



**UN
WOMEN**



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

Annual Report 2016-2017

Timor-Leste Country Office

UN Women is the UN Entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

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Cover Photo: Cyclists participating in "International Women's Day 2016—Cycle for Gender Equality Planet 50:50". *Photo:* UN Women/Felix Maia 2016.

Loron Diak!

2016 was an important year: it saw the introduction of the Sustainable Development Goals and marked the 15th anniversary of UN Women's presence in Timor-Leste. With its office in Timor-Leste established in 2001, UN Women has been supporting the Government of Timor-Leste to reach numerous gender equality milestones while working in diverse partnerships and leveraging its expertise, resources, and networks to contribute to equitable peace and development in the country.

One of the year's most notable achievements was the launch of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP WPS) by the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, His Excellency Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo, after years of collective advocacy. Timor-Leste became the third country in the Asia-Pacific region to adopt a NAP WPS, recognizing women as equal partners in conflict prevention and decision-making. In another example of plans coming to fruition, women's political participation in local village leadership nearly doubled in 2016 compared with the previous election in 2009. This achievement was made possible by the "100% Hau Prontu" (100 per cent I Am Ready) Campaign, a coordination platform for organizations working on women's political leadership and participation. The campaign, supported by UN Women and other partners, contributed to a revision of the electoral law that promotes more women candidates and strengthens their capacities to run, demonstrating the power of coordinated actions and voices.

Collective action also powerfully addressed violence against women in institutions and on the streets. More than 600 individuals mobilized for the first Take Back the Streets march to raise the visibility of widespread sexual harassment in public spaces. Initiated by the women's network, Rede Feto, the march spurred a wider campaign and further actions involving the National Police, university students, and the Civil Service Commission, among others. Linking advocacy efforts to institutional actions, the Government, under the leadership of the Secretary of State for the Support and Socio-economic Promotion of Women (SEM) developed its second National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence 2017-2021 (NAP GBV), with UN Women coordinating technical and financial support with other partners.

Partnerships with the Office of the Prime Minister and SEM enabled greater resource allocations to match Timor-Leste's comprehensive policy commitments on gender equality. Government institutions allocated USD 9 million for gender equality and women's empowerment in their 2017 Annual Action Plans, double the commitments made in the 2016 Plans. Promisingly, an increasing number of government institutions have made available sex-disaggregated data and introduced quotas for female civil servants in order to address staffing disparities. These developments follow nearly a decade of UN Women investments to institutionalize gender into the state budget process.

As you read this report, we hope you will recognize the many collective efforts that UN Women makes in partnership with diverse groups, from civil society, government, development institutions, and the private sector. More importantly, we hope that you will acknowledge the progress that this young country has achieved in one year alone. UN Women is proud to share the results made possible by the contributions of many, in the spirit of reaching a Planet 50-50 by 2030, in Timor-Leste, and beyond.

Obrigadu wain,

Sunita Caminha

**Head of Office
UN Women Timor-Leste**





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Acronyms

| | |
|-------------|--|
| AAP | Annual Action Plan |
| ACbit | Asosiasaun CHEGA ba Ita |
| ALFeLa | Asistencia Legal ba Feto no Labarik (<i>Women's and Children's Legal Aid</i>) |
| APSCTL | Asia Pacific Support Collective Timor-Leste |
| CAVR | Comissão de Acolhimento, Verdade e Reconciliação (<i>Reception, Truth and Reconciliation Commission</i>) |
| CoM | Council of Minister |
| CEDAW | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women |
| CEPAD | Centre for Peace and Development Studies |
| CNE | Comissão Nacional de Eleicoes (<i>National Electoral Commission</i>) |
| CVA | Truth and Friendship Commission |
| DNPCC | National Directorate for Community Conflict Prevention |
| FALINTIL | Forças Armadas de Libertacao Nacional De Timor Leste (<i>National Armed Forces for the Liberation of East Timor</i>) |
| F-FDTL | Falintil-Forsa Defesa de Timor Leste (The Timor Leste Defence Force) |
| FOKUPERS | Forum Komunikasi Perempuan Lorosa'e (<i>Timor-Leste's Women Communications Forum</i>) |
| FONGTIL | Forum Organizaçao Non-Government Timor-Leste (<i>EAST TIMOR NGO FORUM</i>) |
| FRETILIN | The Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor |
| GMPTL | Grupo de Mulheres Parlamentares Timor-Leste (<i>Women's Parliamentary Caucus</i>) |
| GBV | Gender Based Violence |
| HIV/AIDS | Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome |
| JSMP | Judicial System Monitoring Program |
| CNCHIV/SIDA | Comissão Nacional Combate HIV/SIDA (<i>National HIV Commission</i>) |
| LADV | Law Against Domestic Violence |
| MoD | Ministry of Defense |
| Mol | Ministry of Interior |
| MoJ | Ministry of Justice |
| MNEC | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation |
| MoH | Ministry of Health |
| MSS | Ministry of Social Solidarity |
| NAP | National Action Plan |
| PDHJ | Provedoria Direitos Humanus no Justisa (<i>Ombudsperson</i>) |
| PM | Prime Minister |
| PNTL | National Police of Timor-Leste |
| PR | President of the Republic |
| SEJD | Secretary of State for Youth and Sport |
| SEM | Secretary of State for the Support and Socio-Economic Promotion of Women |
| SEPFOPE | Secretary of State for Vocational Training and Employment Policy |
| SEPI | Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality |
| SoD | Secretary of State for Defense |
| SoSS | Secretary of State for Security |
| STAE | Electoral Administration and Technical Secretariat |
| STI | Sexually Transmitted Infection |
| TLPDP | Timor-Leste Police Development Program |
| ToT | Training of Trainers |
| UN | United Nations |
| UN Women | United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Program |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNSCR | United Nations Security Council resolution |
| WEE | Women's Economic Empowerment |
| WPS | Women, Peace and Security |

Timor-Leste Context

Timor-Leste has made significant progress in the fifteen years since its independence from Indonesian occupation and, previously, Portuguese colonial rule. With a focus on state building and repairing destroyed infrastructure systems, the country is known as a success case in international development.

