



Local Conflict Bulletin

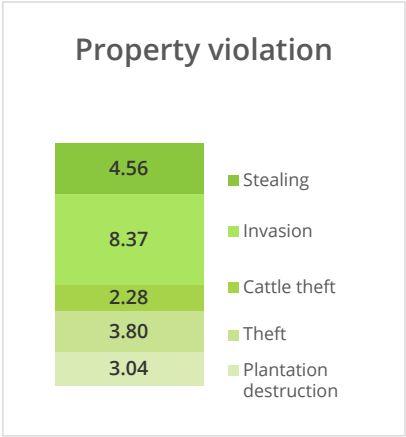
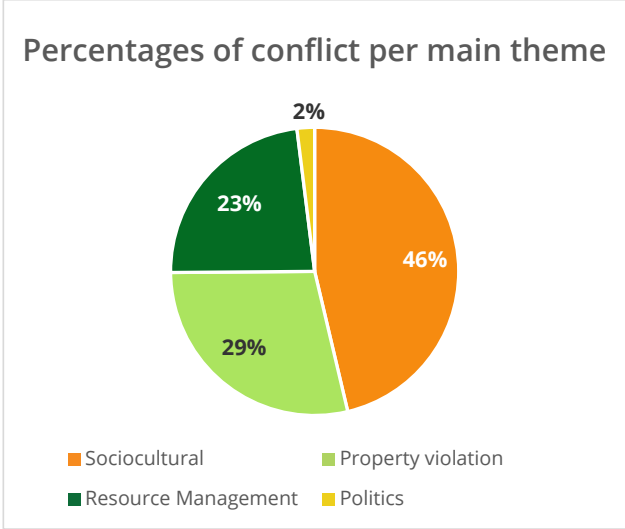
Conflict dynamics in Guinea-Bissau



This bulletin displays 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 data analysis presented here was prepared by the Voz di Paz team and its partner Interpeace, with contributions from the OHCHR and validation by relevant partners. The data presented in this bulletin refers to the period between January and May 2024.

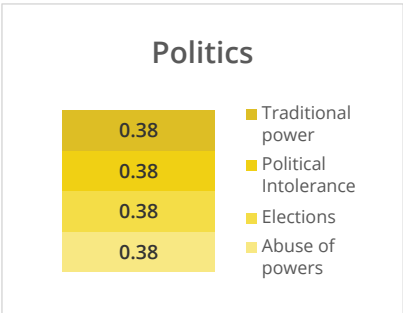
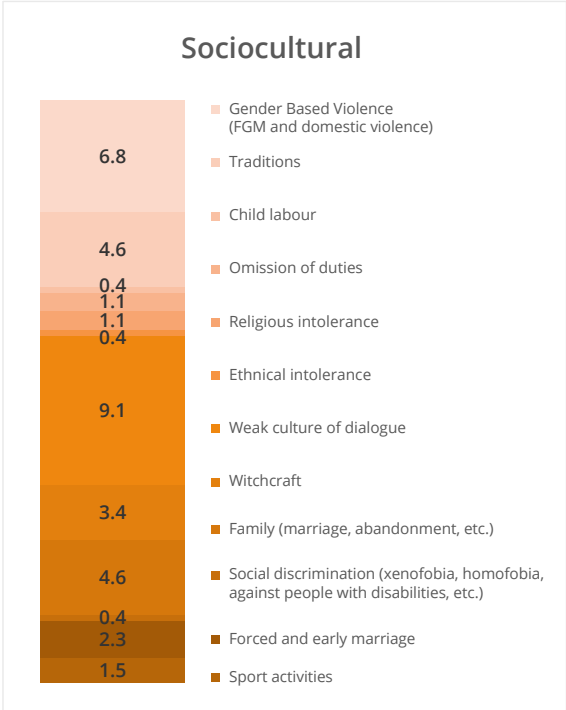
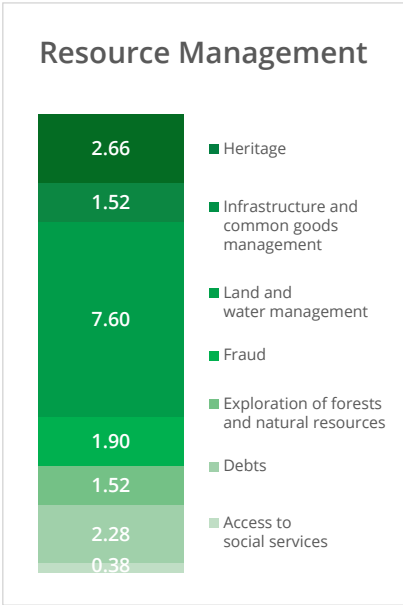
Conflict themes and subthemes

