



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU

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JSMP conducts training on “access to justice” in Lalisuk Suco – Oe-Cusse

On 19 February 2015, the Judicial System Monitoring Programme (JSMP), through the Legal Research Unit, conducted a training session in Lalisuk Suco, Oe-Cusse District.

There were 38 participants in the training, comprising 28 women and 10 men, including suco authorities, village residents and a female Suco Police Officer (OPS).

The training materials focused on crimes of domestic violence and the importance of evidence in cases of sexual violence. In addition, there was discussion on a general understanding of human rights, the role of judicial actors, the legal framework in Timor-Leste, types of crimes based on the applicable law, and how to access formal justice as a defendant or victim in certain cases.

“The provision of information about the law, and the administration of the formal justice system, to the village authorities in rural areas is really important to keeping communities in isolated areas abreast of developments in the formal justice system of Timor-Leste, and so they know how they can contribute to strengthening the justice system in Timor-Leste,” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio.

In his opening and closing speeches, the Lalisuk Suco Chief, Jorge da Costa, expressed his appreciation and gratitude to JSMP for sharing important information about the law and human rights with the community. The Suco Chief believed that this was the first time that this type of training and materials had been presented in his village.

The participants enthusiastically participated in the training by actively asking questions and listening attentively to the facilitators’ explanations.

One of the participants, who holds a position of authority in the Suco, thought that husbands and wives hitting each other in the home was a domestic problem (“like a spoon hitting a plate”) that did not need to be taken to court. However, after hearing the explanation from the facilitators about the Law Against Domestic Violence, and the different types and characteristics of domestic violence, this participant, along with other participants, understood that domestic violence is a public crime.

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