The *Nabilan* Prevention Toolkit

FACT SHEET 1. BEST PRACTICE IN PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Global research and evaluation in the area of preventing violence against women over the last 20 years has found which approaches **are** effective and which **are not**. This fact sheet summarises the key components of effective and ineffective violence prevention approaches in the Timor-Leste context.

An effective approach:

- ✓ Is led by Timorese;

- ✓ Works with all levels of Timorese society, with men and women;

- ✓ Takes into account the Timor-Leste context and culture;

- ✓ Recognises unequal gender relations as the root cause of violence against women and considers the associated risk factors (see Fact Sheet 4);

- ✓ Challenges society's acceptance of violence against women and children in Timor-Leste;

- ✓ Analyses the link between gender and power and is grounded in feminist theory;

- ✓ Critically reflects on masculinity in Timor-Leste;

- ✓ Builds leadership in communities, organisations, institutions and the private sector to drive social change;

- ✓ Builds on what is already happening and is working;

- ✓ Is guided and led by local communities;

- ✓ Is developed based on local data and evidence, and is grounded in theory;

- ✓ Helps Timorese believe that violence is preventable;

- ✓ Uses a positive approach that focuses on the benefits, for everyone, of non-violence;

- ✓ Encourages people to actively participate and think critically about their own attitudes and behaviours;

- ✓ Empowers and provides opportunities to women;

- ✓ Engages and holds men accountable;

- ✓ Links with the Referral Network to strengthen the response from legal and support services;

- ✓ Timor-Leste Government supports, funds, and takes part in this social change;

- ✓ Considers additional factors associated with violence, including women's age, income, and disability status.

An ineffective approach:

- ✖ Is stuck in cycles of short term, poorly planned, one-off awareness raising activities;

- ✖ Provides communities with basic training, facts and information on violence against women and the law, with no skills building follow up;

- ✖ Focuses on change aimed only at specific groups in isolation;

- ✖ Blames victims' behaviour for the violence;

- ✖ Addresses violence as an isolated incident, and ignores the associations with other factors;

- ✖ Uses a negative approach that blames and shames, and that focuses on punishment;

- ✖ Lacks local community and cultural knowledge;

- ✖ Lacks a deep understanding of local social norms;

- ✖ Is not grounded in any feminist critical analysis;

- ✖ Is expert-led;

- ✖ Takes action without collective analysis;

- ✖ Is run by specific organisations only, without collaboration with others;

- ✖ Programs are determined by competition for funding;

- ✖ Focuses on individual behaviour change rather than change in the whole of community.

(Michau et al 2015, Neville 2015, Heise 2011, Jewkes 2014, Temmerman 2014, Ellsberg 2014).