



**Press Release
Aileu District
23 February 2017**

Residents in Hoho-Lau Village received training for the first time on the legal system and crimes affecting women and children as set out in the legal framework of Timor-Leste

On 15 February 2017 the Judicial System Monitoring Programme (JSMP), provided training for residents of Hoho-Lau Village, Aileu Administrative Post, Aileu Municipality.

30 residents attended this training, comprising 13 women and 17 men. The participants came from the sub-villages of Manubatan, Mau-Ruria, Saharai, Aslimhati and Hatulai.

This training was aimed at increasing the knowledge of the community in general to encourage them to access the formal justice system and also examined how to prevent crimes in their community.

During this training the participants presented problems that they have encountered such as domestic violence, sexual violence and abuse of power by the police in the aforementioned municipality when they have acted on problems occurring in Hoho-Lau Village.

“This activity can increase the knowledge of the communities about the applicable legal system and relevant crimes that often occur in society, so that they will have adequate knowledge and know how to deal with such crimes if they occur,” said Luis de Oliveira Sampaio, Executive Director of JSMP.

The Village Chief, Orlando Maia, in his opening speech said that the community in Hoho-Lau Village really needs the type of training facilitated by JSMP, because to date community members think that violence between spouses is just an ordinary issue.

The materials presenting during the training session covered gender equality, crimes categorized as gender based violence in the Penal Code, the Law Against Domestic Violence, basic concepts of human rights, and how to access formal justice.

In addition, JSMP also presented information about the role of Judges, the Public Prosecution Service, Public Defenders, Private Lawyers and the Police. JSMP also encouraged residents who are victims of crimes to contact women's organizations so they can be given assistance to access formal justice.

During the training the community members gave their full attention and actively participated in discussions, especially relating to how to access the formal justice system.

This activity was made possible with the financial support of the Canadian Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia.

To obtain more information, please contact:

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