting and transmitting information difficult.

Number of conflicts reported by region

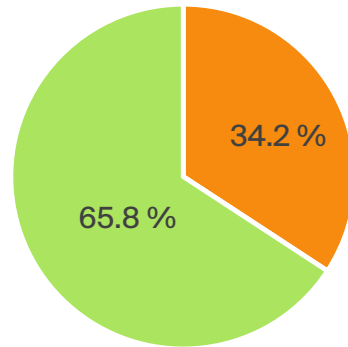


Level of violence & types of incidents

Most reported conflicts took place without physical violence, however, there is a relatively high level of violence, with physical violence reported in around 1/3 of the cases.

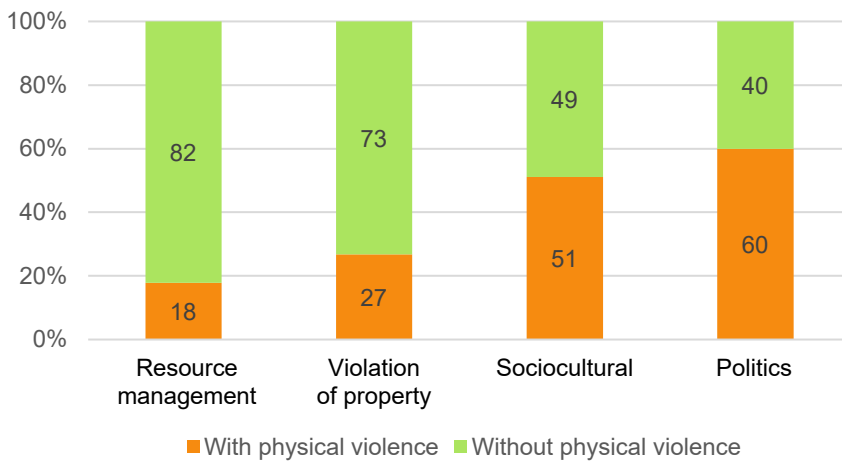
There are conflict themes with more violence than others – namely the sociocultural one. Although Politics seems more violent, the number of cases collected is still insufficient for a detailed analysis.

Percentage of total conflicts with and without physical violence



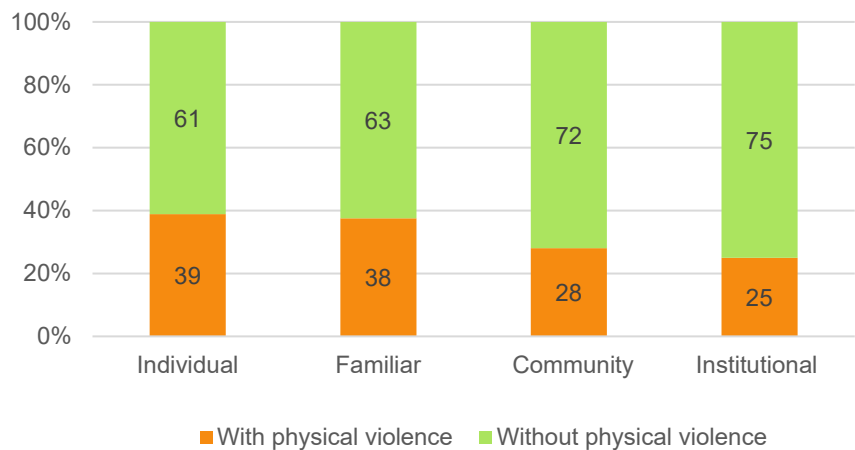
■ With physical violence
■ Without physical violence

Level of violence by theme (%)



