Training on Gender Equity and Violence Prevention
Agenda

• Introduction
• Pre-test
• Prevalence of violence in Timor-Leste
• Common myths about violence against women
• Understanding the root cause of violence against women
• A model for prevention of violence
• Victim-blaming
• Evaluation
How common is violence against women in Timor-Leste?
Overall, three out of five (59%) ever-partnered women have been physically and/or sexually abused by their male partner (husband or boyfriend) in their life.
How does this compare?

WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, 2016
UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Region
Non-partner rape

- 14% of women were ever raped by a man who was not their partner, and 10% in the past year.
- 3% of women were ever gang raped.
Any rape

- Most rape, however, occurs within intimate relationships.
Common myths about violence against women in Timor-Leste
Where does violence occur?

- Violence against women occurs in every country in the world.
What types of violence do women experience at home?

- There are multiple forms of violence against women and usually these overlap.
  - Sexual violence
  - Physical violence
  - Emotional violence
  - Economic violence
How frequent are women’s experiences of violence in Timor-Leste?

In Timor-Leste, most women who have been abused by their husband or partner said that this abuse had occurred 3 times or more. 81% 

- 5% Once
- 14% 2-3 times
- 81% 3 or more times
Is violence against women more common in rural or urban areas?

- Violence against women occurs in all parts of Timor-Leste but it is most common in urban areas.
Do poor women experience more violence?

- Women who earned a cash income were **significantly more** likely to experience violence, than women who didn’t earn cash.

- DHS: Women in families with better economic situations have a higher probability of experiencing violence.

![Bar chart showing lifetime and past 12 months prevalence of violence for women who earn cash and those who don't.](chart.png)
• Sexual assault and harassment occur because some men decide to do it.
• Commenting on the victim’s clothes places blame on her and removes his responsibility...but what was she wearing?
When the victim is a child

- Due to the process of children’s psychological development, they can’t decide whether to marry or have sex.
- All adults have a responsibility to protect child rights.
- Sex between a child (below 14) and an adult is always rape.
- A girl and a boy cannot be married before they are both 17 (or before 16, with parental approval).
How should cases of sexual assault be resolved?

• Rape and sexual assault are public crimes and, therefore, must be reported to police.
• If the family or community encourage the victim to marry the perpetrator, this increases her risk.
Who perpetrates rape?

- Male intimate partners (husbands or boyfriends) are the main perpetrators of rape.
- Usually women know the perpetrator (father or other family member, friend, neighbour)
What does ‘public crime’ mean?

• A ‘public crime’ is a crime that anyone can report to police.

• A ‘public crime’ can happen in the home, at school, at church, in public, anywhere.
What consequences do men experience after perpetrating rape?

• Most men who perpetrate rape never experience any legal consequences.
Do all men use violence?

- Many men do not use violence against women
Is violence preventable?

• Violence against women is not something natural – this means that it is possible to prevent.
The primary cause of violence against women is gender inequality.

Violence against women is violence that a woman experiences because she is a woman.

Women experience significantly more violence from men than men experience from women.
Power Walk
What is the cause of violence against women?
Violent act
Forcing a woman to have sex

Unwanted sexual touching

Intimidating

Insulting

Shaming

Preventing a woman from working

Kicking

Pushing

Punching

Slapping

Pulling hair

Controlling

Having sex with a woman when she is too drunk or drugged to say no

Physical violence

Emotional violence

Sexual violence

Economic violence
Factors that contribute to violence

Violent act

Cause
Factors that contribute to violence

- alcohol
- drugs
- arguing
- stress
- financial problems
- anger
- victim's behaviour
Factors that contribute to violence
Factors that contribute to violence
Inequality between women and men

Cause
Community attitudes

Other people’s silence or inaction

Social environment
Community attitudes

- Men need to be aggressive
- Victim-blaming
- Other people's silence or inaction
- Jokes about women
- Justifying violence

Social environment
How can we better understand violence against women?
Ecological model to understand violence against women

INEQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

- Societal/Institutional
- Community
- Family
- Individual
Ecological model to understand violence against women

Individual: dominant masculinity and subordinate femininity

Images from:
Ecological model to understand violence against women

Family: lack of family support, housework, expectations, children

Images from:
Ecological model to understand violence against women

Community: inequitable practices and norms

Images from:
Ecological model to understand violence against women

Societal/Institutional: discriminative laws and policies
How can we better understand how to prevent violence against women?
Using the Ecological Model to understand prevention

- Individual
- Family
- Community
- Societal/
  Institutional

Equality between men and women
What can you, as an individual, do to prevent violence against women?
What can you, as a member of a family, do to prevent violence against women?

- Individual
- Family
- Community
- Societal/Institutional
What can you, as a community member, do to prevent violence against women?

- Individual
- Family
- Community
- Societal/Institutional
What can you, as a member of a society or a citizen of a country, do to prevent violence against women?

- Individual
- Family
- Community
- Societal/Institutional
How are the words we use important?
Example: Sika and Paulino
Example: Sika and Paulino

- “Paulino beat Sika.”

