



Press Release
Oekusi RAEOA
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JSMP facilitates training on human trafficking and gender based violence in Nipane Village, Pante-Makasar Administrative Post, Special Administrative Region of Oecusse-Ambeno (RAEOA)

Between 4 – 7 September 2023 JSMP provided training on human trafficking and gender based violence in Nipane Village, Pante-Makasar Administrative Post, Special Administrative Region of Oecusse-Ambeno (RAEOA).

“The aim of this training was to build the capacity and increase the knowledge of mobilisers and community leaders about crimes of human trafficking and gender based violence (GBV) and how to engage in prevention and help victims when crimes occur in the community,” said Ms. Ana Paula Marçal, Executive Director of JSMP.

This training was officially opened by the Nipane Village Chief, Mr. Pedro Sila Eco, and the Executive Director of JSMP, Ms. Ana Paula Marçal.

During her opening speech the Executive Director of JSMP was very grateful to the Nipane Village Chief and JSMP Mobilizers for Nipane Village for organising participants to attend this training. JSMP visited Nipane Village to share information about crimes of human trafficking and to prepare focal points on the next campaign on human trafficking.

Also, the Director further highlighted that JSMP has identified four villages that could be pilot villages for this project. These villages are Comoro Village, Dili Municipality, Batugade Village, Bobonaro Municipality, Beiseuc Village, Covalima Municipality and Nipane Village in the Administrative Region of Oecusse. JSMP identified these villages as targets because most of these villages are along the border and their communities are at risk of crimes of human trafficking. The Director also asked the participants to participate fully and effectively in the four days of training so that they can understand the information because in these four villages there is a high probability that crimes of human trafficking could occur.

In his speech Mr. Pedro Sila Eco, as the Nipane Village Chief, was very grateful to the Director and the JSMP team for identifying Nipane Village as a pilot village for training on

crimes of human trafficking. The Village Chief stated that information about GBV and human trafficking is really important for the community in Nipane Village. The Nipane Village Chief asked the participants to fully and effectively participate during the four days so that they can gain knowledge about crimes of human trafficking and can avoid and prevent these crimes.

For four (4) days the participants were very grateful, because after hearing the presentations, they found that the materials provided new information to them and made them realise that they have to be careful in the future because they acknowledged that some young people come and tell lies about working in the city, but in the end they conduct prostitution related activities.

During the discussion on human trafficking and GBV and access to formal justice, the participants engaged in discussion and made presentations. From these presentations JSMP noted that the participants started to gain some knowledge about how to identify cases of human trafficking and GBV. During this group discussion the participants presented their feedback and concerns about a case of domestic violence where the court did not convict the defendant because she was suffering from a mental illness.

In response to the case involving the defendant who was not convicted due to a mental illness, JSMP explained that according to the Penal Code, the provisions in Article 21 state that a person who suffers from a mental illness cannot be punished for committing a crime because according to the law that person does not have the capacity to understand his/her actions and does not understand the result of his/her actions. Therefore, if a person suffering a mental illness commits a crime, he/she can be tried, however the court will decide to send that person to receive treatment at a treatment centre to treat the illness.

In addition to this issue, the facilitators also provided explanations about some issues that were raised by participants in Batugade Village and Beiseuc Village about the possibility of human trafficking happening in the family, acts of forced labour, domestic work and illegal immigration.

When providing feedback, the participants stated that the materials provided by facilitators had increased their knowledge about gender based violence, human trafficking and how to engage in prevention and provide assistance to victims when cases occur.

This four (4) day training event was officially closed by Mr. Pedro Sila Eco, the Nipane Village Chief. During the closing ceremony the Village Chief was very grateful to JSMP because the materials provided during this training were very important and essential for community members, especially the material on human trafficking because Nipane Village is close to the border and there is a risk that such crimes can happen at any time. Therefore the mobilisers can pass on the information obtained in this training to community members who did not participate in this training.

The participants in this training included members of the village administrative structure such as the village chief, sub-village chiefs, delegates, youths, persons with disabilities, PRADET, a Catholic religious leader and a Community Police Officer and community members totalling 32 participants, comprising 18 women and 14 men. From the 18 women there were two who were disabled, and from the 14 men there was one who was disabled.

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

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