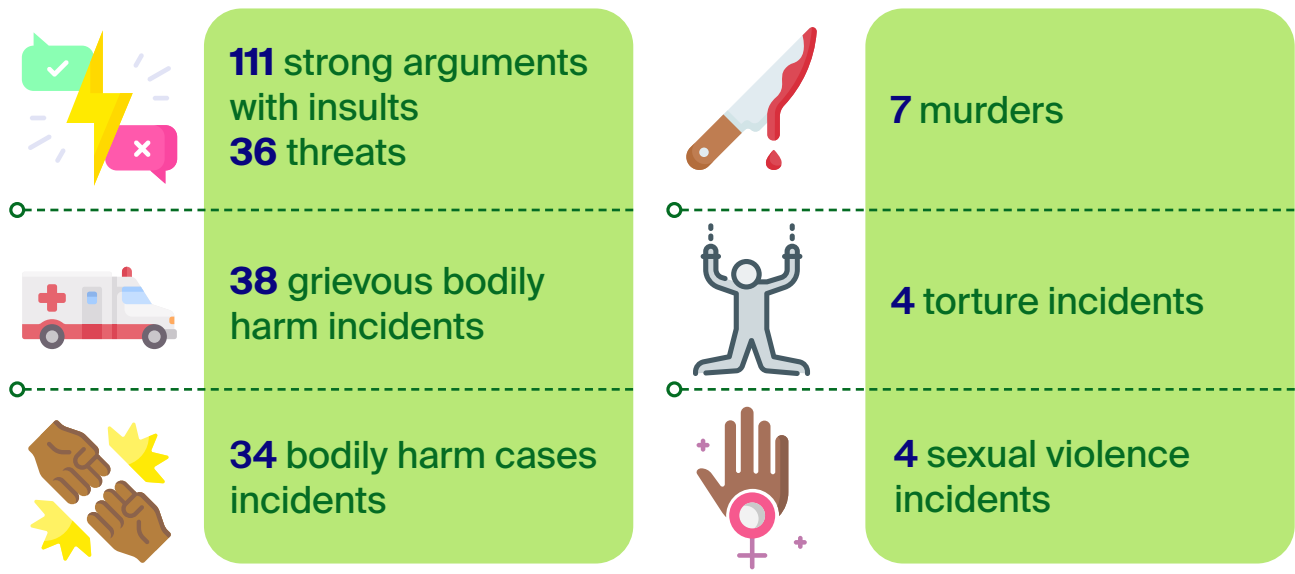
■ With physical violence ■ Without physical violence

Level of violence by conflict level (%)



■ With physical violence ■ Without physical violence

Regarding types of incidents, between January and August 2023 the following were reported:

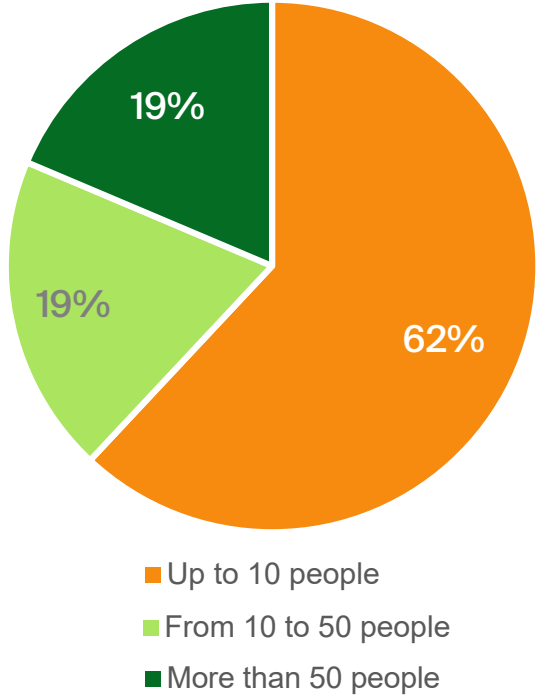


Conflict scale

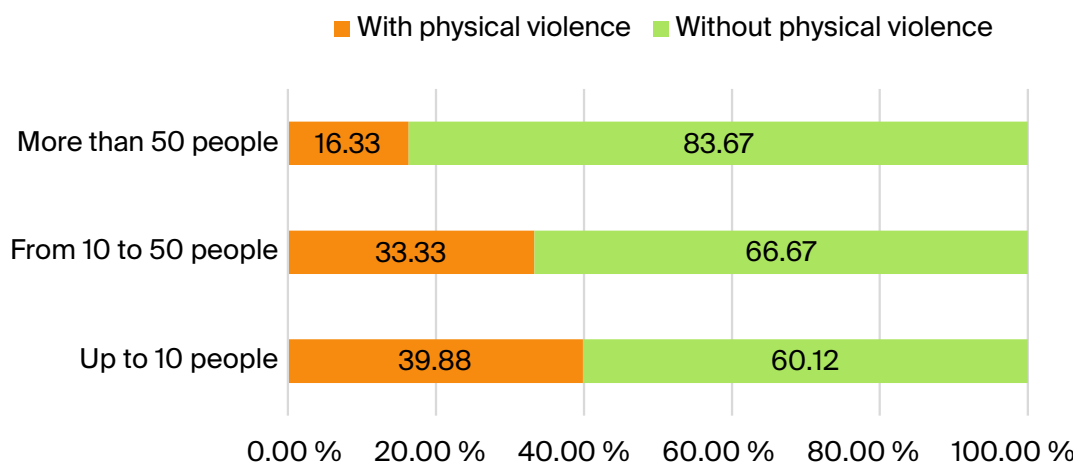
The scale of the conflict relates to the number of people that the conflict impacts or involves, even if they are not directly engaged in it.