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. The main themes and sub-themes of the 203 conflicts reported between January and May 2024 are shown below, as a percentage of total conflicts.



Main themes and subthemes

In conflicts linked to Property Violation, reports of land invasion, theft and destruction of crops, especially at the individual and community levels, are the most alarming

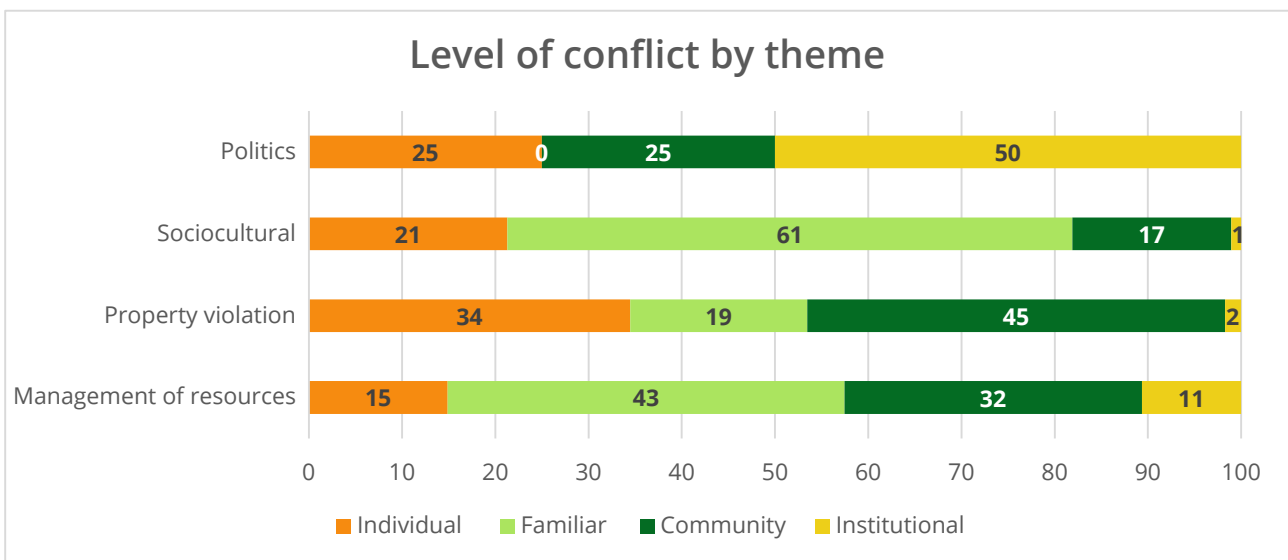
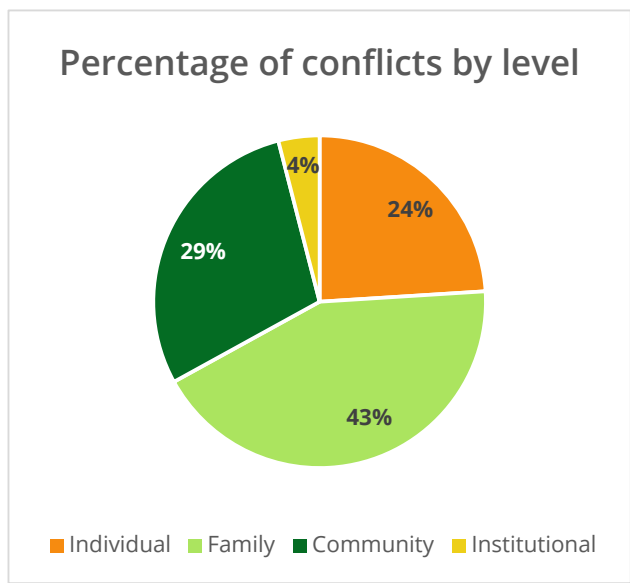


