



**nabilan**  
hopara violéncia kontra fetu

***The Nabilan Program:  
Innovations and  
challenges in ending  
violence against  
women in Timor-  
Leste***

Xian Warner

SVRI Forum

15<sup>th</sup> September 2015

**Australian  
Aid** 



The Asia Foundation

# Timor-Leste Context



# Timor-Leste Context

- Post-conflict setting, history of colonization, occupation, and displacement
- Normalisation of violence
- Half of the population living below the poverty line
- Literacy: 50%
- Predominantly Catholic
- 2010 Law against Domestic Violence.
- *2009-2010 Timor-Leste DHS*: 39.2% women have experienced physical or sexual violence since the age of 15.

# *Nabilan* Program: Baseline

- The *Nabilan* Program aims to **reduce the proportion of women who experience violence, and improve well-being for women and children affected by violence.**
- Lack of recent reliable data on prevalence and perpetration rates of violence against women for Timor-Leste.
- Combined methodology: WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women, and UN Multi-country Study on Men and Violence.

# Challenges: Language

- Tetum, Portuguese, and Bahasa Indonesia, as well as 26 indigenous languages
- Maintaining adherence to international methodology while ensuring widespread comprehension
- Questions phrased in first-person and hypotheticals didn't work
- Limited numeracy



# Challenges: Size

- Logistical challenges
  - Poor road quality or lack of roads
- Confidentiality
  - Intricate family and social networks, everyone knows everyone
  - Communication of study to other communities, news travels quickly
  - Difficulty in finding private spaces
- Large families
  - Time constraints on female respondents
- Survey fatigue, distrust of NGOs



# Challenges: Statistical data

- Nationally-representative sample
- Communicating methodology and findings to local stakeholders
- Inconsistent numbers of households in EAs
- Lack of up-to-date maps and household lists



# Challenges: Enumerator perceptions

- High tolerance and normalisation of violence
- Urban/rural divisions: perceptions of Dili-based enumerators of rural populations
- Catholicism underpinning assumptions about relationships, right and wrong
- Traditional beliefs: *koki*



# Opportunities: the *Nabilan* Program

- Eight-year timeline
- Transition to local management
- Multi-sectoral, working through local government and non-government partners.
- Working across the ecological model
- Supporting activities including shelters, court monitoring, and men's behaviour change programs
- Promoting gender-equitable workplaces



# *Nabilan* Program Design

The four integrated pillars of the *Nabilan* Program, based on National Action Plan on Gender-based Violence

PREVENTION

SERVICES

ACCESS TO  
JUSTICE

RESEARCH AND  
MONITORING & EVALUATION

# Opportunities: *Nabilan* Program Research

- Commitment to evidence-based programming
- Mapping of NGO prevention activities
- Scoping assessment of access to justice
- Economic Dimensions of Domestic Violence
- Upcoming research: motivators of men's behaviour change, and women's pathways to services and justice.
- Baseline results expected in late 2015

# *Nabilan* Baseline: Female Respondent Comments



- *“I want to share my thinking because for some, this always happens: husbands beat wives. **To move forward, we need to change this behaviour.**”*
- *“**I feel happy** to have said out loud what I feel.”*
- *“I want to change men's behaviour which always pushes women to work inside the house, because I want women and men to do the same work with the **same rights.**”*

# Nabilan Baseline: Male Respondent Comments

- “This research opened my understanding about **how to consider women as people, and not as objects to use as we want.**”
- “This research is very important because [it] **opened my thinking** that when we force a person's daughter to sleep with us, this is a sexual violation, and beating someone's daughter, this is domestic violence. As men, we must consider women because **women have the same rights as men.** Thank you very much.”
- “I feel very proud of this interview because **this is a motivation for me to change myself** and avoid violence and crime.”





For more  
information, contact:

[Xian.warner@asiafoundation.org](mailto:Xian.warner@asiafoundation.org)



Obrigadu barak