- Who is at fault?
Example: Sika and Paulino

- “Sika was beaten by Paulino.”

- Who is at fault?
Example: Sika and Paulino

- “Sika was beaten.”

- Who is at fault?
Example: Sika and Paulino

- “Sika is a battered woman.”

- Who is at fault?
Example: Sika and Paulino

Sika must have provoked Paulino to beat her.

Mana Sika deserved to be beaten.

Sika has brought so many problems to our community.

Next time she should just be quiet.

*Sé mak sala?*
Sika must have provoked Paulino to beat her.

Yeah. Actually, my wife always provokes me to use violence too.

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT in which victims are responsible for violence, not perpetrators.

Women need to control their emotions to avoid being beaten.
Maun Paulino was wrong to use violence against Mana Sika.

Yeah. Real men don’t beat women.

Men have a responsibility to respect women and children.

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT where perpetrators are responsible for violence but all are responsible for prevention.
"Jose beat his wife, Maria, because Maria repeatedly asked Jose to wash the dishes and cook."
Go outside to calm down

Breathe deeply

Speak calmly to Maria

Try to understand Maria’s perspective

Use violence

Help Maria cook and wash dishes
Gender inequality

Childhood experiences of abuse

- Insults
- Anger
- Arguing
- Beating
- Stress
- Repeatedly asking

Norms about women and men’s gender roles in the home

Social norm that men should control women
Social acceptance of violence

Making fun of men who wash dishes

Other people’s silence or inaction

Victim-blaming

Childhood experiences of abuse

Insults

Anger

Arguments

Stress

Repeatedly asking

Gender inequality

Norms about women and men’s gender roles in the home

Social norm that men should control women
“Jose beat his wife, Maria, because Maria repeatedly asked Jose to wash the dishes and cook.”

- Who is the perpetrator?
- If using this phrase, who is responsible for the violence?
- What type of social environment does this phrase support?
- If Maria asks Jose to cook and wash dishes, is that justification for him to beat her?
- Is there another way to write this phrase?
“Maria repeatedly asked Jose to cook and wash the dishes but Jose didn’t want to help her. This time when she asked, Jose beat her.”

“Maria asked Jose to wash the dishes and cook but Jose didn’t want to and he beat Maria.”

“Jose beat Maria.”

- Who is the perpetrator?
- If using this phrase, who is responsible for the violence?
“This physical violence occurred because the husband was suspicious that his wife was having an affair with another man.”
“This physical violence occurred because the husband was suspicious that his wife was having an affair with another man.”

- Who is at fault?
“The husband used physical violence against his wife.”

• Who is at fault?
What else can you do?

• If you hear or see someone you know blaming a victim of violence, for example by asking, ‘What was she wearing?’ or by saying ‘Well, she shouldn’t have burnt the food,’ tell them that those kinds of attitudes contribute to a society that excuses violence against women.

• Remind them that the person responsible for violent actions is the perpetrator, not the victim. We, as members of a community, also have the responsibility to stand up against violence.
Small group discussion
Small group discussion

Group 1: “Violence against women happens because of the Internet and social media, like Facebook.”

- Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
- According to this statement, what causes violence? Do you think that this is really the cause of violence, or is it a contributing factor, or neither?
- If you hear a colleague, friend, or workshop participant make this statement, what can you do?

Group 2: “Women need to be patient so as not to provoke men into beating them.”

- Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
- According to this statement, who is at fault/who is responsible for the violence?
- If you hear a colleague, friend, or workshop participant make this statement, what can you do?

Group 3: “Sexual violence occurs because young women go out to drink and hang out at discos.”

- Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
- According to this statement, who is at fault/who is responsible for the violence?
- If you hear a colleague, friend, or workshop participant make this statement, what can you do?
Small group discussion

**Group 4:** “Men can’t control their behavior. To prevent sexual assault or harassment, women need to wear clothes that cover their bodies more.”

• *Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?*

• *According to this statement, who is at fault/who is responsible for the violence?*

• *If you hear a colleague, friend, or workshop participant make this statement, what can you do?*

**Group 5:** “If a man beats his wife but there is no blood, then this isn’t a public crime and there is no need to report it to the police.”

• *Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?*

• *What is the potential impact of this statement?*

• *If you hear a colleague, friend, or workshop participant make this statement, what can you do?*

**Group 6:** “The 14 year-old girl said that she wanted to have sex with the 20 year-old man because she loves him and has agreed to marry him, so that’s not violence.”

• *Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?*

• *According to this statement, who is at fault/who is responsible for the violence?*

• *If you hear a colleague, friend, or workshop participant make this statement, what can you do?*
Key points

• There is a difference between the cause of violence and contributing factors
• The root cause of violence against women is always gender inequality
• Using violence against a woman is a decision that some men make
• The words that we use are important and impactful
Key points

• Through the way that we communicate we can contribute to gender inequality and subordination of women: factors that cause violence against women.

• But we can also change the way we communicate in order to promote equality and respect: factors that can prevent violence against women.
Obrigadu barak