These themes and sub-themes have been drawn based on human rights categorizations, namely those present in two International Covenants, to also cover this dimension. Some of the reported conflicts may correspond to human rights violations in different areas (civil and political, right to life, protection and physical integrity, among others). If they are not investigated or resolved in a timely manner, they may lead to further human rights violations - such as cases of theft and stealing, and cases of early and forced marriage or domestic violence.

Level of conflict by theme

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

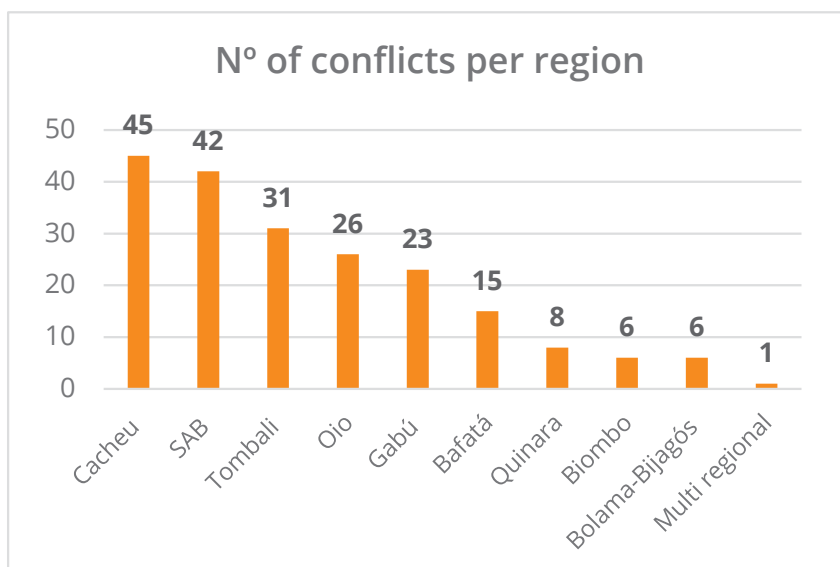
Compared to the previous bulletin, it can be seen that the percentage of institutional conflicts reported remains low, as they are difficult to identify, given the secrecy and policy of the institution to which they refer. On the other hand, family conflicts continue to be the most reported (35% in the previous bulletin).



Analysing the graph above, we can see that family conflicts account for the largest proportion of socio-cultural conflicts (61%). On the other hand, we can see that community and individual conflicts tend to be more frequent in the property violation theme, accounting for almost 80 per cent of the conflicts identified in this theme.

Conflict location

The graph shows the number of conflicts identified and recorded, which does not necessarily correspond to all the conflicts that actually occurred. In other words, the number of conflicts reported depends on the activity of the monitors on site.



It can be seen that there was one multi-regional conflict during the period covered by this bulletin. This conflict developed around an episode of cattle theft that took place in the Canchungo sector and involved the police authorities of Canchungo and Gabú in the process of seizing the cattle and returning them to their owners, who live in Gabú.