Timor-Leste has strengthened its relationship with the international community through its leading role in the g7+ group of fragile nations, and has contributed to the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a member of the High-Level Panel advising the UN Secretary General. Indeed, Timor-Leste led the advocacy effort for the inclusion of Goal 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Timor-Leste successfully completed its Presidency of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, gained observer status to the World Trade Organization at the end of 2016, and continues its journey to obtain full membership in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The country is home to 1.18 million people (50.8 per cent male and 49.2 per cent female), with more than 70 per cent of the population living in mountainous rural areas. Timor-Leste's population is young and grows rapidly at about 2.1 per cent per year due to a considerably high overall fertility rate. Economic growth has been strong, averaging over 10 per cent per year since 2007. It remains, however, one of the world's most oil dependent countries, with its petroleum income contributing almost 80 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product and over 90 per cent of government revenues. An enduring challenge for Timor-Leste is to translate the current dependence on the oil economy into sustainable and inclusive growth. To strengthen a diversified and inclusive market economy, the Government of Timor-Leste has identified the need to expand the agricultural sector, build a thriving tourism industry and enhance the v of cooperatives and small and micro businesses.

A lack of employment opportunities is a major root cause of poverty and vulnerability in the country. Gender gaps in the labor market are significant: 56 per cent of men are in the labor force, compared with only 27 per cent

of women. Additionally, the types of work typically done by women – food production for family and unpaid care work—are not counted as employment. The youth unemployment rate is high at 21.8 per cent, almost twice that of the population in general. More than half of total employment is considered vulnerable*, with women representing the majority in this group (69 per cent). Among working rural women, the overwhelming majority (87 per cent) are in vulnerable jobs. Gender segregation is also common in technical and vocational training programmes attended by women and men.

By 2013, Timor-Leste had surpassed some of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets, including those on infant and under-five mortality rates; the proportion of women in the parliament; and tuberculosis cases detected and cured. However, 41 per cent of the population still live below the poverty line (particularly in rural areas) and frequent cases of domestic violence against women have been reported, making it one of the key challenges in achieving gender equality in the country.

In 15 years as an independent state, Timor-Leste has witnessed five constitutional governments and the Sixth Constitutional Government (2015-2017) is in its midterm. Notable achievements have included the ratification of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the adoption of policies and legislation on violence against women, the submission of the national review on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and others. Furthermore, Timor-Leste has the highest representation of women (38 per cent) in parliament in the Asia-Pacific region. Women's share of decision-making roles at the highest levels of government—as ministers and secretaries of state—has risen from 13 per cent in 2007 to 21 per cent in 2016. While women are making progress in national-level representation, only a small percentage of women (4.5 per cent) hold leadership at the local level as chiefs of suco (village).

Within this context, UN Women's mandate on gender equality and women's empowerment is most relevant for advancing the country's state building objectives and development goals.

(*) *Vulnerable employment* is defined by the Labour Force Survey 2013 as “workers who are at risk of losing their job without notice and are unlikely to have formal work arrangements such as written contract, or access to social protection mechanisms such as paid leave entitlements, pension, and medical insurance”.





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Top: UN Women Timor-Leste team during Orange Day. Below left: Ismenia Ximenes, Executive Assistant taking part in in WSA Training. Below right: Liliana Amaral, EAW Programme Officer during the “16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls in 2016”.



UN Women in Timor-Leste

UN Women has been present in Timor-Leste since 2001, working closely with the government, civil society, and community participants to empower women and promote gender equality. Grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the UN Charter, UN Women in Timor-Leste focuses on the following areas of work:

1. Women, Peace and Security

UN Women supports the creation of an environment which acknowledges the vital importance of women's leadership and decision-making in all aspects of peace building and state building, contributing to improved protection and equitable access to basic social services within the framework of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions. In collaboration with various government institutions and civil society partners, UN Women has strengthened efforts to ensure women influence and are empowered as decision-makers in peace and security dialogues and development processes more broadly.

2. Governance and National Planning

UN Women supports efforts to integrate gender equality into national planning, budgeting and monitoring and evaluation processes, assisting the Government to demonstrate gender-responsive budgeting of annual planning and budgeting processes. In collaboration with partners including the Office of the Prime Minister, line ministries, National Parliament and civil society, UN Women continues to facilitate platforms for joint advocacy and strengthens capacities for gender-responsive budgeting as a tool for monitoring accountability and women's equal access to services.

