



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME PROGRAMA
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JSMP continues to facilitate TOT with materials on gender based violence and human trafficking for transformative leadership in Beiseuc Village

Between 19 - 22 September 2023 JSMP continued to facilitate training of trainers (ToT) for village leaders and community members in Beiseuc Village, Tilomar Administrative Post, Covalima Municipality.

The materials presented in this session covered the methodology on how to present materials on gender equality, gender based violence (GBV), human trafficking, prevention and victim support, transformative leadership and the referral system for cases of GBV and human trafficking.

"JSMP hopes that the participants in this ToT will gain sufficient knowledge and ability to further disseminate this information or the materials obtained during the four days to other community members. Therefore, all parties, especially the community members in the aforementioned village, need to have sufficient information about human trafficking and gender based violence. Also, they can identify cases and make reports in accordance with the existing mechanisms when cases occur," said Ms. Ana Paula Marçal, Executive Director of JSMP.

The aim of this training is to increase the knowledge of village leaders (village chief, sub-village chiefs, delegates and youths) in Beiseuc Village on materials regarding gender equality, gender based violence, human trafficking and prevention and victim support for cases of GBV and human trafficking. Also, training was provided on transformative leadership and also methodologies for disseminating information.

When opening this training, Mr. Satornino Cardoso Maia, the Beiseuc Village Chief, was very grateful to JSMP for continuing to empower the administrative structure of Beiseuc Village on materials regarding gender equality, gender based violence, human trafficking and the methodology to present these materials. The Village Chief believes that this second round of training will further enhance their knowledge, therefore they can transmit this information to other communities. The Village Chief also requested for the participants to concentrate and actively participate in this training, and not to miss any sessions over the four days, so that they can understand the materials properly and so they can pass on the information to communities in the village and sub-villages.

In relation to concerns linked to gender equality, gender based violence and cases of human trafficking, the participants asked about cases of domestic violence, in particular what happens when neighbors observe a wife and a husband who have a problem and they make a complaint, and when the police come the wife and husband tell the police that they don't have a problem. In relation to cases of human

trafficking, what happens when some people in the community come for the purposes of recruitment however in the end it is suspected that this recruitment is not legitimate, can community members make a complaint or not? What about cases involving children as perpetrators or victims? There was a case in the sub-village involving violence between a wife and husband and the police saw the violence between the wife and husband, but they did not process it. What should happen?

In response to these issues, JSMP explained that the law allows for all people to make a complaint when they see a public crime occurring and the law on witness protection also provides guarantees and protection to witnesses. This means that the police and prosecutors need to guarantee and protect the identity of witnesses and cannot divulge their identity or tell another party or member of the public about their identity.

In relation to the issue of police arriving at a location to conduct an investigation and the parties (victim and suspect) trying to conceal the crime, the consequence is that the victim will continue to remain a victim because she allows her husband to beat her, therefore in order to break the cycle of violence in the family, victims need to contribute to justice so that judiciary/courts can educate defendants to break the cycle of violence in the family.

Meanwhile, regarding the issue of suspected illegal recruitment, JSMP explained if there is evidence indicating that this recruitment is illegal and considered to be exploitation, then people can make a complaint to the Police or the Public Prosecution Service. This is because according to the law an attempt is also considered to be a crime because the people engaged in illegal recruitment have the intention of practicing human trafficking even if their actions may not have been carried out or the objective may not have been fulfilled, but any person who has knowledge can make a complaint and if it is proven that these persons intended to commit the crime of human trafficking then they will be held accountable for their behaviour in accordance with the law.

In relation to the issue of cases involving children as perpetrators or victims of crime, JSMP explained that in cases involving children as perpetrators, in accordance with the penal code, children can't be convicted for their criminal behaviour because according to the law they don't yet have the capacity regarding the intent to carry out their actions and to accept the results of their behaviour. Therefore, when children commit crimes, the court will decide for children to be taken to a rehabilitation centre to rehabilitate their mentality so that they do not reoffend in the future. In relation to the issue of children being victims in cases, the penal code increases punishments because children are considered to be vulnerable and they should be given protection by others, but if another person offends against them, then the punishment will be harsher.

In relation to the issue of police witnessing cases of domestic violence and not making a report, the police will be held accountable for the crime of not making a report because they will have been deemed to have concealed a crime and the police will also have committed an abuse of power because the law on making a report is an obligation placed on the police, and they will have violated this obligation.

The participants gave really positive feedback on the methodologies for presenting materials such as the use of videos and group discussions and this enabled them to understand the materials quickly and they believe that by using such methodologies community members who are illiterate can understand the materials when they disseminate this information to other community members.

The training was attended by 22 participants, comprising 11 women and 11 men. The participants included the Beiseuc Village Chief, the Sub-Village Chiefs, delegates and youths.

This training was conducted with the financial support of the Government of Timor-Leste, through the Ministry of the Interior that was directly managed by the United Nations agency UNWomen.

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