



JUDICIAL **SYSTEM** MONITORING PROGRAMME
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA **SISTEMA** JUDISIÁRIU

Press Release
24 October 2022

**The Ministry of the Interior and UNDP have provided facilities to the VPUs
JSMP appreciates and recommends that ongoing attention be given to the VPUs
across the entire territory**

This year the Ministry of the Interior, through the PNTL Command (Timor-Leste National Police), gave a car to each of the Vulnerable Persons Units (VPU)-PNTL in each municipality to support their work. Also, UNDP through the Spotlight Program collaborated with the Government of Timor-Leste to build new buildings for the VPUs in Maliana Municipality and Viqueque Municipality and also provided equipment support such as laptops, printers and other materials that were handed over to the PNTL.

“JSMP really appreciates the Ministry of the Interior and UNDP through the Spotlight Program for providing this support. This support really helps these units to attend to cases such as the sexual abuse of minors, rape, domestic violence or cases characterized as gender based violence. However, JSMP continues to request for the State and international agencies such as UNDP to continue paying attention to VPS across the entire territory. This is because for many years these units have faced a range of challenges such as a lack of human resources (quantity, quality), facilities and equipment such as transport, computer, printers, ink etc,” said Ms. Ana Paula Marçal, Executive Director of JSMP.

The VPUs were established in 2001 with the aim of providing services to victims in cases characterized as gender based violence and these units were established in all municipalities with one building in each municipal police station. However for many years these units have faced a range of challenges, such as an insufficient number of VPU staff in the municipalities to attend to the large amount of cases and the rotation of staff through these units has also impacted on their ability to provide good quality and proper attendance to cases. Therefore there has been a severe lack of equipment such as computers, ink for printers and facilities such as transport and in some situations the VPU have been forced to walk to locations where incidents have occurred to attend to cases affecting members of the community.

Rua Beco Lakateu, Aldeia Manu fuik,
Suku Colmera, Administrativu Vera Cruz
Dili Timor Leste
PoBox: 275

Telephone: 3323883 | 77040735

www.jsmp.tl

info@jsmp.tl

Facebook: www.facebook.com/timorleste.jsmp

Twitter: @JSMPtl

The State needs to pay attention, by providing sufficient facilities, equipment and resources to these units so they can perform their work better and attend to cases that require sufficient evidence, especially cases characterized as sexual violence, that require extraordinary work and good capacity to provide services, because they involve children and women who often encounter psychological problems, pressure, shame and fear to speak up about their case.

Also, these units play another important role in collaborating and coordinating with civil society partners to provide assistance to victims. Therefore when the VPUs face challenges in responding to certain cases, civil society can provide support, however these partners also face challenges such as a lack of resources, including human resources, transport and financial resources, therefore they cannot cover all the municipalities or regions.

JSMP has observed that the VPUs have faced a range of challenges for many years, however the VPUs have continued to carry out their work which has included establishing excellent cooperation with partners when attending to cases.

Based on the challenges faced by the VPUs, JSMP continues to recommend:

1. For the PNTL to send more members to the VPU in each municipality so they can have sufficient resources to attend to cases that continue to increase on a daily basis.
2. For the PNTL and partners to continue increasing the knowledge of all police officers through training about the legal framework such as the Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, the Law Against Domestic Violence, Law on Human Trafficking, including issues such as human rights, gender equality and gender based violence (GBV) therefore when they are sent to these units they can have basic knowledge about GBV.
3. For the PNTL to include sufficient funding in the Proposed General Budget of the PNTL to respond to the challenges facing the VPUs
4. For the National Parliament and Committee B that deals with security and defence to approve sufficient funding to support the work of the VPUs.

For more information, please contact:

Ana Paula Marçal
Executive Director of JSMP
Telephone: 3323883/77040735
Email: ana@jsmp.tl
info@jsmp.tl
Website: <http://jsmp.tl>