Level of violence & types of incidents

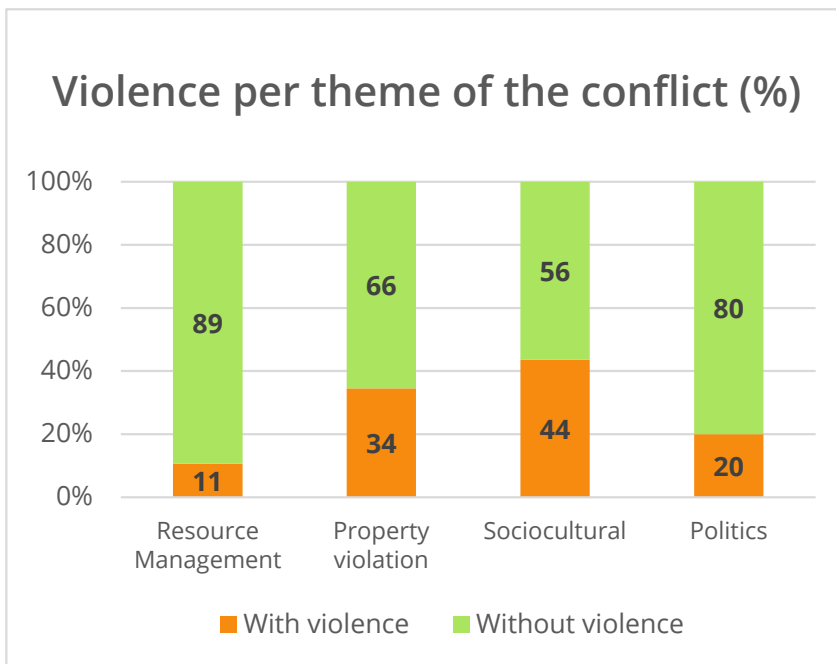
Overall, the level of violence in the conflicts identified has decreased significantly compared to the conflicts reported in the previous bulletin (September to December 2023).

However, it should be noted that individual conflicts appear to have a higher level of violence than the average for general violence (around 42%), and that the level of violence is also high in family conflicts (34%).



Despite the warnings about the manifestation of violence in the conflicts reported, in comparison with previous data there has been a significant decrease in the degree of violence in all themes, with the exception of conflict related to Resource Management where data shows an increase (+11%) compared to the previous bulletin.

In general, it can be observed that there are themes presenting a higher level of violence than others - particularly socio-cultural related conflict show a higher incidence of violence (conflict which develops mainly at the family and individual level). This trend can be seen more in conflicts related to gender-based violence, family issues and a weak culture of dialogue, accounting for 38% of all conflicts reported at family level. On the other hand, issues linked to trespassing, theft and robbery are more violent sub-themes when it comes to property violations.



Regarding types of incidents, between January and May 2024 the following were reported:

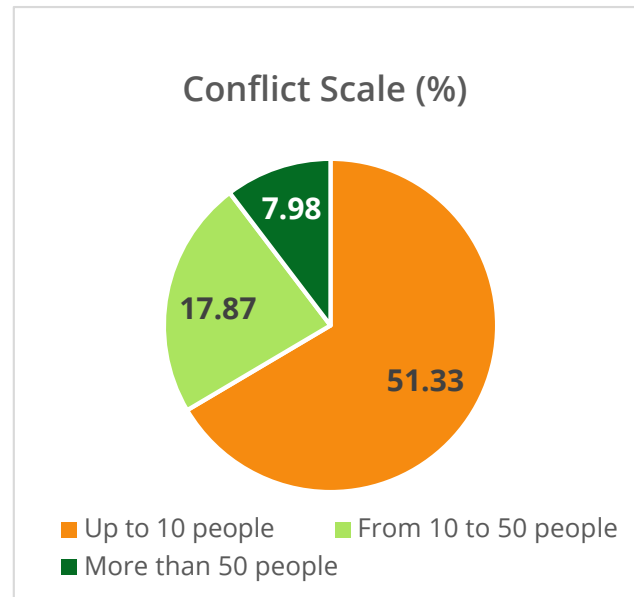
	<p>70 strong arguments with insults 35 threats</p>		<p>7 murders</p>
	<p>24 grave bodily harm incidents</p>		<p>2 torture incidents</p>
	<p>26 bodily harm incidents</p>		<p>5 sexual violence incidents</p>

When compared to the previous period (September to December 2023), the five months of 2024 saw a slight increase in the number of reported incidents.

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.

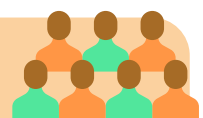
In general, most conflicts remain small-scale, but the degree of violence is also visible in conflicts involving more than 50 people.



Conflict resolution and duration

Compared to the previous bulletin, there has been an increase in the percentage of conflicts resolved at the time of reporting (an increase of around 15 per cent).

