



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU

Press Release
24 February 2021

JSMP holds training on the formal process and prevention of gender based violence for Community Policing Councils (KPK) and Village Police Officers (OPS) in four Municipalities

Between December 2020 and February 2021 JSMP held training for Village Police Officers (OPS) and Community Policing Councils (KPK) on the topic of “The role of Village Police Officers and Community Policing Councils in preventing gender based violence”. This training covered four municipalities, namely Manatuto, Bobonaro, Ermera and Aileu, with 80 OPS and 44 KPK.

Each one of these trainings lasted one day and was split into four sessions. The first session focused on the concept of crimes which discussed what constitutes a crime, types of crimes, criminal responsibility, the nature of crimes and perpetrators, requirements for making a complaint and sentencing. The session on the formal justice process focused on investigations, trials, appeals and the application of sentences. Meanwhile, the third session focused on gender based violence and discussed the concept and actions related to gender based violence, the legal framework for gender based violence, the concept of domestic violence and also links with gender based violence. The final session spoke about the role of OPS and KPK in preventing and combatting crimes, especially gender based violence.

During the training the facilitators gave responses and explanations to questions raised by participants who asked about what type of crimes could be resolved and closed, and in particular why crimes characterized as domestic violence cannot be closed. In addition, the OPS asked what happens with public crimes that cannot be closed, when victims want to resolve their problem through traditional justice and what should they do when suspects don't want to tell the truth about their behaviour during the investigative process. The facilitators immediately responded and gave explanations to the concerns raised by participants.

“This training is crucial because it can provide immediate responses to their questions and increase their knowledge about criminal procedures, especially the difference

between public crimes and semi-public crimes and their role in the prevention of gender based violence”, said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ana Paula Marçal.

Based on pre-training and post-training forms filled out by the participants, JSMP observed that many participants initially thought that in all cases KPK or OPS can agree with victims who want to resolve a matter in accordance with traditional norms or close their cases, but after the training they changed their response and chose the correct answer to this question.

When the training ended the participants suggested for JSMP to continue providing similar training to all OPS because they thought that the training materials were very important and could really help them perform their work. Most of the Commanders from these four Municipalities suggested for JSMP to hold more training on the same topic for other KPK and OPS and to also provide more information to the participants in advance and to make the training longer, because one day is not enough to gain a deep understanding of the topics covered in the training. Also, they recommended for the same training to be provided to PNTL chiefs and officers so that they can have the same understanding, so that law and order can be upheld.

This program was funded by the New Zealand Embassy in Timor-Leste through The Asia Foundation (TAF) Community Policing Support Program (PAPK). Similar training is planned for Manufahi Municipality that will involve the KPK structure.

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