

Empowering Women And Increasing Access To Justice In Timor-Leste

Midterm Report

(October 1st 2011 –September 30th 2012)



Submitted to:

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Prepared and Submitted By

Search for Common Ground

Date of Submission:

October 31st 2012

For further information, please contact:

Jose De Sousa
Timor-Leste Country Director
Search for Common Ground
Avenida de Portugal
Marconi, Dili, Timor-Leste
Tel: +62 21 720-0964

jdesousa@sfcg.org

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AATL	Asosiasaun Advogadu Timor-Leste
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender Based Violence
KII	Key Informant Interviews
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
POSA	Public Outreach Service Announcements
RTL	Radio Timor-Leste
SFCG	Search for Common Ground
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
TLMDC	Timor-Leste Media Development Centre
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
2. COUNTRY CONTEXT	4
2.1 LEGAL MECHANISMS IN TIMOR-LESTE.....	5
2.2 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN LEGISLATION	5
3. PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	7
4. SUMMARY OF MAIN ACTIONS.....	7
4.1 STAKEHOLDER MEETING.....	7
4.2. BASELINE ASSESSMENT	7
4.3 MEDIA MEETING	11
4.4 CURRICULUM SUMMIT.....	11
4.5 MEDIA TRAINING.....	13
4.6 PRODUCTION OF 'HER STORY'	15
5. LIMITATIONS AND CHALLENGES.....	15
6. NEXT STEPS	15
ANNEX 1: Updated Work Plan.....	17
ANNEX 2: Updated Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	18
ANNEX 3: Agenda For Curriculum Summit.....	22
ANNEX 4.....	25
Participant List for Curriculum Summit.....	25
ANNEX 5 Media Training Agenda.....	26
ANNEX 6 Media Training List Of Participants.....	28
ANNEX 7: Media Training Pre And Post Test Data	29

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project, entitled *Empowering Women and Increasing Access to Justice in Timor-Leste*, is targeted at women and young people across all thirteen districts in Timor-Leste, and aims to improve access to the formal justice system through the dissemination of information and the training of local organisations.

This programme seeks to achieve equal and timely access to justice for men, women and children through building the capacity of the justice sector, particularly CSOs working to complement state justice institutions. A national public awareness media campaign is the centrepiece of the project, utilising radio oral “Herstory” programming, Public Outreach Service Announcements (POSAs), and interactive talk shows and contests, to provide Timorese women, men and youth with information and practical examples on how to address justice challenges, and create positive attitudes toward and among women. Enhanced skills sets will relieve pressure on the formal justice sector, and ensure sustainability. Structured focus group discussions (FDGs) and media advocacy activities are an essential part to enhance outcomes.

This programme draws upon the expertise of SFCG in the use of media for peace-building, justice, and conflict transformation. SFCG has been producing and distributing innovative and popular radio programmes across Asia and Africa for many years and has been implementing a ‘Youth Radio for Peacebuilding’ project in Timor-Leste, which complements this effort. The programme will target marginalised women and provide them with practical ways to address legal challenges and conflict factors in a proactive, cooperative and non-violent way.

The programme develops monitoring, service delivery, and public engagement capacities of an important legal aid NGO, and key media institutions. Programme activities are being implemented in close partnership with Asosiasaun Advogadu Timor-Leste (AATL), the Timor-Leste Media Development Centre (TLMDC), Radio Timor-Leste (RTL), and 15 community radio stations, ensuring widespread dissemination. By supporting local CSOs, SFCG is investing in Timor-Leste’s future.

All programme activities are conducted in close coordination with the Offices of the President and Prime Minister, Ministries of Justice, and Social Solidarity, Secretariats of State, and other relevant stakeholders, including Norwegian Government representatives and partners, to serve as focal points for dissemination, learning and monitoring.