In these five months of collection, three conflicts stand out for involving more than 100 people and registering physical violence, in three different sectors of the country: one cattle theft in Farim (murder), one conflict over regulatory issues in Ganadu (kidnapping) and one conflict over land management in Bubaque (excessive use of force by authorities).

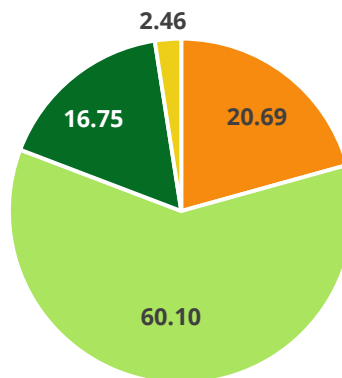


60% of the conflicts reported between January and May 2024 were reported when they had already been resolved.

Around 3% of conflicts were reported when resolution had already been attempted.

It is important to emphasise that around 21% of the conflicts were ongoing at the time of the report.

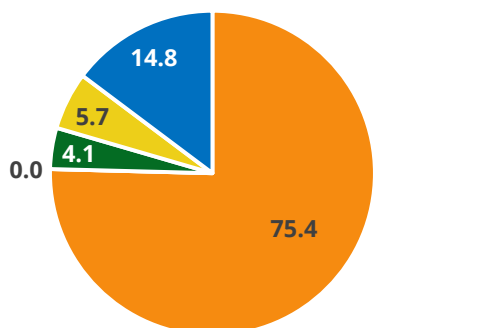
State of the conflict (%)



■ Ongoing conflict ■ Ongoing resolution
■ Conflict resolved ■ Tentative resolution

The vast majority of resolved conflicts reported lasted a maximum of 3 months. However, there was a small percentage (around 6 per cent) of conflicts that lasted more than a year before being resolved and around 15% claiming not to know how long the conflict lasted.

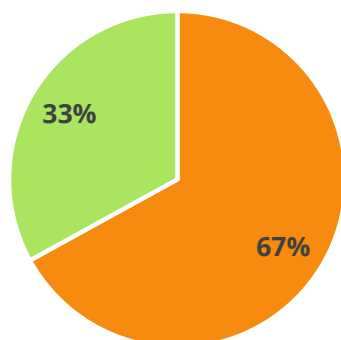
Conflict Duration (%)



■ 0 to 3 months ■ 3 to 6 months
■ 7 to 12 months ■ More than 12 months
■ Doesn't know

Methods of conflict resolution

Conflict Resolution Method (%)

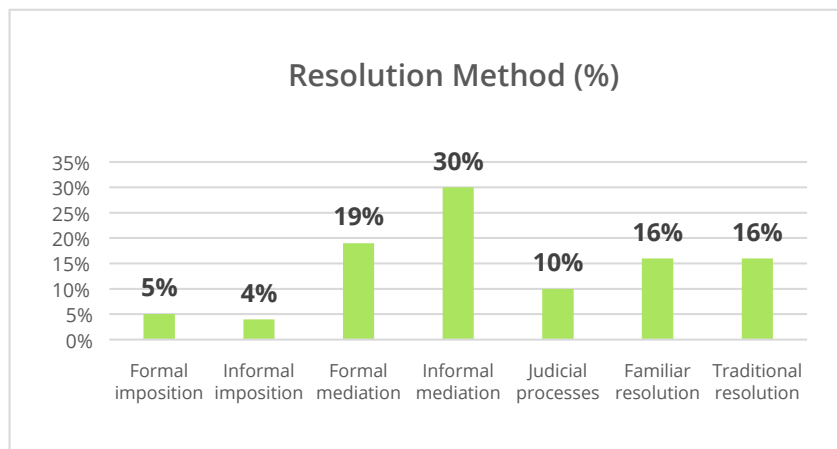


■ Informal ■ Formal

The majority of resolved conflicts reported were resolved using traditional or informal mechanisms, continuing the trend seen in the previous bulletin.

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

Although the distribution between traditional and formal resolution does not vary compared to the previous bulletin, there is an increase in reports of cases being resolved through family resolution (16%) and legal proceedings (10%).

