



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU

Press Release
Covalima Municipality
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JSMP accompanies trainers from Beiseuc Village to facilitate training on gender equality, human trafficking and gender based violence for other community members

On 11 and 12 October 2023 JSMP accompanied three trainers from Beiseuc Village who previously were given preparation by JSMP through training of trainers (ToT), to further pass on information to other community members in Beiseuc Village.

This training was 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 Beiseuc 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 Village Hall in Beiseuc Village, Tilomar Administrative Post, Covalima Municipality.

The aim of this training was to pass on information to community members from other villages who did not attend previous training, 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,” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ms. Ana Paula Marçal.

The Director also added that JSMP really appreciates the collaboration of the Beiseuc Village Chief and mobilizers who organised this training really well and also the three facilitators from Beiseuc Village who managed to facilitate this training really well.

The Beiseuc Village Chief in his speech was very grateful to JSMP for preparing some of the participants and giving them confidence to be trainers on gender equality, GBV and the crime of human trafficking.

During the session to present the materials, the participants very actively conveyed their concerns and share their experiences about violence in the session on gender equality and gender based violence. One participant shared her experience about a case of parental authority and alimony, whereby a man got her pregnant and abandoned her when she was pregnant. When their baby was born, the man did not look after the baby, therefore the family took the case to court and a decision was made that every month the man needs to provide forty American dollars (US\$40.00) for his child however he has not paid it until now and the family has remained silent because they didn’t know how to raise this problem. However, after attending this training she found out that if her former

husband does not meet his obligation to provide alimony, she can make a complaint for her former husband to be held accountable for a crime known as failure to provide food assistance.

During the session on human trafficking, one participant shared her experience that when she was still at school in Dili a person lied to her older sister and younger siblings and promised to help them work overseas with a large salary however they had to pay fifty American dollars (US\$50.00) and provide their electoral cards, therefore her older sister and younger siblings did what that person asked them to do, but in the end they have not been overseas until now and the money they gave to that person is gone and they have not been able to find that person so they did not make a complaint. However, after attending this training she learned that the actions of the person towards her older sister and younger siblings was consistent with the crime of human trafficking and if in the future case it happens again, she will inform the local authorities and make a complaint to the police.

In addition to presenting the aforementioned materials, JSMP also increased the knowledge of the participants about human trafficking by showing them a short video about how human trafficking is normally practiced by traffickers in relation to recruitment mechanisms that tend to be based on lies, threats, use of force, and taking advantage of people's vulnerability to provide benefits to persons, groups or companies who perform the recruitment.

Lastly, before closing the training, the Village Chief said that the community members will continue passing on this important information to other communities so that they can also have knowledge and consider family members and share the work in the household fairly so there is no discrimination or violence in the family and to prevent crimes.

The Village Chief also recommended for JSMP to continue sharing this important information to other communities and for JSMP to include other materials about drugs in future trainings with the reason that communities living close to the border are not only victims of cases of human trafficking but also they always have access to drugs from the neighbouring country.

There were 30 participants in this training, comprising 19 women and 11 men.

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