



Press Release
25 June 2020

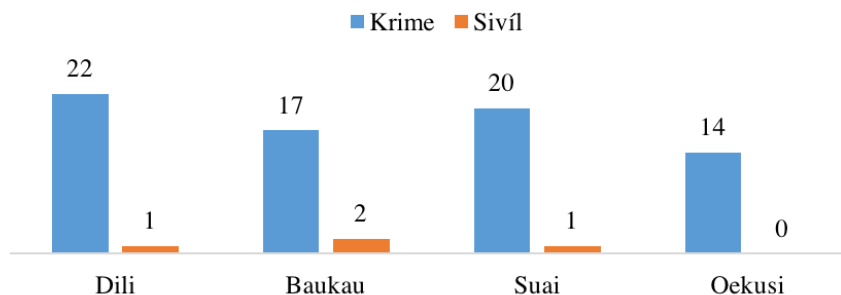
The District Courts have reactivated trials and have also continued to comply with mechanisms regarding the prevention of COVID-19

At the start of June 2020 the Court of Appeal issued an instruction to the district courts to normalise their work. This Instruction to normalise the functioning of the courts was based on a Decree from the President of the Republic about the third State of Emergency with the condition that activities in the country can go back to normal, provided that mechanisms for the prevention of COVID-19 are guaranteed.

“JSMP praises the district courts for conducting trials as per normal to ensure that the parties can continue to obtain access to justice. In addition, the courts have continued to comply with protocols regarding the prevention of COVID-19 from the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation (WHO),” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ms. Ana Paula Marçal.

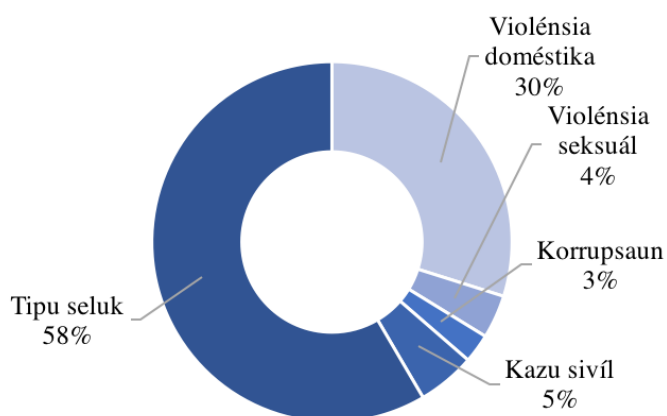
After the courts reactivated trials JSMP managed to monitor 77 cases (73 criminal and 4 civil)* in all jurisdictions. Most of these 77 cases involved domestic violence. More information is available below:

Table showing the cases monitored by JSMP in each jurisdiction:



* These figures do not represent the total number of cases tried by the courts

Graph showing case types and percentage



Also, in June the courts reactivated the mobile court in the jurisdiction of the Suai District Court, in Bobonaro District, Maliana Sub-District, between 15 - 19 June 2020.

JSMP believes that the Instruction from the Court of Appeal will enable the district courts to accelerate the trials of cases that have been delayed for some time as a result of the first and second periods of the State of Emergency.

JSMP has observed that even though the trials have been taking place as per normal, the courts have continued to comply with mechanisms regarding the prevention of COVID-19 by providing water and soap at the front of the courts, and people have been using masks and social distancing has been enforced in the courtrooms and also in the waiting area for participants and parties.

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