

Nabilan



Women and children in Timor-Leste enjoy gender equality and live free from violence



The Asia Foundation

www.nabilan.org



Nabilan

Women and children in Timor-Leste enjoy gender equality and live free from violence

- Engagement with Government
- Collaboration with feminist activists and movements
- CSO Technical Accompaniment

The Nabilan Program

The Nabilan Program is a long-term Ending Violence Against Women and Children (EVAWC) Program, funded by the Australian Government and implemented by The Asia Foundation in Timor-Leste, in collaboration with the Government of Timor-Leste, specifically the Ministry for Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) and the Secretary of State for Equality (SEI). Phases I and II of the Program ran from 2014 to 2022 and Phase III of the Program will run for four years from July 2022 to June 2026. The Phase III program budget is AU\$20.5 million dollars over four years. The Nabilan Program is aligned closely with government policies on preventing and responding to VAWC.

Context

Timor-Leste has some of the highest rates of violence against women globally. The Nabilan Baseline Prevalence Survey conducted in 2015 showed that:

59% of ever-partnered women experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime.

Women who had been sexually abused during childhood were almost three and a half times more likely to experience intimate partner violence in adulthood, and those who had experienced physical violence were almost two and half times more likely to be abused by an intimate partner. Men who had been physically abused as children were more than twice as likely to perpetrate violence against an intimate partner as adults and those who had experienced sexual violence nearly twice as likely.

Women and men who believed that in some circumstances a man is justified in hitting his wife are more than two and a half times more likely to perpetrate or experience intimate partner violence compared with men and women who do not share this belief.

The Nabilan Program employs an evidence-based and best-practice approach to ending violence against women and children in Timor-Leste. The Program combines violence prevention programs with support for essential services. This is a best-practice approach that continues to be effective and appropriate in the Timor-Leste context.

Program Goal and Pillars

The goal of Phase III of the Nabilan Program is that “Women and children in Timor-Leste enjoy gender equality and live free from violence”. Phase III has two pillars: Services and Prevention. Under its **Services Pillar**, Nabilan provides core funding and technical support to non-government organization (NGO) partners who are providing shelter, safe house, legal and counselling



support to survivors of violence. These include PRADET, Fokupers, ALFeLa and CEF-UMS (Centro Esperansa Feto-Uma Mahon Salele). Nabilan also provides funding to the Judicial System Monitoring Program (JSMP) for judicial system monitoring and advocacy. Under the Prevention Pillar, Nabilan is funding NGO partners to implement prevention programs including FMDC (radio programs), CODIVA (LGBTI advocacy and training), PRADET (KOKOSA! violence prevention program), Estrela+ (NeNaMu violence prevention program), HDS and HAMNASA (positive parenting programs, in the context of an increased focus on violence against children as a key driver for violence against women later in life). Nabilan also implements a grassroots

feminist leadership initiative, Sisters Empowering Each Other (BAHM). The structure of Nabilan Phase III reflects the goal and pillars of the Timor-Leste National Action Plan Against Gender-Based Violence (NAP-GBV) 2022 – 2032.

Engagement

The Nabilan Program works closely with government, providing technical advice and advocacy to both MSSI and SEI. The Program supported SEI in the development of the NAP-GBV 2022-2032 and continues to support SEI with ongoing socialization of the NAP. Nabilan provides technical support to MSSI for development of Standard Operating Procedures and policies relevant to VAWC. Nabilan continues to engage closely with civil society organisations, with an intensified emphasis in Phase III on supporting local feminist movements.

Sustainability

Phase III of the program aims to embed a sustainable approach, ensuring that when the program ends, Timor-Leste has improved systems for preventing and responding to violence against women and children, and that there are highly skilled Timorese practitioners and activists to do this work. This is being achieved through technical and operational funding of civil society partners as well as technical support for the work of MSSI and SEI, and through building up a locally trained workforce. Nabilan runs the Certificate III in Social Services for which there are now almost 100 alumni, and has been supporting the development of the Social Services Alumni Association.

Nabilan Principles

Throughout Phase III, the Nabilan Program will be guided by the following principles:

- Do No Harm
- Inclusion and Intersectionality
- Accountability to women and children
- Values-informed
- Self-care
- Evidence-based
- Based on a gender-power analysis
- Collaboration