2. COUNTRY CONTEXT

Over the past few years, Timor-Leste has struggled to put in place a system of participatory democracy governed by the rule of law. The predomination of customary law (adat) throughout the districts means that people often turn to traditional forms of dispute resolution rather than bringing their case to the state judicial system. Due in part to the patriarchal nature of Timorese society, the traditional justice system often fails to deliver justice to vulnerable groups such as women and youth, and as a result they live in an atmosphere of fear, violence, and intimidation. The ability of women to access the formal justice systems of Timor-Leste is further limited by a lack of education, a lack of information on the laws, economic dependence on the men of the family, and an overall lack of family support.¹

¹ JSMP (2010) ‘Overview of the Justice Sector in Timor-Leste’ p. 17
<http://www.jsmp.minihub.org/English/webpage/publica/2011/Mar/Overview%20of%20Justice%20Sector%20Report%202010%20Englishusliu.pdf>

2.1 LEGAL MECHANISMS IN TIMOR-LESTE

The judicial system of Timor-Leste can be described as a hybrid system that consists of formal judiciary institutions that deal with serious offences, and customary, or traditional legal processes, which handle most disputes that arise within local communities.²

The formal justice system in Timor-Leste is a civil law system based on three sources of law: the Constitution, International law, and National law, as developed by the National Parliament and the Ministry of Justice. The judicial institutions that enforce these laws are comprised of 4 courts, based in Dili, Oecusse, Suai and Baucau, in addition to the Public Prosecution Service, the Public Defenders Office, and private lawyers.

The traditional, customary law, or 'adat' processes, are localised and place an emphasis on the family and collective justice, which helps to maintain stability and unity within the community. Disputes are raised with a family leader and brought up from the leaders of aldeia (hamlet) to the village leader (Chefe de Suco) until a resolution is reached. Punishment is at the discretion of community members but most often takes the form of payment of compensation, and is enforced by social sanctions and ceremonial traditions. Local justice mechanisms handle almost all disputes that arise within communities, such as theft, domestic violence, physical sexual assaults, paternity, divorce, property ownership and damage, and land usage³. It is often only when a matter cannot be resolved through customary law that it is brought to the formal legal channels.

The two justice systems work together, in that people can choose to use the most promising system for their complaint. But in this unregulated interaction between the formal and traditional justice systems, women often lose out as they are sent back and forth between systems.⁴

A 2008 survey by the Asia Foundation found that the majority of Timorese are more confident that they will be treated fairly by local justice systems, and feel more comfortable bringing disputes to local justice administrators⁵.

2.2 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN LEGISLATION

The past few years have seen several developments in terms of laws passed under the formal justice system of Timor-Leste.

Domestic Violence

In May 2010, a Domestic Violence Law was promulgated, making domestic violence a public crime, which means that the course must issue a decision and a punishment, even if the victim and the defendant reach an agreement⁶. No longer a crime on complaint (semi-public crime) that can only be reported by the victim, the crime of domestic violence under the new law includes all forms of physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence. Importantly, the law also explicitly states that victims of domestic violence have the right to legal assistance, and places an obligation on the government to establish a network of support centres to provide assistance, shelter and counselling for victims.⁷

Civil Code

² Asia Foundation 2008 Law and Justice Survey, p.8

³ Asia Foundation Law Justice Survey 2008

⁴ UNDP Justice System Programme (2011) *Approaches to Domestic Violence in Timor-Leste: A Review and Critique* p.32

⁵ The Asia Foundation 2008 Law Justice Survey

⁶ JSMP (2010) *Overview of the Justice Sector in Timor-Leste* p.12

⁷ Law No. 7/2010 of 7 of July, Law Against Domestic Violence, Art. 15(1)

The Civil Code was promulgated in August 2011, and sets out the legal relationship between one person and another, covering contracts and obligations, property and land rights, family rights, and inheritance rights.⁸

Juvenile Justice

The Penal Code of Timor-Leste provides both that minors under the age of 16 are exempt from criminal liability, and that the law shall provide for specific procedures for young offenders between the ages of 16 and 21.⁹ However, the Juvenile Justice law is currently still in draft form, and at present there is no specific legislation that deals with young offenders.