3. Eliminating Violence against Women

UN Women works closely with the Government and civil society to support and promote the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Action Plan on Gender-

Based Violence. In collaboration with partners, including youth groups and the private sector, it has conducted various advocacy campaigns and initiatives to reduce tolerance of violence against women, incorporating participatory events and local media outlets to engage the public. Efforts have been made to include men and boys with a view to transform harmful attitudes into gender equitable norms and respectful relationships.

4. Women's Economic Empowerment

UN Women supports initiatives to enhance economic opportunities for women, while building the capacity of key economic institutions and networks to provide women with resources and opportunities to contribute to the economy. Working with stakeholders such as civil society and development partner agencies, UN Women seeks to reshape economic conditions all along the spectrum — from boosting women's participation in economic policy-making to supporting women and their communities with practical skills for sustainable livelihoods, particularly in the agricultural sector.

5. Coordination

Across thematic areas, UN Women coordinates a variety of platforms with national and international stakeholders, from sister UN Agencies, national government institutions and diverse civil society partners to strengthen capacities and improve the consistency of efforts to promote more equitable development and good governance in Timor-Leste.

Women, Peace & Security

The launch of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP WPS) in October 2016 ensures that women's leadership and participation will inform Timor-Leste's future peace and state building processes. Building on persistent advocacy and a three-year development process, UN Women contributed significantly to the adoption of the Plan, particularly through sustained technical and financial support to the Ministry of Interior (Mol).

Development and Adoption of the NAP WPS with Mol

UN Women supported the NAP development process through targeted capacity building and training, culminating in the finalization and presentation of the NAP WPS to the Council of Ministers for approval in April 2016. Timor-Leste first shared the Plan internationally at the 2016 Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security in Bangkok, Thailand, hosted by UN Women with support from the Government of Japan. Prior to the adoption of the NAP WPS, UN Women assisted the Mol to convene 75 government and civil society stakeholders to identify key actors and elaborate measurable indicators for the Plan. The collaboration continues through the implementation phase of the NAP, in response to Mol's request for UN Women's ongoing technical assistance to help the Ministry carry out its leading role on the WPS agenda.

Stakeholder Partnerships for Localizing the WPS Agenda

Following the Council of Ministers' adoption of the NAP WPS in April 2016, the Ministry of Interior (Mol), with UN Women's technical support and the collaboration of civil society actors, began to implement the Plan. The Ministry focused its budget allocation on information sessions about the NAP, assisted by the WPS Community of Practice and UN Women, with the goal of disseminating knowledge amongst stakeholders and instilling a sense of ownership among municipalities. Twelve Mol and NGO actors completed a Training of Trainers (ToT) to support future implementation of the Plan at the municipal level.

“Strong men are those who support women. Therefore, I appeal to all the men present here today, and in the Timorese society as a whole, to start creating space in their own families and households toward more active participation of women in decision making, which will give women more opportunities to participate and work together with men for the development of our country. ”

--Dr Rui Maria de Araújo, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, during the official launch of NAP WPS

What is NAP WPS?

The NAP WPS is structured around four pillars of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, adopted in 2000: women's **participation** and decision-making; **prevention** of violent conflict; **protection** from gender-based violence and integration of a gendered approach to security; and ensuring equitable roles and benefits from **peace building**.

Incorporating good practice, the Plan recognizes women's historic roles in the resistance and their post-independence contributions to state building. This includes recognition of women as community mediators for conflict prevention and decision-makers across sectors; the gender-based security and economic barriers that limit women's ability to benefit and actively contribute to national development; and factors that compound the marginalization faced by persons with disabilities, those living with HIV, and survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, such as gender-based stigma and discrimination.



© UN Women / Christina Yiannakis 2015



Women Win Record Number of Seats in Timor-Leste Village Elections



© UN Women / Corinne Roberts 2016

Barbara Garma Soares is one of 21 women elected as Xefe Suku (Village Chief) in Timor-Leste's nation-wide local elections held on 13 November 2016. This is almost double the result from the last election, 2009, where only 11 women were elected to lead the nation's 442 villages. Before being elected, Soares participated in trainings for women candidates who aspired to run in their village elections. The trainings, put together by local women's groups with the assistance of national and international partners like UN Women, helped to inspire prepare 319 women to stand in the elections. Soares explains how she applied the campaigning and leadership skills from the trainings:

"I campaigned door-to-door. I didn't make promises, but I said, if you choose me, we have to come together and we have to work together to develop our village. I can't do it alone."

Despite never having a woman lead their community before, the villagers of Suku Sau in the nation's capital Dili were won over by Barbara's abilities. The training workshops were part of a broader

advocacy effort called "100% Hau Prontu" (100 per cent I Am Ready), aimed at strengthening women's political participation in Timor-Leste. Following advocacy efforts, the electoral law was amended three months out from the election, and required each village to put forward a female candidate for the first time. In addition to her new leadership role, Soares identified a surprising change in her family life after the election. Speaking of the key support of her husband, who has taken on some of the caregiving work that women are traditionally expected to manage, Barbara noted *"He cooks, he washes clothes and helps care for our two children. People are surprised when they hear this."* Barbara's story is one victory in the years of efforts by the women's movement and an important reminder that advancing women in leadership roles requires the participation of men for sustainable success.

