



Photo: Belun/Joao Ximenes



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JUSTICE SYSTEM PROGRAMME

[JSP]

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JSP First Quarter Newsletter 2019

With the generous support from the governments of Korea and Japan, the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Justice System Programme (JSP) has continued to push to meet the objectives of its fourth phase; to increase institutional capacity development and access to justice for vulnerable groups. This edition will provide an overview of the JSPs activities so far this year to showcase its continued work towards meeting its objectives.

JSP Workplan for 2019

In the beginning of the year, 25 January 2019, the JSP held a Project Management Board (PMB) meeting to present the 2018 project progress and discuss the work plan for 2019. Based on this meeting, the Programme will be primarily focused on the Access to Justice Clinics (AJCs) and the legal training for current legal professionals. Since its beginning in 2003,

the JSP has continued to support justice institutions in the country and has brought access to justice closer to communities through the mobile courts and AJCs.

Belun and JSP Sign to Continue the AJCs

On 4 February the JSP held a signing agreement with Belun to support the continuation of the AJCs project. This has enabled Belun to continue to provide mediation and legal

awareness training in eight municipalities that fall under the jurisdiction of the Suai and Baucau Judicial Districts. Together the Public Defender's Office (PDO), JSP and Belun will continue to provide legal aid services to the people living in rural and remote areas.



Photo: UNDP/Shinichiro Monjo

Roundtable Discussion on Mediation Services and Access to Justice

UN Women, together with the JSP, organized a roundtable discussion on 4 March 2019, focusing on mediation and access to justice for government actors and civil societies working in the area of mediation, gender equality and human rights. Over 30 participants (50% of women), including the Public Defender General, Inspector at Office Prosecutor General, Ministry of Social and Solidarity, Ministry of Legal Reform, PDHJ, SEPFOPE, Ministry of Interior, Suku chiefs and CSOs, came together to foster a common understanding on the approach of inclusive mediation.



Photo: UNDP/Marta Dias

Paralegal Training

In close partnership with the PDO and Belun, the JSP conducted paralegal training for eight participants (five females and three males) on 5 March 2019. Of these participants, half will work their administrative post in four subdistricts within Baucau Judicial District while the other half will work in the Suai Judicial District. The training is part of the AJCs role in providing free legal aid services to communities living in rural areas. These trained paralegals will work as a bridge of AJCs by providing necessary legal information and options for disputants in the communities.



Photo: UNDP/Marta Dias

International Seminar for Legal Professionals Hosted by the Ministry of Justice of Timor-Leste and Japan

Starting on 19 March 2019, a two-day seminar on Civil and Criminal Procedures took place at the Ministry of Justice, Dili. The event was conducted by an arrange of prestigious legal representatives from Japan, including Dr. Tomoko Akane, a judge from the International Criminal Court (ICC), Dr. Ichiko Suzuki, a judge and professor of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Japan, and Dr. Morinaga Taro, a public prosecutor and director of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Japan.

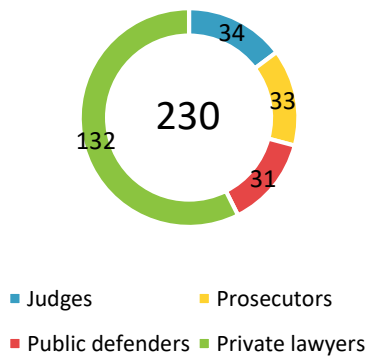
The purpose of the seminar was to increase the knowledge of legal professionals on private international law and international crime handled by the ICC. UNDP Country Director Mr. Claudio Providas spoke highly of the Japanese support to Timor-Leste's Peacebuilding and Justice Projects, which has been consistent since 2009.

Results from the JSP Annual Progress Report (2018)

On 31 March 2019 the Justice System Programme (JSP) released their 2018 Annual Progress Report, marking a time to reflect on the achievements and project has achieved in increasing citizens awareness of the formal justice system and legal aid service.

The report shows that the human capacity and Timorisation of justice institutions in Timor - Leste has made notable improvements. The current number of legal professionals (judges, prosecutors and public defenders) remains at 98, however it is due to increase after the gradation of the 6th Magistrates and Public Defenders Course in 2019. Meanwhile, the number of private lawyers has increased to 132 professionals. This brings the current total number of legal professionals to 230.

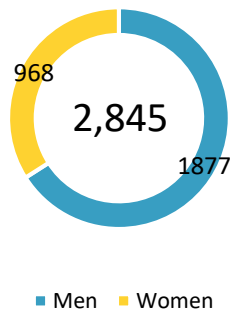
Legal Professionals in Timor-Leste



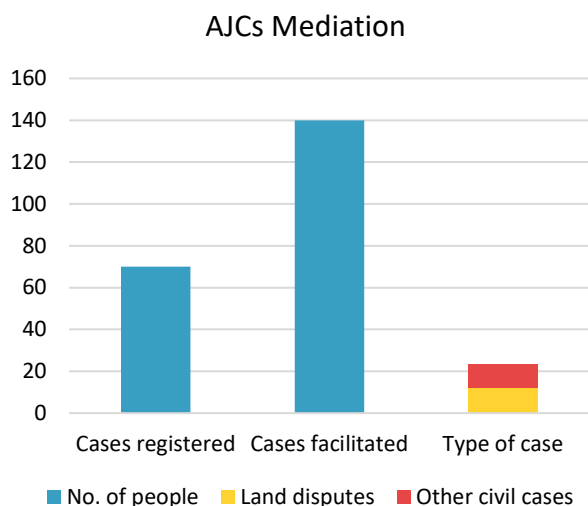
The JSP has continued to support the Portuguese and legal Tetun language courses at the Legal & Judicial Training Centre (LJTC) for the accreditation training courses. This includes Portuguese training for current legal professionals, which has been held for prosecutors and police staff at Scientific Police for Criminal Investigation (PCIC).

In 2018 the AJCs continued to provide outreach campaigns and mediation services. For the former, a total number of 2,845 people (968 women) of various sucos of the Baucau, Suai and Oecusse Judicial Districts participated in 74 events organized by partnering CSOs and JSP. This makes up part of the community awareness-raising campaigns and alternative dispute resolutions training.

AJCs Outreach Campaigns

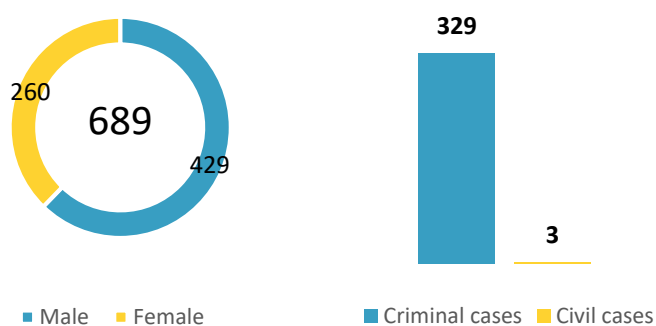


For mediation, 70 cases were registered at the AJCs in 2018, benefitting 140 people by providing them with access to justice. In all, 86 mediation cases were facilitated throughout the year, of which 23 were resolved (12 land disputes and 11 other types of civil cases), involving a total of 46 beneficiaries (9 women, 20%).



Regarding the Mobile Court Initiative, approximately 689 people (260 women and 429 men) benefited from resolved cases in the mobile courts. Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases have taken up most of these cases, having 418 GBV cases (59%) allocated to the mobile courts, of which 197 were resolved.

Resolved Cases in the Mobile Courts

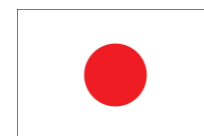


Further information can be found online at undp.org.

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