This means that offenders between the ages of 16 and 18 may be kept in custody in detention centres alongside adults for up to 72 hours, and there are reports of young people being detained for excessive periods for minor offences. There are also no special courts for juveniles, nor are there specifically trained juvenile judges.¹⁰

The draft law is two fold. The Juvenile Justice Law concerns the disciplinary and rehabilitative measures to be taken with children (age 12-16), who are criminally imputable. The Special Regime for Young Adults provides special penalties for children who are criminally imputable (16-18) and young adults (18 to 21).¹¹

As of February 2012 the law was still being analysed at the Ministry of Labour and Solidarity. It will need to pass through the Ministry of Justice and the Council of Ministers before going on to be debated in the National Parliament and eventually being promulgated by the President of the Republic.¹²

Land Law

A new land law was approved by Parliament in February 2012 that would allow authorities to grant titles for uncontested land; create a system for resolving land disputes; and recognize communal land as a legal category.¹³ However, it was vetoed by President Horta in March 2012, and is therefore still under construction.¹⁴

Labour Law

A new labour law guaranteeing the rights of workers was promulgated in February 2012 and came into force in June 2012. The law sets the minimum wage at \$115 a month.

Despite these significant developments in the legislation concerning these issues, a lack of socialization at the common level means that most still turn to traditional justice mechanisms to have their grievances redressed. While traditional justice mechanisms offer a localised, timely resolution to a dispute, due to the emphasis on collective justice, and the patriarchal nature of Timorese culture, justice is often not delivered for women and marginalized groups.¹⁵

⁸ JSMP Overview of the Justice Sector, 2010 and 2011

⁹ RDTL Penal Code, Art 20

¹⁰ Hall, Erica, Hamilton, Carolyn and Styles-Power, Chris. (2008) "The Vulnerable Persons Unit in Timor-Leste: An Independent Assessment of its Role and Function." UNICEF Timor-Leste Technical Paper Series.

¹¹ JSMP Submission to the Ministry of Justice on the Draft Juvenile Justice Law, May 2010.

¹² <http://www.thediliweekly.com/en/news/childreneyouth/889-esbosu-lei-justisa-juvenil-sei-iha-mss>

¹³ <http://www.economist.com/node/21554255>

¹⁴ <http://easttimorlegal.blogspot.com/2012/03/president-horta-sends-land-law-back-to.html?spref=bl>

¹⁵ Swaine, A. (2003): Traditional Justice and Gender-based Violence. International Rescue Committee Research Report

3. PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The current project seeks to increase the potential for women to use the formal justice system by disseminating information concerning individual rights, the current state of laws and the different legal avenues available, and by expanding the referral pathways that enhance the ability of women to pursue these legal avenues. The project focuses on several key thematic areas: land rights, labour rights, combating violence against women and children, abortion, juvenile justice, and property and inheritance rights.

The specific objectives of the project are as follows:

- To increase public awareness of basic rights to seek legal remedies to legitimate grievances; that is, to increase public knowledge and change public perceptions and attitudes regarding the workings of the Timorese judicial system
- To support the creation of referral pathways for Timorese women to access legal advice
- To enhance the capacity and sustainability of Timorese CSOs to play a more active role in justice, women's rights and peace building processes.

The activities are being implemented over a period of two years with a total budget of NOK 1,999865.

4. SUMMARY OF MAIN ACTIONS

4.1 STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Prior to the baseline assessment, SFCG conducted a number of meetings with stakeholders, specifically civil society organisations working in the sector of women's empowerment and/or access to justice. The objective of the stakeholder meetings was to get a better understanding of the current context for women in Timor-Leste and learn about what was already being done to address women's issues. The focus of the discussion revolved around how SFCG and this project would complement and contribute to the ongoing projects that address women's rights. The meetings included the Justice System Monitoring Program (JSMP), the Asia Foundation, Rede Fecto ('Women's Network on Timor-Leste'), UNDP, Alola Foundation, and Justice Facility. SFCG also met with relevant government authorities, including the Ministry of Justice.

4.2. BASELINE ASSESSMENT

The baseline methodology was designed in order to understand the degree of knowledge about legal issues and the issues most important to women and young people, as well as the current attitudes towards justice institutions, conflict, and the role of marginalised groups in building peace across Timor-Leste. The baseline was conducted in six out of the thirteen districts where this project is being implemented: Dili, Baucau, Viqueque, Bobonaro, Cova Lima, and Oecusse. The districts were selected by the SFCG baseline team, based on geographical location in order to obtain a wide spread geographically, as well as a mix of cities and rural areas. Districts were chosen according to the following factors: border with West Timor, courts or no courts, high incidence of domestic violence.

The baseline team was composed of SFCG staff members Zevonia Veira, Sophie de Selliers, Jose de Souza, Egas Ximines, Joao da Costa, Longuinhos Leite, Gaspar Freitas, and Sarah McLaughlin.