Timeline: Creating Timor-Leste's National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 -Women, Peace & Security

| | | |
|------|--|---|
| 2012 | | 2007-2012: Laying the Foundations The Office for the Promotion of Equality--then Secretary of State for Promotion of Equality (SEPI) and now Secretary of State for the Support and Socio-Economic Promotion of Women (SEM)-with civil society, including Rede Feto members, and support from the UN and international partners, conducted awareness-raising and advocacy on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). |
| | | |
| 2013 | | September 2013: A Learning Exercise The SoSS (now Ministry of Interior) and UN Women organized a Learning Workshop on developing a NAP on UNSCR 1325 with stakeholders from the government, women's organizations, UN agencies and civil society. SoSS and SEPI reiterated their commitment to lead the development of the NAP on UNSCR 1325 in Timor-Leste. |
| | | |
| 2014 | | February 2014: Developing Leadership and Internal Consultation Internal consultations were facilitated with the SoSS, Secretary of State for Defense, and Gender Working Groups of the National Police (PNTL) and Defense Forces (F-FDTL), with advisory support from UN Women's Senior Gender Advisor in Indonesia. Stakeholders discussed the activities needed to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) in Timor-Leste and gained confidence to lead the NAP development process. |
| | | March 2014: The First High-Level Consultation The first high-level discussion of the formulation of the NAP involved approximately 50 people from government, political parties, women's organizations, and civil society organizations. Government representatives signed a Declaration affirming institutional support for the development and implementation of the NAP. |
| | | May 2014: First National Consultation and Study Tour to Indonesia First national consultation involved approximately 100 people representing various partners and stakeholders from government, Civil Society including women's organizations, faith-based organizations and development partners, facilitated by UN Women Indonesia. |
| | | June-December 2014: Consultation at the Grassroots Level Community voices are invaluable for implementation of the NAP on UNSCR 1325. Using the four key pillars framed in the UNSCR 1325, the Working Group organized a series of community-based consultations across the 13 districts, reaching out to 473 people (243 women, and 230 men). |
| | | |
| 2015 | | May-September 2015: The Drafting Process The drafting process began with a workshop for the Steering Committee and Working Group members. Working from the results, the Drafting Team formed a collaborative draft NAP, based upon the results from the extensive consultations. |
| | | October-December 2015: Validation The draft NAP was validated at a participatory workshop held from October to December where stakeholders from government, civil society and development partners were invited to provide feedback. The Drafting Team then incorporated the results and presented the final NAP to the Advisory Board which was then presented to the Council of Ministers for approval. |

2016

February 2016: Submission of the Draft Plan

The draft National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP WPS) was submitted to the Council of Ministers in late February 2016 for review and approval. UN Women provided technical support for submission and continued to support the preparations for presentation of the Plan to the Council of Ministers.

April 2016: Approval of the National Action Plan

Timor-Leste's Council of Ministers approved the National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security for 2016-2020, becoming the third country in Southeast Asia to adopt a plan based on the UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

June 2016: Partnering for Women's Participation and Gender Equality

With the support of the Embassy of Japan in Timor-Leste, UN Women Timor-Leste launched a new four-year, 294 million Japanese Yen (USD 2.74 million) project that aims to support the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in Timor-Leste.

October 2016: Official Launch of the NAP WPS

On 20 October 2016, Timor-Leste officially launched its National Action Plan for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)/NAP UNSCR 1325, on Women Peace and Security.



Prime Minister of Timor-Leste Rui Maria de Araújo at the official Launch of the NAP WPS. Photo: Media GPM 2016.

National Planning & Budgeting

For the first time, the Government of Timor-Leste has taken steps to establish a systematic approach in the monitoring of institutions' gender equality (GE) commitments and priorities. UN Women provided technical assistance to the pilot programme, which includes the application of gender equality markers to the newly established online Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation System.

The system enables an automated gender monitoring report on the implementation of four key commitments to gender equality:

- CEDAW Concluding Observations;
- Maubisse Declaration for the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women,
- National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence (NAP GBV); and
- National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP WPS).

Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) for Annual Action Plans

Gender equality and women's empowerment provisions have increasingly been integrated into government planning, including in the allocation of budgets. For instance, 13 out of 21 line ministries allocated dedicated budgets for gender equality in their 2017 Annual Action Plans (compared with just 7 in 2015).

In 2016, gender equality was notably visible in government plans, and was identifiable in eight of the nine key line ministries and institutions that were analyzed. Examples of gender integration in the plans include: sex-disaggregated data; identifying women as beneficiaries of programmes; placing 30 per cent minimum targets for training female civil servants; including funding for gender equality projects; and implementation of Gender Working Group and gender mainstreaming activities within line ministries. UN Women contributed to these developments by working closely with the Prime Minister's Office and the Secretary of State for the Support and Socio-Economic Promotion of Women (SEM) to institutionalize gender into the state budget process. Using CEDAW as a guideline, UN Women provided technical support to establish mechanisms by which gender equality commitments are reviewed at each

stage of the annual processes of institutional planning, budgeting, approval and monitoring.

As a result of these collaborations, the Government possesses the guidance it needs to include commitments for gender equality and women's empowerment into annual plans and budgets, and has seized more opportunities to integrate these commitments than in the past.

Engaging Civil Society and Gender Equality Advocates for GRB

Since 2012, UN Women has brought together a group of legal experts and gender equality advocates in the form of a Gender and Legal Network to promote the inclusion of women's human rights in laws and policies. In 2016, UN Women facilitated dialogue through this group to provide technical support to SEM and other advocates. Together, they analyzed and presented recommendations on the draft decentralization laws to the Ministry of State Administration and National Parliament, among others. Such partnerships, and UN Women's technical support, helped civil society groups to submit further analyses and recommendations on the Land Law, Suco (Village) Law and Municipal Laws. Similarly, the national women's network (Rede Feto), with ongoing capacity development and technical assistance from UN Women, led advocacy efforts with Members of Parliament, and developed a joint submission with recommendations to the National Parliament to inform the 2017 State Budget amendments and a draft tool for monitoring the CEDAW Concluding Observations.



