

Women Safety Audit Findings

Risks Factor Towards Women's Wellbeing

Venue: Largo Lecidere, Avenida dos Direitos Humanos, Dili, Timor-Leste

A safe space for women is a place where women have secure and inclusive access to their fundamental rights, information and services. In supporting the National Action Plan for Gender-Based Violence 2022-2032, the Joint Programme Together for Equality (T4E) implemented by UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA and IOM joined the efforts of the government of Timor-Leste in preventing and responding to Gender-Based Violence. One of the programme strategy is preventing violence against women before it occurs through creating a safe public spaces for women.

Women Safety Audit (WSA) is a widely used audit tool to increase awareness and protection for women and girls. The tool was first developed in Canada following the recommendations of the 1989 report on violence against women and has further been

developed by UN-HABITAT. The audit helps identify factors that may lead to increased VAWG as well as provide recommendations to make public spaces safer for women and girls.

Under the T4E Programme, 16 public spaces and 8 public institutions in four target municipalities (Dili, Baucau, Covalima and REAOA) will be audited using the Women Safety Audit tool. The WSA is facilitated by Rede Feto with technical support by UN Women through the Joint Programme Together for Equality (T4E) with financial support by KOICA. In this project, this tool was used to assess and explore the risk factors associated with safety of women in public spaces and aimed to identify risk factors to safety as well as proposed with recommendations and estimated costing to improve safety, inclusivity and accessibility of public spaces.

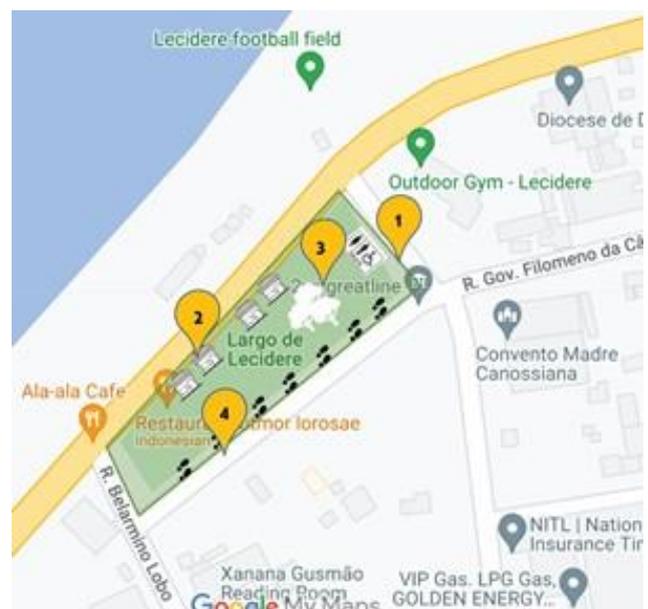
Women Safety Audit Walk Spots

The Largo Lecidere is located between the east side of the harbor in front of the Palacio de Governo to B.J. Habibie Bridge. The south side is the monument of Our Lady Immaculate Conception Garden. It is an open public area with facilities of two public toilets, one big gazebo, 2 playgrounds, and a marketplace for food vendors.

The audit walks conducted at four spots within the Largo Lecidere,

- 1) Toilets
- 2) Marketplace
- 3) Garden
- 4) Walk paths

Location



Safety factors assessed



Lighting



Openness



Visibility



People Density



Walk Path



Security



Gender Diversity

High risk factors

The Findings



Poor security

73% of the respondents classified the toilet as uncomfortable, unsafe, and scary. 42% indicated poor security control. Toilets are locked and cannot be accessed especially in the evening and nighttime.

73% of the respondents feel that the garden is uncomfortable, insecure, and very unsafe with a lack of security control and lack of openness.



Poor visibility

21% indicated lack of openness linked to the structure of sitting place inside gazebo that hinders visibility in case something happens.



Inaccessible walk paths

57% showed that the road from Largo to Palacio is not comfortable and unsafe. 46% said that the road is inaccessible for people with disabilities.



Poor or no lighting

42% indicated poor lighting around toilet area that could increase the vulnerability of women especially at night. 23% stated that there is not enough lighting in the walking and marketplace areas.

Recommendations

Immediate actions

- 1 The toilets should be made accessible at all times including at night, lighting should be added and ramp and handrails should be added to increase safety and accessibility.
- 2 Lighting should be added to increase visibility at night time around the marketplace, toilets garden and walking paths.
- 3 Improve conditions of pedestrians and openness of the sitting areas inside the gazebo to avoid unnecessary incidents against women and girls .

Long term recommendations

- Install surveillance cameras or put in place security patrolling (security monitor post should be constructed) especially at night.
- Collaborate with transportation sector, market vendors, and university students to raise awareness for prevention of sexual harassment in public spaces.

Costing*

Estimated cost to implement immediate actions in Largo Lecidere, is **\$85,800**.

- 1 Renovate the existing toilets to be more women and disability friendly toilets is \$8,800
- 2 Replace and add lamps in all areas of Largo Lecidere Park is \$38,500
- 3 Improve pedestrians and garden space to enhance safety and access for people with disabilities is \$38,500

**Cost presented is estimated, the calculation is conducted with supported from the Ministry of Public Work planning team.*