A short literature review of the methodology from existing Access to Justice projects in Timor-Leste, as well as existing SFCG projects, was conducted to inform the design of the data collection tools. Sources such as The Asia Foundation's 2008 Law and Justice Survey, and SFCG's Baseline Report on Radicalisation in Indonesian Pesantrens were consulted. Based on the research findings, project objectives and project indicators, the baseline team decided to implement a mix-methods data collection strategy. The three tools that were developed were: (1) Surveys that were distributed amongst a random sample of the population in

each of the six districts, (2) Focus Groups discussions for youth (15-25) and women, and (3) Key Informant Interviews with stakeholders.

4.2.1 Surveys

The surveys aimed to measure the degree of knowledge regarding the laws of Timor-Leste, and attitudes towards justice mechanisms, conflict, and individual human rights. There were also a series of questions designed to determine how people accessed information about the law and their confidence levels in different sources of information.

A sample size calculator was used to calculate a sample size per district that would be statistically representative of the population. However, the sample size and distribution was limited by the difficulties of finding people within rural settings, and/or not having enough resources to stay in one particular location for a longer amount of time. The surveys took a significant amount of time to complete, and due to varying literacy rates and dialect required the guidance of SFCG staff throughout completion. Obtaining a sizeable population required the baseline staff to distribute the survey to groups of people at one time; for this reason, surveys were distributed to members of the focus group discussions and in classrooms of secondary school students, and therefore the results presented below are not representative of the population and cannot be generalized. Rather, they can serve as a snapshot of the views of individuals living in the various districts and sub-districts.

Surveys were distributed to 373 people throughout the six districts, of which 217 were men and 156 were women. 64% of those surveyed were between the age of 14 and 23, 17% were 24-29 years, 9% were 30-40 years and 10% were above the age of 40. The large percentage of young people surveyed is representative of the population of Timor-Leste, in which almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of the population are under 30; however, the fact that several of the samples were taken from large classrooms of students of similar backgrounds and education levels means that there is a risk of homogeneity of opinions. This could be magnified by the possibility that students in a classroom environment may have consulted with each other when filling out the survey. The breakdown of surveys by district/sub-district and gender are as follows:

District	Sub-District	Male	Female	Total	Grand Total for District
Bobonaro	Maliana	5	10	15	32
	Balibo	4	13	17	
Baucau	Venilale	31	34	65	65
Oecusse	Pante-Macassar	38	31	69	82
	Bobometo	3	10	13	
Dili	Dili	15	35	50	53
	Atauro	2	1	3	
Cova Lima	Suai	35	35	70	70
Viqueque	Viqueque	9	35	44	71
	Ossue	14	13	27	
	Total Surveyed:	156	217	373	

4.2.2 Focus Group Discussions

The Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were designed to engage with the women and youth and ask them their thoughts on the formal and traditional legal mechanisms, individual rights and legal problems, and gauge their knowledge of the law. While the women's group consisted of women of all ages, a strong effort was made to ensure that the group was only women, in order to provide an environment in which they felt safe to speak. However, due to reasons that are mentioned in the individual district analysis, this was not always possible. The youth group consisted of both men and women between the ages of 15-25.

The discussions commenced by having the group make a list of the legal issues most prevalent to them within their district, and proceeded to discuss the various challenges they face in accessing the formal justice system, how they access information on the law, and their ideas on how to resolve the problems they face and better uphold their individual rights. A set of pre-identified set of questions was used as the framework for the FGD, but additional questions were asked depending on the direction of the discussion. There were two FGD's, one women group and one youth group, per district visited for the baseline survey (a total of 12).

4.2.3 Key Informant Interviews

The key informant interviews were designed to gain in-depth information from key stakeholders about the challenges faced by women in accessing the formal justice systems, and how they can be better equipped to improve this access. A number of KIIs were conducted in the targeted districts with key stakeholders who are directly involved in women's issues and legal issues, decision-makers, including the Chefe de Suco, Secretaries of Suco Councils, police officers from the Vulnerable Persons Unit (VPU), field staff of women's organizations, health workers (ex - midwives), and youth leaders.

