



***Press Release***  
***Liquiça Municipality***  
***June 5, 2015***

**JSMP Delivers Access to Justice and Women’s Rights Training in Liquiça Municipality**

On 9 June 2015, the Judicial System Monitoring Programme (JSMP) launched its training for 100 suco councils as part of USAID’s Ba Distrito Project (Ba Distrito). The training, which is made possible by the generous support of the American people, will take place over three days in the suco seat of Vaviquina, in the administrative post of Maubara, in the municipality of Liquiça.

This training module, *Access to Justice and Women’s Rights*, focuses on rights to equality, property, child maintenance, and the formal justice process. The training aims to strengthen the capacity of members of suco councils. This is important; because, in many cases, local leaders are the first people that the community will contact about various issues including prevention and resolution of conflict.

“American people’s generous support will help build a peaceful, secure, and inclusive Timor-Leste where all citizens have access to justice,” said USAID Mission Director John Seong. “The United States Government is honored to support JSMP and others to ensure that all Timorese citizens can exercise their legal rights.”

“This training is important for community leaders, because they are people who are close to and reside in the community every day; and we hope that this program will increase their understanding in relation to each case that they encounter,” said Mr Luis Oliveira Sampaio, Executive Director, JSMP.

This week’s training will be provided to 21 people from seven sucos in the administrative post of Maubara, consisting of local leaders including Xefe Suco, Lia-Na’in, and women’s representatives. The sucos are: Guguleur, Guico, Lisadila, Maubaralisa, Vatuboro, Vatuvou and Vaviquinia.

“We hope that this training will prepare community leaders to promote and strengthen cultural inclusivity within their communities, which will see women receive support, protection, and equality,” said Mr Fausto Belo Ximenes, Manager of Ba Distrito’s Access to Justice team.

“The information that we have received will be used to better educate the people in our sucos, mostly about how women can access justice and how to find a way to resolve women’s problems at the suco level, and also through the formal justice system,” said women’s representative from Suco Vatuboro, Luisa Fernandes Nunes.

Also giving comments about this training, the Xefe Suco of Vaviquinia, Antoninho dos Santos said, “We always face many problems when attempting to resolve a problem in the suco because many times we ourselves are short of information. With this training, we can reinforce and strive to resolve these kinds of problems, for example, a problem which enters the category of a semi-public crime.”

During the three day training, participants will learn about:

- Rights and laws in Timor-Leste
- Gender equality



- Women's rights
- Domestic violence
- Access to the formal justice system
- Helping victims in the community

According to the training plan, the training will take place in the Liquiça Administrative Post from 15-17 June, and in the Bazartete Administrative post from 18 – 20 June 2015.

For more information, please contact:

Luis de Oliveira Sampaio

Executive Director, JSMP

E-mail: [luis@jsmp.minihub.org](mailto:luis@jsmp.minihub.org)

---

The U.S. government, through USAID, works in partnership with the government of Timor-Leste to support broad-based and effective development. Since 2001, USAID has provided over \$308 million in development assistance to Timor-Leste. USAID supports Timor-Leste in its efforts to build a more prosperous, healthy, and democratic country through programs that foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth, especially in the agriculture sector; improve the health of the Timorese people, particularly women and children; and strengthen the foundations of good governance—all areas which are highlighted in Timor-Leste's Strategic Development Plan 2013-2030.

Counterpart International is a global development organization that empowers people and communities to implement innovative and enduring solutions to social, economic, and environmental challenges. For nearly 50 years, Counterpart has been forging partnerships with communities in need to address complex problems related to economic development, food security and nutrition, and building effective governance and institutions. With a presence in 25 countries, every day Counterpart works in partnership with people and communities worldwide to build sustainable solutions to shared challenges. Learn more at [www.counterpart.org](http://www.counterpart.org).

Judicial System Monitoring Program (JSMP) was established on 28 April 2001 with the objective to monitor the trial process in the Indonesian Ad Hoc Tribunal for human rights violations and the Special Panel for Serious Crimes in Timor-Leste. Currently JSMP is a leading NGO in Timor-Leste, monitoring the justice system and engaging in advocacy about legality, transparency, accountability and strengthening rule of law. JSMP's vision is a democratic society that guarantees justice and human rights for everyone. JSMP's mission: JSMP works collaboratively to promote and protect democracy, law, justice and human rights through monitoring, legal education and advocacy.