



**JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME  
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN SISTEMA JUDISIÁL**

**Press Release  
February 2023**

**JSMP holds training on the prevention of human trafficking: The participants found this new information to be very helpful so that they can avoid crimes categorised as human trafficking**

On 13 February 2023 the Judicial System Monitoring Program (JSMP) held training on the prevention of human trafficking for a total of 20 students from the Universidade da Paz, Faculty of Social Science and Harmony. Previously on 6 February 2023 JSMP also held training on the same topic for village authorities and community members from Bobometo Village, Oesilo Administrative Post, Special Administrative Region of Oecusse-Ambeno (RAEOA) with a total of 22 participants and on 6 February 2023 for village authorities and community members from Tapo-Memo Village, Maliana Vila Administrative Post, Bobonaro Municipality with a total of 21 participants. In this training JSMP focused on the definition of human trafficking, the aim and means of human trafficking including how to process cases of human trafficking through the formal justice system.

“This training was aimed at helping the village authorities to understand crimes of human trafficking so that when these cases occur, they can provide assistance to their communities including taking these cases to the formal justice system and in this session JSMP continued to focus on the villages along the border who are at risk of crimes of human trafficking, including students who are often the target of those who commit these crimes. What was important in this session was that JSMP discovered that after receiving this information the participants in these two villages stated that in the past these crimes occurred and now there are certain acts that are categorised as human trafficking, however they didn’t know that these acts could be categorised as human trafficking” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ms. Ana Paula Marçal.

The Village Chief of Tapo Memo, Joaquim B. Dos Santos, during his speech thanked JSMP for choosing his village to come and disseminate information about the prevention of human trafficking and he stated that this is very important because previously they never received any information like this, to enable their community to prevent such crimes. The Village Chief added that their community sometimes faces these circumstances, however because they didn’t know about these types of crimes they did not think that it was a crime and they can fall victim to the acts of traffickers.

The Village Chief of Bobometo said they were happy because JSMP came to their village which is situated close to the border to share this information with their community because previously the crime of human trafficking has occurred in their village, however many members of the community do not know about this crime and what they need to do if they are faced with these circumstances. The Village Chief said that most residents of Bobometo village have family who live in Kefa, Indonesia and it only takes 20 minutes to

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cross the border and often people in these communities visit each other illegally, therefore he said that after receiving information about the prevention of human trafficking he considered it probable that such acts could occur because until now some individuals and companies have visited their village to look for young people to work as domestic workers and also to work in factories.

Meanwhile during the training, the participants from these two villages and also students from UNPAZ felt that the information provided by JSMP was something new, and initially they didn't know about people who use others to make a profit through acts of prostitution who are considered to be perpetrators of the crime of sexual exploitation because they said that the people who are supposed to be charged with crimes are those that commit acts of prostitution and you can't criminalise people who facilitate these acts when there is the consent of the parties to practice acts of prostitution.

The participants also found out about acts of human trafficking including acts of telling lies promising to provide employment with high salaries both in the country and overseas, however these jobs do not exist and other work has to be performed, such as prostitution, forced labour, slavery and also the removal of people's organs.

In this session the village authorities and the students asked JSMP to also provide this information to community members in other villages as well as students from other faculties because this information is very important to help communities and young people to avoid these crimes.

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