4.2.4 Summary of Findings

Rights

Overall, the majority of respondents stated that they were familiar with their rights, including those outlined in the Constitution. Furthermore, the vast majority of the respondents (80% or higher) agreed that women and men have the same rights in the family, the workplace, and in politics. These results were quite surprising and may be a result of incorrect translation from English to Tetun. Yet, when respondents were asked more specific questions regarding rights as they relate to the 'adat' system, 41% of the respondents stated that they didn't agree that women should lead the 'adat' process. Additionally, only 52% of respondents agreed that women have the right to inherit land.

Overall, nearly 84% of respondents always agreed or sometimes agreed that it ok for a husband to use violence against their wife. In reference to specific questions around domestic violence, nearly 100% of respondents agreed that it is justified because men are the head of the family. Additionally, 92% of respondents always agreed or sometimes agreed that it is justified because the husband's family pays barlaque (dowry paid to the bride's parents). It must be noted that more women than men answered either always or sometimes regarding the justification of domestic violence. For example, when asked if it is ok to use violence against their wife, 63% of those who always agreed with the statement were women and 37% were men. These findings are important to note in moving forward with the project as it reflects the need to build their confidence along with the understanding that violence is never acceptable.

Access to Information

The purpose of these questions in the survey was to get a better understanding of how people access information and the barriers to information related to legal rights and access to justice. The number one source of information for the respondents was radio, followed closely by television and newspapers/magazines. The majority of respondents are confident in regards to the information received about the law via radio, television and newspapers. Yet, the FGDs held contradicted these results since many participants were outspoken about the lack of knowledge and understanding about the law, esp. regards to socialization of the law. This was particularly emphasized in rural areas stating that media does not report

news that covers issues that are relevant to them. The difference between the responses in the survey and those from the FGDs is most likely a result of translation for surveys.

The overwhelming responses related to poor access to information raised the importance of effectively engaging the media in regards to women's issues and access to justice. Therefore, SFCG is proposing to hold two trainings related to gender and media for media professionals, including radio, television and print. The purpose of these trainings is to shift the way women's issues are reported in the media as well as increasing knowledge of the law among media professionals.

Formal and Informal Justice Mechanisms

A total of 74% were very confident or confident in using the traditional 'adat' system to resolve problems while only 67% were comfortable in using the traditional 'adat' system to resolve their issues. They also responded favorably regarding the likelihood of the traditional 'adat' system in resolving their issues to their satisfaction. On the whole, a higher percentage of women responded very confident or confident in comparison to men. Regarding the formal justice system, respondents stated that they were comfortable in using it to resolve it with a total of 74% stating very confident or confident. This is the exact same percentage of respondents regarding the traditional justice system. Yet, a slightly higher percentage (74%) was very confident or confident in using the formal justice system to resolve their issue to their satisfaction versus the traditional system. These results were surprising and contradicted what was stated in the FGDs and KIIs.

4.2.5 Conclusions

The baseline survey raised a number of issues and brought forth a number of questions regarding project design. It must be noted that the project was designed one year before it was funded and, therefore, changes in relation to women's empowerment and access to justice in Timor-Leste must be taken into consideration in moving forward with implementation of activities. And many of these changes became apparent while conducting the baseline assessment.

First, the lack of knowledge and understanding regarding the formal justice system and relevant laws at the local level is a significant problem that needs to be addressed in order to empower marginalized groups, specifically women, in understanding and accessing the justice sector. Though the survey reflected greater comprehension, all FGDs and KIIs highlighted the reality at the local level regarding large gaps in understanding new laws and how they translate in their daily lives.

Secondly, according to the surveys, a high percentage of women agreed with a number of statements regarding the justification of a husband using violence against his wife. The culture of violence that is prevalent in Timor-Leste is not just among men but also women. Therefore, the project needs to target both men and women in reference to creating shifts in how domestic violence is perceived. The 'Herstory' series will target such misperceptions using personal stories that are relatable.

Lastly, media has the ability to play a significant role in empowering marginalized groups and socializing the laws in such a way that individuals can make informed decisions about the formal justice system. Radio, in particular, was cited as the main source of information for many Timorese, especially in rural areas. Yet, marginalized groups, specifically women and youth, do not feel media outlets cover issues that are important to them. For marginalized groups to feel empowered, their needs and concerns must be highlighted in the media in a constructive and positive manner. Unfortunately, there are few stories and articles that focus on such issues largely due to the lack of training and capacity around how to present them in the media.