Timor-Leste's Constitution, Article 17, specifically calls, not only for equality between women and men in all areas of family, political, economic, social and cultural life, but also for non-discrimination on legitimate grounds, including gender. The State ratified CEDAW and its Optional Protocol without any reservations in 2003; GRB Resolution in 2009, passed the Law

Against Domestic Violence in 2010, and has developed two National Action Plans on Gender-Based Violence in 2012 and 2016, among other commitments to promote women's human rights.



Laura Pina, speaking at the National Result Sharing of CEDAW -SEAP II in April 2016.

Promoting Women in Leadership in Timor-Leste

A Strategic Framework 2016-2021 to mobilize female voters and candidates was launched on 11 October 2016 by the Women's Caucus of the National Parliament and '100% Hau Prontu' movement of 15 local and international civil society groups. The 100 per cent Hau Prontu movement was established to increase women's political participation, in partnership with UN Women and support from the Government of Norway, among other international and national partners. Currently, women make up 38 per cent of the Parliament, the highest proportion of any legislative body in the Asia-Pacific. Local governance lags behind, with women representing only 5 per cent of the country's 442 village chiefs, and there are no women among the 13 appointed Municipal Administrators.



(L) Judge Maria Natércia Gusmão of Court of the Appeal, (C) Nelinho Vital of Ministry of Justice and (R) Janet Wong, UN Women Country Representative at the National Result Sharing of CEDAW SEAP II. Photo: UN Women/Felix Maia 2016.

CEDAW Bearing Fruits in Timor-Leste

"CEDAW has already born some fruits in Timor-Leste," said **Laura Pina** (pictured above), director of the non-governmental organization Pátria, during an event titled 'National Results Sharing on the Regional Programme on Improving Women's Human Rights in Southeast Asia' organized by UN Women. Ms. Pina continued, "In our view, the lawmakers have begun to understand their duty and obligation to integrate CEDAW in laws and policies".

Launched in 2011 across seven countries in the region, with financial support from the Government of Canada, the five-year programme raised awareness of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The programme galvanized support for changes to laws and policies and for securing women's access to justice; it also monitored progress that has been made and challenges that persist.

Highlighting the importance of the programme, **Judge Maria Natércia Gusmão**, the Acting Chief Judge for the Court of the Appeal (Timor-Leste's highest court) observed that gender discrimination is putting women at risk. She noted, "When there is not women's participation in the society, in particular when it comes to equality between men and women, we cannot talk about development in our country."

"In our view, the lawmakers have begun to understand their duty and obligation to integrate CEDAW in laws and policies"

—Laura Pina, Director of NGO Fundasaun Patria

Ending Violence Against Women

The Government of Timor-Leste continues to take steps to ensure that women and girls live free from violence. UN Women, in collaboration with civil society and other partners, supports the Government to create an enabling environment where policies to end violence against women and girls are implemented and where tolerance for gender-based violence is reduced, including through the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women and Girls.

Technical and financial support for NAP GBV

Advancing the policy framework to address violence against women and girls, (VAWG) the Government developed its second National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence 2017-2021 (NAP GBV). This process was made possible by the women's machinery's (SEM) leadership, along with UN Women's technical and financial support, among other partners. The NAP GBV aligns with Timor-Leste's national laws and international obligations, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. It also includes an estimation of resources required for the Plan's implementation, drawing upon a VAWG costing exercise conducted between 2014 and 2016 in Timor-Leste by UN Women, the Ministry of Social Solidarity and the National University of Ireland, as part of a regional programme supported by the Government of Australia.

The NAP reflects promising practices and aligns to the Global Joint UN Essential Services Framework for women and children affected by violence. Hoping to change societal attitudes, the NAP includes a strong focus on reducing tolerance of GBV. UN Women and the Alola Foundation are supporting this effort with a pilot initiative to help students, teachers, parents and communities

engage in respectful and gender equitable relationships. The pilot, supported by a European Union (EU) funded global project, draws upon best practice, and its guidance and materials will be valuable for future attempts at a whole school approach to GBV prevention.

Movement against sexual harassment in public spaces

UN Women Timor-Leste initiated and organized a successful *"Take Back the Streets - March Against Sexual Harassment"* in Dili in August 2016. The event involved partnerships with over 30 diverse stakeholders, including LGBTI groups, disabled persons' organizations, government institutions, gender equality and development partners, and sister UN agencies. The march drew attention to the widespread problem of sexual harassment in Timor-Leste and complemented UN Women's ongoing collaboration with the Civil Service Commission on addressing sexual harassment as part of Public Administration Reform. The march built on civil society efforts and generated new spaces for women and girls, as well as men and boys, to stand up and speak out against sexual harassment, including through music and dance.

An evaluation of UN Women's EU-funded project, *"Preventing and Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls in Timor-Leste"* recognized the value of the march, highlighting the importance of engaging different stakeholders to facilitate attitude and behavior change among the public.