One notes that small-scale conflicts involve more physical violence. However, it is worrying that 38% of conflicts involve more than 10 people, as they can later lead to loss of life due to prolonged conflicts.

Conflict scale (%)



Level of violence by number of people involved in the conflict (%)



Throughout these eight months of data collection, there are 4 conflicts that stand out for involving more than 100 people and registering physical violence, in four different sectors of the country: 2 issues of traditional leadership (Galomaro-Cossé and Quinhámel), 1 public infrastructure and patrimony management issue in Bissau (Plack-II/ Háfia), and 1 issue of religious intolerance due to problems with a mosque (Buba).

Conflict resolution and duration

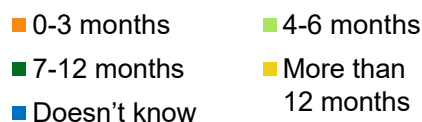
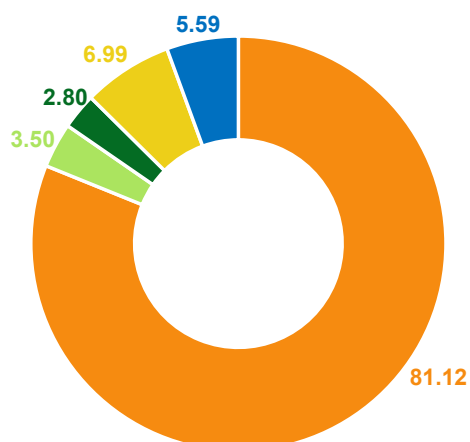
54% of conflicts were reported when they had already been solved.

About **28%** of conflicts were reported when there had been resolution attempts, or the resolution was undergoing.

Only **18%** of conflicts were ongoing at the time of the reporting.

The vast majority of the resolved conflicts reported lasted a maximum of 3 months. However, there is a small percentage (7%) of conflicts that lasted for more than a year before being resolved.

Duration of resolved conflicts (%)

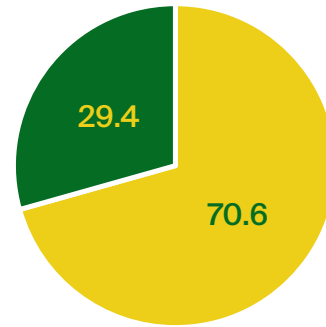


Methods of conflict resolution

Most of the resolved conflicts reported were resolved using traditional or informal mechanisms.

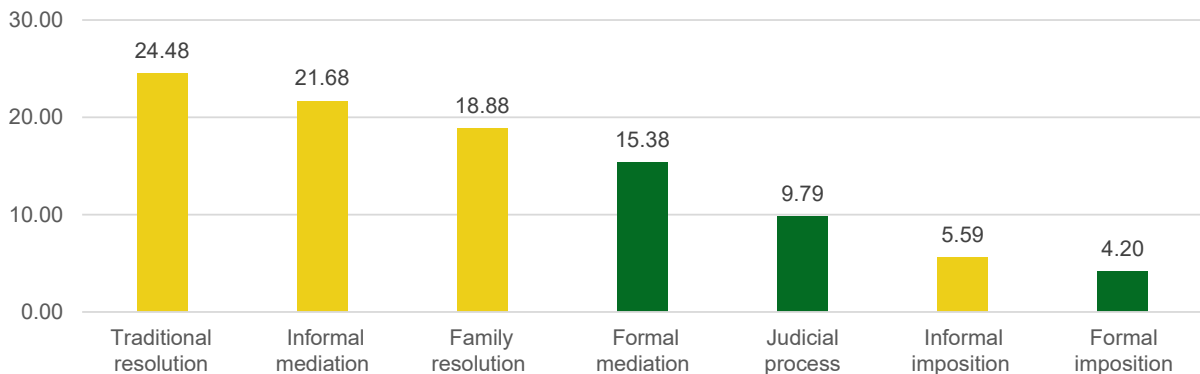
The population's preference for this type of mechanisms was previously found with the *Barometer on the Governance of Justice in Guinea-Bissau*, the results of which are available at <https://justicapapaz.org/>.