As a result, the major changes made to the project include:

- Additional activities with a focus on building the capacity of media professionals (radio, television and print) in gender and media
- Less focus on activities related to building the capacity of staff from AATL in key justice and conflict transformation competencies, because they are not active and lack presence in all 13 districts.
- Programming should reflect how culture is tied to the use of traditional justice systems.

The updated work plan, M&E plan, and log frame can be found in the annexes.

4.3 MEDIA MEETING

SFCG invited various media organisations, including print and radio, to discuss their needs for increasing capacity to cover women’s issues and their access to justice. The meeting was held on 13th July, and focused on how the media could become more active in understanding the law in Timor and promoting the rights of women.

4.4 CURRICULUM SUMMIT

The curriculum summit for Her Story brought together 22 Timorese men and women to discuss the design and production of the radio series. The radio project’s goal is to strengthen marginalized groups, particularly women, in understanding and accessing justice through sharing the experiences of Timorese men and women regarding women’s rights and issues. The summit went on for two days (24-25 July 2012), and was held at Yayasan HAK, Dili, Timor-Leste. The participants come from various backgrounds, including women NGO activists, researchers, journalists, community radio activists, and students. At the time the event took place a few media also covered the event, among others, from Timor Post, Voice of East Timor, and some radio stations. The purpose of the summit was to:



- Map the issues related to women’s access to justice systems in Timor-Leste
- Formulate general and specific objectives of types of changes to be achieved through “Her Story” (knowledge, attitudes and behaviour)
- Discuss the potential topics for Her Story
- Discuss the potential design of Her Story

In general, the implementation of this event was successful, and all scheduled activities were completed in a timely manner.

SUMMIT OUTCOMES

Based on the mapping done with the participants, it was agreed that there were 5 issues that drew public attention to women in Timor-Leste. The five main issues are: Domestic Violence, Divorce, Abortion, Land Rights and Child Labour. Participants noted that the fifth issue has not had much serious attention from the government and NGOs, and therefore the Timorese public would really benefit from increased awareness on the serious issue of child labour and trafficking.

In addition to the lack of understanding by law enforcement officials (such as judges, prosecutors, police) about women’s issues, the lack of access to educational information and weak law enforcement in Timor-Leste also contribute to the lack of the public’s, especially women’s access to the judicial system. Based on this understanding, the participants considered that the five aforementioned issues could be used as the main topics in the program Her Story.



Once the participants had mapped and outlined the current judicial problems for women in Timor-Leste, the discussion continued onto the obstacles and challenges these women face in accessing justice. The participants discussed the following obstacles and barriers:

a. Legal System

- There is a lack of law enforcement agencies that give priority to handling women's issues, and as a result, do not provide a guarantee of justice for women.

b. Access to information

- Women still face many obstacles and challenges in accessing information, particularly in access to print and electronic media. Distance and demographic factors also act as barriers for women to access information.

c. Culture

- The patriarchal culture in Timor is still very strong, and Timorese women continue to experience marginalization and their rights are overlooked.

d. Economy

- Dependence on men as the main breadwinner within the family has left many women without independence, as they are often lost in negotiating with male dominance.

e. Education

- Women do not have the same opportunities as men in accessing education services. Consequently, there is the capacity gap between men and women, so women tend to compete with men in public spaces).

The participants developed the general and specific objectives for the Her Story project. The **overall purpose** of Her Story is to increase knowledge and understanding of listeners about women's issues, and promote gender equality and access to justice in Timor-Leste. The **specific objectives** include:



Changes in Knowledge

- Listeners will have the knowledge and understanding of women's issues and gender equality
- Listeners will have the knowledge and understanding of the mechanisms for resolving issues through formal law and access to justice / formal justice

Changes in Attitude

- Listeners will believe about the equality of rights between men and women
- Listeners will believe that women have equal opportunities with men in all aspects of social life
- Listeners will believe it is important to support efforts to promote women's rights in society
- Listeners will also believe that women have the same responsibilities as men in decision-making
- Listeners will believe the importance of the settlement of cases involving women through the formal justice system