Timor-Leste Marched to End Street Harassment

About 600 men, women, youth and children from diverse backgrounds flowed through the city center before the afternoon rush hour on August 25th 2016 in a march organized by UN Women. They chanted, sang, and shouted for an end to sexual harassment, and carried a banner that said, “Safe Streets Now!”

“There should be no more people oppressing other people’s freedom to walk in the street safely – this is why we fought for independence in the first place,” said **Judite Ximenes, President of the Board of Rede Feto**, an umbrella network of women’s organizations, a former Parliamentarian and resistance activist. *“This walk is very important for us because if we never address the violence towards women, then we will never achieve a just society,”* she told the crowd.

The march allowed people to share their experiences with harassment, and to reinforce the message that the person who is harassed should not to be blamed for experiencing abuse. The event also informed the public about where they can find support if they are victimized and what measures can be taken to prevent such incidents. These measures included: educating young people to understand behaviors that constitute harassment; actions youth can take to promote respect for others; training public servants to be aware of incidents of sexual harassment and violence; and promotion of laws and policies to address harassment, especially in schools and public places.



Youth Voice:

Action to Prevent Sexual Harassment in Schools

UN Women coordinated with sister UN Agencies in Timor-Leste to teach 74 education students (38 male, 36 female) from the National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL) about basic concepts of sexual harassment and how to promote respectful relationships and gender equality. The half-day workshop organized on 24 November 2016 aimed to raise student awareness on the widespread problem of sexual harassment in schools and public spaces and give future teachers an orientation on how to prevent it. Following the workshop, 61 per cent of participants recognized behaviors that constitute sexual harassment, compared with 41 per cent before the workshop.

UN Women also collaborated with a locally based youth movement known as HATUTAN Youth Council to organize a similar workshop that targeted secondary and primary level students, and that supported wider efforts to reduce tolerance of harassment and other forms of gender-based violence.



Students from the National University of Timor-Leste taking part in the workshop on Sexual Harassment as part of the "16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls" in Dili.

Better Assistance for Survivors of GBV through Improved Case Documentation

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) continues to be one of the most pervasive forms of violence in Timor-Leste, with the majority of reported perpetrators being male intimate partners. According to the 2016 Nabilan Report by the Asia Foundation, approximately 3 in 5 women aged 15 to 49 (59 per cent) had experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their male intimate partner at least once in their lifetime. This follows the 2010 Timor-Leste Demographic Health Survey, which indicated that 38 per cent of Timorese women reported suffering some form of physical abuse since the age of 15, with women aged between 25-29 years particularly at risk of abuse.

However, few cases make it through the formal justice system, and gaps in case documentation have been identified by legal actors as one challenge to processing cases.

To address this challenge, UN Women Timor-Leste partnered with the Judicial System Monitoring Program (JSMP) to improve awareness of legal assistance providers on the value of good case documentation and practices for improving documentation of GBV cases through a two day workshop facilitated by human rights legal expert and activist **Ms. Evelyn Ursua**, who has over 20 years of experience in the Philippines and in the Asia-Pacific region. Through the workshop, the civil society participants agreed on a format for NGO case documentation, which was identified and defined based on their experiences and the common forms of gender-based violence encountered in Timor-Leste.

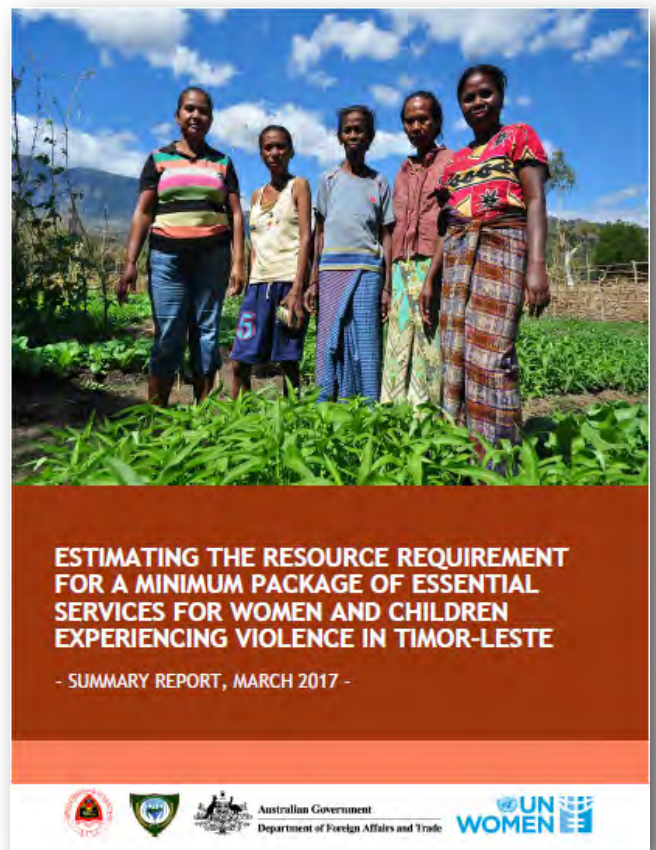
Estimating the Resource Requirement for a Minimum Package of Essential Services for Women and Children Experiencing Violence in Timor-Leste

To determine the necessary resources for implementation, UN Women, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS), with technical assistance from the National University of Ireland in Galway (NUI) and generous support from the Government of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), collaborated between 2014 and 2016 on Timor-Leste's first costing study on the commitments of the National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence (NAP-GBV), in line with its obligations under the Law against Domestic Violence (LADV). The study was regional, and conducted in four countries - Indonesia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, and Timor-Leste. The study's outcomes included:

- **Opportunities for dialogue between key stakeholders** to understand more specifically the services that are needed to support victims/survivors of VAWC based on the Timorese context.
- **A Minimum Package of Essential Services (MPES) with 46 service providers** on initial priorities that are required to meet the obligations of the LADV and the NAP on GBV. The study mapped out how these services could be established (where they do not exist) or implemented over a three-year period.
- **Examples of estimated costs for select health, social, justice and policing services for women and children affected by violence**
- **Identification of barriers to accurately identify the costs of services for addressing VAWC.**
- **Costing table templates to help update elements and resources required for identified services** for more accurate budgeting and planning.

“We used this costing information for advocacy. We met with the Ministry of Social Solidarity about a proposal we gave them for shelters. First, they refused our budget by more than 70 per cent. So we advocated using the costing study, and used it to explain why we needed the funds. In the end, the Ministry of Social Solidarity agreed to support the full budget we requested.”

--Marilia Alves, Director of FOKUPERS



(*) For more information see also: *Estimating Resource Requirements for Responding to Violence against Women in Southeast Asia: Synthesis of Findings and Lessons* (<http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/06/estimating-resource-requirements>)



Women's Economic Empowerment

Economic development is a top priority for Timor-Leste: a strengthened agricultural sector and macro-economic fiscal reform (to reduce dependency on natural resources) are key components of the country's development plan. In this context, UN Women supported the Government to better its understanding of women's work (including unpaid household work), creating an enabling environment for the economic empowerment of women.

Activities included a Gender Analysis of the Labor Force Survey; assistance to the 2015 Census exercise; analysis of gender dimensions in the proposed Value-Added Tax; and support for the Ministry of Agriculture in advancing gender equality - a cross-cutting objective of the Ministry's five-year Sustainable Agriculture Programme.

Empowering Women by Allocating Specific Budgets

Utilizing guidance provided by UN Women (in collaboration with SEM and the PMO during the implementation of the 2015 Maubisse Declaration for economic empowerment of rural women) four of the nine Government signatories allocated specific budgets in their 2017 Annual Action Plans to support women's economic empowerment. More specifically, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) targeted 50 per cent women for horticulture and youth groups, as did the Ministry of Public Works and Transport for water and sanitation in rural areas and rural roads maintenance, which directly respond to Maubisse Declaration targets. For the first time, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture included funds to support women's groups working with community tourism in rural areas and the Secretary of State for Vocational Training and Employment Policy also targeted 50 per cent women in its activities. In addition, MAF continued to develop its Gender Equality Policy,

building on its 2015 draft by incorporating inputs from the 34 national and municipal directors, with technical assistance from UN Women. This process validated and increased staff awareness of the draft policy.

Facilitating Inclusion of Gender Dimensions in Macro-Economic Policies

The Fiscal Reform Commission (FRC) at the Ministry of Finance considered the gender dimensions of its emerging macro-economic policy, specifically around developing a Value-Added Tax (VAT). UN Women facilitated an expert briefing to the FRC, held a session with civil society on the gender dimensions of the proposed VAT, and contributed an analytical paper which provided recommendations to reduce potential negative consequences of the VAT. The FRC engagement creates unprecedented space for gender equality advocates to inform macro-economic policies, and signals progress for fiscal policies that enable women to contribute to the economy, rather than disadvantaging them further.

Bringing More Women into Formal Business - Women's Entrepreneurship Day Event

In Timor-Leste, **only 16 per cent of formal businesses are owned by women**. This is due in part to the disadvantages they face over the time and resources needed to invest in business development. Most women must juggle their family duties with economic activities and often lack the required flexibility, with the result that female entrepreneurs tend to remain in informal businesses rather than starting their own.

To broaden women's opportunities to establish formal businesses, UN Women partnered with the Women's Business Association and the Chamber of Commerce to stage a week of events celebrating Women's Entrepreneurship Day in November 2016. The partnership will continue in 2017 as part of a broader effort to connect women in leadership roles with gender equality activities in the agriculture sector and to support female entrepreneurs to engage in dialogues related to economic policy development.

“Together we must recognize that rural women have contributed immensely to the development of this country and our food security...”

--Dr Rui Maria de Araújo, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste,
during the Commemoration of International Rural
Women's Day 2015 in Maubisse

Communications & Advocacy

UN Women carries out its advocacy work with diverse government and civil society partners through both traditional and new communication channels. In particular, advocacy efforts have been targeted towards changing societal behaviors, including those of men and boys. Additionally, communication campaigns to raise awareness of gender equality and the empowerment of women in Timor-Leste have also raised the profile of UN Women as an organization and spread public awareness of its role as a global champion for women's empowerment and gender equality.

Effective communication can highlight actions to be taken, can support and drive change, and can demonstrate the impact of interventions on the ground. It is UN Women's role, from a communications perspective, to help broaden and deepen national and global conversations and debates. Effective communication can challenge the status quo at home, in public places, within communities, in businesses and within the Government, and, in time, it can help to shift societal norms toward gender equality.

