



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME  
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA

**Press Release**

**Bobonaro Municipality**

**06 November 2023**

**JSMP accompanies trainers from Batugade Village to facilitate training on gender equality, human trafficking and gender based violence for other community members**

On 18 and 19 October 2023 JSMP accompanied three trainers from Batugade Village who previously were given preparation by JSMP through training of trainers (ToT), to further pass on information to other community members in Batugade Village.

This training is part of a two (2) year program entitled “Prevention and Response to Human Trafficking, that is Community Based, Gender Responsive and Survivor Centred (2023-2024)” which is funded by the Government of Timor-Leste through the Ministry of Interior and implemented by UN Women Timor-Leste in partnership with JSMP. Through this program, JSMP has provided training to more than eighty community members in Batugade Village.

The materials related to gender equality, gender based violence (GBV), human trafficking, prevention and response to cases of GBV and human trafficking and the referral network. This training took place in the Village Hall in Batugade Village, Balibo Administrative Post, Bobonaro Municipality.

The aim of this training was to pass on information to community members from other villages who did not attend previous training sessions, so that they can increase their knowledge about the relevant materials. Therefore, community members can better and more effectively contribute towards preventing and combatting GBV and human trafficking in their village.

“JSMP believes that this important information needs to be passed on to other communities who have not yet had the same opportunities, so that it can help to increase the knowledge of the communities to protect themselves from crime and support victims in the community who are victims of crime and GBV,” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ms. Ana Paula Marçal.

The Director of JSMP also expressed her deep gratitude to trainers who with limited time facilitated this training effectively. It is not easy to be a trainer and really needs long term experience and dedication.

Also, the Director of JSMP thanked the Village Chief for his collaboration to conduct this program and she thanked the participants for allocating their time for two days to participate in this JSMP program. It is hoped that although they might not maximum expertise, however it should be sufficient for them to pass on information to others who are unable to participate in this training.

The Batugade Village Chief, Mr. Januariu, in his speech thanked JSMP for entrusting community members to become trainers to share this important information to his community and JSMP has placed a lot of trust and he asked for JSMP to continue working with the Batugade Village.

In relation to the community members participating in this training, the Village Chief asked for them to continue sharing this information to other community members who have not yet received the information.

During the training the participants asked some questions such as the age of minors, is it a crime if a girl or boy who is a minor engages in sexual intercourse, is it possible to make a complaint regarding sexual intercourse with force between two people of the same sex and can this act be categorised as rape or not, how to identify crimes of human trafficking, how can we control the border so that crimes of human trafficking do not occur in our country, do crimes of human trafficking only happen in the country or does it need to be between one country and another country where women are supposed to work in the home (domestic work), however they are taken to work in a bar, and is this a crime of human trafficking or not.

In relation to these questions, JSMP facilitators explained that the age of a minor according to the Penal Law in Timor-Leste is a person who has not yet reached the age of 14, however according to the Law on the Prevention of Human Trafficking it is 18, and regarding those who are minors that engage in sexual intercourse, if there is no legal proceeding, then the investigators need to hand the matter over to the parents who are responsible for the children to teach the children or they can also decide for these children to participate in an education program, training within Government or private institutions on the impact and risk of sexual intercourse for minors. If a sexual act occurs because of force against another person, even if the victim is of the same sex, this will be considered a crime of rape.

Regarding how to identify crimes of human trafficking, these types of crimes are complex and organised and can involve two countries, or can also occur within the country. The elements of this crime are set out in the provisions of Article 163 of the Law on Human Trafficking namely to recruit, offer, hand over, receive, transport, transfer, harbour for the purposes of exploitation to enslave a person in domestic work, sexual exploitation etc.

To control and prevent crimes of human trafficking at the border, all people are responsible and especially the authorities working at the border, namely the Immigration Police and other State institutions at the border.

There were 30 participants in this training, comprising 16 women and 14 men. There was one member of the LGTBIQ community. The participants included delegates, community members, youths and students. This two day training was provided by three facilitators indicated by JSMP (one woman, one man and one member of the LGTBIQ community).

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