Resolution method by justice system (%)



■ Informal resolution ■ Formal resolution

Detail of the resolution method used (% of solved conflicts)



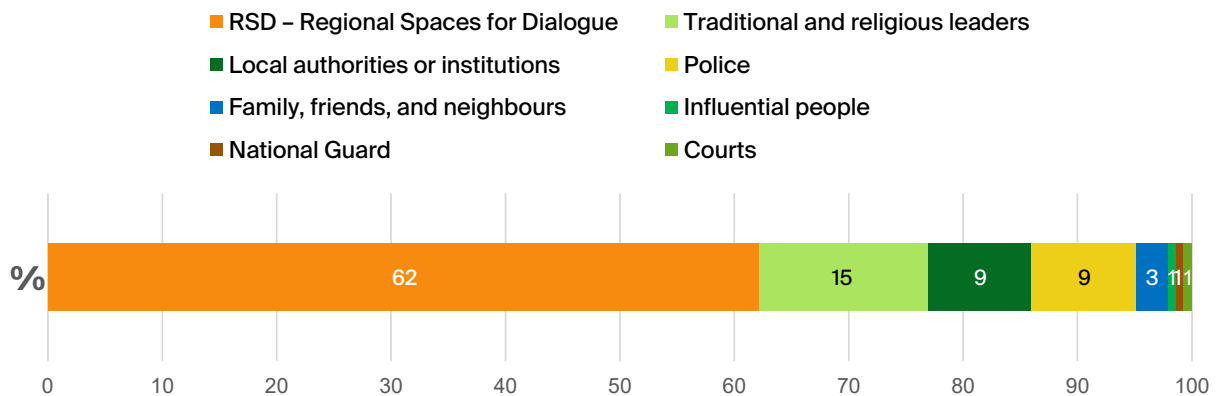
For the purpose of this analysis, these resolution methods are understood as :

- “Traditional resolution” and “Family resolution” the cases in which the conflict is considered to have ended based on the intervention of traditional or religious leaders or family heads, respectively;
- “Informal mediation” and “Formal mediation” the cases in which the resolution is made with a mediation approach, respectively by informal actors (leaders or influential people in the community, civil society structures, etc.) or by formal actors (members of state institutions, for example).
- “Informal imposition” and “Formal imposition” the cases in which the conflict is considered to have ended based on an imposition made respectively by informal actors (community leaders, heads of families, etc.) or formal actors (members of Defense and Security Forces or state institutions, for example).

The team recognizes that when conflicts are resolved in an imposing manner, tensions may remain latent, as this type of resolution does not always satisfy all parties to the conflict.

The main actors contributing to conflict resolution

Main actors involved in conflict resolution (in % of resolved conflicts)



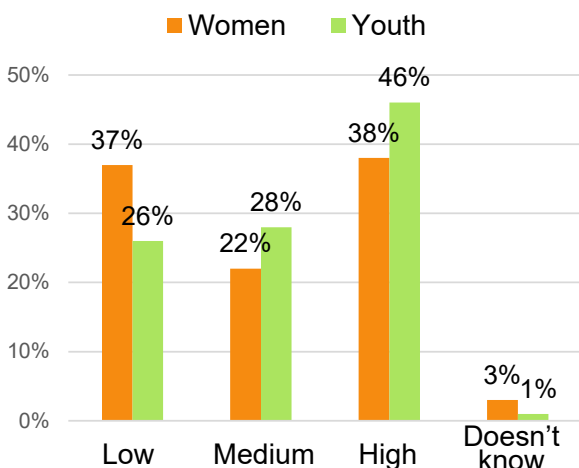
In **84%** of cases, conflicts were resolved in a **multi-actor collaboration**.

In **36%** of cases, this collaboration involved at least **three different types of actors**.

Women and youth involvement in conflict resolution

Overall, youth and women's participation in conflict resolution is reported to be relatively high. However, one notes that there is greater youth participation than female participation, with women continuing to be more excluded from decision-making spheres in general.

Level of general engagement of women and youth in conflict resolution (%)



While the level of youth participation in conflict resolution remains relatively stable overall, the level of women's participation in conflict resolution varies depending on the themes.



There is less female involvement in **resource management** and **violation of property** conflicts (**52%** and **44%** “Low” involvement in resolution)



There is greater involvement in **sociocultural** conflicts (**57%** “High” involvement in the resolution).