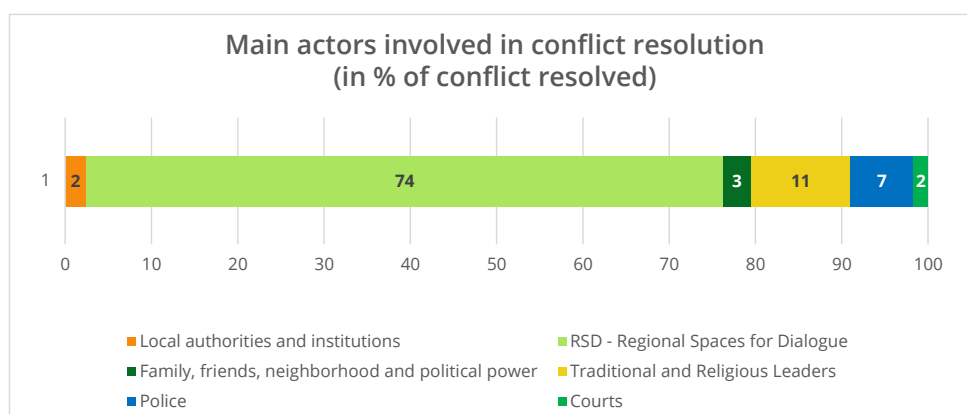


For the purpose of this analysis, these resolution methods are understood as:

- “Traditional resolution” and “Family resolution” are 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” are 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” are 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 can still simmer, as this type of resolution doesn't always satisfy all parties.

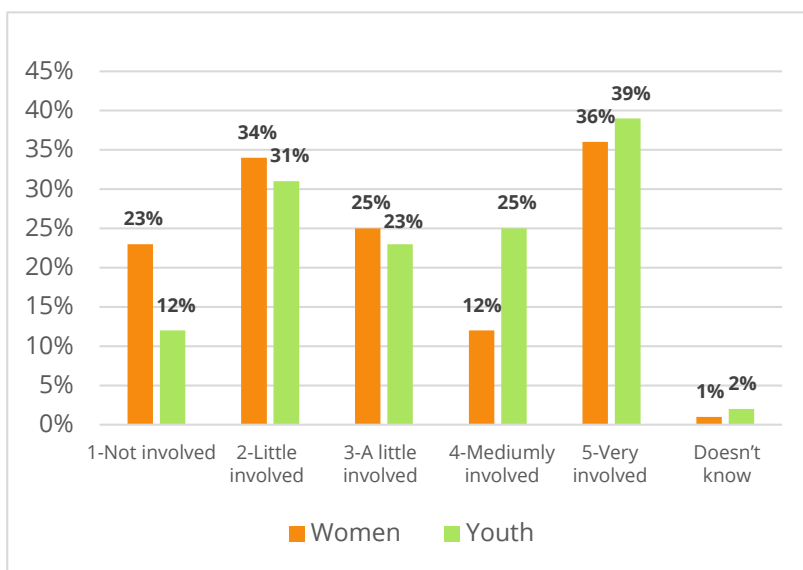
The main actors contributing to conflict resolution



179 out of 203 (86%) conflicts have been resolved with the contribution of at least 2 actors.

It is also important to note that Voz di Paz's Regional Spaces for Dialogue continue to occupy the podium as the main actor in resolving local conflicts, with a participation in 74% of resolved conflicts.

Women and youth involvement in conflict resolution



There are still no major variations between participation of youth and women in conflict resolution. However, in general we can observe that there is greater participation by young people, while women continue to be more excluded from decision-making in general.



Particularly, women are less involved in property violation and socio-cultural conflicts (**48 %** and **41% "Little"** involvement in resolving them).



Geographically, the Cacheu region is where young people seem to be more involved (around **36 per cent "Very"** involved in the resolution), and the Autonomous Sector of Bissau, where women's involvement is close to **23%**.

It's important to emphasise that both young people's and women's participation has decreased significantly compared to the previous bulletin.

The complete data on the reported conflicts is available for consultation in English, French and Portuguese in the following interactive website:

<http://www.conflictlocalgb.org>

HTTP://



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