Behaviour Change

- Listeners will have the courage to reveal the facts and issues faced when subjected to actions that violate their rights
- Listeners will have the audacity to complain about the matter to the relevant parties if you have a violation of his rights
- Listeners will be networking, joining non-governmental organizations concerned with women's issues

The participants then discussed in detail the five topics and their relevance, and the design of the radio program. A consensus was made on the following:

- Format: Radio Feature-Interview, diary, music, pop folks, dahur-Art-spoken native of East
- Target Audience: 17 Year Service Top

- Languages: Tetun, positive language 'sensitive' gender (women are not made as a joke, but they are represented with equal dignity as men).
- Delivery time: 18:00 to 19:00

In concluding the summit, the participants agreed on the following next steps:

- Determine the team playwright for Her Story.
- The team will then start the work with in-depth study of the major issues of women in Timor-Leste. The results of this research study will be used for the writing of the manuscript Her Story.
- Posting the script Her Story with reference to the objectives, key issues of women, barriers and challenges in accessing justice and her story rundown topic.
- Writing the script needs to involve lawyers (legal expert) and an expert on women's issues who will function as a resource as well as a 'reviewer' from a script written before the 'voice over.' In particular, legal experts will be asked to review the contents of the law related to access to justice. Meanwhile, the expert on women's issues would be asked to review the script to ensure the writing is gender sensitive.



4.5 MEDIA TRAINING

From September 13 – 15, the SFCG-TL media team delivered a workshop for non-state actors and journalists from diverse regions on practices pertaining to Gender and Common Ground Approach. Here, the team led by Timor-Leste Media Officer Zevonia Vieira and Indonesia's Program Manager Agus Nahrowi, looked at issues ranging from the challenges women in Timor-Leste experience when trying to access the country's justice system - to the challenges local journalists encounter when endeavoring to cover gender-specific issues.



Facilitators also covered issues pertaining to women, peace and security and explored opportunities to build peace through media work. At the conclusion of this workshop, several of the women in attendance requested further follow-up trainings on women's human rights and on how to work more effectively within the media on gender-specific issues. This dialogue then expanded into a discussion of plans to develop a unique network of women journalists from all 13 districts in Timor-Leste where the group could come together, share experiences and undergo further capacity strengthening.

PRE AND POST TEST ANALYSIS

A pre- and post- test were conducted to measure the changes in knowledge and attitude of participants. Most participants showed some form of change based on their responses, specifically in terms of their understanding around the use of media to address and improve women's issues and resolve conflict. Based on the analysis of participants' pre- and post-test, we have found that more than 95 percent of participants declared that their level of knowledge on the following topics have increased:

- Understanding and knowledge about Gender

The most important thing I learned from the training is how the media and journalists such as me can help women access justice in Timor-Leste.

Participant from Gender and Common Ground Approach Training

- Understanding of the difference between 'position' and 'interest'
- Understanding conflict resolution styles (Accommodation, Competition, Avoidance, Collaboration and Compromise)
- Understanding of rumor management
- Understanding of the UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security
- Understanding of the Journalists' Code of Ethics
- Understanding of the social responsibility of the Media

In terms of skills, more than 95 percent of the participants also felt that their skills on the following topics had increased compared to their skill level before the training was conducted:

- Ability to mainstream gender in the workplace and in daily life
- Ability to apply 5 different conflict resolution styles (Accommodation, Competition, Avoidance, Collaboration and Compromise) to workplace practices and in daily life.
- Ability to recognize negative and positive rumors
- Ability to refer to women's human rights in their work as journalists
- Ability to base journalism work on the Journalists' Code of Ethics



From the pre- and post-test we also found that most participants believed that men and women should have equal rights and thus equal access to justice. Also, most participants agreed that women are treated unequally in the Media because of women's lack of opportunities, access to information for women regarding their rights, and because the media gives priority to men in terms of decision-making.

Most of the participants believe that black/negative rumors should not be used as source of news, since it will mislead the reader and could make the situation worse and confusing.

PARTICIPANTS FEEDBACK

Responding to the training, both in terms of content and structure, most of the participants said that they enjoyed many aspects of the training, including the discussion about gender, problem solving, conflict resolution styles (five method of dealing with conflict), games that used teamwork, problem solving, and communication. Participants were less enthusiastic about the lack of women's participation in the discussion, having too much time for break and no respect for the schedule, as well as the use of Bahasa Indonesia and English.