International Women's Day Events 2016

UN Women took a two-pronged approach to its International Women's Day celebrations in 2016: taking it to the streets and expressing it through the arts. It staged two successful events, the *"Cycle for Gender Equality and Sustainable Development"*, and an evening of literary performances in the nation's capital, Dili. The events signalled collaborations with new partners, and involved sister UN Agencies, the NGO Association of Men Against Violence (AMKV), the Dili Cycling bicycle club, Indonesian telecommunications company Telkomsel and support from individual advocates, including Timorese women resistance activists, novelists and professional writers, among others.

During the cycling event, which concluded at a popular park in the city center, the **Secretary of State for Youth and Sport, Leovigildo da Costa Hornai**, emphasized that speeches alone would not be sufficient, saying: *"(we) men must demonstrate through actions—starting from within the home."* In addition to the cyclists that rode in the event, Zumba dancers led a collective dance to Break the Chain and community members shared messages on what "Planet 50:50 by 2030" means to them.



Calling for change and noting women's low representation in institutional leadership and decision-making, **Rede Feto Board President Judite Ximenes** asked the audience, *"If women and men both have the same potential, then why are only men moving forward?"*

Exploring this question and more, a diverse repertoire of 17 women and men shared their reflections on gender equality in a poetry night event called *"Make it Write"*. Hosted at the popular Café Kakau in the capital city Dili, the restaurant overflowed with more than 70 people eager to hear the stories being shared, from a young woman's letter written to Darkness, a personal narrative on womanhood, and a tribute to mothers and survivors of domestic violence. *"I am strong, I am free, I am independent, I am me," Katherine Smith* cried out proudly and was met with thunderous applause from the audience.

"...If women and men both have the same potential, then why are only men moving forward?...."

—Judite Ximenes, President of the Board of the National Women's Network



Previous page: UN Women Country Representative Janet Wong took part in “Cycle for Gender Equality” on International Women’s Day 2016”. This page: Scenes from the Poetry Night held as part of IWD2016 commemoration. Photos: UN Women/Felix Maia.

Partnerships

In 2016 UN Women continued to work with gender equality advocates from government, civil society and development partner institutions. We also expanded collaborations – through seven consultation sessions – with non-traditional stakeholders representing disability, LGBTI and youth groups, as well as the private sector, with the result that a diverse coalition for gender equality has emerged in Timor-Leste.

UN Women is proud to have collaborated with Institutions of the State such as *Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Finance, Secretary of State for the Support and Socio-economic Promotion of Women, National Police, Civil Service Commission, Secretary of State for Youth and Sport, National Parliament*; civil society organizations including *the women's network (Rede Feto) and its members, Fundasaun Alola, LGBTI network CODIVA, Asosiasaun CHEGA Ba Ita, NGO Patria*; development partners such as *Government of Australia, Government of Japan through the Embassy in Timor-Leste, Government of Norway in Jakarta, the European Union, New Zealand Voluntary Service Abroad, and Korea International Cooperation Agency*; youth groups such as *HATUTAN, Youth Parliament, Juventude ba Dezenvolvimentu Nasional*, academic institutions such as *the National University of Timor Lorosae and the National University of Ireland in Galway*, as well as UN sister agencies, in particular *ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and WFP*, as well as *the Resident Coordinator's Office and Human Rights Advisor's Unit* to advance gender equality and empowerment of women in Timor-Leste. UN Women appreciates and values its collaboration with private sector entities such as *Telkomcel and Café Kakau*.



L-R: Janet Wong, UN Women Country Representative for Timor-Leste; H.E. Veneranda Lemos, Secretary of State for Support and Socio-Economic Promotion of Women; Hon. Eiji Yamamoto, Ambassador of Japan during the Ceremony of Project Signing between UN Women and Government of Japan in June 2016.
Photo: UN Women/Felix Maia.



KOICA Volunteer facilitating an interactive activity with school children during the launch of HeForShe Campaign. Photo: UN Women/Eunjin Jeong.



The Way Forward

UN Women Timor-Leste appreciates valuable feedback from external stakeholders who recognize the organization as a “bridge” to facilitate joint actions between both government and civil society. UN Women strives to maintain its unique capacity to work at both the grassroots level and with all tiers of the Government. We will continue to serve as a go-to partner on gender equality and women’s empowerment, building on the trust gained over years of operation with the Government and other organizations that rely on technical support across thematic areas. UN Women aims to cultivate and leverage this role by maintaining and improving upon its current practices and learning lessons along the way.

In 2017 and beyond, UN Women will advance the 2030 Agenda by supporting sustainable state building and through its programming on women’s economic empowerment (a key priority area for the country). UN Women will explore initiatives that can raise the visibility and value of women’s skills and historical contributions in sustainable ways – for example, increasing investments and women’s leadership in the agriculture sector and textile industry. The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda will be supported by the national planning and budgeting processes and gender-based violence will be addressed as part of efforts to sustain peaceful development. These elements will be critical in the context of 2017 national elections and the transitions that will follow.

While deepening collaboration with its existing partners and exploring new relationships that ‘start with stakeholders and issues most marginalized’, UN Women will continue to engage non-traditional partners such as the private sector, youth groups and media outlets. It will prioritize intersecting forms of discrimination in its programming so as to promote and uphold the rights of LGBTI, persons with disabilities and communities in rural areas, while better engaging men and boys throughout.

In these new partnerships and new approaches to existing partnerships, UN Women will continue to contribute innovative and nationally-owned solutions to the complex challenge of achieving gender equality in Timor-Leste.

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United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