Participants believe that they will be able to use the lessons they learned/skills they developed in their daily activities and workplaces, particularly in terms of educating women about access to justice issues, as well as

In the future, I will use this method to advance coverage on the government's actions regarding women's issues and access to justice.

Participant from Gender and Common Ground Approach Training

improving how they perform their roles of reporting/presenting in their radio stations. Participants also stated that they would share this training with their friends. The most important skills that participants learned from the training were rumor management, how to use media and communication tools to increase women's access to justice, and how to solve conflict using the 5 conflict resolution styles.

Lastly, participants suggested that SFCG could provide more training on gender sensitivity within the Media industry. The training should also involve rural women, women's networks, and senior media management.

4.6 PRODUCTION OF 'HER STORY'

Production for the 15-episode radio series Her Story began in October. The media team will travel out into the districts and meet with men and women who will be portrayed in the series. The episodes will be broadcast beginning in February 2013 with one episode a week. Three episodes will be dedicated to each topic. David Hugo from Radio Timor-Leste has joined the SFCG team for the next few months to assist with the production process. In mid-October, the SFCG travelled to the district of Suai to begin interviewing participants. These included women who were victims of domestic violence, divorce and sex work.

5. LIMITATIONS AND CHALLENGES

During the first year of the project, SFCG experienced certain structural and cultural challenges limiting its capacity in terms of training and engagement with local communities. In this regard SFCG took certain steps to resolve these issues successfully and find ways to remedy others in a sustainable and principled manner. These challenges included:

- **Patriarchal Traditional Culture:** SFCG often found in the baseline focus groups discussions, participants used traditional culture as an excuse or reason for their lack of access to the formal judicial system. For example, in Baucau, the female participants wanted to speak out about certain problems the community was facing, but male participants were reluctant to hear the women speaking, citing culture. They explained that due to the role of barlaque, the women were not allowed to participate as much in community discussions. Participants in other focus groups explained that culture was the reason why they use the traditional justice system, and view the formal justice system and law as the outsider. In order to address the prevalence of gender inequality among both women and men, this project is targeting both men and women, and specifically including both in the Her Story radio series to make it relatable to all listeners.
- **Participant Engagement:** During the Curriculum Summit for Her Story, participants weren't as active as hoped. They weren't completely interested in discussing women's issues, but were more concerned with addressing political and economic issues. There was also often a difference of opinion between the participants and facilitators. SFCG continued to emphasize the importance of women's issues as a national and local priority, but it was clear that culture was a major factor towards the general attitude towards the significance of women's issues.
- **Baseline Assessment Timeline:** The timeline for most activities, including the baseline FGDs, was quite limited. For the baseline assessment, there was not enough time to go to very rural and remote areas, instead given the time limitations, the assessment was focused mainly on the sub-district level. This limitation could have caused a prejudice in the data collected, which doesn't represent an accurate, fair assessment of the demographics at the rural, sub-district and district levels. In certain districts such as Oecussi, the time for dialogue and discussion was further limited by the need to translate everything from Tetun into the local dialect, and then back again. To avoid such limitations in the next year, SFCG will manage its time realistically to get optimal outcomes.
- **Training of Reporters:** The transience of reporters working at the community radio has proved problematic. New training has been required every time a new reporter started and another left, so there were continual interruptions with SFCG's plans in the radio production of Her story.

6. NEXT STEPS

Moving forward into the next year SFCG will be under taking the following activities:

- The production of Her Story will be completed and episodes will be broadcasted beginning in February 2013.
- Focus Group Discussions will continue, specifically during and after the broadcast of Her Story for feedback from communities.
- SFCG will conduct a follow-up meeting with stakeholders in January with focus on feedback from listening groups.
- There will be follow-up media trainings for those journalists and activists who expressed interest with a specific focus on how women are represented in the media in Timor-Leste.
- A women journalists' network will be created for those interested, specifically those who expressed interest at the media training, and will receive support from SFCG in holding monthly meetings and discussing and disseminating ideas.
- A policy brief will be assembled based on recommendations gathered from the aforementioned activities and presented to the Timorese government at the conclusion of the second year.